

MINUTES

Revised Constitution and Bylaws

The General Council of the Assemblies of God



THE FORTY-SECOND GENERAL COUNCIL
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, August 6-11, 1987

MINUTES
of the
42nd Session of
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
of the
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Convened at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
August 6-11, 1987
with
Revised Constitution and Bylaws

(Incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri,
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tember 7, 1965, and November 4, 1977)

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THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

G. Raymond Carlson General Superintendent
Everett R. Stenhouse Assistant General Superintendent
Joseph R. Flower General Secretary
Raymond H. Hudson General Treasurer

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY

G. Raymond Carlson, Chairman	
Almon M. Bartholomew	Raymond H. Hudson
Robert L. Brandt	J. Foy Johnson
Glen D. Cole	Paul E. Lowenberg
Joseph R. Flower	Herman H. Rohde
James E. Hamill	Robert K. Schmidgall
J. Philip Hogan	Everett R. Stenhouse

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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FOREWORD

The impact of the 42nd General Council upon our Fellowship will be felt in a positive way for months to come. A high spiritual tide was evident in the services, the times set aside for prayer, and in other related activities. The preaching was anointed by the Spirit, and produced a good response at the altar.

Particularly significant was the Report of the Total Church Evangelism Strategy Committee and the Spiritual Life Committee Report.

There was a resolution urging churches to observe a call to repentance, and recommending that the 57 districts of The General Council of the Assemblies of God either sponsor a district prayer conference or participate in a regional prayer conference.

A clear statement deploring "the insidious consequences of pornography on social values, moral behaviour, and family life" was also adopted.

Fraternal delegates to the General Council included the following: Alcebiades Pereira Vasconcelos, Brazil Assemblies of God; Leon O. Stewart, Pentecostal Holiness Church; R. Lamar Vest, Church of God; R. William Hughes, New Zealand; Helios Miguel, France; and Ayyoub E. Rihani, Jordan. Also present were: Colin E. James, American Bible Society; and Billy Melvin, National Association of Evangelicals.

The following General Council officers were returned to office: Everett Stenhouse, assistant general superintendent; Joseph R. Flower, general secretary; Raymond H. Hudson, general treasurer; and J. Philip Hogan, executive director of DFM. The office of general superintendent was not voted on at this Council.

All nonresident executive presbyters were reelected with the exception of R.D.E. Smith, who is retiring. Almon M. Bartholomew is replacing him.

The following were approved as honorary general presbyters: R. E. Book, W. W. Brandt, S. H. Petersen, V. Ernest Shores, and R. D. E. Smith.

Action in regard to support of the General Council Headquarters was related to two areas: (1) from Assemblies, an annual offering, using \$1 per member as a guide; (2) from ministers: ordained—\$10 per month, licensed—\$6 per month, Christian workers—\$3 per month.

The final roster report listed a voting constituency of 4,673, and a non-voting constituency of 6,421, for a total of 11,094.

We look forward in faith and hope to the observance of our 75th Anniversary in connection with the next General Council, scheduled to be held August 8-13, 1989, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

JOSEPH R. FLOWER
GENERAL SECRETARY

**MINUTES OF
THE 42ND GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
CONVENED AT OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA
AUGUST 6-11, 1987**

The 42nd General Council of the Assemblies of God convened at the Myriad Convention Center, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Thursday, August 6, at 2 p.m. General Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson welcomed the ministers and delegates to the opening session. Serving at the piano and organ, respectively, were Mrs. Margot Zilch, wife of the district secretary-treasurer of the Michigan District, and Mrs. Elnora Dresselhaus, wife of Pastor Richard Dresselhaus, First Assembly of God, San Diego, California. Brother Carlson announced that song leaders for the council services would be M. Earl Johnson, assistant district superintendent, Northern California and Nevada District; and Cyril McLellan, director of Revivaltime choir, Springfield, Missouri. He introduced Cyril McLellan who led in singing, "I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord," "Blessed Be The Name of the Lord," "Thou Art Worthy" and others.

The Scripture reading by Brother Carlson was from Psalm 133. Thomas F. Zimmerman, former general superintendent, was called upon to lead in the opening prayer, which was followed by a time of worship and praise to the Lord.

**Greetings from Pentecostal
Assemblies of Newfoundland**

Joseph R. Flower, general secretary, read a telegram of greetings to the General Council, sent from the Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland.

A motion prevailed that the general secretary properly record and acknowledge the greetings of our brethren in the Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland, letting them know we enjoy their fellowship.

Offering

William Nelson Sachs, Southern Missouri District superintendent, made the offering appeal. June Coker, New Mexico District music director and minister of music, Glad Tidings Assembly of God, Silver City, New Mexico, sang "I Want To Know Christ," while the offering was received.

Introduction of Executive Presbytery

Brother Carlson introduced the members of the Executive Presbytery as follows: Everett Stenhouse, assistant general superintendent; Joseph R. Flower, general secretary; Raymond H. Hudson, general treasurer; J. Philip Hogan, executive director of Foreign Missions; Robert L. Brandt, Glen D. Cole, James E. Hamill, J. Foy Johnson, Paul E. Lowenberg, Herman H. Rohde, Robert K. Schmidgall, R. D. E. Smith.

Introduction of Retired Executive Presbyters

The retired executives were introduced as follows: Thomas F. Zimmerman, former general superintendent; Bartlett Peterson, Bert Webb, G. W. Hardcastle, Sr. (noting that the Hardcastles have just celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in June and Brother Hardcastle has been preaching the gospel for about 65 years), N. D. Davidson, Kermit Reneau. Charles W. H. Scott and D. H. McLaughlin were unable to be present.

Introduction of Fraternal Delegate

Brother Alcebiades Pereira Vasconcelos, president of the Assemblies of God of Brazil, was invited to bring greetings. Missionary David Harrison served as interpreter. Brother Vasconcelos expressed appreciation to the Assemblies of God of the U.S. for the help that has been given to Brazil through missionaries who have been sent there, as well as to ICI for assistance in providing study courses to the churches in Brazil. He closed his remarks by saying, "Your cooperation, your collaboration with our work in Brazil remains with doors wide open to all of you . . . and please pray for us."

Introduction of National Directors of Divisions

The chairman introduced the following headquarters personnel: Everett Stenhouse, acting 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; William G. Eastlake, national director of the Division of Publication; J. Philip Hogan, executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions; Robert W. Pirtle, national director of the Division of Home Missions.

General Council Committees

Brother Carlson expressed appreciation to the convention coordinators and to the members of the General Council Committees and the Operational Committees. Those who served in the respective capacities are as follows:

Budget

Raymond H. Hudson, chairman; Donald Farmer, John W. Farmer,

Merle J. Harris, Samuel Molina, Derald Musgrove, Armon Newburn, W. Nelson Sachs, Frank Trevino

Parliamentary

Charles E. Hackett, chairman; Charles H. Cookman, Kenneth T. Olson

Resolutions

Bartlett Peterson, chairman; William Behr, Robert Brandt, Rollin J. Carlson, Daniel B. Enriquez, Nam Soo Kim, Charles E. Lee, J. D. Middlebrook, J. Paul Savell, William Vickery

Roster

Don Logan, Charles Kelly, cochairmen; Robert F. Abbott, Paul Anderson, Tommy C. Anderson, Anthony T. Benigas, Joseph M. Beretta, Kenneth Broadus, Norman Campbell, Aubrey C. Cole, Larry Davis, Joel Del Toro, Jack Dial, Dickie Dixon, Robert Eastlake, Billy Epperhart, Dwight Fearing, Alton Garrison, John Gifford, Guy Howell, Billy J. Johnson, William Kruger, Howard E. Kruize, Royce Lowe, Winfield Piker, Robert Rose, D. L. Rousey, Samuel Sanchez, David Stevens, Ronald J. Traub, Sammy Vazquez

Spiritual Life

G. Raymond Carlson, chairman; Everett Stenhouse, vice-chairman; J. Robert Ashcroft, Harry L. Ayers, Herschel A. Brummett, J. Philip Hogan, Arvid C. Kingsriter, Ronald E. Piedmonte, Robert K. Schmidgall, Karl D. Strader, Jimmy Swaggart, George O. Wood, Charles W. Denton, resource; Hardy W. Steinberg, resource

Tellers

Warren F. McPherson, chairman; Dwight Burchett, Paul Keil, William C. Langford, captains; L. M. Addison, Terry R. Barriss, Robert Browne, David Crowley, Gerald Crownover, Dale Edwards, Gary Ellsworth, Sammy C. Fernandez, Kenneth File, Kenneth Freiheit, Larry G. Frick, Philip E. Gabel, Billy J. Glover, Homer Goodwin, Larry Griswold, James M. Hamilton, Paul O. Hanson, Melvin Holmquist, Carlos T. Jackson, Jr., Micheal E. Kelley, David Kyllonen, Richard Larson, Jack Linney, S. Robert Maddox, Richard Malvaney, Frank Mays, Ronald McCaslin, Jerry McClure, Ronald F. McManus, Daniel Miller, Adelo Murphy, Dean Nygren, Joseph Opperman, Raul Oropesa, Glenn G. Papit, S. H. Petersen, Gene Petty, Steven L. Powell, Donald A. Richardson, Pedro Rios, Dennis J. Rivera, Randall Rogers, Alec E. Rowlands, Vic Schober, W. Dean Shumway, Terry Sikes, Arvin Sorge, Jack C. Stepp, Melvin Steward, Richard O. Tufte, Bob Walker, J. Sidney Watson, Ruben A. Wilson, Jr., W. H. Yarbrough

Operational Committees

Steering Committee

G. Raymond Carlson, chairman; Everett Stenhouse, Joseph R. Flower, Raymond H. Hudson; Charles W. Denton, resource

Coordinators

Charles W. Denton, chairman; John V. Ohlin, housing and meal functions/ pre-Council registration

Accounting Committee

Clyde Hawkins, chairman; Esther Axmark, Ed Simmons, Ken Tripp

Communications/Platform

Lee Shultz, chairman; Mel DeVries, platform coordinator; Ken Riemenschneider, platform assistant; Harris Jansen, Melvin Snyder, Don Upton

Communion Arrangements

Stanley V. Michael, chairman

Equipment

Arlyn Pember, national chairman; Dale Jennings, local chairman; Don Goss, Ernest Rufenburg, Melvin Snyder

Exhibits

Thomas F. Sanders, chairman; Terry Van Someren, Juleen Turnage

Hospitality & Information Message Center

John Maempa, national chairman; John Gifford, local chairman; David Bundrick, John V. Ohlin

Kids Council

Richard Gruber, national chairman and ages 8-11 national coordinator; Ron Allen, ages 8-11 local coordinator; Sandra Askew, ages 5-7 national coordinator; Danny Kennedy, ages 5-7 local coordinator; James and De-lynda Walter, ages 3-4 local coordinators

Music (Program Subcommittee)

Lawrence B. Larson, chairman; Cyril McLellan, Merlin Mitchell, John Shows

Photos (Promotions Subcommittee)

Harris Jansen, chairman; James Allen, Phil Stovall

Printed Materials (Promotions Subcommittee)

Terry Terrell, chairman; Lisa Gentzler, Gwen Jones, Steve Vaudrey, Owen Wilkie

Program Committee (1987 and 1989)

Lee Shultz, chairman; Richard G. Champion, Sandra Clopine, Norman Correll, Charles W. Denton, Mel DeVries, Gwen Jones, Lawrence B. Larsen, John V. Ohlin, Robert W. Pirtle, Terry Raburn, Juleen Turnage

Promotions/Press Committee

Juleen Turnage, chairman; Richard G. Champion, Harris Jansen, Gwen Jones, Sylvia Lee, Terry Terrell

Registration

John V. Ohlin, pre-Council chairman; William G. Eastlake, on-location chairman; Jimmy V. Dunn, Jim Stalnaker

Resolutions and Reports Expediter

Gwen Jones

Transportation

Lamar Headley, chairman; Merrell Cooper, Melvin Sachs

Ushers

Glenn A. Renick, national chairman; Bob Walker, local chairman; Ephraim Espinoza, Evan Paul

Youth Congress (Program Subcommittee)

Terry Raburn, national chairman; Tom Greene, local chairman; Rex Bornman, Terry King, Barry Kolanowski

Business Session

Brother Carlson declared the first business session of the 42nd General Council officially called to order at 2:45 p.m. He called attention to the qualifications of the voting constituency and gave instructions regarding the designated voting area which would be reserved for the qualified voting members.

Procedural Motion

The chairman granted the request for a procedural motion as follows:

WHEREAS, One of the announced primary purposes of the General Council is the election of officers; and

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of the General Council for the

elections to proceed as rapidly and as efficiently as possible while the greatest number of voters are in attendance; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That an order of the day be set to begin the elections at approximately 11 a.m., Friday, August 7, 1987, and continue thereafter, interspersed with the other business of the General Council, until all elections are completed.

A motion prevailed that the above resolution be adopted.

General Superintendent's Report

Assistant General Superintendent Everett R. Stenhouse assumed the role of chairman to present General Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson, who gave his report to the General Council.

A motion prevailed to receive the report of the general superintendent as it is printed in the 1985-87 Biennial Report booklet with appreciation.

The chair was returned to the general superintendent.

Assistant General Superintendent's Report

Everett Stenhouse, assistant general superintendent, presented his report as contained in the 1985-87 Biennial Report booklet.

A motion prevailed to receive the report as read with appreciation.

General Secretary's Report

Joseph R. Flower, general secretary, presented his report as printed in the 1985-87 Biennial Report booklet.

A motion prevailed to receive the report with appreciation.

General Treasurer's Report

General Treasurer Raymond H. Hudson presented his report as printed in the 1985-87 Biennial Reports booklet.

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

Audit Report

Raymond H. Hudson, general treasurer, gave an overview of the Audit Report and the auditors notes. A motion was made and seconded that the report be adopted. An amendment to the motion was offered that the report be accepted rather than adopted and that it will be open for further discussion throughout the Council. The motion to amend was carried. The original motion as amended was voted on and declared carried. Brother Hudson then answered several questions relative to the Audit Report.

Procedural Motion

In response to a request, the chairman gave approval for the following procedural motion to be given:

WHEREAS, Resolution 1. Declaration of Election On Nominating Ballot, has been distributed to all voters well ahead of this Council, and

WHEREAS, Resolution 1 is directly related to all General Council elections of officers, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Resolution 1 be presented and acted upon in this session prior to the next order of business, so it will be addressed prior to the beginning of the election of officers in this General Council. A motion prevailed that this procedural motion be adopted.

Roster Committee Report

Charles Kelly cochairman of the Roster Committee gave the following report as of 2 p.m., Thursday, August 6.

Ordained ministers	2,879	
Delegates	807	
Voting constituency		3,686
Licensed ministers	288	
Visitors	4,020	
Nonvoting constituency		4,308
Total registration		7,994

Resolution 1. Declaration of Election on Nominating Ballot

Bartlett Peterson, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 1 as follows and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded.

WHEREAS, Considerable time could be saved in the voting process at the General Council by declaring the nominating ballot the elective ballot when a nominee receives more than the required majority of the votes cast; and

WHEREAS, For many years this has been an accepted procedure when authorized by a vote of the assembly; and

WHEREAS, The practice of allowing the nominating ballot to be an elective ballot is followed in many district councils; and

WHEREAS, According to Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, this parliamentary procedure cannot be utilized unless it is so stated in the bylaws; and

WHEREAS, Results of the nominating ballot when it becomes an elective ballot, can be announced, so as to provide information to the body concerning the votes of nominees other than the one receiving the necessary majority to elect; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the following shall be inserted in Bylaws Article

II, Section 2, paragraph a, (page 115), in line 5 thereof, immediately after the words "constitute an election."

In the event two-thirds of the votes cast are received by a qualified candidate on the nominating ballot, an election shall be declared.

It was moved and seconded that the resolution be amended by substitution so that it will read, "The number of votes cast for each nominee shall be published with the report of the nominating results." The amendment was voted on and declared lost.

The motion to adopt Resolution 1 was voted on and declared carried. However, a division of the house was called for with the results reported by Warren McPherson, Tellers Committee chairman, as follows:

Total voting 924

Votes in favor 496

Votes opposed 428

The chairman again declared the motion to adopt Resolution 1 carried.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5 p.m. to reconvene at 10 a.m., Friday, August 7. Fulton Buntant, Tacoma, Washington, closed in prayer.

THURSDAY EVENING—KEYNOTE RALLY

Assistant General Superintendent Everett Stenhouse was in charge of the evening service. The Keynote message was brought by G. Raymond Carlson, general superintendent, with the theme "I Surrender All—Committed to the Church."

The service began with a patriotic video presentation. Dale Schroeder, recording artist and evangelist sang as the video was presented. Raymond H. Hudson read the Scripture for the service from Ephesians 1:15-23. The congregational singing was led by M. Earl Johnson, and accompanied by Mrs. M. Earl Johnson, Santa Cruz, California, and Kathy Strandquist, Kenosha, Wisconsin, at the piano and organ, respectively. Other special music was provided by James Blackwood, Memphis, Tennessee, and the choir and orchestra from Crossroads Cathedral, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, directed by Homer Bair.

Remarks of Bishop Leon O. Stewart

Bishop Leon O. Stewart, general superintendent, Pentecostal Holiness Church brought fraternal greetings to the General Council. At a later business session it was requested that the remarks of Bishop Stewart be recorded in the minutes. Bishop Stewart's remarks are as follows:

On behalf of our executive board of our denomination and our membership I do greet you in the name of Jesus Christ.

I thank the Lord for the Assemblies of God Church. My own denomination thrust me into leadership really when I was young—younger

than I am now, much younger, and don't guess how old I am. They always guess too much. I formed a habit early in my administrative life of calling Springfield, Missouri. I thought you had the answers to everything. Brother Zimmerman for years was so good to share with me out of his knowledge and your materials and your ideas. I got acquainted with Brother Raymond Carlson. Oh, what a great soul. Just a genuine Christian gentleman. I don't believe you have anything that I have ever been denied of. I sure am getting Brother Zimmerman and Brother Carlson in deep trouble right now, but the presbyters don't listen to speeches like this anyway. But I just praise God for that mutual companionable feeling where they have shared so much with me. I have learned a lot about your denomination by their sharing with me. I learned that while I was borrowing from them sometimes they were borrowing from the Baptists and the Presbyterians. That's not true, all of their ideas are original; you know that—inspired of the Holy Spirit. You know that. I just praise God for my friendship and fellowship with your leadership, and especially with Brother Zimmerman and Brother Carlson who have been so kind to me and to my wife, Donna, through the years.

Assemblies of God—there is no question that you are the greatest Pentecostal denomination in the world. And I know you don't like the word denomination, so be a fellowship if you want to be. That's okay with me. I don't really know what that word "great" means. You know all of us stand up and say our church is the greatest church in the world. Really that is probably a carnal statement coming out of a big ego. And when a person says that he is probably believing it is as great as it is because I am in it. But there is no question that you are the leader. You are great because you are the largest Pentecostal body in the world. You're not as big as you should be. You're not as big as you ought to be. You're not as big as you are going to be in the next few years. I think all of the rest of us depend on you to lead us, in missions, education, publication, evangelism, Christian education—so many things. In so many ways we look to you for leadership.

May I plead with you tonight in your 42nd General Council, would you do something for the rest of us, primarily would you do it for our Friend and Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ? Would you lead us out of modern cheap grace and easy believism? Would you lead us out of material greed and self-gratification, and would you lead us out of pseudo-psychology and exaggerated sensationalism? Would you lead us back to the voice that stills the voice of secular humanism, and would you lead us back to the touch of the nail-printed hands that produce real and genuine miracles? And would you lead us back to Him, our true example, and that holy life-style that leads upward and ever upward to where the light lingers even when the sun is set? Would you please lead us back to a genuine appreciation of the Lamb

of God, our Lord Jesus Christ? Would you do that? Please do it. God bless you.

Report of Total Church Evangelism Strategy Committee

Prior to the Keynote message, Brother Carlson requested Robert Schmidgall, chairman of the Total Church Evangelism Strategy Committee to read the report of that committee as adopted by the General Presbytery. The report as read follows:

The Total Church Evangelism Strategy Committee is the result of a report presented to the General Presbytery in session in 1986 titled "Assemblies of God Church Ministries In The 1980s—1986." Following the presentation and discussion of that report, a motion was made "that the Executive Presbytery establish a committee which will outline for us total church evangelism strategy for 5 and 10 years, with an idea of how to implement that strategy down to the district and local church levels." The committee met first on Thursday and Friday, June 18 and 19, with a follow-up meeting on Monday, July 27. We found our assignment awesome and overwhelming. Through the course of our discussion we became keenly aware that fulfilling this assignment could only be accomplished through intense prayer and waiting on the Lord. We also sensed that a proper response to this assignment could result in the implementation of strategies that would deeply affect the course of this beloved Movement.

I. Definition of Terms

The title of this committee suggests where we should concentrate.

A. Our evaluation and decisions should relate to the total church.

There is need for a clarion call to every entity, organization, group and person to focus on evangelism. The strategy that is set should not be restricted to an evangelism department, but must saturate all of church life from ministry in the nursery to the music department to the senior citizens, etc.

B. Secondly, we should concentrate on evangelism. The vitality and growth of the Church of Jesus Christ is directly related to its commitment and participation in the winning of the lost. We must do it. It is important to consider the context of evangelism. Jesus commanded his disciples to make disciples of all nations. As we seek to set our course for the coming decade, we need to recognize that evangelism includes (1) bringing people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and (2) discipling each person until he is ready to win another person to Christ.

C. Thirdly, we are to address strategy. The dictionary defines strategy as a careful plan, or the art of devising or employing plans to reach a goal. The word for strategy comes from a

Greek term meaning "generalship," having to do with the art of military command exercised to meet an enemy in combat. In other words, strategy is the careful planning necessary to fight a war in order to win the victory.

1. Therefore, strategy not only encompasses the immediate battle at hand, but relates to long-range planning and foresight. Strategizing total church evangelism will help us to know what we want to ultimately accomplish for the Kingdom of God.
2. Strategizing demands faith. Proverbs 16:9 says, "The mind of a man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps." As strategy is formed, it will project what we are willing to believe God to help us do in building His Kingdom, and specifically, in reaching the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. Strategizing requires concentration. As we determine strategy, we will also know the things in which we should not become involved. It will help us to conserve energy for the things that really count. Clausewitz, the great Prussian military strategist, said "The best strategy is always to be very strong . . . at the decisive point . . . There is no more imperative and no simpler law for strategy than to keep the forces concentrated. No portion is to be separated from the main body unless called away by some urgent necessity . . . All forces which are available and destined for a strategic object should be simultaneously applied to it . . . compressed into one act and one movement."

II. Determination of Need

- ##### **A. The Assemblies of God has been identified as the fastest growing major church in America. Statements and facts such as that are exhilarating and can make one heady. However, the Total Church Evangelism Strategy Committee, while rejoicing in this wonderful testimony, feels the need to call attention to some alarming trends. There is a slowing growth rate in many key areas of church life, including net gain in churches, ministers, membership and Sunday morning attendance. There are gains in these areas, but the percent of increase per year has declined. Furthermore, Sunday school has failed to keep pace with growth in worship attendance and membership. The most alarming areas where this is occurring are in staffing and training. In 1986, 9,613 fewer teachers and officers were reported than in 1982. Average attendance per school had dropped from 106 in 1976 to 99.6 in 1986. Median attendance has decreased from 68 in 1979 to 60 in 1986. The growth of institutions of higher learning in the Assemblies of God has seen**

little gain. In reality, there is a loss of enrollment among our Bible colleges. Again, while there are reported increases in total number of conversions, water baptisms, and Spirit baptisms, this is largely due to the fact that more churches are reporting than used to. The average number of conversions per church reporting declined from 18.1 persons in 1980 to 16.0 persons in 1986. Water baptisms went from 17.3 persons to 14.4 persons, Spirit baptisms from 12.4 persons to 11.9 persons. All of this suggests to us that we need a new sense of direction.

- B. Secondly, we are all deeply conscious of the spiritual tragedies that have occurred over the past several months. We, as a Movement, have been deeply impacted by the failure of certain media ministries and its fallout. It has created confusion in the hearts of our constituents, caused embarrassment before the world and brought shame to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. (In spite of all of these negative effects, the ultimate outcome will be a sifting and purifying of the church, a new commitment to the priorities of the Kingdom of God and an affirmation of resolve in the hearts of those who are determined to seek the Lord.)
- C. Furthermore, there are national issues which deeply impact the church. The breakdown of marriages and deterioration of home life is a growing concern. A dramatically increasing number of the children of our nation live in single parent homes. The complications created by families with his, hers, and our children has not yet been fully understood.

While the AIDS crisis has primarily struck homosexuals, it stands to touch each of us with its devastating effects.

The shadow of nuclear war has created a panic that is reflected in people's philosophies and life-styles.

We are faced with the holocaust of abortion on demand and the rise in euthanasia, resulting in the devaluation of human life.

Materialism, secular humanism, and religious indifference have had debilitating effects on this nation, and specifically the Church.

One of the greatest national challenges facing the church is the urbanization and internationalization of our society. The population of America, as in the world, is being concentrated in the cities. This demands unique and creative strategies for evangelism. Today, immigrants to America are coming from all nations of the world. The Hispanic population is becoming a dominant factor in America, and is forcing our nation to deal with the issue of becoming a bilingual country. Immigrants

from the Far East are not only pouring into this nation, but bringing with them Eastern culture and religion. Here are some facts relating to the internationalization of America:

1. The United States has the second largest black population of any country in the world (Nigeria is first).
2. America has the fourth largest Spanish population in the world. There are more Hispanics in the United States than there are people in Canada. Los Angeles, with 4.5 million Hispanics, is the second largest Spanish population center in the world, next only to Mexico City.
3. Chicago is the second largest Polish city in the world.

III. Delineation of Strategy

The question is, Where do we go and what do we do in response to these needs? Obviously, we need to strategize. This is why this committee was appointed. In developing a strategy, we need a statement of purpose, a determination of goals, and a plan of action.

A. Statement of Purpose

It is the opinion of this committee that there needs to be a reaffirmation of the Statement of Purpose that grew out of the Council on Evangelism in 1968. It is obvious that the Council on Evangelism deeply impacted the Assemblies of God and contributed greatly to the growth of this Movement from that time to this. Simply put, the Statement of Purpose is that we are called to:

1. Minister to the Lord.
2. Minister to the saints.
3. Minister to the world.

While we feel there is no need to redefine this Statement of Purpose, there is a need to recommit ourselves to it.

B. Determination of Goals

The goals that we set for evangelism need to be visionary, attainable and measurable. We recommend the following:

1. Seek God for revival. The major impetus for total church evangelism will grow out of a genuine Holy Ghost revival, ignited in the hearts of the leaders and the people of our church.

We urge that a strong emphasis be given to prayer and repentance, and that congregations be encouraged to develop strong and vital prayer ministries.

Revival will introduce holy living among the people of God. There is a desperate need for greater emphasis on character in spiritual leadership. Spiritual leaders need to uphold standards of righteousness, cultivate personal devotions, seek a fresh anointing upon their ministries, pursue integrity and cultivate a meaningful and strong family life.

The people of God need to be called upon to do the same.

Revival will bring a genuine passion for lost souls. Goals for evangelism are not attainable apart from the desire to reach the lost as stimulated by the Holy Spirit.

2. Specific goals should be set for evangelistic efforts. The Division of Foreign Missions is, in cooperation with many of the national churches around the world, calling for a Decade of Harvest. We recommend that the Assemblies of God in America also declare 1990 - 2000 a Decade of Harvest. We should believe God to help us:
 - a. Declare the gospel to every living person on the earth.
 - b. Win 5,000,000 persons to Christ in America, discipling them to follow the Lord in water baptism and experiencing the baptism in the Holy Spirit. We believe that God is leading us as a Movement from addition to multiplication. ("Believers . . . were constantly added to their number." Acts 5:14 NASB, "The number of the disciples were multiplied." Acts 6:1 KJV) Therefore this projection is not based on past results, but a vision for the future.
3. Discipling and Training

There is a desperate need for discipling in the Assemblies of God. The ability to preserve new converts, and to continue to perpetuate the gospel among the lost is directly related to discipling and training. We recommend the following goals:

 - a. To disciple and train 20,000 persons for the ministry through our Bible schools and training programs. These people will be needed for pioneering and pastoring the churches that are to be planted, and for leading evangelistic efforts.
 - b. It is the opinion of the committee that some radical adjustments need to be made in our Bible school programs. This would include such things as requiring ongoing ministerial experience of faculty, providing exposure of effective pastors in the classroom and developing stronger church internship programs. We highly recommend that closer attention be given to the report on Assemblies of God colleges as submitted to the General Presbytery in August, 1986. Furthermore, we recommend that serious consideration be given to reviving the Bible Institute.
 - c. The training of the people of our churches for the work of the ministry should be a high priority. Those who have observed the growth of the church in Latin America

cite the fact that everyone is called to preach as one of the major reasons for the upsurge of the Pentecostal Movement. The same sense of call needs to be cultivated in the people of our churches here in America. A strong ministry and discipleship training program, and suitable training materials for laity needs to be developed.

- d. Churches and pastors in a no-growth mode need to be encouraged by their district leadership. This could be accomplished by developing a discipling program, utilizing effective ministers and also conferences that focus on helping churches and pastors in this situation.
- e. There needs to be a renewed emphasis on commitment, submission and accountability. A serious dilution has been created by materialism and secularism in our society. We must combat this by a clear call to spiritual commitment among leaders and the people of our churches.

4. Church Planting

With a net gain of only 125 churches in 1986, the progress of the Assemblies of God in America is dangerously slow. We recommend that:

- a. A goal be set for the number of churches that are to be planted in the next decade. The establishing of 5,000 churches in the next 10 years would be a very ambitious goal, but we believe is attainable if the pastors and churches of the Assemblies of God were mobilized for this purpose.
- b. District sponsored programs and the "mother church" concept may be utilized in accomplishing this goal. 500 churches starting another church each year would help us to establish the 5,000 churches in a decade.
- c. Concentration be given to planting churches in urban areas. Our Bible schools should develop programs for training ministers for ministry in urban areas; local churches should be educated on how to start churches in urban areas; and the district and national offices need to formulate specific strategies for evangelizing cities.
- d. An effort should be made to promote the pioneering spirit throughout the Movement.

C. Plan of Action

In the estimation of the Total Church Evangelism Strategy Committee, the formulation of an effective strategy for evangelism requires much more time and energy than we have been able to invest to this point. We have attempted to pinpoint some of the areas where we feel goals need to be established

and concerns addressed. We recommend to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery that an ongoing strategy committee be appointed to refine the goals, developing specific strategies, plans and helps and to monitor their attainment during the progress of the decade. This committee will make an annual report to the General Presbytery, and highlights of these reports should be brought to the General Council in session.

As a part of the plan of action we recommend the following:

1. That the decade of 1990—2000 be the focus of the strategy that is set.
2. That the Leadership Conference planned for August of 1988 be utilized to communicate these goals, and inspire our leaders and churches to become a part of the vision.
3. That the 75th Anniversary General Council in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1989, be the time when this strategy is launched throughout our Movement. Since leaders of national churches from all over the world are being invited to attend this General Council, this would be an ideal time to link ourselves with them in a Decade of Harvest.
4. That regional conferences be held during 1990 to assist districts and pastors in developing and implementing strategy for evangelism. These regional conferences would focus on practical helps in implementing the strategy.
5. That the districts begin to implement the strategy for evangelism through District Councils, Ministers Institutes and other events they sponsor during the years of 1989 and 1990. Furthermore, we recommend that districts be requested to clearly define how they plan to implement the strategy for evangelism and report it to the Total Church Evangelism Strategy Committee. We also recommend that the sections of the districts be encouraged to develop and implement strategies for evangelism in their areas.
6. We recommend that districts adopt a resolution supporting and cooperating with the recommendations of this report and appropriate recognition be given to those cooperating districts.

We as a committee, wish to emphasize the following in conclusion. First, spiritual renewal is necessary. We have only one choice. We as a Movement, need a Holy Ghost revival. Secondly, we must commit ourselves to the long haul. To retain the momentum for a strategy for evangelism for a full decade is only possible through a strong commitment to fulfilling our mission. We will be tested along the way, but if we remain faithful, God will help us. Thirdly, we must get back to basics.

We need to rediscover the things that made us what we are, such as a great zeal for God, signs and wonders, prayer, Holy Ghost anointing and boldness to declare the gospel. In Ephesians 5:16 Paul admonished us to "Make the most of every opportunity." We live in unprecedented days of opportunity. If we will make the most of these opportunities we will be able to look back on the closing decade of this century, and this millenium, with a deep sense of gratitude.

FRIDAY MORNING—AUGUST 7

A time of prayer and praise began at 9:15 on Friday morning. J. Robert Ashcroft, currently president of Berean College of the Assemblies of God, led the singing and prayer time. Musicians were Tom Matrone, minister of music, Bloomington Assembly of God, Bloomington, Minnesota, and Marion Kingsriter, pastor's wife, Bloomington Assembly of God, Bloomington, Minnesota. A testimony was given by Pastor Jimmy Cox whose 10-year-old son had been healed of cancer.

Brother Carlson announced that additional tellers were needed and asked the following to service on the Tellers Committee: James Bell, Don Bogue, William Curtain, Mark Ford, Ted Heaston, Bobby Jones, Joe D. Kelley, Richard Foth, Ed Corthals, Richard Langford, Gene Riggs, Ed Spinola, Joe Voss, Hugo Williams.

Reverend Donald I. Farmer, superintendent of the Rocky Mountain District, presented the offering appeal. Bud Tutmarc, steel guitar and recording artist from Seattle, Washington, brought the offertory.

Statement Regarding PTL

Brother Carlson read the following statement from the Executive Presbytery concerning PTL:

Since there has been a volume of national publicity relative to the PTL matter, and since some of the principals involved carried Assemblies of God credentials, the Executive Presbytery feels it necessary to make the following statement:

Neither Jim Bakker nor Richard Dortch, who were both credentialed with the Assemblies of God, made contact with the North Carolina District or General Council officials before an arrangement with Jerry Falwell and before releasing information to the media. The District and General Council's respective presbyteries invited both ministers involved to meet with them. That door was left open to them throughout the entire proceedings. Neither of them chose to avail themselves of these opportunities. The leadership of our Fellowship felt it was imperative to follow the established procedures of investigation and discipline. After disciplinary action was taken, neither of the principals availed themselves of the right of

appeal, as provided in the General Council Constitution and By-laws.

While the press has carried several statements regarding the handling of the PTL matter, we wish to remind our constituency that no one person can presume to speak for this Fellowship—not in the past nor in the future.

We are all cautioned to guard carefully against stating our personal opinions publicly on this and similar matters.

We wish to again reiterate that we are deeply saddened, ashamed, and repentant before God for these problems in our church family. Sadly, the convictions of holiness and personal piety have been eclipsed with self-interests and prosperity. Creature comforts have become the idols of too many today. Even the religious communities have been invaded by an emphasis on pleasure, prosperity, and personal gain.

We, therefore, urge that the ministers and churches of the Assemblies of God seek the Lord in humility and repentance for His blessing and guidance upon our lives and upon our Fellowship.

He also announced that we have a fully-equipped and staffed press operation to assist media covering the General Council and encouraged everyone to refer members of the media to the pressroom for assistance and information. Commendation was also given to the press which was present in last night's service.

Business Session

The business session was called to order at 10:20 a.m. Brother Carlson asked R. D. E. Smith to offer special prayer for Brother and Sister Robert L. Brandt in the homegoing of their daughter, Jean, and also for God's guidance during the business session this morning.

Privileged Motion

A privileged motion was offered that asked that senior ministers be allowed to sit on the lower level during the evening services so they would not have to climb to the upper levels. The motion was seconded and carried.

Roster Committee Report

Charles Kelly gave the following report of the Roster Committee as of 10 a.m., Friday, August 7:

Ordained ministers	3,349
Delegates	<u>920</u>
Voting constituency	4,269
Licensed ministers	397
Visitors	<u>4,845</u>
Nonvoting constituency	<u>5,242</u>
Total registration	9,511

A motion prevailed to receive this progress report.

Ministers Benefit Association Audit Report

Brother Hudson was asked to present the MBA Audit Report. He referred to the purchase of the old Southern Missouri District office building by MBA, and stated that the total cost of the building and renovation will be approximately \$500,000.

Various questions were asked regarding the investment of MBA funds in the General Council investment pool.

A motion prevailed to receive the Audit Report of MBA.

Maranatha Village Audit Report

Brother Hudson highlighted the various areas of the Maranatha Village Audit report.

A motion prevailed to receive the Audit Report of Maranatha Village.

Election of Assistant General Superintendent

Prior to the nominating ballot being distributed for the election of the assistant general superintendent, Brother Flower was asked to read the bylaws regarding the election of the executive officers. The ballots were distributed and Bert Webb, retired executive officer, was asked to lead in prayer.

Warren F. McPherson, chairman of the Tellers Committee, reported results for the nominating ballot for the office of assistant general superintendent as follows:

Votes cast	2,677
Needed to elect	1,785
Everett R. Stenhouse received	2,024

Having received well above the required number of votes, the chairman declared Everett R. Stenhouse reelected as assistant general superintendent.

The following is a list of all other nominees: E. R. Anderson 4, J. Robert Ashcroft 1, Almon Bartholomew 1, Don Argue 1, Marvin G. Barfield 2, D. Batty 1, Edward Blount 1, Philip Bongiorno 4, Robert L. Brandt 11, James Bridges 46, William Behr 2, Marcus Bakke 1, J. Brown 5, Edward Berkey 2, Howard Burroughs 6, Joseph Beretta 1, Glen Cole 112, Owen

Carr 5, Charles Crabtree 6, Robert Crabtree 2, Frank Cole 2, Charles Crank 24, Seth Cotton 1, Fred Cottriel 1, W. Clark 1, Charles Cookman 2, R. J. Carlson 1, W. Davis 1, Derwood Dubose 1, Richard Dresselhaus 2, I. E. Emswiler 1, James Ellis 1, J. W. Farmer 1, Donald Farmer 2, Joseph Flower 3, David Flower 2, Ivar Frick 2, R. Fisher 1, Don George 4, John Giannattasio 2, M. J. Harris 2, Raymond H. Hudson 1, Gene Jackson 5, J. Foy Johnson 18, Gary Kellner 2, Arvid Kingsriter 1, Vaudie Lambert 5, Maurice Lednicky 2, Thomas Loftin 1, Paul Lowenberg 21, Stan Michael 2, Frank Martin 2, Jesse Miranda 4, Ernest Moen 11, Derald Musgrove 1, Armon Newburn 67, J. Palmer 1, Darryl Proffit 2, Elwood Rakes 1, Kermit Reneau 2, Kenneth Riley 1, Herman Rohde 2, William Sachs 2, Robert Schmidgall 164, Kenneth Schmidt 2, Robert Sites 3, Robert Spence 6, Ed Spinola 2, Karl Strader 3, Jimmy Swaggart 13, Norman Surratt 1, Fred Smolchuck 1, Hugh Still 1, Thomas Trask 6, Lorin Triplett 2, Alfred Trotter 1, Allan Ullestad 1, Clinton Vanzant 3, Aaron Wall 1, Bert Webb 2, George Wood 2, James Wilkins 1, Tom Whidden 1, D. Wilkerson 1, J. Wright 1, Philip Wannenmacher 3, J. Wilson 1, William Vickery 5, M. Youngblood 1.

Remarks by Everett Stenhouse

The chairman asked Everett Stenhouse to respond to his reelection. Brother Stenhouse stated in part: "First of all, my sincere deep appreciation to all of you for this vote of confidence. I am deeply grateful to you. When I was elected to this office in San Antonio, I think there were not a few of our brothers and sisters who felt a little nervous, at least it came across to me that way, in electing a guy from California. I want to tell you the truth about Everett Stenhouse, for anyone who might have been concerned. I come back here to the beautiful city, Oklahoma City, and I have been reelected to this office a second time and it happens within 30 miles of where I was born. So I guess I'm home. I just thank you and, as I said in my report yesterday, it is a pleasure supporting our general superintendent and working to assist him in his awesome responsibilities to this Fellowship."

Divisional and Departmental Reports

A motion prevailed to receive the divisional and departmental reports as contained in the 1986-87 Biennial Report booklet with appreciation.

Report of Committee To Study Credit for Life Experience Learning

William Vickery, chairman of the Committee To Study Credit for Life Experience Learning, read the report of the committee as follows:

Committee Assignment and Composition

The 41st General Council which convened in San Antonio, Texas,

deliberated for some time relative to Resolution 20. Credit for "Life Experience." The resolution was then referred to a study committee to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. It had to do with the General Council Bylaws, Article VII. Ministry, Section 2. Basic Qualifications, paragraph h. Educational requirements, (page 127). It also had to do with the constitutional provision Article X. District Councils, paragraph d. Credentialing authority, (page 112).

The instructions to the committee contained in the motion of referral stated that: (1) The statement in the bylaws needs to be carefully worded; (2) Definitions need to be carefully tooled out; (3) Guidelines need to be set by which credit for life experience will be received.

The committee was comprised of William Vickery, chairman, Tommy Carpenter, D. V. Hurst, Ronald A. Iwasko, and Clinton Vanzant. The committee met at the General Council headquarters office on November 10, 1986, and deliberated concerning its assignment.

Historical Background

In its deliberations the committee studied the approaches to credentialing taken by the various sister denominations of the Assemblies of God. It also studied the history of the point of "educational requirements" for credentialing in the Assemblies of God. It noted that as late as 1949 there seemed to be no provision in the bylaws concerning educational requirements for credentialing other than "conformity to such provisions as are made for candidates by the General Council in reading courses and other training."

In 1949, during the 23rd General Council held in Seattle, Washington, a resolution prevailed "approving the action of the Executive Presbytery and Educational Committee regarding the relation of CBI to an accrediting association and the issuance of degrees." Following apparently lengthy discussion and the approval of this resolution, a suggestion was received and approved by the 23rd General Council that "the matter of qualifications for ordination to the ministry be settled by the adoption of a resolution making it imperative that the possession of degrees will never be used as a requirement for ordination to the ministry." Following up on this suggestion, the 24th General Council in Atlanta, Georgia, held in 1951, adopted a resolution amending Article X, paragraph c, 1, of the constitution (as it then was) by adding the following:

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 their respective district councils in agreement with the credentials committee of the General Council.

This provision was thus added to the credentialing authority granted the district councils.

Records reveal that in the August 1975 meeting of the General Presbytery, in accordance with this constitutional provision, a recommendation was approved wherein "minimal requirements for applicants for credentials included a series of reading courses and the passing of examinations prepared by the Berean School of the Bible unless equivalent courses have already been satisfactorily completed in an appropriate college or Bible institute program." A separate listing of courses was established for each level of credentials: Christian workers, license, and ordination. In addition, a listing of courses was provided for a specialized ministry license.

In the 37th General Council held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in 1977, Resolution 21. Uniformity of Granting Credentials, was adopted. It provided for an amplification of Article VII. Ministry, in the bylaws. In Section 2, paragraph h. Educational requirements, the same provision of Article X in the constitution was added to the bylaws.

In the General Presbytery meeting of August 1985, in recognition of the establishment of Berean College and in response to a recommendation concerning the proposed curriculum for credentialed ministers, a revised listing of courses for the three levels of credentials was approved. (It should be noted that subsequent legislation has identified the source of the "prescribed" study courses referred to in the bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, paragraph h, as being Berean College of the Assemblies of God instead of Berean School of the Bible.)

The committee believes this series of developments and changes with reference to educational requirements for granting credentials was significant and pertinent to the matter before the Council. Of special interest, it felt, was the fact that the notation, "Any certain extent of academic education shall never be a requirement for credentials," etc., did not appear in our official documents until 1951, in response to a suggestion made in 1949, this growing out of an apparent concern that academic degrees would be required.

Special Note: The context of these proceedings reveal the intent of this Council action was to prohibit the requiring of degrees but did not prohibit requiring reading courses and evident readiness and qualification for ministry.

Committee Analysis

Your committee observed during its study that the key elements of concern in considering the credentialing of a minister have long been the following: call, character, biblical knowledge, theological stance, and ministerial practices and skills. As well, it is noted that growth and development along these lines was expected at both the Christian workers and license levels and that a "proven full-time preaching ministry for at least 2 full consecutive years" was a requisite to ordination.

After a study of the background of the "educational requirements" provision in the constitution and bylaws, the committee turned its attention

to the resolution as referred and the terminology it had been asked to study. It noted the more precise meanings of "accreditation," and "life experience," as well as the intent of Resolution 20. It did observe that the essential intent had to do with "life experience" outcomes as equatable with learnings from various reading course requirements. The intent of Resolution 20 did not have anything to do with the colleges of our Fellowship granting of credit for life experience outcomes, as had been thought by some. The committee noted very precisely that credit is not given for "life experience" itself, but rather for learnings or outcomes derived from life experience and self-study which may be assessed and found equatable with learnings and outcomes that may be derived from reading courses and examinations and other forms of formalized study. The committee felt that if such outcomes could be verified, they should be accepted in lieu of the reading courses required by the General Presbytery. With this in mind, the committee therefore recommends the following resolution(s) for consideration by the General Council in session:

Committee Recommendations

That the following resolutions be adopted by this General Council:

RESOLUTION A

WHEREAS, Interest has been expressed in making provision for credit to be given for learnings from life experience as evidenced by the presentation of Resolution 20 titled, "Credit for Life Experience" which was considered by the 1985 General Council, and its referral to a study committee; and

WHEREAS, The findings of the study committee are that the recognition of bona fide preparation for the work of the ministry has merit whether from formal, non-formal, or informal education; and

WHEREAS, The recognition of such preparation can be accommodated without reducing the basic, minimum educational requirements deemed essential for those entering the ministry at any of the three credential levels; and

WHEREAS, Provision for such recognition can best be implemented by amending the bylaws; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 2, paragraph h, which now reads:

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 College of the Assemblies of God 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.
Shall be amended to read:

h. **Basic educational requirements.** Any level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall not be a requirement for credentials; however, it shall be required of applicants that they demonstrate adequate knowledge of (1) the Bible, (2) Assemblies of God doctrines; and (3) ministerial practices by either having completed prescribed courses of the Berean College of the Assemblies of God as specified by the General Presbytery, or by passing standardized examinations approved by the General Presbytery, which shall give evidence of having accomplished the same through self-study and life experience, or by equivalent training in an approved school, together with such other training as may be required 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.

RESOLUTION B

WHEREAS, The study committee found that the use of the word "accredited" in Article VII, Section 1 and 3 of the constitution may be construed by some to refer to academic accreditation which, in the opinion of the committee is not the intent of the statement; and

WHEREAS, The study committee understands the word "accredited" as employed in this context means accredited or certified by the office of the general secretary in the form of a current fellowship certificate; and

WHEREAS, The term "delegate" is more in keeping with present usage than the term "representative" when referring to those sent by churches to the General Council; and

WHEREAS, It is the consensus of the committee that any such ambiguities can be avoided and clarity achieved by a modest change in each of the two instances cited, and that such clarity is desirable; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 1 of the constitution which now reads:

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.
Shall be amended to read:

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 a current fellowship certificate and churches holding a Certificate of Affiliation issued by The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Further be it

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 3 of the constitution which now reads:

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.

Shall be amended to read:

Section 3. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency at a General Council shall be composed of all members of The General Council of the Assemblies of God holding a current fellowship certificate who are present and registered; and of such delegates 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.

A motion prevailed that the report be received.

Recess

The business session recessed at 12 o'clock noon to reconvene at 2 p.m. J. D. Middlebrook of Memphis, Tennessee, dismissed in prayer.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 7

The general superintendent opened the afternoon session at 2 p.m. and asked M. Earl Johnson to lead in singing "We Bring Sacrifice and Praise Into the House of the Lord" and "We Are Standing On Holy Ground." Serving at the piano and organ, respectively, were Rex and Brenda Stafford, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Prayer for the afternoon session was offered in Korean by Nam Soo Kim, superintendent of the Korean District Council. Samuel P. Molina, secretary-treasurer of the Gulf Latin American District made the offering appeal. Lynn Lukehart, minister of music at First Assembly of God, Lima, Ohio, presented a trumpet solo for the offertory.

John McPherson, national field representative for Native American Ministries, presented a tribal war bonnet to Brother Carlson, conferring upon him the title of "Chief."

Roster Committee Report

Don Logan, cochairman of the Roster Committee, brought the following report as of 2 p.m., Friday:

Ordained ministers	3,387	
Delegates	931	
Voting constituency		4,318
Licensed ministers	404	
Visitors	4,896	
Nonvoting constituency		5,300
Total registration		9,618

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

Report of Committee to Study Credit for Life Experience Learning (continued)

At the time of recess the report of the Committee to Study Credit for Life Experience Learning had been read and received. The chairman requested William Vickery to reread Resolution A. It was moved and seconded that Resolution A be adopted.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution A be amended by placing a period following the word "school," on line 26 and deleting the remainder of the paragraph. Following considerable discussion the motion to amend was voted on and declared lost.

The motion to adopt Resolution A was declared carried.

Resolution B was reread by William Vickery, and a motion prevailed to adopt Resolution B.

Election of General Secretary

The chairman spoke of the qualifications and guidelines for election of the general secretary and asked that ballots be distributed for the election of general secretary. Thomas F. Zimmerman was asked to pray for the direction of the Lord relative to this election.

Warren McPherson gave the following report of the nominating ballot for general secretary:

Ballots cast	1,981
Needed to elect	1,321
Joseph R. Flower	1,804

Since Joseph R. Flower received in excess of the two-thirds vote, this ballot became an elective ballot, and the chairman declared Joseph R. Flower reelected general secretary.

The following is a list of all other nominees: Joe Adams 3, Gary Ankrom 1, John Arnold 1, R. L. Brandt 1, James Bridges 10, Philip Bongiorno 3, Ken Broadus 1, James Brown 2, Glen Cole 13, Frank Cole 1, Frank Cargill 1, Charles Crank 3, Fred Cottriel 1, Charles Crabtree 1, Gerald Crownover 1, Wendell Cover 1, Richard Dresselhaus 1, David Flower 3, E. Flowers 2, Gene Gilmore 1, James Griggs 1, Paul Graybill 1, Sam Hamilton 1, J. Philip Hogan 2, David Houghton 1, Raymond Hudson 48, Gene

Jackson 2, Bobby Johnson 1, George Jacobs 1, J. Foy Johnson 4, E. J. Kumpe 2, Fred Leader 1, Maurice Lednicky 1, Sam Mayo 1, Ernest Moen 4, J. Miranda 1, D. Musgrove 3, A. Newburn 6, L. Nipper 2, Noel Perkin 1, Bartlett Peterson 5, K. Riley 1, Robert Schmidgall 9, Robert Sites 2, R. D. E. Smith 1, Robert Spence 4, Ed Spinola 1, Hardy Steinberg 1, Norman Tosten 2, T. Trask 2, J. Trotter 1, W. Vickery 10, Joe Wilmoth 1, E. Zilch 2.

Presentation of Joseph R. Flower

The chairman asked Joseph R. Flower to respond to his reelection. Brother Flower stated in part: "I am overwhelmed by this expression. I came here with no emotions or aspirations of any kind. I believe I can accept this as an expression of God's will, as an expression from God's people . . . I do not take this lightly."

Election of General Treasurer

The general secretary read the name of Raymond H. Hudson as the nominee being presented for the office of general treasurer from the General Presbytery. The chairman indicated that for the first time this ballot would be done on a computer ballot card. He pointed out that the ballot provides a line for write-in nominees. Ron Iwasko, Springfield, Missouri, was asked to pray for the Lord's direction during the balloting.

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

Ballots cast	2,557
Needed to elect	1,705
Raymond H. Hudson	2,471

The chairman, noting that Raymond H. Hudson received well in excess of the two-thirds vote required, declared him reelected as general treasurer.

The following were write-in nominees: John E. Arnold 2, Almon Bartholomew 2, Philip Bongiorno 8, James Bridges 2, Larry Burgbacher 1, D.J. Burrell 1, J. Ross Byars 1, Herbert Christensen 1, Glen D. Cole 1, Charles Crank 4, Donald Farmer 1, Silas Gaither 1, James C. Girkin 1, James Griggs 1, Galen Hertweck 1, J. Foy Johnson 1, Sam Johnson 1, Omer Kallevig 1, C. Kelly 1, Joseph A. Kilpatrick 1, Ernest Kumpe 4, D. Fred Leader 2, Paul Lowenberg 2, Don McManness 2, Jesse Miranda 1, Sam Molina 1, Derald Musgrove 1, Armon Newburn 4, Leonard Nipper 2, John J. Paproski 1, Ken Riemenschneider 1, Herman Rohde 2, Bob Rose 1, William N. Sachs 1, Robert Sites 1, Robert Schmidgall 5, Robert Spence 1, Arlene Stubbs 1, Norman L. Surratt 1, Ray Schulz 1, Jimmy Swaggart 3, Norman Tosten 1, William Vickery 13, Gerald Wilson 1.

Remarks from Raymond H. Hudson

Brother Carlson called on Raymond H. Hudson to make any comments

he wished. Brother Hudson stated in part: "Friends, I am overwhelmed at your confidence. I thank you, I want to tell you that it's the joy of my life to be a part of this Fellowship. I owe it a lot, and to work with our general superintendent, the Executive Presbytery, and many boards, is a real privilege. I want to say this, when you're around awhile and watch them operate you know one thing very well, God has His hand on this Fellowship and He has people who are men of God who are trying their best. Mr. Chairman, I thank these people and I thank all of you for the kindnesses you have shown to me."

Representative from American Bible Society

The chairman welcomed Rev. Colin E. James the Southwest distribution representative for American Bible Society, to bring greetings to the Council. He expressed appreciation to the Assemblies of God for its support of American Bible Society in three areas: (1) Financial support; (2) Consultation re. programs and projects; and (3) Distribution projects—A/G churches across the United States help in the distribution of Scriptures each year.

Election of Executive Director of the Division of Foreign Missions

Ballots were distributed for the election of the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions. Brother Flower reported the action of the General Presbytery to nominate J. Philip Hogan for this office. Ballots were marked and collected.

Warren McPherson reported the results of the first elective ballot for the office of executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions as follows:

Votes cast	2,409
Needed to elect	1,606
J. Philip Hogan	2,231

Inasmuch as J. Philip Hogan received well in excess of the required vote, the chairman declared him to be reelected executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions.

The following were write-in nominees: L. L. Ammons 1, Paul Brannan 1, James Bridges 1, Bill Brooke 1, John Bueno 1, Fulton Buntain 2, Harold Carpenter 1, A. Carrion 1, D. P. Clark 2, Glen D. Cole 4, Norman Correll 9, Robert Crabtree 1, George Flattery 3, David Grant 1, Charles Greenaway 3, Delmer Guynes 6, Merle J. Harris 1, Bob Hoskins 6, Bob Hudson 1, D. V. Hurst 2, Randall Hurst 1, Ronald Iwasko 7, Gene Jackson 2, M. Earl Johnson 1, Sam Johnson 2, Paul Lowenberg 1, Gordon Matheny 1, Leon Miles 2, Derald Musgrove 1, David Nelson 1, Ed Nelson 12, Armon Newburn 2, Brenton Osgood 1, John Palmer 1, Jerry Parsley 6, Ron Peck 1, Roger Noel Perkin 1, Burl Rogers 1, Hugh Rosenberg 1, William N. Sachs 1, Robert Schmidgall 10, R. D. E. Smith 1, David Stevens 1, Bill

Strickland 1, Jimmy Swaggart 2, Bennie Tipton 1, Loren Triplett 63, William Vickery 1, Philip Wannenmacher 1, Lindell Warren 3.

Remarks by J. Philip Hogan

Brother Carlson presented J. Philip Hogan and asked him to make any comments he wished. Brother Hogan stated in part: "Perhaps the greatest church historian of this century, the great Yale scholar Kenneth Scott LaTourette, was asked by Zondervan Publishing Company to publish the history and expansion of the Christian church and he did so in seven volumes. When he came to the last chapter concluding his report, he was killed as a pedestrian on the coast of Oregon, and Dr. Ralph Winters a leading missiologist of our times was asked to conclude the last chapter of the history and expansion of Christianity. He published a chapter called the twenty-five most unbelievable years, and I think I can reiterate in a little sense something of that chapter because you have allowed me for more than a quarter of a century to be a part of what I believe to be one of the most thrilling missionary endeavors of this century. I want to say that I fully believe that I work with the finest foreign missions staff in the world today. I thank you for allowing me once again to be a part of this great romance of the ages."

National Association of Evangelicals Representative

Dr. Billy Melvin, executive director of the National Association of Evangelicals was introduced. He brought greetings from the NAE and expressed appreciation to the Assemblies of God for sharing in more than 45 years of common commitment. He challenged the delegates "to examine carefully everything that you do by putting it under the spotlight of God's Word, asking God if there is not something else to do which might result in pushing back the frontiers for spreading the Gospel."

Statement on Pornography

The general secretary presented the proposed Statement on Pornography, which had been referred to the General Council by the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery. It was moved and seconded to adopt the report.

A motion was made proposing the following changes to amend the statement:

1. Line 1, define more clearly what it is encroaching upon.
2. Line 4, use word decadent instead of deviant.
3. Line 6, insert "basic human" following "dignity and" so the line reads: "We affirm the dignity and basic human rights. . ."
4. Line 10, use sexual activity, not sexual love.
5. Line 23, use wording, "high standards," instead of "community standards."

Following further discussion concerning the proposed changes to the

statement, a motion prevailed to refer the suggestions to the originating committee, and that it be brought back as a report on the matter.

Report of Committee Appointed To Study 1985 General Council Resolutions 32-36

The general secretary was asked to present the report of the Committee Appointed To Study the 1985 General Council Resolutions 32-36. He pointed out that at the time of the 1985 General Council there was not adequate time to give consideration to these resolutions. He further indicated that Resolution 32 was passed by the 1985 General Council, but that the committee was asked to include it with those which were not acted upon. He read the committee's report as follows:

Background Information

The 1985 General Council adopted Resolution 32. Ministerial Discipline by which the former paragraph a. Within United States, under General Council Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 4, was restructured, and the following was added as subparagraph (4):

(4) *Suspension for extended investigation or minor violations.* If the time required for the investigation exceeds 3 months and additional time is required to determine the validity of the complaints or charges, a minister may be placed under suspension for a period not to exceed 3 months in order to complete the investigation. This provision may also be applied for some minor infraction not meriting rehabilitation or dismissal, and which can be resolved within the above time frame, subject to renewal if deemed necessary.

During the discussion of Resolution 33. Preparation and Filing of Charges, under General Council Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 5, a motion prevailed to amend the proposed paragraph c. Suspension of Credentials by substituting the word "may" for "shall," so that it would read as follows:

c. *Suspension of credentials.* The credentials of a minister against whom charges have been filed may be considered to be under suspension until either disciplinary action has been taken or the minister has been cleared of the charges.

Following this the General Council approved a motion to request the district superintendents, in their annual meeting, to discuss Resolutions 32 through 36, and all matters pertaining thereto, and offer their findings and recommendations to a committee to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery, said committee to make its recommendations to the next General Council.

In response to a question, the chairman explained that Resolution 32 would stand as amended, but it would come under the purview of committee study. It was also understood that discussion pertaining to Resolution 33 would be made available to the committee.

This committee has reviewed the discussion and action which took

place at the 1985 General Council, together with the input from the committee of superintendents.

It was noted that the principal objection to using the term "suspension" during an investigation and hearing of complaints was that it was looked upon as having a disciplinary connotation. This was not the thought behind its usage. It has been the practice for many years to use the term "suspension" on the Ministerial Status Report form to indicate an action preliminary to or pending disciplinary action. This is consistent with the following dictionary definitions of "suspend," which include the thought behind the original proposal:

"to defer to a later time on specified conditions"

"to hold in an undetermined or undecided state awaiting further information."

"to keep waiting in suspense or indecision"

In light of the foregoing, the following are the recommendations of this committee with respect to Resolutions 32-36 from the 1985 General Council.

Resolution 32. Ministerial Discipline

WHEREAS, There is a need to clarify the starting point of the 3-month time period during which a minister may be placed under suspension, to which reference is made in General Council Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 4, paragraph a, subparagraph (4), (page 142); and

WHEREAS, There is a need to clearly define the meaning of the term "suspension" in this context; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the following paragraph be substituted for subparagraph (4) in General Council Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 4, paragraph a.:

(4) *Suspension for extended investigation or minor violations.* A minister may be placed under suspension for a period not to exceed 3 months in order to complete the investigation. This provision may also be applied for some minor infraction not meriting rehabilitation or dismissal, and which can be resolved within the above time frame. The 3-month period is subject to renewal if deemed necessary. In this setting, suspension is for the purpose of holding in an undetermined or undecided state, awaiting further information.

(Note: This amendment by substitution deletes from the first sentence of the present paragraph the words, "If the time required for the investigation exceeds 3 months and additional time is required to determine the validity of the complaints or charges," and begins the first sentence of the substitute amendment with the words, "A minister may," etc. It also makes the latter part of the last sentence in the present paragraph a

separate sentence next to the last sentence in the substitute amendment, and adds the last sentence defining suspension.)

Resolution 33. Preparation and Filing of Charges

WHEREAS, The provision for "suspension" was a part of the judicial process prior to 1973, and inadvertently omitted from the General Council Bylaws when the Manual of Jurisprudence was incorporated therein; and

WHEREAS, Between 1973 and 1985 there was no reference to suspension of credentials in the General Council Bylaws apart from that stated in Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 9, paragraph c, subparagraph (1), (page 145) in connection with rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, There is a need for such a provision, which in fact has been a practice for many years, and which although it would not be a disciplinary action would indicate an investigation is taking place; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to clearly indicate this in order to prevent unwarranted delay in the judicial procedure, as well as the possibility of considerable delay if a disciplined minister avails himself of the provisions for an appeal; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council Bylaws, Article IX, A, Section 5, (page 143), be amended by changing the title to "Status of Ministers Under Charges," a restructuring of the present paragraph into two paragraphs, and the addition of a third paragraph, including the amendment adopted at the 1985 General Council changing the word "shall" to "may," as follows:

Section 5. Status of Ministers Under Charges

a. **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.

b. **Accused minister informed.** The person against whom charges have been filed shall be informed in writing by certified mail of the charges made. (See Article IX, A, Section 2.)

c. **Suspension of credentials.** The credentials of a minister against whom charges have been filed may be considered to be under suspension until either disciplinary action has been taken or the minister has been cleared of the charges.

This committee recommends no changes in Resolutions 34, 35, and 36, and is presenting them for your consideration as originally presented to the 1985 General Council.

Resolution 34. Dismissal and Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws, Article IX, A, Section 7, paragraph b, subparagraph (1), (page 144) are not clear as to whether a dismissed minister may be immediately placed on the rehabilitation program; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the following sentence be inserted before the last two sentences in Article IX, A, Section 7, paragraph b, subparagraph (1):

It shall be left to the discretion of the Credentials Committee as to whether the circumstances of the case call for a minister's suspension with rehabilitation, or if he should be dismissed with or without rehabilitation.

The entire subparagraph (1) as amended will then read:

(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. It shall be left to the discretion of the Credentials Committees as to whether the circumstances of the case call for a minister's suspension with rehabilitation, or if he should be dismissed with or without 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.

Resolution 35. Publication of Name of Disciplined Minister

WHEREAS, The rights of a disciplined minister are not exhausted until the 30 days given him to appeal for a trial have expired; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the following words be added to the sentence under Bylaws, Article IX, A, Section 7, paragraph b, subparagraph (4), (page 144):

and an additional 30 days have been given the disciplined minister to exercise his right of appeal.
Subparagraph (4) will then read:

(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 As-

semblies of God and an additional 30 days have been given the disciplined minister to exercise his right of appeal.

Further be it

RESOLVED, That the following sentence be added to Article IX, A, Section 8, paragraph c, (page 145) of the General Council Bylaws: There shall be no publication of the name of a dismissed minister by either a district council or the General Council until the 30 days given him to request a trial have expired.

Resolution 36. Ministry While Under Rehabilitation

WHEREAS, It has been longstanding policy that the extent of ministry an ordained minister may have while under rehabilitation must be approved by the General Council Credentials Committee; and

WHEREAS, This stipulation has not been stated in the bylaws; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 9, paragraph c, subparagraph (1), (page 145), be amended by inserting at the end of the second sentence the following words: "subject to the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee" so that the sentence will read:

The extent to which he may be permitted to minister, if any, shall be determined by the district presbytery, subject to the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee.

The entire subparagraph (1) as amended will then read:

c. **Procedure and requirements.** The following procedure shall be used by the district presbytery in determining the specific requirements of 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, subject to the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee. Certain offenses may not require complete cessation of ministerial activities, although some restrictions or limitations may be warranted.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 32 be adopted. Following discussion in which the general secretary clarified and answered questions, the question was called for and the motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 32.

The general secretary reread Resolution 33 with the recommendation of the study committee, noting that paragraph c, of Section 5, beginning on line 19 of page 5, was the proposed change. After a time of discussion with regard to the term "suspension," an amendment was made and sec-

onded to delete the entire paragraph c, page 5, lines 19-12. The motion to amend was declared lost.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5 p.m. with prayer offered by William Behr, pastor of Bethlehem Church, Richmond Hill, Queens, New York.

FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE—AUGUST 7

The Friday evening service was under the direction of Robert Schmidgall, executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area. J. Foy Johnson, executive presbyter from the Southeast Area, gave the Scripture reading from Colossians 3:18 to 4:1. The congregational singing was led by Cyril McLellan. J. Dan Smith, minister of music, Bethesda Community Church, Fort Worth, Texas, and Richard Page, Calvary Temple Assembly of God, Irving, Texas, served at the piano and organ, respectively. The offering appeal was made by Armon Newburn, superintendent of the Oklahoma District Council. The offertory music was provided by the choir and orchestra from Faith Tabernacle, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, directed by Del McCroy.

Dr. R. Lamar Vest, 3rd assistant general overseer for the Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee, brought greetings from the Church of God and read the following resolution from the Executive Council of the Church of God:

"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." John 17:21

WHEREAS, Historically the Church of God and the Assemblies of God are colleagues in Christ and partners in ministry; and

WHEREAS, Our fellowship in Christ between our mutual leaders, our ministers, and our constituencies is a treasure for which we are grateful to God; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God will meet in Oklahoma City August 6-11, 1987, for their General Council;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That the Executive Council of the Church of God in its May 8, 1987, meeting conveys our warm Christian greetings and respect, along with our assurance of continuing sincere prayer that the Lord of the Harvest will grant to the Assemblies of God an unprecedented outpouring of the Holy Spirit during their General Council and a season of continued growth and abundant blessing in these crucial hours of human history.

Prior to the message for the evening, William Harness, Torrance, California, presented a vocal solo. J. Don George, pastor Calvary Temple, Irving, Texas, was the speaker for the service which had the theme, "I

Surrender All—Committed to the Family.” He used Amos 5:4, 10-15, as his Scripture text.

SATURDAY MORNING—AUGUST 8 GENERAL COUNCIL PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Prayer Breakfast was held Saturday, August 8, in Exhibit Hall 3 of the Myriad Convention Center beginning at 7:30 a.m. Its theme was: “Lord, Send a Revival.” J. Philip Hogan served as master of ceremonies. The Scripture reading was given by R. D. E. Smith.

Special music for the breakfast was provided by pianist Kenton Lee and Glen and Yvonne Eldon. Harold Carter, pastor of New Shiloh Baptist Church, Baltimore, Maryland, was the speaker. He used as his texts Luke 18:1 and Revelation 19:6-8. He concluded his message with a challenge to constant prayer stating that “Revival is come when (God’s) people constantly live in (God’s) presence.”

An extended prayer time led by G. Raymond Carlson concluded the breakfast. Several executive presbyters were called on to lead in prayer for various areas of need. Former General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman gave the benediction.

Saturday Morning Business

“Blessed Assurance” and “In the Beauty of Holiness,” were the opening choruses led by M. Earl Johnson as the business session began. Lena Mae Leach of Burke, Virginia, was the pianist and Mavis King of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was the organist. Charles Cookman, superintendent of the North Carolina District, led in prayer. Merle Harris, superintendent of the Arkansas District made the offering appeal. The offertory was a piano solo by Lena Mae Leach.

Business Session

The business session was called to order at 10:25 a.m. Ivar Frick, superintendent of the Michigan District, opened in prayer.

Roster Committee Report

Don Logan gave the following report as of 10 a.m., Saturday, August 8.

Ordained ministers	3,629	
Delegates	<u>985</u>	
Total voting		4,614
Licensed ministers	450	
Visitors	<u>5,444</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>5,894</u>
Total registration		10,508

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

Election of Nonresident Executive Presbyters

A packet of all eight ballots for the election of the nonresident executive presbyters was distributed. Instructions were given for the electronic process that would be used in tabulating these ballots. The ballots were marked and collected for one area at a time. Each delegate had received in their registration packet the booklet which contained the picture and a brief resume of each nominee. Prior to the marking of each ballot the general superintendent read the names of the nominees for that election.

Report of Committee Appointed To Study 1985 General Council Resolutions 32-36—Continuation

The chairman called attention to the fact that at the time of recess on Friday there was a motion before the house to adopt Resolution 33.

It was moved and seconded that the following sentence be added to Resolution 33 on line 22 immediately following the last sentence of Section 5, paragraph c: “Suspension under these circumstances shall not restrict the minister in the performance of any of his ministerial functions.”

Following a time of discussion, a motion prevailed that this entire report and all related matters and materials be referred to a committee appointed by the general superintendent and that the committee include not less than three district superintendents and that a report be brought back to the next General Council. It was also suggested that this committee consist of pastors from across the Fellowship and/or ministers and that this matter become the first item of unfinished business at the 1989 General Council.

Greetings from New Zealand Superintendent

R. William Hughes, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God in New Zealand, brought fraternal greetings. He shared that New Zealand Assemblies of God is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and that they have seen continued record growth. Between the years 1975 and 1980 they have grown at the rate of 125 percent. He relayed good will and love from the brethren in New Zealand. Brother Carlson asked Brother Hughes to extend greetings to our brothers and sisters in New Zealand.

Request for Order of the Day

A motion prevailed that because of the critical nature of the finances of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and because of the importance of Resolution 15 relating to that, that an order of the day be established to bring Resolution 15 before the Council as the first order of business in the session this afternoon.

Spiritual Life Committee Report

A motion prevailed that the report of the Spiritual Life Committee be made the next item of business.

The chairman asked that the members of the Spiritual Life Committee join the chairman on the platform for the presentation of this report.

George O. Wood, secretary for the committee, was asked to read the report. The report as read follows:

The Ephesian church, described in Acts 19 and Revelation 2, bears many similarities to the present-day Assemblies of God: godly and gifted leadership, miraculous signs and wonders, phenomenal evangelism and church growth, great diligence in the Word, and a powerful missionary vision.

The Lord found much to commend in such a church: it was a "can-do," hard-working, persevering, false-prophet-testing, enduring, and tireless group of Christians.

"First love forsaken" was the Lord's one complaint and indictment against this great church.

Doing the work of the Lord without the inner dynamic of relationship to the Lord himself is an ever-present danger for a graced and growing church.

Every member of our Assemblies of God Fellowship is asked to consider if the Lord is personally saying to each of us, "Have you left your first love for me?"

The Lord's fundamental concern is not our usefulness to Him, but our relationship with Him. As Peter learned from the Lord's threefold "Do you love me?"—so we must acknowledge that responsibility to care for others spiritually can only be entrusted to those whose first priority is the Lord himself.

Jesus gives each person, minister, and church three ways to correct the deficiency of first love.

First, REMEMBER!

In the Assemblies of God, we have much to remember. This Church has grown as it walked in first-love to the Lord and adhered to very simple and foundational priorities.

When our reason-for-being was succinctly crystallized 20 years ago it focused on the essentials of what we have always been about:

Ministry, first, to the Lord.

Ministry, second, to one another.

Ministry, third, to the world.

We must remember that these priorities are nonamendable and ever belong in their stated sequence.

Ministry to the Lord always comes first. We are a people who worship and pray—individually and corporately. We know from Scripture and experience that spiritual renewal and mission result not from com-

mittee meetings, meal functions, task-oriented groups, but from sitting at His feet and listening to His Word and Spirit.

We say to a hurting world that God cares because we have been close enough to Jesus to get wet from His tears and to shed tears ourselves.

Collectively, as the people of God, we declare that we are not looking for solutions by adopting some new program, or finding some exciting new personality, or discovering some previously hidden "doctrine." We are looking to God for a heaven-sent revival that will come to floodtide all across the church and the world.

We believe revivals are not born from programs or because of new buildings—they are born out of prayer, out of contrition and brokenness, out of ministry to the Lord. We are and always must remain a revival movement.

Only a church in right relationship with Jesus can effectively minister to one another and the world. We must remember that! Second, REPENT!

Jesus told the Ephesian church to repent, and He is not hesitant to call for the same response from us.

It is possible as we have grown that we have begun to be sinfully proud of our "great" churches, pastors, preachers, buildings, programs, and budgets? Let's determine anew that there is nothing great in us, but that the glory is all His!

We repent of our increased willingness to depend upon human personalities, good tools, and correct methods to do God's work. Ministry does require carefully prayed- and thought-through programs and strategies geared to age-level and interest groups. But we realize that these do not of themselves change people. Personal magnetism and exciting opportunities may gather people—but only ministry rooted in prayer and first-love commitment to Christ produces real change in the heart.

Where there is lack of commitment to Jesus, the Lord and Head of the Church, we repent. We call upon our people in the Assemblies of God to recognize anew that revival movements cannot be maintained with tepid one-hour-a-week attendance at a Sunday morning church service. We call upon our people for renewed commitment to learning God's Word in Sunday school, participation in personal spiritual growth through small groups of Bible study and prayer, and involvement in Sunday evening worship services where a new generation can be touched with the flame of revival in Holy Spirit anointed singing, preaching, and altar times.

We repent whenever our life-style falls short of being conformed to the image of Christ. As a Movement with a great emphasis on holiness, we admit that some of our early approaches to holiness may have been legalistic and even extreme. But we also realize that many within the

body of Christ who did not agree with our Pentecostal doctrine nevertheless esteemed the godly way we sought to live. While we have emphasized the charismata, we also acknowledge by biblical precedent and recent scandals that charisma without Christ's character leads to catastrophe. We call upon all within our Fellowship to walk worthily of the name of Jesus Christ.

Although the major emphasis of our doctrine and preaching of sanctification has focused upon progressive growth in Christ, we call upon the Church not to neglect the emphasis of "praying through," of gaining real and complete victory over besetting sin and habits. We repent of promulgating and perception that sinful life-styles may be indefinitely continued without being radically dealt with and changed. We seek a definite and applicative work of sanctification so real that when we have prayed through on a particular sin, we may walk away and say, "God met me there, and I have freedom now and victory."

We believe in 1987 as we did in 1914 that God's people must be holy—not the "holy" of a self-righteous hypocrite, but the "holy" of a wholly righteous, compassionate, and caring Christ.

Third, REPEAT!

"Do the things you did at first," says the Lord to the Ephesian church. It's a relevant word as well for us, the Assemblies of God.

At this General Council we have received a report from the Total Church Evangelism Strategy Committee urging us to a new Decade of Harvest. This historic document points us to a renewed commitment to evangelism—our heartbeat for all these 73 years of our existence.

We urge ministers and lay people to take this report to heart and make renewed determination to see that every aspect and department of church life is focused on evangelism—that the totality of everything which makes up the local church, and all ministries in the Assemblies of God are committed to reaching the lost.

In addition, we ask that our churches immediately begin to form prayer groups so that as the Assemblies of God prepares during the next 2 years for the Decade of Harvest which begins in 1990, we will be ready. No great advance of the church ever occurs without intensive and earnest prayer. The church must always go forward on its knees.

We encourage pastors to emphasize to the prayer groups and to the local church the 1988 theme for the Assemblies of God: "I am ready." This theme can be presented to the local church in increments of four quarterly subthemes:

- I am ready to listen.
- I am ready to learn.
- I am ready to speak.
- I am ready to serve.

Remember! Repent! Repeat! These three words summarize the cor-

rection urged by the Lord upon the Ephesian church, a correction He offers us today when we have left our first love.

As a Movement, let us remember the love we had for Him in our early days. Let us repent wherever and whenever that love has been diminished. And let us repeat the attitudes and actions of love towards God and others which the Lord so signally has used throughout our experience as a Movement.

A motion prevailed to accept the report of the Spiritual Life Committee with appreciation.

A delegate requested the privilege to make a comment relative to paragraph 2, page 3 of the report. He stated: "We repent whenever our life-style falls short of being conformed to the image of Christ." He stated that the Youth Department is doing a tremendous job. However, he felt hurt and disappointed in what came across at the Russ Taff concert, and he felt if we're going to repent that we needed to do something about scheduling Christian rock stating he did not believe that there is a correlation. He recommended that the executives check into who is scheduled for the youth functions, especially at General Council. He said we preach here every night that we are to have standards of holiness.

Privileged Motion

A privileged motion prevailed that in light of the fact that Resolution 8, A Call To Repentance, ties in with the report of the Spiritual Life Committee, that it be considered as the next order of business.

Resolution 8. A Call To Repentance

The Resolutions Committee chairman presented Resolution 8 and moved its adoption, which was seconded.

A motion prevailed to amend Resolution 8 by adding the following sentence to the end of the resolution: "Be it further resolved that the 42nd General Council of the Assemblies of God in session recommend that the 57 districts of The General Council of the Assemblies of God either sponsor a district prayer conference or participate in a regional prayer conference bringing to the light of our churches and our congregational constituents the very kind recommendation and call to repentance as stated in this resolution."

The motion to adopt Resolution 8 as amended was carried. It reads as follows:

WHEREAS, The Holy Scriptures warn us that in the last days perilous times shall come (2 Timothy 3:1-5); and

WHEREAS, The church and the ministry are under the stress of mockery by the media, saying, "Where is their God?"; and

WHEREAS, Mighty men from within our own ranks have fallen,

and we must beware lest being led away with the error of the wicked, we also fall from our steadfastness; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the 42nd General Council go on record urging that a call to repentance be observed throughout the churches of the Assemblies of God calling for a turning to the Lord with fasting, weeping, and mourning, rending our hearts in true repentance (Joel 2:12-14; 2 Chronicles 7:14) to walk worthy of our calling as Spirit-filled believers commissioned to be examples in word, in manner of life, in love, in spirit, in faith, and in purity; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the 42nd General Council of the Assemblies of God in session recommend that the 57 districts of The General Council of the Assemblies of God either sponsor a district prayer conference or participate in a regional prayer conference bringing to the light of our churches and our congregational constituents the very kind commendation and call to repentance as stated in this resolution.

Recess

The business session recessed at 12 noon with prayer by Arvid Kingsriter, Bloomington, Minnesota.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 8

The Saturday afternoon business session was opened with Cyril McLellan leading in a number of choruses. Miriam Reynolds, Ottawa, Kansas, and Fretta Vanzant, North Kansas City, Missouri, served at the piano and organ, respectively. The offering appeal was made by James Bridges, superintendent of the North Texas District. The offertory was presented by "Chosen," a vocal ensemble from Evangel College, Springfield, Missouri.

Business Session

The business session was called to order at 2:25 p.m. The first item of business was a report from the Roster Committee as of 2 p.m., Saturday.

Roster Committee Report

Charles Kelly brought the report of the Roster Committee as of 2 p.m., Saturday, August 8, as follows:

Ordained ministers	3,655	
Delegates	986	
Total voting		4,641
Licensed ministers	457	
Visitors	5,645	
Nonvoting constituency		6,102
Total registration		10,743

Privileged Motion

The following statement was presented by Arthur Parsons in behalf of the honorary general presbyters:

Representing approximately 2000 years of ministry in the Lord's kingdom and our church, those present at this General Council met in a breakfast session on Thursday morning (August 6, 1987). Along with reminiscing and expressing gratitude for the wonderful life that God had given us together, we shared the concerns of the future of our church, and having read the report of the strategy committee, and subsequently the reports of our morning session, we voted unanimously to pledge our support to you, Brother Carlson, and to our church to affect the cause of revival in our time. We're ready to commit, we're ready to roll our wheelchairs into the trenches and turn our canes into lethal weapons and drive the enemy into the sea. We want to join with you in inevitable victory in the march around Jericho's walls and in the shouts of victory as the walls come tumbling down. We feel militantly confident because nothing is equal to what He builds, and we pledge to you, our church, from those who represent 2000 years of history, our support, and in the event there are mountains to conquer and you do not have any recruits, in the memorable words of Caleb, "Give us that mountain!"

A motion prevailed to accept this with great appreciation. The chairman requested that this be recorded in the official minutes.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Northwest Area

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

Total votes cast	2,138
Needed to elect	1,426
Robert L. Brandt	1,446
Wesley J. Bransford	25
Warren D. Bullock	56
Frank E. Cole	266
C. Linfield Crowder	60
Dennis Davis	135
Willard R. Leisy	17
Vernon Marks	14
E. E. Rohde	100
Lorin W. Short	19

Since Robert L. Brandt had received in excess of the two-thirds vote required on the first elective ballot, he was declared reelected executive presbyter from the Northwest Area.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Southwest Area

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

Votes cast	2,223
Needed to elect	1,482
Glen D. Cole	1,246
Fred Cottriel	103
Daniel DeLeon	3
Donald I. Farmer	73
Virgil L. Jones	20
Jesse Miranda	80
Roy Sapp	70
Robert A. Sites	173
William O. Vickery	233
Bobby J. Wilson	115
George O. Wood	99

Since there was no election a second elective ballot was cast.

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

Votes cast	2,177
Needed to elect	1,452
Glen D. Cole	1,719
Fred Cottriel	34
Daniel DeLeon	3
Donald I. Farmer	12
Virgil L. Jones	6
Jesse Miranda	32
Roy Sapp	22
Robert A. Sites	90
William O. Vickery	158
Bobby J. Wilson	53
George O. Wood	48

Having noted that Glen D. Cole had received well over the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him to be reelected executive presbyter from the Southwest Area.

Election of Executive Presbyter—North Central Area

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

Votes cast	2,259
Needed to elect	1,506
Marcus Bakke	84
Ted Heaston	48
Omer V. Kallevig	31

Arvid Kingsriter	233
Samuel A. Mayo	310
Robert L. Nazarenus	37
David L. Nelson	75
S. Harland Petersen	55
Samuel C. Peterson	54
Albert W. Pettet, Sr.	86
Herman H. Rohde	817
Allan Ullestad	74
Clinton E. Vanzant	329
Norman E. Wenig	26

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

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

Votes cast	2,315
Needed to elect	1,544
Marcus Bakke	15
Ted Heaston	7
Omer V. Kallevig	3
Arvid Kingsriter	101
Samuel A. Mayo	253
Robert L. Nazarenus	8
David L. Nelson	23
S. Harland Petersen	12
Samuel C. Peterson	20
Albert W. Pettet, Sr.	27
Herman H. Rohde	1,581
Allan Ullestad	13
Clinton E. Vanzant	246
Norman E. Wenig	6

Since Herman H. Rohde had received in excess of the two-thirds vote required, he was declared reelected as executive presbyter from the North Central Area.

Election of Executive Presbyter—South Central Area

Brother McPherson gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the executive presbyter from the South Central Area:

Total votes cast	2,380
Needed to elect	1,587
E. R. Anderson	88
Earl J. Banning	119
James K. Bridges	305
Howard Burroughs	41
Frank Cargill	26
Gale Cisneros	27

J. W. Farmer	69
Clarence E. Lee	15
Paul Lowenberg	1,098
Samuel P. Molina	22
Derald Musgrove	92
Armon Newburn	414
Paul W. Savage	36
Raymond F. Schaeffer	28

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

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

Total votes cast	2,397
Needed to elect	1,598
E. R. Anderson	15
Earl J. Banning	43
James K. Bridges	215
Howard Burroughs	9
Frank Cargill	5
Gale Cisneros	5
J. W. Farmer	14
Clarence E. Lee	1
Paul Lowenberg	1,690
Samuel P. Molina	13
Derald Musgrove	14
Armon Newburn	364
Paul W. Savage	6
Raymond F. Schaeffer	3

Since Paul Lowenberg had received well in excess of the two-thirds vote required, he was declared reelected executive presbyter from the South Central Area.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Great Lakes Area

Brother McPherson gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area:

Total votes cast	2,439
Needed to elect	1,626
Isaac Troy Boggs	20
Jack M. Carnley	7
Robert B. Crabtree	147
Charles E. Crank	148
Richard Dobbins	122
James C. Ellis	25
Daniel B. Enriquez	18
Ivar A. Frick	57
Charles E. Hackett	43

Ignacio Marrero	8
Ernest J. Moen	205
Robert K. Schmidgall	1,576
Irvin G. Steiding	20
Thomas E. Trask	43

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

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

Total votes cast	2,384
Needed to elect	1,590
Isaac Troy Boggs	3
Jack M. Carnley	4
Robert B. Crabtree	28
Charles E. Crank	37
Richard Dobbins	19
James C. Ellis	6
Daniel B. Enriquez	7
Ivar A. Frick	8
Charles E. Hackett	6
Ignacio Marrero	2
Ernest J. Moen	46
Robert K. Schmidgall	2,203
Irvin G. Steiding	6
Thomas E. Trask	9

The chairman, noting that Robert K. Schmidgall received well over the two-thirds vote required, declared him reelected on the second elective ballot.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Gulf Area

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

Total votes cast	2,425
Needed to elect	1,617
Walter L. Davis	66
James E. Hamill	949
Merle J. Harris	148
Cecil T. Janway	240
Don Logan	112
Frank E. Martin	228
W. Nelson Sachs	99
Philip Wannenmacher	535
E. Joe Wilmoth	28
Gerald D. Wilson	20

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

Brother McPherson gave the following report of the second elective ballot for the executive presbyter from the Gulf Area:

Total votes cast	2,355
Needed to elect	1,570
Walter L. Davis	12
James E. Hamill	1,273
Merle J. Harris	49
Cecil T. Janway	91
Don Logan	13
Frank E. Martin	124
W. Nelson Sachs	13
Philip Wannenmacher	762
E. Joe Wilmoth	8
Gerald D. Wilson	10

Since there was no election, a third elective ballot was cast.

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

Total votes cast	1,991
Needed to elect	1,327
Walter L. Davis	5
James E. Hamill	1,267
Merle J. Harris	15
Cecil T. Janway	25
Don Logan	5
Frank E. Martin	37
W. Nelson Sachs	5
Philip Wannenmacher	631
E. Joe Wilmoth	1
Gerald D. Wilson	0

Since there was no election, a fourth elective ballot was cast.

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

Total votes cast	2,055
Needed to elect	1,370
Walter L. Davis	4
James E. Hamill	1,494
Merle J. Harris	5
Cecil T. Janway	7
Don Logan	2
Frank E. Martin	9
W. Nelson Sachs	0
Philip Wannenmacher	534
E. Joe Wilmoth	0
Gerald D. Wilson	0

Noting that James E. Hamill had received in excess of the two-thirds vote required, the chairman declared him reelected executive presbyter from the Gulf Area on the fourth elective ballot.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Northeast Area

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

Total votes cast	2,358
Needed to elect	1,572
Almon M. Bartholomew	831
William Behr	140
Edward B. Berkey	107
Philip Bongiorno	318
Hugh M. Corey	180
D. Wendel Cover	149
Samuel R. DiTrollo	89
Peter Miller	29
James E. Morris	86
John J. Paproski	204
Howard V. Spruill	157
Donald Veater	68

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

Brother McPherson gave the following report of the second elective ballot for the executive presbyter from the Northeast Area:

Total votes cast	2,215
Needed to elect	1,477
Almon M. Bartholomew	1,710
William Behr	30
Edward B. Berkey	21
Philip Bongiorno	234
Hugh M. Corey	44
D. Wendel Cover	30
Samuel R. DiTrollo	14
Peter Miller	7
James E. Morris	7
John J. Paproski	73
Howard V. Spruill	35
Donald Veater	10

The chairman, noting that Almon M. Bartholomew received well over the two-thirds vote required, declared him elected on the second elective ballot.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Southeast Area

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

Total votes cast	2,427
Needed to elect	1,618
Leslie Milford Addison	21
J. Edward Blount	76

Steven R. Brown	36
Charles H. Cookman	173
Robert J. Gatlin	49
J. Foy Johnson	1,304
E. Hollis Kelley	24
Vaudie V. Lambert	214
Donald Price	27
Karl D. Strader	393
Aaron M. Wall	91
L. Tom Whidden, Jr.	19

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

Warren McPherson gave the following report of the second elective ballot for the executive presbyter from the Southeast Area:

Total votes cast	2,283
Needed to elect	1,522
Leslie Milford Addison	5
J. Edward Blount	16
Steven R. Brown	7
Charles H. Cookman	56
Robert J. Gatlin	13
J. Foy Johnson	1,877
E. Hollis Kelley	7
Vaudie V. Lambert	91
Donald Price	5
Karl D. Strader	179
Aaron M. Wall	22
L. Tom Whidden, Jr.	5

Since J. Foy Johnson had received well in excess of the two-thirds vote required, he was declared reelected executive presbyter from the Southeast Area.

Resolution 15. Support of Headquarters by Ministers

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 15 and moved its adoption, which was seconded.

A motion prevailed to amend lines 13 and 14 by deletion, striking out the words "or through their influence."

The motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 15 as amended. It reads as follows: --

WHEREAS, The tithes of the ministers of the General Council presently fall considerably short of covering executive and administration budgetary requirements; and

WHEREAS, Eight years have elapsed since the last adjustment in ministers' required fees, during which time there has been a significant inflationary impact; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the annual financial obligation to the General Council shall be increased to \$120 for ordained ministers, \$72 for licensed ministers, and \$36 for Christian workers; and further be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article XVIII, Section 1, paragraph c, subparagraph (1), (page 179, 180), be amended to read:

Ordained ministers should recognize their obligation to contribute \$10 per month from their tithes, or as an offering. Licensed ministers should contribute \$6 per month and Christian workers 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.

Statement on Pornography

By action of the General Council on Friday afternoon, the proposed Statement on Pornography had been referred to the originating committee to incorporate suggestions presented in the session, so the statement could be brought back to the floor for final action.

Following a time of discussion concerning the proposed amendments to the Statement on Pornography, a motion prevailed to adopt the statement as originally presented.

The statement as adopted follows:

We, the fellowship of the Assemblies of God, are distressed and outraged by the encroachment of pornographic materials and establishments in America. We deplore the insidious consequences of pornography on social values, moral behaviour and family life. Through the following affirmations, we assert our commitment to resist these deviant influences and safeguard the moral health of our people and communities.

We affirm the dignity and rights of all people, without regard for race, gender or creed (Galatians 3:28). We reject whatever demeans or in any way deprives a person of that dignity and right.

We affirm the divine charter of marriage (Genesis 1:28; 2:18; 2:24), that marriage is a divine covenant and more than a human contract. Sexual love is restricted to the marriage bond of a man and a woman.

We affirm the integrity of the family, that religious, moral and social values are best learned within the structure of the family (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 11:13-21; Proverbs 22:6).

We affirm the commission of the church as God's divinely ordained agency for propagating and protecting the sanctity of human life, to provide a common and united voice against all sexual violence and moral degeneration (Matthew 5:13-16).

We affirm the right of Christians individually and corporately to speak out against all forms of social dysfunction, and in particular, the dissemination of pornographic materials. Christians are mandated to renounce any threat to the physical, moral and social well-being of

individuals (Matthew 22:40) to challenge the tolerances and permissiveness prevailing in today's society.

We affirm the rights of Christians individually and corporately to demand that government at all levels support community standards of decency and propriety.

We affirm God's concern that community life be characterized by justice (Psalm 146:7-9). As a people outraged at the offenses to God and the community caused by pornography, we are resolved to use our personal and united influence against these insidious forces.

Resolution 2. Editing For Proper Sequence

Brother Peterson read Resolution 2 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The offices named in Bylaws Article II, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, (pages 115-117), are listed in an unnatural sequence, be it therefore

RESOLVED, That paragraphs "b" through "f" and their respective texts be realigned in the following sequence:

- b. General treasurer
- c. Executive director of foreign missions
- d. General presbyters
- e. Nonresident executive presbyters
- f. Boards of education and foreign missions members.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Resolution 3. Creation of The Audiovisual Department

Bartlett Peterson indicated that the Resolutions Committee has been advised that the Executive Presbytery has acted to withdraw this resolution from consideration at this time due to uncertainty relative to relationship with other functions.

Resolution 4. Establishing A College Ministries Department

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

WHEREAS, The 12 million college students (including international students) and our nation's 3,300 college and university campuses are one of the most strategic mission fields in contemporary society; and

WHEREAS, The general superintendent in January 1986 appointed an interdivisional study committee to evaluate the Chi Alpha program in order to increase its potential for bringing the gospel to this vital segment of our population; and

WHEREAS, The study committee made recommendations to the Executive Presbytery which in June 1986 authorized the transfer of Chi Alpha College Ministries from the national Youth Department, Division of Church Ministries, into the Division of Home Missions,

and approved elevating the ministry to departmental status to be called the College Ministries Department; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article XVI. Division of Home Missions, Section 1, paragraph c. Departments, be amended by adding a new subparagraph (4) College Ministries Department, (page 172). The section would then read:

c. **Departments.** The work of the division shall include four departments:

- (1) New Church Evangelism Department
- (2) Intercultural Ministries Department
- (3) Chaplaincy Department
- (4) College Ministries Department

Further be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article XVI, Section 2, paragraph b, (page 173), be amended by adding the phrase College Ministries Department so that the section will read:

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

Further be it

RESOLVED, That Article XVI, Section 2, paragraph d. Home Missions Committee, be relettered e and that the subsequent paragraphs be relettered accordingly, and that a new paragraph d be inserted which shall read:

d. **College Ministries Administrative Committee.** The College Ministries Administrative Committee membership shall include two representatives each from Spiritual-Life Evangelism, the Division of Home Missions, the Division of Foreign Missions, and the Division of Church Ministries. The two representatives from the Division of Home Missions shall include the national director of the Division of Home Missions and the secretary of the College Ministries Department. The committee shall be chaired by the Spiritual Life-Evangelism Coordinator.

Further be it

RESOLVED, That Article XVI, Section 6. Support, (page 176), be renumbered 7 and that a new Section 6 be inserted which shall read:

Section 6. College 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 College Ministries Department shall direct ministry to the collegiate population of our society (including in-

ternational students) through the establishment of an evangelizing, reproducing community of believers where students congregate, study, and live. The department provides training for staff and students to be equipped for ministry within campus communities across America.

c. College Ministries Administrative Committee

(1) *Composition.* The College Ministries Administrative Committee membership shall include two representatives each from Spiritual Life-Evangelism, the Division of Home Missions, the Division of Foreign Missions, and the Division of Church Ministries. The two representatives from the Division of Home Missions shall include the national director of the Division of Home Missions and the secretary of the College Ministries Department. The committee shall be chaired by the Spiritual Life-Evangelism Coordinator.

(2) *Function.* The College Ministries Administrative Committee shall provide coordination and resource oversight to the College Ministries Department. Policy or major programming changes in items that have direct implication for other divisions shall be brought before the College Ministries Administrative Committee by the department secretary, with the approval of the national director of the Division of Home Missions.

(3) *Relationships.* The College Ministries Administrative Committee shall be a subcommittee of the Committee on Mission. The secretary of the College Ministries Department shall be a member of the Committee on Mission.

Further be it

RESOLVED, That Article XVI, present Section 6. Support, (page 176), be amended by adding a new paragraph g which shall read:

g. College Ministries Department

(1) All Chi Alpha campus ministers shall contribute one-half of their tithes to the national College Ministries Department.

(2) All International Student Ministry missionaries and recognized international student ministry campus and church staff shall contribute one-half of their tithes to the national College Ministries Department.

(3) All Chi Alpha chapters (groups) and International Student Ministry works (programs) shall contribute 5 percent of their budget to the national College Ministries Department.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Resolution 5. Tithe of Nationally Appointed Home Missionaries

Brother Peterson read Resolution 5 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The Division of Home Missions has been given the responsibility by the General Council to do all within its power for the spread of the gospel to the homeland, and

WHEREAS, This mandate is carried out in some 40 districts through the anointed efforts of 398 nationally appointed home missionaries ministering Christ to more than 25 cultural/language groups, and

WHEREAS, The Division of Home Missions expends most of its time, energy, and finances in caring for and promoting the ministry needs of its appointed missionaries, and

WHEREAS, The Division of Home Missions has a keen desire to move out of its long-standing deficit position, enabling it to function and expand its ministries without subsidy from the General Council; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That all nationally appointed home missionaries contribute one-half of the tithe on their personal budget allowances to help meet the operating expenses of the Division of Home Missions, and be it further

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article XVI. Division of Home Missions, new Section 7. Support, (page 176), shall be amended by adding a paragraph to be designated as h which shall read as follows:

h. One-half of the tithes of all nationally appointed home missionaries.

Following a time of discussion with a number of questions being answered by the departmental personnel the motion to adopt Resolution 5 was carried.

Response From Robert L. Brandt

The chairman indicated that Brother Robert Brandt was not able to be present at the General Council because of being called home due to the death of his daughter.

Brother E. E. Rohde reported that he had been in telephone conversation with Brother Brandt, and that he had asked him to thank this Fellowship for praying and that he appreciated so much the support of the brethren and this Fellowship as they reelected him as the executive presbyter from the Northwest Area.

The chairman requested that Brother Rohde take to the Brandt family an expression of love from everyone gathered in this General Council session, assuring them of prayers for the family.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5 p.m. with prayer by Herman H. Rohde, executive presbyter of the North Central Area.

SATURDAY EVENING—AUGUST 8

The theme of the Saturday evening service was "I Surrender All—Committed to Christ." Glen Cole served as chairman, and Rich Wilkerson, evangelist from Tacoma, Washington, brought the message. His text from 1 Kings 19:19-21 pictured the story of Elisha called to commit his life to ministry by the Prophet Elijah. Terry Raburn, secretary of the Youth Department, read the Scripture, Romans 6:8-14. M. Earl Johnson led the congregational singing. Kenton Lee, minister of music, First Assembly of God, Tacoma, Washington, and Marty Gould, district music director for the Peninsular Florida District, Tampa, Florida, served at the piano and organ, respectively. Special music was provided by the Teen Challenge Choir from Rehrersburg, Pennsylvania, directed by Bernie Gilott and by the choir and orchestra from Lakeside Assembly of God, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, directed by Bill Hedrick. Bob Kilpatrick, composer and soloist with the Rich Wilkerson crusades sang just prior to the evening message. World Ministries Giving Awards were presented by Raymond H. Hudson.

SUNDAY MORNING—AUGUST 9

R. D. E. Smith was in charge of the Memorial and Communion Service, which began at 9:45 a.m. with the theme: "I Surrender All—Committed to Worship." Joseph R. Flower, general secretary, read the Scripture, Revelation 5:9-14. M. Earl Johnson led the congregational singing. The speaker was Everett Stenhouse, assistant general superintendent. His text was from Isaiah 6:1-8. Duane Funderburk, minister of music, First Assembly of God, Des Moines, Iowa, and Joseph Abston, pastor, King's Brook Trinity Church, Missouri City, Texas, served at the piano and organ, respectively. The offering appeal was given by Philip Wannenmacher and the offertory was presented by the Harvesters Choir, directed by Grady Weiszbrod from Southwestern Assemblies of God College, Waxahachie, Texas.

In Memoriam

Joseph R. Flower presided during a visual presentation of the names of deceased ministers, accompanied by a vocal solo by Hubert Morris, director of development, Evangel College, Springfield, Missouri. He was accompanied by Glenda Morris at the piano and Gloria Argue, Fremont, California, at the organ. John and Sue Skipper, minister of music, Cathedral of the Cross, Birmingham, Alabama, also provided special music.

The following list includes all whose names had been reported to the General Secretary's Office from May 18, 1985 to June 12, 1987.

ACEVEDO, NELSON, Springfield, Mo.
ALLEN, DOYT C., New Plymouth, Idaho
ALSUP, GEORGE W., Tulsa, Okla.
AMAN, A. R., Cranbury, Tex.
ANDERSON, AGNES E., Seattle, Wash.
ANDERSON, HARVEY C., Augusta, Ill.
ANDERSON, RUBY M., Jacksonville, Tex.
ANDREWS, AUBREY L., Fort Worth, Tex.
ANDREWS, WILLIAM M., Havana, Fla.
ANTHONY, ZELLA E., Terre Haute, Ind.
ARNESEN, OSCAR C., Cottage Grove, Oreg.
ARNOLD, DORCIE B., Grand Island, Nebr.
ASHLEY, JAMES F., Sherwood, Ark.
ASTAD, JOHN S., Mountlake Terrace, Wash.
AVERY, VIRGINIA B., Conway, N.H.
BADDER, GRACE V., Bakersfield, Calif.
BAGGS, RICHARD J., Bentonville, Va.
BAKER, JOHNNIE M., Garland, Tex.
BARKS, JESSIE G., Visalia, Calif.
BARNGROVER, PEARL O., American Falls, Idaho
BARTLETT, GILBERT T., Sulphur, Okla.
BASCOM, LELAND E., Anchorage, Alaska
BATES, DILLARD R., Tulsa, Okla.
BAUGHMAN, PAUL W., Jacksonville, Fla.
BAYLES, RONALD L., Livingston, N.J.
BEATY, LANNIE L., Davis, Okla.
BEAUFORD, CLARENCE O., Seminole, Okla.
BEECH, LEROY, Chatom, Ala.
BEISEL, REBECCA M., Emmaus, Pa.
BENTLEY, RALPH A., Albuquerque, N. Mex.
BLANSCET, NATHANIEL F., Baytown, Tex.
BLUE, ANDERSON O., Galva, Ill.
BOARD, PHILIP L., Amarillo, Tex.
BOBECK, NICHOLAS S., West Islip, N.Y.
BOWMAN, BOND P., Jonesboro, Ga.
BRANDON, CURTIS, Garrison, Tex.
BREWER, S. WILLIS, Fresno, Calif.
BRIGGS, REUEL L., Paris, Tex.
BRIGHTWELL, W. KENNETH, Northwood, Iowa
BRINCEFIELD, J. R., Post, Tex.
BROWN, ARCHIE, West Terre Haute, Ind.
BROWN, ROBERT O., Van, Tex.
BROWN, WALTER L., Waxahachie, Tex.
BRUCE, S. ERNEST, Fayetteville, Ark.
BRUCE, VANCE E., Runge, Tex.
BUCK, SUNNYO HAM, Radcliff, Ky.

BURKE, JIM, Spring, Tex.
 BURKETT, DESSIE V., Lindsay, Okla.
 BURKETT, J. C., Guthrie, Okla.
 BURKEY, JOSEPH C., Seattle, Wash.
 BURRIS, ELDON G., Danville, Ark.
 BUTCHER, LEONARD J., Rainier, Oreg.
 BUTLER, FARRELL G., SR., Fort Worth, Tex.
 BUTLER, ROBERT J., Orlando, Fla.
 BYARS, ROBIN A., Waxahachie, Tex.
 CALAWAY, LOUIE H., Harrison, Mich.
 CALK, ALFRED W., Lone Oak, Tex.
 CAMBERS, WILLIAM H., Fort Dodge, Iowa
 CAMPBELL, IRBY, Brownsville, Tenn.
 CAPENER, ALVIN E., St. Paul Island, Alaska
 CARMICHAEL, GEORGE H., Springfield, Mo.
 CATES, CLIFFORD F., Inola, Okla.
 CHAKERES, JOHN T., Irvington, N.J.
 CHAMBERLIN, ALFRED C., Warrensburg, N.Y.
 CHAMPLIN, LILLIE M., Sacramento, Calif.
 CHASE, A. NEWTON, Riverside, R.I.
 CHISM, ALBERT S., Amarillo, Tex.
 CHOPPER, ELMER F., North Glenn, Colo.
 CLARK, ALBERT A., Emory, Tex.
 CLARK, VELVA I., Modesto, Calif.
 COFFEY, CHARLES J., SR., Freedom, Calif.
 COLEMAN, ERNEST J., Interlachen, Fla.
 COLLINS, J. WESLEY, Augusta, Ga.
 COLLINS, MILLARD E., Arlington, Tex.
 COLLINS, WILLIAM E., Batesville, Ark.
 CONGELLIERE, JOHN, Milwaukee, Wis.
 CONKLIN, BESSIE M., Dryden, N.Y.
 CONKLIN, GENEVIEVE B., Yankton, S. Dak.
 CONNELL, SAM, Sylacauga, Ala.
 COOK, J. LESTER, Brewton, Ala.
 COOPER, MAUDIE, Millry, Ala.
 COOPER, W. SAM, Oaxaca, Mexico
 COSTILOW, SAMUEL C., Tyler, Tex.
 COX, SILAS R., Silex, Mo.
 CREEL, PRESTON D., Dover, Fla.
 CROWDER, ALMA G., Augusta, Kans.
 CRUZ, JOSE, Brooklyn, N.Y.
 CULBRETH, HENRY W., Little Rock, Ark.
 CUSTER, OLIVER T., East Providence, R.I.
 DALAN, NONNA D., Springfield, Mo.
 DANIELS, DANIEL, Montebello, Calif.

DANIELSON, ORVILLE L., Renton, Wash.
 DAVIS, ALBERT S., Orlando, Fla.
 DAVIS, CLYDE A., Golden City, Mo.
 DAVIS, HELEN H., Waxahachie, Tex.
 DEAR, ALICE M., Akron, Ohio
 DECARMO, DALE I., Harvard, Ill.
 DERR, PAUL K., Lucerne, Calif.
 DEVOLL, JOHN W., Arlington, Tex.
 DEWITT, JOHN O., Deridder, La.
 DEYO, THELMA E., Dallas, Tex.
 DICKERSON, EARL O., Manassas, Va.
 DIERLAM, LONNIE A., Seadrift, Tex.
 DOCTER, ALFRED C., Southaven, Miss.
 DOTSON, R. W., Kirkland, Wash.
 DOUTHITT, EDITH V., Cumberland, Md.
 DUNCAN, CLARA L., Midland, Tex.
 DUPLESSIS, DAVID J., Pasadena, Calif.
 EASTES, CHARLES J., Amarillo, Tex.
 EDEN, A. GERALD, Coffeyville, Kans.
 EICH, ELSIE R., Sun City, Ariz.
 ELLENBURG, CASEY M., Newton, Ala.
 EMERY, PAUL J., SR., Harrisburg, Pa.
 ENOCH, WALTER C., Theodore, Ala.
 ERHARDT, GEORGE, St. Clair Shores, Mich.
 ERICKSON, WALTER E., Turlock, Calif.
 EVANS, BARKLEY B., Phoenix, Ariz.
 EVANS, FENNITH, Chrisney, Ind.
 EVANS, JOSEPH H., Petoskey, Mich.
 EZELL, HERBERT W., Wilmington, Calif.
 FALCONE, JOSEPH A., Williamsville, N.Y.
 FENTON, PAUL W., Springfield, Mo.
 FINCHER, CLAUD N., El Dorado, Ark.
 FOGELMAN, LESTER L., Yucaipa, Calif.
 FORGA, ZENIA M., Romaland, Calif.
 FOUST, WILLIAM W., Prairie Grove, Ark.
 FOX, BEVERLY W., Hampton, Va.
 FRANKE, CLARENCE W., Mitchell, Oreg.
 FRANKLIN, MAXWELL J., Phenix City, Ala.
 FRANKS, I. HULETTA, Albuquerque, N. Mex.
 FRIEND, BERTHA M., Hermiston, Oreg.
 FRY, LONEL F., Hoxie, Ark.
 FUSSELL, CHARLES E., Fort Myers, Fla.
 GAINES, ZELMA L., Vancouver, Wash.
 GANOE, HAROLD O., Romney, W. Va.
 GARLOCK, ABRAHAM L., SR., Sandusky, Ohio

GENTZLER, CHARLOTTE, Ewing, Ky.
 GERDES, MARTIN E., St. Cloud, Minn.
 GIBSON, CHARLES D., El Dorado, Ark.
 GIBSON, JAMES L., Portland, Oreg.
 GILL, NORMAN W., Hickory, N.C.
 GILLESPIE, RAE, Lodi, Calif.
 GILMAN, MARY E., Fort Apache, Ariz.
 GOINS, OMAR M., Ferndale, Calif.
 GOLDSBY, EDWARD D., Los Gatos, Calif.
 GONZALES, FIDEL, Palisades, Colo.
 GOODWIN, CARL E., Atascadero, Calif.
 GOSNELL, EPHRAIM, Arcadia, S.C.
 GOWER, OLAN E., JR., Arlington, Tex.
 GREGG, FAY L., Nampa, Idaho
 GRICE, LUTHER G., Jonesboro, Ga.
 GRIFFIN, PERRY E., Garden City, Mo.
 GROOMER, LLOYD L., Tempe, Ariz.
 GROSS, CARL A., Cleveland, Ohio
 GROSSNICKLE, IRENE M., Auburndale, Fla.
 HALBROOK, RUSSELL, SR., Dothan, Ala.
 HAMILTON, LEVI R., Auburn, Wash.
 HANKS, ALVIE F., Victoria, Tex.
 HARBAS, GUST A., Oakland, Calif.
 HARDT, ALINE A., Tampa, Fla.
 HARRELL, W. F., Winnfield, La.
 HARRYMAN, ROSALIE M., Weiser, Idaho
 HARVEY, ESTHER B., Springfield, Mo.
 HASTIE, DAVID A., Springfield, Mo.
 HAUPT, NORMAN E., Falling Waters, W. Va.
 HAWTIN, PHILIP H., Los Angeles, Calif.
 HEIT, EDMUND, Tulsa, Okla.
 HEMPTON, GEORGE, JR., Goodrich, Mich.
 HENDERSON, EDWARD R., Cottonwood, Ala.
 HENEGAR, PAUL A., Ramona, Okla.
 HERRON, EDWIN D., Buchanan, Va.
 HERTWECK, VERNON L., Apache Junction, Ariz.
 HICKMAN, LENA C., Kinston, Ala.
 HIGGINS, MINOR, Buena Park, Calif.
 HIGHTOWER, RUBEN T., Gautier, Miss.
 HILL, ALVA F., Colcord, Okla.
 HILL, PAUL A., Medford, Oreg.
 HILLIS, THELMA P., Poplar Bluff, Mo.
 HOBSON, CLIFFORD L., Kirkland, Wash.
 HODGES, LESLIE C., Glendale, Calif.
 HOKANSON, A. EPHRAIM, Seattle, Wash.

HOLDEN, JAMES H., Rawlins, Wyo.
 HOLDER, MILDRED G., Vista, Calif.
 HOLDINESS, MACK, Noxapater, Miss.
 HOLLAND, JAMES A., Waynesboro, Miss.
 HOLLIDAY, CLARENCE M., Somerset, England
 HOLLINGSHEAD, ARTHUR, Chariton, Iowa
 HOLMES, EDWIN J., Roseville, Calif.
 HOOD, HULON W., Mesquite, Tex.
 HOSTETTER, FRANK L., Washburn, Wis.
 HOWZE, CHARLES D., Auburndale, Fla.
 HUDSON, WILLIAM C., Keller, Tex.
 HUFFEY, LLOYD, Des Moines, Iowa
 HUFFMAN, DOLLIE, Farmington, Mo.
 HUGHES, LESTER L., Minneapolis, Minn.
 HUGHES, WILLIAM P., Tallahassee, Fla.
 HUMPHREY, HENRY C., Hermiston, Oreg.
 HURST, WESLEY R., JR., Springfield, Mo.
 IRBY, EARL G., Meridian, Miss.
 ISAACS, JESSE L., JR., Clinton, Iowa
 ISBISTER, JACK P., Pinellas Park, Fla.
 JACKSON, CLIFFORD, Grant City, Mo.
 JAMES, HAROLD, Columbus, Nebr.
 JANTZEN, LOWELL D., Fritch, Tex.
 JASHINSKY, AZOF, Milwaukee, Wis.
 JEFFREY, MARY F., Hugo, Okla.
 JOHANSON, NORMA E., Monroe, Conn.
 JOHNSON, EDWARD G., Estelline, Tex.
 JOHNSON, ERIC M., San Francisco, Calif.
 JOHNSON, HARRY J., JR., Levittown, N.Y.
 KAVATHAS, THEOFANIS, San Carlos, Calif.
 KEENER, L. B., Oklahoma City, Okla.
 KELLEY, THURMAN W., Russellville, Ark.
 KEMP, CLYDE V., Malvern, Ark.
 KERSEY, CHARLES R., Princeton, Ky.
 KERSEY, LESTER L., Olivehurst, Calif.
 KESTNER, CLARENCE N., Kingsport, Tenn.
 KING, L. E., Long Beach, Calif.
 KING, MURRY L., Red Oak, Tex.
 KING, PERCY T., Sarasota, Fla.
 KLAUS, ARTHUR, San Jose, Calif.
 KOCKER, MARGARET J., Pacific Grove, Calif.
 KRISH, GEORGE, Flint, Mich.
 KRUSE, CASSIOUS M., Packwood, Wash.
 LAKE, MELVIN E., Conroe, Tex.
 LAND, WILLIAM C., Columbus, Miss.

LANG, W. IRWIN, Veradale, Wash.
LAWTON, CORNELIA M., Haworth, N.J.
LEBEL, CHARLES E., Kaufman, Tex.
LECOMPTE, LAMAR, Elba, Ala.
LESHER, DALE D., Lincoln, Nebr.
LEWIS, EVELYN R., Camp Hill, Pa.
LILLY, DUDLEY V., Yucca Valley, Calif.
LIND, DIONISIO, Levittown, P.R.
LOCKWOOD, ROBERT L., Groveland, Fla.
LONG, CHARLES B., Miami, Okla.
LORD, EVERETT T., Prescott, Ariz.
LOWDER, WILLIE, Goodyear, Ariz.
LUKOWSKI, JOSEPH P., Lakeland, Fla.
MACHIA, RAYMOND E., Richford, Vt.
MANNING, ORVILLE L., Valliant, Okla.
MARCANO, EDWIN, Bridgeport, Conn.
MAZZU, JOE G., JR., South Euclid, Ohio
MCALISTER, ELMER, Petal, Miss.
MCCARTY, LORENA M., La Mesa, Calif.
MCCASKILL, ETHEL, Oklahoma City, Okla.
MCCAULLEY, RALPH E., Excelsior Springs, Mo.
MCDONALD, FRED E., Mishawaka, Ind.
MCELHANY, JOE R., Miami, Okla.
MCGLASSON, ROBERT T., Lake Placid, Fla.
MCGOVERN, ROBERT L., Crestview, Fla.
MCMULLEN, HAROLD E., Flint, Mich.
MEEKS, JOHNIE J., Springfield, Mo.
MEIER, IRVING H., North Fort Myers, Fla.
MENZIE, JAMES D., Minneapolis, Minn.
MEREDITH, ROY F., Granite City, Ill.
METAXATOS, MARY, Athens, Greece
METZGAR, WILLIAM D., Fairfield, Tex.
MICHAEL, PAUL J., Springfield, Mo.
MILES, HAROLD S., Fort Worth, Tex.
MILES, LOLA R., Fredericksburg, Tex.
MILLS, SYLVIN L., Kenedy, Tex.
MINCKS, BARBARA J., Wood, S. Dak.
MOCK, LONNIE A., Colquitt, Ga.
MOEHR, MARGARET J., Phoenix, Ariz.
MOHR, GERTRUDE, Medora, Ill.
MORGAN, BILLY R., Laurel, Miss.
MORGAN, JOHN A., Cromwell, Okla.
MORRIS, FREEDA M., Newkirk, Okla.
MORTON, WESLEY F., Everett, Wash.
MUSGROVE, CORBETT L., Port Arthur, Tex.

MYERS, CLARENCE L., Kelso, Wash.
NACAGILEVU, APAKUKI M., Sacramento, Calif.
NADER, JONATHAN, Chicago, Ill.
NASON, OLIVER A., Sebec Village, Maine
NEELY, JAMES A., Burlingame, Calif.
NELSON, L. V. DASSON, Notasulga, Ala.
NELSON, RUTH E., Lancaster, Calif.
NEVAREZ, MANUEL, West Covina, Calif.
NEVAREZ, NATIVIDAD R., Montebello, Calif.
NILES, BYRON L., Miramar, Fla.
NORVAL, MAGNE, Hampton Bays, N.Y.
NOWELL, LEONARD R., Wallace, Mich.
NUNLEY, HERBERT A., Gaithersburg, Md.
NYE, LESTER E., Fort Smith, Ark.
OLSHEVSKI, GEORGE B., Brooklyn, N.Y.
OMAN, AXEL A., Costa Mesa, Calif.
ORRISON, FAY M., Springfield, Mo.
OSWALT, HAROLD C., Taylorsville, Ky.
PALMER, JOHN S., New Castle, Pa.
PASSMORE, ORTHA L., Southbeach, Oreg.
PEARSON, ALVIN L., Minden, La.
PERRY, EVERETT L., Goldendale, Wash.
PERSONEUS, CHARLES C., Kittitas, Wash.
PERSONEUS, FLORENCE L., Kittitas, Wash.
PETERS, CHARLIE C., Moses Lake, Wash.
PETERSON, OLAF E., San Mateo, Calif.
PHILLIPS, DAVID W., Salem, Oreg.
PHILLIPS, DONALD, Zeist, Netherlands
PHILLIPS, GUY L., Tulsa, Okla.
PHILLIPS, RALPH M., Tacoma, Wash.
PHILP, LEONARD J., Marysville, Wash.
PHINNEY, M. EMERY, Mount Vernon, Wash.
PISONI, GENE D., Kahului, Hawaii
PITTAM, JOHN, Havre De Grace, Md.
PITTMAN, PAUL G., Hagerstown, Md.
POPEJOY, MRS. W. W., SR., Hereford, Ariz.
PRATT, CHARLES R. L., Kirkland, Wash.
PRETTYMAN, ANNE, Sacramento, Calif.
PREVATT, L. P., Old Town, Fla.
PRUETT, JOINER W., Fort Worth, Tex.
PRUETT, RICHARD T., Waxahachie, Tex.
PULLEN, JOAN A., Herculaneum, Mo.
RAYBORN, KENNETH, Yates Center, Kans.
REED, DOROTHY F., Tacoma, Wash.
RICHARDS, JOHN S., Springfield, Mo.

RICHARDSON, HOWARD K., Corvallis, Oreg.
RICHARDSON, MARY D., Dothan, Ala.
RICHMOND, FREDA G., Mountain Grove, Mo.
RIDGE, ISAAC H., Dilley, Tex.
RIFFE, G. L., Jamestown, N. Dak.
RIVERA, GERONIMO M., Yabucoa, P.R.
ROBBINS, GEORGE C., Athens, W. Va.
ROBERSON, ELMER L., Honolulu, Hawaii
ROBERTSON, J. R., Maitland, Fla.
ROGERS, CARTER E., Lake Charles, La.
ROGERS, JASPER N., SR., Bonifay, Fla.
ROLL, MERLE W., Englewood, Colo.
ROOSA, RAY, Lebanon, Mo.
ROSE, HENRY D., Midland, Mich.
ROWLAND, RUBY L., Apalachicola, Fla.
RUFF, RICHARD S., Zurich, Switzerland
RUSSELL, GARLAND W., Fort Smith, Ark.
SALTER, ARKLEY H., Cocoa, Fla.
SAMFORD, ALFRED L., Pinehurst, Tex.
SANCHEZ, WALTER, Holland, Mich.
SANDERS, ALLEN J., Hot Springs, Ark.
SANDLIN, JAMES W., Fort Smith, Ark.
SANTAMARIA, ROCCO R., Lakeland, Fla.
SCHAFFER, JACOB L., Hendersonville, Tenn.
SCHILLING, JAMES W., Jefferson, Iowa
SCHLUPP, RICHARD C., Verndale, Minn.
SCHULTZ, MILDRED, Shelton, Wash.
SCIFORD, JOHN C., Fresno, Calif.
SHAFFER, KENNETH K., Venice, Fla.
SHAVER, GEORGIA M., Holcomb, Mo.
SHEDDAN, ROBERT L., Lufkin, Tex.
SHERWOOD, CHARLES C., San Diego, Calif.
SHOTWELL, NORTON L., Davenport, Iowa
SILVIUS, HENRY E., Oildale, Calif.
SISTIG, ROBERT E., Fountain Valley, Calif.
SMITH, LEONARD D., Greenville, S.C.
SNIDER, ALLAN G., Newbury Park, Calif.
SNIDER, WALTER R., Velma, Okla.
SNOW, WREN L., Lewiston, Idaho
SNYDER, HERBERT R., Springfield, Mo.
SPENCER, ROBERT, Waupaca, Wis.
STAFFORD, MRS. WILLIS D., Fritch, Tex.
STATZER, PAULINE K., Dover, Ohio
STEELBERG, WESLEY P., Rancho Mirage, Calif.
STEPHENS, HELEN L., Collins, Ga.

STEVENS, ETHEL B., Enid, Okla.
STOKES, AGNES, San Jose, Calif.
STOTT, WOODROW W., Junction City, Ark.
STRAUSSER, WILLIAM P., Carlisle, Pa.
STRICKLAND, MAMIE, Panama City, Fla.
STUCKEY, EARL, Byron, Ga.
STUMP, ELVA K., Boca Raton, Fla.
STURGEON, GEORGE C., Sylmar, Calif.
SUAN, LEO A., Sacramento, Calif.
SUBLETT, SAMUEL A., Wideman, Ark.
SULLIVAN, GERTRUDE, Bloomfield, Nebr.
TANKSLEARY, ALBERT E., Grandfield, Okla.
TATRO, STANLEY E., Kamiah, Idaho
TAYLOR, EMMA, Project City, Calif.
TOMPKINS, FRANK D., JR., Houston, Tex.
TURNER, MONTIE L., Fairview, Okla.
TURRONY, MABEL, Scranton, Pa.
TWILLEAGER, ONA G., Spirit Lake, Idaho
TYLER, ELMER L., Tahoka, Tex.
UNRUH, GARFIELD J., Springfield, Mo.
VANHORN, E. BURNENA, Roanoke, Tex.
VANMETER, FLEMING S., Canadensis, Pa.
VERDONE, FRANK S., San Bernardino, Calif.
VIBBERT, HANSEL P., Evansville, Ind.
VICKERS, JAMES C., Lillian, Tex.
VOKROT, PETER, Deep River, Conn.
VOODRE, MARJORIE E., Durant, Fla.
VOODRE, WILLIAM F., Durant, Fla.
WALLACE, HUBERT L., Brandon, Fla.
WALLACE, MAUDIE M., Granite City, Ill.
WALLER, ISOM H., Waynesboro, Miss.
WANNENMACHER, HELEN I., Milwaukee, Wis.
WARNER, REYNOLD B., Zephyrhills, Fla.
WATKINS, ALBERT A., Desoto, Tex.
WATKINS, HOWARD L., Cabot, Ark.
WATSON, ROBERT S., Huntsville, Ala.
WATTS, BETTIE, Palestine, Tex.
WEDDLE, A. LEE, Lomita, Calif.
WESLEY, FARRIES H., Melbourne, Fla.
WHITT, JASPER E., Wynne, Ark.
WHITT, ROY, Vallejo, Calif.
WHITTEN, DRUCILLA, Peoria Heights, Ill.
WILKIE, EARL L., Kirkland, Wash.
WILLARD, GUY S., Mankato, Kans.
WILLIAMS, JOHN D., Mobile, Ala.

WILLISCROFT, PAUL, Erzhauseu, West Germany
 WILSON, B. P., Ephrata, Wash.
 WINES, EDWARD T., Castleton, Va.
 WOOD, LEONARD, Dallas, Tex.
 WOOLEVER, LILLIAN B., North Syracuse, N.Y.
 WRAY, J. ELWYN, Dallas, Tex.
 XINOS, DULA, Kirkland, Wash.
 YAP, STEPHEN A., Kahului, Hawaii
 YATES, KENNETH C., Yucca Valley, Calif.
 YAWS, THURMAN R., Salem, Oreg.
 YODER, JOHN J., Hopkinsville, Ky.

The following names of deceased ordained ministers which had been reported to the General Secretary's Office after June 12, 1987, were also included in the presentation.

BADGER, MYRTLE L., Lakeport, Calif.
 BEARD, CARL H., New Orleans, La.
 BERKEY, DONALD E., Central City, Penn.
 BRIGHT, LILLIE F., Lowell, Ark.
 DAVIS, WILLIAM E., Richardson, Tex.
 DOWDY, LOWELL E., Tucson, Ariz.
 FUTCH, ANCIL Z., Quincy, Fla.
 GLOSSER, L. EVELYN, Crosby, N. Dak.
 GRIBLING, LOIS M., Prescott, Ariz.
 HARRUP, OBIE L., SR., Louisa, Va.
 JOHNSON, HERMAN C., Tacoma, Wash.
 KEYS, ANNABEL A., San Jose, Calif.
 LEONARD, FRED P., Santa Ana, Calif.
 MORRISON, ROBERT, Augusta, Kan.
 MULLEN, DOUGLAS M., Warrenton, Va.
 NIEVES, GREGORIO, Fajardo, P.R.
 POTTER, FRANKLYN D., Lisbon, Maine
 REED, DAVID A., Russellville, Ark.
 ROBERTSON, HENRY J., Bethany, Mo.
 ROEHL, DANIEL D., Lansing, Mich.
 ROJAS, LUCIO A., San Jose, Calif.
 SAXELID, HELEN P., Hayward, Calif.
 SHABAZ, PHILIP J., Flushing, Mich.
 SUAREZ, JUAN S., Bayamon, P. R.
 TUCKER, JOHN W., Lancaster, Penn.
 WARREN, EDWIN J., Godley, Tex.
 WILKES, MELVIN K., Columbus, Ohio
 YAKE, REGINALD A., Auburn, Penn.

General Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson presided during the Communion Service. He was assisted by members of the Executive Presbytery

and General Presbytery. A vocal solo was presented by Jonathan Reine, evangelist and song writer from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

SUNDAY EVENING—AUGUST 9

Prior to the evening vesper service there was a 30-minute Music Celebration which began at 5 p.m. Armon Newburn was in charge of this portion of the service. Special music was provided by the following:

McDuff Brothers (Coleman, John, and Roger)
 Dean and Mary Brown, West Memphis, Arkansas
 Sandi Cordova, Springfield, Missouri
 Doug and Bonnie Jenkins, Springfield, Missouri
 James Blackwood, Memphis, Tennessee

Dan Schaeffer, pastor of Crossroads Assembly of God, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, made the offering appeal, and Tom McDonald and Jonathan Faggart played an instrumental duet for the offertory.

G. Raymond Carlson was in charge of the evening service which began with a missionary parade. Mt. Hope Bible College Choir, Lisbon, Portugal, provided music during the parade. The theme for the service was, "I Surrender All—Committed to the World." The speaker for the service was Loren Triplett, field representative for Latin America and West Indies. The Scripture from Mark 16:15-20 was read by Paul Lowenberg. Cyril McLellan led the congregational singing. Tom McDonald, minister of music, Trinity Assembly of God, Lutherville, Maryland, and Jonathan Faggart, minister of music, First Assembly of God, Concord, North Carolina, served at the piano and organ, respectively. Special music was provided by Pam Thum, Belleville, Illinois. The World Missions offering appeal was made by Otis Keener, Brussels, Belgium, and the offertory was provided by a special choir and orchestra from the Tulsa, Oklahoma area directed by Mike Knowlton, minister of music from Woodlake Assembly of God, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Special greetings were extended to the Council from Helios Miquel, representative of the Assemblies of God from Nevers, France, and from Ayyoub E. Rihani, general superintendent from Jordan.

MONDAY MORNING—AUGUST 10

The Monday morning session began with a time of prayer and praise led by J. Robert Ashcroft. A number of choruses were sung and various people led in prayer. Tom Matrone and Marian Kingsriter, both from Bloomington, Minnesota, served at the piano and organ, respectively. The offering appeal was made by Denny Davis, superintendent of the Oregon District, and the offertory was an instrumental duet by Marian Kingsriter and Tom Matrone.

Business Session

The business session was called to order at 10:17 a.m. by G. Raymond Carlson.

Motion of Appreciation

A special motion expressing deep appreciation for the Pentecostal atmosphere of the rallies that have been enjoyed at this General Council, and because of the chairman's leadership, and those who work with him, the things that have made our Fellowship what it is have been given emphasis. The speakers have felt liberty to give themselves to Pentecostal preaching and they have blessed our hearts. We all know that in the first biennium of his leadership as general superintendent that there were circumstances beyond his control and not of his making and they have put him through the fire, but he has come forth as gold. We love and appreciate you.

There was a standing ovation and applause.

Brother Carlson responded with thanks, stating that Christ alone deserves all the glory, and that the Council had given him a wonderful body of men who work so faithfully on the Executive Presbytery. He also thanked God for the wonderful General Presbytery meeting.

Privileged Motion

A privileged motion prevailed that the challenging words of Bishop Leon Stewart become a permanent part of the record of the minutes of our General Council and that they be published in the Evangel as soon as possible.

Roster Committee Report

Don Logan gave the following report of the Roster Committee as of 10 a.m., August 10:

Ordained	3,676	
Delegates	988	
Voting constituency		4,664
Licensed	468	
Visitors	5,888	
Nonvoting constituency		6,356
Total registration		11,020

A motion prevailed to accept the report of the Roster Committee, as of 10 a.m., Monday, August 10, 1987.

Question Re. Federal Communications Commission Resolution

An inquiry was made relative to a resolution which was understood would be coming up in a month or two to take all religious programs off the air and take religious programs out of the schools.

Since Thomas F. Zimmerman is a member of the Board of the National Religious Broadcasters, he was requested to respond to this question. Brother Zimmerman reported that no action is pending before the FCC that applies to religious broadcasting or inhibitions against it, and that no conversations were taking place at the legislative level that would affect religious broadcasting. He did say that what is at stake is several expressions and interest at different levels having to do with integrity and fiscal accountability. The National Religious Broadcasters is very much in touch with this very critical need. The concern is that media broadcasting not be adversely affected by those who refuse disclosure or those who do not give clear evidence of handling fund appeals and the application of funds.

The chairman led in prayer that God would keep His hand on our nation and on the broadcasting ministry and that God would guide and direct and that where there has been irresponsibility it would be corrected.

Resolution 6. Resolution on Credentialing Process

Brother Peterson read Resolution 6 as follows and moved its adoption, which was seconded:

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God has grown rapidly through the years, for which we are grateful to God; and

WHEREAS, The process of credentialing is a most important function of the work of the Fellowship and its ongoing ministry; and

WHEREAS, The process needs to be reviewed periodically and some changes and clarifications made; and

WHEREAS, The work load of the Executive Presbytery has grown and assistance in the processing of special credential cases could be helpful and free the Executive Presbytery to spend effort in the planning and development work of the church; and

WHEREAS, In the light of past and recent events, an expeditious handling of credential matters is sometimes urgently needed and the right of initiative, as well as summary handling, may need to rest with the Executive Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, In cases involving charges or family members of officials or other close relationships where conflict of interest and other such complexities may be involved, a special advisory body, either of a permanent or standby position, in the entire credentialing structure could serve to meet a great need; and

WHEREAS, At least one of our districts has considered actions in an effort to resolve the conflict of interest and appearance of the fairness problem, and inasmuch as the General Council may need to do the same; and

WHEREAS, The handling of credentials in special cases has become

a highly complex and technical matter sometimes involving heavy legal considerations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That a committee of present and former leaders in the Fellowship be appointed to study the credentialing process as outlined in the bylaws and conducted by policy, and that this committee in its study be asked to give special attention to such matters as: (1) the right of initiative of the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in the credentialing process; (2) the work load the Executive Presbytery faces regarding special cases; (3) the possibility of expediting the credentialing process when necessary; (4) the possibility of establishing a quasi-judicial hearing body (or bodies) which could serve in an advisory capacity to the Executive Presbytery (the credentials committee) and thereby free up their work load; (5) the problem of conflict of interest and appearance of fairness at all levels, and (6) such other matters as may come to attention in the study of the credentialing process; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this committee shall engage in this comprehensive study during the next year and present a draft report of its finding, conclusions and recommendations regarding bylaws and/or procedural changes to the General Presbytery during its regular 1988 session in order to draw from the presbytery its suggestions for refinement and improvement, following which the final report and recommendations shall be made to the General Presbytery and the General Council in the regular sessions in 1989.

A motion was made and seconded to refer this resolution to the Executive Presbytery authorizing them to implement the action as felt in their judgment in good wisdom. The motion was voted on and lost.

The motion to adopt Resolution 6 was carried.

Resolution 7. Tenure of General Council Officers

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 7 and moved its adoption, which was seconded. Resolution 7 follows:

WHEREAS, God has granted generous favor to the Assemblies of God by bringing to its leadership capable and dedicated brethren to serve as its officers, and

WHEREAS, Men of varied capabilities, backgrounds, and talents have made timely contributions in leadership, bringing the work of the Assemblies of God to high spiritual plateaus and phenomenal growth, and

WHEREAS, The constituency has been enriched with a greatly increased number from which to select leadership, and

WHEREAS, God-gifted men with varied talents would bring to positions of leadership a freshness of approach and enthusiasm at timely intervals, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article IX of the Constitution, Section 1, paragraph a, (page 110), shall be amended by the addition of the following:

Tenure in any of the foregoing offices shall not exceed terms totaling sixteen (16) years.

Paragraph a. Officers and terms of Office, when amended will then read:

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. Tenure in any of the foregoing offices shall not exceed terms totaling sixteen (16) years.

Further be it

RESOLVED, That the foregoing limitation shall not be applicable to present incumbents.

Following a time of discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 7 was lost.

Remarks by Nonresident Executive Presbyters

The general superintendent asked each of the nonresident executive presbyters to respond to their election. Each executive expressed his appreciation for the confidence that has been placed in him and for the privilege of serving the General Council.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 12 noon to reconvene at 2 p.m. with prayer by N. D. Davidson, former executive presbyter from the Northwest Area.

MONDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 10

M. Earl Johnson opened the Monday afternoon session by leading in singing "The Solid Rock" and "Praise the Name of Jesus." Brenda Burns and Linda Robins, both from Faith Tabernacle in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, served at the piano and organ, respectively. George C. Smith, pastor of First Assembly of God, North Hollywood, California, led in prayer. Ernest Moen, district superintendent of the Illinois District, made the offering appeal. The offertory was by Gladness Jennings, vocal soloist from Springfield, Missouri.

Roster Committee Report

Charles Kelly gave the final report from the Roster Committee as follows:

Ordained	3,685
Delegates	<u>988</u>
Voting constituency	4,673
Licensed	469
Visitors	<u>5,952</u>
Nonvoting constituency	6,421
Total registration	11,094

A motion prevailed to accept the report of the Roster Committee, as of 2 p.m., Monday, August 10, 1987, and that it be declared the final report to close the roster for this General Council.

Resolution 9. Nomination of General Treasurer And Executive Director of Foreign Missions

The Resolutions Committee chairman presented Resolution 9 and moved its adoption, which was seconded.

A motion prevailed to amend Resolution 9 by changing the word "two" to "one" on lines 17 and 28 and by adding the words, "all qualified" after the word "Council," on lines 20 and 30.

The motion to adopt Resolution 9 as amended carried. It reads as follows:

WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraphs e and f, provides that the General Presbytery shall serve as a nominating committee to nominate by secret ballot nominees for election by the General Council for the offices of general treasurer and executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions; and

WHEREAS, The provisions of the General Council Bylaws do not specify how many votes a person must receive by secret ballot General Presbytery selection in order to be presented as a nominee to the General Council; and

WHEREAS, It would seem desirable that the General Council itself be able to choose from as many qualified nominees as possible; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraphs e and f (page 116), be amended to read as follows:

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 candidates 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. The General Presbytery shall submit as nominees to the General Council all qualified candidates who have received at least 15 votes in the General Pres-

bytery. A two-thirds vote of the General Council 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 candidates 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. The General Presbytery shall submit as nominees to the General Council all qualified candidates who have received at least 15 votes in the General Presbytery. A two-thirds vote of the General Council shall be required for election.

Privileged Motion

The following privileged motion was made and seconded:

WHEREAS, The General Council greatly appreciates the leadership of our Fellowship in planning the General Council; and

WHEREAS, We would like to eliminate the pressure of our leaders in requesting an expense offering to cover a budget of over \$100,000 as was done this year; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we assess each of our active ministers of our Fellowship, including all ordained, licensed, and Christian workers, the amount of \$5 per year to cover the expenses of the General Council, thus eliminating the necessity of receiving expense offerings.

Following discussion the motion was lost.

Resolution 10. Major Medical Insurance

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 10 as follows and moved its adoption, which was seconded:

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God Fellowship has a growing constituency of ministers and ministry-related employees, which according to Assemblies of God statisticians now number in excess of 50,000 people who are involved in the work of pastors, evangelists, teachers, administrators, staff personnel, and other vitally important ministry positions related to our Christian schools and colleges, and national and district offices; and

WHEREAS, These persons could be benefited greatly by an overall major medical plan; and

WHEREAS, It has been an ongoing concern of General Council leadership to continue to review and evaluate programs which can benefit our people; and

WHEREAS, Many difficulties are encountered when an individual

district attempts to carry its own major medical insurance program; and

WHEREAS, Many benefits and reduced costs can result when the program rests on a national basis; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery, or a committee appointed by that body, be requested to study the feasibility of providing a major medical coverage plan for ministers and ministry-related employees requiring minimal involvement and paper work servicing by the headquarters of the Assemblies of God; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a report resulting from this study be made to the 1988 session of the General Presbytery with recommendations to be made to the 1989 General Council.

The motion to adopt Resolution 10 was carried.

Procedural Motion

A procedural motion was offered and seconded, which would limit debate on each resolution to 15 minutes, and personal expressions to 5 minutes per person. The motion lost.

Resolution 11. Christian Music Artists

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 11 as follows and moved it adoption, which was seconded:

WHEREAS, God has raised up the Assemblies of God Movement to be Spirit-anointed and Spirit-directed for the purpose of evangelization and the spreading by example and message of scriptural holiness in these last days of time; and

WHEREAS, The Church of Jesus Christ has come under special attack from Satan through the entertainment media and has been provoked to emulate the world in its degraded art forms; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the 1987 General Council in session express concern and disapproval of certain Christian artists whose appearance and stage performances contradict in form, substance, and spirit, that for which the Pentecostal Movement stands.

The motion to adopt Resolution 11 was carried.

There was a call for a division of the house on the vote. A standing vote was taken and the resolution was declared carried.

Resolution 11-A. Assignment To Study The Division of Christian Education and Related Areas

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 11-A as follows and moved its adoption, which was seconded:

WHEREAS, The condition of higher education in the Assemblies

of God generally is cause for serious concern, and the financial needs of certain schools of almost desperate character, and

WHEREAS, The structure of the Division of Christian Education is under discussion and the areas of responsibility and service within it may need change, requiring bylaw changes, and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery has taken cognizance of these needs and appointed a study committee and given it the assignment to "study the Division of Christian Education and related areas" and report to it, and

WHEREAS, This study is already underway and the Executive Presbytery has received its first report and will shortly receive a second report, but that the General Presbytery and General Council, itself, should have the benefit of receiving the full final report and may be called on to consider some structural changes including bylaw authorizations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council request the committee, appointed by the Executive Presbytery and working under its direction, to report to the General Presbytery 1 year hence, submitting a "draft" report and securing response to its tentative proposals from the General Presbytery, and submit its final report to the General Presbytery and the General Council 2 years hence including any recommended enabling legislation necessary to implement its recommendations.

The general superintendent explained that this resolution is meant to alert the General Council to a study which will be taking place. The committee is chaired by Dr. D. V. Hurst, and a report will be brought to the 1988 General Presbytery, and then to the General Council 2 years hence. The motion to adopt Resolution 11-A prevailed.

Report of the Committee To Study Support of General Council Headquarters by Assemblies

Glen D. Cole, chairman of the Committee To Study Support of General Council Headquarters by Assemblies, presented the report. He commented that this committee was appointed in compliance with action taken at the 1985 General Council with the adoption of Resolution 12, which appears in the minutes of that General Council on page 40. The report is as follows:

The Committee To Study Support of General Council Headquarters by Assemblies met at the Ramada Inn in Springfield, Missouri, at 6 p.m. on June 9, 1986.

The committee gave study to the suggested questions presented in the motion to refer this matter to a study committee.

1. Shall the request from the General Presbytery to churches to give one percent of their funds to the Thomas F. Zimmerman Endowment

Fund for Higher Education be separate from the appeal for support of the General Council Administrative Fund?

Committee Recommendation

The committee recommends that we keep the Thomas F. Zimmerman Endowment Fund for Higher Education and the support of the General Council Administrative Fund separate for fund raising purposes.

2. Shall there be an appeal to churches for an allocation by some percentage of their tithes or general fund offerings for the support of the General Council and its agencies?

Committee Recommendation

The committee recommends that the Annual Church Ministries Report form have a place to check if the church has during the year sent an offering for the support of the administrative offices of the General Council, or if one for that purpose is enclosed. Such an offering is provided for in Article XVIII, Section 1, paragraph c, subparagraph (2), (page 180), of the General Council Bylaws. This bylaw asks for an offering, using \$1 per member as a guide for the local church.

3. Shall any church continue to be listed in our directory as an Assemblies of God church or be permitted to continue its fellowship with us if year after year that church never gives to either the General Council or its agencies or any world or home missions endeavor; and if the answer to the above is negative, what policies and procedures need to be adopted by the General Council for pruning such a church from our rolls?

Committee Recommendation

When churches fail to cooperate by sending an offering for the administrative offices of the General Council with the ACMR, or earlier in the year, a General Council officer should send a letter to the pastor notifying him of such failure and suggesting that an offering be sent to the General Council within the next 30 days. Copies of the letter should be sent to the church secretary and district superintendent. If there is no response the district superintendent shall be informed and requested to follow up in an effort to secure the cooperation of the pastor and congregation.

4. How shall our churches best be encouraged to support the General Council and its agencies?

Committee Recommendation

It is suggested that District Council leaders encourage churches to support the General Council Administrative Fund during district functions such as: Pastor/Board Seminars, District Council Conventions, Ministers' Institutes, etc.

It was moved and seconded that this report be adopted. In answer to a question concerning the Thomas F. Zimmerman Endowment Fund, Brother Cole referred to the 1985 General Council minutes, page 85, and

read the action taken at the General Council in San Antonio, Texas. The general superintendent commented that because of other fund-raising programs which were related to Christian education and the feeling that there may be confusion, this was discussed very thoroughly with Brother Zimmerman, and we have not followed through on it.

The motion to adopt the report of the Committee To Study Support of General Council Headquarters by Assemblies carried.

**Resolution 12. General Council Membership—
Licensed Ministers**

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

WHEREAS, Under the General Council Constitution, Article VII, Section 1, membership is limited to ordained ministers who hold accredited fellowship certificates and to churches holding certificates of affiliation issued by The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Over a period of several years, conditions and procedures for the ministry have greatly changed in our constituency, with the General Council providing special forms for the renewals and examinations of ministers for various grades of credentials and requiring financial support by licensed as well as ordained ministers; and

WHEREAS, It would appear that all licensed ministers should have the same privilege to participate in General Council sessions and be counted as members thereof; and to voice their support of matters concerning all the constituency; and

WHEREAS, Under the present procedure church delegates have a priority over licensed ministers which is inconsistent; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 1, (pages 109, 110), of the General Council Constitution be amended by addition and editing so that the paragraph will read:

The membership of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall consist of all ordained ministers holding current fellowship certificates, and churches holding certificates of affiliation issued by The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and licensed ministers holding current fellowship certificates issued by a district council.

In the discussion regarding Resolution 12 it was stated that in some cases licensed ministers had marriage entanglements involving divorce, and are never advanced to ordination, which has resulted in confusion among the laity as to why one minister could be divorced and remarried and others could not. In response to this comment it was pointed out that no district council in this Fellowship has the prerogative of issuing licenses

or Christian workers papers to any individual who does not qualify for ordination credentials on the basis of a previous marriage.

The chairman asked the general secretary to read from the bylaws regarding the standard of licensed and ordained ministers. Brother Flower referred to Article VII, Section 2 of the bylaws, particularly paragraph i which deals with marriage status.

Following further discussion the motion to adopt Resolution 12 was lost.

Privileged Motion

A motion prevailed that Resolution 18 be considered next, since it deals specifically with credentialing.

Resolution 18. Qualifications for Ordination

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 18 as follows and moved its adoption, which was seconded:

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 3, b, of the General Council Bylaws makes provision for the issuance of two types of minister's license (preaching ministry and specialized ministry); and

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws do not make a similar provision for the issuance of two types of ministerial ordination; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God increasingly is being served by men and women called of God into full-time ministry which may not include "full-time" preaching, but rather involves ministry in Christian education, music and worship, administration, pastoral counseling, teaching future ministers in endorsed Assemblies of God schools of higher education, industrial and hospital chaplaincies, and a variety of other specialized ministries; and

WHEREAS, The present bylaw provision excludes from ordination men and women called of God to full-time specialized ministries thereby prohibiting them from being members of the General Council with voting privileges even though they serve as full-time ministers in General Council churches, educational institutions, and endorsed ministries; and

WHEREAS, The definition "full-time" preaching ministry is so problematic in delineating what is meant both by "full-time" and "preaching" that a variety of interpretations may exist from district to district; and

WHEREAS, We are enjoined by Scripture to declare nothing "unclean" which God has called "clean," and thereby we must similarly exercise care that we do not call "unordained" whom God has "ordained" to ministry; and

WHEREAS, At the same time, it is highly desirable and proper that great emphasis also continues to be given to a preaching ministry and

that it would be undesirable to dilute this emphasis on preaching by deleting reference to it in the bylaws, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 3, paragraph c, subparagraph (3), (page 128), which now reads:

(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.

Be amended to read:

(3) No person may be ordained to the ministry until he or she shall have held a license to preach or a license for specialized ministry and shall have been engaged in active work as a pastor, evangelist, pastoral staff member, institutional chaplain, college or seminary teacher preparing others for ministry, or some other recognized and proven full-time preaching or recognized full-time ministry for at least 2 full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.

After a time of discussion a motion was made and seconded to refer Resolution 18 to the same committee that is called for in Resolution 6, which will deal with the credentialing process.

A substitute motion was made and seconded that Resolution 18 be referred to a separate committee rather than the one dealing with Resolution 6. Following discussion this substitute motion was lost.

A question was asked concerning the possibility of communication with the various committees to share concerns. The chairman assumed that all members of the Fellowship have the privilege of expressing themselves and this information can be shared with the General Secretary's Office and it will be forwarded to the proper committee.

The motion to refer Resolution 18 to the same committee called for in Resolution 6 was carried.

Resolution 13. Honorary General Presbyterian—

S. H. Petersen

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 13 and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried. The resolution as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, S. H. Petersen, a dedicated servant of the Lord, has given of 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 29 years; and

WHEREAS, His vast experience, wisdom, and maturity, distin-

guishes him as an elder whose counsel is highly esteemed and frequently sought; and

WHEREAS, He has served the South Dakota District for the past 27 years as district superintendent; and

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

RESOLVED, That the General Council elect Brother S. Harland Petersen as an honorary general presbyter pursuant to the provisions of Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e, of the constitution.

**Resolution 14. Honorary General Presbyter—
R. D. E. Smith**

New York District Superintendent Almon L. Bartholomew presented Resolution 14 in behalf of the New York District, with their love and fondness and deepest respect. He moved its adoption. There was a second, and the motion to adopt Resolution 14 carried. The resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, Riley Donald Everett Smith, a native Californian now one of New York's adopted sons, has been a member of the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God continuously from 1954 until the present; and

WHEREAS, During this time he served as assistant district superintendent for a period of 16 years, as district secretary for 5 years and as an executive presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God from 1976 to the present; and

WHEREAS, Brother Smith is known internationally as an author, conference speaker, Christian educator, General Council speaker and as pastor of First Assembly of God, Binghamton, New York, for a period of 26 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served with distinction as a member of the Valley Forge Christian College Board of Directors and Regents and chaired numerous high-level committees of the General Council; and

WHEREAS, He has been actively engaged in ministry from the time of graduation from Angelus Temple Bible School in 1930 and has been an ordained minister of the Assemblies of God since 1933, serving pastorates in California, Minnesota, and New York during which time he also spent several years teaching at both North Central Bible College, Minneapolis, Minnesota, and Metropolitan Bible Institute, Suffern, New York; and

WHEREAS, We have all reaped eternal benefits from his leadership, wisdom, counsel, ministry, life, and example; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council elect R. D. E. Smith hon-

orary general presbyter pursuant to the provisions of Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e, of the constitution.

**Resolution 16. Assemblies of God Evangelists
Representation on the General Presbytery**

Brother Peterson read Resolution 16 as follows and moved its adoption, which was seconded:

WHEREAS, "He (Christ) gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:11,12); and

WHEREAS, Holy Spirit endued evangelists have contributed largely to the bringing into being of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Our Movement is blessed and vitalized by evangelistic ministries to children, young people, and adults; and

WHEREAS, Presently over 1,900 Assemblies of God evangelists are dedicating their ministries and lives to full or part-time evangelism in our churches, camps, and district and sectional meetings; and

WHEREAS, the evangelists do not have specific representation on the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, this proposal was unanimously recommended by the National Evangelists Committee and the evangelists present at the 19th annual Evangelists Seminar which convened in Springfield, Missouri, December 1986; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the worldwide evangelists of the Assemblies of God be represented on the General Presbytery; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Constitution Article IX, Section 3, (page 111), be amended by the addition of a new paragraph to be known as subparagraph e which shall read as follows:

e. Evangelists representation. The Assemblies of God evangelists fellowship shall be represented on the General Presbytery by its national evangelists field representative, by virtue of his office. Further be it

RESOLVED, That the present subparagraph e be relettered to become subparagraph f; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article X, Section 3, paragraph b, subparagraph (5), (page 153), shall be amended by substituting the following:

(5) Responsibility for forming and serving a national evangelists fellowship shall be coordinated by a national evangelists field representative who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. Following discussion the motion to adopt Resolution 16 was lost. A division of the house was called for. The chairman called for a standing

vote and indicated that this would require a two-thirds vote since a constitutional amendment was involved. The tellers reported the following vote:

In favor682
Opposed529
Needed to pass.....807

The chairman declared that the motion to adopt Resolution 16 was lost.

Resolution 17. Provisions for Filling Vacancies on Executive Presbytery

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 17 as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Provisions for filling vacancies in the office of nonresident executive presbyters need to be defined, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 3. Vacancies, (page 117), be amended in the following manner.

1. Renumber present paragraph b. General presbyters as c.
2. Add the following new provisions to be known as b.

b. Nonresident executive presbyters

- (1) In the event a vacancy shall occur, for any reason, in the office of a nonresident executive presbyter, the general secretary shall request each district council within that "area" (See Bylaws Article II, Section 2.c.) to submit two nominees for the office. The General Presbytery shall, at its next meeting, elect one minister from among the nominees submitted, to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the General Council. (See Bylaws Article II, Section 1, for qualifications)
- (2) Should a vacancy occur so close to the time of the meeting of the General Presbytery that insufficient time remains for district councils to select and submit nominees in the above manner, then nominees shall be obtained by a caucus of the general presbyters of the area involved. Such caucus to be held during the meeting of the General Presbytery.
- (3) Nominees shall be voted upon by the entire General Presbytery until one receives two-thirds of the votes cast.
- (4) In the event a nonresident executive presbyter moves to a location outside of the boundaries of the area, it shall be incumbent upon the Executive Presbytery to declare a vacancy in that office.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Resolution 19. Ministerial Functions

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 19 and moved its adoption, which was seconded.

It was moved and seconded to amend Resolution 19 by striking the words "sacerdotal functions" and insert in its place the words, "the ordinances and ceremonies."

Discussion followed concerning the use of the term "sacerdotal" which has become a legal term used by the IRS for determining the duties of ministers and is not an evangelical term. It was suggested that a footnote in our constitution and bylaws could be used stating that this is a legal, technical term.

It was moved and seconded to amend the amendment by placing the words "sacerdotal functions" in parentheses following the word ceremonies. The motion to amend the amendment was carried.

The amendment as amended was carried.

A motion was made to amend line 6 by striking the words "specialized licenses." There was not a second to the motion.

The motion to adopt Resolution 19 as amended carried.

Resolution 19 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, There is a need to clarify the functions our credential holders are authorized to perform; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article VII, Section 1, (page 126), be amended by adding a third paragraph which shall read:

Ministers holding certificates of ordination, license to preach, and specialized ministries licenses are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church.

Privileged Resolution

A privileged resolution was read from the floor relative to the appointment of a committee to study the position papers of the General Council.

An objection was raised that resolutions should all be processed through the Resolutions Committee. It was stated that this resolution had been rejected by the Resolutions Committee. The chairman indicated that in order for this resolution to be considered by the Council it would need to be considered as an emergency resolution, requiring a two-thirds vote.

A motion was made and seconded that we consider this resolution since the position papers are extremely important and they create a lot of questions for some of our pastors. Following discussion the motion to consider this resolution was lost.

Reconsideration of Resolution 19

A request was made to reconsider the motion which had been made to strike the words "specialized ministries" from line 6 of Resolution 19. A point of order established the fact that there had been a second to the motion, so the chairman asked that the motion be offered again. It was seconded and discussion followed.

A motion was made and seconded to refer this resolution and all re-

maining resolutions, other than the courtesy resolution, to the Executive Presbytery, with full power to act on behalf of the General Council.

A substitute motion was made and seconded that we refer the remaining business to a committee to be brought back to the next General Council in session.

An appeal was made concerning the need to present the resolutions on the honorary general presbyters to this General Council, since they constitute an action by the General Presbytery to the General Council, and only the General Council can act on them according to the bylaws.

It was moved and seconded that the meeting recess and finish the business at the end of the evening service. The motion to recess lost.

The substitute motion, which would bring the remaining business back to the General Council in 1989 was carried.

A question was asked whether or not the motion to refer would override the former action of the body when they voted to adopt Resolution 19.

The chairman indicated that we did in fact amend the bylaws by that action and there has been no motion to rescind. So if this goes to the committee, this bylaw is operative this year.

Following discussion as to the proper action to take at this point, a motion was made and seconded to rescind the previous action to adopt Resolution 19. The motion was lost.

The motion that we refer Resolution 19 to a committee to bring a report back to the General Council in session was lost.

Resolution 20. Cause of Disciplinary Action

Bartlett Peterson indicated that Resolution 20 had been withdrawn at the request of the sponsor.

Resolution 21. Honorary General Presbyter— V. Ernest Shores

Brother Peterson read Resolution 21 as follows, and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, Brother V. Ernest Shores has served the Arizona District of the Assemblies of God as general presbyter for a total of 21 years; and

WHEREAS, The Arizona District has acted to nominate V. Ernest Shores as an honorary general presbyter; and

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

RESOLVED, That this General Council elect V. Ernest Shores as an honorary general presbyter pursuant to the provisions of Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e, of the constitution.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Resolution 22. Honorary General Presbyter— R. E. Book

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 22 as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, R. E. Book has given of his life unselfishly for many years in faithful ministry to the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, He has served with honor and distinction in the areas of Assemblies of God ministry at the local, district, and national level including service as a general presbyter for over 21 years; and

WHEREAS, His spiritual maturity, experience and years of proven leadership distinguishes him as an individual whose counsel is highly desirable and should be made available to this leadership body; and

WHEREAS, He has served the Oregon District for the past 26 years with distinction and

WHEREAS, The Oregon 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 the General Council elect R. E. Book as an honorary general presbyter pursuant to the provisions of Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e of the constitution.
The motion was seconded and carried.

Resolution 23. Honorary General Presbyter— W. W. Brandt

Bartlett Peterson read Resolution 23 as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Brother W. W. Brandt, 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 many levels of our Fellowship, local, district, and national, including service as a general presbyter for over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, His life and ministry has been a blessing to those he has touched; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council elect W. W. Brandt as an honorary general presbyter pursuant to the provisions of Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e of the constitution.
The motion was seconded and carried.

Resolution 24. Expression of Appreciation

Brother Peterson read Resolution 24 as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The 42nd General Council of the Assemblies of God

has been accorded great kindness and hospitality by officials and agencies of Oklahoma City, and the Oklahoma District Council as the host and sponsoring district; and

WHEREAS, numerous persons, committees and agencies have combined efforts to offer efficient services; and

WHEREAS, Many have given generously of their talents and time in the interest of assuring the well-being of delegates and visitors and the success of this Council; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That appreciation and gratitude be expressed to our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Oklahoma District Council and its superintendent, Armon Newburn, and the City of Oklahoma City, the Oklahoma City Convention and Tourism Bureau, the Myriad Convention Center and facilities, the Civic Center Music Hall, the Sheraton-Century Center and Skirvin Plaza hotels, and all other hotels, motels and travel parks, the Oklahoma City Police Department and the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Department, and be it further

RESOLVED, That we express our appreciation to Harris Consulting for the lighting system; to Ken Miles Pianos and Organs for supplying the pianos and organs; the Dave Roevers Evangelistic Association for the video production and equipment; and further that we are grateful to the media and press corps who have objectively and thoroughly covered news from the General Council and the management and staff of the Oklahoma Journal for publishing the Council Today newspaper; and be it further

RESOLVED, That appreciation be expressed to General Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson, Assistant General Superintendent Everett Stenhouse, the officers and members of the Executive Presbytery for their leadership; and the other General Council personnel for efficiency in planning and support and the implementation of the numerous details for all services rendered; and to all who ministered unto the Lord and edified His people with anointed preaching, inspired songs and talented music; for a most enjoyable and spiritual Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm our thankfulness to the Lord for His significant presence and leadership experienced in this 42nd General Council. May His Name be praised.
The motion was seconded and carried.

Privileged Motion

The following privileged motion was given from the floor as follows:

WHEREAS, Humanism has successfully penetrated our schools; and

WHEREAS, Homosexuals have successfully penetrated our schools

from preschool through our colleges including boys and girls organizations; and

WHEREAS, The AIDS epidemic is creating a panic toward setting up sex educational programs in our schools; and

WHEREAS, Abortion is a major part of this problem, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council strongly recommend to every pastor that they urge their congregations to become active in community affairs.

A motion prevailed to refer this matter to the Executive Presbytery for consideration, since something of this magnitude must be passed through the Resolutions Committee for proper wording.

Adjournment

A motion prevailed that the 42nd General Council be adjourned at 6:10 p.m., Monday, August 10. Assistant General Superintendent Everett Stenhouse dismissed in prayer.

MONDAY EVENING SERVICE—AUGUST 10

The Monday evening service was under the direction of Herman Rohde, executive presbyter from the North Central Area. James Hamill, executive presbyter from the Gulf Area, gave the Scripture reading from Psalm 119:9-16. Lynette Jernigan, music editor, national Music Department, Springfield, Missouri, and Bob Watters, missionary-evangelist to Eurasia, served at the piano and organ, respectively. James MacKnight, general superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, was the speaker for the service which had the theme, "I Surrender All—Committed to the Word." Special music for the service was provided by Rev. and Mrs. Kurt Overturf, music evangelists from Nekoosa, Wisconsin. The offering appeal was made by Derald Musgrove, superintendent of the Kansas District, and the offertory was presented by the choir from Capitol Hill Assembly of God, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, directed by Mr. Jim Bright.

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 11, 1987**

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, rela-

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

(b) **The Evidences of Salvation**

The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (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 12:4-10,28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (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:

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

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

- Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31; Hebrews 2:3,4).

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

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23,24), and (3) building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16).

12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the Atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4,5; 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 a current 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 members of The General Council of the Assemblies of God holding a current fellowship certificate who are present and registered; and of such delegates 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. 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 the authority to examine and license ministers who are to become members thereof. They shall report the names of approved ministers to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The district council shall also have the authority to examine and ordain ministers after having received approval from the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. 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 officary for help. It may appeal from a decision by the district officary to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God when there is a question whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the district. When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the Executive

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

Section 2. District Council Affiliated Assemblies

Provision shall be made by the district councils for district council affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of the district council, in accordance with the provisions of the district council constitution and bylaws. These assemblies shall be encouraged to proceed to the status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies.

Section 3. World Ministries Participation

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

ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION

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

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the constitution may be made at any regularly called session of the General Council provided that the proposed amendments shall have been submitted at least 6 months prior thereto in writing to the Executive Presbytery. Before the Executive Presbytery may submit such proposed amendments for consideration by a session of the General Council, it shall cause notice thereof to be provided by mail to the office of each district superintendent and each district secretary, and by insertion in the Assemblies of God Minister, sent periodically to ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, not later than 60 days prior to said session. Amendments to the constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

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

ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers

The officers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be elected at one of its regular meetings, according to the manner of election as provided. They shall be chosen from the membership of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be men of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry are above question, and such qualities alone shall determine their eligibility.

Section 2. Nominations and Elections

a. **General superintendent, assistant general superintendent, and general secretary.** All candidates for the offices of general superintendent, assistant general superintendent, and general secretary shall be nominated by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be necessary to constitute an election. In the event two-thirds of the votes cast are received by a qualified candidate on the nominating ballot, an election shall be declared. 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 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 candidates 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. The General Presbytery shall submit as nominees to the General Council all qualified candidates who have received at least 15 votes in the General Presbytery. A two-thirds vote of the General Council shall be required for election.

c. **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 candidates 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. The General Presbytery shall submit as nominees to the General Council all qualified candidates who have received at least 15 votes in the General Presbytery. A two-thirds vote of the General Council shall be required for election.

d. General presbyters.

(1) *District representatives.* In addition to the district superintendent

of each district, who shall serve on the General Presbytery by virtue of his office, two others shall be elected by the district council in session, one of whom shall be an ordained pastor of a church located in the district. They shall take office immediately upon election.

(2) *Foreign Missions representatives.* Field directors of the Division of Foreign Missions, representing the missionaries from their respective areas, are members of the General Presbytery by virtue of office. Two additional representatives on the General Presbytery from each field fellowship 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.

(3) *College representatives.* College representatives, as provided for in Constitution Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d, shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery and elected by the General Presbytery for a 2-year term on a rotating basis. A two-thirds vote shall be required. Two years shall elapse after a term is completed before a president shall be eligible for reelection to the General Presbytery.

e. 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

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

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. Nonresident executive presbyters

(1) In the event a vacancy shall occur, for any reason, in the office of a nonresident executive presbyter, the general secretary shall request each district council within that area (See Bylaws Article II, Section 2.e.) to submit two nominees for the office. The General Presbytery shall, at its next meeting, elect one minister from among the nominees submitted, to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the General Council. (See Bylaws Article II, Section 1, for qualifications.)

(2) Should a vacancy occur so close to the time of the meeting of the General Presbytery that insufficient time remains for district councils to select and submit nominees in the above manner, then nominees shall be obtained by a caucus of the general presbyters of the area involved. Such caucus to be held during the meeting of the General Presbytery.

(3) Nominees shall be voted upon by the entire General Presbytery until one receives two-thirds of the votes cast.

(4) In the event a nonresident executive presbyter moves to a location outside of the boundaries of the area, it shall be incumbent upon the Executive Presbytery to declare a vacancy in that office.

c. **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 interpreting policy originating in the legislation of the General Council or the General Presbytery. Such interpretations shall stand as final unless reversed at the next meeting of the body in which the legislation originated.

c. They shall have the right to buy, take, lease or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of real property, personal and mixed, tangible and intangible of whatsoever kind; to borrow monies as deemed necessary and to issue bonds of whatsoever kind, trust deeds, mortgages, debentures, and notes; and to enter into contracts; all as may seem expedient and proper in the furtherance of the work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

d. To hold in trust such funds as may be committed to them as trustees, or to dispose of the same as may be directed.

e. To issue annuity bonds or contracts, and to protect the same by judicious investments.

f. They shall be authorized to purchase or dispose of securities as need requires in an effort to strengthen the financial position of the corporation.

g. All properties of the corporation shall be bought, taken, held, sold, transferred, mortgaged, leased, assigned or conveyed in the corporate name upon authorization by the Executive Presbytery, as trustees thereof, and the president and the general secretary shall be authorized and they hereby are authorized to execute all documents pertaining to such transactions.

h. In all matters of great importance, the Executive Presbytery shall communicate with the members of the General Presbytery before final action shall be taken. The Executive Presbytery shall be amenable to the General Presbytery.

i. The executive presbyters shall be empowered to arrange for and announce the meetings of the General Council, with consideration for the

interests of the Fellowship as a whole. The decision of time and place for such meetings shall rest in their hands.

j. The executive presbyters shall also at their discretion call business meetings of the General Presbytery when deemed advisable.

k. The executive presbyters shall make a report to the General Council of their activities in behalf of the Fellowship as may be directed.

Section 7. Duties of the Board of Administration

a. The Board of Administration shall be the executive arm of the Executive Presbytery.

b. The Board of Administration shall not originate or interpret policy but shall be confined to the administration of those matters delegated to it by the Executive Presbytery.

c. The Board of Administration shall provide for general services as required for the various operations at general headquarters.

d. It shall be responsible to the Executive Presbytery.

Section 8. Duties of the General Presbytery

a. The General Presbytery shall be empowered to act in all matters pertaining to foreign missionary and ministerial relationships, and all matters which pertain to the proper functioning of divisions, departments, and institutions in the Fellowship. Should an irreconcilable difference arise between the General Presbytery and the Executive Presbytery, the decision of the General Presbytery shall prevail until such time as the issue may be submitted to the General Council. All decisions pertaining to constitutional order or fundamental doctrines shall be referred to the General Council for ratification in the manner provided in the constitution.

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

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

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

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

ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

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

Section 2. Credentials Committee

The Executive Presbytery shall constitute the Credentials Committee. It shall have authority to issue certificates of ordination to approved ministers, who have district council endorsement, and to issue annual fellowship cards. It may delegate the routine work of the Credentials Committee to the Board of Administration.

Section 3. Roster Committee

A Roster Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery prior to each meeting of the General Council. This committee shall be expected to open the roster on the morning of the day preceding the convening of the General Council. It shall be entrusted with the responsibility of examining credentials of all ministers and delegates. Ordained ministers shall identify themselves by fellowship cards of the current year; delegates from assemblies shall obtain letters from their church secretary or pastor certifying to their appointment by the assembly to represent it in the General Council. Suitable badges shall be issued by the committee to all qualified delegates and ministers, such badges to indicate the classification of ordained ministers, 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. Spiritual Life Committee

A Spiritual Life Committee shall be appointed by the general superintendent in conjunction with the Executive Presbytery, selected from a cross section of the Fellowship. The committee shall function for a 2-year period and report to the biennial meeting of the General Council and to the Executive Presbytery as feasible.

Section 6. 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.

Ministers holding certificates of ordination, license to preach, and specialized ministries licenses are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church.

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 per-

sonal 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. **Basic educational requirements.** Any level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall not be a requirement for credentials; however, it shall be required of applicants that they demonstrate adequate knowledge of (1) the Bible, (2) Assemblies of God doctrines, and (3) ministerial practices by either having completed the prescribed courses of the Berean College of the Assemblies of God as specified by the General Presbytery, or by passing standardized examinations approved by the General Presbytery, which shall give evidence of having accomplished the same through self-study and life experience, or by equivalent training in an approved school, together with such other training as may be required 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 qual-

ifications 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, 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 or her own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted. Such applicants shall be required to:

- (1) Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.
- (2) Complete an application for ministerial recognition.
- (3) Submit a recommendation for ministerial recognition.
- (3) Submit a recommendation from the body with which he/she was formerly affiliated. If such is not available, letters of recommendation should be sought from three reputable ordained ministers who are familiar with the applicant's ministry.
- (4) Take the credential examination.
- (5) Meet with the credentials committee.
- (6) Be recommended by the district credentials committee for the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee.
- (7) All so approved shall not be reordained, but shall have the hands of the district presbytery laid upon them as they enter this new phase of ministry.
- (8) Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition will relinquish their ministerial credentials 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 required to refrain from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed in another district, until such licensed minister shall have been a member of the district in which he is seeking ordination at least 1 year. If the applicant has not been a member of the district where he applies for ordination for 2 full consecutive years, he must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the officary of the district in which he was previously licensed, as well as the district of his residence.

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

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

Section 4. Action of Credentials Committee

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

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

Section 5. Certificates

a. **Christian worker and license.** Christian workers certificates and licenses shall be granted by district councils to properly qualified applicants.

b. **Ordination.** The Executive Presbytery, in its capacity as the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, is authorized to issue ordination certificates together with the accompanying annual fellowship cards.

Section 6. Credential Renewals and Reinstatements

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/her renewal form by January 1, he/she should notify his/her 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 of lapsed minister.** 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 nonrefundable fee of \$50, 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.

d. **Reinstatement of 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 dismissal, and shall apply for reinstatement, he/she shall in no case be eligible for reinstatement until at least 6 months shall have elapsed after his/her name has been stricken from our list of ministers. The application must be made in the district where he/she resides and be accompanied with a nonrefundable fee of \$50 which will be divided between the national and district offices. (See Bylaws Article IX, A, Section 10, paragraph a, for reinstatement of dismissed minister.)

The district of residence shall seek a letter of clearance from the district which processed the termination and, upon receipt of the clearance, may add its endorsement and forward the application, together with the letter of clearance, to the General Council Credentials Committee for its action.

Section 7. Official List

a. **Active ministers.** An official list of all ordained and licensed ministers shall be compiled by the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and published for the convenience of the Fellowship, with the understanding it is not to be used for purposes of solicitation. This official list shall be revised annually and shall contain the names of those who are engaged in active ministry and whose Certificates of Ordination have been renewed by the issuance of a fellowship card for the current year.

b. **Inactive ministers.** All ordained ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time ministry shall be expected to notify the district office, which shall

inform the general secretary. He shall then be authorized to transfer the names of such persons to the inactive list, unless the district of which said person is a member specifically requests otherwise.

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

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

(3) *Exceptions.* This shall not apply to those whose inactivity has been caused by the infirmity of old age or ill health; or those engaged in other aspects of full-time ministry such as headquarters or district workers, educators, ministers of music, ministers of youth, and ministers of Christian education; or those who have reached the age of 60 years; or those ministers who have had 25 years of approved service as ordained ministers in the Assemblies of God, regardless of age.

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

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

Section 8. Senior Ministers

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

a. Terminology

(1) The term *senior-active* shall be used for credential holders who continue to serve three-quarters to full time in the ministry.

(2) The term *senior-semiretired* shall be used for credential holders who continue to be active, but for half time or less.

(3) The term *senior-retired* shall be used for those who have ceased to engage in any regular appointed ministry.

b. *Application for retired category.* Senior-semiretired and senior-retired status shall be granted only to those ministers who filed a request for such status with their district office. The district secretary shall forward

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

c. Guidelines

(1) *Reports.* Senior-active and senior-semiretired ministers shall continue to file their annual reports and pay the General Council portion of their tithes in the regular manner. Senior-retired ministers shall file an abbreviated report to maintain a correct address file for mail and insurance purposes.

(2) *Sources of income.* These designations and guidelines shall apply regardless of whether the senior minister's income is from his ministry, from retirement plans or Social Security payments, or from investments or other employment.

(3) *Designation in publications.* No distinguishing mark shall accompany the listing of senior-active in the official publications of the Assemblies of God, but may be so indicated in the working lists used for insurance and retirement purposes. Senior-semiretired and senior-retired ministers shall have this status appropriately indicated in the Official List of Assemblies of God Ministers.

(4) *Support of General Council headquarters.* Senior-active and senior-semiretired ministers shall continue to designate \$10 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.

(1) *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.

(2) *Nationally appointed home missionary.* A nationally appointed home missionary shall become a member of the district in which he/she serves and shall be listed on the ministerial roster of that district

by the office of the general secretary. He/she may also retain honorary membership in his/her home district, be listed as a missionary under national appointment in the home district's yearbook, and be extended voice and vote in his/her home district while on official furlough.

c. 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 shall contribute 25 percent of their tithe to their member district where they serve and 25 percent of their tithe to their home district if they are listed as honorary members. The missionary who ministers in his home district shall contribute a minimum of 50 percent of his/her 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/she is a member, unless there are definite charges pending against him/her. The certificate of transfer shall be accepted by the district into which he/she moves. Exceptions may be made for the following:

(1) Ministers moving to serve at general headquarters.

(2) Those who have attained the age of 60 and are no longer engaged in active ministry and those who have attained the age of 65 and are not pastoring a church.

(3) Those who are in the Armed Forces currently on active duty.

(4) Those who are serving on the staffs 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 or foreign missionaries who are on furlough or on temporary assignment in the United States and reside in a district other than their home district.

(6) Ministers having membership in one district and a mailing address only in another district.

(7) Students in schools outside their home districts.

(8) 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.

b. Transcript. In order to assist a minister who is transferring into another district, a transcript giving helpful information concerning him/her and his/her spouse should accompany the certificate of transfer.

Section 11. Ministerial Status Changes

All changes in a minister's status are to be reported immediately by him/her to his/her district office, which in turn is to report this information to the office of the general secretary of the General Council, on the Ministerial Status Report form provided by that office.

Section 12. Privileged Communications

Assemblies of God ministers are encouraged to respect as sacred and confidential information confided to them while they are functioning in their ministerial capacities as spiritual counselors and are encouraged not to disclose such confidential information except with the permission of the confidant or to prevent the commission of a crime.

ARTICLE VIII. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

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 par-

ticipation 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 officer.

Projects or institutions of national scope must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Promotion of all projects of a missions character must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery.

(3) The obtaining and use of mailing lists for promotional purposes not having proper authorization or which are not in keeping with policies of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be considered improper and unethical, whether it be under the name of a prayer chain beyond a local scope, chain letters, or appeals to the constituency for the support of ventures of strictly local or personal character. All offenders guilty of the practices expressed in the foregoing paragraphs shall be subject to discipline.

c. *Private ownership of religious institutions.* The General Council of

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

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

Section 8. Violations of Ministerial Courtesy

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

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

Section 9. Ministry in a Non-Assemblies Church

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

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

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

be considered as having opened the door for censure or charge which may necessitate the recall of their credentials.

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

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

Section 11. The Ecumenical Movement

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

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

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

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

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

ARTICLE IX. DISCIPLINE

A. DISTRICT ACTION

Section 1. The Nature and Purposes of Discipline

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

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

Section 2. Causes of Disciplinary Action

Violation of Assemblies of God principles as stated in these Constitution

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

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

(1) *Interview with complainant(s).* 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.

(2) *Interview with accused minister(s).* The accused minister(s) shall be given an opportunity to be interviewed to discuss with him/her the complaints received against him/her in the hope that the matter can be resolved.

(3) *Signed complaints.* In the event the investigation so warrants, signed complaints shall be filed with the district office by the complainant(s) describing the alleged violations.

(4) *Suspension for extended investigation or minor violations.* A minister may be placed under suspension for a period not to exceed 3 months in order to complete the investigation. This provision may also be applied for some minor infraction not meriting rehabilitation or dismissal, and which can be resolved within the above time frame. The 3-month period is subject to renewal if deemed necessary. In this setting, suspension is for the purpose of holding in an undetermined or undecided state, awaiting further information.

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 of 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 for dismissed minister.* For a minister who is listed as "dismissed," the minimal time-lapse required before he/she 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. (See Bylaws Article VII, Section 6, for other renewals and reinstatements.)

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 dis-

courteous 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 represented by the evidence and shall in no wise be intended to prejudice the jury.

Accusation does not imply guilt, but may imply a misunderstanding or wrong information. The purpose of a trial is to arrive at all available facts relative to the case and to render a verdict based upon the evidence submitted. Judgment in the case shall be rendered in accord with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The jury shall be instructed to choose one of its number to serve as foreman when it retires to the jury room. The foreman shall lead the jurors in the review of the case and shall poll the jurors until a decision is reached.

Should there seem to be no possibility of reaching a decision of a two-thirds majority after repeated ballots, the foreman shall so apprise the judge. It shall be the prerogative of the judge to determine whether the balloting shall continue. Should the jury be unable to reach a verdict, the judge shall dismiss the jury and declare a mistrial. In the event of a mistrial because the jury cannot reach a verdict, the judge shall set the date for a new trial and a new jury will be selected.

Section 12. The Verdict

The verdict shall be reached by a two-thirds vote of the jury, and when presented to the court, the judge shall announce the verdict and adjourn the court, advising the defendant if found guilty that his counsel will inform him of his further rights of appeal. It shall then be the responsibility of the counsel for the defense to advise the defendant of his rights and privileges of appeal from the decision of the court.

The judge shall file his report with the district involved and with the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The district shall take appropriate action in accordance with the verdict rendered.

Section 13. New Trials

a. Right of appeal. The defendant may appeal from the decision of a court. Appeal shall be filed with the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and notice of such appeal shall be made in writing addressed to the general superintendent. A copy of notice of appeal shall be given and appeal made within 30 days following the date of notification of the verdict.

In the event the trial occurred in a district other than the one in which the defendant is a member, a copy of the appeal shall also be filed with the superintendent of his home district.

b. Bases for appeals. Appeals from the decision of the court affecting the minister's standing in the Assemblies of God fellowship as a result of a trial may be made only upon the following grounds:

(1) *Mistrial.* When there has been error either in arrangement for trial or method of conducting the same, or in the case of a verdict unsupported by sufficient evidence;

(2) *New evidence.* After final decision has been rendered, in the event new evidence is presented to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, such new trial shall be authorized and conducted as herein defined.

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

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

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

Section 14. Review by the General Presbytery

When exceptions are taken to the decision of the Appeals Board, either by the defendant or by the district presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery. This appeal shall be addressed to the office of the general secretary. Procedure in such cases shall conform to that in making

appeal from a district credentials committee action or a jury trial, and must be made within 30 days following the notification of the decision of the Appeals Board.

Section 15. Reinstatement

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

b. A minister shall not be considered to have exhausted the avenues of remedy provided by the Constitution and Bylaws of this ecclesiastical body until application for reinstatement has been acted upon by both the district officary and the General Council Credentials Committee.

c. No publication of the action of the district shall be made until such time as action has been taken and authorization given by the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE X. SPIRITUAL LIFE—EVANGELISM

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

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

Section 2. Organizations

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

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

(1) *Function.* The committee shall offer advice, indicate ways in which divisional and departmental resources can be used in fulfilling the mission of the church, and communicate to divisions and departments the emphasis which it or the general superintendent places upon each phase of the threefold mission.

(2) *Composition.* The Committee on Mission shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall consist of the Board of Administration and representatives from the various headquarters ministries. The general superintendent shall serve as chairman of the Committee on Mission. The Spiritual Life—Evangelism coordinator shall serve as secretary.

(3) *Subcommittees.* Subcommittees of the Committee on Mission shall include the Mobilization and Placement Service Committee, the Evangelism Literature for America Committee, and such other com-

mittees 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 litera-

ture 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 commander of Royal Rangers, the secretary of Light-for-the-Lost, and four representatives—one from each of the following areas: Kingsmen International, Lifestyle Evangelism, Royal Rangers, and Light-for-the-Lost. They shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall serve for a 2-year period. The national director of the Division of Church Ministries shall serve as chairman. The committee shall meet annually.

Section 2. Music Department

a. Authorization and purpose

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

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

b. Government and organization

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

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

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

Section 3. Sunday School Department

a. Authorization and purpose

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

b. Government and organization

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

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

c. Official publication. The Sunday School Counselor shall be recognized as the official publication of the Sunday School Department.

d. District organization(s)

(1) Provision shall be made for a district Sunday school department in each district of the Assemblies of God. The purpose shall be:

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

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

- (c) To promote Sunday school efficiency through seminars, tours, conventions, or by any other acceptable means.
- (2) There may be a district Sunday school director. He shall be chosen in keeping with the district constitution and bylaws.
- (3) There may be a district constitution and bylaws which shall be presented to the district council for approval.
- (4) Time may be given throughout the year for the advancement of all phases of the district and national Sunday school calendar.

Section 4. Women's Ministries Department

a. Authorization and purpose

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

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

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

(b) Correlating the work of the women with the needs represented by foreign missions, home missions, and benevolences in such a way that the needs may be met quickly and equitably, with each district and local group carrying its proportionate share of service.

(c) Encouraging district and local groups to view their service as a spiritual ministry and stewardship in which faithfulness is important.

(d) Encouraging the women of the Fellowship to engage in the ministry of personal witnessing and the ministry of intercessory prayer.

(e) Offering encouragement and assistance to district leaders and local groups for organization and operation.

(f) Conducting conventions, seminars, and rallies concerning Women's Ministries and its program.

(g) Organizing and promoting a program for girls.

(h) Preparing and publishing handbooks and manuals and issuing such bulletins as may be needed to implement the department program.

(i) Publicizing the Women's Ministries through the media of the Pentecostal Evangel and other periodicals as opportunity affords.

b. Government and organization

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

(2) *National Women's Ministries Committee.* There shall be a national Women's Ministries Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries and the secretary of the department by virtue of office; two other persons from within the department recommended by the department secretary to represent

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

c. Funds

(1) *National Women's Ministries Day offerings.* An annual National Women's Ministries Day shall be observed at which time the ministry of the department shall be promoted. It is recommended that an offering be received in each church which shall be sent to the national Women's Ministries Department for use in support of the national office and to aid in costs of services it offers to district and local units.

(2) *Tithing of income to district and national offices.* To aid further in support of the work at both district and national levels, it is urged that each local Women's Ministries group shall be faithful in tithing its income into the district Women's Ministries office and the district Women's Ministries office in turn to tithe to the national office.

Section 5. Youth Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Responsibilities.* There shall be a Youth Department which shall be responsible for the youth work known as Christ's Ambassadors. The department may be responsible for other related youth programs which shall be deemed feasible and desirable.

(2) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission: evangelization of the world, worshipping God, and building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son. In part, it shall fulfill this responsibility by planning and promoting a spiritual program directed toward the youth of the Assemblies of God, encouraging the youth to assist in fulfilling the threefold mission of the church.

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

(a) Encouraging and assisting the developing of district young people's programs.

(b) Coordinating the development and promotion of projects of national scope.

(c) Producing literature and helps to meet the needs of youth.

(d) Promoting spiritual programs adaptable to the particular problems of young people in high schools and colleges.

(e) Developing and promoting guidelines for use at the district and local level.

b. Government and organization

(1) *Department secretary.* The Executive Presbytery shall be em-

powered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.

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

c. District Christ's Ambassadors organizations

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

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

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

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

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

d. Local Christ's Ambassadors organizations

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

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

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

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

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

ARTICLE XIV. DIVISION OF COMMUNICATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

Section 1. Auxiliary Communications

a. *Promotional periodicals.* In order to strengthen the flow of information to all segments of the Fellowship in the most economical and efficient manner, all periodicals of a promotional nature other than those produced at divisional or departmental levels shall be under the general supervision of the Division of Communications.

b. *Editors.* The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to employ editors as may be needed.

Section 2. Office of Information

a. *Disseminator of news.* There shall be an Office of Information which shall serve as an agency in the dissemination of news about the Assemblies

of God to the Fellowship and the general public. This shall include releases to district bulletins, religious magazines, news syndicates, and radio and television stations.

b. Host to visitors. The office shall provide services as needed in hosting visitors to general headquarters.

c. Secretary of information. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a secretary of information who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Communications.

Section 3. The Pentecostal Evangel

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Official organ.* The Pentecostal Evangel shall be the official organ of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

(2) *Purpose.* The Pentecostal Evangel shall be published;

- (a) To fulfill the threefold mission of the church;
- (b) To propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ;
- (c) To give proper emphasis to Pentecostal distinctives, including the baptism in the Holy Spirit and its desired effects in the lives of believers; and
- (d) To strengthen the Fellowship.

b. Government and organization

(1) *Editor.* There shall be an editor of the Pentecostal Evangel who shall be elected by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) *Amenability.* The Executive Presbytery shall have the overall responsibility for the editorial content of the Pentecostal Evangel within the guidelines set by the policy-making bodies.

(3) *Approval for budget changes.* It is understood that changes in style and format affecting the budget of the Gospel Publishing House shall not be initiated without the approval of the Board of Publication.

Section 4. Radio and Television Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* There shall be a Radio and Television Department whose primary responsibility in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

(2) *National broadcast.* It shall prepare a national broadcast and shall solicit the highest possible quality in musical presentation and shall feature capable speakers who shall offer messages in keeping with the Statement of Faith of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

(3) *Program policies.* Programs shall originate from such sources, and be released through such outlets, and feature such talents as shall meet the requirements of the department.

(4) *Transcription library.* A transcription library shall be provided for our ministers to draw upon for use in preparation of local broadcasts as

may be desired. Complete transcriptions shall also be prepared for optional use of ministers and churches. Such transcriptions shall allow time for local announcements. An appropriate series of transcriptions offering a distinctive presentation of our Statement of Faith shall be prepared for use in extended home missions work.

b. Government and organization

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

(2) *Radio and Television Committee.* There shall be a Radio and Television Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Communications, the secretary of the Radio and Television Department and three others elected by the Executive Presbytery, subject to ratification by the General Presbytery. Committee members shall serve a 2-year period or until their successors are appointed.

c. Funds. The national director shall be authorized to employ such means for the raising of funds as shall be deemed advisable by the Radio and Television Committee.

Section 5. Audiovisual Services

a. Authorization and purpose. Audiovisual Services shall:

(1) Acquire and maintain such equipment as necessary to produce audiovisual materials.

(2) Assist departments in the preparation of audiovisual materials.

(3) Provide consultation to departments, missionaries, church officials, and others on production of audiovisual materials.

(4) Build and maintain a rental library of films, filmstrips, slides, video tapes, tape and/or phonograph recordings, which shall be available to our constituency.

(5) Produce a catalog of rental films—those produced by the Assemblies of God and other 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 Mission's decision to the Board of Appeals, but shall not be present at the time of deliberation or voting. The missionary or Foreign Missions Committee may appeal to the Executive Presbytery or General Presbytery from the decision of the Board of Appeals.

e. Laymen's Advisory Council. An advisory council consisting of eight consecrated Spirit-filled laymen from among our Fellowship, known for their spirituality, good judgment, and faithfulness, shall be appointed by the General Presbytery. They shall work in cooperation with the Foreign Missions Board in the promotion of world missions. They shall be selected from the eight areas of the nation and shall meet with the Foreign Missions Board at least once annually or as often as deemed necessary by the executive director of the division.

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

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

g. Foreign Missions Committee. The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a Foreign Missions Committee consisting of the executive director as chairman, the administrative assistant as vice-chairman, the field directors, the heads of major departments of the division, and other personnel as determined by the Executive Presbytery. The responsibilities of this committee shall be the general super-

vision 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. Each field fellowship shall be represented on the General Presbytery by its field director and two others. (See Article II, Section 2, d, (2).)

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 en-

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) Intercultural Ministries Department
- (3) Chaplaincy Department
- (4) College Ministries 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, the College Ministries Department, and the Intercultural 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. **College Ministries Administrative Committee.** The College Ministries Administrative Committee membership shall include two representatives each from Spiritual Life-Evangelism, the Division of Home Missions, the Division of Foreign Missions, and the Division of Church Ministries. The two representatives from the Division of Home Missions shall include the national director of the Division of Home Missions and the secretary of the College Ministries Department. The committee shall be chaired by the Spiritual Life-Evangelism Coordinator.

e. **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.

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

g. **Special committees.** Other special committees may be appointed at the discretion of the Executive Presbytery.

h. **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.

i. **Functions.** The Division of Home Missions shall provide coordination, promotion, assistance to motivate action, and the receiving and disbursing of funds.

j. **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. Intercultural 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 Intercultural Ministries Department shall provide ministry among those groups of people in the United States whose evangelization involves specialized understanding and preparation. These groups are those having cultural, ethnic, or language distinctiveness; those constituting specialized communications groups such as the deaf and the blind; and those otherwise forming distinguishable groups.

c. Cooperation with districts. The Intercultural 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 In-

stitutional 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. College 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 College Ministries Department shall direct ministry to the collegiate population of our society (including international students) through the establishment of an evangelizing, reproducing community of believers where students congregate, study, and live. The department provides training for staff and students to be equipped for ministry within campus communities across America.

c. College Ministries Administrative Committee

(1) *Composition.* The College Ministries Administrative Committee membership shall include two representatives each from Spiritual Life-

Evangelism, the Division of Home Missions, the Division of Foreign Missions, and the Division of Church Ministries. The two representatives from the Division of Home Missions shall include the national director of the Division of Home Missions and the secretary of the College Ministries Department. The committee shall be chaired by the Spiritual Life-Evangelism Coordinator.

(2) *Function.* The College Ministries Administrative Committee shall provide coordination and resource oversight to the College Ministries Department. Policy or major programming changes in items that have direct implication for other divisions shall be brought before the College Ministries Administrative Committee by the department secretary, with the approval of the national director of the Division of Home Missions.

(3) *Relationships.* The College Ministries Administrative Committee shall be a subcommittee of the Committee on Mission. The secretary of the College Ministries Department shall be a member of the Committee on Mission.

Section 7. 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. An appropriation of 10 percent of undesignated contributions.

e. Five percent of all funds for approved district, regional, or national home missions projects.

f. All endorsed and/or approved Assemblies of God chaplains actively serving full- or part-time, reserve chaplains, chaplain trainees, military trainees, and military seminarians shall contribute one-half of their tithe from their income earned from chaplaincy services to the Chaplaincy Department. Industrial and institutional chaplains' contributions shall be placed in the Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy Fund, and the Military Chaplaincy contributions shall be placed in the Military Chaplaincy Fund.

g. College Ministries Department

(1) All Chi Alpha campus ministers shall contribute one-half of their tithes to the national College Ministries Department.

(2) All International Student Ministry missionaries and recognized international student ministry campus and church staff shall contribute one-half of their tithes to the national College Ministries Department.

(3) All Chi Alpha chapters (groups) and International Student Min-

istry works (programs) shall contribute 5 percent of their budget to the national College Ministries Department.

h. One-half of the tithes of all nationally appointed home missionaries.

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 \$10 per month from their tithes, or as an offering. Licensed ministers should contribute \$6 per month and Christian workers 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.* It is recommended that each church send to the General Council at least one offering for each calendar year toward the support of the administrative offices of the General Council. This offering shall be included with the Annual Church Ministries Report. It is suggested that the churches consider \$1 per year per church member as a guide for determining the amount of this annual offering.

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 min-

istries 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 on a rotation basis. A majority of trustees shall not be members of the headquarters staff.

(d) *Meetings and responsibilities.* The board shall meet not less than once each 3 months and shall review all actions of the deferred giving and trusts administration for the prior period. It shall review and give guidance in regard to investments, instruments, documents, financial reports, and internal controls, and keep detailed minutes of each meeting.

(2) *Secretary.* There shall be a secretary of the department who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. He shall be the business administrator and shall be in charge of all activities, including the office, files, safeguarding of assets, and the administration of all documents and assets in accordance with each document.

(3) Administrative Committee

(a) *Composition and responsibility.* The board of trustees shall appoint three qualified personnel to function as the administrative committee of the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department in charge of the day-to-day operations. The administrative committee of the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department shall always act under the prudent man rule in its conduct. The members of the administrative committee shall be the department secretary and two other members from headquarters personnel.

(b) *Amenability.* The administrative committee shall be responsible to the General Council Board of Administration, the Executive Presbytery, and to its own board of trustees.

(4) *Director of field services.* There shall be a director of field services who shall be in charge of field representation, public relations, and shall assist in estate planning such as wills, trust instruments, annuity agreements, and any other authorized programs of deferred giving.

(5) *Accountant.* A qualified accountant shall be in charge of all record keeping, general and detailed books of account to reflect all activities of each document, as well as all activities by classes of trusts, gifts,

annuities, unitrusts, and all other categories for proper accounting records. Each trust or each instrument should identify in each file where the funds are invested and their earnings, and the disposition when closed. The accountant shall develop a system of internal controls with checks and balances that will conform to sound and generally accepted auditing standards.

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

(7) *Annual review.* The General Council Committee on Finance shall review the operations of this department each year.

(8) *Undesignated assets.* Upon the receipt of any assets not specifically designated by the donor, the General Council Board of Administration shall give written authorization for the sale of or other disposition by the Deferred Giving and Trusts Department.

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

Section 4. Church Loan Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Function.* There shall be a Church Loan Department which shall provide loans and assist in obtaining financing for churches that need such assistance.

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

b. Government and organization

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

(2) *Secretary.* There shall be a secretary of the department who shall

be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. He shall serve as the church loan officer.

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

Section 5. Audit Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Function.* There shall be an Audit Department which shall conduct independent protective and constructive audits and review effectiveness of controls, financial records, and operations.

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

b. Government and organization

(1) *Internal auditor.* There shall be an internal auditor who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. He shall be under the supervision of the general treasurer and shall be directly accountable to the Board of Administration and the Executive Presbytery.

(2) *Responsibility.* The internal auditor basically serves management by measuring and evaluating the effectiveness of controls. His work is complementary to the independent auditor, using a similar approach but a different application of auditing techniques, independence, reporting, and interests served.

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

Section 6. Benevolences Department

a. *Authorization and purpose.* There shall be a Benevolences Department which shall have the responsibility of administration of the Aged Ministers Assistance Fund, the oversight of Assemblies of God homes for the aged, children's homes, child placement agencies, and the administration of any other benevolent services which may be committed to it.

b. Government and organization

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

(2) *Secretary.* There shall be a secretary of the department who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

(3) *Administrative Committee.* There shall be a Benevolences Com-

mittee to administer the department. It shall consist of the general treasurer, who shall serve as chairman, the secretary of the department, and three other persons appointed by the Executive Presbytery for a 2-year term.

(4) *Amenability.* The department and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

c. **Benevolence funds.** The department shall be authorized to solicit regular contributions from the ministers and churches of the Assemblies of God. Each church in the Fellowship is expected to cooperate by sending two special offerings annually for national benevolences, or by placing the Benevolences Department in its monthly budget.

d. **Aged Ministers Assistance.** Assistance shall be made available to ordained ministers (the term includes ordained missionaries) of the Assemblies of God and to their widows, because of age or physical infirmity and for whom no other means of support is available. Eligibility shall be determined on the following bases:

(1) *Ministerial requirement.* The applicant shall have been an ordained minister in good standing and have held credentials for at least 10 years immediately prior to retirement.

(2) *Age requirement.* The applicant shall have reached the age of 65 in the case of an ordained minister, or 60 in the case of a widow of a minister.

(3) *Disability requirement.* Ministers who have been disabled to the extent that they cannot perform their ministerial duties shall also be eligible to make application.

(4) *Financial cooperation requirement.* The record of the applicant shall indicate that he or she has complied with the approved financial plans of the district council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

(5) *District endorsement requirement.* Unqualified endorsement must be given by the district officary.

e. **Homes for the aged and children.** Benevolent institutions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be operated by boards of directors nominated by the Benevolences Committee and appointed by the Executive Presbytery. These boards shall be responsible to the Benevolences Department in matters of policy and administration, and their actions shall be reviewed by the Executive Presbytery.

f. **District Council benevolent institutions.** District councils may set up homes for the aged and children's homes and child placement agencies in cooperation with the Benevolences Department. They shall be expected to conform to the standards approved by the department.

ARTICLE XIX. INSTITUTIONS

Section 1. Miscellaneous Institutions

a. **Missionary homes.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be in sympathy with the establishment and maintenance of missionary homes.

b. **Missionary schools on mission fields.** It shall also be in sympathy with the establishment and maintenance of missionary schools on the various mission fields where practicable for the training of native workers, and schools for the education of the young children of missionaries.

Section 2. Central Bible College

a. **Authorization and purpose.** Central Bible College, a ministerial training institution providing Bible-centered courses of training to prepare Christian workers for effectual service at home and abroad, shall be owned and operated at all times by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The college is forever bound to give Christ the preeminence in all things and bound to the Statement of Fundamental Truths and to the policies and standards as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

b. **Board of Directors.** The execution of policy and the administration of the college shall 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 shall 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 Theological Seminary

a. **Authorization and purpose.** The Assemblies of God Theological Sem-

inary, 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 Theological Seminary 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 Theological Seminary shall be delegated to a board of directors in accordance with the provisions of its constitution and bylaws.

c. Amenability. The Theological Seminary 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 Theological Seminary.

Section 5. Berean College of the Assemblies of God

a. Authorization and purpose. Berean College of the Assemblies of God, a nontraditional college of Bible and general Christian service training, 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 preeminence in all things and is bound to the Statement of Fundamental Truths and 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 shall 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.

ARTICLE XX. MILITARY SERVICE

As a Movement we affirm our loyalty to the government of the United States in war or peace.

We shall continue to insist, as we have historically, on the right of each member to choose for himself whether to declare his position as a combatant, a noncombatant, or a conscientious objector.

ARTICLE XXI. MINISTERS BENEFIT ASSOCIATION

Section 1. Organization

There shall be an association known as the Assemblies of God Ministers Benefit Association.

Section 2. Administration

There shall be a board of directors elected by the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God subject to ratification

by the General Presbytery. The board of directors of this association shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 3. Investment of Funds

The board of directors of the Ministers Benefit Association shall be authorized to invest the funds of this association in good income securities and property of the General and District Councils of the Assemblies of God and local churches of the Assemblies of God, provided that such investments are fully protected by mortgage and by note signed by General or District Council officials.

Section 4. Contributions and Benefits

Provisions governing contributions by members and benefits to accrue to members of the Ministers Benefit Association shall be contained in the bylaws of the association.

ARTICLE XXII. WORLD MISSIONS PLAN

Section 1. World Missions Offerings

It is recommended that all World Missions offerings shall be divided as follows:

- 70 percent foreign missions
- 5 percent foreign missions office expense
- 5 percent national home missions
- 20 percent district home missions

Section 2. Speed-the-Light Offerings

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

- 72 percent foreign missions and home missions—Speed-the-Light
- 18 percent district home missions—Speed-the-Light
- 10 percent national Youth (CA) Department administration costs—Speed-the-Light

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

ARTICLE XXIII. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The regular order of business for the General Council meeting shall be:

1. Report of the general superintendent
2. Report of the general secretary
3. Report of the general treasurer
4. Departmental reports
5. Unfinished business
6. Election of officers
7. New business

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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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