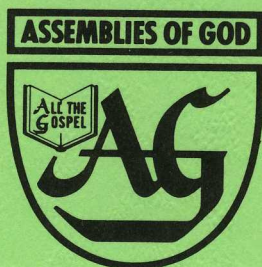


MINUTES

Revised Constitution and Bylaws

The General Council of the Assemblies of God



THE FORTIETH GENERAL COUNCIL
Anaheim, California, August 11-16, 1983

MINUTES
of the
40th Session of
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
of the
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Convened at Anaheim, California
August 11-16, 1983
with
Revised Constitution and Bylaws

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

Printed in U.S.A.

0284-067

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	J. Philip Hogan
G. Raymond Carlson	Raymond H. Hudson
David C. Crabtree	J. Foy Johnson
Richard W. Dortch	Paul E. Lowenberg
Joseph R. Flower	R. D. E. Smith
Marvin E. Gorman	Everett R. Stenhouse

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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FOREWORD

The final tally of registrants at the 40th General Council, which convened in Anaheim, California, August 11-16, 1983, was 14,619, exceeding by 2,713 the previous high at the 39th General Council in St. Louis, Missouri. The Council theme was "Preach the Word." Different aspects of the theme were emphasized by General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman in his keynote message, and by M. C. Johnson, Marvin E. Gorman, Roy Wead, and Jim Bakker in subsequent services. James G. Watt, Secretary of the Interior, was the featured speaker at the Saturday Prayer Breakfast, attended by approximately 4,000 people. All ministered with great liberty and unction.

A special feature of the Council was the Sunday Evening Vesper service, *Live! From Anaheim* telecast broadcast by satellite over three networks, at which time the general superintendent ministered.

Tom Paino, Jr., pastor of Lakeview Temple in Indianapolis, Indiana, led in "A Time of Praise" on Friday and Monday mornings. The special music throughout the council was provided by soloists, ensembles, and instrumentalists of repute, as well as choirs from several California churches. Pat Boone was the featured soloist for the Prayer Breakfast. The song leaders for the Council were "Big" John Hall and M. Earl Johnson.

Before calling the business session to order, the general superintendent introduced the members of the Executive Presbytery, retired executive presbyters, national directors of divisions, and a number of fraternal delegates. Messages of greetings from several persons were read. Superintendents of the three host districts gave greetings to which the general superintendent appropriately responded, and recognition was given to the personnel of the committees serving the Council. Throughout the General Council there were others who were introduced from time to time.

After the reports of the executive officers and the divisional and departmental reports were received, the following important committee reports were presented and acted upon:

1. General Presbytery Representation

2. Divorce and Remarriage and Qualifications of Ministers and Deacons

In addition to the resolutions presented, which are covered in the minutes, two of the most significant items were the 1983 Spiritual Life Report and the College Commitment Day Appeal given by the general superintendent, to which we urge your attention. Another matter of importance was the action to place three college presidents on the General Presbytery.

All of the incumbent officers and executive presbyters were returned to office, with the exception that David C. Crabtree was elected to replace Roy Wead as executive presbyter from the North Central Area. Brother Wead recently retired as president of Trinity Bible Institute and moved from the area. The following were elected as honorary general presbyters: Walter G. Dixon, Arthur H. Parsons, Fred Smolchuck, Jr., Alvin Sprecher, O. L. Thomas, Homer B. Walkup, and Roy H. Wead.

"The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it" (Proverbs 10:22).

JOSEPH R. FLOWER
GENERAL SECRETARY

MINUTES OF
THE 40TH GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
CONVENED AT ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 11-16, 1983

The 40th General Council of the Assemblies of God convened at the Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, California, beginning Thursday, August 11, at 2 p.m. General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman gave a few words of greetings. He announced that M. Earl Johnson, assistant district superintendent of the Northern California-Nevada District, and "Big" John Hall, internationally known gospel soloist and concert artist, of Fort Worth, Texas, would be the song leaders for this biennial meeting. Brother Johnson then led in singing "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" and "All Hail, King Jesus." Serving at the piano and organ, respectively, were Joy Thornton of Del Aire Assembly of God, Hawthorne, California; and Dawn Crabtree of First Assembly of God, Des Moines, Iowa.

Bert Webb, former assistant general superintendent, gave the opening prayer.

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; Robert L. Brandt, Richard W. Dortch, Marvin E. Gorman, J. Foy Johnson, Paul Lowenberg, R. D. E. Smith, Everett Stenhouse, Roy H. Wead.

Introduction of Retired Executive Presbyters

As the retired executive presbyters were introduced, special recognition and a round of applause was given to Charles W. H. Scott, former assistant general superintendent. Other retired executive presbyters present were: N. D. Davidson, James E. Hamill, Dwight H. McLaughlin, Bartlett Peterson, former general secretary; Kermit Reneau, former assistant general superintendent; Bert Webb, former assistant general superintendent; and G. W. Hardcastle, Sr. A. A. Wilson was unable to be present due to being hospitalized in Springfield, Missouri. The chairman stated that Brother Wilson was "with us in heart and mind and we need to undergird him with our prayers."

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; Robert W. Pirtle, national director of the Division of Home Missions; and William C. Eastlake, national director of the Division of Publication.

Brother Zimmerman noted that there was an army of headquarters personnel supporting the work of this convention and an even larger group keeping the home fires burning.

Introduction of Fraternal Delegates

The general superintendent introduced the following fraternal delegates, mentioning that some of them would bring greetings at a later time during the business sessions: Raymond E. Crowley, first assistant general overseer of the Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee, who brought greetings from E. C. Thomas, general overseer; Ralph Mahoney, director of World Missionary Assistance Plan, Burbank, California, representing Elim Fellowship and Carlton Spencer, general chairman; John Bowers, assistant to general supervisor of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, representing Rolf K. McPherson, president; Robert J. Clem, member of General Executive Board of the Pentecostal Holiness Church, Ontario, California, representing Bishop Leon O. Stewart, general superintendent; and James MacKnight, general superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, Toronto, Canada, who brought a word of greeting.

Brother Zimmerman recognized a group of delegates from Nigeria, some of whom were seated on the platform. They were greeted with a round of applause.

Messages of greetings

General Secretary Joseph R. Flower read letters of greetings from Harold Bartholomew, general secretary of the Assemblies of God in Australia, in behalf of the Commonwealth Conference; Billy A. Melvin, executive director of the National Association of Evangelicals; and a telegram from Reuben Askew, former governor of Florida.

A motion prevailed requesting the general secretary to address a special message to A. A. Wilson conveying greetings from the 40th General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Offering

General Treasurer Raymond H. Hudson announced that the budget for this biennial meeting amounted to \$721,700. He stated that \$247,700 needed to be raised during these meetings. While the offering was received John and Debbie Cox of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, presented an offertory combining a trumpet and piano duet with a vocal duet.

Greetings from Host Districts

Noting that it was unusual to have the headquarters of three districts located in the area of the General Council Biennial Meeting, the chairman gave an opportunity for each of the following to bring greetings: Albert K. Kim, Korean District superintendent; Jesse Miranda, assistant district

superintendent of the Pacific Latin American District, who brought greetings in behalf of District Superintendent Jose E. Giron, who was unable to be present due to the serious illness of his wife; and Everett R. Stenhouse, Southern California District superintendent.

Brother Zimmerman responded with an appropriate acknowledgement and expression of appreciation for the work and hospitality of the host districts.

Committees

He also expressed appreciation to committee members listed in the program booklet who have spent many hours over a period of months to make this biennial meeting operate efficiently. The following served on committees:

General Council Committees

Budget

Raymond H. Hudson, chairman, R. E. Book, Frank E. Cole, W. E. Cummings, Jesse Miranda, Everett Stenhouse, William O. Vickery

Music

Lawrence B. Larsen, chairman; Philip D. Barfoot, Mrs. Benjamin Crandall, Paul Ferrin, M. Earl Johnson

Parliamentary

Donald Argue, chairman; James Hennesy, Wayne Kraiss

Resolutions

Bartlett Peterson, chairman; Edward Blount, Robert L. Brandt, James K. Bridges, Merle J. Harris, D. V. Hurst, Vaudie V. Lambert, John J. Pa-proski, Arthur H. Parsons, Stephen V. Rexroat, Paul B. Tinlin, William O. Vickery

Roster

John R. Bryant, chairman; Joe Bailey, Allen Baunsgard, Hubert Book, Vance Cauthon, David Crabtree, Harold Crosby, Denny Davis, Richard Dube, E. T. Echols, Edwin E. Eliason, Raymond Franks, Jr., Richard L. Hamm, B. B. Hankins, Stephen L. Harris, Ervin M. Hukill, Bobby Johnson, Melvin Johnson, Chan Keith, Steve Lambert, Roscoe Leach, Amos Leyva, Dennis Masters, Edgar Palser, Gene Putnam, Danny Ramos, Ray Rachels, David Satterfield, Clinton E. Vanzant, Alejandro Vargas, J. David Wells

Spiritual Life

Thomas F. Zimmerman, chairman; G. Raymond Carlson, assistant chairman; James F. Allen, Earl J. Banning, R. E. Book, J. Foy Johnson, Thomas Lofton, Thomas F. Reid, Kermit Reneau, Irvin C. Steiding, Karl D. Strader, Roy H. Wead, George O. Wood, C. W. Denton, and Hardy W. Steinberg, resource persons.

Tellers

R. Steven Warner, chairman; Samuel Benson, Don Lunsford, and Warren F. McPherson, captains; Doyt C. Allen, J. R. Birdwell, John A. Booher, Wesley J. Bransford, Roger Brumbalow, Glen Burks, John Butrin, Walter Clark, George Cope, Ramon Davis, Gary Denbow, Wilfredo Diaz, Patrick Donadio, Ervin A. Donaldson, Johnny Elliott, Bernardino Espinoza, Saul B. Flores, Herman W. Fry, David L. Garrett, Weldon Gosnell, E. Wayne Hanks, Keith Heermann, Frank Heitman, Ronald Helmick, Robert Holland, Gustavo A. Jimenez, Nam Soo Kim, T. R. King, Jr., Dan Kuno, William F. Leach, Harris Lidstrand, Frank Maccarone, Frank C. Mays, Kenneth Ray McGee, Jack McIntosh, James Morris, Ken Olson, John Pastore, William Reigel, Douglas Rose, Jack Rozell, Raymond Rueb, Gary Sapp, Raymond F. Schaeffer, Joe Serbin, Raymond D. Shepherd, V. E. Shores, Clarence St. John, Raymond Sullivan, Keith E. Terry, James Trewern, Victor Trimmer, Don Wilburn, Kenneth Worley. Due to the fact that some of these could not serve, others were appointed to take their places.

Operational Committees

Arrangements

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

Coordinators

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

Communications

Lee Shultz, coordinator; Gwen Jones, Melvin Snyder, Don Upton

Communion Arrangements

Stanley V. Michael, chairman

Equipment

Arlyn Pember, national chairman; Ernest Rifenburg, Bud Coleman, and Terry Smith, local co-chairmen

Exhibits

Tom Sanders, national chairman; Bill Eastlake, Carolyn Tripp; Jim Price, local chairman

Photos

Dick Champion, chairman; John Morar, Phil Stovall

Platform

Mel DeVries, chairman and coordinator; David Torgerson, assistant coordinator; Lawrence B. Larsen, Lee Shultz

Platform Monitors

Silas Gaither, Richard Hammar

Printed Materials

Gwen Jones, chairman; Carol Ball, Dick Champion, Sylvia Lee

Program

Executive Presbytery

Program Resource

Juleen Turnage, chairman; Dick Champion, Charles W. Denton, Gwen Jones, John V. Ohlin, Robert W. Pirtle, Lee Shultz, Robert H. Spence

Publicity

Juleen Turnage, chairman; Dick Champion, Gwen Jones, Terry Terrell

Registration and Hospitality

Thom Loven, national chairman; Jimmy V. Dunn, Bill Eastlake, John Maempa; Wayne Kraiss, local chairman

Reports

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

Resolutions and Reports Expediter

Hardy W. Steinberg

Transportation

Lamar Headley, chairman; Melvin Sachs

Ushers

Glenn Renick, national chairman; Evan Paul; Charles Harlin, local chairman

Youth and Children's Activities

Secretary of Youth Department, national youth activities chairman; Ted Brust, Rick Olson, Brenton Osgood; Jim Blythe, local chairman; Don Triplett, national children's activities chairman; Milius Wright, local pre-school children's activities chairman.

Business Session

The general superintendent declared the first business session of the 40th General Council of the Assemblies of God called to order at 3:20 p.m. He requested Assistant General Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson to take the chair.

General Superintendent's Report

Brother Carlson called upon the general superintendent to give his report which he read from the printed *1981-1983 Biennial Report* booklet.

In it Brother Zimmerman emphasized the continuing commitment of the Assemblies of God to fulfill the Great Commission, noted a renewed prayer emphasis throughout the Fellowship, called attention to the impact of the 1982 Conference on the Holy Spirit and the scheduling of a similar conference to convene August 20-22, 1984, announced the annual emphases for the remaining years of the decade of the 80s, highlighted particular areas of growth throughout the Movement, and stressed the need to strengthen the support base for Christian education and the fund-raising effort on September 18, 1983, designated as College Commitment Day.

A motion prevailed to accept the general superintendent's report with appreciation. The chair was then returned to Brother Zimmerman.

General Secretary's Report

The chairman asked Joseph R. Flower to give his report which he read as printed in the *1981-1983 Biennial Report* booklet.

In referring to the number of churches in the United States, he indicated that for the first time we have now exceeded 10,000, with a total of 10,173.

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

General Treasurer's Report

The chairman asked Raymond H. Hudson to give the general treasurer's report. He stated that the World Ministries Giving for calendar years 1981 and 1982 totaled \$171,106,129, which was an increase of more than 31.8 percent.

A motion prevailed to receive 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, 1981, through March 31, 1983.

It was moved and seconded to accept the *Audit Report* as presented. Brother Hudson responded to two questions from the floor, following which the motion to accept the report was carried. The chairman indicated that although this motion was carried, the report would be open to question at any time during the General Council.

Roster Committee Report

A report was received from John R. Bryant, Jr., pastor of Central Assembly of God, Green Bay, Wisconsin, chairman of the Roster Committee, showing the following registration as of 2 p.m. on Thursday:

Ordained ministers	2,812	
Delegates	821	
Voting constituency		3,633
Licensed ministers	244	
Visitors	3,657	
Nonvoting constituency		3,901
Total		7,534

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

Recess

The Thursday afternoon meeting was recessed at 4:35 p.m. with the singing of the Doxology and prayer of dismissal by Robert L. Brandt, executive presbyter representing the Northwest Area.

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 video presentation, during which time vocalist Lillie Knauls of San Jose, California, and the Faith Chapel choir and orchestra of La Mesa, California, presented special music. Lee Shultz read the Scripture for the service from 2 Timothy 4:1-8, and prayer was offered by James MacKnight, general superintendent of The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. The congregational singing, led by Big John Hall, was accompanied by Ramona Crabtree and Marjorie Ferrin, both of San Jose, California, at the piano and organ respectively. Other special music was provided by Dino Kartsonakis of Corona del Mar, California, and Terry Winch of Los Angeles, California.

FRIDAY MORNING—AUGUST 12

The Friday morning session began at 9:15 with a time of worship led by Thomas Paino, Jr., pastor of Lakeview Temple, Indianapolis, Indiana. Musicians were Mrs. Edwina Duncan of Lodi, California, and Johnny Garrison, of Indianapolis, Indiana. Brother Paino led in singing several worship choruses and also brought an exhortation concerning the importance of worship. A time of concerted prayer and worship followed the singing of "The Lord's Prayer." A message in tongues followed by interpretation added to the exhortation on worship.

Prayer was requested for the physical needs of Louis Scoma, Sr., of Dallas, Texas, and for Mrs. Ethel McDaniel of Springfield, Missouri. The general superintendent asked the congregation to form groups of four to pray for these needs, as well as any others which might be mentioned in the group. Evangelist Harold C. Herman of Los Angeles, California, concluded in prayer.

Richard W. Dortch, executive presbyter and superintendent of the Illinois District, presented the offering appeal. An organ offertory was played by Chris Elliott, a student from Southern California College.

Introduction of General Superintendent from Indonesia

Brother Zimmerman recognized Paul Tehupuring, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Indonesia. A specially prepared plaque was presented to him commemorating his visit. Brother Tehupuring expressed his appreciation to the Assemblies of God, stating that he was the product of our missionary program. He requested our continued participation in missions by sending missionaries and in giving to missions.

The business session was called to order at 10:35 a.m.

Roster Committee Report

The chairman of the Roster Committee gave the following report as of 10 a.m. Friday, August 12:

Ordained ministers	3,335	
Delegates	925	
Voting constituency		4,260
Licensed ministers	316	
Visitors	4,945	
Nonvoting constituency		5,261
Total		9,521

A motion prevailed to receive this progress report.

Divisional and Departmental Reports

The general superintendent called attention to the Divisional and Departmental Reports as contained in the *Biennial Report* booklet and inquired if there were any questions or comments concerning these reports. A motion prevailed to accept the reports as printed and distributed.

Maranatha Village Audit Report

The general treasurer highlighted several areas of the Maranatha Village audit report, stating that the operation is in a very strong financial position. Reference was made to the fact that working capital was down some from previous years, but this was attributed to the situation in Springfield for a number of months when the building of retirement homes almost reached saturation. This has leveled off, and at this time the Manor, Lodge, and apartments are near capacity again. It is felt that the revenue operating figure will show an increase again by the time of the next report.

Brother Hudson stated that Maranatha Village is an operation of which we can be proud, and we can thank God that such facilities are available in the Assemblies of God for people in need of this type care.

A motion prevailed to accept the report with appreciation.

Ministers Benefit Association Audit Report

The general treasurer reviewed the audit report for the Ministers Benefit Association, highlighting various areas of the report. It was noted that there has been a 31 percent increase in assets during the past year. Mention was made that the MBA Office has recently purchased a computer at a very reasonable figure. Since the time of the printed report, it was noted that now 16 districts have elected to make MBA their retirement program, and also that the fund has grown to over \$30 million. It now appears that it may be possible again to add 12 percent interest to members' accounts this year. Appreciation was expressed to the chairman and the board of directors for their careful management.

A motion prevailed to accept the report with appreciation.

Ministers Benefit Association Report

G. Raymond Carlson, chairman of Ministers Benefit Association, was called upon to bring the report as printed in the *Biennial Report* booklet.

He called attention to the fact that the report as printed is based on the 1982 calendar year rather than our fiscal year. Since then, as noted earlier, the fund has reached \$30 million. Attention was also called to the very low operational cost. Membership stands at about 8,000 presently.

Report of Committee To Study General Presbytery Representation

The general superintendent called for Kermit Reneau, chairman of the study committee, to present the report. After preliminary remarks, Brother Reneau asked that Charles Hackett, secretary of the committee, read the report.

A motion prevailed to receive the report as a whole.

It was moved and seconded to adopt Section I. College presidents representation on the General Presbytery.

A substitute motion was made and seconded to amend the resolution as listed in lines 17-19 to read as follows: RESOLVED, That the presidents of the duly endorsed Assemblies of God colleges be seated as members of the General Presbytery.

A question was asked if the Bible schools come under the Division of Christian Education. The chair responded that it is according to how one defines the term *come under*. They are administratively responsible to the Department of Education and come under its general review.

A question was asked if the national director of the Division of Christian Education passes on any information to the heads of the Bible schools on behalf of the General Presbytery. The chair responded that the national director is not a member of the General Presbytery.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 12:07 p.m. with the singing of the Doxology and prayer by J. Don George of Irving, Texas.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 12

Brother M. Earl Johnson led the assemblage in singing "I Will Enter His Gates." Herb Wright, minister of music at Huffman Assembly of God, Birmingham, Alabama, and Ronalyn Crain, of First Family Church, Whittier, California, served at the organ and piano respectively.

Brother Zimmerman led in prayer in behalf of needs that were presented.

Introduction of Delegates from Singapore

Fred G. Abeysekera and his wife of the Assemblies of God of Singapore, representing Patrick K. T. Lau, general superintendent, were introduced and presented with a plaque appropriately inscribed for the occasion. Brother Abeysekera brought greetings and expressions of thanksgiving for the indigenous missionary work of the Assemblies of God. He reported that Singapore has its own missionary outreach.

Brother Zimmerman led in prayer for the physical and spiritual needs of the president and prime minister of Singapore as presented by Brother Abeysekera.

Offering appeal

Robert L. Brandt, executive presbyter for the Northwest Area, gave the offering appeal. Terry MacAlmon, musical evangelist of Northridge, Ohio, sang "The Glory of His Presence," accompanying himself on the piano, for the offertory.

Business session

The chairman called the Friday afternoon business session to order at 2:30. Charles T. Crabtree of San Jose, California, led in prayer.

Roster Committee Report

John R. Bryant, Roster Committee chairman, gave the following report of the Roster Committee as of 2 p.m. Friday:

Ordained ministers	3,492	
Delegates	951	
Voting constituency		4,443
Licensed ministers	339	
Visitors	5,127	
Nonvoting constituency		5,466
Total	9,909	

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

General Presbytery Representation, continued

The chairman indicated that at the time of the noon recess, the council had the following substitute motion to the resolution stated in Item I of the Report of the Committee To Study General Presbytery Representation: "RESOLVED, that the presidents of the duly endorsed Assemblies of God colleges be seated as members of the General Presbytery."

In support of the amendment it was stated that it is vital for all college presidents to hear what is expressed at the General Presbytery leadership level, as a safeguard against spiritual and theological erosion of Assemblies of God principles, since our educational institutions are the main source of future ministers and educators. It was also felt this is more in line with earlier involvement of college presidents on leadership levels, and there is little chance this trend would escalate in the future. There is already a precedent in that missionary general presbyters are not elected by the General Council.

In opposition to the substitute motion it was expressed that men should serve on the Executive and General Presbytery levels by election and not by virtue of their position, and that general presbyters do serve on college boards. The fear was expressed that this would establish a precedent that would be hard to live with, since the number of colleges could substantially increase in the future, and other segments of the Fellowship would want representation on the General Presbytery.

The chairman reread the substitute motion and Kermit Reneau, chairman of the study committee, presented briefly the rationale of the committee.

By a hand vote, the chairman declared the substitute motion was lost.

It was moved and seconded to amend the resolution by limiting the college presidents to a 2-year term with a lapse of 2 years before they could succeed themselves. This motion to amend was carried.

The chairman of the committee read Item II. It was moved and seconded to adopt Item II.

The following substitute motion was moved and seconded:

WHEREAS, There is Biblical precedent and Assemblies of God precedent for lay participation in its governance at every level; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery is a major policy-making body of our Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, There are perspectives and gifted insights to come from our lay persons; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Presbytery be expanded to include a lay delegate from each district; be it further

RESOLVED, That the lay delegates be nominated by their pastors and selected by their respective district presbyteries; be it further

RESOLVED, That the district and General Councils' bylaws be amended to provide for this action, with appropriate amendments presented at the General Council of 1985, and the district councils of 1986, providing for lay representation by the General Presbytery meeting of 1987, should our Lord tarry.

A question was raised whether or not this motion was in order. The chairman stated that he had conferred with the parliamentarians and they had agreed that inasmuch as this was a substitute motion, it was in order. The ruling was appealed on the basis that an entirely new preamble was created together with a motion that was substantially different, making it an entirely new motion rather than a substitute one. The chairman asked for a show of hands and then ruled that the body agreed with the chair's ruling. Inasmuch as someone expressed confusion in the way the vote on the appeal was stated, a new show of hands was called for which indicated the chair was not sustained in his previous ruling. He then ruled that the substitute motion was not a proper motion and that the original resolution contained in Item II was before the house.

After a brief period of discussion the motion to adopt Item II was carried.

Following the rereading of Item III, it was moved and seconded that it be adopted.

It was moved and seconded to amend Bylaws Article IX, Section 3, paragraph a, by adding to the next to last sentence the following phrase: "except that those districts which have three full-time executive officers shall be entitled to a fourth representative on the General Presbytery to be chosen by the respective district councils."

Following brief discussion on the proposed amendment to the bylaws,

the chair stated that in consultation with the parliamentarians he was ruling that it is improper to consider an amendment to the bylaws by this method rather than working through the Resolutions Committee. The chair suggested that the proposed amendment could be processed through the Resolutions Committee for consideration at the next General Council.

The motion to adopt Item III was carried.

A question was raised as to why it was improper to amend the bylaws in a different way than recommended by a reporting committee inasmuch as the bylaws had been opened up by committee recommendation. The general secretary reminded the chairman that it was a constitutional amendment that had been requested and not a bylaw amendment. The chairman indicated there were several options to bring the matter to the General Council the next time.

A motion prevailed to adopt the report as a whole.

The chairman requested the Resolutions Committee to pick up the implications of Item I and present an appropriate resolution.

The report of the committee as amended and adopted follows:

The 38th General Council in session at Baltimore, Maryland, August 16-21, 1979, called for a committee to study three items relating to General Presbytery representation. Following discussion on the committee's report to the 39th General Council, the subject was referred to a new committee for further study.

Resource material available to the committee included excerpts from the minutes of previous General Council sessions from the earliest days of our Fellowship and the resolutions, amendments, and transcripts of discussion on the subject at the last two General Council meetings.

The committee met at the Assemblies of God headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, on December 20 and 21, 1982. It respectfully presents the following three resolutions:

I. College presidents representation on the General Presbytery

WHEREAS, college presidents need to be aware of the sentiments expressed in the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, our colleges influence large numbers of our constituency, i.e., potential ministers, missionaries, and church leaders; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that three or more college presidents from the duly endorsed General Council colleges be nominated by the General Presbytery, three of whom shall be elected by the General Council for a 2-year term on the General Presbytery, with a lapse of 2 years before they could succeed themselves.

If the above resolution is adopted, it would require the following constitution and bylaws amendments:

Constitution Article IX. Officers, Section 3. General Presbytery

Add a new paragraph d. as follows: "The duly endorsed colleges of

the Assemblies of God shall be represented on the General Presbytery by three of its presidents."

Change the present paragraph d. to e.

Bylaws Article II. Election of Officers, Section 2. Nominations and Elections

Add the following to paragraph b: "except college representatives who shall be nominated by the General Presbytery and elected by the General Council."

II. Lay representation on the General Presbytery

WHEREAS, the committee feels that the teaching of the New Testament regarding church leadership indicates the laymen play a strategic role in the local church, (however, we do not find scriptural evidence where lay leadership ever extended to church administration beyond the local church); 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 membership of The General Council of the Assemblies of God consists of all ordained ministers holding an accredited fellowship certificate and of churches holding a Certificate of Affiliation issued by The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and therefore, the local church is recognized as a member of the General Council and is given representation by a delegate; and therefore individual membership on the General Presbytery by its lay delegate is not implied; and

WHEREAS, licensed ministers, who in many cases serve as pastors and enjoy prestigious positions of leadership in their communities, are not eligible for membership on the General Presbytery; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that there be no change to broaden the present policy to include laymen on the General Presbytery.

III. Variables in district representation on the General Presbytery

WHEREAS, the original intent of the General Council was to give equal representation to all districts regardless of size, which in the committee's estimation has proven to be effective; and

WHEREAS, larger districts have greater representation at the General Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, the General Presbytery exists to do the work of the General Council and in its present structure continues to serve us well; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that there be no change in district representation on the General Presbytery.

Privileged Motion

A motion prevailed that resolutions recommending amendments to the constitution and bylaws as a result of committee study be referred to the

Resolutions Committee instead of having them contained in a committee report.

Publication of Law Book

Brother Zimmerman announced that a book just off the press titled *Pastor, Church and Law*, written by Richard R. Hammar, legal counselor of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, was available at a special one-time price of \$15. The book will be on sale at the bookstore for \$16.95.

The general superintendent introduced the author of the book and asked him to recount his reasons for writing the textbook. A few minutes were spent in the sale of the book.

Procedural Motion

A procedural motion prevailed to begin elections as the first order of business on Saturday at the session which would convene at 10 a.m.

Recess

The Friday afternoon session recessed at 4:45 p.m. with the singing of the Doxology and dismissal in prayer by James Hennessy, one of the parliamentarians and president of Southeastern College of the Assemblies of God.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE—AUGUST 12

The Friday evening service was under the direction of Everett Stenhouse, executive presbyter from the Southwest Area. Robert Pirtle, national director of the Division of Home Missions, gave the Scripture reading from Psalm 103:1-5 and Psalm 107:20-22. Stan Ramsey and Lynnie Olson, both from First Assembly of God, North Hollywood, California, served at the piano and organ respectively. M. C. Johnson, pastor of Calvary Temple, Springfield, Illinois, was the speaker for the service which had the theme "Preach the Healing Word." Special music for the service was provided by a Spanish Choir from Temple Calvario Assembly of God, Santa Ana, California; a Korean Choir from Full Gospel Korean Church of Los Angeles, California; and an instrumental quartet consisting of Vernon, Arnold, Cyril, and Beth McLellan.

SATURDAY MORNING—AUGUST 13

General Council Prayer Breakfast

The Prayer Breakfast was held Saturday, August 13, in the Southwest Exhibition Hall of the Convention Center beginning at 7:30 a.m. Its theme was: "We will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the Word" (Acts 6:4). The general superintendent served as master of ceremonies, and William Vickery, Northern California-Nevada District superintendent, gave the invocation. The Richard Dresselhaus Family of First Assembly of God, San Diego, California, provided music on stringed instruments prior to and during the breakfast. Pat Boone of Hollywood,

California, sang several songs, including "Something Good Is About to Happen," "He Found Me," and "There's Only One Way."

Jesse Miranda, Pacific Latin American District assistant superintendent, read the Scripture: Psalm 33:6-22.

James G. Watt, appointed Secretary of the Interior in 1981, brought an address in which he warned that spiritual freedom and political liberty require eternal vigilance. He challenged Christians to become involved and to take a stand against the evils of abortion and Communism.

Appropriate plaques were presented to Pat Boone and James Watt to mark the occasion.

G. Raymond Carlson led the audience of 4,000 in prayer following group prayers at each table.

Saturday Morning Business

The Saturday morning session was opened with the singing of "Blessed Assurance" and "Praise the Name of Jesus," led by M. Earl Johnson. Musicians were Mrs. Miriam Reynolds, minister of music from Belleville, Illinois, at the piano and Evangelist Don Tanner of Lubbock, Texas, at the organ.

Brother Zimmerman led in a time of worship and then called upon N. D. Davidson, former executive presbyter, to lead in prayer for V. L. Hertweck, an ordained Assemblies of God minister who had suffered a massive heart attack, as well as for other needs indicated by upraised hands, and for the morning business deliberations.

M. L. Steward, pastor of Trinity Temple, Las Vegas, Nevada, presented the morning offering appeal. "The Bethany Brass," a trio from Bethany Bible College, composed of Lorin Wilson, Ken Andrews, and Troy Gunter, played the offertory.

Recognition of Fraternal Delegate from Ghana, West Africa

Brother Zimmerman welcomed Nicholas Opuni, pastor of the largest Assemblies of God church in Ghana, West Africa, who was escorted to the podium by G. Raymond Carlson. A plaque commemorating his visit to the 40th General Council was presented to him. He responded, expressing appreciation to The General Council of the Assemblies of God on behalf of his colleagues and himself for sending missionaries to his country. He also requested prayer for his country, which is at war, and for the continued outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the churches of Ghana.

The business session was called to order at 10:50 a.m. Robert Cooley, president of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, led in prayer invoking God's blessing and direction in the business proceedings.

Request for Privileged Motion

A request was made to present a privileged motion. The chairman stated that an order of the day had been established, but if this had to do with procedure it might be entertained. It was stated that ever since the Prayer Breakfast and the ministry by James Watt, the individual had felt an urging

from the Holy Spirit. The chair expressed the opinion that if this were something in the nature of a courtesy motion, it might be in order. Since it was not of this nature, and the subject might involve a lot of debate, the chair requested that this be held for presentation after other items on the adopted agenda had been cared for.

Report of Roster Committee

The chairman of the Roster Committee presented the following progress report as of 10 a.m. Saturday:

Ordained ministers	3,575	
Delegates	960	
Total voting		4,535
Licensed ministers	363	
Visitors	5,343	
Nonvoting constituency		5,706
Total		10,241

A motion prevailed to receive this as a progress report.

Election of Officers

The general secretary was requested to read the provisions from the constitution and bylaws pertaining to the eligibility and requirements for officers. He read Constitution Article IX, Section 1, Executive Officers, paragraph a, and also Bylaws Article II. Election of Officers, Sections 1 and 2.

The general superintendent gave instructions concerning those who are eligible voters. These are ordained ministers and officially designated delegates from our churches. He stated that licensed ministers are not voting delegates unless the church they pastor is a General Council affiliated church and they have been officially designated as a delegate by that church.

Procedural Motion

It was moved and seconded that in the event a single candidate received as many as two-thirds of the ballots cast on any nominating ballot, that the nominating ballot would become an elective ballot, and the candidate receiving a two-thirds vote would then be declared elected on the nominating ballot.

A question was raised as to the validity of this motion, since our bylaws indicate that there shall be a nominating ballot and *Robert's Rules of Order*, under which we operate according to our bylaws, indicates it is not proper to make the nominating ballot an elective ballot. The chair indicated that it had been received as a valid motion, but he would be willing to let the house decide, if so desired. The decision of the chair was appealed. Stating that this is a proper request, the chair asked those who wished to sustain the chair to vote affirmatively and those who did not wish to sustain the chair to vote negatively. This vote was taken by a show of hands, and the chair was sustained. The vote was then taken on the procedural motion which carried.

Election of Assistant General Superintendent

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

The results of the election for assistant general superintendent were reported by R. Steven Warner, Tellers Committee chairman, as follows:

Ballots cast	1,966
Needed to elect	1,298
G. Raymond Carlson received	1,654

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

The following is a list of all others nominated: E. R. Anderson 1, Earl Banning 1, A. M. Bartholomew 1, Philip Bongiorno 1, Earl Book 2, James Booth 1, Robert L. Brandt 3, James Bridges 7, James D. Brown 1, Howard Burroughs 1, Frank Cole 4, Glen Cole 10, Hugh Corey 1, Charles Crabtree 2, David Crabtree 2, T. C. Cunningham 1, Al C. Davis 1, James T. Davis 1, Richard Dobbins 1, Richard Dortch 63, Richard Dresselhaus 1, Donald Farmer 2, George Flattery 1, David Flower 4, Joseph Flower 7, Marvin Gorman 46, Herman R. Grams 1, James P. Grams 1, Raymond H. Horwege 1, Raymond H. Hudson 6, Earl Johnson 1, Foy Johnson 8, M. C. Johnson 1, Klaude Kendrick 1, Clarence Lambert 1, Vaudie Lambert 1, Forrest Langley 1, Frank Martin 2, Robert McNew 1, Jesse Miranda 3, Armon Newburn 2, Bartlett Peterson 2, Robert Pirtle 1, Kermit Reneau 1, Stephen Rexroat 1, William Sachs 1, Roy Sapp 1, Robert Spence 7, Everett Stenhouser 88, Irvin L. Steiding 1, Karl Strader 4, James Swanson 1, William Vickery 5, Roy Wead 1, Bobby Wilson 1.

Introduction of G. Raymond Carlson

At the request of the chairman, the newly reelected assistant general superintendent responded by saying in part: "Mr. Chairman, the General Council in session has again been very kind in asking me to serve in this office. I wish to express my thanks and I want to assure each of you, God giving me help, I will do my very best to serve."

Resolution of Appreciation

Bartlett Peterson, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, requested the privilege of presenting the following resolution, which came as a referral from the General Presbytery:

WHEREAS, Sunday, September 18, 1983, has been designated as Pastors Appreciation Day throughout our Assemblies of God fellowship; and

WHEREAS, On that day expressions of appreciation will be made by congregations for the services, love, ministry, leadership, and pastoral care rendered by pastors; and

WHEREAS, God, in His wisdom and forethought, has provided our great church, the Assemblies of God, with a wise, able, and faithful "pastor" in the person of General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman; be it

RESOLVED, That this 40th General Council express its fervent appreciation to God and to our beloved "pastor" for his ministry which has inspired us, his wisdom which has guided us, and his leadership which has brought us to new summits of victory and success; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we assure him of our continued loyal support, love, cooperation, and prayers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That appreciation be extended to Sister Zimmerman for the generous contribution she has made as his helpmate in sharing their lives with us in the interest of our Fellowship.

Following the reading, he moved its adoption, which was seconded.

Brother Carlson took the chair and asked that the vote be held until Mrs. Zimmerman could be escorted to the platform. The motion was carried with a standing vote of appreciation for the Zimmermans, at which time a bouquet of red roses was presented to Mrs. Zimmerman. The executive officers gathered around the Zimmermans, and Brother Carlson led in prayer for them that God would continue to surround their lives with His very best. Brother Zimmerman expressed appreciation for the continued love and concern shown to them, mentioning that they had celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary earlier this summer.

Procedural Motion

A procedural motion prevailed establishing the next order of business the receiving of the report from the committee appointed by the last General Council to study Divorce and Remarriage and Qualifications of Ministers and Deacons.

Divorce and Remarriage and Qualifications of Ministers and Deacons

Robert Spence, chairman, and the members of the committee were requested to come to the platform. The report was read by the committee chairman. It was moved and seconded that the report be adopted. Considerable discussion took place in an effort to clarify the meaning of the expression, "husband of one wife," and its application to both ministers and deacons, with the chairman of the committee responding to specific questions.

Recess

The general superintendent asked that the subject under consideration be made a matter of prayer during the time of recess. The meeting concluded at noon with the singing of the Doxology and prayer of dismissal by Joe D. Wright, Sr., of Modesto, California.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 13

M. Earl Johnson opened the Saturday afternoon session by leading several choruses. David Feit, director of music at First Assembly of God, Pomona, California, was at the piano, and Marian Kingsriter of First Assembly of God, Bloomington, Minnesota, was at the organ.

Brother Zimmerman led in prayer remembering various requests.

David Crabtree of First Assembly of God, Des Moines, Iowa, led in prayer for God's blessing upon the business session.

Introduction of General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God of Nigeria

Matthew O. Ezeigbo, general superintendent of the General Council of the Assemblies of God of Nigeria, was introduced and presented with a plaque marking the occasion. Brother Zimmerman stated that the Assemblies of God in Nigeria now numbers more than 2,000 churches due in part to the vision and commitment of the leadership and a strong Bible school training program.

Brother Ezeigbo responded by saying, "It was only 2 weeks ago that a missionary encouraged me to come and witness your General Council for the first time. None of us have been privileged to attend your General Council, and the way you conduct your business has meant much to me." He expressed appreciation for the missionaries in Nigeria and the help they have given and mentioned they would be privileged to have Brother and Sister Zimmerman visit their country in November.

The business session was called to order at 2:20 p.m.

Roster Committee Report

John R. Bryant, chairman of the Roster Committee, brought the following report as of 2 p.m. Saturday:

Ordained ministers	3,630	
Delegates	962	
Voting constituency		4,592
Licensed ministers	375	
Visitors	5,417	
Nonvoting constituency		5,792
Total		10,384

A motion prevailed to receive the Roster Committee report.

Election of General Secretary

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

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

Ballots cast	1,796
Needed to elect	1,185
Joseph R. Flower received	1,622

The chairman, stating that Joseph R. Flower had received more than the two-thirds majority vote required, declared him reelected on the nominating ballot as general secretary.

The following is a list of all other nominees: Joe Adams 2, E. R. Anderson 1, Don Annas 1, Don Argue 1, Jim Ayers 1, Jim Bakker 1, Almon Bartholomew 1, Robert L. Brandt 1, James K. Bridges 2, Nathan Burns 1, Howard Burroughs 1, E. M. Clark 2, Glen Cole 2, Bob Cook 1, Fred

Cottriel 1, Garland Covington 1, D. C. Crabtree 1, Al Cress 2, Howard Cummings 1, Dennis Davis 1, Richard Dortch 13, Donald Farmer 2, David Flower 14, Marvin Gorman 2, Daniel L. Green 1, Obie Harrup 1, Clifford Hobson 1, Keith Holt 1, Raymond Hudson 46, J. Foy Johnson 2, J. D. Kelly 1, Ernest J. Kumpe 1, C. E. Lambert 2, Frank Martin 1, Samuel Molina 1, Leonard Nipper 2, Thomas E. Pace 1, Bartlett Peterson 13, Homer Peterson 1, Robert Pirtle 1, Stephen Rexroat 1, Herman Rohde 1, Roy G. Sapp 1, V. Ernest Shores 1, Lee Shultz 2, Robert Spence 2, Everett Stenhouse 13, Randy Stoecker 1, Karl Strader 1, Joel Torres 1, William O. Vickery 14, Aaron Wall 1, E. Joe Wilmoth 1, George Wood 2.

Introduction of General Secretary

At the request of the chairman, the newly reelected general secretary, responded by saying in part: "I get emotional at times like this. This Fellowship has done more for me than I have done for it. I can honestly say that I have never sought position, but I have never shunned responsibility that has been thrust upon me. I pledge my dedication to fulfill my responsibility to the Fellowship."

Divorce and Remarriage and Qualifications of Ministers and Deacons, continued

The chairman stated that considerable debate had been heard in the morning session, and the last speaker before recess had spoken in favor of the motion to adopt the report.

A procedural motion was moved and seconded to limit debate on the part of each individual to 3 minutes and that no man should be permitted to speak a second time until everyone who wants to speak on the subject should have the opportunity to speak, and that debate on the whole matter should be concluded in 45 minutes and then a vote should be taken. After some discussion the motion was lost.

It was moved and seconded that the report be sent back to committee for study to be given to the extent to which the Holy Spirit has enabled those with a remarriage to minister well among us, for a new examination of the Biblical principle of redemption, and the way it affects this matter, and again bring a report to us. Following discussion on the propriety of referring the report back for further study, a vote was taken and the motion to refer was lost.

The chair provided for individuals to speak alternately for and against the motion to adopt the report. During the debate certain exegetical, theological, and experiential issues were emphasized by those who were in opposition to the report. Those in favor were strong in their commendation of the Bible scholars who served on the committee and in their expressed desire to hold to the high standards the Assemblies of God has maintained on the issue.

The motion to adopt the report of the study committee was voted upon and declared carried. In order to indicate the strength of the vote, the chairman asked for a standing vote. It showed the vote had carried by a strong majority.

To clarify a statement made during debate, the chairman explained that the divorce and remarriage subject had not been discussed in a General Council meeting since 1973 in Miami Beach, Florida, until the request for a study committee was presented to the 1981 General Council in St. Louis, Missouri.

Inasmuch as some debate on various statements in the report continued to surface, the chair suggested that the matter be discussed at the district council level for any desired recommendation to the General Council.

The chairman expressed appreciation to the members of the committee who had served the General Council on this committee.

The report of the Committee To Study Divorce and Remarriage and Qualifications of Ministers and Deacons as adopted follows:

During the 1981 General Council convening in St. Louis, Missouri, a resolution (identified as Resolution 20) was presented dealing with the status of divorced and remarried persons and their relationship to the ministry. In response to the request for a study and review, the committee submitting this report, after being duly appointed by the Executive Presbytery, addressed the questions incorporated in Resolution 20 as it was amended and passed.

Specifically, the committee was asked "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."

Questions relating to divorce and remarriage are a commentary on our times as we see the home and the family subjected to severe attack and divorce rates reaching epidemic proportions. The matters before us in this report cannot be considered adequately apart from an awareness of God's plan for marriage as a lifelong monogamous union. The scriptural teaching regarding relationships between God and His people, Christ and His church, would set forth beautiful examples and prototypes of devotion to one God, lifelong commitment to a marriage, and the devotion and sacrifice for a beloved companion. The weight of these truths cannot be taken lightly.

Both society and the church depend upon the strength of the family for their welfare and influence. Recognizing the attempt of satanic forces to destroy the God-ordained fabric of society, we consequently believe our efforts must be channeled into strengthening the family, proclaiming its priority, and maintaining our historic position of concern for its well-being.

First, the committee's assignment was to speak to the question of 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.

We strongly affirm that justification, that divine act whereby a believing sinner can be declared righteous and acceptable before God

because Christ has borne the sinner's sin on the cross, is the privilege of all who repent of sin and by faith accept Jesus Christ as their Saviour. The guilt of divorce is covered by this provision. This means, therefore, that all believers, including those who have been divorced and remarried, have a right standing before God, with all past sin forgiven and their acceptance assured as an integral part of the body of Christ.

Second, the committee was requested to review the relationship between justification and qualification as an elder/pastor/deacon. We considered the question of whether or not there may be conditions whereby a person who was divorced and remarried could serve in the office of pastor or deacon and not violate the teachings of God's Word.

All true believers have both the responsibility and privilege of ministry, but there are distinctive offices in the church for which there are Biblical qualifications outlined. The divine provision of justification does not guarantee qualification for an office. To fail to qualify for an office in no way means disqualification for service and ministry to the body of Christ.

In considering the qualifications set forth for the offices of elder/pastor/deacon in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, the committee focused attention on the words "the husband of one wife" (1 Timothy 3:2). Believing that this qualification was the most germane to the question of divorce and remarriage, in addition to our Biblical interpretation of this verse, we included in our study and investigation the historical and cultural implications of that day.

The phrase "husband of one wife" has been interpreted by some as simply a prohibition of polygamy. History clearly indicates that while polygamous relationships could be found among Jews and Gentiles during Paul's time of writing, such arrangements were not common. On the other hand, divorce and remarriage was extremely common. It is therefore safe to say that Paul's statement, while certainly forbidding polygamy should such be found, was in the broader sense addressing the problem of divorce and remarriage. To suggest that the prohibition applies only to postconversion experience is to argue from silence.

The requirement that those holding the offices of elder/pastor/deacon be the husband of one wife is in keeping with the requirement that these leaders must have a good report from outside the church. Both for the sake of the witness of the church and for the sake of freedom from entanglements, those who administer the affairs of the local church must meet this and other Biblical qualifications. This is not promoting a double standard of morality or intimating that some are more spiritual than others, but it is simply a matter of qualifications for specific offices.

For those who have experienced the tragedy of divorce and remarriage, the confrontation with scriptural qualifications for leadership roles can be extremely painful. The people of God share the hurt of those caught in these unfortunate circumstances. The mandate to bear one another's burdens and to show mercy means that the church must reach out to these who have been bruised—extend to them a hand of compassion, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Opportunities for ministry and

service must be provided to demonstrate the acceptance of these who desire integral participation in the life of the church.

The responsibility of leadership, however, involves due consideration for example and role modeling. The frequent analogy drawn of Christ and the Church as the pattern for the marital relationship indicates the sanctity and sacredness expected in this covenantal union even though that union may predate conversion. Fracturing this covenant not only creates disastrous consequences for the basic family unit involved, but also presents an example that the Word of God excludes from certain leadership roles. If the church is to be strong, its leadership must be strong; and that strength most readily applies to example. The fidelity, devotion, and commitment even to death that Christ demonstrated for His church (bride) provide the preeminent example of faithfulness for those who would hold office in the church.

After careful and prayerful consideration of the Scriptures as they deal with qualifications for elder/pastor/deacon and deliberate consideration of the historical and cultural evidence available to us, it is the strong conviction and unanimous recommendation of the members of this committee that there be a reaffirming of the position currently held by The General Council of the Assemblies of God with regard to divorce and remarriage as stated in Bylaws Article VII, Section 2.

Section 2.

It is the further recommendation of the committee that persons applying for ministerial credentials who have situations that would merit special consideration be made aware of the provisions of Article VII, Section 2, paragraph j, of the General Council Bylaws. Since the terms *annulment* and *marriage dissolution* are interpretive, persons making application for credentials where their eligibility may be in question, because of previous marital circumstances, should be informed about the appeal process.

Offering

Brother Zimmerman took this opportunity to make an appeal for an offering, stating that a minimum of \$100,000 was needed in order to cover the cost of the *Live! from Anaheim* service on Sunday night. He received pledges from several for \$1,000 offerings designated for this purpose, to be received within 30 days.

While the offering was received "The Living Sacrifice," a men's quartet from North Central Bible College, sang.

Election of General Treasurer

The general secretary read the bylaw provision for the procedure of electing the general treasurer as contained in Article II, Section 2, paragraph e. He then announced that the General Presbytery had presented the name of Raymond H. Hudson in nomination to the General Council. Ballots were cast in what the chairman explained would be the first elective ballot for the office of general treasurer. He then declared the balloting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the results of the first elective ballot for general treasurer as follows:

Ballots cast	1,999
Needed to elect	1,319
Raymond H. Hudson received	1,962

The chairman, stating that Raymond H. Hudson had received more than the two-thirds vote required, declared him reelected general treasurer on the first elective ballot.

The following were write-in nominees: Joe Adams 2, Earl Banning 1, Frank Cole 1, Glen Cole 1, George Cope 1, Fred Cottriel 2, W. E. Cummings 1, Richard Dortch 3, Joseph Flower 2, James Griggs 2, J. Hamill 1, C. L. Hobson 1, David Irwin 1, Joseph Kilpatrick 1, Clifford Kornmueller 1, Clarence Lambert 1, D. Fred Leader 1, Samuel P. Molina 1, Leonard Nipper 3, Steve Rexroat 1, Robert Spence 1, Everett Stenhouse 3, Chuck Stotts 1, William Vickery 4.

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 will endeavor to serve you in every way that will be well-pleasing to our Lord. Thank you for your giving to the ministries of the General Council. I am overwhelmed by your confidence. God bless you."

Election of Executive Director of the Division of Foreign Missions

The general secretary read the bylaw provision for the procedure in electing the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions as stated in Article II, Section 2, paragraph f. He stated that the General Presbytery had nominated J. Philip Hogan for presentation to the General Council. The chairman explained that the first ballot cast would be an elective ballot. The chairman of the Tellers Committee presented the following report of the first elective ballot:

Ballots cast	1,260
Needed to elect	832
J. Philip Hogan received	1,182

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: E. R. Anderson 1, Garland Benintendi 1, John Bueno 1, Mark Buntain 1, Arthur Cannon 1, Don Corbin 1, Norman Correll 11, Fred Cottriel 1, Charles Crabtree 1, Richard Dortch 3, George Flattery 5, Charles Greenaway 2, Merle Harris 1, Charles Heath 1, Bob Hoskins 1, Wesley Hurst 6, Ron Iwasko 1, Bernhard Johnson 1, Earl Johnson 1, Foy Johnson 1, Sam Johnson 2, Paul Lowenberg 1, Edward Nelson 2, Jerry Parsley 2, Robert Pirtle 1, William Sachs 1, Samuel Sardenai 2, Sam Sasser 1, E. R. Stenhouse 3, Dan Swearingin 1, Del Tarr 2, Loren Triplett 16, Aaron Wall 1, Joe Wright 1.

Introduction of Executive Director of the Division of Foreign Missions

The chairman congratulated J. Philip Hogan upon his reelection to the office of executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions. Brother Hogan expressed his appreciation, accepting the office with gratefulness and humility. He stated that he had been associated with the foreign outreach of the Assemblies of God for almost 40 years, having served as a missionary at the close of World War II.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:45 p.m. with the singing of the Doxology. Gustavo Jimenez, Southeastern Spanish District superintendent, dismissed in prayer.

SATURDAY EVENING—AUGUST 13

The theme of the Saturday evening service was "Preach the Cleansing Word." Richard Dortch served as chairman, and Marvin Gorman, executive presbyter and pastor of First Assembly of God, New Orleans, Louisiana, brought the message. Hardy Steinberg, national director of the Division of Christian Education, read the Scripture, John 15:1-8. John Hall led the congregational singing. Ramona Crabtree and Marjorie Ferrin, both of San Jose, California, served at the piano and organ respectively. The Gorman Family Trio of New Orleans, Louisiana, and the Bethel Church Choir of San Jose, California, provided special music.

World Ministries Giving awards were presented by Raymond H. Hudson, and a special visual concerning College Commitment Day was shown.

SUNDAY MORNING—AUGUST 14

Robert L. Brandt was in charge of the Memorial and Communion Service, which began at 9:45 a.m. with the theme: "Preach the Living Word." Silas Gaither, national director of the Division of Church Ministries, read the Scripture from 1 Peter 1:17-25. The Sanctuary Choir of First Assembly of God, Santa Barbara, California, and Doug Tutmarc from Seattle, Washington, provided special music. The speaker was Roy H. Wead, executive presbyter and former president of Trinity Bible Institute. Darlene Johnson of Scotts Valley, California, and Joe Abstrom of Houston, Texas, served at the piano and organ respectively.

In Memoriam

Joseph R. Flower presided during a visual presentation of the names of deceased ordained ministers, accompanied by vocal selections by Gloria Elliott, former Revivaltime soloist. The congregation remained seated in prayerful meditation during the presentation.

The following list includes all whose names had been reported to the General Secretary's Office from April 1, 1981, to March 31, 1983.

Allen, Otho L. C., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Amrozowicz, John, Sun City, Arizona
 Anderson, Forrest, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio
 Anderson, Gene P., Fremont, California
 Andrews, Wade, Phenix City, Alabama
 Anspaugh, Marion M., Wichita Falls, Texas
 Aplin, James H., Mobile, Alabama
 Arnold, Carl A., Cantonment, Florida
 Asbury, Dewitt N., Lakeland, Florida
 Ashley, James K., Belton, South Carolina
 Austin, Arthur A., White Cloud, Michigan
 Baker, Edna R. (Mrs.), Albertville, Alabama
 Baker, Travis F., Nocona, Texas
 Barger, Bobby E., Nashville, Tennessee
 Barham, Wendell S., San Antonio, Texas
 Barnes, Charles M., Arlington, Texas
 Beadle, Noah, Jasonville, Indiana
 Becerra, Felix, Weslaco, Texas
 Bedwell, William W., Jasonville, Indiana
 Bell, Otto J., Kirkland, Washington
 Bender, Gordon R., Lockport, New York
 Bennard, John, Shelton, Connecticut
 Bennett, Alice A. (Mrs.), West Monroe, Louisiana
 Beville, Daisy D. (Mrs.), Springfield, Missouri
 Blankenship, Charles O., Moberly, Missouri
 Blick, Ada, Clark, South Dakota
 Blundell, M. A., Duncan, B. C., Canada
 Bonds, Tollie (Mrs.), Bandy, Virginia
 Bowman, Opal I. (Mrs.), Huntington Park, California
 Boyd, Jesse F., Humphrey, Arkansas
 Boyles, William H., Miles City, Montana
 Brannan, William E., Seligman, Missouri
 Breeding, Garnett, Wise, Virginia
 Brewer, Burl C., Rosebud, Arkansas
 Broadhead, Lyman, Needham, Alabama
 Brooks, George W., Burnaby, B. C., Canada
 Brooks, Ruby L. (Mrs.), Wyandotte, Oklahoma
 Brooks, Thora B., Fredericktown, Missouri
 Brown, Allen E., Harrisburg, Arkansas
 Brown, Murray N., Sr., Springfield, Missouri
 Browning, Clarence H., Bloomfield, Minnesota

Brunetto, John C., Gloversville, New York
 Buchanan, Ralph W., Lumberton, North Carolina
 Burk, Andrew J., Mount Vernon, Missouri
 Butterfield, Oscar D., Lake Elsinore, California
 Byram, Harold D., Gooding, Idaho
 Caldwell, William A., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Campbell, Burton M., Fairview Heights, Illinois
 Capers, Oscar F., Houston, Texas
 Cardell, Joseph B., Griffin, Georgia
 Cardiff, Malva J. (Mrs.), Orlando, Florida
 Carlisle, James H., Jacksonville, Florida
 Catledge, C. Clifford, Fresno, California
 Catlett, Don R., Tulare, California
 Caudle, Robert E., Tulare, California
 Champlin, Harold D., Redwood City, California
 Chase, Mary E., Menahga, Minnesota
 Christopher, Handy A., Seminole, Florida
 Chung, Timothy, San Francisco, California
 Clark, Norman H., Eureka Springs, Arkansas
 Claxton, Annabelle, Macomb, Missouri
 Clement, James A., Shreveport, Louisiana
 Clevenger, Alvin L., Excelsior Springs, Missouri
 Cole, George, Rosemead, California
 Coleman, Helen G. (Mrs.), Shoshone, Idaho
 Collier, William T., Marcellus, Michigan
 Copple, Sada M. (Mrs.), Sacramento, California
 Cossey, Olen F., Watonga, Oklahoma
 Covington, Robert L., Muncie, Indiana
 Crank, Ola C., Orlando, Florida
 Crawford, Donald D., North Little Rock, Arkansas
 Damiani, Alfred, Sr., Woxall, Pennsylvania
 Davis, Leslie E., Yakima, Washington
 Davison, Eva R., Essex, England
 Deir, Atef J., Fort Payne, Alabama
 De La Cruz, Manuel V., San Antonio, Texas
 De Leon, Victor, Jr., La Puente, California
 Devin, Edna M. (Mrs.), Seattle, Washington
 Dewlen, Claude E., Celina, Ohio
 Deyo, Charles A., Everett, Washington
 Dickinson, John C., Springfield, Missouri
 Dollar, Fred E., Ontario, California
 Dorson, John D., Taylor, Michigan
 Douglass, Stewart B., Tyler, Texas
 Draper, Elmer T., Thousand Oaks, California
 Duhon, Louviana B. (Mrs.), Lake Charles, Louisiana
 Eddy, Raymond J., Milan, Missouri
 Erxleben, Julius W., Sr., Fresno, California
 Eskelin, Ernest G., Clearwater, Florida

Eyer, Raymond P., Midway, Kentucky
 Filbert, Estella B. (Mrs.), Hurst, Texas
 Findley, Lloyd B., Russellville, Arkansas
 Fisher, Bessie L. (Mrs.), Memphis, Tennessee
 Fleming, Zene F., Cherry Tree, Pennsylvania
 Fontenot, Duford W., Sulphur, Louisiana
 Fowler, Jesse E., Mountain View, Arkansas
 Francis, Arlie, Amity, Arkansas
 Franklin, Paul B., Springfield, Missouri
 Franks, Nath, Sayre, Oklahoma
 Frost, Henry E., Wenden, Arizona
 Gannon, Theodore E., Springfield, Missouri
 Garland, Joseph G., Hayward, California
 Gee, C. C., Rockdale, Texas
 Giardella, Joseph, East Boston, Massachusetts
 Giddens, Alice (Mrs.), Pensacola, Florida
 Givens, Manerva A. (Mrs.), Live Oak, California
 Goss, Jess L., Cedar Vale, Kansas
 Graddy, W. E., Thayer, Missouri
 Graham, Ida M. (Mrs.), McPherson, Kansas
 Graham, Robert H., Stockton, California
 Grams, William F., Mayville, Wisconsin
 Grayson, Mary A. (Mrs.), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Greer, George L., DeKalb, Texas
 Gulfan, Porterio V., Captain Cook, Hawaii
 Gunderson, Carl O., Vancouver, Washington
 Hubbard, William E., Graceville, Florida
 Hadley, Fred H., Graceville, Florida
 Hagemeister, Herman L., Thief River Falls, Minnesota
 Hahn, Clarence W., Dilworth, Minnesota
 Halbrook, Merris L. (Mrs.), Tampa, Florida
 Hamlett, Granade, Laurel Hill, Florida
 Hampton, Millard B., Locust Grove, Georgia
 Hancock, Cecil W., New Sharon, Iowa
 Hargis, Raymond M., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Harris, Joseph J., North Little Rock, Arkansas
 Harris, Lee C., Elmore City, Oklahoma
 Harris, Mary H., Muskogee, Oklahoma
 Harrison, Charles I., Jacksonville, Florida
 Hays, H. H., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Headrick, Lucille (Mrs.), Honolulu, Hawaii
 Hebbeler, Louis A., Marion, Illinois
 Heinze, Bennie C., Watertown, South Dakota
 Henderson, Eula E. (Mrs.), Rock Island, Illinois
 Hernandez, Enrique, Carolina, Puerto Rico
 Herrman, Edward M., Gering, Nebraska
 Hickman, Andrew T., Kinston, Alabama
 Hickman, Otis C., Kinston, Alabama

Hicks, Bunn E., Wilmington, Ohio
 Hicks, Clyde O., Rice Lake, Wisconsin
 Higginbotham, M. C., Jr., Miami, Texas
 Hodge, Ben D., Sr., El Paso, Texas
 Hodgson, Marion E., Southgate, Michigan
 Hoffman, Euris E., Byars, Oklahoma
 Hollister, G. H., Decatur, Illinois
 Holm, Lilian E. (Mrs.), Auburn, Washington
 Hootman, Lewis S., McMinnville, Oregon
 Horst, Clarris D., Elyria, Ohio
 Hoskins, Mervin T., Ponca City, Oklahoma
 Hudson, Edna M., Quincy, Illinois
 Huffman, Powhattan, Farmington, Missouri
 Hundley, Chester W., Sr., Jacksonville, Florida
 Hyland, Arthur D., Springfield, Oregon
 Ingram, Noel R., McKinleyville, California
 Jaco, Golda M. (Mrs.), Elvins, Missouri
 Jacobson, Paul E., Mount Vernon, Washington
 James, Aggis W., Sparks, Oklahoma
 Jamison, John S., Boise, Idaho
 Johnson, Roy P., Cape Girardeau, Missouri
 Johnson, Sadie L. (Mrs.), Pensacola, Florida
 Johnson, Werner M., Rodeo, California
 Jones, Gertrude V., Salem, Oregon
 Jones, Paul, Harrison, Arkansas
 Jones, Ray G., Lake Stevens, Washington
 Jones, Ted P., Duncanville, Texas
 Kahl, Harold M., Weaverville, California
 Kalles, Earl V., Hoquiam, Washington
 Keifer, William B., Newport, Pennsylvania
 Keller, Charles H., Airville, Pennsylvania
 Keller, Walter J., Fairfax, Virginia
 Kellner, John, Akron, New York
 Kelsey, Wesley I., San Pedro, California
 Kendrick, Raymond, Clarksville, Arkansas
 Kenyon, Nelson J., Lakeland, Florida
 King, Leroy, Cullen, Louisiana
 Kingsriter, Orrin A., La Mirada, California
 Kirschke, William E., Rosenberg, Texas
 Kisser, Joseph, Milford, Nebraska
 Klock, David R., Canon City, Colorado
 Kneggs, J. R., Greenville, Texas
 Kornelsen, Walter J., Costa Mesa, California
 Kuppe, Hulda R., Cleveland, Ohio
 Kurjan, Lukasz, Whittier, California
 Lackey, Atha, Cantonment, Florida
 Lackey, Edward E., Greenville, Illinois
 Lamar, William M., Fresno, California

La Monica, Louis, Hammond, Louisiana
 Lamons, Earl T., West Plains, Missouri
 La Vegne, Curtis, Ridgcrest, California
 Law, William H., Austin, Texas
 Lefkovitz, Morris, Pelham, Georgia
 Leggett, Estelle (Mrs.), Houston, Texas
 Leonard, William B., Seattle, Washington
 Lewis, Daniel D., Tyler, Texas
 Lilley, John B., Culver City, California
 Lindsey, Wiley E., Munford, Tennessee
 Lindsey, Willis S., Keota, Oklahoma
 Locke, N. L., Porterville, California
 Longdin, Wilfred E., Knoxville, Iowa
 Loosier, Price H., Kaufman, Texas
 Loper, Hubert H., Millry, Alabama
 Lorton, Orris A., Searcy, Arkansas
 Lucy, Jean D., Russellville, Arkansas
 Lum, Stephen E., Pasadena, Texas
 Main, Charles F., Enid, Oklahoma
 Mallough, Don, Toledo, Washington
 Mangum, John E., Marlow, Oklahoma
 Marquez, Jaime, Brooklyn, New York
 Marr, Grace M., Fredericktown, Missouri
 Marrison, John A., Sayre, Oklahoma
 Marshall, Ralph H., Bakersfield, California
 Martin, Mearl L., Mesa, Arizona
 McCleskey, Gatha L. (Mrs.), Concord, North Carolina
 McGarvey, David L., Champaign, Illinois
 McGeachie, Wanda E. (Mrs.), Goshen, Indiana
 McGowan, Samuel H., Blakely, Georgia
 McGuire, James P., Conroe, Texas
 McWhirt, Oscar F., Martinville, Indiana
 Melson, C. W., Ozone, Arkansas
 Menchaca, Jose A., Sr., Manteca, California
 Meyrick, Hilda, Barquisimeto, Venezuela
 Miles, Hazel A. (Mr.), Southport, Florida
 Miller, Everett C., Dallas, Texas
 Miller, Goldie R. (Mr.), Salem, Oregon
 Mills, Jesse J., Jasper, Texas
 Mitchell, Clarence G., Fort Worth, Texas
 Moomjean, Melvin V., Montebello, California
 Moon, Archie L., Kinston, Alabama
 Moore, George E., Grass Lake, Michigan
 Moore, Grover A., Yakima, Washington
 Moore, Helen, Long Prairie, Minnesota
 Moore, James A., Fort Smith, Arkansas
 Moore, Jesse A., Tecumseh, Oklahoma
 Moore, Lillian E. (Mrs.), Canfield, Ohio

Morris, William L., Jr., Queen City, Texas
 Morrison, Henry G., Queen City, Texas
 Munger, Roy R., Shiprock, New Mexico
 Myers, William J., Greenwood, Arkansas
 Nelson, William C., Kettering, Ohio
 Neuhaus, Freida C. (Mrs.), Glendale, California
 Nicely, Eugene T., Angleton, Texas
 Nichols, Charles G., Texarkana, Arkansas
 Nichols, William C., Russellville, Arkansas
 Odell, Earl W., Redlands, California
 O'Dell, James L., Versailles, Missouri
 Oldham, Kenneth R., Olympia, Washington
 Olson, Gordon V., Wilmar, Minnesota
 Olson, Lydia E. (Mrs.), Arcadia, California
 Orphan, Frank, Flushing, New York
 Ortiz, William S., Santa Clara, California
 O'Shields, Clyde S., Clovis, California
 Ott, George A., Claremore, Oklahoma
 Pashchak, William, Uniondale, New York
 Pate, J. G. (Mrs.), Houston, Texas
 Penny, James H., Paragould, Arkansas
 Pepper, Charles, Napa, California
 Perales, Raul D., Las Cruces, New Mexico
 Persing, Lloyd C., Burlingame, California
 Pettey, Oliver N., Gilmer, Texas
 Pettit, Leslie E., Houston, Texas
 Ponge, H. William, Hungerford, Texas
 Preslar, George G., Kenton, Tennessee
 Price, Alvin W., Avon, North Carolina
 Prinzing, Lowell I., Sweet Home, Oregon
 Pullen, Louis M., Atmore, Alabama
 Radley, Paul E., Fremont, California
 Raiford, W. A., Sr., Dustin, Oklahoma
 Rasnake, John E., Bristol, Tennessee
 Rawls, Horace A., Temple, Texas
 Raymond, James E., Longmont, Colorado
 Reilly, Robert T., Marion, North Carolina
 Rhodes, Doran L., Payette, Idaho
 Riddlesperger, Jackson, Green Forest, Arkansas
 Roberts, Clarence M., Mansfield, Missouri
 Roberts, L. D., Hollister, California
 Robison, Dock V., DeValls, Arkansas
 Rose, Ernest L., North Bend, Oregon
 Roubal, Frank E., Scottsdale, Arizona
 Rowan, Albert A., Lakeland, Florida
 Ruark, Bonnie E. (Mrs.), Adams, Oregon
 Runyan, Paul B., Lino-Lakes, Minnesota
 Ruskey, Alma V. (Mrs.), Grafton, Virginia

Russell, Charlie M., Green Forest, Arkansas
 Russell, W. Roscoe, Bloomington, Indiana
 Sandefer, Charles H., Fresno, California
 Schachterle, R. C., Denver, Colorado
 Scharnick, Reinhold, Spring Valley, California
 Schmidgall, Kenneth J., Jerseyville, Illinois
 Schmitt, Carl D., Hartland, Wisconsin
 Seale, Calvin B., Lindale, Texas
 Searles, Arden W., Greensboro, North Carolina
 Shaw, Dayton B., Sweet Springs, Missouri
 Sheets, Lester H., Riverside, California
 Shell, Arthur L., Sr., Goodway, Alabama
 Sherrill, William B., Houston, Texas
 Shirley, Burton G., Salem, Oregon
 Shook, Charlotte (Mrs.), Carson, California
 Shull, James C., Foster, Missouri
 Sigeti, Mary (Mrs.), San Gabriel, California
 Sims, Rita (Mrs.), Marion, Mississippi
 Sipper, John W., Luverne, Alabama
 Skaggs, Vernon W., Yakima, Washington
 Smith, Dewitt T., Chickasaw, Alabama
 Smith, Ether F., Coffeyville, Kansas
 Smith, Jack C., Mobile, Alabama
 Smith, Vivan I. (Mr.), Springfield, Missouri
 Smith, William L., Alief, Texas
 Snow, Layton E., Whitney, Texas
 Solares, Bernardo M., Irving, Texas
 Solberg, Kenneth A., Modesto, California
 Sowell, Sam I., St. Joseph, Missouri
 Sparlin, Willard C., Great Falls, Montana
 Spiesz, Sterl D., Woodburn, Oregon
 Spina, Josephine, East Meadow, New York
 Spotts, Charles A., Pleasant Hill, Missouri
 Spurgeon, Edna L. (Mrs.), Houston, Texas
 Stafford, Joseph W., Cleveland, Texas
 Staudt, C. J., Waupaca, Wisconsin
 Stephens, Hurshel L., Sumner, Texas
 Stephenson, Ovid K., Notasulga, Alabama
 Stine, Albert F., Ridgeley, West Virginia
 Stokes, Edith I. (Mrs.), Fort Smith, Arkansas
 Stone, Martha L. (Mrs.), Paradise, California
 Sundberg, Stig G., Hubbard, Ohio
 Sutura, Alphonse, Belleview, Florida
 Swain, Henry A., Springfield, Missouri
 Sweet, Ronald L., Travelers Rest, South Carolina
 Swick, Ethel (Mrs.), Lincoln, Nebraska
 Tate, Delores (Mrs.), Stillwater, Oklahoma
 Teichman, Herman S., Irving, Texas

Tennison, Troy, Harrison, Arkansas
 Todd, Alton B., Bloomington, California
 Tomaseck, Anna E., Springfield, Missouri
 Tompkins, Ira, Silver Springs, Florida
 Trotter, Alfred N., Rialto, California
 Tucker, John I., Hapeville, Georgia
 Unruh, Carolyn V. (Mrs.), Springfield, Missouri
 Vandermerwe, Bernice (Mrs.), South Africa
 Venable, William A., Kingston, Oklahoma
 Wade, Loren C., Worden, Illinois
 Walker, Alva I., Springfield, Missouri
 Walker, Darrell P., San Leandro, California
 Walter, Lois G. (Mrs.), Lightfoot, Virginia
 Ward, Harold L., Lufkin, Texas
 Watson, James W., Phenix City, Alabama
 Watterson, S. W., Ardmore, Oklahoma
 Wead, Rosa Mae (Mrs.), Ellendale, North Dakota
 Weidman, Paul R., Mesa, Arizona
 Wellard, David M., Durant, Florida
 Wells, Alfred J., Fairfax, Oklahoma
 Wells, Vernon L., Lima, Ohio
 Westbury, S. Joseph, Jenkinsburg, Georgia
 White, Joseph A., Valdosta, Georgia
 White, Noice L., Bellaire, Texas
 Wiley, Calvin O., Keller, Texas
 Wilkins, Clifton E., Rochester, Indiana
 Williams, Ernest S., Springfield, Missouri
 Williams, Eva E. (Mrs.), Daphne, Alabama
 Williams, James P., Mentone, California
 Williams, Ralph D., Pembroke Pines, Florida
 Wilmerton, William W., Sr., Neosho, Missouri
 Wilson, Viola H., (Mrs.), Comanche, Oklahoma
 Wise, Katie J., Eureka Springs, Arkansas
 Wolff, Benjamin S., Sr., Westminster, California
 Wooldridge, J. Haskell, Ashford, Alabama
 Wray, Kenneth H., Waterloo, Nebraska
 Yates, Marvin L., Springfield, Tennessee

The following names of deceased ordained ministers which had been reported to the General Secretary's Office after April 1, 1983, were also included in the visual presentation.

Aylor, Edison L., Livingston, Texas
 Barnett, Hershel W., Kansas City, Kansas
 Bennett, Fred C., Sr., Dillsburg, Pennsylvania
 Busby, Beryl E. (Mrs.), Australia
 Carter, Walter H., Lake City, South Carolina
 Castleberry, Joseph C., Sylacauga, Alabama
 Dollins, James W., Springdale, Arkansas
 Edwards, Fanny E. (Mrs.), Roswell, New Mexico

Enriquez, Vidal, Farmington, New Mexico
 Evans, Ella G. (Mrs.), Spokane, Washington
 Fitzgerald, John E., Everett, Massachusetts
 Gonzalez, Pablo Perez, Hialeah, Florida
 Granberry, Herbert R., Palestine, Texas
 Graves, Shelby E., Ontario, Oregon
 Gyax, Lula M., Enterprise, Alabama
 Hartle, Russell E., Hagerstown, Maryland
 Hayes, Ernest E., Lake City, Florida
 Hosier, Virginia M. (Mrs.), Des Moines, Iowa
 Hummel, J. Roland, Hollywood, California
 Hutchinson, M. Ralph, Mesa, Arizona
 Irby, Charles W., Rowlett, Texas
 Jackson, George A., Hendersonville, Tennessee
 Kaufmann, Elmer W., Cottonwood, Arizona
 Kelly, Ramona J. (Mrs.), Mercer, Missouri
 Lee, Edward V., Sasakwa, Oklahoma
 Little, Milton L., Blairsville, Georgia
 McEntyre, Ben E., Ontario, California
 Mason, Ervin W., Sr., Williamsport, Maryland
 Melton, Ralph T., Sun Valley, California
 Morrison, A. H., Orlando, Florida
 Morrison, J. C., Waxahachie, Texas
 Nutt, Pleasant H., Henderson, Texas
 Olehy, Levin V., Parsons, Kansas
 Olsen, Evelyn M., Brooklyn, New York
 Oney, Carl W., Pinole, California
 Paget, Jack L., Petoskey, Michigan
 Pennell, Robert T., Roswell, Georgia
 Penzes, Valentine, North Royalton, Ohio
 Peters, Kenneth L., Cannon Falls, Minnesota
 Pettit, Emery C., Maysville, Missouri
 Phillips, Lyle R., Jr., Davison, Michigan
 Reed, Glenn A., Longmont, Colorado
 Revels, Oval, Kansas City, Missouri
 Roberts, Jean E. (Mrs.), Blaine, Washington
 Robie, Leman C., Union Springs, New York
 Rossignol, Claude A., Redlands, California
 St. Clergy, Lloyd L., Sr., West Monroe, Louisiana
 Scott, George D., San Bernardino, California
 Sellers, E. O., Tallahassee, Florida
 Skipper, Jesse W., Lakeland, Florida
 Sloan, William H., Trussville, Alabama
 Smith, Henry, Trenton, New Jersey
 Snyder, Mabele C. (Mrs.), McAfee, New Jersey
 Steele, Floyd L., Independence, Missouri
 Triemstra, Jerry, Durant, Florida
 Turnage, A. E., Texarkana, Texas

Utu, Lemuel T., Pearl City, Hawaii
 Wagley, Michael W., Larned, Kansas
 Waugh, John H., Raytown, Missouri
 Weden, Gordon A., Bellingham, Washington
 Winslow, Herbert H., Greenville, South Carolina

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, music was provided by the sanctuary choir from First Assembly of God, Santa Barbara, California.

SUNDAY EVENING—AUGUST 14

Live! from Anaheim, the first live telecast of a General Council service, was produced during the Sunday evening service. The speaker for this special telecast was General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman. G. Raymond Carlson served as chairman of the service, and Big John Hall led the congregational singing. Stan Ramsey and Linnie Olson, both of First Assembly of God, North Hollywood, California, served at the piano and organ respectively. Special music was provided by Big John Hall, the choir and orchestra of First Assembly of God, North Hollywood, California, Lowell and Connie Lundstrom of Sisseton, South Dakota, and Lillie Knauls of San Jose, California. Phil Kristiansen, music coordinator, and Mark Thallander, music minister, both of the Crystal Cathedral, Garden Grove, California, provided the offertory on the piano and organ respectively. Prior to the telecast the choir and orchestra played background music for a missionary parade, with a narration by Philip Wannenmacher, pastor of Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri.

MONDAY MORNING—AUGUST 15

The morning began with "A Time for Praise" led by Pastor Tom Paino, Jr., of Indianapolis, Indiana. Assisting in the singing and worship were Mrs. Edwina Duncan of Lodi, California, at the organ, and Johnny Garrison of Indianapolis, Indiana, at the piano. Brother Paino brought an exhortation on the importance of true worship. Worship should be a time of celebration, a time of festivity, a joyful occasion when God's people lift their hearts in praise and adoration.

Fred Cottriel, assistant superintendent, Southern California District, presented the offering appeal. For the offertory, "The Singing Parsons," composed of Marcus Gaston, Elmer Bilton, Don Waggoner, and Edwin Anderson, blessed the congregation with their ministry. Mrs. Carolyn Moyer, Foothill Christian Center, Glendora, California, accompanied the quartet.

Recognition of General Secretary from New Zealand

G. Raymond Carlson escorted R. M. Goulton, general secretary of the Apostolic Church National Council, Auckland, New Zealand, to the po-

dium. Brother Zimmerman expressed appreciation that he would include a visit to our 40th General Council in the midst of his trip to the United States. A plaque, prepared as a memento of his visit, was presented to Brother Goulton.

Recognition of American Bible Society Representative

The general superintendent recognized Mardy Olivas, Western consultant of the American Bible Society. Dr. Olivas extended personal greetings from Alice Ball, vice-president of ABS, and expressed appreciation to the Assemblies of God for its commitment to the work of the American Bible Society from the very beginning.

Business Session

The business session was called to order at 10:30 a.m. Frank J. Lindquist, honorary general presbyter from the Minnesota District, was asked to invoke God's blessing upon the morning business session.

Roster Committee Report

John R. Bryant, chairman of the Roster committee, gave the following report as of 10 a.m. Monday:

Ordained ministers	3,636	
Delegates	967	
Voting constituency		4,603
Licensed ministers	384	
Visitors	8,461	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>8,845</u>
Total		13,448

It was noted that this is the all-time high in registration for any General Council to date. A motion prevailed to accept this progress report.

Election of Executive Presbyters

The general secretary read Constitution Article IX, Section 2, paragraph a, concerning the composition and terms of office for executive presbyters. It was noted that, as instructed by the last General Council, the General Secretary's Office has prepared a booklet listing the nominees from the various areas with pictures and pertinent information for each individual.

Instructions were given, both verbally and by a visual presentation, concerning the use of the computerized ballots.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Northwest Area

Ballots were cast for the election of the executive presbyter from the Northwest Area.

Steven Warner, chairman of the Tellers Committee, gave the following report of the first elective ballot for executive presbyter from the Northwest Area:

Total votes cast	1,694
Needed to elect	1,129
E. D. Beard	27
R. Earl Book	227
Robert L. Brandt	714
Wesley J. Bransford	10
Frank E. Cole	230
D. V. Hurst	285
H. R. Kennedy	3
Darrell Redfearn	51
E. E. Rohde	39
Lorin W. Short	18
Victor D. Trimmer	83
Homer B. Walkup	7

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	1,454
Needed to elect	969
E. D. Beard	13
R. Earl Book	133
Robert L. Brandt	1,005
Wesley J. Bransford	4
Frank E. Cole	117
D. V. Hurst	167
H. R. Kennedy	0
Darrell Redfearn	4
E. E. Rohde	2
Lorin W. Short	3
Victor D. Trimmer	6
Homer B. Walkup	0

The chairman declared that Robert L. Brandt was reelected as executive presbyter from the Northwest Area, receiving above the two-thirds vote required.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Southwest Area

Ballots were cast for the election of the executive presbyter from the Southwest Area.

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

Total votes cast	1,718
Needed to elect	1,146
Glen D. Cole	234
W. E. Cummings	73
Donald I. Farmer	42
Harold Headrick	3
Albert K. Kim	7

Frank Romero	8
Samuel D. Sanchez	16
Roy Sapp	48
Robert A. Sites	55
Everett R. Stenhouse	920
William O. Vickery	159
Bobby J. Wilson	44
George O. Wood	109

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	1,224
Needed to elect	816
Glen D. Cole	144
W. E. Cummings	16
Donald I. Farmer	6
Harold Headrick	1
Albert K. Kim	0
Frank Romero	1
Samuel D. Sanchez	9
Roy Sapp	12
Robert A. Sites	11
Everett R. Stenhouse	907
William O. Vickery	70
Bobby J. Wilson	7
George O. Wood	40

The chairman declared that Everett R. Stenhouse was reelected as executive presbyter from the Southwest Area, receiving above the two-thirds vote required.

Election of Executive Presbyter—North Central Area

Ballots were cast for the election of the executive presbyter from the North Central Area.

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

Total votes cast	1,683
Needed to elect	1,122
Marcus Bakke	18
David C. Crabtree	553
Ronald Hastie	157
Arvid Kingsriter	97
Samuel A. Mayo	49
David L. Nelson	30
Harley W. Olson	43
S. Harland Petersen	68
Samuel C. Peterson	19
Albert W. Pettet, Sr.	74

Herman H. Rohde	324
Allan Ullestad	61
Clinton E. Vanzant	136
James D. Wilkins	54

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	1,305
Needed to elect	870
Marcus Bakke	3
David C. Crabtree	916
Ronald Hastie	35
Arvid Kingsriter	13
Samuel A. Mayo	6
David L. Nelson	5
Harley W. Olson	9
S. Harland Petersen	3
Samuel C. Peterson	2
Albert W. Pettet, Sr.	9
Herman H. Rohde	249
Allan Ullestad	6
Clinton E. Vanzant	45
James D. Wilkins	4

The chairman declared that David C. Crabtree was elected as executive presbyter from the North Central Area, receiving above the two-thirds vote required. Brother Zimmerman welcomed him to the platform and asked him to be seated.

Election of Executive Presbyter—South Central Area

Ballots were cast for the election of the executive presbyter from the South Central Area.

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

Total votes cast	1,670
Needed to elect	1,114
E. R. Anderson	64
Earl J. Banning	140
James K. Bridges	170
Howard Burroughs	16
James C. Dodd	65
J. W. Farmer	32
R. Kenneth George	37
Paul Lowenberg	866
Derald Musgrove	91
Armon Newburn	88
Paul W. Savage	44
Robert G. Slaton	10
Frank Trevino	47

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	1,367
Needed to elect	912
E. R. Anderson	17
Earl J. Banning	56
James K. Bridges	150
Howard Burroughs	2
James C. Dodd	9
J. W. Farmer	2
R. Kenneth George	5
Paul Lowenberg	1,063
Derald Musgrove	18
Armon Newburn	22
Paul W. Savage	5
Robert G. Slaton	1
Frank Trevino	17

The chairman declared that Paul Lowenberg was reelected as executive presbyter from the South Central Area, receiving above the two-thirds vote required.

Resolution 1. Recognition of Korean District Council

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

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery in its 1982 session authorized the forming of a district to be known as the Korean District Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, The aforesaid district council was organized on the 12th day of February, 1982; and

WHEREAS, Qualifications for becoming a foreign language district, as stated in Bylaws Article V, Section 4, have been fully met; 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 102), titled Area divisions for electing nonresident executive presbyters, be amended by adding *Korean* under the heading of Southwest Area. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 1.

Resolution 2. Appointment of Home Missionaries

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 2 as follows:

WHEREAS, Renewal of national home missionaries' appointments annually is administratively burdensome; and

WHEREAS, Annual renewals are impractical, since each appointed missionary furnishes the Division of Home Missions with a monthly report of finances and activities; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws, Article XVI, Section 4, paragraph f (page 163), which now reads:

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.

be amended so that the new paragraph will read:

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. All missionary appointments and renewals thereof shall be made according to administrative criteria established by the Division of Home Missions.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 2.

Resolution 3. Clarification of Elective Ballot

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 3 as follows:

WHEREAS, There is a need to achieve clarity and maintain uniformity in the bylaws; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the sentence on line 9 of Article II, Section 2, paragraph a, of the Bylaws (page 101), which now begins:

"If no election has been declared after the third ballot has been cast" be amended to read:

"If no election has been declared after the third elective 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."

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 3.

1983 Spiritual Life Committee Report

The general superintendent requested the privilege of inserting the report of the 1983 Spiritual Life Committee. Brother Zimmerman had asked George Wood to serve as chairman of the committee for this General Council. Brother Wood read the report as follows:

Every work of God which bears fruit has its seedtime—its seminal moments when what the Lord is germinating is hidden from view.

Such is the case with the founding of the Assemblies of God. Who in 1914, that was wise from the world's view, could have perceived that a little band of over 300 people meeting in Hot Springs, Arkansas, had been called of God to found a Movement which would significantly reach the world for Christ? Few would have imagined that such a small

band would become such a mighty army.

God's principles do not change. The fruit which will be borne, should Jesus tarry, in the next generation of the Assemblies of God is present in the seed being sown today.

This Council's Spiritual Life Committee, while thankful for the evident fruit of God's blessing upon the Assemblies of God, nevertheless desires to discern the seed needs and trends which determine whether the generation 70 years from now will one day call us blessed; and most of all, whether the Lord will commend our labors.

It is for certain that the continued hand of the Lord upon us is directly related to our commitment to Christ. We are not called upon to worship at the throne of a church, an organization, a building, a ministry. God is jealous about His throne; and our individual and corporate priority must continually be to exalt, worship, and serve Him. Christ, through the Holy Spirit, builds the Church whose first love, first priority, first obedience is to himself.

Laypeople, ministers, and churches which minister with power in the 1980s will be those who have an unshakable commitment and loyalty to Jesus. Among such, we are going to see an unparalleled expansion of the Church. The anointing of the Spirit will be mighty upon those who bring good news to the poor, who proclaim deliverance to the captive, recovery of sight to the blind, liberty to the oppressed, and who declare this as the day of God's favor.

Those churches and ministers within our Fellowship who have no vision for the lost, who let year after year go by with no evangelism effort or no missionary giving or missionary involvement, will die. God will keep nothing alive which does not glorify His Son or share His heart.

Three words will describe Christ-exalting ministries and churches through the rest of the 1980s: *anointing*, *deliverance*, and *authority*. These attributes will follow those who become people of prayer, fasting, and intercession.

Those who exercise authority will be under the authority of the Holy Spirit. Two areas where this will be most evident are within and outside the home.

Many ministers are doing the work of God now without the joy of the Lord because their homelife is a mass of pain. We call upon national and district leadership to continue and expand efforts directed to helping the minister, his spouse, and children become people of God in their personal lives. The Lord is going to turn back the assault of the enemy against the home—especially, the preacher's home. He is going to raise up the minister's home as a model for believer and unbeliever alike. Wherever the emphasis is upon Spirit-filled families, beginning with the role model of leadership families, there will be Spirit-filled churches. There can be no Spirit-filled churches without Spirit-filled individuals and families.

The godly minister also is going to be known for his kindness; rudeness, discourtesy, threats, ill-temper simply have no place in the min-

ister's life because they have no place in Christ. Ministers must be persons of respect, above reproach. They must ensure that means are consistent with ends, that we do not fight the devil with the devil's ways.

We call upon pastors to be persons of prayer and to teach and encourage their churches to pray. Praying begets the desire to be a person of prayer; those who do not pray lose the desire.

While God is going to be doing great things through the 1980s, His emphasis is upon being. He seeks integrity in those who serve Him. He seeks holiness in those who name His name. He deplores those who announce forgiveness in His name and omit all mention of repentance. He calls us to godly sorrow for sin, to commitment to His cross. He calls us to avoid the illusion that being caught up in a ministry equals being caught up in Him. The quest to know Him must always be greater than the desire to do a work for Him. Then those who know God best work for Him most.

The Holy Spirit is directing us to have a larger vision of our mission. Great demographic changes have taken place in our country with the consequent result that we are moving quickly to embrace every culture, race, and nationality in communities within which local churches minister. In years ahead, the Assemblies of God will increasingly reflect a rich pluralism and diversity of ethnic background bonded by a common love for Christ and one another. Urban centers will become particular spheres of God's activity as we obey the Great Commission and depend upon the Holy Spirit to raise up the leadership and resources to plant thousands of new churches throughout the major cities of America.

We encourage national, district, and local leadership to continue and deepen ties of fellowship with Christians and evangelical and/or charismatic churches outside our Fellowship. We believe there is much profit in the learning and sharing which occurs across church traditions and ecclesiastical boundaries. Such communion testifies to the world of the love of Christ through our unity in the Spirit.

As a revival movement, the Assemblies of God must itself stay continually open to revival. It must not formalize or routinize the Spirit. It must not take pride in its acceptance, accomplishment, or gain, but offer itself in fresh humility to God as simply a vessel through which He can pour forth the Spirit upon all flesh.

We must keep the balance between spiritual experience and doctrinal truth. God will not let His hand of blessing remain upon a church which departs from His Word; nor will He use a church which slowly slips into a dead-letter orthodoxy without experiential vitality.

We see an encouraging trend developing in many districts which now require extensive orientation for credential candidates. We feel that such efforts greatly help in bringing the balance needed between belief and behavior. We commend the many districts who are providing seminars and other growth opportunities to ministers and their spouses for dealing successfully with personal problems and burn-out in the ministry.

A great surge of people has and will yet come into Christ as a result of this Movement. We express great concern that every effort be made to familiarize newcomers with the principles God has built into this part of His church. Especially we call upon every leader and pastor to emphasize the missionary calling of the Church. We feel it would be helpful to the new generation for a book to be written on a popular level which would tell the story of Assemblies of God missions. Such a work should not only be written to inform, but to inspire all within our Fellowship to a renewed commitment to fulfill the Great Commission. We further encourage the writing of other autobiographical, theological, expositional, and practical books to stimulate our Fellowship in its service to Christ.

A new generation of leadership is now being educated and trained within our colleges and on secular campuses. We call for intercessory prayer for not only our own schools, but the campuses of America. We urge the pastors and churches of our Fellowship to financially undergird college ministry with the same intensity and fervor of missionary commitment.

The second national Conference on the Holy Spirit convenes next August in Springfield. The Spirit's leading has been evident throughout the past 5 years of planning for the regional and national conferences. The themes of the 1984 Conference relate to the Holy Spirit and the local church. Here will be emphasized the three characteristics of the Spirit-led local church. Such a church: (1) worships in adoration, (2) edifies with the Word, and (3) proclaims with authority. We believe that this conference will play a vital role in further equipping churches, ministers, and laypersons to live and minister in the power of the Spirit.

We are reaping today the product of the seed which an earlier generation planted with great sacrifice and hardship. We, however, must do more than enjoy the fruit. What will we sow? May there be a harvest of righteousness and salvation through our time of sowing in God's vineyard!

The report of the Spiritual Life Committee was unanimously adopted.

Following the adoption of the report the general superintendent stated, "I believe, dear friends, this report distills the very essence and throb and heartbeat of this General Council. If I could be so bold as to suggest to some of you ministers who are looking for good preaching material, you might just find some good motivational material to be used within the confines of this report. Likewise, I would like to suggest to our district leadership, when planning for ministers meetings, there are some very cardinal matters, actually cardiac matters, that are surfaced in this report that you could deal with in a very practical, forthright manner. I believe God is dealing with the Assemblies of God as a movement. He is very interested in what we do, but He is more interested in what we are. We will do effectively what we do, only if we remain essentially what we ought to be. I pray that God will keep us available, usable people who will be totally submissive to the purpose of God."

Recess

The meeting recessed at noon with prayer by R. M. Goulton from Auckland, New Zealand, remembering several special requests.

MONDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 15

M. Earl Johnson opened the afternoon session with singing several choruses. The general superintendent led in prayer for some special requests.

Everitt M. Fjordbak of Dallas, Texas, presented a Pentecostal commentary he had written to the general superintendent stating, "It is my honor, Dr. Thomas Zimmerman, a devoted servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, a trusted guide, a wise counselor, a worthy administrator, a capable leader, a minister friend, a stalwart soldier and defender of our Pentecostal heritage, doctrines, and beliefs, to dedicate this book to you." Brother Zimmerman responded with an expression of appreciation.

William O. Vickery gave the offering appeal and Denny Hollowell, soloist and member of First Assembly of God, North Hollywood, California, sang "The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation" for the offertory. Elaine Wibley, music director of First Assembly of God, Worcester, Massachusetts, was at the piano, and Jerry Kirk, minister of music, Newport-Mesa Christian Center, Costa Mesa, California, was at the organ.

The chairman called the afternoon business session to order at 2:05 p.m.

Roster Committee Report

Brother Bryant brought the following report of the Roster Committee as of 1:30 p.m.:

Ordained ministers	3,642	
Delegates	969	
Voting constituency		4,611
Licensed ministers	385	
Visitors	8,471	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>8,856</u>
Total		13,467

A motion prevailed to accept it as a progress report, with the understanding that the roster will remain open through tonight's rally and the final appeal for registration made at that time.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Great Lakes Area

Ballots were cast for the election of the executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area.

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

Total votes cast	1,446
Needed to elect	964
Jack M. Carnley	3
Robert D. Crabtree	130

Charles E. Crank	45
Richard W. Dortch	998
James C. Ellis	10
Ivar A. Frick	37
Charles E. Hackett	20
Waymon L. Rodgers	17
Hugh H. Rosenberg	41
Robert K. Schmidgall	119
Irvin G. Steiding	18
Ernest W. Zilch	8

The chairman, noting that Richard W. Dortch had received more than the required two-thirds vote, declared him reelected as executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area on the first elective ballot.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Gulf Area

Ballots were cast for the election of the executive presbyter from the Gulf Area.

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

Total votes cast	1,485
Needed to elect	990
Walter L. Davis	5
Marvin E. Gorman	1,194
Merle J. Harris	35
Gene Jackson	71
Cecil T. Janway	15
F. L. Langlely	5
J. D. Middlebrook	30
W. Nelson Sachs	14
Philip Wannemacher	108
E. Joe Wilmoth	8

Noting that Marvin E. Gorman had received well above the two-thirds vote required, the chair declared him reelected as executive presbyter for the Gulf Area on the first elective ballot.

Resolution 4. Balloting Procedure

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 4 as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The nominating ballot for the office of general superintendent, assistant general superintendent, and general secretary is cast by secret ballot during the General Council in session; and

WHEREAS, When an election does not take place on the nominating ballot the tellers must report all the names nominated; and

WHEREAS, Reading the list of nominees usually involves considerable and valuable General Council time; and

WHEREAS, A greater majority of the nominees receive less than five votes and therefore are not considered serious candidates for election to office; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Article II, Section 2, paragraph a, of the General Council Bylaws (page 101) be amended by adding the following sentence after the existing first sentence: "In order for a candidate to be declared a nominee, he must receive a minimum of five votes on the nominating ballot." Article II, Section 2, paragraph a, would then read:

a. General superintendent, assistant general superintendent, and general secretary. All candidates for the office of general superintendent, assistant general superintendent, and general secretary shall be nominated by secret ballot. In order for a candidate to be declared a nominee, he must receive a minimum of five votes on the nominating 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 who have 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.

The brief debate which followed pointed up the value of each individual vote and the illegality of nullifying a single vote. When the vote was taken, the motion to adopt Resolution 4 was lost.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Northeast Area

Ballots were cast for the election of the executive presbyter from the Northeast Area.

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

Total votes cast	1,480
Needed to elect	987
Almon M. Bartholomew	253
Edward B. Berkey	49
Philip Bongiorno	143
Hugh M. Corey	68
D. Wendel Cover	48
Samuel R. DiTrolio	19
Peter L. Miller	8
James E. Morris	29
John J. Paproski	62
R. D. E. Smith	715
Howard V. Spruill	52
Otto J. Wegner	34

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	1,335
Needed to elect	890

Almon M. Bartholomew	247
Edward B. Berkey	14
Philip Bongiorno	76
Hugh M. Corey	17
D. Wendel Cover	7
Samuel R. DiTrollo	6
Peter L. Miller	3
James E. Morris	13
John J. Paproski	14
R. D. E. Smith	917
Howard V. Spruill	12
Otto J. Wegner	9

The chairman, noting that R. D. E. Smith had received more than the two-thirds votes required, declared him reelected as executive presbyter from the Northeast Area on the second elective ballot.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Southeast Area

Ballots were cast for the election of the executive presbyter from the Southeast Area.

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

Total votes cast	1,502
Needed to elect	1,002
Leslie M. Addison	8
J. Edward Blount	47
David C. Boykin	45
Steven R. Brown	11
Charles H. Cookman	36
Robert J. Gatlin	24
Gustavo A. Jimenez	45
J. Foy Johnson	842
Fenton L. Jones	14
Vaudie V. Lambert	56
Karl D. Strader	322
Aaron M. Wall	52

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	1,064
Needed to elect	710
Leslie M. Addison	0
J. Edward Blount	5
David C. Boykin	3
Steven R. Brown	1
Charles H. Cookman	2
Robert J. Gatlin	3
Gustavo A. Jimenez	13

J. Foy Johnson	854
Fenton L. Jones	1
Vaudie V. Lambert	7
Karl D. Strader	172
Aaron M. Wall	3

Noting that J. Foy Johnson had received well above the two-thirds vote required, the chairman declared him reelected executive presbyter from the Southeast Area on the second elective ballot.

Resolution 5. Complications of Dual Membership

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 5 as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The provision for dual membership for nationally appointed home missionaries has resulted in administrative complications for the office of the general secretary and the Division of Home Missions; and

WHEREAS, The desired results can be achieved and the complications avoided by eliminating the provision for dual membership in favor of an alternative provision; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article VII. Ministry, Section 9, paragraph c. Exception (page 118), be amended to read as follows:

c. Exceptions.

(1) When a minister resides in one district but serves as a pastor or on the ministerial staff of a church located in another district, he shall be required to be a member of the district in which the church is located.

(2) When a minister is a nationally appointed home missionary he shall remain a member of his home district and shall be listed on the ministerial roster of his home district by the office of the general secretary. The district in which he serves will not include him on its ministerial roster as a member of that district, but will list him as a home missionary under national appointment serving in that district, and as such he shall be accorded full participation in the work and ministry of the district in which he serves, including voice and vote in its district council; and further be it

RESOLVED, That paragraph d (3) of the same article (page 119), be amended by deleting from lines 3 and 4 the words "who hold dual membership in a home district and in the district where they minister" and from lines 6 and 7 the words "is a member only of the district where he," which shall cause the amended paragraph d (3) to read as follows:

(3) Financial responsibility of nationally appointed and/or approved home missionaries. Nationally appointed and/or approved home missionaries 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 ministers in his home district shall contribute a minimum of 50 percent of his tithe to that district.

Discussion of the problem of dual membership surfaced the fact that originally the provision was made so home missionaries would have a voice

in the field where they were laboring and then when they were on furlough in their home district, they would have a vote in that district. It was strongly emphasized that it is essential for the support of home missionaries that the sense of responsibility by the home district be maintained. Further, it was noted that a number of home missionaries hold offices in the district where they labor and also that the adoption of the resolution would require changes in a number of district constitutions and bylaws. It was felt there should be some statement so that while the missionary was on the field, he could not vote in his home district.

The following substitute motion was moved and seconded: "When a minister is a nationally appointed home missionary and serves as a pastor or on the ministerial staff of a church located in another than his home district, he shall transfer to the district in which he is serving. He will be listed on the ministerial list of his home district, and shall be granted full participation in his home district when he is itinerating or visiting in that district."

After some brief discussion, a motion prevailed to refer this resolution back to the Division of Home Missions and/or a special committee appointed by the chairman for further study in all of its implications so as to be sure the various aspects of the matter are properly brought into focus.

College Commitment Day Appeal

The chairman stated that he wanted to take a few minutes to fulfill an assignment given to him by the General Presbytery to share a deep and continuing burden on his heart for the Christian education program of the Assemblies of God. He first introduced the following: Richard B. Foth, president of Bethany Bible College; H. Maurice Lednický, president of Central Bible College; Robert H. Spence, president of Evangel College; Donald Argue, president of North Central Bible College; D. V. Hurst, president of Northwest College of the Assemblies of God; James Hennesy, president of Southeastern College of the Assemblies of God; Wayne E. Kraiss, president of Southern California College; Delmer R. Guynes, president of Southwestern Assemblies of God College; J. Robert Ashcroft, president of Valley Forge Christian College (not present); Carl E. Collins, president of American Indian Bible College; David Guajardo, president of Latin American Bible College of California (not present); Samuel Molina, board member of Latin American Bible Institute of San Antonio, Texas; F. Eli Duran, president of Southern Arizona Bible College; and Ronald W. Hastie, president of Trinity Bible Institute. Brother Zimmerman and James D. Brown represented the Assemblies of God Graduate School.

In the following statement the general superintendent unburdened his heart:

These men are serving a segment of ministry in the Assemblies of God that I consider to be totally indispensable, and which has my wholehearted concern, prayers, and backing. I speak of what I consider to be a very necessary step forward in providing the undergirding that will not only meet today's needs, but provide for tomorrow's growth

and development. It pertains to the greatest asset that we have in our Movement—our wonderful young people, the generation of the present and of the future.

The hour is now upon us to show as a Movement that we believe in the future of what God has prepared for us. It is not an accident that the Assemblies of God has reached the state of development that we enjoy today. It was a part of the vision and burden of our founding fathers. They recognized that one of the foundational purposes and needs for the Assemblies of God was to provide proper training for ministers and leaders. To that end they banded themselves together and formed the Fellowship that we enjoy today. And their vision, their sacrifice, thank God, has not been in vain.

There is not a field of labor in the world but what has been blessed by workers who have been given a background of systematic training in the truth of the Word of God, and acquired maturity through their experiences, in one of our educational institutions. I believe that with the opportunities that are breaking all around us today, the future has more demand than the past has had. For that reason and many more, Assemblies of God Christian education must be provided responsibly by the Movement.

There is not a doubt in my mind but what we have ample resources in our Movement to meet this need, without diverting one single dollar from any other important ministry, be it on the local church level, the district level, the national level, or the international level. We are totally capable of keeping these ministries moving forward unabatedly with great impetus and without any lack of undergirding.

Christian education does not have to be a drain. Christian education can be, should be, and must be undergirded with the same burden and the same vision and the same involvement that every other ministry in the Assemblies of God has received.

I could not be more serious about anything that I have said from the platform of this General Council. It needs to be said, and we need to hear it said. We have for too long been reluctant to get under the load and support institutions that can serve as safeguards and guarantees that the right kind of leadership for the future will be provided.

We can learn much from history. Education in itself will not convert the world. We must have the right kind of educators and the right kind of education. Evangelism is not enhanced with ignorance. We need to present to God our best. The greatest safeguard that we can have is to shore up our training programs and support our schools, so that we can erect the kind of guidelines we expect our educational programs to have. I believe we have a responsible and responsive educational program, and I want to see it kept that way.

Every church needs to analyze its giving so that education at all levels will be supported alongside every other ministry. It is too much to expect the support to come from just a few people and a few churches. God will bless us if we look to the needs with an open heart and with a willing spirit. We must have that kind of vision.

September 18 has been set by the General Presbytery as Christian Education Commitment Sunday. Our immediate goal is \$1.6 million. This is well within the realm of possibility. I believe that if we will lay this burden before our constituency we can see this raised and exceeded. I would like to ask you as a pastor to lead your church on September 18 to set a goal, that between then and December 31, on a regular monthly basis, a sum of money will be set aside and sent in for Assemblies of God Christian education. There is no reason why our goal of \$1.6 million cannot be exceeded. This will not meet the total need, but it will be a big initial step forward.

This can inspire us to catch the vision. As we do it we will get so blessed and it will be such a blessing to our schools that we will say this is a good start. We will want to keep the good work going and carry it forward to greater heights until we see more done to strengthen the cause of God.

Write your name and address and your church name on the slip of paper that has been provided. Then write a faith commitment, not without sacrifice, that you believe God would have you and your church give between now and the end of this calendar year for the cause of Christian education.

This money will be distributed to all endorsed colleges on the basis of a full-time equivalency of this fall's enrollment. That means everybody will be in on an equal basis. Every school, regardless of the location, will come into its fair share. It's time we see the need as a whole.

It's all right to have your tie-in with a particular school. We're not asking you to give that up, but we're asking you to see the need as a total need. This is an opportunity that I believe will bring glory to God and be a blessing to you and to your church. I believe there could well be people who can think very logically in the terms of \$100,000 gifts, so let's get away from just small thinking. I believe there are laymen who would be most willing to get involved at a level of challenge if they could see the challenge that lies before us.

After prayer, the general superintendent challenged the delegates to make a commitment on forms that had been provided for that purpose. He stated that these would be the firstfruits of great things to come. In response to a question he stated that this commitment is to be over and beyond our present level of giving for our schools, and the time frame is through the end of 1983. Appreciation was expressed for everything that is being done now, but there is so much more that needs to be done, and can be done if our Fellowship catches the vision. It was also stated that the Graduate School is not being included this time as a beneficiary, due to the fact it is subsidized by the General Council, but in an ongoing program it will be included.

Introduction of Nonresident Executive Presbyters

Brother Zimmerman introduced each of the nonresident executive presbyters and asked them to give an expression to the General Council. Each

of them expressed appreciation to the General Council for the confidence placed in them by electing them to the Executive Presbytery.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5 p.m. with the singing of the Doxology and prayer by David Crabtree. He offered special prayer for a number of requests that were mentioned.

MONDAY EVENING SERVICE—AUGUST 15

The Monday evening service was under the direction of R. D. E. Smith, executive presbyter from the Northeast Area. William G. Eastlake, national director of the Division of Publication, gave the Scripture reading from Luke 4:16-21. Ramona Crabtree and Marjorie Ferrin, both of San Jose, California, served at the piano and organ respectively. Jim Bakker, president of the PTL Television Network, was the speaker for the service which had the theme "Preach Good News." Special music for the evening was provided by David Giammona of Bedford, Texas, Johnny Gomez Trio of Alta Loma, California, and a choir made up of choirs from First Assembly of God, Santa Ana, California, Newport-Mesa Christian Center, Costa Mesa, California, and Christian Life Church, Long Beach, California. William R. Bright, president of Campus Crusade for Christ International, who is serving as chairman of the Year of the Bible, gave a special presentation concerning it.

TUESDAY MORNING—AUGUST 16

The session began at 8:45 a.m. with devotional singing led by M. Earl Johnson. His wife, Darlene, accompanied on the piano. L. B. Larsen, secretary of the Music Department, played the organ. Cecil Janway, superintendent of the Louisiana District, led in prayer for numerous needs indicated by upraised hands, as well as for the concluding business session of the 40th General Council. Raymond H. Hudson presented the offering appeal. Evelyn Klefsaas Thorness of Standard, California, sang a solo, accompanying herself on the piano.

Brother Zimmerman called the final business session to order. Appreciation was expressed to the many committees, headquarters staff, and many others who had worked untiringly to make the Council the great blessing that it had proved to be.

Roster Committee Report

The final roster report as of 8:45 a.m. was presented by John Bryant, as follows:

Ordained ministers	3,643	
Delegates	969	
Voting constituency		4,612
Licensed ministers	385	
Visitors	9,622	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>10,007</u>
Total		14,619

This represented the highest registration for any General Council. No action was required since the roster had been officially closed prior to this session.

Report of the Committee on Composition and Election of Executive Presbyters

Robert Brandt, chairman of the committee, read the report including the addendum containing an overview of the history relating to the Executive Presbytery.

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

A motion prevailed that the recommendations of the committee, as contained in the report, be considered individually.

A question was raised concerning the matter referred to the committee, and why no recommendation was made concerning the issue of activity of persons nominated for the office of executive presbyter, calling attention to page 28 of the 1981 minutes, where the resolution referred to the committee carried with it these words, "together with 8 other brethren who are currently serving the Fellowship as pastors or district officers." The chairman of the committee responded that they felt they had covered their assignment, as contained on page 34 of the 1981 minutes, but if they had inadvertently overlooked something, it was not intentional.

A motion prevailed to adopt item 1, "We recommend that the selection of the nonresident executive presbyters follow the procedure in Resolution 10 adopted at the St. Louis General Council."

A motion prevailed to adopt item 2, "We do not recommend the caucus process for nominations and election."

A motion prevailed to adopt item 3, "We do not recommend mandatory age limits for members of the Executive Presbytery."

The chairman noted that the committee did not present a recommendation in item 4, but called for a determination by the General Council. In the event, there is a disposition on the part of the Council to provide a tenure statement, such a statement is suggested.

It was moved and seconded to adopt the resolution contained in item 4.

It was moved and seconded to amend by deleting the words "to be chosen from the active Fellowship" and substituting the following: *who are currently serving in the Fellowship as pastors, district council officers, or presidents of endorsed colleges*. The motion to amend was lost.

A motion was made and seconded to amend recommendation 4 by deleting the words "in succession" on line 23. The motion was lost.

A motion prevailed to amend line 21 by adding: *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, to be inserted following "number to 13."* It was noted that this was contained in the original Article IX of the constitution and should be included for clarity.

A question was raised whether the procedures outlined in the constitution concerning amendments were followed. The general secretary was asked to respond and stated that all the reports were sent out in the time

prescribed in the General Council constitution.

The motion to adopt item 4, with the amendment to include what is presently in the constitution in reference to terms of office, was voted upon and lost.

A motion prevailed to adopt the report as a whole including recommendations 1, 2, and 3. Item 4, with the resolution for consideration, was not adopted.

The report in its entirety follows:

Pursuant to our assignment "to study the feasibility as well as the logistics of how changes can be made and adopted, with particular reference to the proposed caucus in a large General Council session"; and with extensive deliberation relative to Resolution #11 of the 1981 General Council in St. Louis in focus, your committee submits the following report:

Having examined the history relating to composition and election of executive presbyters, from the Movement's inception to the present, we have noted an ongoing process of adjustment and change to accommodate the expansion of our growing Movement. There have been periodic increases and decreases in the membership of the Executive Presbytery, in relation to both resident and nonresident members, as well as an ongoing review of the selection process. (The committee presents as an addendum an Overview of the History Relative to the Executive Presbytery.)

In 1953 the idea of selecting nonresident executive presbyters by regions was adopted and four regions were established.

At a later date a motion was before the general presbyters to recommend increasing the Executive Presbytery to 20 members.

During the 1959 General Council, provision was made for eight geographical areas and the caucus process began, which process was discontinued in 1963.

In 1971 the Executive Presbytery was fixed at 13 members—5 resident and 8 nonresident. For more than a decade now this arrangement has applied, although it is quite evident that each succeeding General Council in session has striven for adjustment and revision, particularly in the manner of selecting nonresident members.

It should also be noted that there has been periodic discussion as to whether nonresident executive presbyters were representatives of their respective areas to the General Council, the most definitive of which was the study committee report as adopted at the 1977 General Council. Your committee calls attention to the section of the report entitled, "Definition of Role and Function."

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

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

"The duties of the executive presbyter are different from those of a district sectional presbyter in that the sectional presbyter represents

the section and has authority within the sectional structure.

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

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

With this historical overview in mind, your committee gave attention to a rather broad field of considerations relative to the composition and election of the Executive Presbytery, including:

1. Manner of selection and the caucus process;
2. Mandatory age limits for members;
3. Broadening the base for selection;
4. Limiting the number of terms a member may serve.

We will present our findings and observations and will then add our recommendations and resolutions.

Relating to the manner of selection of the nonresident presbyters and the logistics of the caucus, the committee observes that the present practice, which calls for (1) nomination of two ministers from each district and (2) election at the General Council level without the caucus arrangement, is a fair and sound practice.

The safety device in the nomination and election process is the nomination at the district level. There any duly qualified minister, young or older, is eligible for consideration by the electorate.

With regard to the suitability of the caucus in connection with selection of nonresident executive presbyters, your committee feels this process to be an unnecessary step in the election process for the following reasons:

1. The caucus is in some respects an intrusion into the nominating process for executive presbyters, who serve the whole General Council, in that it removes from the General Council in session the right to vote on the entire slate of men nominated by the respective districts. Therefore districts whose nominees are eliminated by the caucus do not have equal opportunity in the vote of the whole General Council.

2. The caucus tends to place larger districts in a position to outvote smaller districts, by virtue of their numerical advantage, and thus to control nominations. In this case nominations may be done not so much on the particular qualities and abilities of a man as on the power of the vote in the hands of the larger district.

3. From the simple standpoint of logistics it is most difficult to arrange suitable quarters to accommodate eight large groups at one time in such a way that the caucus can be conducted in a satisfactory manner.

With regard to placing a mandatory age limit upon members of the Executive Presbytery, it is the committee's consensus that age is a relative thing, for while some are "old" at 50, others are "young" at 70.

It is our judgment that it is the part of wisdom to concur with the clear implications in Scripture that age is an asset. Note Leviticus 19:23 (NIV): "Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord." And Proverbs 16:31 (NIV): "Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained by a righteous life." To establish mandatory age limits could deprive the Movement of seasoned counsel.

Your committee feels that the present practice of placing no limit on the number of terms a resident executive presbyter may serve in this office is sound. With regard to nonresident executive presbyters, the committee sees some merit in considering tenure provided the limit imposed allows for at least five consecutive 2-year terms. However, your committee observes that the present practice of placing no limitation on tenure has been basically sound. We believe the Movement has demonstrated its dependence upon divine direction, and its electorate has shown wisdom in its selection of leadership. The strengths resulting from continuity in office have in most instances outweighed weaknesses inherent in the practice.

Regarding broadening the base of selection of nominees, we believe the base is already sufficiently broad, particularly since passage of Resolution 10 at the 1981 General Council, since any duly qualified minister may be nominated.

Therefore we submit the following:

1. We recommend that the selection of the nonresident executive presbyters follow the procedure in Resolution 10 adopted at the St. Louis General Council.

2. We do not recommend the caucus process for nominations and election.

3. We do not recommend mandatory age limits for members of the Executive Presbytery.

4. We present the following resolution without recommendation:

WHEREAS, The committee members observed both strengths and weaknesses in the limited tenure arrangement, it is their opinion that the General Council should have opportunity for discussion; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Constitution Article IX. Officers, Section 2. Executive Presbytery, paragraph a, page 97, 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 to be chosen from the active Fellowship to bring the number to 13. The terms of office for all nonresident members of the Executive Presbytery shall be no more than five 2-year terms in succession, or until their successors qualify.

The provisions of this resolution are not to be construed as being retroactive. (Item 4 was not adopted.)

Addendum: Overview of the History Relating to the Executive Presbytery

April 2-12, 1914...Twelve men chosen as executive presbyters.

April 15-19, 1914...A committee of three to nominate the first seven executive presbyters. They in turn would nominate the other five for Council election. At the same meeting the Executive Presbytery was increased from 12 to 16 members. Also, the officers of the General Council were to be ex officio members.

October 1-7, 1916...Executive Presbytery was reduced to five members.

September 9-14, 1917...The Executive Presbytery was increased to seven, constituted of the chairman, the secretary, and five others.

September 4-11, 1918...The Executive Presbytery was reduced to five members.

September 25-30, 1919...The Executive Presbytery was increased to seven.

September 17-24, 1925...The Executive Presbytery was increased to nine, six to be resident and three to be nonresident.

September 16-22, 1927...The Executive Presbytery was reduced to seven, to include the general superintendent, assistant general superintendent, secretary, and missionary secretary, together with three ministers nonresident at headquarters to be chosen by the General Council from among the general presbyters.

September 20-26, 1929...The Executive Presbytery increased to nine, six of whom were to be resident and three nonresident.

September 14-20, 1933...The General Presbytery was given the right to elect resident officers at headquarters to serve as executive presbyters. The nonresident executive presbyters were to be nominated from the floor and elected by a two-thirds vote.

September 12-19, 1935...The Executive Presbytery to be the general superintendent, assistant general superintendent, and general secretary. Six were to be chosen from the active Fellowship. Of these six, three were to be resident and three nonresident.

September 2-9, 1937...A nonresident assistant general superintendent was chosen. Thus, only two nonresident executive presbyters were chosen.

September 9-14, 1949...E. S. Williams recommended eliminating nonresident executive presbyters, but the matter was postponed.

August 14-20, 1951...A committee felt the Fellowship would not buy

the idea of a totally resident Executive Presbytery. The idea of executive presbyters being chosen from four geographical areas was introduced by James Hamill, but a committee did not concur with the idea, since they felt the Executive Presbytery was not a representative body.

August 26-September 2, 1953...Nonresident executive presbyters to be chosen from four regions. They were to be nominated from the floor.

September 3-5, 1958 (General Presbytery Meeting)...A motion was made to increase the number of executive presbyters to 20. Later the motion was amended to bring the number to 14.

August 26-September 1, 1959...The matter came before the General Council and again an attempt was made to increase the number of executive presbyters to 16. Following this, the caucus provision was made and eight regions were established for the nomination of executive presbyters.

August 23-29, 1961...The caucus process was refined.

August 21-26, 1963...Provision was made for nominations of executive presbyters by the districts, and the caucus process was discontinued.

August 19-24, 1971...The Executive Presbytery was reduced to 13.

August 18-23, 1977...A study committee recommended no change in the manner of selection of executive presbyters. The committee also recommended that executive presbyters be considered as representatives of the General Council.

August 20-25, 1981...After much discussion relating to election of executive presbyters, a committee was called for and given the following assignment: 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.

Resolution 6. Status of the Division of Home Missions

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 6 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The Great Commission exhorts us to make disciples of all nations, which clearly means at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, Our Fellowship seems to place a higher priority on foreign missions by referring to the chief executive officer of the Division of Foreign Missions as the executive director and according him a seat on the Executive Presbytery of the General Council, while the chief executive officer of the Division of Home Missions is called national director and not accorded a seat on the Executive Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, There is an interdependence of these two ministry efforts in the accomplishment of our total task as seen in the need for more churches in the United States to support our worldwide evangelistic outreach; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council give stronger emphasis to

the Division of Home Missions by changing the title of the national director to executive director and according him a seat on the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Article IX, Section 2, paragraph c (page 97), be amended by inserting the words *the executive director of Home Missions* in line 4 following the words "the executive director of Foreign Missions" and changing the number serving on the Executive Presbytery from 13 to 14, so that the paragraph will 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, the executive director of Home Missions, together with 8 other brethren to be chosen from the active Fellowship to bring the number to 14. 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, Section 2, of the Bylaws (page 103), be amended by addition of a paragraph g. as follows:

g. Executive director of home missions. The executive director of home 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;

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Article III. Duties of Officers (page 105) be amended by adding a new Section 6 which shall read as follows:

Section 6. Duties of the Executive Director of Home Missions

He shall be the executive director of the Division of Home 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 Home Missions Board and other committees of the division.
- b. Conduct all correspondence with prospective home missionaries and with those already engaged in ministry.
- c. Prepare the home missions materials for the *Pentecostal Evangel* from missionary letters and reports.
- d. Represent The General Council of the Assemblies of God in all relationships where our home missions work is involved.
- e. Direct the home missions activities of the Fellowship at the national level.
- f. Distribute all home missions funds as directed by the donors

by agreement with the Home Missions Administrative Committee.

g. Keep such records of all funds received and disbursed as will safeguard the funds en route to the field.

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

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the subsequent sections shall be renumbered so that they become 7, 8, and 9 in their present order; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Article XVI, Section 2, paragraph a. National Director (page 161), be amended to read as follows:

a. Executive Director. There shall be an executive director of the Division of Home Missions who shall be elected in the manner described in Article II, Section 2, paragraph g, of the bylaws. He shall be charged with the oversight of the Division of Home Missions.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the general secretary be instructed to edit the remaining references to the national director of Home Missions in the bylaws to read *executive director of Home Missions*.

A motion prevailed to refer Resolution 6 to a special committee to study the possible advantages and/or disadvantages of having directors or executive directors of divisions seated on the Executive Presbytery; and to specifically address these three questions:

1. Shall all of the directors or executive directors be seated?
2. Shall none of the directors or executive directors be seated?
3. Shall some of the directors or executive directors be seated and some remain unseated as is the current practice?

The findings of the committee and a clearly articulated rationale in support thereof shall be included in its report along with its recommendations. The committee shall also be charged with the responsibility for presenting any proposed changes in the constitution and bylaws which may be necessary to implement its recommendations. The Executive Presbytery shall appoint a committee of not less than 10 persons representative of a cross section of our Fellowship but excluding persons currently serving as directors or executive directors of divisions or as members of the Executive Presbytery, except the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, and the general treasurer.

A request was made that the report of the study committee be presented to the district councils for information prior to being brought to the next General Council. The chair noted that since this is a General Council committee, the report would still be only a report until the General Council acted upon it. Also this might pose a problem for the committee to complete its work and release the report prior to the meetings of the districts, since some meet early in the year. It was agreed, however, that a note should be made of this request to see how it might be addressed.

Resolution 7. Clarification Re. Lapsed Credentials and to Whom the \$50 Credential Reinstatement Fee is Applicable and Payable

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

WHEREAS, There is a need to clarify the ambiguity in the General Council Bylaws with respect to the deadline when credentials are lapsed and to whom the \$50 credentials reinstatement fee is applicable and payable; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 6, paragraph c (page 116), be amended by substituting the following for the present paragraph:

c. Reinstatement required after February 15. Ministers whose renewal applications are not postmarked by February 15 shall be recorded as of the expiration date of January 31. They must make application for reinstatement and pay a \$50 fee, which shall be divided equally between the district and the General Council offices. These ministers shall not be subject to the minimal time-lapse required of those whose credentials have been terminated for other causes. (See Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 10, paragraphs a, b, and c.)

And be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 10, paragraph c (2) Reinstatement, on page 134, be amended by adding the word *all* after the word "to" on line 1, adding the words *for whatever reason* after the word "list" on line 2, and substituting the words *and have paid a \$50 reinstatement fee and for the word "but" at the beginning* of line 3, so that the paragraph will read: (2) Reinstatement. The term reinstatement shall apply to all those whose names have been deleted from the official ministerial list for whatever reason and have paid a \$50 reinstatement fee to be divided equally between the district and General Council offices, and received district clearance for restoration to the ministerial list. (See also Article IX, B. Trial by Jury, Section 15.)

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 7.

Resolution 8. Clarification Re. Credential Renewal Deadline and Late Fee

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 8 as follows:

WHEREAS, There is ambiguity in the General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 6. Renewal of Fellowship Certificates, paragraph b. Grace period until February 15 (page 116), relative to the deadline for renewal of fellowship certificates; and

WHEREAS, The statement in Article IX. Discipline, A, Section 10, paragraph c (1) (page 134), beginning in line 4: "have paid a late fee of \$25, to be divided equally between the district and General Council offices," is contained in part in General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 6, paragraph b, and more properly belongs there since it does not apply specifically to definition of terminology; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 6, paragraph b (page 116), be amended by substituting the following for the entire paragraph:

b. Grace period until February 15. All who shall have failed to renew their fellowship certificates by mail postmarked on or before January 31 shall be considered delinquent. They shall be required to pay a late fee of \$25 up until February 15, to be divided equally between the district and General Council offices.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article IX, A, Section 10, paragraph c (1) Renewed, be amended by deleting the words, "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," so that the paragraph will read:

(1) Renewed. The term *renewed* shall be used to apply strictly to those who for inadvertent reasons fail to comply with the annual deadline of January 31, but do renew with said renewal bearing a postmark of not later than February 15.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 8.

Resolution 9. Heading for Statement Eight of Fundamental Truths

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 9 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Commission on Doctrinal Purity has recommended that the heading for statement eight of the Statement of Fundamental Truths, Constitution Article V (page 94), be edited to conform to the text of the statement itself as it now appears in the Constitution; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the heading for statement number eight shall be edited by inserting the words *Initial Physical* between the word "The" and the word "Evidence," so that the heading will read "The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost."

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 9.

Resolution 10. Chaplains Financial Support

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 10 as follows:

WHEREAS, The 39th General Council in session received and adopted a resolution calling for financial support of the national Chaplaincy Department providing that: "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 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 chaplains' contributions shall be placed in the Military Chaplaincy Fund"; and

WHEREAS, The 37th General Council received and adopted a resolution wherein the financial support by military chaplains to their district is clearly spelled out: "Military chaplains would be obligated to their home district in the amount of \$5 per month per officer grade and encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the district in which they fulfill their military assignments." (Article VII, Section 9, paragraph d (2), of the bylaws, page 119); and

WHEREAS, The industrial/institutional chaplains do not have a similar policy of district financial support; and

WHEREAS, The following proposed amendment to the bylaws is recommended by the Executive Presbytery and by the Commission on Chaplains; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That a uniform tithes and contributions policy for chaplains be adopted and that Article VII, Section 9, paragraph d (2), be amended to read:

(2) Financial responsibility of chaplains. All chaplains, military and institutional, will be obligated to their home district in the amount of 10 percent of their tithes from income earned from the chaplaincy. All chaplains are also encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the district in which they fulfill their assignments.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article VII, Section 9, paragraph d (4) (page 119), be deleted. (This will bring the bylaws into conformity with the new paragraph (2) of this section.)

A motion was made and seconded to refer Resolution 10 back to the committee asking that a program be designed and presented that will help the entire Fellowship to be involved in the support of the Chaplaincy Department. The chair observed that the only source of funds available is to cut in on the Current Fund of the General Council and he questioned the deferral of the only plan we presently have for the support of this department. The motion to refer was lost.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 10.

Resolution 11. Nomination for Honorary General Presbyter Alvin Sprecher

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 11 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Reverend Alvin Sprecher has served the German District of the Assemblies of God as superintendent, secretary-treasurer, and in a number of other executive positions in the district, spanning more than 40 years; and as a general presbyter for more than 20 years; and

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

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has approved placing his name in nomination for honorary general presbyter, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council elect Alvin Sprecher 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 11.

Resolution 12. Nomination for Honorary General Presbyter Walter G. Dixon

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 12 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Reverend Walter G. Dixon has served the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God for 30 years and has served on the General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God for 32 years; and

WHEREAS, The South Carolina District Council in May of 1982 acted to nominate Walter G. Dixon as an honorary general presbyter, and the General Presbytery in action of August 20, 1982, approved placing his name in nomination for honorary general presbyter, in accordance with the constitutional provisions of Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d (page 98); therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council elect Walter G. Dixon as an honorary general presbyter.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 12.

Resolution 13. Rehabilitation of Disciplined Ministers

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 13 as follows:

WHEREAS, Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 9, paragraph d (1) Previous dismissal (page 133), does not distinguish between the minimum 1-year and 2-year rehabilitation programs in reference to a dismissed minister who later shows repentance and indicates a desire for reinstatement; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the word *appropriate* be substituted for the term "2-year" on line 4 of Section 9, paragraph d (1), before the words "rehabilitation program"; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the words *as prescribed in Section 9, paragraph b*, of this article be added on line 4 of Section 9, paragraph d (1), after the words "rehabilitation program," so that it will read as follows:

(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 appropriate rehabilitation program as prescribed in Section 9, paragraph b, of this article, with the provision that he shall not be eligible for reinstatement until the requirements of the program have been satisfactorily completed.

Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 10

WHEREAS, Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 10, paragraph a. Minimal time-lapse, specifically refers only to a minister who applies for reinstatement, there being no reference to applying for or a requirement of rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, It is clearly stated that the time-lapse does not apply to those who failed to renew; and

WHEREAS, A minister who has been removed from our rolls for any cause other than "dismissed" is not eligible for reinstatement until at least 6 months shall have elapsed; and

WHEREAS, The minimal time-lapse required of a minister who is listed as "dismissed" before he is eligible to apply for reinstatement shall be 1 year, except that for a minister who is dismissed because of charges as stated in paragraph a, of A, Section 2, the minimal time-lapse shall be 2 years; and

WHEREAS, Some reference should be made as to whether a dismissed minister, no matter how long the time-lapse before he applies for reinstatement, must satisfy the remedial requirements of the rehabilitation program; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the first sentence under paragraph a become subparagraph (1), the second and third sentences become subparagraph (2), and the following new paragraph become subparagraph (3):

(3) When a minister has been dismissed from our Fellowship and applies for reinstatement, it shall be the responsibility of the district council and General Council Credentials Committees to determine if he should go through the formal rehabilitation program, or if he has satisfactorily fulfilled the remedial requirements of such rehabilitation as outlined in Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 9, paragraph c.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the present second paragraph under paragraph a become paragraph b, and that it be amended by deleting the words "the matter" and substituting therefor the words *reinstatement of a minister's credentials*, so that it will read as follows:

b. The Credentials Committee may also hold reinstatement of a minister's credentials 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the present paragraphs b and c be lettered c and d respectively.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 13.

Resolution 14. Ordination Requirements

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 14 and moved its adoption as follows:

WHEREAS, Need had been expressed by districts for clarification and definition of ordination requirements in the interest of uniformity; and

WHEREAS, A committee had taken these requests under advisement and offered its report and a recommended amendment to the bylaws; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has given consideration and approval to the report and recommendation for presentation to the General Council; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article VII, Section 3, paragraph c (3)

(page 115), be amended by inserting the words *and proven and preaching*, so the paragraph will read:

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 and proven full-time preaching ministry for at least 2 full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.

A question was raised concerning the expression "full-time preaching ministry" and if this would eliminate scholars who might not be the best preachers, but are excellent teachers.

A motion was made and seconded to amend Resolution 14 by deleting the word "preaching" in order to allow teachers who would not have a preaching ministry to be ordained as Assemblies of God ministers. The motion to delete the word "preaching" on line 16 was lost.

The motion to adopt Resolution 14 was carried.

Resolution 15. Voluntary Prayer Amendment

An objection was raised to the consideration of Resolution 15 since the sponsor was not indicated. The chairman of the Resolutions Committee rose to a point of order indicating that it is not proper to object to the consideration of a matter that has not been called before the house. He then stated that inadvertently the sponsorship line had been left off the duplicated copies of Resolution 15, but that he had written the resolution which was coming as a referral from the Executive Presbytery.

The chairman asked if the body was willing to hear the reading of Resolution 15 and, hearing no further objection, asked that it be read. Brother Peterson read Resolution 15 as follows:

WHEREAS, The founders of this great nation, supported by God-fearing colonists from various states, were determined that the Congress of the United States would not be clad with power to establish a federal church, or to restrict the religious freedom of the citizens of this nation; and

WHEREAS, With carefully chosen and meaningful efforts toward accomplishing and safeguarding as inalienable and inviolable these sacred rights for its citizens, their representatives in the Senate labored arduously to guarantee such rights for all time, as is evidenced in an early draft of the First Amendment which read: "Congress shall make no law establishing articles of faith or mode of worship, or prohibiting the free exercise of religion;" and

WHEREAS, Later both houses of Congress agreed upon and adopted a simpler formula: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;" and did by this act clearly establish its intent that the federal government was not to have power to prefer one sect over another or to interfere with the rights of any person to worship God according to the dictates of his conscience, as had been true in countries from which they had fled in order to gain and retain this freedom;

WHEREAS, The free exercise of such sacred freedom, as intentionally prescribed in the First Amendment, has existed in continuous practice until the year 1962; and

WHEREAS, The same Congress which proposed the said First Amendment was served by a chaplain opening its daily proceedings with prayer, authorized the printing of Bibles out of the public treasury, and affirmed a reliance on "divine providence," thus effectively demonstrating its own interpretation of the meaning and intent of said amendment; and

WHEREAS, The free exercise of such sacred freedom, as intentionally prescribed by the First Amendment, has existed in continuous practice in our national and local life as demonstrated by a profound belief in God, in the efficacy of private and public prayer, and in morality based upon the teachings of the Old and the New Testaments until the year 1962 when a small minority forced through the federal court system a misshapen concept of the establishment clause of the First Amendment, which contains no resemblance to the views intended by, or the convictions held by the founding fathers of our nation, nor to the customs and practices undisturbed in 375 years of history and therefore well established; and

WHEREAS, In attempts to restore the rights originally intended by the First Amendment, two proposed constitutional amendments on school prayer were voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 14, 1983:

1. The revised version of the Senate Joint Resolution #73 (known as President Reagan's Revised Voluntary Prayer Amendment) which reads: "Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group prayer in public schools or other public institutions. No person shall be required by the United States or by any State to participate in prayer. Nor shall the United States or any State compose the words of any prayer to be said in public schools."

2. An alternative amendment calling for silent meditation and silent prayer which reads:

"Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit individual or group silent prayer or meditation in public schools. Neither the United States or any State shall require any person to participate in such prayer or meditation, nor shall they encourage a particular form of prayer or meditation.

"Nothing in this Constitution shall be construed to prohibit Equal Access to the use of public school facilities by all voluntary student groups;" and

WHEREAS, The foregoing proposed Alternative Prayer Amendment puts the emphasis on silence and is therefore unnecessary since silent prayer has not been ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court, thus its adoption would only foster confusion, and further, would (1) legally support the practice of Eastern religions and transcendental meditation in public schools, and (2) through emphasis on silence, would also jeopardize

all oral devotional prayers in schools, including benedictions and invocations; and

WHEREAS, Both of the above-stated amendments will be considered by the full Senate sometime between Labor Day and October 1, 1983; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this 40th General Council of the Assemblies of God go on record as supporting the President's Revised Voluntary Prayer Amendment known as the revised version of Senate Joint Resolution #73, and as opposing the alternative amendment which calls for silent meditation and silent prayer; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Council hereby recommends to all pastors that they begin at once to urge the members of their congregations to write letters to both U.S. Senators who represent their state, requesting that said senators represent them by voting YES for Senate Joint Resolution #73 and by voting NO on the alternative silent meditation amendment. Such letters should be brief, to the point, and in the writer's own words with the latter part of the letter serving as an attempt to obtain a response from the senators on how they intend to vote on this important matter; and be it further

RESOLVED, That pastors be requested to forward responses from the senators to the office of the general secretary at the earliest date possible.

After much discussion a motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 15.

Resolution 16. Honorary General Presbyter O. L. Thomas

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 16 as follows:

WHEREAS, Brother O. L. Thomas has rendered many years of service as superintendent of the West Florida District and has served the required number of years as a member of the General Presbytery for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and

WHEREAS, Upon the recommendation of the West Florida District, he has been nominated by the General Presbytery in accordance with Constitution Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d; be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council declare Brother O. L. Thomas elected as an honorary general presbyter.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 16.

Resolution 17. Honorary General Presbyter Homer B. Walkup

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 17 as follows:

WHEREAS, Homer B. Walkup has served the Southern Idaho District Council in the capacities of secretary, treasurer, assistant superintendent, and superintendent; and as a general presbyter of the General Council for 22 years; and

WHEREAS, The Southern Idaho District has requested that he be seated as an honorary general presbyter; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has acted to place his name in nomination in accordance with Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d, of the constitution; be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council elect Homer B. Walkup as honorary general presbyter.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 17.

**Resolution 19. Honorary General Presbyter
Roy H. Wead**

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 19 as follows:

WHEREAS, Roy H. Wead has served the Assemblies of God with distinction as superintendent of the Indiana District for 14 years, president of Trinity Bible Institute for 14 years, member of the General Presbytery for 38 years, and nonresident executive presbyter for 26 years, representing the Northeast Area for 2 years, the Great Lakes area for 10 years, and the North Central Area for 14 years; and

WHEREAS, Upon the recommendation of the North Dakota District Council, the General Presbytery has acted to place his name in nomination before the General Council for election as an honorary general presbyter in accordance with the provisions of Constitution Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d; be it

RESOLVED, That Roy H. Wead be declared elected as an honorary general presbyter.

Brother Zimmerman noted that at the end of this term, Brother Wead will have finished 26 years as a member of the Executive Presbytery. A standing vote of appreciation was given to Brother Wead for his service, and he was unanimously elected as an honorary general presbyter.

**Resolution 20. Honorary General Presbyter
Arthur H. Parsons**

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 20 as follows:

WHEREAS, Arthur H. Parsons, a dedicated servant of the Lord, has given his life unselfishly for many years in faithful ministry in the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, He has served with distinction and honor on all levels of our Fellowship, local, district, and national, including service as a general presbyter for 21 years; and

WHEREAS, His vast experience, wisdom, and maturity, distinguishes him as an elder whose counsel is highly esteemed and frequently sought; and

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

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has approved placing him in nomination; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council elect Arthur H. Parsons as an honorary general presbyter pursuant to the provisions of Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d, of the constitution.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 20.

**Resolution 21. Honorary General Presbyter
Fred Smolchuck, Sr.**

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 21 as follows:

WHEREAS, It is the expressed desire of the Michigan District Council that recognition be given to Brother Fred Smolchuck, Sr., for his many years of excellent and faithful service; and

WHEREAS, He has served as a member of the General Presbytery for 27 years, representing the Ukrainian and Michigan districts; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has approved placing his name in nomination for honorary general presbyter, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d, of the constitution; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the General Council declare Fred Smolchuck, Sr., elected as an honorary general presbyter.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 21.

**Resolution 22. Representation on General Presbytery
By College Presidents**

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 22 and moved its adoption.

In order to initiate the program, a motion prevailed to amend the resolution by adding the following before the last sentence: "except that to initiate this provision, the Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to designate three presidents who shall thus serve for the first 2-year term."

The motion to adopt Resolution 22 as amended carried.

Resolution 22 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, A study committee has reported its recommendations proposing amendments to Constitution Article IX. OFFICERS, Section 3, paragraph d (page 98), and to Bylaws Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph b. General Presbyters (page 101), for the purpose of providing representation on the General Presbytery by three members to be chosen from among the presidents of Assemblies of God endorsed colleges; and

WHEREAS, The General Council in session Friday afternoon, August 12, 1983, amended and adopted the report of the committee and thereupon referred it to the Resolutions Committee with instructions to prepare in proper form the text to be placed in the Constitution and Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, Said amendment contains provisions for the manner of election and terms of office; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Constitution and Bylaws be edited to conform to the action taken by the General Council as it relates to representation by presidents of the endorsed Assemblies of God colleges serving on the General Presbytery so that a new paragraph shall be added to Constitution Article IX, Section 3, to be designated as paragraph d, and which is to read:

d. The duly endorsed colleges of the Assemblies of God shall be represented on the General Presbytery by three college presidents. Present paragraph d shall be redesignated as e, and further, Bylaws Article II. Election of Officers, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph b. General Presbyters (page 101), shall be made to read as follows:

b. **General Presbytery** (retain and number present paragraphs).

(1) **District representation.** Election of general presbyters shall take place at the district council meetings

(2) **College representation.** College representatives, as provided for in Constitution Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d, shall be nominated by the General Presbytery and elected by the General Council for a 2-year term on a rotating basis, except that to initiate this provision, the Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to designate three presidents who shall thus serve for the first 2-year term. Two years shall elapse after a term is completed before a president shall be eligible for reelection to the General Presbytery.

Resolution 23. Resolution of Appreciation

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 23 as follows:

WHEREAS, The 40th General Council of the Assemblies of God has been afforded the privilege of convening in the city of Anaheim; and

WHEREAS, We have been favored with many acts of kindness and have been served by the efficient services of numerous persons and agencies; and

WHEREAS, The success of this session of the Council has been made possible by the talents, faithfulness, and labors of many persons; be it

RESOLVED, That we express our thanks and appreciation to our host districts: Southern California District Council and its superintendent, Everett Stenhouse; Pacific Latin American District Council and its superintendent, Jose E. Giron; and Korean District Council and its superintendent, Albert K. Kim; to the city of Anaheim: The Anaheim Convention Bureau, Billy Snyder, president; Robert O. Sherwood, convention sales director; and Nan Parsons, convention housing director; to the Anaheim Convention Center: T. F. Liegler, Convention Center general manager; and Greg Smith, Convention Center event coordinator; to the Anaheim Marriott: Joe Rothman, manager; Frank Kay, sales manager; Kris Angellar, director of convention services; and Glenn Hodson, catering manager; to Hilton at the Park: Holger Gantz, manager; and Dawn Reece, sales and catering manager; to Holiday Inn: Debbie Martin, sales manager; and all other hotel, motel, and travel

parks; plus a special word of thanks to Southern California College for its assistance in accommodating delegates; and to the Orange and Los Angeles media; and be it further

RESOLVED, That appreciation be expressed to General Council headquarters personnel for efficiency in planning and for the many services rendered; and further to those who have ministered so ably by preaching, by singing, and with musical instruments.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 23.

Procedural motion

A motion prevailed that since the remaining committee reports had been received in the mail, and in view of the lateness of the hour, these reports be presented without oral reading of them.

Report of the Committee To Study the Administrative and Emergency Costs of the Division of Foreign Missions

Frank E. Martin, chairman of the committee, read only the resolution contained in the committee report.

It was moved and seconded that the recommendations contained in the report be adopted.

A question was asked if the policy of guaranteeing missionaries at least their basic support from such a fund would still be a part of the new program. It was indicated by the chairman of the committee that no change in that policy was indicated in this provision.

A question was raised whether this would meet the needs of the Division of Foreign Missions in its administration and promotion. A representative from the division indicated that it would solve the problem for this year but it would not solve the problem in years to come. It was reported that "since 1974 we have experienced an inflation rate of 110 percent. During the same time the Division of Foreign Missions has had a net gain of purchasing power of 88 percent, which means we have lost 22 percent of our purchasing power in the past 10 years. While other movements have been increasing their share of the income for administrative purposes, we have held consistently to the 5 percent, so that we have actually had to cut back in some operations at the level of 22 percent, which is unadjusted over a 10-year period, to accommodate our programs worldwide."

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

The report of the Committee To Study the Administrative and Emergency Costs of the Division of Foreign Missions as adopted follows:

This committee was called for when the following resolution was presented and adopted at the 1981 General Council in Saint Louis.

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.

The committee met to fulfill its responsibility on two separate occasions at Springfield, Missouri. The committee spent much time in research of old and new material in order to make its recommendations. It has looked closely at both administrative and emergency expenses as well as undesignated funds, investment income, and all sources of income used for administrative and emergency expenses by the Division of Foreign Missions. The committee interviewed many and had input from almost all the members of Division of Foreign Missions Committee, which was most helpful. Correspondence was sent from various sources in an effort to aid the committee in its assignment. Research included considerable dialogue and record searching to make the committee members as qualified as possible for their responsibility. The committee makes the following observations:

1. There has been a constant rise in the cost of administering the ever-expanding program of the Division of Foreign Missions.
2. Inflation is an ever-present factor in both administrative and emergency demands.
3. In order to further serve our constituency, needed personnel have been added, and more need to be added to the administrative staff of the Division of Foreign Missions.
4. Long- and short-range projection suggest a need for additional funding in the area of administration and emergency.
5. There is in the near future the possibility that the total 5 percent general emergency fund will have to be used for administration.

The committee has made a concentrated study of all sources of revenue available to the division for general emergency and administrative expenses. The committee presents the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, Moneys designated for emergencies are also available for administration at the discretion of the Division of Foreign Missions; and

WHEREAS, It is difficult to project all the administrative and emergency costs; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That

1. All the funds available for administrative and emergency purposes be pooled into one fund to be known as the Administrative and Emergency Fund.

2. No change be made in the five percent which is deducted from missionary offerings as outlined in Bylaws Article XV, Section 6, paragraph e.

3. Undesignated contributions to the Division of Foreign Missions be placed in the Administrative and Emergency Fund to be used at the discretion of the division.

4. The Foreign Missions Board take the initiative in authorizing appeals for strategic projects, emergency needs, administration, etc., in order to assure adequate funds for both administrative and emergency needs.

WHEREAS, The implementation of the foregoing resolution will require certain amendments to the General Council Bylaws Article XV, Section 6. Support of Division of Foreign Missions; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the first sentence which states, "The expense of operating the Division of Foreign Missions shall be provided from" be amended by substituting the following: *The Administrative and Emergency Fund of the Division of Foreign Missions shall be provided from*; and be it further

RESOLVED, That paragraph d which states, "An appropriation of up to 10 percent of undesignated contributions" be amended by substituting the following: *All undesignated funds*; and be it further

RESOLVED, That paragraph e be amended by deleting the rest of the sentence after the words "shall be transferred to" and inserting the following: *the Administrative and Emergency Fund to meet the administrative and emergency expenses for which the Division of Foreign Missions is responsible*.

Report of the Committee To Study Use of Assemblies of God Name

The general secretary read the five recommendations contained in the report. A motion prevailed that the recommendations of the committee be referred to the Executive Presbytery for implementation.

The report of the Committee To Study Use of Assemblies of God Name follows:

On the assumption that many Assemblies of God churches, both new and old, are not using the name *Assembly of God* or *Assemblies of God*, either in whole or in part, and have no visible means of identification or association with the Assemblies of God, the 39th General Council in St. Louis authorized that a committee be appointed to study the matter and recommend to the 1983 General Council, for action deemed appropriate, measures toward solving any problems if facts indicate they

do exist. In line with the authorization given, the committee has met, completed its assignment, and given a progress report to the General Presbytery in its 1982 meeting. The findings of the committee are included under the following points.

I. There Does Not Appear To Be a Significant Trend in the Nonuse or Deletion of the Assemblies of God Name by Churches

A survey was made for the years 1943, 1961, and 1982 relative to the use or nonuse of the Assemblies of God name, which is reflected in the following table:

	1943	1961	1982
Total A/G churches	4,853	7,726	10,173
Church with A/G name	3,427	6,705	8,790
Church with non-A/G name	1,426 (29.4%)	1,021 (13.2%)	1,383 (13.6%)

The following is an attempt at interpretation of the preceding statistical information. It will be noted that in the period from 1943 to 1961 there was a substantial reduction in the number of churches not using the name *Assembly*, *Assembly of God*, or abbreviations or translations of either. It would appear that in the period from 1961 to 1982 the trend was in the other direction, with an increase of 362 churches not identified in their name with the Assemblies of God. However, it should be observed that the total number of Assemblies of God churches increased by 2,447 during this period, and the percentage of churches not using the name remained practically constant.

Another factor that needs to be taken into consideration is the considerable increase in the number of Hispanic churches, from 433 in two districts in 1961 to 1,009 in seven districts in 1982. In 1961, only 163 Hispanic churches were identified in their name with the Assemblies of God. In 1982, 502 (nearly half) were so identified. In the past year there has been a definite move among the Hispanic churches in this direction.

Among the geographical districts, while there has been an increase from 751 churches not using the corporate name in 1961 to 876 churches not so identified in 1982, this is a percentage decrease from 11.6 percent in 1961 to 9.6 percent in 1982.

Perhaps more pertinent to our study is the fact that during the past decade 360 churches added *Assembly of God* to their official titles as reported to the general secretary's office, and during the same period 292 deleted the corporate name from their titles. During the same period 40 churches that had previously dropped the name reinstated *Assembly of God* in their designations.

In a survey of these it was evident the pastor was the major influence in the name changes, and that factors other than the emphasis given to this matter in the 1973 General Council were what motivated or influenced them.

Of the 54 district officials who responded to a survey, 7 reported no trend away from the use of the name in their districts, 35 reported a

slight trend, 11 a moderate trend, and none considered there was a significant trend.

II. Reasons for Not Using the Assemblies of God Name

Among the reasons given for deleting the Assemblies of God name are: (1) An attempt to create a new image and disassociate from a negative past created by church problems, pastoral failures, or many years of decline or stagnation; (2) to provide a broader appeal to the community; (3) in deference to charismatics who have had a bad experience with denominationalism; and (4) to follow the model of other assemblies which appear to be successful in growth and outreach.

A significant minority of the district officials who responded to the survey felt there could be extenuating circumstances in which a local church would find it advantageous to project a low-denominational profile. However, all of these carefully guarded their response by suggesting that would be extremely rare.

III. No Significant Problems Result From the Non-use of the Assemblies of God Name

In response to the survey question, "Has the nonuse of the Assemblies of God name by local congregations created problems within your district?" 32 said none, 18 slight, 2 moderate, and only 1 viewed it as a significant problem. Opinion was slightly on the positive side in favor of churches that do not use the Assemblies of God name being as loyal and cooperative as those which do.

Of those that specified problems related to the nonuse of the Assemblies of God name, the following were noted: (1) Causes suspicion of disloyalty and unwillingness to identify with other Assemblies of God congregations; (2) failure to understand the privileges and responsibilities as members of our worldwide Fellowship; (3) creates confusion in the community as to identity and beliefs; (4) makes it difficult for new people moving into a community to identify a church as Assemblies of God; and (5) it can be the beginning of a syndrome of practices that lead to becoming completely independent.

IV. Steps Being Taken by Districts To Encourage Identification

The vast majority of the district officials listed steps which they are already taking, largely verbal encouragement and personal counsel, to urge pastors and churches to clearly identify with the name *Assemblies of God*. Nearly three-fourths indicated they require a new congregation to incorporate *Assembly of God* into their title in order to be recognized, or at least strongly urge that they do so. Nearly all emphasize the value of identification through promotional channels.

V. Positive Values To Maintaining Clear Identification

Although this was not specifically part of the committee's assignment, nearly every respondent to the survey listed one or more values in maintaining clear identification with The General Council of the Assemblies of God. We briefly summarize them as follows: (1) It gives

clear identification as to doctrines and standards of practice; (2) provides a means of accountability to a scriptural organization; (3) dispels a negative image of a fly-by-night independent operation; (4) enables Assemblies of God members moving into a new community to identify with and become established easily with a church of their preference; (5) benefits from the deserved recognition given to the Assemblies of God for its proven worldwide ministry; (6) benefits from national media promotions and ministries; (7) protects from false and questionable persons and programs; (8) gives a sense of purpose and a means of participation in Christian service; and (9) contributes toward stability, both personal and corporate.

VI. Use of Name by Noncouncil Churches

Our General Council legal counselor, Richard Hammar, has given us an opinion in response to the request 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. He suggests three ways in which it can be done, as follows:

1. Nonprofit Corporation Law—A non-Assemblies of God church could not incorporate under a name either identical or confusingly similar to that of an existing, incorporated Assemblies of God church in the same locality.

2. Trademark—A religious denomination is entitled to acquire legal protection of its name through federal trademark law. Two problems have been encountered by our legal counselor in his efforts to secure trademark protection: (a) Other groups with a confusingly similar name which have trademarks; and (b) trademark protection is not available for generic terms which may apply to Assemblies of God. Our legal counselor believes he will ultimately be successful in acquiring trademark protection.

3. The Common Law of "Unfair Competition"—This is a recognized civil wrong which was created to protect existing corporations from the deceptive or unfair practices of competitors. Four conditions apply in order to enjoin the unauthorized use of the name: (a) It occurred after the Assemblies of God was established; (b) it is identical or confusingly similar to *Assemblies of God*; (c) the Assemblies of God would be injuriously affected by the continued unauthorized use of its name; and (d) the Assemblies of God did not delay for an unreasonable time in enjoining the unauthorized use. While the law will not protect generic names, it is our legal counselor's opinion a secondary meaning of the name *Assemblies of God* can be established.

VII. Recommendations

Your committee would observe that we are a cooperative fellowship of autonomous congregations, and that the use or nonuse of the name *Assembly of God* cannot be made a total test of either cooperation or loyalty. It is recognized that many people in today's society are disillusioned with denominationalism and are unaware of the historic distinction of the Assemblies of God being a fellowship, and not just a denomination. Although there does not seem to be a significant problem,

the following recommendations are being submitted:

1. That the findings of the committee that indeed the trend is toward the use of the name, not away from it, be immediately communicated to our constituency in appropriate publications and communications.

2. That the responses of the district officials to the question as to the value of identification with the Assemblies of God be summarized in a news release for General Council and district council publications.

3. That the 1973 General Council resolution concerning the use of the Assemblies of God name and/or logo be called to the attention of all our ministers through the ministers letter.

4. That district officials be urged to continue to encourage identification, cooperation, and loyalty of the local congregations with the broader fellowship of the Assemblies of God.

5. That we again emphasize we are uniquely a *cooperative fellowship* of autonomous local assemblies.

Report of Committee To Study National Group Hospitalization Insurance Program

The following report of the committee was mailed to all ministers:

This committee met August 19, 1982, at Springfield, Missouri, and in Dallas, Texas, on December 5, 1982, to review its assignment and to consider a survey of present districts which have group plans. Out of 44 districts responding to a questionnaire, only 4 had a group plan, with a participation of more than 50 percent. Twenty-eight out of the 44 districts indicated they had a group plan of their own.

Several insurance carriers responded to inquiries concerning a national group hospitalization plan. Those companies contacted indicated that a 70-75 percent participation of all eligible ministers would be required.

Metropolitan Life Insurance Company was not interested in offering a program, but for a fee would administer a self-insured program.

Transamerican Occidental Life Insurance Company indicated an interest in providing a program, but the monthly individual family premiums would be approximately \$200. The committee felt that the premium would make this program impractical for a national program.

Observations:

1. No insurance company has indicated enough interest for further consideration by the committee.

2. Many districts have a viable program of their own.

3. Those companies that did indicate some interest required a 70-75 percent participation.

4. In past history a 70-75 percent participation in this type of an insurance program has proven to be impossible to maintain.

5. The General Council makes no provision for compulsory participation in an insurance program.

In view of the foregoing facts, the National Group Hospitalization Insurance Program Committee has no recommendation to make to the Executive Presbytery concerning an insurance program.

Your committee will be meeting in Anaheim with Richter-Robb Group Insurance Services, Inc., which has an alternative to traditional health care plans, known as "Self-Funding of Association Health Plans." Presently the Indiana, Wisconsin-Northern Michigan, and Minnesota Districts are in the "Self-Fund Association." It is possible that we will have additional information to present to the Executive Presbytery.

Herman H. Rohde, chairman of the committee, stated that due to the variable cost geographically, the committee does not see that it is feasible to pursue a national program, and as an accepted alternative the committee recommends a self-funding concept with a catastrophic provision with service by an independent administrator underwriting the program by each district. This would make it possible to adjust premium costs to the local hospital and medical cost factor in each geographical area.

A motion prevailed to recommend that each district seek to find an administrative self-funding program.

Report Concerning Commission on Doctrinal Purity

The general secretary referred to the report as printed. The report is as follows:

The 38th General Council in session August 16-21, 1979, called for a Commission on Doctrinal Purity. The bylaws provision which was adopted is as follows:

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.

Since the establishment of the commission, several papers have been prepared for the consideration of the Executive Presbytery, and these were in turn referred to the General Presbytery. Those which have been adopted by the General Presbytery as position papers are: "The Believer and Positive Confession" and "The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit."

Topics presently under assignment and in various stages of development are to deal with gambling, sanctification, and water baptism. The paper dealing with sanctification is to enlarge on the sanctification

statement in the Statement of Fundamental Truths. The paper dealing with water baptism is to enlarge on the statement concerning water baptism in the Statement of Fundamental Truths and to emphasize the importance of this ordinance.

The membership of the Commission on Doctrinal Purity at the present time is as follows: E. R. Anderson, Lowell C. Ashbrook, Robert L. Brandt, James D. Brown, Charles E. Crank, Richard L. Dresselhaus, James L. Hennesy, Paul E. Lowenberg, William W. Menzies, John P. Philipps, R. D. E. Smith, and Hardy W. Steinberg, chairman.

Privileged Motion

A member of the General Council requested the opportunity to present the following privileged motion:

I move that we send the following message to President Ronald Reagan and to the leaders of both Houses of our representatives requesting it be read to the full body in session.

We are firmly committed to the termination of abortion. We are firmly committed to returning prayer to our schools. We will not waver in our stand for God. Neither will we grow weary in our vigil for morality.

We thank you for making 1983 the Year of the Bible and pray that you will make abortion and school prayer priority items in 1983.

Signed: The 40th General Council of the Assemblies of God in session made up of over 10,000 churches.

I further move that a copy of this resolution be sent to every Assemblies of God church in America, urging them to send a copy to their particular representatives.

A motion prevailed to refer this matter to the Executive Presbytery for evaluation and for the correct course of action as it deems to be in the best interest of the Assemblies of God.

Appreciation

The chair expressed appreciation to the members of the Parliamentary Committee for their assistance rendered to the Council.

Brother Zimmerman stated: "This has been a very historic meeting. I want you to know that I deeply appreciate all of you—your wonderful sensitivity to the Lord and your open-hearted entrance into the matters of extreme concern that have been before this Council. The manner in which we have been able to transact important business together speaks of maturity of responsibility. It speaks of your deep sense of caring for the position that God has given to us as a Movement. May God help us to be everything that He has willed that we would be. We do stand in a very responsible position. We are to shine as lights. We are not here merely to occupy space but to be used as instruments of God. Let us be committed to everything that God has given us to do. I believe we are on the threshold of some of the most significant days we have faced as a Movement. The growth and development that we have seen heretofore represents only the vanguard of what there is to follow. I would pray that we would keep usable in the hands of God. Let us not allow ourselves to do anything to

obscure the vision. The enemy is so subtle; if he cannot withstand us, he will get behind and push us beyond. Let us stay in the dead center of the will of God. Let us be the people God would have us to be. Let us seize the opportunities that are everywhere about us. These are God's days, and I believe we want to see accomplished in them the optimum result for the glory of God."

Adjournment

It was moved, seconded, and carried that the 40th General Council of the Assemblies of God be adjourned sine die at 1:20 p.m., August 16, 1983. Following the singing of the Doxology and "Till We Meet," the meeting was concluded with prayer by the general superintendent, Thomas F. Zimmerman.

JOSEPH R. FLOWER
GENERAL SECRETARY

Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in the United States of America and Foreign Lands Revised to August 16, 1983

CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION

WE BELIEVE:

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

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

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

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

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

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

That we are a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal assemblies of like precious faith throughout the United States and foreign lands to be known as the General Council of the Assemblies of God whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local assemblies, nor to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and privileges; but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work, and business for God; and to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines and conduct, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, "till

we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

ARTICLE I. NAME

The corporate name shall be *The General Council of the Assemblies of God*, which term is reserved for legal use when referring to the legal entity.

The term *General Council* shall be used to refer to sessions of the corporation.

The term *Assemblies of God* shall be used to refer to the entire constituency.

ARTICLE II. NATURE

The General Council of the Assemblies of God is a cooperative fellowship based upon mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its membership.

ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES

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

- a. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.
- b. To encourage and promote the worship of God.
- c. To encourage and promote the edification of believers.
- d. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.
- e. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the gospel and the work of this Pentecostal fellowship.
- f. To approve all scriptural teachings, methods, and conduct; and to disapprove unscriptural teachings, methods, and conduct.
- g. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP

The 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 the 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 Corinthians 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 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 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 (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10, 11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

(a) Terms Defined

The terms *trinity* and *persons*, as related to the Godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from "gods many and lords many." We therefore may speak with propriety of the *Lord our God, who is One Lord*, as a Trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 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 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 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; Zechariah 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 no person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30, 32, 37; 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. (Romans 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, acknowl-

edged to be both God and man; who because He is God and man, is "Immanuel," God with us. (Matthew 1:23; 1 John 4:2,10,14; Revelation 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 (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 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 (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 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; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 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 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- (e) His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 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 to-

ward 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 (Ephesians 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 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 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 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 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 Initial Physical 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 Corinthians 12:10,28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1,2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 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 (Romans 6:1-11,13; 8:1,2,13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12,13; 1 Peter 1:5).

10. The Church and Its Mission

The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her great commission. Each believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:22; Hebrews 12:23).

Since God's purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost, to be worshiped by man, and to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, the priority reason-for-being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).

The Assemblies of God exists expressly to give continuing emphasis to this reason-for-being in the New Testament apostolic pattern by teaching and encouraging believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This experience:

- a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4).
- b. Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).
- c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times for the edifying of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evan-

gelization 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; Matthew 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 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 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 (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 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 (Matthew 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. College representation. The duly endorsed colleges of the Assemblies of God shall be represented on the General Presbytery by three college presidents.

e. 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 councils 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. (See 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 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 elective 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.

(1) *District representation.* Election of general presbyters shall take place at the district council meetings.

(2) *College representation.* College representatives, as provided for in Constitution Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d, shall be nominated by the General Presbytery and elected by the General Council for a 2-year term on a rotating basis, except that to initiate this provision the Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to designate three presidents who shall thus serve for the first 2-year term. Two years shall elapse after a term is completed before a president shall be eligible for reelection to the General Presbytery.

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 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, Korean, 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: Italian, New Jersey, New York, Northern New England, Pennsylvania-Delaware, 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 c, 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 disbursements, 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 of this article.
- b. The Executive Presbytery shall have the right and duty of inter-

preting 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 by-laws.
- (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, of this article.

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. **Relationships.** *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 constitution 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.

1. **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 and proven full-time preaching 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 re-

quired 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 by mail postmarked on or before January 31 shall be considered delinquent. They shall be required to pay a late fee

of \$25 up until February 15, to be divided equally between the district and General Council offices.

c. **Reinstatement required after February 15.** Ministers whose renewal applications are not postmarked 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, which shall be divided equally between the district and the General Council offices. These ministers shall not be subject to the minimal time-lapse required of those whose credentials have been terminated for other causes. (See Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 10, paragraphs a, b, and c.)

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 officer.

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 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 chaplains.* All chaplains, military and institutional, will be obligated to their home district in the amount of 10 percent of their tithes from income earned from the chaplaincy. All chaplains are also encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the district in which they fulfill their 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.

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 Thessalonians 5:9,10; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10; Revelation 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 remarriage 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 authorization of the district officary.

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 of-

fenders guilty of the practices expressed in the foregoing paragraphs shall be subject to discipline.

c. **Private ownership of religious institutions.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God approves the holding of title to all church buildings, schools, or other institutions that are supported by funds solicited for the work of God by properly constituted corporations. It disapproves the holding title to such properties by the ministers of the Assemblies of God, through private ownership, corporation of sole, closed corporation or any other type of ownership where initiative of action or final authority is not vested in a corporation of the whole. In the event a local congregation is not incorporated or set in order by the district council, title should be vested in properly qualified trustees. Where private ownership exists, a properly incorporated body shall be formed and title to the property shall be transferred to the corporation, taking into consideration equity that the title holder may legitimately have.

A disregard of this principle and recommendation shall seriously affect the relation of the Assemblies of God members involved in such ownership.

Section 8. Violations of Ministerial Courtesy

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

Any minister who so offends shall be subject to scriptural discipline as an offender by the district officary or by the Executive Presbytery. Such discourtesy will seriously affect the granting of annual fellowship cards and may be the basis for their recall.

Section 9. Ministry in a Non-Assemblies Church

Ministers shall not be limited or restrained from entering open doors to preach this Pentecostal message, so long as they retain Assemblies of God doctrine, standards of holiness, proper attitudes, and proper ministerial conduct without compromise.

Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle for growth and spiritual development of the Assemblies of God fellowship, it is essential that we recognize our relationship to each other and that we practice Christian cooperation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local church work.

We recommend therefore that our ministers confer with district council officials before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings. If the minister does not have district approval, he shall be expected to refrain from con-

ducting services for the church. Ministers who violate this principle shall be considered as having opened the door for censure or charge which may necessitate the recall of their credentials.

Section 10. An Improper Attitude Toward Those Removed From the Fellowship

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our assemblies, all who hold credentials shall refrain from taking any attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of the brethren entrusted with this responsibility. The offenders shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.

Section 11. The Ecumenical Movement

The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of ministers or churches participating in any of the modern ecumenical organizations on a local, national, or international level in such a manner as to promote the Ecumenical Movement, because:

a. We believe the basis of doctrinal fellowship of said movement to be so broad that it includes people who reject the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the universality of sin, the substitutionary Atonement, and other cardinal teachings which we understand to be essential to Biblical Christianity.

b. We believe the emphases of the Ecumenical Movement to be at variance with what we hold to be Biblical priorities, frequently displacing the urgency of individual salvation with social concerns.

c. We believe that the combination of many religious organizations into a world superchurch will culminate in the religious Babylon of Revelation 17 and 18.

(This is not to be interpreted to mean that a limitation may be imposed upon any Assemblies of God minister regarding his Pentecostal witness or participation on a local level with interdenominational activities.)

ARTICLE IX. DISCIPLINE

A. DISTRICT ACTION

Section 1. The Nature and Purposes of Discipline

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

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

Section 2. Causes of Disciplinary Action

Violation of Assemblies of God principles as stated in these Constitution

and Bylaws may give cause for disciplinary action by the Credentials Committee. Among such causes for action shall be:

- a. Any conduct unbecoming to a minister or indiscretions involving morals.
- b. General inefficiency in the ministry.
- c. A failure or inability to represent our Pentecostal testimony correctly.
- d. A contentious or noncooperative spirit.
- e. An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.
- f. An arbitrary rejection of district counsel.
- g. A declared open change in doctrinal views.
- h. A habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the cause.
- i. A marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce. (See Article VIII, B, Section 5, paragraphs d and e.)
- j. Violations of ministerial courtesy. (See Article VIII, B, Section 8.)
- k. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies church. (See Article VIII, B, Section 9.)
- l. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship. (See 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. (See Article IX, A, 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 Article IX, A, Section 2, paragraph a, 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 appropriate rehabilitation program as prescribed in Section 9, paragraph b, of this article, 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 IX, A, 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.

(1) *For other than dismissed minister.* 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.

(2) *For dismissed minister.* 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 Article IX, A, Section 2, paragraph a, 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.

b. Rehabilitation requirement obligatory. When a minister has been dismissed from our Fellowship and applies for reinstatement, it shall be the responsibility of the district council and General Council credentials committees to determine if he should go through the formal rehabilitation program, or if he has satisfactorily fulfilled the remedial requirements of such rehabilitation as outlined in Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 9, paragraph c.

c. Option to refer to General Presbytery. The Credentials Committee may also hold reinstatement of a minister's credentials 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.

d. Authorization. Application for reinstatement may be made through the district council within which territory the applicant resides. The applicant shall be considered subject to the approval of the district in which the termination was made.

e. Terminology

(1) *Renewed.* The term renewed shall be used to apply strictly to those who for inadvertent reasons fail to comply with the annual deadline of January 31, but do renew with said renewal bearing a postmark of not later than February 15.

(2) *Reinstatement.* The term *reinstatement* shall apply to all those whose names have been deleted from the official ministerial list for whatever reason and have paid a \$50 reinstatement fee to be divided equally between the district and General Council offices, and received district clearance for restoration to the ministerial list. (See also Article IX, B, Trial by Jury, Section 15.)

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 instructions shall be confined to setting forth the true basis of judgment in the case as repre-

sented 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 enrollment at the various Assemblies of God schools. It shall likewise effect a program for securing funds from foundations and other sources and from the denomination as a whole on behalf of our educational program.

It shall be the duty of the Education Department to conduct a continuous study of the educational institutions and services of the Assemblies of God with the view to their increasing effectiveness. It shall seek to correlate all educational efforts into a unified program. To this end, it shall have the following specific rights and functions:

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

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

(3) *Standard for endorsement.* It may erect standards to which all schools of the Assemblies of God shall be required to conform in order to receive endorsement. These standards may include the qualifications of the faculty and staff; the required subjects of the curriculum; the length of class periods, semesters, and terms; the requirements for admission and for graduation; and the general regulations of school life.

(4) *General service to all schools.* The Education Department shall serve the various schools of the Assemblies of God as a faculty placement

bureau. It may supply to school staffs and faculties ideas and suggestions for more efficient operation and may publish an interschool periodical to this end. It may publish an educational directory. It may also promote and conduct faculty seminars.

d. Rights and prerogatives

(1) *Annual certificates of endorsement.* The Education Department shall issue annual certificates of endorsement to schools meeting its standards for endorsement, and no school operated by or patronized by members of the Assemblies of God shall be recognized as approved unless or until it conforms to the standards erected by the Education Department and has been officially approved by such department.

(2) *Supervision of funds.* It shall be the prerogative of the Education Department to disburse and apportion whatever funds shall come into its possession to the various educational institutions of the Assemblies of God in that way which it shall consider equitable and right.

(3) *Equality of endorsed schools.* In the discharge of its duties and functions and the exercise of its rights and prerogatives, the Education Department shall consider all endorsed Assemblies of God schools as upon an equal basis, regardless of origin, ownership, or control. All schools which are approved and endorsed by the Education Department shall enjoy equal rights of publicity and emphasis in Assemblies of God publications and in the promotional work of the Education Department.

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

(5) *Correspondence courses, institutes, and seminars.* It shall be the prerogative of the Education Department to prepare reading and correspondence courses and to promote short, intensive ministers institutes and seminars for the development of the ministries of those who have been unable to attend our Bible schools and for the ministers of the Assemblies of God in general.

ARTICLE XIII. DIVISION OF CHURCH MINISTRIES

a. *Sphere of authority.* There shall be a Division of Church Ministries which shall have general oversight over the following departments: Men's Ministries, Music, Sunday School, Women's Ministries, and Youth.

b. *Purpose.* The purpose of the division is to coordinate and correlate local church programs on the national level.

c. *National director.* The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. He shall be charged with the operation of the Division of Church Ministries.

d. *Amenability.* The division and all of its departments shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Section 1. Men's Ministries Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* There shall be a Men's Ministries Department which shall have as its primary responsibility in its field of activity to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

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

(a) Encouraging development of the work of the men at the local, district, and national levels of the constituency.

(b) Promoting the participation of men in the ministries of the local church.

(c) Developing the interest of men in supporting all programs of the Assemblies of God.

(d) Coordinating the efforts of the men in local and district organizations within the Assemblies of God.

(e) Encouraging and teaching men to engage in personal witnessing for Christ.

(f) Organizing and promoting a program for boys.

(g) Participating in sponsoring world missions evangelistic literature crusades and such other programs as may be approved in the future.

(h) Preparing and publishing handbooks, manuals, and such literature as may be needed to further the fulfilling of the mission of the church by the men of the Assemblies of God.

(i) Publishing the work of the Assemblies of God men.

b. Government and organization

(1) *Department secretary.* The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the division.

(2) *National Men's Ministries Committee.* There shall be a national Men's Ministries Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the department, the secretary of Light-for-the-Lost, coordinator of Action Crusades, commander of Royal Rangers, and four representatives—one from each of the above areas and one at large to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery, who shall serve for a 2-year period. The national director of the Division of Church Ministries shall serve as chairman. The committee shall meet annually.

Section 2. Music Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Functions.* There shall be a Music Department which shall be responsible for the preparation of music publications and for the encouragement of the ministry of music in the local church. It shall provide music seminars as may be needed.

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

b. Government and organization

(1) *Department secretary.* The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.

(2) *National Music Committee.* There shall be a national Music Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the department, and three others appointed by the Executive Presbytery, who shall serve for a 2-year period. The national director of the Division of Church Ministries shall serve as chairman. The committee shall meet annually.

(3) *Approval for budget changes.* The preparation of new materials or changes in style and format which affect the budget of the Gospel Publishing House must have the approval of the Board of Publication before being initiated.

Section 3. Sunday School Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Responsibilities.* There shall be a Sunday School Department which shall have the responsibility of encouraging and promoting the development of Sunday schools and other church schools of a nonacademic nature throughout the Fellowship.

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

(3) *Functions.* The purpose of the Sunday School Department shall be:

(a) To assist district and local Sunday school organizations in setting up effective programs.

(b) To promote and conduct Sunday school conventions on a national and regional basis.

(c) To encourage and conduct training programs for teachers and workers.

(d) To produce manuals, handbooks, brochures, and literature of a promotional nature.

(e) To assist in the organization and development of vacation Bible schools and other educational activities of the local church.

b. Government and organization

(1) *Department secretary.* The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.

(2) *National Sunday School Committee.* There shall be a national Sunday School Department Committee which shall consist of the na-

tional 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, worshiping God, and building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son. In part, it shall fulfill this responsibility by planning and promoting a spiritual program directed toward the youth of the

Assemblies of God, encouraging the youth to assist in fulfilling the threefold mission of the church.

(3) *Functions.* The functions of this department shall include:

- (a) Encouraging and assisting the developing of district young people's programs.
- (b) Coordinating the development and promotion of projects of national scope.
- (c) Producing literature and helps to meet the needs of youth.
- (d) Promoting spiritual programs adaptable to the particular problems of young people in high schools and colleges.
- (e) Developing and promoting guidelines for use at the district and local level.

b. Government and organization

(1) *Department secretary.* The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.

(2) *National Youth Committee.* There shall be a national Youth Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the department, with three others from the field at large, appointed by the Executive Presbytery, who shall serve a 2-year period. The national director of the Division of Church Ministries shall serve as chairman. The committee shall meet annually.

c. District Christ's Ambassadors organizations

(1) Groups of local organizations may be formed into district organizations, with the approval of the officary of the district councils involved. The district organizations shall be governed by the principles of cooperative fellowship and shall be considered as a branch or department of the district council. The district council officary shall be considered as the honorary membership of the district organization and shall be honored and respected in all matters affecting the activities of the organization. The district organization shall have the right to elect its own officers, when deemed advisable by the district presbytery, and to supervise its own activities within the boundaries of the territory involved. The superintendent of the district council shall be an ex officio member of all district committees.

(2) The manner of election of the district CA president will be according to the provisions of the district constitution and bylaws. He shall be an ordained minister. It is recommended that he will be under the age of 35 at the time of his first election, but may be retained as long as his service is desired.

(3) A constitution and bylaws covering the activities of the district organization shall be submitted to and approved by the district presbytery.

(4) The president of the district organization shall be subject to call by the district presbytery for consultation in matters pertaining to young people.

(5) Sectional meetings of the district organization shall be strictly spiritual in character and arranged through the cooperation of the pastors and young people's leaders in each section, taking care not to conflict with other local or district meetings.

d. Local Christ's Ambassadors organizations

(1) All local Christ's Ambassadors organizations shall be considered as a branch of the local church work, to be under the general supervision of the pastor, whose counsel, advice, and direction shall be respected in all activities which affect the relationship of the organization to the church and its activities in service.

(2) The members of this group shall be born-again young people living consistent Christian lives.

(3) The local young people may elect their own officers, subject to the approval of the pastor and the church board, and may conduct their own services provided such services do not conflict with nor detract from the regular services of the church.

(4) The pastor shall be considered as an honorary member of the organization and an ex officio member of all its committees, and should be respected and honored as a shepherd and guide in all matters of service and fellowship.

e. Speed-the-Light offerings. (See Article XXIII. World Missions Plan, Section 2.)

ARTICLE XIV. DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS

a. Sphere of authority. There shall be a Division of Communications which shall have general oversight over the following areas: Auxiliary Communication, the Office of Information, the Pentecostal Evangel, Radio and Television, and Audiovisual Services.

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

c. Purpose. The purpose of the division shall be to correlate information from general headquarters, both through our periodicals and in the effective use of available communication facilities, such as, radio, television, audiovisual, and recording devices.

d. National director. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. He shall be charged with the operation of the Division of Communications.

e. Amenability. The division and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Section 1. Auxiliary Communications

a. **Promotional periodicals.** In order to strengthen the flow of information to all segments of the Fellowship in the most economical and efficient manner, all periodicals of a promotional nature other than those produced at divisional or departmental levels shall be under the general supervision of the Division of Communications.

b. **Editors.** The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to employ editors as may be needed.

Section 2. Office of Information

a. **Disseminator of news.** There shall be an Office of Information which shall serve as an agency in the dissemination of news about the Assemblies of God to the Fellowship and the general public. This shall include releases to district bulletins, religious magazines, news syndicates, and radio and television stations.

b. **Host to visitors.** The office shall provide services as needed in hosting visitors to general headquarters.

c. **Secretary of information.** The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a secretary of information who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Communications.

Section 3. The Pentecostal Evangel**a. Authorization and purpose**

(1) **Official organ.** The Pentecostal Evangel shall be the official organ of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

(2) **Purpose.** The Pentecostal Evangel shall be published;

(a) To fulfill the threefold mission of the church;

(b) To propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ;

(c) To give proper emphasis to Pentecostal distinctives, including the baptism in the Holy Spirit and its desired effects in the lives of believers; and

(d) To strengthen the Fellowship.

b. Government and organization

(1) **Editor.** There shall be an editor of the Pentecostal Evangel who shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) **Amenability.** The Executive Presbytery shall have the overall responsibility for the editorial content of the Pentecostal Evangel within the guidelines set by the policy-making bodies.

(3) **Approval for budget changes.** It is understood that changes in style and format affecting the budget of the Gospel Publishing House shall not be initiated without the approval of the Board of Publication.

Section 4. Radio and Television Department**a. Authorization and purpose**

(1) **Agency to fulfill church's mission.** There shall be a Radio and Television Department whose primary responsibility in its field of ac-

tivity 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 filmmakers.

(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 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 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 fundraising 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 Administrative and Emergency Fund of the Division of Foreign 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, 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. All undesignated funds.
- e. Five percent of all missionary offerings (with the exclusion of special designations) received directly by the division shall be transferred to the

Administrative and Emergency Fund to meet the administrative and 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 to 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, et cetera, may be granted appointment for such types of work, if properly qualified, without the necessity of being ordained. Nevertheless, such candidates shall have the endorsement of their respective district councils in regard to their Christian experience and local church activity.

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 XXII. 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 provision 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. All missionary appointments and renewals thereof shall be made according to administrative criteria established by the Division of Home Missions.

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 agency 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 Mil-

itary 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 national director of the Division of Publication shall serve as chairman. The Board of Publication shall meet monthly.

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

(3) *Subcommittees.* Subcommittees shall be named as necessary in carrying on the work of the division. They shall be nominated by the national director of the Division of Publication and ratified by the Board

of Publication. All committee decisions shall be reported to the Board of Publication for approval and authorization. They shall be amenable to the Board of Publication.

d. **Amenability.** The division and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Section 3. The Gospel Publishing House

The Gospel Publishing House, its plant and equipment, its general business interest, and the promotion and production of all salable periodicals and publications, shall be under the supervision of the Division of Publication and shall be operated in such a manner that it shall make an optimum contribution to the fulfillment of the threefold mission of the church.

ARTICLE XVIII. DIVISION OF THE TREASURY

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

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

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

d. **Amenability.** The division and all of its departments shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Section 1. Finance Department

a. Authorization and purpose.

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

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

b. Government and organization

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

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

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

the Executive Presbytery subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. This committee shall be charged with the responsibility of studying the budget with the Executive Presbytery and shall serve in an advisory capacity in matters of general finance. They shall give preliminary survey and advice concerning any major project on the denominational or departmental level involving the expenditure of funds. Any project to be submitted for consideration by the General Council which involves the expenditure of funds shall first be submitted to this committee for review and advice.

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

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

c. Support of headquarters

(1) **From ministers.** The work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in its program of developing the spirit of cooperation and fellowship in home and foreign fields, incurs considerable expense, including the financial support of the executive officers and offices.

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

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

The general treasurer's office shall submit to the respective district offices a semiannual report of ministers' contributions for the support of headquarters. Each district shall make this information available to its ministers by any of the following methods:

- (a) Collectively, through district publications.
- (b) Individually, through personal letters.
- (c) Through any other media selected by the district.

The districts shall carefully analyze the annual report of each minister

and, in their knowledge of local situations, determine if he has been voluntarily cooperating with the General Council financial program.

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

Section 2. Stewardship Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Responsibility.* There shall be a Stewardship Department which shall be responsible for promoting Bible-based stewardship among our churches and membership.

(2) *Functions.* The functions of this department shall be:

(a) *Provide stewardship materials.* To prepare and provide, as needed, materials that stress Biblical concepts of the stewardship of life, time, testimony, talent, and treasure.

(b) *Encourage support and provide reports.* To encourage faithful support of World Ministries Giving and to provide periodic reports to districts and churches on World Ministries Giving.

(c) *Encourage scriptural methods of support.* To encourage scriptural methods of financial support for local assemblies, district councils, and the administrative offices of the General Council.

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

b. Government and organization

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

(2) *Secretary.* There shall be a secretary of the department who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

(3) *Stewardship Committee.* There shall be a Stewardship Committee which shall give counsel for the operation of the department. The committee shall be composed of the general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, who shall serve as its chairman; the secretary of the Stewardship Department; and three others from the field at large, appointed by the Executive Presbytery for a 2-year term. The committee shall meet annually.

c. World Ministries Giving

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

(2) *Combined report.* A combined report of all offerings which are designated for departments shall be given under the caption of World Ministries Giving. The intent is to provide recognition for contributions to all ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, to

place each appeal and ministry on an equal basis, and to lend encouragement to churches and individual contributors to determine the appeal to which they will respond under the leading of the Spirit.

(3) *Credit.* World Ministries Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to the Divisions of Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Christian Education (including educational institutions), and Church Ministries (including Men's Ministries, Women's Ministries, Sunday School, and Youth Departments), Radio and TV, the executive and Spiritual Life-Evangelism offices, Benevolences Department, and other General Council, regional, and district-sponsored or approved projects. Contributions from districts other than where a district-approved project is located can only be granted World Ministries Giving credit if the district where the contribution originates gives its approval, and if the contribution is channeled through that district or the national headquarters. It is expected that the national division related to a given project will be notified of approved projects. It is also understood that no district or region may receive World Ministries Giving credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.

Section 3. Deferred Giving and Trusts Department

a. Authorization and purpose.

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

(2) *Amenability.* The Deferred Giving and Trusts Department and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery.

(3) *Title and signatories.* The title and authority of any legal instrument shall be in the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Those officers who are designated and authorized to sign all documents for that body shall be authorized to act in the same capacity for the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department.

(4) *Control.* These bylaws shall govern the entire authority, control, and operation of the department.

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

b. Government and organization

(1) Board of trustees

(a) *Authorization.* The Deferred Giving and Trusts Department

shall be under the supervision of a board of trustees consisting of not less than five members.

(b) *Amenability.* The board of trustees shall be appointed by and responsible to the Executive Presbytery.

(c) *Qualifications and terms of office.* The trustees shall be qualified, reputable, and knowledgeable persons and shall serve for 3-year terms beginning on a staggered basis of 1, 2, and 3 years. A majority of trustees shall not be members of the headquarters staff.

(d) *Meetings and responsibilities.* The board shall meet not less than once each 3 months and shall review all actions of the deferred giving and trusts administration for the prior period. It shall review and give guidance in regard to investments, instruments, documents, financial reports, and internal controls, and keep detailed minutes of each meeting.

(2) *Secretary.* There shall be a secretary of the department who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. He shall be the business administrator and shall be in charge of all activities, including the office, files, safeguarding of assets, and the administration of all documents and assets in accordance with each document.

(3) *Administrative Committee*

(a) *Composition and responsibility.* The board of trustees shall appoint three qualified personnel to function as the administrative committee of the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department in charge of the day-to-day operations. The administrative committee of the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department shall always act under the prudent man rule in its conduct. The members of the administrative committee shall be the department secretary and two other members from headquarters personnel.

(b) *Amenability.* The administrative committee shall be responsible to the General Council Board of Administration, the Executive Presbytery, and to its own board of trustees.

(4) *Director of field services.* There shall be a director of field services who shall be in charge of field representation, public relations, and shall assist in estate planning such as wills, trust instruments, annuity agreements, and any other authorized programs of deferred giving.

(5) *Accountant.* A qualified accountant shall be in charge of all record keeping, general and detailed books of account to reflect all activities of each document, as well as all activities by classes of trusts, gifts, annuities, unitrusts, and all other categories for proper accounting records. Each trust or each instrument should identify in each file where the funds are invested and their earnings, and the disposition when closed. The accountant shall develop a system of internal controls with checks and balances that will conform to sound and generally accepted auditing standards.

(6) *Investment Committee.* The Executive Presbytery shall appoint

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

(7) *Annual review.* The General Council Committee on Finance shall review the operations of this department each year.

(8) *Undesignated assets.* Upon the receipt of any assets not specifically designated by the donor, the General Council Board of Administration shall give written authorization for the sale of or other disposition by the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department.

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

Section 4. Church Loan Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Function.* There shall be a Church Loan Department which shall provide loans and assist in obtaining financing for churches that need such assistance.

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

b. Government and organization

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

(2) *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.

(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 officer.

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

BYLAWS

- 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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