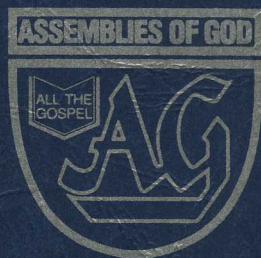


# MINUTES

Revised Constitution and Bylaws

The General Council of the Assemblies of God



THE FORTY-FOURTH GENERAL COUNCIL

Portland, Oregon, August 6-11, 1991

**MINUTES**  
of the  
**44th Session of**  
**THE GENERAL COUNCIL**  
of the  
**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**Convened at Portland, Oregon**  
**August 6-11, 1991**  
**with**  
**Revised Constitution and Bylaws**

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

Printed in U.S.A.

## **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
Thomas E. Trask .....	General Treasurer

### **EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY**

G. Raymond Carlson, Chairman	
Almon M. Bartholomew	Herman H. Rohde
Robert L. Brandt	Robert K. Schmidgall
Glen D. Cole	Everett R. Stenhouse
Joseph R. Flower	Thomas E. Trask
J. Foy Johnson	Loren Triplett
Paul E. Lowenberg	Philip Wannenmacher

### **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

1445 Boonville Avenue  
Springfield, Missouri 65802-1894  
Telephone (417) 862-2781  
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## FOREWORD

The 44th General Council of the Assemblies of God convened in Portland, Oregon, August 6-11, 1991. A prominent feature was anointed preaching of the Word by the following: G. Raymond Carlson, Earl Baldwin, Daniel Johnson, Paul Yonggi Cho, Terry Raburn, Everett Stenhouse, and Tommy Barnett.

A tribute to Thomas F. Zimmerman was presented on Wednesday morning, August 7, in the form of a resolution. At the memorial service on Sunday morning, August 11, there was a video presentation sharing excerpts from his life and ministry. His wife Elizabeth was honored on these occasions.

The Spiritual Life Committee report on Thursday morning, August 8, 1991, resulted in a spontaneous outburst of intercession and praise to God, which canceled all business for the remainder of the session. The report was a challenge to recapture the following characteristics of the Azusa Street revival:

1. A great hunger for God
2. A love for others
3. A commitment to God's Word
4. A dedication to evangelism and missions
5. A commitment to the restoration of the New Testament Church

Another important challenge was presented on Friday morning, August 9 by Charles Hackett, national director of the Division of Home Missions. All incumbent officers and executive presbyters were reelected.

The General Superintendent's Medal of Honor was presented to Gwendoline Jones and Rear Admiral Vernon E. Clark, on two separate occasions during the General Council.

An important item of legislation resulted from the report of the Christian Education Study Committee. It resulted in the establishment of a Division of Christian Education and a Division of Christian Higher Education.

The prayer and praise sessions contributed much to the impact this 44th General Council had on those who attended. Subsequent reports indicate there was an overflow of blessing throughout the Fellowship.

JOSEPH R. FLOWER  
GENERAL SECRETARY



MINUTES OF THE  
44TH GENERAL COUNCIL  
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD  
CONVENED AT PORTLAND, OREGON  
AUGUST 6-11, 1991

**TUESDAY EVENING—AUGUST 6**

The opening service of the 44th General Council began at 7:15 p.m. in the Portland, Oregon, Coliseum. Chairman for the service was Assistant General Superintendent Everett Stenhouse. The service began with Royal Rangers from area churches and Assemblies of God chaplains from four branches of military service raising a giant American flag which was followed by the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance. A video message of greetings from President George Bush was presented. The Scripture for the evening was read by Mrs. Ruth B. Homer of Huntington Beach, California. Ron Cochran, music minister and senior associate pastor of Portland Christian Center, Portland, Oregon, was the song leader. Cheryl Cochran and Anna Snyder, both from Portland Christian Center, Portland, Oregon, served at the organ and piano, respectively, and Randy Wright, senior music editor, Springfield, Missouri, served at the electronic keyboard. Special music was provided by the Portland Christian Center choir, directed by Ron Cochran and a trumpet solo by Tom Hernandez from Golden West College in Huntington Beach, California.

The speaker for the opening service was General Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson. The theme for his message was "Knowing His Heart." He used as his text Jeremiah 3:15 and Philippians 2. He emphasized that there were three things that he wanted to know: 1. The boundless love of Christ; 2. the matchless grace of Christ; and 3. the consuming compassion of Christ. Interspersed with his sermon he asked Lil Sundberg Anderson, former *Revivaltime* soloist, to sing, "The Love of God" and "Amazing Grace." Superintendent Carlson concluded the service by urging everyone to know Christ more intimately: His love, His grace, and His compassion.

**WEDNESDAY MORNING—AUGUST 7**

A time of prayer and praise began at 9:15 on Wednesday morning. Philip Wannenmacher, pastor of Central Assembly, Springfield, Missouri, and executive presbyter from the Gulf Area, led the singing and prayer time. Lois Graber, Bethel Temple Assembly of God, Canton, Ohio, and Gwen Jones, Central Assembly, Springfield, Missouri, served at the piano and organ, respectively. Robert Crabtree, superintendent of the Ohio District, led in prayer.

**Business Session**

G. Raymond Carlson, general superintendent, welcomed the ministers

and delegates to the opening business session, which convened at 10 a.m. He asked J. Philip Hogan, former executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions, to lead in prayer. Ormel Chapin, First Assembly of God, Bend, Oregon, led in singing. Paul and Marge Ferrin, Capital Christian Center, Sacramento, California, served at the piano and organ, respectively.

#### **Introduction of Executive Presbytery**

Members of the Executive Presbytery were introduced as follows: Everett R. Stenhouse, assistant general superintendent; Joseph R. Flower, general secretary; Thomas E. Trask, general treasurer; Loren Triplett, executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions; Robert L. Brandt, Northwest Area; Glen D. Cole, Southwest Area; J. Foy Johnson, Southeast Area; Paul Lowenberg, South Central Area; Herman H. Rohde, North Central Area; Robert Schmidgall, Great Lakes Area; and Philip Wannemacher, Gulf Area. Almon M. Bartholomew, Northeast Area, was unable to be present due to recent open-heart surgery.

#### **Introduction of Retired Executive Presbyters**

The retired executives were introduced as follows: James E. Hamill, J. Philip Hogan, Dwight H. McLaughlin, R. D. E. Smith, and Bert Webb. C. W. Hardcastle, Sr., Raymond H. Hudson, and Charles W. H. Scott were unable to be present.

Special prayer was offered in behalf of these brethren who were absent.

#### **Introduction of National Directors**

The following were introduced as national directors of divisions: Charles E. Hackett, national director of the Division of Home Missions; Lee Shultz, national director of the Division of Communications; David Bundrick, national director of the Division of Christian Education; William C. Eastlake, national director of the Division of Publication; and Terry Raburn, national director of the Division of Church Ministries.

Loren Triplett was recognized as the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions, and Thomas E. Trask, the general treasurer, as executive director of the Division of the Treasury.

#### **General Council Committees**

Charles W. Denton, chairman, and John V. Ohlin, vice chairman, were introduced as convention coordinators.

The chairman expressed appreciation to the following members of the General Council and operational committees. Those who served as members in the respective capacities are as follows:

#### *Budget*

Thomas E. Trask, chairman; Frank E. Cole, Glen D. Cole, Charles E. Crank, William I. Gallaher, T. Ray Rachels

#### *Parliamentary*

D. V. Hurst, chairman; Gregory S. Cox, William O. Vickery

#### *Resolutions*

George Wood, chairman; Charles Anderson, Dale C. Carpenter, Derwood Dubose, J. Foy Johnson, David J. Moore, Opal Reddin, Luis O. Robles

#### *Roster*

Tom Drake, R. Stanton Williams, cochairmen; Gary Allen, Gary Chapin, Robert Christenson, Don Couch, Mickey Davis, Taylor Davis, Joseph DePasquale, Robert Fox, Douglas E. Fulenwider, Lowell Harrup, Charles Hughes, Ed Hughes, Leroy Hunt, Dale Jackson, Larry Kasper, Paul Killingsworth, Tom Lakey, Thomas Lofton, Kenneth Meyer, Ralph Miller, Roger N. Perkin, Richard Peterson, Randall Popineau, Stephen Potter, Homer Purdy, Jr., James Risner, David D. Rueb, Ben Stratton, Don Tedford, Frank Triggs, Alan Warneke, Otto Wegner, Hubert Wilder

#### *Spiritual Life*

C. Raymond Carlson, chairman; Everett R. Stenhouse, vice chairman; George O. Wood, secretary; Harry L. Ayers, Ed Berkey, Charles Crabtree, Charles Heath, J. Philip Hogan, John Palmer, Dave Roeever, Robert K. Schmidgall, Jerry Strandquist, David Smith, Charles W. Denton, resource

#### *Tellers*

Warren F. McPherson, chairman; Rollin J. Carlson, Rick J. Cole, Edward Peecher, captains; Frederick Aguilar, Gregory Austin, James F. Barco, Bob Barham, Ron Barks, Carl Bauman, Loren Beans, Thomas Benigas, Charles Biller, Danny Brown, Donald M. Brown, Rob Burkhardt, Kenneth Burtram, William Busch, Roy Carpenter, Craig Carter, Larry Chapman, Weldon Coker, Daniel Cole, Mike Cole, Rodney Collier, Paul Coran, Mike Dickenson, Michael Dudley, Phillip Duncan, John Durham, Gordon Falconer, Robert Fredricks, David A. Geary, Billy Glover, Tom Greene, Tom Grubb, Paul Gutierrez, Harold Hidle, Clinton Hobbs, William Howell, Duane Huie, Steve Hunt, Ron Hyatt, Virgil Illum, James R. Jackson, Wayne Jameson, Gerald Jordan, Louis Kayatin, Ray Keck, Timothy Keller, David Krist, Garth Lambie, Fred Lawley, Allen Lehmann, Glyn Lowery, Jr., C. Eddie Lee, David Martin, Dean McCormick, Richard Mathena, Henry Mohn, Gary Morefield, Dennis Noble, Raymond C. Perkins, Terry Roberts, Tony Roberts, John Rockstad, Wolfgang Schweder, Dennis Seler, John Sermenio, Charles Shinn, Hurley Shortt,

Ronald Sullivan, Lynn Terry, Leo Tomko, Paul Trementozzi, James Trewern, Charles Trimborn, Larn Underwood, Ken Vanderhoff, Lindell Warren, Troy Webb, Gordon Welk, Rodney West, Phil Wiebe, Michael Zarle

## **Operational Committees**

### ***Steering***

G. Raymond Carlson, chairman; Everett Stenhouse, Joseph R. Flower, Thomas E. Trask; Charles W. Denton, coordination chairman

### ***Accounting***

Clyde Hawkins, chairman; Tod Eastlake, Ed Simmons, Ken Tripp

### ***Children's Activities***

Richard Gruber, chairman; Sandy Askew, Kids Council (ages 5-7); Richard Gruber, Kids Council (ages 8-11)

### ***Communications/Platform (Program Subcommittee)***

Lee Shultz, chairman; Mel DeVries, platform coordinator; Ken Riemenschneider, platform assistant; Melvin Snyder, audio/video equipment; Don Upton, sound

### ***Communion Arrangements***

Stanley V. Michael, chairman

### ***Coordinators***

Charles W. Denton, chairman; John V. Ohlin, vice chairman

### ***Equipment***

Arlyn Pember, chairman; Ernest Rifenburg, Melvin Snyder

### ***Exhibits***

Carol Ball, chairman; Thomas Sanders, assistant chairman; David Houghton

### ***Hospitality/Information/Message Center***

John Maempa, chairman; Jeff Champion

### ***Music (Program Subcommittee)***

Terry Raburn, chairman; Cyril McLellan, Merlin Mitchell, John Shows, Randy Wright

### ***Photos (Promotions Subcommittee)***

Harris Jansen, chairman

## ***Printed Materials***

Ann Floyd, chairman; Sylvia Lee

## ***Program Resource***

William C. Eastlake, chairman; Richard G. Champion, Sandra Clopine, Glen Cole, Norman Correll, Charles Crabtree, Charles W. Denton, Mel DeVries, Charles Hackett, Harris Jansen, John V. Ohlin, Terry Raburn, Robert Schmidgall, Lee Shultz, Juleen Turnage, Dick VanHuss, Randy Wright

## ***Promotions/Press***

Juleen Turnage, chairman; Richard G. Champion, Harris Jansen, Robert Michels, Sue Montgomery

## ***Registration***

John V. Ohlin, pre-Council chairman; Terry Raburn, on-location chairman; Nancy Cox, Jesse Weaver

## ***Resolutions and Reports Expediter***

David Bundrick, chairman

## ***Transportation***

Lamar Headley, chairman; Melvin Sachs, John Savage

## ***Ushers***

Glenn A. Renick, chairman; Efraim Espinoza, Evan Paul

## ***Youth Congress (Program Subcommittee)***

Dick VanHuss, chairman

## ***Offering***

Herman H. Rohde, executive presbyter for the North Central Area, made the offering appeal. Paul and Marge Ferrin of Capital Christian Center, Sacramento, California, presented a piano and organ offertory.

## ***Introduction of Special Platform Guests***

Brother Carlson introduced special platform guests, Dr. and Mrs. Paul Yonggi Cho from Seoul, Korea.

## ***Appreciation to City of Portland***

The chairman expressed appreciation to the City of Portland, the convention bureau, the hotel association, and the many who have contributed to making our stay pleasant.

### **Appreciation to Oregon District**

The chairman expressed appreciation to the Oregon District which has done so much to make our coming to Portland a time of pleasure and enjoyment. He thanked Superintendent William Gallaher for the welcome the district has given to the General Council.

### **General Superintendent's Report**

Everett Stenhouse, assistant general superintendent, assumed the role of chairman during the general superintendent's report.

General Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson presented the general superintendent's report as it is printed in the 1989-91 Biennial Report booklet.

A motion prevailed to accept the report of the general superintendent with great appreciation.

The chair was returned to Brother Carlson.

### **Procedural Motion**

A motion prevailed that except for those reports which are essential to be read, that we dispense with reading reports, since they have been available to delegates to read ahead of time.

### **Procedural Motion**

The following procedural motion was presented:

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 as the first order of business in the Wednesday afternoon session, August 7, 1991, and continue thereafter, interspersed with the other business of the General Council, until all elections are completed.

A motion prevailed to adopt this procedural motion.

### **Assistant General Superintendent's Report**

Everett Stenhouse, assistant general superintendent, did not read his report, but offered to answer any questions related to it.

A motion prevailed to receive the report with appreciation.

### **General Secretary's Report**

Joseph R. Flower, general secretary, read only the introduction and the concluding paragraphs of his report and offered to answer any questions.

A motion prevailed to receive the report with appreciation.

### **General Treasurer's Report**

General Treasurer Thomas E. Trask highlighted the World Ministries Giving and the ministers health insurance areas of his report.

A motion prevailed to accept the report of the general treasurer.

### **Audit Report**

Thomas E. Trask, general treasurer, using a summary statement which was distributed to the delegates, presented the Audit Report. He noted that the independent accountants' report shows a "clean" unqualified opinion.

He also noted that because of a budget deficit in 1990, a \$5 million operating debt limit was established by the General Presbytery. However, the operating fund shows a \$407,000 plus figure as of March 31, 1991. He stated, "To just put it simply, friends, God has wrought a marvelous miracle, and I want to be very careful to identify that God has done it. We could do all the things that need to be done, but it took the blessing of the Lord upon the General Council." He expressed appreciation to the pastors and churches for continued support.

A motion prevailed to accept the report of the final audit with thanks to God and deep appreciation to Brother Trask and the Executive Presbytery.

### **Resolution in Memory of Thomas F. Zimmerman**

A motion prevailed to adopt the following resolution read by General Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson in memory of Thomas F. Zimmerman.

WHEREAS, Our sovereign Lord in every generation raises up leaders that others might benefit from their example, their gifts, their selfless and sacrificial service; and

WHEREAS, Under the anointing and blessing of God, Dr. Thomas F. Zimmerman gave outstanding and dynamic leadership to the Assemblies of God Fellowship for 26 years as general superintendent; and

WHEREAS, Under his God-ordained leadership our Movement matured in its ministries and program; and

WHEREAS, During Brother Zimmerman's tenure the Assemblies of God in the United States increased fourfold in members and adherents and grew to 15 million worldwide; and

WHEREAS, His service to our Fellowship exemplified the highest commitment to His Lord and Savior, and a passion to evangelize the lost which was the heart of his ministry; and

WHEREAS, His leadership extended far beyond the bounds of our Fellowship to other Pentecostal groups such as the Pentecostal World Conference and the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America, and

beyond that he was a statesman for the Pentecostal movement to such organizations as the National Religious Broadcasters, the Lausanne Committee on World Evangelization, the National Association of Evangelicals, the American Bible Society, the American Festival on Evangelism, Key 73, and the Year of the Bible; and

WHEREAS, It is appropriate during this business session to so honor our beloved former general superintendent whom God had blessed with outstanding acumen and expertise in chairing the business of many General Councils; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we herewith express glory and praise to God for loaning to us this choice servant/leader, Thomas F. Zimmerman; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we express deep and grateful thanks to his dear wife, Elizabeth, for her faithful and untiring support of his ministry as he gave himself and his talents to the ministries of our Fellowship; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this 44th General Council in session declare Sunday, August 11, 1991, as Thomas F. Zimmerman Day at which time there will be a special memoriam.

Mrs. Elizabeth Zimmerman, along with her daughter and son-in-law, Elizabeth and Paul Tinlin, were present for the presentation of the above resolution. A bouquet of roses was presented to Mrs. Zimmerman. She expressed her appreciation and love for the Assemblies of God.

#### Report of Ministers Benefit Association

Everett Stenhouse, chairman of the Ministers Benefit Association Board of Directors, presented the report of the MBA. A motion prevailed to accept the report as presented.

#### Departmental Reports

A motion prevailed to accept all other divisional and departmental reports as printed in the 1989-91 Biennial Report booklet.

#### Roster Committee Report

R. Stanton Williams, cochairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 10 a.m., Wednesday, August 7:

Ordained ministers	3,016	
Delegates	795	
Voting constituency		3,811
Licensed ministers	387	
Visitors	4,943	
Nonvoting constituency		5,330
Total registration		9,141

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

#### Report of the Division of Christian Education Study Committee

Copies of the Report of the Division of Christian Education Study Committee, as authorized by the 1991 General Presbytery, were distributed to the delegates.

Ronald F. McManus, chairman of the committee to study the Division of Christian Education and Related Areas, presented the report. Members of the committee were seated on the platform.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the report and all of its recommendations.

Following a time of discussion when several questions were answered, especially in relation to locating the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary adjacent to Evangel College, a motion prevailed that the consideration of the area of the report dealing with the Springfield Schools and Related Areas be separated from the other part of the report.

#### Greetings from Bahamas and Jamaica

The general secretary read greetings received from Vernon Moses, general superintendent of the Bahamas, and from Vernon Kincade, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God of Jamaica.

#### Recess

The meeting recessed at 12:05 p.m. to reconvene at 2 p.m. Bert Webb, former assistant general superintendent, closed in prayer.

#### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 7

The Wednesday afternoon session of the 44th General Council was opened with Ron Cochran leading the congregation in singing. Serving at the piano and organ, respectively, were Sharon Burdine and Daniel Wood, both from First Assembly of God, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Prayer for the afternoon session was offered by John Wilson, pastor of West County Assembly of God, Chesterfield, Missouri.

#### Business Session

The business session was called to order at 2:10 p.m. by General Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson.

#### Roster Report

Tom Drake, cochairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 2 p.m., Wednesday, August 7:

Ordained ministers	3,351	
Delegates	872	
Total voting		4,223
Licensed ministers	436	
Visitors	5,359	
Nonvoting constituency		5,795
Total registration		10,018

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

### Election of Officers

The chairman asked the general secretary to read the bylaw pertaining to the election of officers, Article II, Section 1.

### Election of Assistant General Superintendent

Ballots were distributed for the election of assistant general superintendent. Larry H. Griswold of Joliet, Illinois, was asked to lead in prayer for God's guidance.

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

Votes cast	1,439
Needed to elect	959

Everett R. Stenhouse received 1,196

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: Jay Alford 1, Charles Anderson 1, Tommy Barnett 2, Almon Bartholomew 6, Philip Bongiorno 3, Eugene Born 1, Robert L. Brandt 3, James Bridges 11, J. Brown 1, Warren Bullock 7, G. Carlson 1, Owen Carr 1, Glen Cole 32, Fred Cottriel 1, Charles Crabtree 34, Charles Crank 7, G. R. Carlson 2, Joseph R. Flower 2, Richard Foth 1, Gene Jackson 1, Mike Japroski 1, Cecil Janway 1, Silas Gaither 1, Robert Crabtree 1, J. Foy Johnson 1, G. Kellman 1, Vaudie Lambert 1, Paul Lowenberg 4, Frank Martin 1, Ronald McManus 1, Jesse Miranda 3, Derald Musgrove 2, Armon Newburn 6, Maurice Lednicky 1, Don Logan 1, Ernest Moen 1, John Paproski 1, Robert Pirtle 1, T. Ray Rachels 2, Hugh Rosenberg 1, John Palmer 1, Douglas Pinkston 1, H. Robert Rhoden 1, Roy Sapp 1, Robert Schmidgall 67, R. Shelton 1, Robert Sites 1, Howard Spruill 1, E. Steinberg 1, Thomas Trask 3, D. Umbele 1, William Vickery 1, Kenneth Woll 2, Philip Wannemacher 7, Bobby Wilson 2, George Wood 1, David Ytterrock 1

### Remarks From Everett Stenhouse

Brother Carlson invited Everett Stenhouse to make any remarks he wished. Brother Stenhouse expressed his thanks to those present and to the entire Fellowship. "My wife and I cherish the friendships we have developed over these past 6 years while traveling to our churches and districts. We will be eternally grateful for the privilege we have had of serving this Fellowship. We love you and we pledge to you our very best efforts in the next 2 years, if Jesus tarries."

### Report of the Division of Christian Education Study Committee (Continued)

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the report of the Christian Education Study Committee with all of its recommendations. Following a time of discussion the motion carried.

The chairman of the committee reread the portion of the report dealing with Springfield Schools and Related Areas which by motion was to be dealt with separately. Its adoption was moved and seconded.

It was moved and seconded that item 3 be amended by deleting the words, "be moved to the campus of Evangel College so it may," thus making recommendation 3 read, "We believe that Assemblies of God Theological Seminary is at a critical point in its history; therefore, we recommend that AGTS develop its own facilities and identity," and further that the entire paragraph, recommendation number 4, be deleted.

A motion was made and seconded, in view of the many implications, that the report be referred for any action and implementation to the Executive Presbytery. The motion to refer was lost.

The motion to amend by deletion was lost.

The motion to adopt the recommendations regarding Springfield Schools and Related Areas was carried. The Christian Education Study Committee Report, including the recommendations regarding Springfield Schools and Related Areas, as adopted follows:

### Committee Report by the Christian Education Study Committee

The committee's assignment came from the resolution passed at the 1989 General Council in Indianapolis, which reads as follows: "The previous committee's report as well as the enabling resolutions be referred back to the committee with a request that the Executive Presbytery double the size of the committee with the additional members being selected from the General Presbytery, with instructions that the committee report to the 1990 session of the General Presbytery and subsequently to the 1991 General Council, and further that said report be considered by this body only after approval of a majority vote of the General Presbytery."

The committee has met five times to discuss the direction and recommendations that should be made. Because the previous committee's work involved hundreds of hours of research, the present committee, rather than going back over the same territory, has been able to use the wealth of research and information from the previous committee's work to draw our conclusions in this report.

The Christian Education Study Committee desires to express deep appreciation to the previous committee chairman and members for their outstanding work and to thank them for assuming a very difficult assignment and carrying through with what was asked of them.

### **General Council Headquarters Structure**

The committee has spent extensive time studying the present headquarters structure as well as the recommendations of the previous committee. We concur with the fact that the Church School Literature Department and the Sunday School Department need to be brought into closer working relationship. It is the expressed opinion of the committee that both the local church Christian education areas, which include Sunday School and Church School Literature, and the Education Department deserve status that would demonstrate their importance to this Fellowship. Both Sunday School and Education maintain department status presently.

Although the Sunday School and Education Departments are both considered education, there is a feeling on the part of the committee that local church Christian education linked with the Education Department would fail to give proper emphasis to these important areas of our Fellowship. Hence, the committee recommends that two divisions be formed—the Division of Christian Education, which would raise the level of importance of Sunday school and local church education in our Fellowship; and the Division of Christian Higher Education, which would raise the level of importance of our colleges, institutes, and seminary. The committee recommendation includes expansion of areas in the Division of Christian Higher Education, as well as creation of a Board of Education that would represent all facets of our approved institutions of higher education.

The structure of these divisions would be as follows:

#### **Division of Christian Education**

A Division of Christian Education would include the present Sunday School Department, Church School Literature Department, and Literature Sales Department. It would also be involved in the coordination of local church Christian schools. The Board of Christian Education would consist of 14 members representing every aspect of local church Christian education in our Fellowship.

Sunday school must not be viewed as a departmental ministry. By

its scope, it must have a central place in the life of the church. While one can successfully argue that other ministries have equal or even greater impact upon the individual, Sunday school alone ministers to all the people regardless of age, and ministers to each individual for his entire life. The Sunday school is not a part of the church; it is the church studying God's Word, just as the morning service is the same church worshipping the God of the Word. During the early 1950s, Sunday school was at its height with regional conventions drawing up to 12,000 people. Changes were made immediately after 1954 regarding the Sunday school's structure in our Fellowship. Statistical charts show a definite slump in Sunday school growth from 1956 to 1964 and in a 4- to 6-year time lag, a similar slowing in membership growth.

The spurt of growth in the first half of the 70s is likely the result of the charismatic revival. However, in the early 70s there was also renewed interest in Sunday schools, especially highlighted by bus ministry. The later 70s brought a questioning of the very role of Sunday school. As a result, nearly 400 churches now report on ACMR they do not have a Sunday school.

A research project by Loren Orchard in 1987 indicated that dropping solid Christian education in the local church is followed 6 to 18 months later by a downturn in worship. In 1989, Sunday school attendance was down by 23,000. The 1990 ACMR is showing an encouraging turn in these figures.

Certainly Sunday school is not the only ministry of the church. However, a well-coordinated teaching ministry is essential to stabilizing and disciplining both our converts and our children. It is the single ministry of the local church that involves the largest number of workers.

The committee feels that there is need to raise the level of priority and importance of Sunday school in our Fellowship during this Decade of Harvest. The committee believes the first step toward that is for the structure of our headquarters to be adjusted to incorporate an expression of our priority on this critical area of teaching, training, and evangelism. The national director of this Division of Christian Education would be available to concentrate his time and efforts toward promoting, encouraging, and leading a resurgence of Sunday school in our Fellowship.

The Christian school movement is continuing to grow and will need additional services in the future. At the present time, there are 1,208 preschool/schools with 117,353 enrolled. Because of its relationship within the local church, the committee feels it will function best within this division.

#### **Division of Christian Higher Education**

Over the last 20 years our Fellowship has grown and made tremendous strides. The enrollment in schools of higher education in the

Assemblies of God has remained at the same level for a number of years. For example: in 1978 there were 1,300,000 adherents with 7,672 students enrolled in our 10 recognized colleges. In 1987, there were 2,250,000 adherents with college enrollment at 8,602 at the same 10 colleges. Each year 30,000 students graduate from high school in our Fellowship. At the present time, approximately 3,000 students are enrolled in these Assemblies of God colleges as freshmen.

Several of our educational institutions are facing financial crises that threaten their survival. Should any of them fail, it will impact our capacities to continue to supply adequately trained ministers. The demise of even one college, institute, or seminary adversely affects our entire Movement.

The Division of Foreign Missions has very effectively forged a union between evangelism and education. Conversions are followed by disciple making and ministerial training. Outreach and education/training are cornerstones of Assemblies of God foreign policy. The committee feels that unfortunately in the United States we have been unable to forge this same relationship between evangelism and education/training. The perception of the value of our educational institutions must change to match that of the overseas brethren.

The Decade of Harvest properly emphasizes prayer, conversions, and church planting, but the assumption seems to be that our educational institutions will attain the ministerial training goals without additional emphasis, support, and finances from the Fellowship.

This points to the need for our Fellowship to make the financial commitment for the educational needs of our constituents and to accept the responsibility for our educational institutions. The Fellowship must commit itself to the premise that our young people are our number one priority and resource. With that commitment must come a new flow of financial support to our institutions, a vehicle of communication from our Fellowship to all of our youth, a broader understanding of the importance of the regional colleges to the General Council, and an awareness of the critical role our educational facilities fill in perpetuating the Pentecostal message. The committee views its work as a first step in elevating higher education in our Movement.

The committee believes our headquarters structure must prioritize this area, providing for an in-depth study and outline of plans that would reverse the present trends and prevent us from continuing to lose our young people to other institutions. For this reason, the committee recommends the establishment of a Division of Christian Higher Education. The Division of Christian Higher Education would include a national director, department secretary over postsecondary education, and the development of two additional areas under the national director's leadership.

### *Nontraditional Education*

The committee feels that the area of nontraditional education needs to be explored and developed through this division under the leadership of the national director. The area should include encouraging the preparation of correspondence and video courses; promotion of short, intensive ministers institutes and seminars; and development of the ministers of the Assemblies of God in general.

### *Office of Development*

The committee also recommends an Office of Development under the leadership of the national director. The Office of Development would provide leadership in fund-raising and in all areas of development for our endorsed colleges and seminary.

### *Postsecondary Education Department*

This department would exist basically as presently configured. Its purpose would be to facilitate the development of a coordinated system of higher education in the Assemblies of God endorsed by the Board of Christian Higher Education.

### *Curriculum Coordinator*

In 1971 under the restructuring at General Council, provision was made for a full-time curriculum coordinator under the general superintendent's leadership. The committee feels it would be important to fill that position with a full-time person as finances allow.

There is need for coordination from headquarters of all curriculum items going to the local church. The curriculum coordinator would serve as a liaison between the Division of Church Ministries and the Division of Christian Education. This would allow for evaluation and coordination of all ministries that relate to the local church.

### *Financial Considerations*

The proposed headquarters structure would require the addition of a national director for the Division of Christian Education and a development position in the Division of Christian Higher Education.

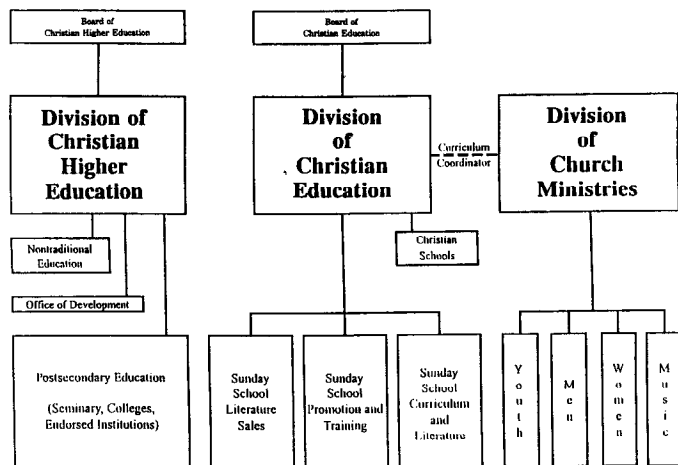
It is the expressed feeling of the committee that if we proceed with this structure and allow the national director of Christian Education to move into the forefront of Sunday school leadership in our Fellowship, resources would be generated through additional curriculum sales to more than offset the operation of this office.

The committee has conducted extensive interviews with headquarters personnel and gathered information from the Division of the Treas-



surey. We believe there could be an effective streamlining of the departments to make the new structure cost-effective.

## FLOW CHART OF PROPOSED STRUCTURE



### Springfield Schools and Related Areas

The committee spent several hours reviewing the recommendations by the previous committee. Our recommendations are as follows:

1. At the present time we believe further study is needed regarding the linkage of the four Springfield schools. When the previous committee began its work, Evangel College was facing great financial difficulty and Central Bible College was experiencing a downturn in enrollment. Since that time both Evangel College and Central Bible College have seen a substantial change in these areas.

2. We believe it is important for continued cooperation to be developed between the four Springfield schools, and an effort should be made to enhance this relationship.

3. We believe that the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary is at a critical point in its history; therefore, we recommend that ACTS be moved to the campus of Evangel College so it may develop its own facilities and identity.

4. The committee also recommends that a blue-ribbon committee be formed to study the logistics of bringing together library, food

service, and other operations that could be tied together between Evangel College and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary. The committee feels that ACTS and Evangel College should both maintain their separate identities and governance but coordinate their efforts as feasible.

5. We recommended a board of directors be formed for the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary to give its full attention to development of the seminary. This has been implemented.

6. The committee is not prepared to make a recommendation regarding the linkage of Berean College with one of the other schools at this time. We believe it will be important for the institute-level programs of Berean College to be maintained for those involved in the entry level of our credentialing process. We would want to safeguard this aspect even if linkage is made in the future.

7. A committee has been appointed by the Executive Presbytery to study a theology of ministry. As a result, the committee did not spend time on this area.

### Resolution To Implement Division of Christian Education

At the request of the chairman, George Wood, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented and moved the adoption of the enabling resolution necessary to implement the recommendation contained in the Christian Education Study Committee for the Division of Education.

A motion was made and seconded that action on the enabling resolutions be deferred one day allowing the body adequate time to acquaint itself with the proposals. The motion was lost.

A motion was made and seconded that the previous motion to adopt the report be reconsidered, thus giving opportunity for discussion of the enabling resolutions. The motion was lost.

Clarification was made by the chair to the body that when a report has been adopted, the necessary implementing bylaws are included in that action.

After further discussion a motion prevailed that the resolutions containing amendments to the bylaws which are a part of the Christian Education Study Committee Report be dealt with seriatim.

A motion prevailed to amend Article XIII, paragraph e (line 4, page 11), by adding the words, "a professor of Christian education from one of the endorsed colleges," following the words, "(providing some regional distribution)."

It was moved and seconded to amend Article XIII, paragraph e (line 2, page 11), by deleting the words, "if possible," and adding the words, "one of which does not have any form of higher education." The motion lost.

Due to the amendment adopted earlier, a motion prevailed to amend

Article XIII, paragraph e (line 27, page 10), by changing the number which will serve on the Board of Christian Education from "14" to "15."

The motion to adopt the resolution to implement the Division of Christian Education was carried.

The resolution as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The study committee feels that there is a need to raise the level of priority and importance of Sunday school in our Fellowship during this Decade of Harvest; and

WHEREAS, The committee believes the first step toward this is for the structure of our headquarters to be adjusted to incorporate an expression of our priority on this critical area of teaching, training; and evangelism; and

WHEREAS, A national director of a Division of Christian Education would be available to concentrate his time and efforts toward promoting, encouraging, and leading a resurgence of Sunday school in our Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, The Christian school movement is continuing to grow and will need additional services in the future; and

WHEREAS, The Church School Literature Department develops and produces the materials used by church education and therefore needs a close working relationship; and

WHEREAS, The Literature Sales Department promotes the use of educational materials produced by Church School Literature thereby necessitating a closer working relationship between them; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That a Division of Christian Education be created which includes a Sunday School Promotion and Training Department, Sunday School Curriculum and Literature Department, Sunday School Literature Sales Department, and a Christian school representative; and be it further.

RESOLVED, That the bylaws be amended to implement this new structure; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this division be made Article XIII in the bylaws and subsequent articles be renumbered accordingly, and the amended bylaws are to be as follows:

a. Sphere of authority. There shall be a Division of Christian Education which shall have general oversight of the Sunday School Promotion and Training Department, the Sunday School Curriculum and Literature Department, the Sunday School Literature Sales Department, and the Christian school representative.

b. Purpose. The purpose of the division is to fulfill the Great Commission, which mandates reaching and winning the lost, and teaching and training for life and service through:

(1) promoting the development of Sunday schools, Christian schools (K-12), and lay education at the local church level:

(2) providing curricular materials and services for Sunday schools, Christian schools (K-12), and adult lay education.

c. National director. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director 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.

e. Board of Christian Education. There shall be a Board of Christian Education consisting of 15 members to be constituted as follows: The national director of the Division of Christian Education who shall serve as chairman; the head of the Sunday School Promotion and Training Department; the head of the Sunday School Curriculum and Literature Sales Department; four pastors of demonstrated support for education (representative of churches of 0-99, 100-299, 300-499, and 500-plus, regionally distributed if possible); two local church Christian education directors; two district Christian education directors (providing some regional distribution); a professor of Christian education from one of the endorsed colleges; the president of the Association of Assemblies of God Christian Schools; an executive presbyter; and the general superintendent (ex officio). The chairperson shall designate the secretary of the board.

(1) Selection of board. Those members not serving by virtue of office shall be selected as follows: the members shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery. Effort shall be made to provide general geographical distribution in these nominations.

(2) Terms of office. The members of the Board of Christian Education who do not serve by virtue of office shall serve for terms of 3 years or until their successors qualify. Terms shall be so arranged that approximately one third of them expire each year. Members may be appointed for one succeeding term.

(3) Authority and amenability. The government and work of the Division of Christian Education shall be vested in and committed to the Board of Christian Education. It shall conduct its own meetings annually. The board shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery. The authority of the Board of Christian Education shall include: supervising the activities of the Division of Christian Education and the departments within it, as well as the committees functioning under it, in fulfilling the divisional and departmental mission.

(4) Executive committee. There shall be an executive committee of the Board of Christian Education which shall meet as needed to carry out the decisions of the Board of Christian Education. The executive committee shall consist of 6 members including the na-

tional director of Christian Education, the head of the Sunday School Promotion and Training Department, the head of the Sunday School Curriculum and Literature Department, the head of the Sunday School Literature Sales Department, one pastor, and one district Christian education director. Those not serving by virtue of office shall be selected by the Board of Christian Education.

#### Section 1. Sunday School Curriculum and Literature Department

##### a. Authorization and purpose

(1) There shall be a Sunday School Curriculum and Literature Department which shall be charged with the responsibility of preparing all literature, curriculum, and educational materials provided by The General Council of the Assemblies of God for Sunday schools, Christian schools (K-12), and adult lay education in the local church.

##### b. Government and organization

(1) Editor in chief. There shall be an editor in chief 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. Sunday School Promotion and Training Department

##### a. Authorization and purpose

(1) There shall be a Sunday School Promotion and Training Department which shall be responsible to encourage and promote the development of Sunday schools and local church adult lay education.

(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.

(3) The functions of the Sunday School Promotion and Training Department further shall include:

(a) To assist districts and local churches in setting up effective programs in Sunday school, adult lay education, and other educational activities of the local church, such as vacation Bible school.

(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 promotional literature.

##### b. Government and organization.

(1) Department secretary. The Executive Presbytery in consultation with the national director shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Christian Education.

c. Official publication. The *Sunday School Counselor* shall be recognized as an official publication of the Sunday School Training and Promotion 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, Christian school (K-12), and adult lay education efficiency, growth, and development.

(b) To encourage every Sunday school in the district to establish written operational policies based on "Directions—For the Decade of Harvest."

(c) To promote Sunday school, church school, and adult lay education 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 3. Sunday School Literature Sales Department

##### a. Authorization and purpose

(1) There shall be a Sunday School Literature Sales Department which shall be responsible for the promotion and sale of all materials produced by the Division of Christian Education.

(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) Department secretary. The Executive Presbytery, in consultation with the national director, shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Christian Education.

(2) The department shall include regional field representatives who shall be responsible for promoting sales of all Division of Christian Education materials and shall act as Christian education consultants to the churches and districts.

#### Section 4. Christian schools

a. Authorization and purpose. There may be a Christian school representative who shall be responsible:

(1) To encourage and promote the development of Christian schools (K-12).

(2) To assist districts and local churches in setting up effective Christian school (K-12) programs.

(3) Within his/her field, to assist the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. Government and organization. The Executive Presbytery, in consultation with the national director, shall be empowered to appoint the Christian school representative who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Christian Education.

#### Resolution To Implement Division of Christian Higher Education

George Wood read the resolution to implement the Division of Christian Higher Education recommended by the Christian Education Study Committee Report and moved its adoption. It was moved and seconded that Article XII, paragraph e (line 28, page 18), be amended by changing the number of board members from 18 to 19 and adding, "the secretary of the Postsecondary Education Department to serve as secretary," following the words, "who shall serve as chairman," so the paragraph will read: "e. Board of Christian Higher Education. There shall be a Board of Christian Higher Education which shall consist of 19 members to be constituted as follows: the national director of the Division of Christian Higher Education, who shall serve as chairman; the secretary of the Postsecondary Education Department, who shall serve as secretary; . . ."

It was noted that by including the ex officio member who will serve on the Board of Christian Higher Education, the member just added by the previous motion would make the total membership 20.

A motion prevailed to amend line 30 by changing the number "18" to "20."

#### Election of General Secretary

Ballots were distributed for the election of general secretary.

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

Ballots cast	1,857
Needed to elect	1,237
Joseph R. Flower	1,570

Having noted that Joseph R. Flower received in excess of the two-thirds vote, the chairman declared Joseph R. Flower reelected as general secretary.

Brother Flower expressed his appreciation for the vote of confidence and stated he accepted the will of this body as the will of God for his life.

The following is a list of all other nominees: Arden Adamson 1, Joe Adams 2, Donald Annas 3, Jay Alford 1, Almon Bartholomew 9, David Blattner 1, Philip Bongiorno 1, Robert L. Brandt 3, James K. Bridges 9, R. Brown 1, Warren Bullock 5, David Bundrick 1, Ross Byers 2, Frank Cargill 2, Owen Carr 1, R. Carlson 3, Frank Cole 2, Glen Cole 36, Rick Cole 1, Donald Corbin 1, Charles Crabtree 2, Robert Crabtree 4, Charles Crank 21, Thomas Crank 1, Dale Edwards 1, Roy Creamer 1, David Divine 1, Richard Dresselhaus 1, David Flower 4, N. Foster 1, Richard Foth 2, William Gallaher 1, Paul Goodman 1, P. Grabel 1, R. Hoffing 1, Raymond Hudson 1, D. V. Hurst 1, Gene Jackson 1, Cecil Janway 1, Elmer Kirschman 1, Clarence Lambert 2, Fred Leader 3, H. Maurice Lednický 2, Don Logan 2, G.L. Johnson 1, Robert Maddux 1, D. Maskes 1, Ronald McManus 4, J. Don McManus 3, Warren McPherson 1, L. J. Moore 4, Derald Musgrove 1, Armon Newburn 7, Leonard Nipper 4, Randy Orris 2, Ronald Padgett 1, J. Palmer 1, Robert Pirtle 1, Doug Pinkston 1, T. Ray Rachels 6, H. Rice 1, Nathan Richardson 4, Robert Rhoden 1, Robert Schmidgall 14, Manuel Shoults 1, Robert Sites 1, Robert Spence 1, Howard Spruill 1, O. D. Stanley, Jr. 1, M. Stout 1, Thomas Trask 29, J. Tufte 1, W. Vagle 1, William Vickery 19, Philip Wannenmacher 3, C. Wigley 1, Hubert Wilder 1, H. Williams 1, George Wood 23, Daniel York 1.

#### Election of General Treasurer

Ballots were distributed for the election of the general treasurer.

Joseph Flower was asked to read the provision in the General Council Bylaws for the election of general treasurer. He was also asked to present the nominees for the office of general treasurer. He indicated the only name being brought to this body by the General Presbytery is the name of Thomas E. Trask.

Warren McPherson gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the office of general treasurer:

Ballots cast	1,528
Needed to elect	1,018
Thomas E. Trask	1,502

The chairman, noting that Thomas E. Trask received well in excess of the two-thirds vote required, declared him elected as general treasurer.

Brother Carlson called on Thomas E. Trask to make any comments he wished. Brother Trask responded by saying he and his wife have considered it a high honor to be asked to serve in this capacity. He gave his thanks to the churches and districts who have opened places of ministry to him, and added, "It is a delight to do the will of God. It is a pleasure and a thrill."

### Recess

The meeting recessed at 5 p.m. Curtis Ringness, Highland, California, closed in prayer.

### WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE—AUGUST 7

The Wednesday evening service was under the direction of Robert L. Brandt, executive presbyter for the Northwest Area. Edward Peecher, pastor of New Heritage Christian Center in Chicago, Illinois, gave the Scripture reading from Psalm 34:11-22. Prayer was offered by Chaplain Jerry Webb. The congregational singing was led by Ormel Chapin from First Assembly of God, Bend, Oregon. Steve Singleton of Berean Assembly of God, Springfield, Oregon, and Donella Hunt, music director of Christian Life Center, Aloha, Oregon, served at the piano and organ, respectively. Randy Wright played the electronic keyboard. William Galaher, superintendent of the Oregon District, made the offering appeal. The offertory and special music for the service were provided by singer Brenda Davis.

Prior to the message for the evening, G. Raymond Carlson presented the General Superintendent's Medal of Honor citation to Gwendoline Jones, former editor of the *Advance* magazine. This special citation was given in recognition of her 50 years of meritorious service to the Assemblies of God as a lay person. She was the third person to receive this award reserved for lay persons.

The speaker for the service was Earl Baldwin, senior pastor for Trinity Assembly of God, Lutherville, Maryland. He serves on the Decade of Harvest Task Force and has led his church in mothering 10 churches in the Baltimore area. The theme for his message was "Knowing His Priority." He used the account of Enoch's walk with God as a backdrop. His challenge was to be committed to walk with God as Enoch did. He noted that Enoch walked the "right way," he "pleased the right person," and he "preached the right message." He emphasized that walking with God means conforming to the image of Christ and the most important aspect of this conformity and walk is holiness.

### THURSDAY MORNING—AUGUST 8

A time of prayer and praise began at 9:15 on Thursday morning. Philip Wannenmacher led the singing and prayer time. Musicians were Lois Graber, Canton, Ohio, at the piano, and Gwen Jones, Springfield, Missouri, at the organ. The 10 a.m. business session was opened by Everett Stenhouse. Ron Cochran led in singing. Serving at the piano and organ, respectively, were Judy McEachran, minister of music for First Assembly of God, Aberdeen, South Dakota, and Judy Rosenberg, Tri-County Assembly of God, Fairfield, Ohio. B. Q. Grimes, western district superintendent and assistant general superintendent of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland, led in a time of prayer. He brought greetings to General

Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson and the entire General Council from General Superintendent Roy D. King and the 167 churches of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland.

The offering appeal was made by Robert Rose, secretary-treasurer of the Oregon District. Judy McEachran presented a piano solo for the offertory.

### Business Session

Chairman Carlson, first giving recognition to the fraternal delegates attending the General Council from various countries around the world, called the business session to order at 10:20 a.m.

### Roster Committee Report

R. Stanton Williams, cochairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report of the Roster Committee as of 10 a.m., Thursday, August 8:

Ordained ministers	3,299	
Delegates	862	
Voting constituency		4,161
Licensed ministers	427	
Visitors	5,294	
Nonvoting constituency		5,721
Total registration		9,882

A motion prevailed to receive this progress report.

### Election of Executive Director of the Division of Foreign Missions

A ballot was distributed for the election of the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions.

Brother Flower was asked to read the provision in the bylaws for the nomination and election of this office.

The general secretary reported that the nominee being presented by the General Presbytery is Loren Triplett.

Warren McPherson gave the following report of the first elective ballot for executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions:

Ballots cast	972
Needed to elect	647
Loren Triplett	943

The chairman, having noted that Loren Triplett received well in excess of the two-thirds vote required, declared Loren Triplett reelected as executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions.

Brother Carlson invited Loren Triplett to respond in whatever manner

he wished. Brother Triplett stated, "I accept the grand privilege of serving you and your attempts to be obedient to the mandate of Jesus Christ. Mine is a job of simply serving the church in America that feels its desire to obey. It's a wonderful privilege, and I pray that God will lead me, by the Holy Spirit, to assist you to carry out the mandate."

#### **Election of Nonresident Executive Presbyters**

The packet of eight ballots to be used for the election of the nonresident executive presbyters was distributed. General Secretary Joseph R. Flower read Bylaw Article II, Section 2, paragraph e, relative to the election of nonresident executive presbyters. Chairman Carlson offered instructions as to the proper method of marking the ballots.

#### **Resolution To Implement Division of Christian Higher Education (Continued)**

The chairman indicated that an amendment to Article XII, paragraph e (line 30, page 18), had been adopted prior to recess, therefore the resolution establishing a Division of Christian Higher Education is before the house as amended.

A motion prevailed to amend Article XII, Section 2, paragraph a (1) (line 23, page 25), by inserting the phrase, "extension education, external studies, weekend programs," following the word "include," and by deleting the phrase beginning on line 23, "encouraging the preparation of reading correspondence, video courses, as well as the promotion of short," and inserting on line 26, following the word "seminars," the words "and credit for life experience," and further, on line 27 the sentence "The division shall develop criteria for nontraditional education programs to ensure integrity," and on page 26, line 7, following the word "College," the words "two representatives from other endorsed schools with nontraditional education programs;" would be added.

A motion was made, and the enabling bylaw provision read which would, in essence, change the position of national director of the Division of Christian Higher Education, to an executive director. The motion was lost.

A motion was made to amend on page 18, line 30, by changing the number who serve on the Board of Christian Higher Education from 20, as previously amended, to 23, and to add the phrase on page 19, line 4, "three faculty members representative of the colleges throughout the nation." The motion was lost.

Following a time of further discussion, the motion to adopt the resolution prevailed.

The resolution as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The goals expressed in the Decade of Harvest call for 20,000 new ministers; and

WHEREAS, There are increasing demands for education placed upon the church by our society; and

WHEREAS, The ministries of our educational institutions need a higher and more visible profile in our movement; and

WHEREAS, The enrollment of our educational institutions has not kept pace with national Assemblies of God growth, and steps must be taken to reverse this trend; and

WHEREAS, Strong leadership is needed to perpetuate our Pentecostal distinctive and heritage through our educational institutions; and

WHEREAS, The crucial financial needs of our educational institutions necessitate a greater awareness of these needs and a deeper commitment of our Fellowship to fund higher education; and

WHEREAS, The Division of Foreign Missions has effectively demonstrated a working balance in the blend of evangelism and education/training; and

WHEREAS, A committee authorized by this Council believes that this proposed Division of Christian Higher Education is financially feasible; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That a Division of Christian Higher Education be created which includes a Postsecondary Education Department, Office of Development, and an Office of Nontraditional Education; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Article XII in the bylaws be amended as follows:

#### **Article XII. Division of Christian Higher Education**

a. Sphere of authority. There shall be a Division of Christian Higher Education which shall have general oversight of the Department of Postsecondary Education; development and nontraditional aspects of our educational endeavors.

b. Purpose. The purpose of the division is to fulfill the Great Commission, which mandates reaching and winning the lost, and teaching and training for life and service through

(1) guiding in the development of a higher education system and structure;

(2) guiding in the development of programs in nontraditional and continuing education; and in its sphere of activity seeking to fulfill the threefold mission of the Assemblies of God;

(3) directing an Office of Development to promote and raise funds for endorsed Assemblies of God institutions.

c. National director. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. He shall be charged with the operation of the Division of Christian Higher 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.

e. Board of Christian Higher Education. There shall be a Board of Christian Higher Education which shall consist of 20 members to be constituted as follows: the national director of the Division of Christian Higher Education, who shall serve as chairman; the secretary of the Postsecondary Education Department, who shall serve as secretary; an executive presbyter; four pastors who have demonstrated zeal and support for Assemblies of God higher education, nominated by the Executive Presbytery subject to ratification by the General Presbytery, (not associated with the internal administration of an Assemblies of God college, and distributed equally across the United States); three lay members of college boards, three chairpersons of college boards, six presidents of endorsed colleges; and the general superintendent (ex officio).

(1) Selection of board. Those members of the Board of Christian Higher Education not serving by virtue of office shall be selected as follows: The executive presbyter shall be selected by the Executive Presbytery. The four pastors shall be elected by the general presbyters during its annual meeting; the three lay members, three chairmen, and six presidents shall be appointed to the board by the Executive Presbytery in such a way that all endorsed institutions are represented in rotation. The presidents shall be nominated on a rotating basis with at least 2 years elapsing before a president can be returned to the board.

(2) Terms of office. The members of the Board of Christian Higher Education who do not serve by virtue of office shall serve for terms of 3 years or until their successors qualify. Terms shall be so arranged that approximately one-third expire each year. Members may be appointed for one succeeding term, except the presidents and the chairperson of college boards who may serve only a single 3-year term and will then be replaced.

(3) Authority and amenability. The government and work of the Division of Christian Higher Education shall be vested in and committed to the Board of Christian Higher Education. It shall conduct its own meetings annually. The presidents of endorsed colleges and institutions who are not members of the board are invited to the meetings of the Board of Christian Higher Education at their own expense, with the privilege of the floor but without the privilege of voting. The board shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery. The authority of the Board of Christian Higher Education shall include:

(a) To supervise the activities of the Division of Christian Higher Education and the department(s) within it as well as the com-

mittees functioning under it in fulfilling the division and departmental missions.

(b) To review the endorsement of Assemblies of God postsecondary schools on the basis of endorsement criteria developed by the Board of Christian Higher Education and approved by the Executive Presbytery, and taking appropriate action with regard to the renewal of such endorsement as recommended by a subcommittee which the board shall establish for this purpose.

(c) As determined by the needs of the Fellowship, developing the Assemblies of God education structure through advice and counsel, including recommendations concerning forming, merging, or the continuation of Assemblies of God postsecondary schools.

(4) Executive committee. There shall be an executive committee of the Board of Christian Higher Education that shall meet if necessary to conduct business when the Board of Christian Higher Education is not in session. The executive committee shall consist of 7 members including the general superintendent, the national director of Christian Higher Education, the head of the Postsecondary Education Department, one pastor, one college president, one layman, and one chairman of a college board. Those not serving by virtue of office shall be selected by the Board of Christian Higher Education.

## Section 1. Postsecondary Education Department

### a. Authorization and purpose

(1) Responsibility. There shall be a Postsecondary Education Department which shall have as its purpose working toward and facilitating the development of a coordinated system of higher education in the Assemblies of God endorsed by the Board of Christian Higher Education and comprised of soundly conceived, strong institutions which are equal in status before the Board of Christian Higher Education and equal in support by the entire Fellowship. The Board of Christian Higher Education, working through the department, may encourage the taking of intermediate steps on a regional or cross-regional basis to achieve this general objective. The department shall be 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 junior colleges, senior colleges, Bible institutes, Bible colleges, and graduate schools.

(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 in consultation with the national director shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Christian Higher Education.

(2) Committee on Postsecondary Education. There shall be a committee on postsecondary education which shall consist of the presidents of all endorsed Assemblies of God postsecondary institutions, one of whom shall serve as chairperson. The secretary of the Postsecondary Education Department shall be a member by virtue of office and shall serve as resource person and secretary to the committee. The national director of the division shall be an ex officio member. The chairperson shall be chosen by the committee. The committee shall report to the board through the chairperson.

c. Duties and functions. It shall be the responsibility of the Postsecondary Education Department to seek to maintain a high level of spirituality in all the schools and to guard against any departure from the doctrines 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 responsible to stimulate and encourage interest in Christian postsecondary education and to promote enrollment at the various Assemblies of God schools.

It shall be the duty of the Postsecondary Education Department to conduct a continuous study of the educational institutions and services of the Assemblies of God with the view to their increased effectiveness. The department 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 and may take the initiative in guiding and encouraging the establishment of such schools.

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

(3) Standard of endorsement. It may develop 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 of admission and for graduation; and the general regulations of school life.

(4) General service to all schools. The Postsecondary 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) Certificates of endorsement. The Postsecondary Education Department shall issue certificates of endorsement to postsecondary schools meeting the standards for endorsement established by the Board of Christian Higher Education. Such certificates shall be authorized by the Board of Christian Higher Education after careful evaluation of said schools, with special consideration given to responsiveness to the church's mission, and shall be valid for 1 to 5 years, at the discretion of the Board of Christian Higher Education. No postsecondary 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 established by the Board of Christian Higher Education and has been officially endorsed by the board.

(2) Supervision of funds. It shall be the prerogative of the Postsecondary Education Department to disburse and apportion whatever funds shall come into its possession to the various education institutions of the Assemblies of God in the way 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 Postsecondary Education Department shall consider all endorsed Assemblies of God schools as on an equal basis, regardless of origin, ownership, or control. All schools which are endorsed by the Postsecondary Education Department shall enjoy equal rights of publicity and emphasis in Assemblies of God publications and in the promotional work of the Postsecondary Education Department.

(4) Textbooks. It shall be the prerogative of the Postsecondary Education Department to seek to provide textbooks for our schools reflecting the Assemblies of God doctrine and policy.

## Section 2. Nontraditional Education

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) The Division of Christian Higher Education shall give oversight to the nontraditional aspects of our educational endeavors. This shall include extension education, external studies, weekend programs, intensive ministers institutes and seminars, and credit for life experience for development of the Assemblies of God in general. The division shall develop criteria for nontraditional education programs to ensure integrity.



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

b. Government and organization

(1) The national director of the Division of Christian Higher Education shall administer this field of activity with the provision that as growth appears, a representative may be appointed by the Executive Presbytery to function under his direction.

(2) There shall be a committee on nontraditional education that shall be constituted as follows: The national director of the Division of Christian Higher Education; the president of Berean College; two representatives from other endorsed schools with nontraditional education programs; the national director of the Division of Communications representing the Media Center; a district secretary; and a pastor. The committee members not serving by virtue of office shall be selected by the Executive Presbytery.

### Section 3. Office of Development

The national director of the division shall also provide leadership in fund-raising and development for all our endorsed colleges and seminary. It shall effect a program for securing funds from foundations and other sources as well as the Movement as a whole. A development representative may be appointed by the Executive Presbytery to function under the national director's supervision.

Brother Carlson expressed appreciation to Ron McManus and the committee members who served with him for their work in preparing this report.

### Spiritual Life Committee Report

The secretary of the Spiritual Life Committee, George Wood, was asked to read the entire report of the Spiritual Life Committee as follows:

*This General Council meets, in the 77th year of our history, on the western coast of these United States. Such a setting brings to the fore a remembrance of an initial catalyzing event in this region which mightily contributed to our formation as a Movement: the Azusa Street revival.*

The year was 1906. A major earthquake, lasting minutes, struck San Francisco on April 19. The days prior to that another earthquake, this one spiritual and not confined to a few moments in duration, began in Los Angeles at a home on North Bonnie Brae Street and subsequently moved to an abandoned storefront/barn on 312 Azusa Street. In one way or another every major American Pentecostal denomination, including our Fellowship, can lay claim to its roots as stemming from the Azusa mission.

The Azusa revival extended geographically from its epicenter to the

nations of the world, and it extends chronologically in continuing and accelerating vitality to this hour, 85 years downstream.

In presenting this report, the Spiritual Life Committee seeks for each church, pastor, minister, and lay person in our Fellowship to carefully evaluate whether the essential qualities of the Azusa revival mark our corporate church life and personal experience. The danger of the present hour is that we will forget how God brought us forth; and, in forgetting, will lose our way and become spiritually ineffective and fruitless.

Pastors and people within our Fellowship are being pulled by the siren call of many emphases, methods, doctrines, and personalities dominating the landscape of contemporary church life. Azusa Street provides an antidote against the lure of the pragmatic, the material, and the popular through giving us an anchor and a compass by which to connect where we have been to where we must go.

Here are the five marks from Azusa of a Fellowship which functions with apostolic power. To what degree, we must ask, are each of these marks present in our experience today?

#### 1. A great hunger for God

At the time of the Azusa revival there were many churches, good preachers, stirring liturgical services, and solid fundamentalistic doctrine. But these Azusa pioneers were driven by a hunger: not to know about God, but to know God; not to hear about God, but to hear God.

They wanted to know the Lord in His fullness; thus, the term full gospel.

They took to heart what Jesus declared about the Spirit; that any who believed in Jesus could have streams of living water flow from within him (John 7:37-39). The word "streams" or "rivers" represents a substantial body of water, surging powerfully—flowing out of the inner core of life.

At Pentecost, as at Azusa, the believers experienced this powerful infilling and outflowing through the experience of the baptism and fullness of the Holy Spirit.

They came to the mission on Azusa Street expecting an encounter with God himself. That expectancy and the reality of God's presence made them oblivious to things that seem to matter so much today: well-appointed sanctuaries, neatly packaged and on-time services, the hype of visiting star-quality speakers and singers, homogeneity and upward mobility in the members of the congregation, social recognition, and ecclesiastical power.

The mission itself stood in prophetic contrast against all that the world represents as wise, powerful, and wealthy. They knew only the wisdom, power, and wealth of God. Their humble meeting hall at 312

Azusa Street was described by an Azusa participant and later editor of the *Pentecostal Evangel*, Stanley Frodsham, in this manner:

The place had at one time been a Methodist Church, but it had been converted in part into a tenement house, leaving a large, unplastered barn-like room on the ground floor. It was in the vicinity of a tombstone shop, some stables and a lumber yard, a vicinity where no one complained of all-night meetings.

A leading Methodist layman upon visiting Azusa Street wrote:

I bless God that it did not start in any church in this city, but in a barn, so that we all might come and take part in it. If it had started in a fine church, poor (black) people and Spanish people would not have got it, but praise God it started here. God says He will pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. This is just what is happening here.

The Spiritual Life Committee is not suggesting that God's presence cannot also fill a cathedral or well-built sanctuary; but such edifices are worthless if the Spirit is absent, the poor are excluded, and the gospel is not proclaimed in its fullness.

The Azusa Street revival forces us to ask whether tightly structured and organized services might become a straitjacket to the Holy Spirit. While no one should place a premium on slovenliness in worship, disorder, and emotionality run rampant; nevertheless, is it not possible that a tendency toward controlling the service may preclude an opportunity of the Holy Spirit to move in sovereign fashion among the people of God?

Here how an Azusa Street veteran, Frank Bartleman, described the services:

Brother Seymour (who was the elder) generally sat behind two empty shoe boxes, one on top of the other. He usually kept his head inside the top one during the meeting. The services ran almost continuously. Seeking souls could be found under the power almost any hour, day and night. The place was never closed nor empty, the people came to meet God. He was always there. Hence a continuous meeting. The meeting did not depend on the human leader. God's presence became more and more wonderful. In that old building with its low rafters and bare floors, God took strong men and women to pieces and put them together again for His glory. It was a tremendous overhauling process. Pride and self-assertion, self-importance and self-esteem could not survive there. The religious ego preached its own funeral sermon quickly.

No subjects or sermons were announced ahead of time, and no special speakers for such an hour. No one knew what might be coming, what God would do. All was spontaneous, ordered of the Spirit. We wanted to hear from God, through whomever He might speak. We had no respect of persons. The rich and educated were the same as the poor and ignorant, and found a much harder death

to die. We only recognized God. All were equal. No flesh might glory in His presence . . . Those were Holy Ghost meetings, led of the Lord. It had to start in poor surroundings to keep out the selfish, human element. All came down in humility together at His feet. They all looked alike and had all things in common in that sense at least. The rafters were low, the tall must come down. By the time they got to Azusa they were humbled, ready for the blessing. The fodder was thus placed for the lambs, not for giraffes. All could reach it.

The September 1906 issue of *Apostolic Faith*, the publication from Azusa, described the meetings in this way:

(They) begin about 10 o'clock in the morning and can hardly stop before 10 or 12 at night, and sometimes 2 or 3 in the morning, because so many are seeking, and some are slain under the power of God. People are seeking three times a day at the altar and row after row of seats have to be emptied and filled with seekers. We cannot tell how many people have been saved, and sanctified, and baptized with the Holy Ghost, and healed of all manner of sicknesses. Many are speaking in new tongues . . . We are going on to get more of the power of God.

God is no respecter of persons. He does not respect the Azusa mission any more than the finest cathedral in the world. It is not the place that impresses Him, but the heart of those who come. Is there a hunger for the Lord?

Pastors and evangelists, Bible teachers and exhorters—when you open God's Word to His flock: do you do it to fill the appointed time? Or is your heart full of God first? Do you proclaim to hear others say to you, "Well done," or to have the Word of God confirmed with the authority of the Spirit's power who comes to demonstrate the fullness of God in the midst of the assembly of His people? Are our services designed to entertain and motivate, or are they prayerfully intended to reach the very deepest hunger of saint and sinner alike? Is our church life a gloss, a thin veneer laid over a secular culture and mindset? Or is our life in Christ radically changing the way we think and act?

Arthur Osterberg, an early leader in our Movement, visited Azusa when he was a young man pastoring a small church at 68th and Denver in Los Angeles. He wrote concerning his own experience at Azusa:

Suddenly the Spirit would fall upon the congregation. God himself would give the altar call. Men would fall all over the house like the slain in battle or rush for the altar en masse to seek God. The scene often resembled a forest of fallen trees. Such a scene could not be imitated. I never saw an altar call given in those early days. God himself would call them. And the preacher knew when to quit. When He spoke we all obeyed. It seemed a fearful thing to hinder or grieve the Spirit. The whole place was steeped in prayer. God was in His

holy people. It was for man to keep silent. The shekinah glory rested there . . . I have stopped more than once within two blocks of the place and prayed for strength before I dared go on. The presence of the Lord was so real.

Would it not be appropriate for us to humble our hearts before God and ask Him to grant a sacredness of His presence upon our nearly 12,000 church houses that all might be in awe of the Holy One whom we serve?

So long as any of us consider ourselves full and in need of nothing, we will block God from working in or through us. He sends the rich empty, away. But to the poor, those who hunger for Him, who like Moses long to see God face to face—to them He grants the demonstration of His presence.

## 2. A love for others

The Azusa Street revival witnessed the breakdown of barriers which normally divide people from one another: race, class, gender, wealth, language, education, church affiliation, and culture.

The presiding elder, a black preacher, blind in one eye, named William J. Seymour, served by divine appointment rather than successful political manipulation. The mission had an integrated leadership and congregation—and, although it was decades before the civil rights movement, had an amazing lack of discrimination. This did not please all who observed—including Charles Parham, the spiritual father to William J. Seymour. Racially prejudiced himself, Parham came to Azusa Street and denounced the mingling of races and thereafter his ministry declined. God will not bless such hostility toward anyone for whom Christ died.

Stanley Frodsham said of Azusa:

If a Mexican or a German cannot speak English, he gets up and speaks in his own tongue and feels quite at home, for the Spirit interprets through the face and the people say, Amen.

Each of the 13 issues of *Apostolic Faith*, the only publications from the Azusa mission itself which survive, did not list the publisher or editor, preferring instead that the Lord get the credit. But most of the issues contained a small inset setting forth some of the important principles Azusa stood for. Several of the insets contain this statement:

We are not fighting men or churches, but seeking to displace dead forms and creeds or wild fanaticism with living, practical Christianity. "Love, faith, unity" is our watchword, and "Victory through the Atoning Blood" our battle cry.

In Dr. Vinson Synan's history of the Pentecostal Holiness Church, *The Old-Time Power*, he tells how the Holiness Church became Pentecostal largely through the instrumentality of G. B. Cashwell's min-

istry. Cashwell came to the Azusa Street mission in 1906 from North Carolina. Synan states:

One of the major problems necessary to him to overcome was his ingrained . . . racial prejudice. It was unsettling to this tarheel visitor to sit under the preaching of the black minister Seymour; but to have blacks lay hands on his head and pray for his Baptism was almost more than he could bear. Rather than receive the Baptism he admitted this caused "chills to go down my spine." Nevertheless, he sought for 5 days and nights in the mission's upper room before the Baptism came. During the latter part of his seeking, he discarded his racial problem and invited Seymour and several Negro (men) to lay hands on him in supplication. Finally, in early December 1906 the "power fell" and Cashwell received his Pentecost.

Is it any wonder that, with this love for God's family, the roots of all the American Pentecostal denominations and the modern charismatic renewal can be traced back to Azusa Street? From there a torch was passed to the present day.

Our relationship is monastic if it is only marked by hunger for God: God desires that we not only love Him, but one another. Is there love among us for our brothers and sisters? For the oppressed? For the sinful? For the outcast? The wounded? The rich and the powerful? The low and the needy? The different?

Do our communities know us by our love?

## 3. A commitment to God's Word

These early Pentecostals of Azusa were not into experience for experience sake. While one may point to a few minor misplaced emphases at Azusa, the quest for a subjective and personal experience with God was within the boundaries of God's objective written Word. They believed the Spirit does not go where His Word does not.

The Pentecostal movement has had its problems with personalities who emphasize and teach as truth matters not found in God's written Word. The Assemblies of God has been much criticized at times for its insistence that experience must be corroborated by God's Word. That is a criticism, brothers and sisters, that should be worn as a badge of honor. The Scripture itself admonishes not be tossed about with every wind of doctrine.

The Azusa revival unabashedly proclaimed that the sure plumbline of truth was God's revealed and written Word. Elder Seymour and others were criticized sharply for their insistence on "checking everything out with the Word." But, they were unashamed. In fact, Seymour responded to these criticisms in the September 1907 issue of *Apostolic Faith*.

We are measuring everything by the Word, every experience must measure up with the Bible. Some say that is going too far, but if we

have lived too close to the Word, we will settle that with the Lord when we meet Him in the air.

#### 4. A dedication to evangelism and missions

The baptism in the Spirit, as understood at Azusa, was not simply for personal blessing: its central purpose was empowerment. That distinction becomes vital when one considers how some have sought the Spirit for the experience itself and not for a new boldness and competence to bear witness of Christ.

*Apostolic Faith's* first issue, page 1, September 1906, took up the cause of missions and sending missionaries. Missions did not develop later—it was front and center to their existence. And they didn't wait until they became big; they started missions emphasis and giving in their first hours.

They took no offerings, there was a collection box in the back—but that did not mean giving was absent. Here's what they said on that first page:

When Pentecostal lines are struck, Pentecostal giving commences. Hundreds of dollars have been laid down for the sending of missionaries and thousands will be laid down. No collections will be taken for rent, no begging for money. No man's silver or gold is coveted. The silver and the gold are His own to carry on His work.

From Azusa came a stream of missionaries, ministers, and Christian workers.

Mark this down: the lack of missionary zeal in any church or church leader is the most direct evidence possible that no revival is present. Where people do not have God's heart for the world, they do not have God's presence. Even if they think they do, they do not.

No one can be a disciple of Jesus Christ and ignore the Great Commission or treat it as the great suggestion.

Increasingly our foreign and home missionaries are reporting difficulty in raising the needed funds from our churches to return to their field and calling. When the revival tides are low, the money will always be tight for missions—instead, the money will be used simply to stay in business. The only cure possible for the current shortage of funds for missions, and the dismal 7 percent of all church income being allocated for foreign missions—is a sweeping revival throughout our Fellowship. The lack of a missionary emphasis is a spiritual death rattle for any pastor or church. It is inexcusable on the day of judgment. The greater majority of our churches expend more percentage of the church budget on pastoral compensation than on foreign and home missions. While the compensation of ministers is to be commended as a fulfillment of not muzzling the ox that treads the grain, nevertheless, such compensation must also be measured proportionally alongside that of missions giving.

The growth of our church fellowship also should alert us to concerns that excessive compensation of ministers cuts the nerve of sacrifice in others. When highly paid ministers attempt to preach the virtues of the crucified life and the necessity of sacrifice in this end-time for the cause of missions, their words seem not to be heard above the din of their own materialistic example.

From the missionary-mindedness of Azusa came a movement of foot soldiers in the army of the Lord to the nations of mankind. The U.S. Center for World Mission reports that in 1900, at the start of this century, there were 27 unbelievers in the world for every 1 believer. Today, 1991, the ratio has considerably narrowed: 7 unbelievers for every 1 believer. Since Pentecostals are doing the greater majority of evangelism in today's world, it is safe to say Azusa Street made a critical difference in attaining giant strides toward completion of the unfinished task.

We need a rebirth of missionary zeal for our own country and the nations of this world. May the Lord help us to emphasize the Azusa watchword: "When Pentecostal lines are struck, Pentecostal giving commences."

#### 5. A commitment to the restoration of the New Testament church

The Azusa pioneers were not interested in retinkering and adjusting the mechanics of then existing church traditions. They desired to do one thing: Get back to being the Church described in the New Testament.

Thus, they are part of what was called a Restoration Movement. Frank Bartleman well stated their intention:

Los Angeles seems to be the place, and this the time, in the mind of God, for the restoration of the church to her former place, favor, and power. The fullness of time seems to have come for the church's complete restoration.

The promise of Joel 2:28, quoted by Peter on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:17, is, "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh."

This pouring forth may be likened to the rain from heaven. Prior to the Pentecostal experience, it is as though the Church was in Egypt where the watering was by human effort, the foot on the irrigation treadle; but Pentecost became the spiritual land of Canaan where the inhabitants "drink rain from heaven" (Deuteronomy 11:10,11).

The rains God sent to Canaan were both early and latter rains (Joel 2:23). The autumn or early rains of October/November were to soften the parched ground so that seed could be sown. Then came the heavy rains of winter in December, January, and February. Finally the latter rains of April—the most highly appreciated because they ripened the

fruit and stayed the drought of the long dry summer. The latter rain was directly related to the ripening of the harvest.

What is our water source, spiritually, for this last day? Is it our own efforts to build a church? Our smart church strategies, well-laid plans, church-growth proven methodologies?

Or is there a better water source? An outpouring of God's Spirit on all human flesh?

In this century Azusa Street was the early rain. It infused the body of Christ with a restored sense of biblical identity and mission. It insisted on empowerment for witness. It compelled believers to desist from a passive mode of Christianity and personally seek a continued and vital experience with the living God.

Now, it is the end of the century. Is it not time for a latter rain, the rain which ripens the final harvest?

Hear what the Lord is saying to His church: "If you will humble yourselves and seek My face as you did in the beginning, I will pour out the latter rain upon you. What I purpose to do in this final decade of the 20th century is so copious that Azusa Street will seem but a small shower compared to the new visitation I will send. Cast aside your dependence on man, and the artifices of the flesh. Renew your heart toward Me, and I will visit you yet again."

The second issue of *Apostolic Faith*, October 1906, printed a message entitled, "This Same Jesus." Its salient observation of the modern Pentecostal movement's relationship to God's prophetic purpose is even more relevant today than when the words were first given:

When the Holy Ghost fell on the 120 it was in the morning of the dispensation of the Holy Ghost. Today we are living down in the evening of the dispensation of the Holy Ghost. As it was in the morning, so shall it be in the evening. This is the last evangelistic call of the day.

#### Summary

The Spiritual Life Committee humbly submits this report to the 1991 General Council that we might be reawakened into being the people God called: a people with:

1. A hunger for the Lord.
2. A genuine love for others.
3. Commitment to His Word.
4. Dedication to evangelism and missions.
5. Commitment to the restoration of the New Testament church.

May indeed God work among us in such a way that Azusa Street will only be a shower compared to what He does in giving the latter rain in the final years of this decade, century, and millennium.

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Following the reading of the report, Paul Lowenberg was asked to lead

the body in a time of prayer. There was a spontaneous period of worship, praise, and seeking God which extended to the afternoon business session.

#### Recess

Brother Carlson indicated that there would be no formal closing of the session for "this is more important than anything else at this General Council."

#### THURSDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 8

Ormel Chapin opened the Wednesday afternoon business session by leading in the singing of several songs. Assistant General Superintendent Everett Stenhouse presided. He asked Robert Harrison, Black Ministries representative for the Division of Home Missions, to open the session with prayer.

Dr. Billy Melvin, National Association of Evangelicals national director, was present to bring greetings to the delegates from NAE. Dr. Melvin expressed his appreciation for almost 25 years of working with the Assemblies of God. He concluded his remarks by thanking the Assemblies of God for its stand for righteousness.

#### Business Session

The chairman called the afternoon business session to order at 2:30. Members of the Resolutions Committee and chairmen of committees to bring reports were asked to be available on the platform.

#### Roster Report

The Thursday afternoon report of the Roster Committee was presented by Tom Drake, cochairman of the Roster Committee. He reported as follows:

Ordained ministers	3,351	
Delegates	872	
Voting constituency		4,223
Licensed ministers	436	
Visitors	5,359	
Nonvoting constituency		5,795
Total registration		10,018

A motion prevailed to receive the report of the Roster Committee as of 2 p.m.

#### Publication of Spiritual Life Committee Report

A motion prevailed that the report given by the Spiritual Life Committee be published in our official publications, and that it be sent with a letter

from the general superintendent to every local congregation, since it is essential that our entire Movement hear this report.

#### 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	2,063
Needed to elect	1,375
Robert L. Brandt	1,210
Wesley J. Bransford	36
Duane E. Buhler	22
Warren D. Bullock	181
Dale C. Carpenter	141
C. Linfield Crowder	82
William I. Gallaher	197
Paul D. Goodman	70
Willard R. Leisy	13
Vernon Marks	41
Larry M. Savage	43
Daniel M. York	27

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	1,489
Needed to elect	993
Robert L. Brandt	1,209
Wesley J. Bransford	4
Duane E. Buhler	3
Warren D. Bullock	97
Dale C. Carpenter	43
C. Linfield Crowder	53
William I. Gallaher	65
Paul D. Goodman	6
Willard R. Leisy	0
Vernon Marks	5
Larry M. Savage	3
Daniel M. York	1

Having noted that Robert L. Brandt had received well over the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him to be reelected executive presbyter from the Northwest Area.

#### Election of Executive Presbyter—Southwest Area

Warren McPherson, chairman of the Tellers Committee, gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the Southwest Area executive presbyter:

Total votes cast	2,057
Needed to elect	1,371
Glen D. Cole	1,033
Daniel DeLeon	24
Richard Dresselhaus	281
Virgil L. Jones	13
Darrel D. Madsen	33
James Marocco	13
Jesse Miranda	27
T. Ray Rachels	153
Roy Sapp	49
Robert A. Sites	102
William O. Vickery	172
Bobby J. Wilson	157

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	1,555
Needed to elect	1,036
Glen D. Cole	1,140
Daniel DeLeon	5
Richard Dresselhaus	220
Virgil L. Jones	2
Darrel D. Madsen	6
James Marocco	1
Jesse Miranda	17
T. Ray Rachels	46
Roy Sapp	2
Robert A. Sites	21
William O. Vickery	33
Bobby J. Wilson	62

The chairman, noting that Glen D. Cole received over the two-thirds vote required, declared him reelected as executive presbyter for the Southwest Area.

#### Election of Executive Presbyter—North Central Area

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

Total votes cast	2,044
Needed to elect	1,362
David W. Argue	422
Marcus Bakke	64
Gary A. Denbow	42
Robert L. Nazarenes	87
David L. Nelson,	87

Joel Pavia	88
Herman H. Rohde	902
Clarence St. John	107
Manuel Shoults	97
R. David Simmons	21
Daniel Spina	27
Norman Tosten	18
Ronald J. Traub	53
Norman Wenig	29

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	1,705
Needed to elect	1,136
David W. Argue	456
Marcus Bakke	8
Gary A. Denbow	6
Robert L. Nazarenus	7
David L. Nelson	17
Joel Pavia	15
Herman H. Rohde	1,122
Clarence St. John	32
Manuel Shoults	28
R. David Simmons	3
Daniel Spina	1
Norman Tosten	3
Ronald J. Traub	6
Norman Wenig	1

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

Warren McPherson gave the following report on the third elective ballot:

Total votes cast	2,035
Needed to elect	1,356
David W. Argue	362
Marcus Bakke	4
Gary A. Denbow	3
Robert L. Nazarenus	7
David L. Nelson	9
Joel Pavia	4
Herman H. Rohde	1,605
Clarence St. John	14
Manuel Shoults	14
R. David Simmons	1
Daniel Spina	3
Norman Tosten	2
Ronald J. Traub	4

Norman Wenig 3

The chairman, noting that Herman H. Rohde received over the two-thirds vote required, declared him reelected as executive presbyter for the North Central Area on the third elective ballot.

#### Election of Executive Presbyter—South Central Area

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

Votes cast	2,046
Needed to elect	1,364
E. R. Anderson	67
Earl J. Banning	173
James K. Bridges	229
Howard Burroughs	30
H. Franklin Cargill	27
Gale Cisneros	38
R. Kenneth George	75
Thomas D. Lakey	30
Paul Lowenberg	921
Samuel P. Molina	34
Derald Musgrove	116
Armon Newburn	222
Paul W. Savage	57
Robert G. Slaton	27

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	1,782
Needed to elect	1,188
E. R. Anderson	5
Earl J. Banning	58
James K. Bridges	240
Howard Burroughs	4
H. Franklin Cargill	6
Gale Cisneros	12
R. Kenneth George	15
Thomas D. Lakey	4
Paul Lowenberg	1,186
Samuel P. Molina	12
Derald Musgrove	26
Armon Newburn	195
Paul W. Savage	5
Robert G. Slaton	14

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

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

Votes cast	2,030
Needed to elect	1,353
E. R. Anderson	2
Earl J. Banning	14
James K. Bridges	186
Howard Burroughs	3
H. Franklin Cargill	2
Gale Cisneros	3
R. Kenneth George	4
Thomas D. Lakey	1
Paul Lowenberg	1,721
Samuel P. Molina	1
Derald Musgrove	5
Armon Newburn	80
Paul W. Savage	5
Robert G. Slaton	3

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

#### Election of Executive Presbyter—Great Lakes Area

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

Total votes cast	2,087
Needed to elect	1,391
James D. Biram	12
Jack M. Carnley	5
Robert D. Crabtree	203
Charles E. Crank	183
Daniel B. Enriquez	37
William F. Leach	42
Ignacio Marrero	10
Ernest J. Moen	134
Norman W. Muhling	11
Russell L. Quackenbush	21
Hugh H. Rosenberg	45
Robert K. Schmidgall	1,360
Irvin G. Steiding	17
J. David Wells	7

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

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

Total votes cast	1,879
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Needed to elect	1,252
James D. Biram	4
Jack M. Carnley	2
Robert D. Crabtree	64
Charles E. Crank	34
Daniel B. Enriquez	15
William F. Leach	8
Ignacio Marrero	1
Ernest J. Moen	18
Norman W. Muhling	1
Russell L. Quackenbush	6
Hugh H. Rosenberg	14
Robert K. Schmidgall	1,703
Irvin G. Steiding	5
J. David Wells	4

Since Robert K. Schmidgall had received in excess of the two-thirds vote required, he was declared reelected as executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area.

#### Election of Executive Presbyter—Gulf Area

Warren McPherson gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the executive presbyter from the Gulf Area:

Total votes cast	2,062
Needed to elect	1,374
Walter L. Davis	35
Gene Jackson	503
Cecil T. Janway	35
F. L. Langley	9
H. Maurice Lednicki	227
Don R. Logan	37
Frank E. Martin	78
W. Nelson Sachs	44
Philip Wannenmacher	1,046
E. Joe Wilmoth	48

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	1,923
Needed to elect	1,281
Walter L. Davis	5
Gene Jackson	410
Cecil T. Janway	9
F. L. Langley	3
H. Maurice Lednicki	75
Don R. Logan	3



Frank E. Martin	21
W. Nelson Sachs	5
Philip Wannemacher	1,382
E. Joe Wilmoth	10

Having noted that Philip Wannemacher had received well over the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him re-elected executive presbyter from the Gulf Area.

#### Election of Executive Presbyter—Northeast Area

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

Total votes cast	2,011
Needed to elect	1,340
Almon M. Bartholomew	1,093
Joseph M. Beretta	89
Edward B. Berkey	96
Philip Bongiorno	194
Adolfo Carrion	53
D. Wendel Cover	79
Samuel R. DiTrollo	51
Peter L. Miller	20
Harvey J. Meppelink	80
James E. Morris	69
Ronald E. Piedmonte	30
H. Robert Rhoden	82
Otto J. Wegner	75

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

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

Total votes cast	1,849
Needed to elect	1,232
Almon M. Bartholomew	1,575
Joseph M. Beretta	25
Edward B. Berkey	18
Philip Bongiorno	101
Adolfo Carrion	17
D. Wendel Cover	17
Samuel R. DiTrollo	7
Peter L. Miller	3
Harvey J. Meppelink	11
James E. Morris	8
Ronald E. Piedmonte	7
H. Robert Rhoden	37
Otto J. Wegner	23

Having noted that Almon M. Bartholomew had received well over the

two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him to be elected executive presbyter from the Northeast Area.

#### Election of Executive Presbyter—Southeast Area

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

Total votes cast	2,020
Needed to elect	1,346
Leslie M. Addison	55
J. Edward Blount	88
Steven R. Brown	64
Charles H. Cookman	146
Manuel A. Cordero	64
Robert J. Gatlin	66
J. Foy Johnson	888
Vaudie V. Lambert	215
John A. Loper, Jr.	87
Gordon H. Matheny	199
Donald Price	37
Thomas Rodriguez	36
Aaron Wall	39
L. Tom Whidden, Jr.	36

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	1,981
Needed to elect	1,320
Leslie M. Addison	10
J. Edward Blount	28
Steven R. Brown	19
Charles H. Cookman	83
Manuel A. Cordero	27
Robert J. Gatlin	12
J. Foy Johnson	1,403
Vaudie V. Lambert	227
John A. Loper, Jr.	33
Gordon H. Matheny	113
Donald Price	6
Thomas Rodriguez	9
Aaron Wall	4
L. Tom Whidden, Jr.	7

Having noted that J. Foy Johnson had received well over the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him to be elected executive presbyter from the Southeast Area.

**Study Committee Report  
The Feasibility of a Native American Department**

The general secretary was asked to read the report of the Committee To Study the Feasibility of a Native American Department in the Division of Home Missions.

A motion prevailed to adopt this report.

The report as adopted follows:

**BACKGROUND**

Resolution 11 to the 1989 General Council called for the establishing of an American Indian Department in the Division of Home Missions. By action of the General Council this was referred to a committee for further study, requesting that a report be brought back to the 1991 General Council.

In its meeting November 28, 1989, the Executive Presbytery appointed the committee as follows: Almon Bartholomew, chairman; Robert A. Sites, and Robert W. Pirtle. Jack Bransford was added at a later meeting to represent the Alaska District on the committee.

The committee's recommendation is as follows:

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

It is recommended that the creation of an American Indian Department as outlined in Resolution 11 from the 1989 General Council not be considered at this time for the following reasons:

1. The resolution does not make provision for an adequate financial base.
2. The resolution would create a negative impact on the financial and administrative structure presently in place.
3. The action of such a department would not likely produce the desired results projected in the resolution.

The committee further recommends as follows:

1. Steps should be taken to give greater visibility to the nationally appointed Native American representative as provided for in Bylaw Article XVI, Section 2, paragraph i (page 216).
2. That churches be encouraged to contribute monthly support to the nationally appointed Native American representative to enable him to serve full time in that capacity.
3. That said nationally appointed Native American representative shall be the liaison between the Intercultural Ministries Department and the national Native American convocation.
4. That the General Council Bylaws be amended to place the nationally appointed Native American representative under Article XVI, Section 4, paragraph e.

Enabling resolution will be presented by the Resolutions Committee.

**Resolution 1. Intercultural Ministries  
Department Representatives**

George Wood, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 1, written to implement the report which was just adopted. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 1.

Resolution 1 as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, Resolution 11 in the 1989 General Council, calling for the establishment of an American Indian Department within the Division of Home Missions, was referred to a committee for further study with a request that a report be brought back to the 1991 General Council; and

WHEREAS, A committee was appointed to undertake said study; and

WHEREAS, The 1990 General Presbytery received a report from the study committee recommending an amendment of the General Council Bylaws to include the appointment of a Native American representative within the Intercultural Ministries Department of the Division of Home Missions; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw Article XVI, Section 4, paragraph d, provides for a representative to deaf and blind, but the ministry to the blind has been joined with that of ministry to the handicapped under the oversight of assigned Home Missions personnel; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery has approved additional representatives for growing segments of the Intercultural Ministries Department; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article XVI, Section 4, paragraph d, which now reads:

d. 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 i and j.

Be amended to read:

d. Representatives. The following ministries shall be the assigned responsibility of national representatives whose duties shall be in accordance with the provisions of Section 2, paragraphs i and j. The national representatives shall serve under and be amenable to the Intercultural Ministries Department secretary:

- (1) Black Ministry.
- (2) Deaf Culture Ministry.
- (3) Native American Ministry.

**Report of Committee To Study Status of  
Position Papers and Their Use in Dealing With Deviant Doctrines**  
Richard Dresselhaus, chairman of the study committee, asked Zenas

Bicket, who served as secretary for the committee, to read the report. The report is as follows:

The assignment of the committee was two-fold: (1) To clarify the status of the existing position papers, recommending which, if any, should be presented to the General Council in session for adoption, and (2) To recommend ways in which the Assemblies of God can utilize the position papers to maintain purity of doctrine and encourage its constituency to avoid such doctrinal errors as the Kingdom Now/Dominion teachings, the shepherding movement, and presumably any subsequent unscriptural teachings that may arise. The findings and recommendations of the committee are as follows:

#### HISTORY OF EXISTING PAPERS

The first paper, "The Inerrancy of Scripture," was approved in 1970. Its preparation was initiated by the Board of Education as a guideline for the educational institutions of the Assemblies of God. Subsequently, the paper was approved by the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery as a statement for broader distribution and use. Additional papers were produced in succeeding years by ad hoc committees, by the Commission on Doctrinal Purity, and by the Board of Education.

The General Council authorized the establishment of the Commission on Doctrinal Purity in 1979:

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 (Bylaw Article VIII, A).

Papers produced through 1989 include, in chronological order, "The Inerrancy of Scripture," "Can Born-Again Believers Be Demon Possessed?" "Divine Healing," "The Ministry of the Body of Christ," "Transcendental Meditation," "The Discipleship and Submission Movement," "Qualifications and Responsibilities of Deacons and Trustees," "Eternal Punishment," "The Doctrine of Creation," "The Security of the Believer," "Homosexuality," "The Rapture of the Church," "The Believer and Positive Confession," "The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit," "A Biblical Perspective on Gambling," "A Biblical Perspective on Abortion," "Abstinence," "Divorce and Remarriage," and "The Kingdom of God." The "Divorce and Remarriage" paper is the only one that has been debated and approved by a General Council (1973).

#### RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE STATUS OF POSITION PAPERS

It is the opinion of the committee that existing papers do not all deal with matters of equal significance or importance. Some expand doctrinal positions affirmed in the Statement of Fundamental Truths. Others are biblical perspectives on contemporary social issues. Still others

refute unscriptural and deviant teachings. The committee observes that the development of papers up to the present has been reactive rather than a conscious choice of topics leading to a comprehensive Pentecostal theology.

The method of developing and approving a paper is crucial to the authority it should be given. In response to earlier requests for clarification on the status of position papers, the General Presbytery has noted that "position papers (should) be viewed as standing alone from all other instruments for understanding issues affecting the General Council" (August 11, 1986).

The committee is of the opinion that a paper which may be the basis for credentialing, discipline, or membership decisions should result from some involvement of the General Council in session. Yet line-by-line treatment of an extended paper could be an extreme imposition on an already crowded Council agenda. If parliamentary procedure would permit, referral for ratification might be subject to a previously agreed-upon time limit for debate, with an extension possible only by a majority vote of the delegates. The action of the Council would then be to ratify or to refer the paper back to the Commission, with delegate input to be directed to the Commission. The paper would then be revised and recycled through the entire approval process.

The committee recommends that existing papers which might be submitted to the General Council in session should be reviewed and updated before they are considered for ratification.

#### USE OF PAPERS TO DISAVOW DEVIANT TEACHINGS

Ratification by the General Council would signify that the paper is the official position of the Assemblies of God. Districts and local churches could then use the paper as the basis for discipline or dismissal from membership. Papers carrying this authority should ordinarily be related in some way to the Statement of Fundamental Truths or to other parts of the constitution and bylaws.

Final decision to refer a paper to the General Council would rest with the Executive Presbytery. To guard against any future papers becoming the basis for ex cathedra statements from national leadership levels, the use of Council-ratified papers for discipline or correction would be implemented on district and local levels only. Papers not referred to the General Council for ratification would be approved by the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery and would be considered as informational for district and local use.

The committee has prepared a resolution which reflects the spirit of this report. In keeping with the suggestion of Resolution 12 (from the 1989 Council), the resolution is presented by the General Council Resolutions Committee for consideration by the 1991 General Council.

A motion prevailed to adopt the report as presented.

#### **Resolution 24. Status of Position Papers**

George Wood read Resolution 24 as follows and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded and carried.

Resolution 24 as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The 1989 General Council authorized the Executive Presbytery to appoint a committee to study the position papers issued by the General Presbytery to clarify their status and to determine which if any should be presented to the General Council in session for adoption; and

WHEREAS, Said committee was appointed by the Executive Presbytery and reported its findings and recommendations to the 1990 General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has adopted the report of said committee containing the subsequent language in this resolution; and

WHEREAS, Statements of official Assemblies of God positions on matters of doctrine and practice should be the prerogative of the entire General Council; and

WHEREAS, Teachings and practices which deviate from Scripture and basic doctrines of the Assemblies of God must be confronted with an authoritative and unified voice so that the evangelistic mission of the church is not hindered; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery determine the relative importance of existing and future papers and refer such papers for final approval as follows:

- (1) Papers which are to be considered as the official position of the Assemblies of God, to be used by districts and local churches for credentialing and membership standards, must be approved by the General Presbytery and ratified by the General Council.
- (2) Papers which are to be considered as primarily information need approval by the General Presbytery only. These papers may be used as deemed appropriate by districts and local churches: e.g., giving guidance in screening speakers, approving new church members, or issuing ministerial credentials.

#### **Report of Ad Hoc Joint Committee Composed of International Correspondence Institute, Berean College, and Division of Christian Education Representation**

Zenas Bicket, president of Berean College, presented the report and resolution of the ad hoc committee to study the International Correspondence Institute as follows:

Following an assignment from the Board of Administration of the General Council, a committee consisting of George Flattery, Loren Triplett, Zenas Bicket, and David Bundrick met on Monday, November 26, 1990. The committee included members of the earlier ad hoc committees chaired by Fred Smolchuck and Glen Cole. Recommen-

dations and insights of the two previous committees, as well as sentiments expressed in the 1989 General Council Resolution 14, and the 1990 General Presbytery recommendation on uniting the two schools were part of the discussion and deliberation.

It is the feeling of the leadership of both institutions that a closer union of the two schools and programs, while maintaining the distinctive mission and ministry of each, is the best vehicle for effective outreach. An opportunity to work together more closely, through administrative linkage, would facilitate cooperation in many ways.

The committee respectfully recommends the following resolution which was approved by the Executive Presbytery on November 28, 1990, for recommendation to the General Presbytery and by the General Presbytery on August 4, 1991, for referral to the General Council for favorable action.

WHEREAS, Fund raising for the development of ICI curriculum to be used in missions activity around the world could be jeopardized if ICI is perceived as another stateside institute; and

WHEREAS, The union of a staff supported exclusively by income from tuition (Berean College) and a staff whose major support comes from missionary appointment funding (ICI) would create problems of equity and fairness; and

WHEREAS, The separate purposes of ICI and Berean College—U.S. and foreign ministerial and lay leadership training—are sufficiently distinct at present so that an immediate union of programs and curriculum would create problems; and

WHEREAS, An immediate joining of top-level administration has been studied but considered to be too precipitous for the best interest of both ICI and Berean College; and

WHEREAS, The recommended approach could be an intermediate step toward a unified curriculum if such can be implemented at a slower pace; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That ICI and Berean College retain their individual identities but join in an informal unified leadership committee of four persons (the two presidents and one other representative from the administration or Board of Directors from each institution), which would meet in Springfield at least once each quarter to work toward greater cooperation in marketing, evangelism, discipleship, and training. A motion prevailed to adopt the report and resolution as presented.

#### **Report of Committee To Study The Function of the Evangelist**

The chairman noted that this report was called for by Resolution 21 at the 1989 General Council. Robert Abbott, chairman of the study committee, read the report as follows:

We recognize that evangelism is a fundamental priority in the As-

semblies of God and should be an integral part of all church functions. We recognize also that evangelists are among the listed communicators of God's Word in Ephesians 4:11,12, gifts given to the church "so that the body of Christ may be built up" (v. 12, NIV). Since the evangelist is a gift to the church, the church then is the key to the role and use of the evangelist.

Approximately 2,100 Assemblies of God ministers are currently listed as evangelists. Though not all of them minister in full-time evangelism, we point out that the total is the highest in our history. It has been reported that significant numbers of our capable young people are sensing a call to evangelistic ministry. This is encouraging. Evidently God is continuing to give evangelists to His church, and the ministry of the evangelist is not passing away!

Evangelists have played a significant role in the major revivals of church history. We believe they will perform essential ministries in the anticipated Decade of Harvest revival of the 1990s as well.

In the traditional sense, an evangelist is an itinerant minister who ministers temporarily from place to place. Within that broad description, an evangelist may be a revivalist, or a person with a specialized ministry, or one whose ministry is primarily to the lost.

In the biblical sense, evangelists are literally "evangelizers"—those who proclaim the gospel to the lost. Though the word "evangelist" occurs only three times in the New Testament, the ministry of the evangelist is often portrayed. The verb "evangelize" occurs frequently.

We recognize that revivalists and specialists have important and God-given ministries which are related primarily to believers. Many of our evangelists have these callings and do some evangelizing to the lost as well. But, because of the significance of this period of time, we feel there is a great need for many evangelists whose distinct call, passion, and ministry are centered on winning the lost to Christ and assisting others in doing the same. Let this be a matter of prayer. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:38).

The role of the evangelists in the church may be viewed as a gift to the local church to perfect the saints for evangelism, and to use the church facilities and constituents to effectively reach the lost who can be brought in. The role of the evangelist through the church is viewed as the proclamation of the gospel outside the local church but sponsored and supported by it.

We recognize that many of the traditional uses of evangelists are still valid where they are effective. However, in our changing society new methodology will be needed by the church and the evangelists to deliver the gospel to the lost, primarily outside the walls of the church. We must discover methods that work.

There is a need also for creative organization and cooperation to

reach the lost. With district, sectional, and local church cooperation, evangelists can be used in planting churches, especially in the inner cities, including special efforts to evangelize ethnic groups. Tents, auditoriums, parks, and street corners become preaching sites to reach an area with the gospel. One or more evangelists ministering over a period of several weeks will result in birthing a church or strengthening existing ones.

To get the attention of the community and stimulate believers to evangelize their neighbors, several churches may sponsor a united crusade with an effective evangelist. Numbers of our evangelists, with the support of local churches, are ministering on public school and college campuses, in nursing homes and hospitals, and in prisons and other institutions. Others are using innovative methods to harvest children for the Savior.

To help support evangelists so they can minister in areas where adequate funds are not available, several districts have adopted funding programs. Churches channel their offerings through the district, thereby making possible the evangelizing of other communities in their districts. These plans are worthy of consideration by other districts.

Churches should budget for evangelism and evangelists. Believers should fund efforts to reach unbelievers to avoid the inference evangelists are after their money.

If possible, an evangelist needs to be connected and accountable to a local church, which may partially support him on a regular basis. Churches may adopt young evangelists to encourage, train, and support.

The Assemblies of God schools are responsible for training evangelists as well as pastors and other ministers. In addition to basic courses of study related to preaching and evangelism, special classes are needed which deal with the evangelist and his ministry. We appeal to our schools to provide adequate training and encouragement for those who are called to be evangelists. We urge our schools to teach preaching as a priority, with special emphasis on evangelistic preaching. Using qualified evangelists as guests for special emphases, chapel services, and classes will contribute much to the training process.

Because evangelists will continue to have viable and strategic ministries during the Decade of Harvest and until Jesus returns, they need continued representation at headquarters. We recommend that the present title "evangelists field representative," be changed to "evangelists representative," and that the Board of Administration continue to fill this office by appointment with the representative serving under Spiritual Life—Evangelism.

The evangelists representative needs to expand his responsibilities, especially in training and assisting evangelistic ministries through na-

tional and regional seminars, on-site ministry and contact with students at the schools, publications, and in other ways.

We recommend that the evangelists representative serve the office and be supported by the General Council up to 26 weeks per year, depending on work requirements and available finances, with job description, salary, and secretarial assistance to be determined by the Board of Administration in consultation with the Spiritual Life—Evangelism coordinator.

This is a most historic time for the Assemblies of God and the Church in general. The Decade of Harvest is God's call to us as a body of believers. God is giving the world what may be one last chance to be saved. We sense a feeling of destiny! We must recognize the gravity of the hour and respond accordingly.

May God bless and use our evangelists in and through the churches to help us reap lost souls before the Decade of Harvest ends.

Following a time of clarification relative to the implementation of this, a motion prevailed to adopt the report.

#### **Expression of Appreciation to Robert Abbott**

A motion prevailed that this General Council express appreciation to Robert Abbott for his years of service as the evangelists field representative. The general secretary was requested to prepare a proper resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, Robert M. Abbott has served in the position of evangelists field representative from 1974-90; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully represented the Assemblies of God through his ministry, planning, and executing yearly seminars for our evangelists; and

WHEREAS, He has assisted our evangelists by providing personal counsel, printed materials, and a quarterly newsletter; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council of the Assemblies of God express its appreciation to Robert M. Abbott for 16 years of faithful service in leadership, and for his contributions to the work of Assemblies of God evangelists.

#### **Report Regarding Legal Counselor Serving As Ex Officio Member of Resolutions Committee**

Joseph Flower, general secretary, presented the report of the Executive Presbytery relative to the legal counselor serving as an ex officio member of the General Council Resolutions Committee. A motion prevailed to adopt the report as follows:

A privileged resolution presented to the 1989 General Council called for the Assemblies of God legal counselor to become an ex officio

member of the General Council Resolutions Committee to act as a legal adviser, and that he be available at the business sessions of the General Council in session.

The 1989 General Council voted to refer this matter to the Executive Presbytery for study and action.

Following careful study of this proposal, the Executive Presbytery does not recommend that further action be taken, in that our legal counselor is available to the Resolutions Committee for consultation when needed, and we will see that he is present at General Council business sessions to act in an advisory capacity in matters requiring legal considerations.

#### **Resolution 3. Executive Presbytery Enlargement**

George Wood read Resolution 3 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, our Fellowship has grown dramatically over the past decades; and

WHEREAS, The size of our Executive Presbytery has remained the same despite this growth; and

WHEREAS, The growth of our Movement has produced a much larger pool of leadership than existed decades ago; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God has always drawn strength from as much representation as feasible from the grass roots of our Fellowship, and doubling the number of nonresident executive presbyters would more greatly tap the resource of leadership talent within our Movement; and

WHEREAS, The nonresident Executive Presbytery presently consists of three pastors and five present or retired district officials; and

WHEREAS, The makeup of the nonresident Executive Presbytery does change from time to time and there are presently no constitutional or bylaw provisions which require a certain number of pastors to serve as executive presbyters; and

WHEREAS, It would appear to be wisdom to keep the present approximate balance in percentage of pastors on the Executive Presbytery, and even increase that percentage by a small margin; and

WHEREAS, Increasing the number of nonresident executive presbyters from 8 to 16 will double the financial impact on the General Council; and

WHEREAS, An increase of \$1 per month from the tithe of approximately 15,000 ordained ministers who support the General Council would generate about \$180,000 per year—a more than sufficient amount to provide for the additional expense of enlarging the Executive Presbytery; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article IX, Section 2, paragraph a, of the General Council Constitution which now reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 16 other ordained ministers to be chosen from the active Fellowship to bring the number to 21. 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.

Further be it

RESOLVED, That Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, subparagraph (1) of the General Council Bylaws which now reads:

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 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.

Be amended to read:

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 16 nonresident executive presbyters shall be as follows: Each district council at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session shall nominate four ministers from its district to be presented to the General Council as nominees from its area. The first two nominees shall belong to a class of nominations entitled: Nominees Who Are Ordained Ministers and Senior Pastors. The second two nominees shall belong to a class of nominations entitled:

Nominees Who Are Ordained Ministers. All the nominees from each class of nominations shall be presented to and be balloted upon by the General Council in session. One person shall be elected for each of the two classes of nominations. A two-thirds vote shall be required to nominate at the district council, and elect at the General Council.

Further be it

RESOLVED, That Article II, Section 3, paragraph b, subparagraph (1), of the General Council Bylaws which now reads:

Section 3. Vacancies

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 Bylaw 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 Bylaw Article II, Section 1, for qualifications).

Be amended to read:

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 Bylaw Article II, Section 2, paragraph e) to submit two nominees for the office in accordance with the class of nominations appropriate for the position being vacated. 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 Bylaw Article II, Section 1, for qualifications).

Further be it

RESOLVED, That Article XVIII, Section 1, paragraph c, subparagraph (1), of the General Council Bylaws which now reads:

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 . . .

Be amended to read:

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 \$11 per month from their tithes, or as an offering. {Balance of this bylaw provision to remain unchanged.}

Further be it

**RESOLVED**, That the above amendment pertaining to Bylaw Article XVIII, Section 1, paragraph c, subparagraph (1), shall become effective September 1, 1993.

Following a time of discussion it was moved and seconded to amend line 24 on page 10, after the words "successors qualify," by adding the following sentence: If any nonresident executive presbyter ceases to serve in the capacity he was filling when elected as a nonresident executive presbyter, his office as nonresident executive presbyter shall also be vacated, said vacancy shall then be filled by the General Presbytery for the unexpired term." The amendment lost.

An additional amendment was offered as follows:

**WHEREAS**, The General Council has stated its goal to enhance and expand its ethnic ministries in the Decade of Harvest, and

**WHEREAS**, Ethnic districts are not geographically represented by an executive presbyter, be it

**RESOLVED**, That a committee be assigned to explore the appropriateness of ethnic districts and those cultures served by the Division of Home Missions having representation on the Executive Presbytery."

The chairman ruled that the resolution offered was not germane to the matter before the house.

The motion to adopt Resolution 3 was voted on and declared lost.

#### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 4:55 p.m. with prayer by Richard Dresselhaus, pastor of First Assembly of God, San Diego, California.

#### **THURSDAY EVENING SERVICE—AUGUST 8**

The Thursday evening service was under the direction of Paul Lowenberg, executive presbyter from the South Central Area. Ron Cochran led the congregational singing. Bob Geabhart, minister of music, First Assembly of God, Memphis, Tennessee; and Betty Johnson, First Assembly of God, Memphis, Tennessee, served at the piano and organ, respectively. Randy Wright played the electronic keyboard. Dennis A. Davis, Northwest College, Kirkland, Washington, led in prayer. Sandra Clopine, secretary of the Women's Ministries Department, Springfield, Missouri, read the Scripture from James 4:1-10. The offering appeal was made by Charles Crank, superintendent of the Indiana District, and the offertory was presented by 4-HIM, a contemporary Christian recording group.

The speaker for the evening service was Daniel Johnson, executive director of Trans World Ministries, Inc., Tacoma, Washington. The theme for the evening service and for his message was, "Knowing His Sufferings."

The premise of his message was, "As we die, we live." He stated that these are "in direct proportion. The more you die, the more you live." He encouraged those present not to get in God's way once they have asked God to help them reach people.

#### **FRIDAY MORNING—AUGUST 9**

The Friday morning session was opened by Ormel Chapin leading in singing. Ramona Crabtree, Springfield, Missouri, served at the piano and Marge Ferrin, Sacramento, California, was at the organ. Glen Cole was asked to lead in prayer for the business session to follow.

#### **Offering Appeal**

The offering appeal was made by Robert Schmidgall, executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area. The offertory was a piano solo by Ramona Crabtree.

#### **Business Session**

The chairman called the business session to order at 10:20 a.m. He offered thanks to the body for their response to the financial needs of the Council.

R. Stanton Williams gave the following report of the Roster Committee as of 10 a.m., Friday, August 9:

Ordained ministers	3,382	
Delegates	877	
		4,259
Voting constituency		
Licensed ministers	448	
Visitors	5,470	
		5,918
Nonvoting constituency		
Total registration		10,177

A motion prevailed to receive this progress report.

#### **Resolution 4. Term of Office for Executive Officers**

George Wood read Resolution 4 as follows, and moved its adoption:

**WHEREAS**, The General Council Constitution presently provides that the term of office for the general superintendent is 4 years, and 2 years for all other elected officers; and

**WHEREAS**, A term of only 2 years seems too brief, especially when that officer has been uprooted from another ministry; and

**WHEREAS**, If the General Council were to extend the term of all officers to 4 years, it would seem appropriate that not all officers would be elected in the same year; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, That Constitution Article IX, Section 1, paragraph a, which now reads:



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.

Be amended to read:

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 terms of office for all officers and for the executive director of Foreign Missions shall be for 4 years or until their successors qualify.

Further be it

RESOLVED, That the preceding resolve, if adopted, be implemented by electing the general superintendent and the general treasurer for 4-year terms at the 1993 General Council, and the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, and the executive director of Foreign Missions to 4-year terms at the 1995 General Council. Following discussion, the motion was voted on and declared lost.

**Resolution 5. Language Districts**

George Wood read Resolution 5. A motion prevailed that Resolution 5 be adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, Our foreign language districts are members of and are affiliated with the Assemblies of God in the U.S. and are not part of the Division of Foreign Missions; and

WHEREAS, The word "foreign" is unnecessary and inappropriate in designation; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Constitution Article X, paragraph c, be amended by deleting the word "foreign," so that the paragraph will read:

c. Language districts. A 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.)

Further be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article V, Section 4, be amended by the

deletion of the word "foreign" from the title as well as from the text; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the general secretary be authorized to make this change in all other areas of the bylaws where it may appear.

**Resolution 6. Honorary General Presbyter**

**Hugh M. Corey**

George Wood read Resolution 6 as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Hugh M. Corey has served the Southern New England District for 10 years as secretary-treasurer and 12 years as district superintendent; and

WHEREAS, He is retiring from the district office after having served as a general presbyter for 22 years; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as honorary general presbyters; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Hugh M. Corey be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

The motion was seconded and carried.

**Resolution 7. Honorary General Presbyter**

**J. Foy Johnson**

George Wood read Resolution 7 as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, J. Foy Johnson, has served as a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God for some 47 years, having been licensed in 1943 and ordained in 1946; and has ministered, held offices and pastored churches in Alabama, Georgia, and Peninsular Florida; and has served as a district youth director, district secretary, assistant district superintendent, sectional presbyter, district home missions director, and for more than 24 years as a district superintendent; and has served on the General Presbytery for more than 31 years, and as a nonresident member of the Executive Presbytery for more than 13 years; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That J. Foy Johnson be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

The motion was seconded and carried.

**Resolution 27. Honorary General Presbyter**

**Kenneth Freiheit**

George Wood read Resolution 27 as follows, and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, Kenneth Freiheit has served the Minnesota District

faithfully with distinction for the past 27 years as secretary-treasurer, and has also served as a general presbyter of the General Council during this entire time; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Kenneth Freiheit be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

The motion was seconded and carried.

#### **Resolution 28. Honorary General Presbyter**

**John Leardi**

George Wood read Resolution 28 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, John Leardi has been a member of the Italian District of the Assemblies of God for 41 years and has served as a district official for 39 years, and has also served as a general presbyter for 34 years; and

WHEREAS, The Italian District of the Assemblies of God has retired as a district as of December 3, 1990; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That John Leardi be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

The motion was seconded and carried.

#### **Resolution 29. Honorary General Presbyter**

**Charles E. Lee**

George Wood read Resolution 29 as follows and moved it adoption:

WHEREAS, Charles E. Lee has served this Fellowship with distinction as a credentialed minister for 41 years as pastor, foreign missionary, and pioneer church founder, and has lived an exemplary life-style among us; and

WHEREAS, He has fulfilled all the requirements for election as an honorary general presbyter having been elected to the General Presbytery in 1971 and having served continuously since that time; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Charles E. Lee be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

The motion was seconded and carried.

#### **Resolution 30. Honorary General Presbyter**

**Richard O. Tufte**

George Wood read Resolution 30 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Richard O. Tufte has faithfully served the Assemblies of God as a minister for the past 41 years, having been ordained in 1953; and

WHEREAS, He has ministered, pastoring five churches in South Dakota, served as assistant district superintendent, district youth director, district Sunday school director, sectional presbyter, Teen Challenge director and for 9 years as district secretary-treasurer; and

WHEREAS, He has served on the General Presbytery for 21 years; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Richard O. Tufte be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

The motion was seconded and carried.

#### **Resolution 31. Honorary General Presbyter**

**Allan L. Ullestad**

George Wood read Resolution 31 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Allan L. Ullestad has served the Iowa District Council with distinction as superintendent for 18 years as well as secretary-treasurer for 3 years and assistant superintendent for 5 years; and

WHEREAS, He has been a member of the General Presbytery for 25 years; and has also served on various committees and boards representing many of the General Council departments and our Assemblies of God colleges; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Allan L. Ullestad be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

The motion was seconded and carried.

#### **Resolution 32. Honorary General Presbyter**

**William O. Vickery**

George Wood read Resolution 32 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, William O. Vickery has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as a member of the General Presbytery for 26 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served the Northern California-Nevada District

Council with great distinction as secretary-treasurer for 12 years and as superintendent for 14 years; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That William O. Vickery be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

The motion was seconded and carried.

#### **Resolution 8. Reassignment of MAPS and ELA**

George Wood read Resolution 8 as follows and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery assigned a study committee to review the operation of the Mobilization and Placement Service (MAPS), which has functioned under the supervision of Spiritual Life—Evangelism; and

WHEREAS, The study committee reported back to the Executive Presbytery that the MAPS operation should be divided between the divisions of Foreign and Home Missions, Foreign Missions being responsible for the short-term workers and construction abroad and Home Missions overseeing the RV Volunteers program, stateside construction, and short-time workers; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery approved the study committee's recommendations; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery has also assigned the functions of the Evangelism Literature for America (ELA) program from Spiritual Life—Evangelism to the Men's Ministries Department; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article X, Section 2, paragraph b, subparagraph (3) which now reads:

(3) Subcommittees. Subcommittees of the Committee on Mission shall include the Mobilization and Placement Service Committee, the Evangelism Literature for America Committee, and such other committees as may be required to give full emphasis to the mission of the church. They shall be appointed by the Board of Administration.

Be amended to read:

(3) Subcommittees. Subcommittees of the Committee on Mission shall include such committees as may be required to give full emphasis to the mission of the church. They shall be appointed by the Board of Administration.

Further be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article X, Section 3, paragraph b, which now reads:

b. Specific functions shall include:

(1) Providing leadership in coordination 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.

Be amended to read:

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) Serving the evangelists fellowship.

The motion was seconded and carried.

#### **Resolution 9. Internal Restructuring of The Division of Foreign Missions**

George Wood read Resolution 9 as follows and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, The expanding opportunities and obligations of the Division of Foreign Missions have brought significant growth in the number of countries served and missionaries appointed; and

WHEREAS, Such growth has greatly increased the work load of the Division of Foreign Missions administrative staff; and

WHEREAS, The amount and nature of information vital to the operation of the Division of Foreign Missions and its ministries has also dramatically increased in both character and number; and

WHEREAS, In order to adequately address these issues the Division of Foreign Missions has found it necessary to modify its structure through the creation of new departments; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery has taken action to reassign the management and supervision of the foreign ministry aspects of the Mobilization and Placement Service (MAPS) to the Division of Foreign Missions; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery has approved the creation of a Department of U. S. Relations, a Department of Communications, a Department of Research, and a Missions Abroad Placement Service (MAPS) Department; and

WHEREAS, Certain terminology in the existing bylaws pertaining to the Division of Foreign Missions requires clarification; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article XV. Division of Foreign Missions be amended as follows:

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose (no change)

- a. Sphere of authority. (no change)
- b. Agency to fulfill church's mission. (no change)
- c. Strategy. (no change)
- d. Indigenous principle. (no change)

Section 2. Government and Organization

- a. Executive director. (no change)
- b. Administrative assistant. (no change)
- c. Amenability. (no change)
- d. Foreign Missions Board
  - (1) Composition. (no change)
  - (2) Terms of Office. (no change)
  - (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 and uphold standards for appointed foreign missionaries and foreign missions 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. (no change)
- e. Laymen's Advisory Council. (no change)
- f. Field directors. (no change)
- g. Foreign Missions Committee. (no change)
- h. General Presbytery representatives. Each of the four fields 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. (no change)

Section 3. Personnel and Family Life 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 and Family Life Department shall serve as the primary source for missionary personnel data and shall be responsible for:
  - (1) Recruiting and processing prospective missionary candidates.
  - (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. U. S. Relations Department

- a. Department secretary (no change)
- b. Function. The U.S. Relations Department shall manage the statewide relationships of the Division of Foreign Missions. Its responsibilities shall be to:
  - (1) Coordinate public, district, church, institutional, and par-church relations.
  - (2) Provide for all Division of Foreign Missions-related deputational activities.
  - (3) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the executive director or the Foreign Missions Board.

Section 5. Communications 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 Communications Department shall manage the promotional aspects of the Division of Foreign Missions. Its responsibilities shall be to:
  - (1) Create, direct, and evaluate all promotional and fund raising strategies and activities.
  - (2) Provide for publication services in all media formats.
  - (3) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the executive director or the Foreign Missions Board.

Section 6. Finance Department

- a. Department secretary. (no change)
- b. Function. (no change)

Section 7. Research 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 Research Department shall serve as a resource to other Division of Foreign Missions elements to collect, evaluate, and disseminate information helpful in achieving the purpose of the division. Its responsibilities shall be to:
  - (1) Document all assigned major policy and program decisions.
  - (2) Provide specialized research and position papers.
  - (3) Gather and analyze statistical information of various types.
  - (4) Serve as a resource for strategic planning.
  - (5) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the executive director or the Foreign Missions Board.

Section 8. Missions Abroad Placement Service (MAPS) 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 MAPS Department shall coordinate all laypersons' short-term activities of the Division of Foreign Missions. Its responsibilities shall be to:

- (1) Recruit short-term lay volunteers as needed.
- (2) Receive and process all requests for short-term lay ministry including those for individuals or teams.
- (3) Coordinate all short-term construction efforts.
- (4) Coordinate all summer intern programs.
- (5) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the executive director or the Foreign Missions Board.

#### Section 9. Support of Division of Foreign Missions

The administrative expenses and emergency field needs of the Division of Foreign Missions and its missionaries 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 General Emergency Fund to meet the administrative and emergency expenses for which the Division of Foreign Missions is responsible.

#### Section 10. Missionary Candidates

- a. Appointment. (no change)
- b. Examination criteria. (no change)
- c. Specialized service. (no change)

#### Section 11. Support of Missionaries

- a. A faith mission. (no change)
- b. Church support. (no change)
- c. Undesignated and general emergency. (no change)
- d. District support. (no change)

#### Section 12. Ordination of Missionaries

The ordination of persons for or 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 13. Field Organizations

a. National church organization. (no change)

b. Missionary fellowship. Missionary fellowships, composed of all appointed missionaries and approved ministers abroad assigned permanently to the field of the Division of Foreign Missions, may be formed in each political or geographical area as circumstances may indicate. These missionary 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 missionary fellowship. The missionary fellowships shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Division of Foreign Missions in matters of policy and missionary personnel relative to their respective fields.

In those fields where there are insufficient personnel to make the organization of a missionary fellowship practical, the Division of Foreign Missions may appoint a representative(s) to act for the missionaries and the Division of Foreign Missions in matters normally handled by the missionary fellowship.

#### Section 14. Property

a. Investment principles. (no change)

- (1) Title to missionary residences. (no change)
- (2) Title to institutional properties. (no change)
  - (a) General policy. (no change)
  - (b) Exceptions. (no change)
- (3) Title policy on General Council loans. (no change)

b. Missionary 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. (no change)

The motion was seconded and carried.

#### Resolution 10. MAPS Addition to Home Missions

George Wood read Resolution 10 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery has taken action to reassign the management and supervision of the home missions aspects of the Mobilization and Placement Service (MAPS) to the Division of Home Missions; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article XVI, Section 2, be amended by moving present subparagraphs j and k, respectively, to k and l; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the new subparagraph j read as follows:

j. Mission America Placement Service (MAPS). The Division of

Home Missions MAPS ministries shall function under the direct supervision of the national director of the division, in accordance with policies and guidelines established by the Home Missions Board.

The motion was seconded and carried.

#### **Resolution 11. Media Center Structure**

George Wood read Resolution 11 and moved its adoption.

A motion prevailed to amend Resolution 11 by deleting the word "audio-visual" in both places it appears on line 13, page 27.

It was moved and seconded to amend on page 36, line 20, by adding a subparagraph (7) to read as follows: (7) Provide equal accessibility for the deaf and other language groups.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the amendment by stating that video equipment be purchased for the Media Center in order to make videos accessible to the hearing impaired. The chairman ruled the motion out of order as this would not be a matter to be included in the bylaws.

The motion to amend was lost.

The motion to adopt Resolution 11, as amended, was carried.

Resolution 11 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Executive Presbytery has made recommendation to restructure the Media Center; and

WHEREAS, Such a restructuring would necessitate the adoption of an amendment to the General Council Bylaws; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article XIV, Section 5, of the bylaws be amended through-substituting the following language:

##### **Section 5. Media Center**

a. Authorization and purpose. The Media Center shall:

(1) Acquire and maintain such equipment as necessary to produce videos and audiovisual materials.

(2) Provide video and audio services to departments, ministries, and institutions of the Assemblies of God.

(3) Build and maintain a rental library of videotapes, films, and filmstrips.

(4) Produce a catalog of rental films—those produced by the Assemblies of God and other producers.

(5) Provide additional services as authorized by the Executive Presbytery.

(6) Initiate, create, and market such products that will further the work of the church.

b. Government and organization

(1) General Manager. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a general manager who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Communications.

(2) Administrative Committee. There shall be an Administrative

Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Communications as chairman, the Media Center general manager, and three others elected by the Executive Presbytery. Committee members shall serve a 2-year period or until their successors are appointed.

(3) Advisory Board. There shall be a Media Center Advisory Board. It shall consist of the national director of the Division of Communications, two executive presbyters, the Media Center manager, and four other individuals selected for their expertise in areas of media and/or marketing. The board shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery to serve a 2-year term. The board shall meet annually or at the call of the national director.

(4) Film Committee. There shall be a Film Committee which shall recommend films to be included in the library. The committee shall consist of the national director of the Division of Communications, the Media Center general manager, and three others appointed by the Executive Presbytery. Committee members shall serve a 2-year period or until their successors are appointed.

#### **Resolution 12. Transdistrict Ministry**

George Wood read Resolution 12 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The Decade of Harvest challenges the Assemblies of God to accelerate the planting of churches throughout our nation; and

WHEREAS, Such a challenge may require crossing existing district boundaries to meet a growing spiritual need and require greater availability of specialized ministers; and

WHEREAS, Present bylaw provisions related to transdistrict ministries could be strengthened by broadening the scope of ministry beyond the boundaries of a minister's home district and by clarifying the interdistrict relationships within the Fellowship; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article VII, Section 8, paragraph b, be amended by adding the following provision:

(3) Church-planting Ministries. A minister who serves on a transdistrict ministry related to church-planting efforts may do so provided:

(a) He has a scope of ministry which reaches beyond district boundaries; and

(b) Both districts agree to the assignment; and

(c) That in the case the assignment involves a language group, he follow the guidelines provided by the Executive Presbytery of the General Council and adhere to the bylaw governing interdistrict relations (see Article V, Section 4).

A church planter holding credentials may obtain affiliation with the district he intends to serve and retain honorary membership in the home district, be listed in the district's yearbook, and be ex-

tended voice and vote for such time as he serves in another district. The financial responsibilities shall be the same as those of a nationally appointed home missionary {Article VII, Section 8, paragraph c, subparagraph (3)}.

Further be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article VII, Section 9, be amended by adding the following provision:

(9) Church planters involved in transdistrict ministry.

The motion was seconded and carried.

#### Report From National Director of the Division of Home Missions

The chairman called on Charles Hackett, national director of the Division of Home Missions, to present a report which he has shared with the General Presbytery. By action of the General Presbytery it has been requested that he also share the report with the General Council. The report given by Charles Hackett is as follows:

My report to you today is more about philosophy than specific plans. I see the following four areas as needing immediate attention.

I. Continue the oversight and development of the ministries already in place.

1. Chaplaincy
2. College Ministries
3. Intercultural Ministries
4. New Church Evangelism
5. Teen Challenge
6. The various outreaches of MAPS (Mission America Placement Service) which includes RV ministries, home missions construction, 1- and 2-year assignments, and the summer intern program.

Keeping these valuable ministries going is most important.

II. Reaching the cities of America.

The problem in doing this is the district leaders differ greatly as to how this should be done and what role the Division of Home Missions will play.

III. The training of urban and inner-city workers.

IV. Helping the 25,000 credentialed ministers of the Assemblies of God who are either not in the ministry or are in the ministry part-time, frustrated or unproductive.

We do not need 20,000 more ministers in the Decade of Harvest who fall into these categories.

The Division of Home Missions will serve any person, church, district, or college without regard as to who gets the credit. God has called us to serve, and we will do our best to fulfill that call.

The church in the U.S. faces the biggest challenge in its history.

We are less Christian this decade than the last decade. I have no national statistics that indicate things are getting better. Every sign says it is getting worse. The Assemblies of God has never had a more opportune time in history than now. Bold, decisive, even radical action is needed if we are going to see the results for which we are praying.

I would like to give you a partial overview of the Assemblies of God from the 1990 ACMR statistics.

One out of three churches in the Assemblies of God, or 3,755, averaged 49 people or less in morning worship attendance. That means one-third of our churches are struggling just to stay alive. Two-thirds of our churches averaged 99 or less. Eighty-four percent, or 17 out of 20 Assemblies of God churches, averaged 199 or less.

Fifty-two percent of our churches are in towns of 10,000 or less. Only 25 percent of our churches are located in areas of 50,000 or more.

Simply stated, we are predominantly a Fellowship of small churches located in small towns. Yet, one out of two Americans live in just 39 population centers. In this decade, we must go where the people reside. The 5,000 churches we will plant during the Decade of Harvest must not fall into the percentage categories of the churches we now have.

In further defining our challenge, let me remind you of the most successful example of evangelism I know: The Division of Foreign Missions. How are they doing it? Let me give you my opinion.

1. There is one door for foreign missions ministry. To me, this speaks UNITY. On the home front, however, we have one national door, 56 district doors, and 11,000 local doors. I am not suggesting we have one door on the home front. But a fragmented army wins few battles. Our lack of unity is structural, not spiritual.

2. Secondly, in my opinion, the Division of Foreign Missions is successful because it has MOBILITY. They go where the action is. I have heard J. Philip Hogan say more than once, "We go where God is moving." Look at the scene today. Russia has opened its doors to the gospel, and DFM is pouring resources into that entire area. Southeast Asia, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos are open, and DFM is doing the same in these countries.

We on the home front lack that kind of national unity and mobility. In America, the Mormons are more successful, numerically, in spreading their error than the Assemblies of God are in spreading the truth. That is a fact. We believe, "Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world." We must ask ourselves, "Why are we not doing a better job?"

Since I am new in this position, I am sure you will have a tolerant and forgiving attitude toward any radical or impractical suggestion I make. With this in mind, I will proceed.

Let us look at the planting of 5,000 churches in the Decade of

Harvest. According to the national director, there is not a national plan as to where these churches should be planted for maximum harvest. Rather, each district is doing what it thinks is the best. Can we develop a vision that will transcend district lines? Would it be possible to give 2 or 3 years of the Decade of Harvest to the 39 major population centers of America and pour our resources into this effort? I cannot answer these questions.

Sears, the most successful retailer in history, is now in a struggle for survival. First, there was K-Mart; now it is WalMart. Sears cannot seem to change what has worked for over a half century but is not working now. Their market share continues to drop.

I think there is a lesson here for us. We continue to confuse methods with message. It is the message that is sacred, not methods. District lines do not mean as much to God as they do to some of us.

Why are there so many large charismatic churches? Why do the numbers keep growing? In many areas it is at the expense of the local Assemblies of God churches. Who has examined why so many of our people have left the Assemblies of God to follow independent leaders?

It is not a lack of money that is hindering the harvest, but a lack of vision and unity. "Where there is no vision the people perish." The version I hear is, "Where there is no money the people perish."

I have come into this office from the pastorate, a life-time of soul winning and discipleship. I cannot change now. I must not change. I want to see God move one more time in America. I want to be a part of it. I want the Assemblies of God to be a part of it.

I will close with this note. Over 30 years ago the plague of drugs invaded the ghettos (the inner cities) and the Church did nothing. The results: drugs are now everywhere including our churches. There is not a town or community in America that does not have a drug problem.

Either we take the gospel to the inner cities now or the inner cities will come to us with their violence, crime, immorality, broken families, and hopelessness. We will lose the battle in the suburbs like we lost the battle in the cities.

The Assemblies of God began among the poor and downtrodden. Let us return to our roots. We must keep the middle-class God has given us but we can no longer ignore the sea of humanity in America who need the gospel.

Is it possible for us to go beyond home missions and foreign missions and see WORLD MISSIONS?

If we are not going to reach the cities in America, who are we going to reach?

If we are not going to reach them now, when are we going to reach them?

The harvest has been ripe for many years and most of it has already been lost. It is time for harvest.

Following the reading of the report, it was recommended that a copy of this report be sent to all ministers of the Fellowship.

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

The chairman asked the body to join in prayer for a revival across our Fellowship which would impact our entire nation.

#### Recess

The meeting recessed at 12 noon with prayer by Charles Hackett.

#### FRIDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 9

Assistant General Superintendent Everett R. Stenhouse opened the Friday afternoon business session by asking Ron Cochran to lead in the singing of choruses. Tom Matrone, minister of music for Newport-Mesa Christian Center in Costa Mesa, California, was at the piano and Elnora Dresselhaus, First Assembly of God, San Diego, California, served at the organ. William Lee, Native American representative for the Division of Home Missions, led in prayer both in English and Navajo.

Dr. Fred Allen, representing the American Bible Society, brought greetings to the General Council and expressed appreciation for the participation of the Assemblies of God in helping provide Bibles for several areas of the world. He mentioned particularly the distribution of Bibles in the Soviet Union, written in the Russian language.

Dr. Allen concluded by presenting to Brother Carlson a copy of the Contemporary English Version of the New Testament—a Bible for today's family.

Brother Carlson expressed his appreciation for the gift, as well as the appreciation of the General Council for the work of the American Bible Society in providing Bibles and Scriptures.

#### Business Session

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

#### Roster Committee Report

The report of the Roster Committee as of 2 p.m., Friday, August 9, was reported as follows:

Ordained ministers	3,390	
Delegates	877	
Voting constituency		4,267
Licensed ministers	454	
Visitors	5,550	
Nonvoting constituency		6,004
Total registration		10,271

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



### Privileged Motion

A privileged motion was offered as follows: I understand why the amendment to Resolution 11 failed. However, I believe it is within our grasp to meet the need for video resources which have been encoded for the benefit of the hearing impaired and others, and now with God's help, I propose that we pause to take an offering this afternoon for the purpose of purchasing an encoder, and by so doing open a door of ministry to a sometimes neglected, but always important segment of our population.

The chairman did not acknowledge the motion, but asked the general treasurer and the assistant general superintendent to give proper consideration and check as to how this could be accomplished.

### Resolution 13. Resignation by Ministers

George Wood read Resolution 13 as follows and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, Some credentialed ministers mistakenly believe that when they submit a letter of resignation to the district with which they are affiliated, their resignation becomes effective immediately; and

WHEREAS, The bylaws do not clearly state when a resignation becomes effective; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaw Article VII, Section 11, paragraph a, subparagraph (2), be amended by substituting the following:

(2) Resigned. A minister who has elected to remove himself from the Fellowship shall submit a letter of resignation to the district with which he is affiliated. If there is no cause for disciplinary action, his resignation shall become effective after having been approved by both the district council and General Council credentials committees. His termination shall be listed in the ministers letter as resigned.

The motion was seconded and carried.

### Privileged Motion

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 22. Ministers Who Have Been Divorced and Remarried be presented at this time.

A time of clarification was spent in that an objection was voiced to hearing the resolution. It was pointed out that an objection to hearing this resolution should not come until action has been completed to establish the order of the day.

The motion that Resolution 22 be considered as the next order of business was carried.

### Resolution 22. Ministers Who Have Been Divorced and Remarried

George Wood read Resolution 22 as follows and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, Our present bylaws prohibit ministers from being cre-

denfied by the Assemblies of God if they have been divorced for any reason, and

WHEREAS, Some ministers who have been divorced and remarried before conversion or because of adultery by their spouses have demonstrated a divine call and a subsequent life befitting a minister, and

WHEREAS, Some of our sister Pentecostal organizations (including the Church of God and United Pentecostal Church) have been able to give credentials to divorced and remarried ministers under limited circumstances without compromise, and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures record with approval the ministry of a woman who had been married five times before her conversion (John 4:7-26, 39-42), and

WHEREAS, Our former considerations of this question were based on the dubious assumption that polygamy was too rare in New Testament times for the Scriptures to prohibit polygamous church leaders, and

WHEREAS, Extant records from the New Testament era give considerable evidence of polygamy both among Jews and Gentiles

("The rabbis were for the most part monogamists; however, there were some who practiced polygamy. The son of Gamaliel was a member of the Sanhedrin who had two wives at one time. Josephus, the historian and a Pharisee, claimed four wives, at least two of them at the same time. King Herod, builder of the great Temple, had ten wives, many of them at the same time. Josephus wrote, 'It is an ancestral custom of ours to have several wives at the same time.' Now were these practices limited to the pre-Christian period? Late in the first century C.E., Rabbi Hananvah noted the polygamous marriages of several high-priestly families. {Who Said Women Can't Teach? by Charles Trombley, p. 39}.

"But we are told by advocates of the anti-remarriage viewpoints that there was no polygamy in New Testament times. The facts prove otherwise; they are wrong. Polygamy not only continued among the Jews, but also among the Greeks and Romans (and who knows where else?).

"Many of the early converts of every church that Paul began were Jews of the dispersion. Josephus twice mentions polygamy in his day. In A.D. 112, the lex Antoniana de civitate made monogamy the law for Romans, but specifically excepted Jews! Later, in A.D. 285, Diocletian found it necessary to rescind the exception, but in 393 Theodosius found it necessary to enact a special law against polygamy among the Jews since they persisted in the practice. Even that did not put an end to it; polygamy among the Jews continued until the eleventh century.

"But that isn't all. Greek marriage contracts indicate the existence of polygamy in New Testament times. One such contract, from 92

B.C., reads, 'It shall not be lawful for Philiscus to bring in another wife besides Appolonia.'

"This marriage contract makes it clear that, apart from such a prohibition, polygamy was an altogether likely option," (*Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage*, by Jay E. Adams, p. 81)), and

WHEREAS, "The husband of one wife" most naturally applies to polygamy, and

WHEREAS, The New Testament Greek could have ruled out divorced and remarried ministers with unambiguous language ("There was a perfectly good Greek word that Paul might have used {gameo} to indicate that one could never remarry even after the death of his spouse and hold office in the church if that is what he had wanted to say. Then the phrase would have read: 'married {gameo} only one.' That would have been clear. But he did not use 'gameo' indeed, he was not talking about how often one was married. Rather, Paul consistently used the unusual construction 'the husband of only one wife.' He was concerned not about how many times a man had been married, but about how many wives he had!") (*Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage* by Jay E. Adams, pp. 80, 81)), and

WHEREAS, The General Council of the Assemblies of God has adopted a position allowing Assemblies of God ministers to perform marriages for persons who were divorced because of sexual immorality, and

WHEREAS, Interpretation of "the husband of one wife" as a reference to former marriages would also exclude widows and widowers who remarry; therefore be it

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

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.

Be amended to read:

j. Annulments and divorces. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant's annulment or divorce is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials. Application for an ecclesiastical annulment must be accompanied by clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception

or fraud. The application for the recognition of a divorce on grounds other than an illegal marriage through deception or fraud must be accompanied by adequate evidence that the applicant meets the qualifications set forth in Article VIII, B, Section 5, paragraph e, of the bylaws. Appeals from the decision of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.

Further be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article VIII, B, Section 5, paragraph c, subparagraph (1), which now reads:

(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.

Be amended to read:

(1) Standard for offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon. We recommend that our churches uphold the standards of the New Testament regarding divorce and remarriage for bishops, or elders, and deacons. No one should be appointed to these offices if he has been divorced and remarried, and the former companion is living, unless this occurred before he was saved or because of adultery by the prior spouse.

Further be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article VIII, B, Section 5, paragraph e, which now reads:

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.)

Be amended to read:

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 unless such a minister or spouse meets criteria established by the Executive Presbytery for either of the following conditions:

- (1) He entered a prior marriage through deception or fraud in which case an annulment may be granted.
- (2) The minister was unsaved prior to the divorce and remarriage.
- (3) He was divorced because of sexual infidelity by the former spouse.

Following the reading of the resolution a motion was made objecting to the consideration of this resolution. The chairman stated that this motion required no second and is not open for debate or amendment.

A vote was taken and the chairman ruled that the motion lost and that the vote was in favor of considering Resolution 22.

It was moved and seconded that when all discussion is completed, that the final vote on Resolution 22 be received by secret ballot. The motion was lost.

Discussion concerning the resolution continued during the afternoon, alternately in favor of the resolution and against.

It was moved and seconded that debate be continued for a minimum of 30 minutes and a maximum of 45; that no speaker speak more than 3 minutes; and that no speaker repeat. The only thing that can bring the debate to a close is if there are no speakers on the floor to offer fresh thoughts, but that we not bind ourselves as a body to avoid confronting the content with parliamentary manipulation.

Because there was doubt as to the voice vote, since it required a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority, a standing vote was taken. The chairman requested a division of the house and asked the tellers to count the votes. The result of the division of the house was 1,164 yes and 1,328 no. The motion was declared lost.

The following motion was made and seconded:

WHEREAS, Resolution 22 does not show a sponsor of any of our district councils; and

WHEREAS, The present forum does not lend itself to a detailed study of doctrine; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 22 is such a dramatic departure from our current doctrinal position; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Resolution 22 be referred for review to a special committee to be appointed by the general superintendent; and be it further

RESOLVED, That time is to be set aside for members of the General Council of the Assemblies of God to present their views, in person or in writing, to this committee for its consideration; and be it further

RESOLVED, That said committee prepare a position report with recommendations on acceptance or rejection of Resolution 22 for presentation to the 45th General Council of the Assemblies of God.

There was a time of discussion relative to referral. The motion to refer Resolution 22 to a special committee was lost and discussion continued.

A motion prevailed to limit each speaker to 3 minutes.

The discussion of Resolution 22 continued during the remainder of the afternoon. A motion prevailed calling for the previous question.

The chairman ruled that the vote on Resolution 22 would be taken by secret ballot. Ballots were distributed and the chair instructed that those in favor of Resolution 22 should vote yes and those not favoring Resolution 22 should vote no. The chairman indicated that the results of the vote would be announced at the beginning of Saturday's morning business session.

### Report Regarding Equipment for Media Center

Everett Stenhouse and Thomas Trask reported that those who want to make contributions for the special video equipment for encoding to benefit the hearing impaired can send contributions to the general treasurer's office marked for video equipment.

### Recess

The general superintendent closed the business session in prayer at 5:05 p.m.

### FRIDAY EVENING SERVICE—AUGUST 9

The Friday evening service was under the direction of Loren Triplett, executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions. Charles Hackett, national director of the Division of Home Missions, gave the Scripture reading from Isaiah 40:3-11, and prayer was offered by Charles Crabtree, director of the U.S. Decade of Harvest. An international Decade of Harvest report and video was presented by Robert Houlihan, director of the Asia-Pacific field of the Division of Foreign Missions.

The congregational singing was led by Ormel Chapin with the assistance of Dick and Melodie Tunney, recording artists from Nashville, Tennessee. Julie Clark, The Peoples Church, Salem, Oregon, served at the piano. Randy Wright, Springfield, Missouri, served at the Kurzweil and Ruthey Hager, The Peoples Church, Salem, Oregon, served at the Roland Keyboard. Bonnie Schamberger, The Peoples Church, Salem, Oregon, was at the organ. The offering appeal was made by Glen D. Cole, executive presbyter for the Southwest Area. Dick Tunney played a piano solo for the offertory. Special music was provided by Dick and Melodie Tunney and the Peoples Church choir and orchestra under the direction of John Clark. General Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson honored Rear Admiral Vernon Clark by presenting him with the General Superintendent's Medal of Honor. Brother Carlson cited Rear Admiral Vernon E. Clark for an exemplary life which brings glory and honor to God and to his church and country. He stated, "Not only has Vernon Clark been an ideal role model to his service peers, but he has set an example of dedication to the Lord in service to his local church."

The speaker for the evening service was Dr. Paul Yonggi Cho, senior pastor of the Yoido Full Gospel Church in Seoul, Korea, the largest church in the world. Dr. Cho preached on the theme, "Knowing His Purpose." He shared from his experience seven principles of how to build a church.

### SATURDAY MORNING—AUGUST 10 GENERAL COUNCIL PRAYER BREAKFAST

The Prayer Breakfast was held Saturday, August 10, in the Convention Center at 7:30 a.m. G. Raymond Carlson served as chairman. Special music for the breakfast was provided by Scott Abbott, singer/songwriter.

The speaker for the breakfast was Richard Foth, president of Bethany College, Scotts Valley, California.

#### Saturday Morning Business

Ron Cochran opened the business session by leading in singing several songs. Cheryl Cochran and Anna Snyder both from Portland Christian Center, Portland, Oregon, served at the piano and organ, respectively. Charles Hackett, national director of the Division of Home Missions, made the offering appeal. The offertory was a piano solo by Enoch Fernando, of Piano Praise International, Santa Ana, California.

#### Business Session

The chairman called the business session to order at 10:20. Bert Webb, retired executive presbyter, led in prayer for a continuation of the move of the Holy Spirit in the business sessions, as well as in the services.

#### Roster Committee Report

R. Stanton Williams gave the following report of the Roster Committee as of 10 a.m. Saturday, August 10:

Ordained ministers	3,398	
Delegates	878	
Voting constituency		4,276
Licensed ministers	464	
Visitors	5,619	
Nonvoting constituency		6,083
Total registration		10,359

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

#### Resolution 22. Ministers Who Have Been Divorced and Remarried (continued)

The chairman asked Warren McPherson to bring a report from the Tellers Committee giving the results of the vote taken the previous day on the motion to adopt Resolution 22.

He reported the results of the vote, which was taken by secret ballot, as follows:

Total votes cast	2,260
Needed for simple majority	1,131
Total "yes" votes	895
Total "no" votes	1,365

The chairman, having received the report of the Tellers Committee, declared the motion to adopt Resolution 22 as lost.

#### Privileged Motion

The following privileged motion was presented:

WHEREAS, It is apparent that a large number of ministers in this Fellowship are concerned with the issue of credentials for those with marital entanglements prior to conversion; and

WHEREAS, There is no desire to hinder the Holy Spirit's power or authority to call these individuals to preach the gospel; and

WHEREAS, This issue is one which continues to come to the council floor; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery be instructed to search for and determine a way in which men and women, divorced and remarried prior to conversion, called and gifted by God for preaching ministry, can be accommodated and encouraged within the Assemblies of God and its ministry framework.

The chairman declared that this was an improper motion since it is asking the Executive Presbytery to do something that would be in conflict with the General Council Constitution and Bylaws.

#### Resolution 14. Christian Worker Preaching Requirement

George Wood read Resolution 14 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, There is an inconsistency of phraseology in General Council Bylaw Article VII, Section 3, paragraph a, and Section 6, paragraph b, subparagraph (1), regarding the requirements for Christian workers; and

WHEREAS, Bylaw Article VII, Section 6, paragraph b, subparagraph (1), should contain the same phraseology as Section 3, paragraph a; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 6, paragraph b, subparagraph (1) of the General Council Bylaws which now reads:

(1) Definition. All ordained and licensed ministers who shall have preached less than 15 times and Christian workers who shall have preached less than 12 times within a period of 1 year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.

Be amended to read:

(1) Definition. All ordained and licensed ministers who shall have preached less than 15 times and Christian workers who shall have preached less than 12 times within a period of 1 year or have not been actively engaged in some other aspect of ministry shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.

The motion was seconded and carried.

#### Resolution 15. Funding of Resolutions

George Wood read Resolution 15 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, From time to time resolutions are submitted to the General Council which call for the appointment of committees; and

WHEREAS, It would appear prudent for the General Council to have available an estimate for the cost of said committee appointment; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article IV, Section 4, be amended by adding the following:

f. Fiscal impact. Sponsors of resolutions which have fiscal impact, if adopted, shall submit with their resolution an estimate of the projected costs involved if the resolution is adopted, and a designation of the source of funds necessary to implement the requested action.

It was moved and seconded to amend on line 8 by changing the sentence to read, "When the General Council Executive Presbytery sponsors a resolution which has fiscal impact, if adopted, they shall submit . . ."

The motion to amend was lost.

Following a period of discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 15 was voted on and declared lost.

#### Resolution 16. Right To Appeal for a Trial

George Wood read Resolution 16, requesting that the following sentence be substituted for the one on page 2, lines 17-20: An accused minister shall have 30 days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee decision was received to request a trial. It was moved and seconded that Resolution 16 be adopted.

It was moved and seconded that the word "calendar" be inserted between the words "thirty" and "days," on page 2, line 17. The motion to amend was lost.

After a time of discussion and clarification relative to the process followed in notifying ministers of actions by the General Council Credentials Committee, the motion to adopt Resolution 16 carried.

Resolution 16 as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The reference to the "Forfeiture of rights of accused" in Bylaw Article IX, A, Section 7, paragraph b, relates to "Section 7. District Hearing and Discipline," which is not a final action, but is by way of recommendation to the General Council Credentials Committee for its action (Bylaw Article IX, A, Section 9, paragraphs a, b, c, and d); and

WHEREAS, The consequence of an accused minister's failure to appear at a hearing may result in his being found guilty, not to his being denied the right to appeal for a trial by jury, to which there is no reference in Bylaw Article IX, B, Section 13, paragraph a; and

WHEREAS, The guilt and discipline of an accused minister who fails to appear at the hearing is not a foregone conclusion, as is evident by the use of "may" instead of "shall" in the statement, "an accused minister may be found guilty of charges and disciplined if . . ."; and

WHEREAS, The first mention of the right of appeal for a disciplined minister is in Bylaw Article IX, A, Section 10, following the action of

the General Council Credentials Committee (Bylaw Article IX, A, Section 9), whose right it is to entertain an appeal; and

WHEREAS, All ministers are given the right of appeal with no exclusions, and all "shall be apprised officially of this right at the time of the decision of the General Council Credentials Committee (Bylaw Article IX, A, Section 10) and given 30 days to file an appeal (Bylaw Article IX, B, Section 1, paragraph a); and

WHEREAS, Although the General Council Credentials Committee has the right to deny an appeal of a decision based on (1) Forfeiture of rights of appeal, or (2) Insufficient grounds for appeal, a disciplined minister may still appeal to the General Presbytery for the right to a trial, whose decision shall be final (Bylaw Article IX, B, Section 1, paragraphs e and g); and

WHEREAS, This right of appeal to a higher body from a decision affecting a minister's standing with the Fellowship is a basic right; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article IX, A, Section 10. Right of Appeal for a Trial, be amended by the addition of the following sentence:

"The right of appeal applies to all actions of discipline and termination of credentials other than lapsing or resigning on the initiative of the minister."

The new paragraph will read as follows:

#### Section 10. Right of Appeal for a Trial

The right of appeal applies to all actions of discipline and termination of credentials other than lapsing or resigning on the initiative of the minister. An accused minister shall have 30 days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee decision was received to request a trial. He shall be apprised officially of this right at the time of the decision of the General Council Credentials Committee. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the general superintendent, with copies sent to the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation and any other districts involved. The procedure to follow in appeals for and the granting of a trial are outlined in Bylaw Article IX, B, Section 1.

#### Resolution 17. Restoration

George Wood read Resolution 17 and moved its adoption.

A motion was made and seconded to amend Bylaw Article IX, Section 8, by the addition of the term "restoration" wherever the term "rehabilitation" is found, and that the general secretary be authorized to edit any other provision of the bylaws where the term rehabilitation may appear, and add where appropriate the term "restoration" along with "rehabilitation." A motion prevailed to table Resolution 17 until Resolution 26 is dealt with, since Resolution 26 calls for a committee to study the matter of ministerial restoration.

#### Resolution 18. College Ministries Department Representative

George Wood presented Resolution 18 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws presently do not make provision for national representatives of the College Ministries Department; and

WHEREAS, Such representatives do presently serve; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the following provision be added as Bylaw Article XVI, Section 6, paragraph d:

d. National representatives. There shall be national representatives appointed by the Executive Presbytery to serve with national portfolios and/or geographical field responsibilities.

The motion was seconded and carried.

#### Resolution 21. Christian Workers

George Wood read Resolution 21 and moved its adoption as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Credentials Committee now issues credentials for Christian workers; and

WHEREAS, An addition needs to be made to the general secretary's duties to incorporate the fact that the records of Christian workers credentials are, therefore, now kept in the general secretary's office; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article III, Section 3, paragraph b, be amended to read:

b. He shall be the custodian of the official seal and shall issue credentials under the direction of the General Council Credentials Committee and shall keep a record of all ordained and licensed ministers, Christian workers, and assemblies of the Fellowship.

The motion was seconded and carried.

#### Resolution 23. Number and Gender

George Wood read Resolution 23 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws contain many pronouns where it would be equally appropriate to use the masculine or feminine gender; and

WHEREAS, The bylaws also contain instances where the number may be interpreted as singular or plural; and

WHEREAS, It would be appropriate and routine to place into the bylaws a short section indicating that words in the singular number shall include the plural, and words in the masculine gender shall include the feminine, and vice versa; and

WHEREAS, The present bylaws contain some awkward gender language such as "him/her" where only the pronoun is needed; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That existing Bylaw Article XXV be renumbered Article XXVI; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a new Bylaw Article XXV be adopted which shall read: Article XXV. Number and Gender

Except where the context indicates otherwise, words in the singular number shall include the plural, and words in the masculine gender shall include the feminine, and vice versa.

Further be it

RESOLVED, That the general secretary be authorized to edit, subject to the approval of the Executive Presbytery, the constitution and bylaws, without changing their meaning, to use uniform pronouns throughout.

A procedural motion was made to consider the two resolves in Resolution 23 separately, since the resolve on line 15 is a bylaw amendment which requires a simple majority, and the resolve on line 20 is a constitutional amendment which requires a 2/3 majority.

#### Recess

A motion prevailed to recess at 12 noon. George Davis, Springfield, Missouri, closed in prayer.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 10

Ormel Chapin opened the afternoon session by leading in the singing of several songs. Sharon Bontrager, Springfield, Missouri, and Kathy Strandquist, Bloomington, Minnesota, served at the piano and organ, respectively.

Assistant General Superintendent Everett R. Stenhouse introduced Jesse Miranda, superintendent of the Pacific Latin American District and the Hispanic liaison to the Executive Presbytery, who led in prayer.

#### Business Session

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

#### Roster Committee Report

R. Stanton Williams brought the final report of the Roster Committee as of 2 p.m., Saturday, August 10, as follows:

Ordained ministers	3,398	
Delegates	878	
Voting constituency		4,276
Licensed ministers	464	
Visitors	5,633	
Nonvoting constituency		6,097
Total registration		10,373

A motion prevailed to accept the final report of the Roster Committee and that the roster be considered closed at this time.

#### **Resolution 23. Number and Gender (continued)**

It was noted that at the time of recess there was a procedural motion before the house which called for the consideration of the two Resolves separately. The motion to consider the two Resolves separately lost.

Following a time of further discussion, a motion prevailed to postpone action on Resolution 23 indefinitely.

#### **Resolution 19. Ministry Without Regard to Gender, Race, or National Origin**

George Wood read Resolution 19 and moved its adoption.

A motion prevailed to amend line 19 of the resolution by inserting the word disability following the word, "race." The line would then read "discretion without regard to gender, race, disability, or national origin."

The motion to adopt Resolution 19 as amended was carried.

Resolution 19 as amended follows:

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has considered the report of a study committee regarding The Role of Minorities in Ministry; and

WHEREAS, It would seem advisable to explicitly state in the General Council Bylaws that the Assemblies of God recognizes otherwise-qualified ministers without regard to gender, race, or national origin; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article VII, Section 1 (first paragraph), which now reads:

##### **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).

Be amended to read:

##### **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). We understand God's call to these ministry gifts is totally within His sovereign discretion without regard to gender, race, disability, or national origin.

Further be it

RESOLVED, That the remaining paragraphs in Bylaws Article VII, Section 1, remain unchanged.

#### **Resolution 20. Basic Education Requirements**

George Wood read Resolution 20 and moved its adoption.

It was moved and seconded to amend line 13, page 2 by the addition of "or district" following Berean College and on line 14 by striking, "All

applicants are required to pass standardized examinations," and substituting "These examinations shall be," and adding at the end of the sentence on line 17 the following: "Examinations and/or retakes shall be administered by the districts." The motion to amend was lost.

A substitute motion was made and seconded to replace the Resolve offered in Resolution 20 with the following new Resolve:

RESOLVED, Article VII, Section 2, paragraph h, page 168, be amended by deleting "or by passing standardized examinations . . . through self-study and life experience" and addition of "or by being recommended by the district credentials committee who shall have investigated and interviewed the applicant as to having accomplished the same through self-study and ministerial experience," to follow the words "or by equivalent training in an approved school," so that the paragraph would read:

##### **Article VII. Ministry**

Section 2, paragraph h. Basic education 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 doctrine, 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 equivalent training in an approved school, or by being recommended by the district credentials committee who shall interview and investigate the applicant as to having accomplished the same through self-study and ministerial experience, 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. All applicants are required to take credentials examinations.

The substitute motion was voted on and carried.

The main motion to adopt Resolution 20 as amended carried.

Resolution 20 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, the wording of Bylaw Article VII, Section 2, paragraph h, appears to leave the impression that passing required examinations for those taking Berean courses in an approved school is eliminated, in the use of "either/or"; and

WHEREAS, The present wording erroneously conveys the impression that standardized examinations approved by the General Presbytery are only required to give evidence of those who have accomplished the same through self-study and life experience; and

WHEREAS, It was never the intent to eliminate any applicants for credentials from taking and passing examinations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 2, paragraph h, page 168, be amended by deleting "or by passing standardized examinations . . .

through self-study and life experience" and addition of "or by being recommended by the district credentials committee who shall have investigated and interviewed the applicant as to having accomplished the same through self-study and ministerial experience," to follow the words "or by equivalent training in an approved school," so that the paragraph would read:

**Article VII. Ministry**

Section 2, paragraph 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 equivalent training in an approved school, or by being recommended by the district credentials committee who shall interview and investigate the applicant as to having accomplished the same through self-study and ministerial experience, 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. All applicants are required to take credential examinations.

NOTE: In consideration of Resolution 20 as adopted by the General Council the Executive Presbytery has taken the following action:

*WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery has the right and duty of interpreting policy originating in the legislation of the General Council (Bylaws Article III, Section 6.b.); and*

*WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery, through its research and review, finds General Council Resolution 20 as amended and adopted to be in violation of the General Council Constitution (Constitution Article X, d); and*

*WHEREAS, The General Presbytery functions as an official policy-making body between sessions of the General Council (Constitution Article IX, Section 3, a); therefore be it*

*RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery refer the matter to the General Presbytery that will convene in August of 1992, and that until then we will operate under Article VII, Section 2, paragraph h, of the General Council Bylaws relative to "Basic educational requirements" that was in place prior to the General Council that convened in Portland, Oregon.*

**Resolution 25. Commendation of Donald Wildmon and American Family Association**

George Wood read Resolution 25 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God has rejected all sexual expressions which damage or destroy the humanity God has given us; and

WHEREAS, Pornography and other sexual stereotyping have led to a damaging view of sexuality; and

WHEREAS, Television and other entertainment mediums have distorted societal views on human sexuality; and

WHEREAS, Donald Wildmon and the American Family Association have sought to limit pornography and distorted sexual values; and

WHEREAS, Donald Wildmon has sought to promote Judeo/Christian values; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council of the Assemblies of God commend Donald Wildmon and the American Family Association for their work in encouraging media responsibility in portraying human sexuality from the vantage point of Judeo/Christian values. The preceding motion was adopted.

**Resolution 26. Study of Ministerial Restoration**

George Wood read Resolution 26 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, It has always been the character and intent of the Assemblies of God to be redemptive in nature and to reflect Christ-like qualities; and

WHEREAS, The General Council of the Assemblies of God is the credentialing authority of our Fellowship, but the varying dimensions of ministerial restoration are commonly administered within general guidelines in a variety of processes by 56 different districts; and

WHEREAS, The diverse variations of our restoration process have been both praised and criticized, and while good intentions exist, they may not always reflect a maximum restoration and redemptive quality; and

WHEREAS, There could be great benefit in evaluating what all districts are presently doing in this process of ministerial restoration, and exploring any additional possibilities that would enhance and strengthen our tangible commitment to be compassionate, redemptive, and restorative to our "wounded soldiers" whenever possible, while assuring that no compromise would be made in our message and biblical standards; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our Executive Presbytery commission a study of our total ministerial restoration process as practiced within our various districts and the General Council. Such a study would examine strengths, weaknesses, and needful areas of improvement or clarification in the ministerial restoration process and may include examination of ministerial restoration processes used in other denominational or religious bodies which would be helpful and appropriate in the development of our own program; and be it further

RESOLVED, That upon completion of this study, those recommendations, policies, procedures, or changes be recommended to our



General Presbytery for whatever implementation or further action may be deemed appropriate and redemptive.  
The motion was seconded and carried.

#### **Resolution 17. Restoration**

A motion prevailed to remove Resolution 17 from the table.  
A motion prevailed that Resolution 17 be referred to the committee called for in Resolution 26.

Resolution 17 is as follows:

WHEREAS, There is a need to clarify the intent and purpose of the rehabilitation program; and

WHEREAS, The term "rehabilitation" is secular in origin and does not fully represent the true biblical concept of the restoration process of those who have entered into disciplinary action, according to Galatians 6:1; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article IX, Section 8, be amended by substituting the term "restoration" for the term "rehabilitation" wherever it is found; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the general secretary be authorized to edit any other provision of the bylaws where the term "rehabilitation" may appear and substitute, where appropriate, the term "restoration" for that of "rehabilitation."

#### **Resolution 33. Membership of Home Missions Board**

George Wood read Resolution 33 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Article XVI, Section 1, paragraph c, indicates the work of the Division of Home Missions includes the New Church Evangelism Department, the Intercultural Ministries Department, the Chaplaincy Department, the College Ministries Department, and the Teen Challenge Department; and

WHEREAS, The secretaries who supervise the work of these departments have knowledge and insight which provide valuable assistance to the National Home Missions Board in its deliberations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article XVI, Section 2, paragraph b, Home Missions Board, be amended by the addition of the following sentence:

The department secretaries of the above-named departments and the Chaplaincy Department shall serve as ex officio members of the Home Missions Board.

The motion was seconded and carried.

#### **Resolution 34. Women's Ministries Auxiliary**

George Wood read Resolution 34 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Prior to 1990 three auxiliaries of Women's Ministries

existed—Rainbows, Missionettes, and Young Women's Auxiliary (Ys); and

WHEREAS, With the approval of the executive presbyters, in 1990 the three auxiliaries became one auxiliary, Missionettes, which now includes five grade-level clubs—Rainbows, Daisies, Prims, Stars, and Ys; Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Article XIII, Section 4, paragraph b, subparagraph (2), of the General Council Bylaws which now reads:

b. Government and Organization

(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.

Be amended to read:

(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 auxiliary; 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.

The motion was seconded and carried.

#### **Resolution 35. Dissolution of Italian District**

George Wood read Resolution 35 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Resolution 34 adopted by the 1989 General Council amended Bylaw Article V, Section 4, paragraph a, changing the minimum number of churches required to constitute a foreign language district council from 20 to 40 churches, and

WHEREAS, Because of this legislation, the Italian District Council not having the minimum number of churches to qualify as a district council, took action at its annual meeting, May 11, 1990, to request that the Executive Presbytery retire the Italian District from within the framework of the Assemblies of God organization, and

WHEREAS, The 1990 General Presbytery approved the dissolution of the entire structure of the Italian District, and

WHEREAS, Superintendent N. J. Tavani reported to the Executive Presbytery the "orderly and timely" transfer of all its credential holders and churches to their respective geographical districts effective December 3, 1990; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaw Article II, Section 2, paragraph e, subparagraph (2), be amended by deletion of the word "Italian" from the Northeast Area district listing.  
The motion was seconded and carried.

#### Resolution 36. Provisional Credential

George Wood read Resolution 36 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has recommended approving the granting of a provisional credential; and

WHEREAS, It is recommending that authorization for such a credential be placed in the bylaws; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article VII. Ministry, Section 3, Graded Qualifications, paragraph a. Christian worker, which now reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

a. Certified ministers. Qualifications for a ministry certificate shall be in two categories:

##### (1) Standard Ministry Certificate

(a) Applicants must be of legal age or older.

(b) They shall show promise of usefulness in the gospel work.

(c) They shall devote a part of their time to Christian ministry and, whenever possible, remain under the supervision of a pastor.

(d) 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 advanced age.

(e) In the event a certified minister accepts a position as a senior pastor, the minister shall be expected to advance to license to preach within 2 years. This shall not apply to any senior status minister. Any exceptions shall be at the discretion of the district credentials committee.

(2) Provisional Ministry Certificate. The Provisional Ministry Certificates shall be available to those persons who have not yet fully completed the basic and graded requirements for permanent cre-

entials but are making progress toward satisfying those requirements.

(a) The Provisional Certificate shall be issued for 1 year and shall not be issued more than three times to one person.

(b) Provisional ministry credential holders must qualify for and receive a standard ministry certificate, license to preach, or a specialized ministry license within the 3-year period or they shall lose their provisional certificate.

Be it further

RESOLVED, That Article VII. Ministry, Section 1. Ministry Described, (page 168), which now reads:

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 license are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church.

Be amended to read:

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: the ordained minister, the licensed minister, and the certified minister.

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

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Article VII, section 4, paragraph a (page 171), which now reads:

a. Christian worker and licensed minister. The General Council Credentials Committee delegates to the district councils the authority to approve candidates who qualify as Christian workers and licensed ministers. The applications of the approved candidates shall be endorsed by the districts and forwarded to the office of the general secretary for the issuance of the appropriate credential.

Be amended to read:

a. Certified minister and licensed minister. The General Council Credentials Committee delegates to the district councils the authority to approve candidates who qualify as certified ministers and licensed ministers. The applications of the approved candidates shall

be endorsed by the districts and forwarded to the office of the general secretary for the issuance of the appropriate credential.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 5. Certificates, (page 171), which now reads:

The General Council Credentials Committee is authorized to issue Ordination Certificates, Licenses To Preach, Specialized Ministries Licenses, and Christian Workers Certificates, together with the accompanying annual fellowship card, to all properly qualified and approved applicants.

Be amended to read:

The General Council Credentials Committee is authorized to issue Ordination Certificates, Licenses To Preach, Specialized Ministries Licenses, Standard Ministry Certificates, and Provisional Ministry Certificates, together with the accompanying annual fellowship card, to all properly qualified and approved applicants.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 6, paragraph b, subparagraph (1). Definition, (page 171), which now reads:

(1) Definition. All ordained and licensed ministers who shall have preached less than 15 times and Christian workers who shall have preached less than 12 times within a period of 1 year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.

Be amended to read:

(1) Definition. All ordained and licensed ministers who shall have preached less than 15 times and certified ministers who shall have preached less than 12 times within a period of 1 year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 11, paragraph d. Surrender of credentials, (page 176) which now reads:

d. Surrender of credentials. In all cases the minister shall be requested to surrender this credential (Certificate of Ordination, License To Preach, Specialized Ministries License, Christian Workers Certificate) 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 credential and current fellowship card shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister.

Be amended to read:

d. Surrender of credentials. In all cases the ministers shall be requested to surrender his credential (Certificate of Ordination, License To Preach, Specialized Ministries License, Standard Ministry Certificate, Provisional Ministry Certificate) 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 credential and current fellowship card shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the general secretary be authorized to make further editorial changes to replace the term Christian worker and Christian Worker Certificates in accordance with the foregoing authorization wherever these terms appear in the constitution and bylaws.

It was moved and seconded to amend lines 13 and 14 of page 3 by deletion of the words: "standard ministry certificates and provisional ministry certificates." The motion was lost.

Following a time of discussion relative to whether or not there is a standard legal age, or if it is a variable term from state to state, a motion was made to amend line 17 of page 1 by deleting: "Applicants must be of legal age or older," and relettering the remaining subparagraphs. This motion was lost.

An amendment prevailed to add the words, "and have legal residence," at the end of line 17, page 1.

A motion to amend line 4 on page 5 after the words "12 times" by inserting the same words used on page 1 was not recognized by the chairman. He noted that action taken during an earlier session handled the correction of this typographical omission in the bylaws.

A motion was made and seconded to amend line 14, page 3, by deleting the words "Provisional Ministry Certificate," to provide a means whereby credentials could be issued to anyone under the legal age. A substitute motion was made to change the paragraph (lines 12-16, page 3) to read: "Ministers holding Certificates of Ordination, License To Preach, Specialized Ministries Licenses, are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies and sacerdotal functions of the church. Holders of Standard Ministry Certificates and Provisional Ministry Certificates may be granted letters of authority to perform sacerdotal functions by action of their district presbyteries."

The chairman ruled that the substitute motion went beyond the intent of the motion to amend line 14.

The motion to amend line 14 lost.

A motion prevailed to refer Resolution 36 together with the amendments and all matters in the main motion as to age and legal issues to the Executive Presbytery for study and consultation with legal counsel and with the request that a report be given to the next General Council.

#### Resolution 38. Resolution of Appreciation

George Wood read Resolution 38 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The 44th General Council of the Assemblies of God has been accorded great kindness and hospitality by officials and agen-

cies of Portland, and the Oregon District Council as the host 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 General Council; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That sincere appreciation be expressed to our host district, Oregon, to its superintendent, William I. Gallaher, to the City of Portland, and to Charles Ahlers, executive director, Cara Tobias, convention sales manager, and their staff of the Portland Oregon Visitors Association, to Carl Ahrens, event manager, John Clotworthy, stage manager, and their staff of the Portland Memorial Coliseum Complex, to Jeff Blosser, manager, and his entire staff of the Oregon Convention Center, to personnel of Fine Host Catering, and to the Red Lion/Lloyd Center and Portland Hilton, our headquarters hotels, and to all other hotels, motels, restaurants, and travel parks, the Portland Police Department; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we express our appreciation to Ron Miller of Greyhound Exposition Service for all the decorating services; to Harvey Goodling of Rose City Sound for the sound system; to Rich Fuller of Hollywood Lights for the lighting system; to Joe Bashlow of Video Blazer Broadcasting for the video production and equipment; to Mark Huth of Rogers Instrument Corporation, Cathy Taylor of Moe's Pianos, Christie Smith of Prestige Piano Company, Inc., for supplying the pianos and organs; to David White of Grantree Corporation for supplying all the rental furniture; to Pip Printing for handling all the duplicating services; to Gateway Safe and Lock, Inc., for supplying safes; to Hi Tech Office Machines for supplying all of our office 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 Pry Publishing 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 the planning, 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 44th General Council—May His Name Be Praised!

The motion was seconded and carried.

### Adjournment

A motion prevailed that the 44th General Council be adjourned at 4:50 p.m. Following the singing of the Doxology Assistant General Superintendent Everett R. Stenhouse closed in prayer.

### SATURDAY EVENING—AUGUST 10

The emphasis for the Saturday evening service was "Knowing His Promise." Thomas E. Trask served as chairman, and Ormel Chapin led the congregational singing. Richard VanHuss, secretary of the Youth Department, read the Scripture from 1 Corinthians 15:51-58, and Robert K. Schmidgall, executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area, led in prayer. Sharon Burdine, First Assembly of God, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Dan Scherling, Mission of Mercy, Colorado Springs, Colorado, served at the piano and organ, respectively. Randy Wright, Springfield, Missouri, served at the electric piano. Special music for the evening service was provided by a choir and orchestra of Fine Arts Festival participants. The offering appeal was given by T. Ray Rachels, superintendent of the Southern California District, and the offertory was presented by Fine Arts Festival instrumentalists. A special Decade of Harvest interview of Paul Buerek was conducted by Charles Crabtree. World Ministries Giving awards were presented by Thomas E. Trask.

The speaker for the evening was Terry Raburn, national director of the Division of Church Ministries. He spoke on the theme of "Knowing His Promise." Brother Raburn began his message by reading Acts 2:37-41. From this passage he emphasized the words, "The promise is unto you." He used the following three statements as the outline for the message he shared: 1. "In God's presence is the promise of purity," 2. "In His presence is the promise of productivity," and 3. "His appearing is the promise of permanence."

### SUNDAY MORNING—AUGUST 11

J. Foy Johnson, executive presbyter from the Southeast Area, was in charge of the Memorial and Communion Service, which began at 9:45 a.m. The theme for this service was, "Knowing His Resurrection Power." Herman H. Rohde, executive presbyter for the North Central Area, read the Scripture from Revelation 21:1-7. Ormel Chapin led the congregational singing. Prayer was offered by Joseph R. Kilpatrick, assistant director of Life Publishers. Paul Melidma and Debbie White, both instructors of music for Northwest College, Kirkland, Washington, served at the piano and organ, respectively. Frank Cole, superintendent of the Northwest

District, made the offering appeal. The offertory was presented by the Northwest Sounds.

Everett Stenhouse was the speaker for the Memorial and Communion Service. The theme of his message was "Knowing His Resurrection Power." He emphasized that the heart of every sermon preached from every pulpit in every Assemblies of God church around the world must be: He was dead. He is alive. He goes before us. He further stated that the satisfaction of knowing Him and the power of His resurrection will be fully realized by us only when everything else is of lesser value.

#### In Memoriam

Prior to the playing of the memorial scroll a special video in memory of Thomas F. Zimmerman was presented. This video depicted highlights of the life and ministry of Brother Zimmerman.

Joseph R. Flower presided during the visual presentation of the names of deceased ministers. The following list includes all whose names had been reported to the general secretary's office from June 15, 1989, to July 1, 1991.

ACEVEDO, AURELIA, Mission, Tex.  
ACEVEDO, MARIA E., San Antonio, Tex.  
ADAMS, GLADYS M., Tucson, Ariz.  
ADAMS, SAMUEL A., Owensville, Mo.  
AGUIRRE, FELIPE, Tenango Del Valle, Mexico  
AKERS, GLENN D., Ukiah, Calif.  
ALLEN, GARNETT, Denton, Tex.  
ANDERSON, LECY M., Irving, Tex.  
ANDERSON, LELAND W., West Des Moines, Iowa  
ANDERSON, STAFFORD, Springfield, Mo.  
ANSPAUGH, ESTHER L., Wichita Falls, Tex.  
ARRANT, NATHAN, Milton, Fla.  
AUSTELL, GERTRUDE, Yukon, Okla.  
AVERY, LEONARD E., Modesto, Calif.  
AVILES, IRMA, San German, P.R.  
BAKER, GEORGE O., Bakersfield, Calif.  
BAKER, R. ELMER, Durant, Fla.  
BALDWIN, JACK C., Rohnert Park, Calif.  
BALMER, SETH R., Lincoln Park, Mich.  
BARBER, WANDA L., Hacienda Heights, Calif.  
BARDEN, THOMAS A., Palmyra, Ind.  
BARLOW, HENRY E. JR., Wilmington, Del.  
BARRETT, P. H., Austin, Tex.  
BARTON, MELPHA L., Atkins, Ark.  
BAYLESS, HUGHIE L., Warren, Tex.  
BAYLESS, ROBERT R., Pasadena, Tex.

BEARD, E. DWIGHT, Casper, Wyo.  
BEAUCHAMP, ALICE A., Rankin, Tex.  
BECERRA, JOSE M., San Antonio, Tex.  
BEEBE, ELSIE E., Rapid City, S. Dak.  
BEEM, CLARENCE T., Springfield, Mo.  
BEGGS, ARCHIE L., Canyon, Tex.  
BENEVENTO, JOSEPH, West Colls Heights, N.J.  
BENTON, NORMAN R., Newton, Ala.  
BENTON, WOODROW R., Beebe, Ark.  
BERG, ANNA C., Kirkland, Wash.  
BESARES, IVELISSE, Caguas, P.R.  
BIDDLE, CLARENCE J., Durant, Fla.  
BIGBY, THOMAS R., Greenville, S.C.  
BILLINGSLEY, JESSE P., Converse, Tex.  
BLEWITT, WILLIAM C., Yellow Spring, W. Va.  
BLOOM, EVA L., Aiea, Hawaii  
BORG, CHARLES P., Cape Coral, Fla.  
BOSTIC, SILAS P. JR., Enterprise, Ala.  
BOUCHOUKIAN, HARRY, Fresno, Calif.  
BOUTWELL, BILL J., Frederick, Okla.  
BOWEN, HOLLIS H., Fouke, Ark.  
BRADLEY, PATRICIA M., Minneapolis, Minn.  
BRIDGES, JAMES E., Quitman, La.  
BRINEY, ANNA C., Anaheim, Calif.  
BRISTER, C. W., Henderson, Tex.  
BROADHEAD, ALPHEUS, Needham, Ala.  
BRODIE, JOHN F., Springfield, Mo.  
BROWDER, JAMES M., Monticello, Fla.  
BROWN, ANSEL E., King, N.C.  
BROWN, CORA A., San Jose, Calif.  
BROWN, GUINNE R., Garber, Okla.  
BROWN, JAMES W., Silvis, Ill.  
BROWN, VEDA M., Austin, Tex.  
BRYAN, MATTIE L., Coal Hill, Ark.  
BUCKLEY, EMMA H., Bearden, Ark.  
BURDEN, EDWARD R., Kemp, Tex.  
BURGESS, BERNICE F., Springfield, Mo.  
BURKHALTER, A. L., Amarillo, Tex.  
BURNETT, ALBERT L., Manchester, Mo.  
BUTLER, DE ETTA M., Chicago, Ill.  
BYERS, FLORENCE M., Johnstown, Pa.  
BYERS, SARAH E., Nipomo, Calif.  
BYRAM, EDWARD B., Tehama, Calif.  
BYRD, MARVIN L., Coquille, Oreg.  
CAIN, JAMES A., Jacksonville, Fla.

CAMPBELL, RALPH D., Alpine, Calif.  
CARNLEY, MACK C., Bonifay, Fla.  
CARROLL, ROY W., St. Petersburg, Fla.  
CARTER, IDA M., Springfield, Mo.  
CARVER, FRED W., Dunnellon, Fla.  
CASON, W. C., Andalusia, Ala.  
CASTILLO, MANUEL, Fort Wayne, Ind.  
CAUDLE, H. L., Birmingham, Ala.  
CAWSTON, ALFRED, Tacoma, Wash.  
CERNERO, ANGELO, Belleville, N.J.  
CHILDS, DEWEY, Ceres, Calif.  
CHRISTIANSEN, ARNE E., Deming, Wash.  
CHRISTOPHEL, IRVIN J., State Line, Pa.  
CLARK, JAY T., Tipton, Calif.  
CLAY, CHARLES L., Brinkley, Ark.  
COBB, GEORGE L., Ahsokie, N.C.  
COCKERELL, LOIS A., Dallas, Tex.  
COLE, JOHN M., Marshall, Mo.  
COLLIER, WILLIAM H., Glendale, Ariz.  
COLLINS, BONNIE B., Broken Arrow, Okla.  
COLLINS, E. T., Gardena, Calif.  
COLLINS, OTHO I., Springfield, Mo.  
COMSTOCK, LE ROY G., Phoenix, Ariz.  
CONWAY, J. EDWARD, Leesburg, Fla.  
COOK, RUTH D., Groton, N.Y.  
COOPER, RENDYL C., Webster, N.Y.  
COPELAND, RALPH O., Searcy, Ark.  
COUCHMAN, PAUL B. SR., San Jose, Calif.  
COX, CLEDITH M., Tulsa, Okla.  
CRANSTON, RALPH I., Saratoga, Calif.  
CURTIS, JOHN S., Millsap, Tex.  
DAMRON, LESTER W., Spokane, Wash.  
DAUGHTRY, GUS, Samson, Ala.  
DAVIDSON, LUCILLE, West Palm Beach, Fla.  
DAVIDSON, MARTIN L., West Palm Beach, Fla.  
DAVIDSON, N. D., Salem, Oreg.  
DAVIS, CLIFTON R., Dallas, Tex.  
DAVIS, GLENN D., Broken Arrow, Okla.  
DAVIS, L. E., Lancaster, Tex.  
DAVIS, LEONA F., Bullard, Tex.  
DAVIS, S. FRED, Dallas, Tex.  
DAY, AUDREY T., Jacksboro, Tex.  
DE ALTON, DOROTHY L., Tempe, Ariz.  
DEAR, ROY M., Akron, Ohio  
DE JESUS, CATALINO, Carolina, P.R.

DE LANCEY, ROBERT JR., Norman, Okla.  
DE WITT, WARREN W., Cherryvale, Kans.  
DILLARD, EDNA M., Roaring Springs, Tex.  
DOMM, WESLEY J., Fremont, Ohio  
DOUGLASS, J. EARL, Fallentimber, Pa.  
DUDLEY, M. MAUREECE, Minneapolis, Minn.  
DUNNING, LOUISE, Cahokia, Ill.  
DUSENBERY, FLORA A., Van Buren, Mo.  
EASON, MYRTLE G., Lakeland, Fla.  
EDWARDS, DORIS N., Springfield, Mo.  
EFFMAN, GEORGE G., Sacramento, Calif.  
EISENBERGER, LESTER E., Mount Joy, Pa.  
ERICKSON, GEORGE S., Butte, Mont.  
ERICKSON, RUTH H., Green Valley, Ariz.  
ESTES, EDWARD L., Antioch, Calif.  
FAIG, GEORGE, Whiting, N.J.  
FANNIN, YOUTTNER F., Redding, Calif.  
FARLOW, RAYMOND A., High Point, N.C.  
FAZ, EZEQUIEL, San Angelo, Tex.  
FELLERS, JACK, Lavaca, Tex.  
FINDLEY, RALPH E., Russellville, Ark.  
FINNEY, L. EDNA, Dallas, Tex.  
FISHER, ROSALTA, Port Richey, Fla.  
FLISRAM, MARY, Bellevue, Wash.  
FLORES, DEMETRIO G. JR., Lufkin, Tex.  
FLOWER, ALICE R., Springfield, Mo.  
FORD, ELDON G. G., Doraville, Ga.  
FOSTER, EMMITT R., Amarillo, Tex.  
FRANCIS, JOSIE E., Gurdon, Ark.  
FRANCIS, MAX, Golden City, Mo.  
FRANK, HUBERT E., Newark, Calif.  
FRANKLIN, ODIS A., Dallas, Tex.  
FREUDIGER, D. H., Amarillo, Tex.  
FRIEND, ERNEST L., Bakersfield, Calif.  
FULLER, LOLA A., Clovis, Calif.  
FUNDERBURK, M. FRANK, Seattle, Wash.  
GAITHER, JAMES C., Fresno, Calif.  
GALLOWAY, C. B., El Cajon, Calif.  
GAMBLE, ELLEN C., Tampa, Fla.  
GAMESON, THOMAS C., Santa Ana, Calif.  
GARLOCK, DAVID P. SR., St. Joseph, Mo.  
GARRETT, CARROLL, Des Moines, Iowa  
GASAWAY, DALTON D., North Little Rock, Ark.  
GAY, OLIVER F., Ripley, Tenn.  
GEEDY, CLIFFORD M., Newport, Pa.

GEESEY, ELMER D., Chandler, Ariz.  
GERHART, JOSEPH L., Santa Cruz, Calif.  
GIBSON, WILLIE E., Greenville, S.C.  
GILLAM, DON O., Mena, Ark.  
GILLEN, VERN D., Ithaca, N.Y.  
GILLS, EHRMAN M., Cape, S. Africa  
GILROY, BESSIE, Manhattan Beach, Calif.  
GOLUSIN, NICKOLAS A., Cincinnati, Ohio  
GOMES, ALBERT F., Sacramento, Calif.  
GOMES, EDWARD R., Santa Clara, Calif.  
GONZALEZ, DOMINGO C., Houston, Tex.  
GRABAN, EVELYN M., Burlington, N.J.  
GRACE, JOHN, Oklahoma City, Okla.  
GRADY, RUBY M., Reeds Spring, Mo.  
GRAMS, KEITH C., Cape Girardeau, Mo.  
GRAY, MARVIN L., Eugene, Oreg.  
GREEN, GEORGE T., Pensacola, Fla.  
GREEN, W. L., McPherson, Kans.  
GREGG, FERNE J., Springfield, Mo.  
GREY, THOMAS L., Greenville, S.C.  
GREYELL, ARTHUR H., Springfield, Mo.  
GRIFFIN, HERBERT L., Yorba Linda, Calif.  
GROTH, CLAUDE W., Tampa, Fla.  
GULLETTE, ARTHUR T., Bristow, Va.  
GUNDERSON, MELVIN A., Cable, Wis.  
GUNDERSON, RUDOLPH C., Seattle, Wash.  
GUTHRIE, NELLIE C., Chambersburg, Pa.  
GUTIERREZ, MANUEL L., Yakima, Wash.  
GUZMAN, CARLOS M., Los Angeles, Calif.  
HADDEN, STEPHEN M., Nassau, Bahamas  
HAFNER, ROBERT E., Altoona, Pa.  
HAIGHT, EARL L., Canby, Oreg.  
HALL, A. WALKER, Sacramento, Calif.  
HALL, C. C., Thomasville, Ga.  
HALL, JOHN P., Winter Park, Fla.  
HALLBLADE, S. A., Minneapolis, Minn.  
HALSEY, BESSIE L., Mount Sterling, Ky.  
HAMBLIN, WILLIAM R., Elk River, Minn.  
HAMMACK, MILBURN, St. Louis, Mo.  
HAMMOND, STEVEN L., Olivet, Mich.  
HAMPTON, CLARENCE R., Flat River, Mo.  
HANKS, ROBERT E., Oklahoma City, Okla.  
HANNAH, MARGUERITE, Mount Holly, N.J.  
HANSBERGER, WINNIE E., Columbus, Ga.  
HANSON, MELVIN B., Eau Claire, Wis.

HANSON, PHILLIP R., De Soto, Tex.  
HARDIN, ETHEL E., Costa Mesa, Calif.  
HARPER, J. W., Cleburne, Tex.  
HARRIS, CLARA M., Clovis, N. Mex.  
HARRIS, MERLE J., Little Rock, Ark.  
HARRIS, O. B., Panama City, Fla.  
HAZELRIGG, CHARLES M., Safford, Ariz.  
HENDERSON, CARLIE, Mexia, Tex.  
HENDRICKSON, FRED B., Springfield, Ill.  
HENNING, GILBERT E., Decatur, Ill.  
HERNANDEZ, HECTOR H., Arecibo, P.R.  
HERRING, MYRTIS W., Clio, Ala.  
HERRING, OCIE J., La Marque, Tex.  
HICKS, BOBBY L., Branson, Mo.  
HIGGINBOTHAM, J. R., Crockett, Tex.  
HILL, ELTON G., San Diego, Calif.  
HILL, ROBERT L., Oklahoma City, Okla.  
HINSON, HUEY H., Noma, Fla.  
HOBSON, CHARLES O., Pineville, Mo.  
HOGAN, GENE S., Lakeland, Fla.  
HOLCOMB, VERENA M., Garland, Tex.  
HOLM, ALEK J., Brooks, Oreg.  
HOLMES, VERA, Dallas, Tex.  
HOLT, HAROLD K., Seattle, Wash.  
HOLT, LESTER, Madill, Okla.  
HOWELL, ALBERT A., Malta, Mont.  
HOWELL, CECIL S., Rector, Ark.  
HUBBARD, CLAUDIES A., Perry, Fla.  
HUDDLESTON, RAYMOND B., Reedley, Calif.  
HUGHES, EDWARD L., Ashtabula, Ohio  
HUGHES, JOEL K., Wilmer, Ala.  
HUMENY, PAUL A., Tucson, Ariz.  
HURLEY, CLARENCE J., Dallas, Tex.  
IMHOFF, EDITH V., Clarion, Pa.  
INMAN, MAX H., Glenwood, Iowa  
JACKSON, GAYLE, Sikeston, Mo.  
JACKSON, GUY L., Cahokia, Ill.  
JACKSON, LEE, Jackson, Calif.  
JARVIS, F. HELEN, Sullivan, Mo.  
JENKE, FREDERICK T., Emory, Tex.  
JENSEN, IRWIN R., New Bern, N.C.  
JOHNSON, ARTHUR C., Madera, Calif.  
JOHNSON, RACHEL, Fresno, Calif.  
JOHNSTON, NORMAN D., Quapaw, Okla.  
JOLLAY, LYMAN A., Fern Park, Fla.

JONES, A. CLAYTON, Lakeland, Fla.  
 JONES, EVERETT E., Springfield, Mo.  
 JONES, GUY A., Jasper, Ark.  
 JONES, IVAN K., St. Joseph, Mo.  
 JONES, ROBERT L., Poteau, Okla.  
 JORDAN, HATTIE E., Ontario, Calif.  
 JUDAH, JOSEPH D., Lakeland, Fla.  
 JUERGENSEN, NETTIE M., Hill City, Kans.  
 KATTER, WILSON A. SR., Hemet, Calif.  
 KAY, RALPH L. JR., Springfield, Mo.  
 KEETH, PAUL R., Yucaipa, Calif.  
 KELLY, JOHN B., Punta Gorda, Fla.  
 KEMP, FORREST M., Tomball, Tex.  
 KERFOOT, THOMAS J., Frederick, Md.  
 KESSLER, THEODORE W., Moscow, Pa.  
 KING, CLYDE O., Elm Creek, Nebr.  
 KING, PAUL E., Indianapolis, Ind.  
 KIRBY, IVA DELL, S. Africa  
 KITCHENS, NOLA R., Ava, Mo.  
 KLARMAN, DAISY, Savannah, Ga.  
 KLINGSHEIM, OSCAR W., Fullerton, Calif.  
 KOVAC, NICHOLAS, Fort Collins, Colo.  
 LAFFOON, GEORGE L., Harriet, Ark.  
 LAMPKINS, CLEO, Abingdon, Va.  
 LANGLEY, HARLEY T. SR., Modesto, Calif.  
 LANPHIER, JIMMIE J., Corpus Christi, Tex.  
 LARSEN, HENRY A., Walhalla, N. Dak.  
 LATOUR, ROBERT N., Albion, Mich.  
 LECKVOLD, KENNETH P., Everett, Wash.  
 LEDBETTER, VERCEL R., Ozark, Mo.  
 LEONARD, LAURA M., Long Beach, Calif.  
 LEWIS, BEN H., Tulsa, Okla.  
 LEWIS, PAUL A., Iola, Kans.  
 LEWIS, WILLIAM L., Indianapolis, Ind.  
 LILES, SHERMAN O., Sasakwa, Okla.  
 LINCOLN, RUTH I., Chewelah, Wash.  
 LINDQUIST, FRANK J., Minneapolis, Minn.  
 LIVENGOD, HARRY B., Robinson, Ill.  
 LOCKYER, RICHARD A., Grand Junction, Colo.  
 LOWDER, FRANCES L., Apache Junction, Ariz.  
 LOWELL, TRUMAN S., Prudenville, Mich.  
 LYND, VIOLA, Chico, Calif.  
 MAC DONALD, ZEALETH L., Kalispell, Mont.  
 MACK, BENJAMIN, Boyertown, Pa.  
 MAC LEOD, ROBERT C., York, Pa.

MAES, MIGUEL, Denver, Colo.  
 MALEY, HAROLD I., Pueblo, Colo.  
 MARSHALL, CURTIS W., Hartford, Ill.  
 MARTIN, PERCY C., Stanton, Tenn.  
 MARTIN, WOLFORD, Skiatook, Okla.  
 MARTINEZ, CARLOTTA, Aurora, Colo.  
 MATLOCK, ELMER P., Muldrow, Okla.  
 MAYO, JAMES G. SR., Stone Mountain, Ga.  
 MC ATEE, FRANCIS L., Green City, Mo.  
 MC ATEE, SMITH H., Olathe, Colo.  
 MC BRIDE, ALFRED W., Cottage Grove, Oreg.  
 MC CASLAND, R. R., Broken Bow, Okla.  
 MC CLURE, JOSEPH H., Ava, Mo.  
 MC CRAY, JOSEPH A., North Jackson, Ohio  
 MC DERMOTT, NOAH V., Rochelle, Ill.  
 MC KINNEY, LELA F., Yazoo City, Miss.  
 MC LAMORE, MARTIN M., Hockley, Tex.  
 MC MULLIN, H. L., Seminole, Okla.  
 MC NINCH, JAMES F., Bakersfield, Calif.  
 MC WHINNEY, FLOYD L., Santee, Calif.  
 MEADOR, ROBERT P., Bourbon, Mo.  
 MEPELINK, JOHN JR., Cameron, Mo.  
 MERCADO, ALEX, Bronx, N.Y.  
 MERWIN, DOROTHY E., San Jose, Calif.  
 MILDON, JAMES L., Seaside, Calif.  
 MILLER, CARL L., Bowling Green, Ky.  
 MILLER, GEORGE E., Holly Springs, Ga.  
 MILLER, L. C., Morrilton, Ark.  
 MILLSAPS, WILLIE T., Bristol, Va.  
 MING, JAMES M., Kirkland, Wash.  
 MINTON, BERNARD R., Tampa, Fla.  
 MITCHELL, THELMA M., Grand Junction, Colo.  
 MITCHELL, WILLIAM M., Grand Junction, Colo.  
 MONEY, M. M., Bartow, Fla.  
 MONTANA, ANTHONY, Jericho, Vt.  
 MONTGOMERY, HAROLD H., Fort Myers, Fla.  
 MOORE, KENNETH L., Hot Springs, Ark.  
 MOORE, LESLIE, Oklahoma City, Okla.  
 MORRIS, CLARENCE J., Pensacola, Fla.  
 MOTDOCH, JOHN, Birmingham, Mich.  
 MUNIZ, HERCULANO, Brighton, Colo.  
 NELSON, ROY L., Window Rock, Ariz.  
 NICHOLS, ARCHIE R., Bartlesville, Okla.  
 NIELSON, DOROTHY E., Winton, Calif.  
 NIELSON, LEROY M., Winton, Calif.



NORRIS, LESTER L., Mendon, Mo.  
O'BERRY, ALIAZE, Colonial Heights, Va.  
OLEHY, LEATHA H., Parsons, Kans.  
OLIVER, LAURENCE E., Fresno, Calif.  
OSBORN, LONNIE L., Mannford, Okla.  
OVERTON, JAMES G., Bolivar, Mo.  
OWEN, CLARENCE G., Porter, Tex.  
OWEN, JESSE F., Walnut Springs, Tex.  
OWEN, JOHN W., Camp Verde, Ariz.  
PAGANO, RENEE L., Pueblo, Colo.  
PARK, ROBERT R., Hemet, Calif.  
PARKER, ALTON L., Houston, Tex.  
PARKER, JANE N., Ramona, Calif.  
PARRISH, LAVINIA, Ronks, Pa.  
PATTERSON, JAMES E., Lakeland, Fla.  
PAULSEN, C. MATHILDA, Olympia, Wash.  
PEARCE, DAVID D., Cerritos, Calif.  
PEARSON, JAMES M., Carson, Calif.  
PEMBER, LAVERN P., Springfield, Mo.  
PENA, ZENON, Ontario, Calif.  
PEQUENO, CELESTINA, Weslaco, Tex.  
PERALTA, ELIAS A., San Antonio, Tex.  
PETERS, LEE, Springfield, Mo.  
PETERSEN, MICHAEL M., Bismarck, N. Dak.  
PETERSON, SAMUEL C., New Berlin, Wis.  
PHILLIPS, CLIFFORD W., Tacoma, Wash.  
PHILLIPS, EARNEST C., Sterling, Colo.  
PIERCE, JAMES F., Mayflower, Ark.  
PITTMAN, SARAH R., Springfield, Mo.  
POWELL, GUSS, Winter Garden, Fla.  
PRATT, GARY D., Decaturville, Tenn.  
PRATT, RODNEY, Milan, Tenn.  
PRESTON, HARRY D., Gerrardstown, W. Va.  
PROUDFOOT, JAMES R., Jonestown, Pa.  
PUMPHREY, HARVEY T., Lakeland, Fla.  
PYLE, ALBERT D., Anniston, Ala.  
QUILLIN, FANNIE L., Memphis, Tenn.  
QUIMBY, BERNARD G., La Crescenta, Calif.  
RALEY, WALTER B., Bakersfield, Calif.  
RAMIREZ, YSIDRO, Albuquerque, N. Mex.  
RAMOS, GENARO, Bayamon, P.R.  
RANGEL, FRANCISCO, San Antonio, Tex.  
RAPE, ELIZABETH, Fort Worth, Tex.  
REED, LUTHER, Pampa, Tex.  
REED, PAUL R., Summerdale, Ala.

REEVES, GLENN N., Enid, Okla.  
REHWINKEL, NORMAN G., Waupaca, Wis.  
REINE, RAYMOND T., Crystal, Minn.  
RIDINGS, PAUL R., St. Petersburg, Fla.  
RIEBE, PHILIP T., Forks, Wash.  
RIVERA, FRANK D., Union City, Calif.  
RIVERA, JUDITH M., East Greenbush, N.Y.  
RIZZO, AGNES, Oxon Hill, Md.  
ROBECK, ANDREW E., Tacoma, Wash.  
ROBERTS, JESSIE M., Chipley, Fla.  
ROBINSON, WILLIAM JR., Quaker Hill, Conn.  
ROBISON, DOY G., Waxahachie, Tex.  
RODRIGUEZ, CAYETANO, Colton, Calif.  
ROGERS, EARNEST E., Selma, Calif.  
ROMAN, KEITH L., Milaca, Minn.  
ROPER, CHARLES U., Franklin, N.C.  
ROSE, HERMAN R., Spencer, Ind.  
ROSE, RAY A., Missouri City, Tex.  
ROSS, RAYMOND F., Cynthiana, Ky.  
ROWE, JANET C., Portland, Maine  
ROWLETT, ANDY, Fresno, Calif.  
RUNYON, ALEX, Ragland, W. Va.  
RUPP, GRACE N., Orlando, Fla.  
RUSSELL, BENNIE H., Glendale, Ariz.  
RUTHERFORD, VERA M., Altadena, Calif.  
SACCO, VELMA, Newark, Calif.  
SALLEE, BERTHA I., Wichita, Kans.  
SANDELL, A. FERDINAND, Waupaca, Wis.  
SANDFORT, ROBERT W., Carlinville, Ill.  
SAN FILIPPO, VERONICA, Brooklyn, N.Y.  
SCHARNBERG, MRS. CLAYTON, Wheaton, Minn.  
SCHELL, WALTER, Binghamton, N.Y.  
SCHILLING, MRS. JAMES, Jefferson, Iowa  
SCHLAFLEY, MARY, Ocala, Fla.  
SCHOONOVER, AUSTIN L., Lathrop, Mo.  
SHAW, GERTRUDE D., Austin, Tex.  
SHAW, JESSE B., Oklahoma City, Okla.  
SHAW, JOHN E., Springfield, Oreg.  
SHELLEY, MILDRED W., Columbus, Ga.  
SHERMAN, ARTHUR I., East Alton, Ill.  
SHERRILL, ALBY W., Spring Valley, Calif.  
SHEVCHENKO, ALEXANDER, San Francisco, Calif.  
SHOWALTER, LESTER R., Platter, Okla.  
SHUSS, CHARLES R., Santa Clara, Calif.  
SIMMONS, MABEL R., Madison, Ill.

SIMMS, DOLLIE A., Springfield, Mo.  
SIMONS, IRVIN E., Kingman, Ariz.  
SINTAY, MARTIN, Stanton, Mich.  
SKIPPER, RUFUS A., Fort Meade, Fla.  
SMITH, ADOLPHUS T., Lakeland, Fla.  
SMITH, CECIL H., Skiatook, Okla.  
SMITH, EMMA, Visalia, Calif.  
SMITH, G. FRANK, Springfield, Mo.  
SMITH, JOHN H., Hesperia, Calif.  
SMITH, JOHN I., Seattle, Wash.  
SMITH, LONIE N., Mobile, Ala.  
SMITH, MANUEL D., Live Oak, Calif.  
SMITH, WILLARD J., Lake Elsinore, Calif.  
SMITH, WILLARD L., Russellville, Ark.  
SNIDER, JOHN S., Klawock, Alaska  
SNYDER, EMERY J., Springfield, Mo.  
SORENSEN, ARTHUR R., Shenandoah, Iowa  
SPAID, ROY E., Sand Springs, Okla.  
SPEARS, DONALD L., Trenton, Mo.  
SPENCER, M. D., Leola, Ark.  
STAMBAUGH, EARL W., Browning, Ill.  
STANBERRY, WILLIE S., Des Moines, Iowa  
STATSER, LESTER L., Espanola, N. Mex.  
STEIL, HARRY J., Cardiff-By-The-Sea, Calif.  
STEVENS, NORMA M., Deville, La.  
STEWART, ETHEL P., Sugarland, Tex.  
STILWELL, JERRY H., Thicket, Tex.  
STOTTS, CHARLES E., Smithville, Tenn.  
STURDIVANT, ODIE B., Ozark, Ark.  
SUBLETT, CLARISA A., Calico Rock, Ark.  
SWANSON, CARL O., St. Paul, Minn.  
SWARZTRAUBER, VERA I., Zion, Ill.  
SYMONDS, CHARLES A., Durant, Fla.  
SZABO, CHARLES, Flint, Mich.  
TALAGA, FIVA, Seattle, Wash.  
TAYLOR, IRA J., Pensacola, Fla.  
TAYLOR, NELDA V., Oklahoma City, Okla.  
TEETERS, W. W., Sacramento, Calif.  
THAMES, J. C., Crestview, Fla.  
THOMAS, LONNIE P., Prescott, Ariz.  
THOMAS, OSCAR L., Pensacola, Fla.  
THOMPSON, ALFRED C., Paragould, Ark.  
THOMPSON, CHARLES E., Honoraville, Ala.  
THOMPSON, CLINTON O., Thedford, Nebr.  
THOMPSON, J. C., Fort Worth, Tex.

THOMPSON, L. ARNOLD, Lakeland, Fla.  
THORNHILL, JAMES H., Thorndike, Maine  
TIDWELL, MARY E., Red Oak, Okla.  
TISDALE, TROY S., West Monroe, La.  
TOLSON, WILLIAM A., Kill Devils Hills, N.C.  
TORGERSON, EDWIN J., Puyallup, Wash.  
TORRES, PEDRO B., Long Beach, Calif.  
TRAUB, JACOB J., Pontiac, Mich.  
TRIMBLE, ALLEN C., Lakeland, Fla.  
TRUELOVE, NOLA, Kennett, Mo.  
ULDIN, ADA T., Elkhart, Ind.  
UPSHAW, LAWRENCE SR., Scottsdale, Ariz.  
VALDEZ, ANASTACIO, Norwalk, Calif.  
VARNEY, MARJORIE L., Rochester, N.Y.  
VAUGHN, RETA L., Arab, Ala.  
VINCENT, ORIS I., Mountain Home, Ark.  
WAGNER, WILLIAM E., Ocala, Fla.  
WALCHER, PERRY C., Vista, Calif.  
WALDENMAIER, RUTH C., Bridgman, Mich.  
WALDRON, LESTER E., Derry, N.H.  
WALKER, MARY E., Goldonna, La.  
WALLER, DAN D., Phenix City, Ala.  
WANNENMACHER, JOSEPH, Milwaukee, Wis.  
WASHBURN, ALTA M., Camp Verde, Ariz.  
WATTS, GUY T., Duncannon, Pa.  
WEATHERS, HARDIE G., Waco, Tex.  
WEBB, OKEY R., Orange Park, Fla.  
WEBER, EDWIN F., Springfield, Ill.  
WELLS, LUTHER D. JR., Ocean Springs, Miss.  
WERTKO, MICHAEL W., Carthage, Mo.  
WHIPKEY, ORVILLE R., Baltimore, Md.  
WHITE, A. L., Tulsa, Okla.  
WHITE, ROSCOE W., Chester, Okla.  
WILE, MILDRED M., Waynesboro, Pa.  
WILHITE, LOYS M., Lexington, Tex.  
WILKERSON, LELA M., Santa Ana, Calif.  
WILLARD, BEULAH M., O'Fallon, Mo.  
WILLIAMS, DOSHA M., Chipley, Fla.  
WILLIAMS, MORRIS O., Springfield, Mo.  
WILLIAMS, RUSSELL, Chestnut Hill, Pa.  
WILLIAMS, WILMER L., Newton, Tex.  
WILSON, J. HARMON, Weleetka, Okla.  
WOODS, HUIE H., Kingstree, S.C.  
WOODS, MARY L., Excelsior Springs, Mo.  
WOODY, EARL T., Weatherford, Okla.

YORK, J. BURTON, Shingle Springs, Calif.  
ZARRO, AMATO, Indianapolis, Ind.  
ZIMMERMAN, THOMAS F., Springfield, Mo.  
ZUCH, HAROLD L., Lancaster, Pa.

The following names of deceased ordained ministers which had been reported to the general secretary's office after July 1, 1991, were also included in the presentation.

BREWER, DAVID G., Kirksville, Mo.  
BOULWARE, MELVIN J., Springfield, Mo.  
COOLEY, DAVID S., Milton, Fla.  
DAVIS, STANLEY G., Red Oak, Tex.  
DRAPER, WINNIE P., Waco, Tex.  
DUNCAN, LESTER W., Joplin, Mo.  
GOODMAN, SAM, Madisonville, Ky.  
HARRINGTON, KENNETH W., Lone Star, Tex.  
HARRIS, KENNETH O., Catoosa, Okla.  
HOLLIS, HAROLD M., Osborne, Kans.  
JONES, MARGARET E., Sarepta, La.  
JUSTUS, JIMMIE D., McAlester, Okla.  
KILPATRICK, AUGUST C., Young Harris, Ga.  
KIRK, NORMAN J., East Brunswick, N.J.  
LUNA, CECILIO, Sulphur Springs, Tex.  
McCALLIE, LEWIS C., Sand Springs, Okla.  
MADSON, EUGENE L., Spanaway, Wash.  
MAW, DALE M., Poway, Calif.  
MEEKS, JAMES C., Houston, Tex.  
MYERS, A. CLAYTON, Houston, Tex.  
PARKS, IRIS D., Springfield, Mo.  
RANKIN, CLIFFORD W., Tacoma, Wash.  
REED, HAZELLE E., Banning, Calif.  
SCHMIDT, KENNETH R., San Jose, Calif.  
SCHATZLINE, THOMAS L., Cullman, Ala.  
SHAFFER, ERVIN E. JR., Humble, Tex.  
SUNDQUIST, EDWARD J., Lathrop, Calif.  
TERRELL, ALICE B., Bridgeport, Nebr.

#### Communion Service

General Superintendent G. Raymond Carlson presided during the Communion Service. He was assisted by members of the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery. Special music during the distribution of the Communion elements was provided by Northwest Sounds.

#### SUNDAY EVENING—AUGUST 11

The Sunday evening service began at 5 p.m. with a missions parade narrated by Lee Shultz, national director of the Division of Communication. Music during the parade was provided by the orchestra of Life Center, Tacoma, Washington. The congregational singing was led by Ron Cochran. Kenton Lee, minister of music, Life Center, Tacoma, Washington, and Carol Foss, Life Center, Tacoma, Washington, served at the piano and organ, respectively. Randy Wright played the electronic piano.

Glen Cole, executive presbyter from the Southwest Area, was chairman for the service. J. Mikel French, Okmulgee, Oklahoma, read Scripture from 1 John 1:5 and 2:3 and Donald L. Brankel, Texarkana, Arkansas, ministered in prayer. The offering appeal was made by Charles Crabtree, director of the U.S. Decade of Harvest, and the offertory and special music was provided by the Life Center choir and orchestra from Tacoma, Washington, under the direction of Kenton Lee.

The speaker for the evening was Tommy Barnett, pastor of First Assembly of God, Phoenix, Arizona. The theme of his message was, "Knowing His Peace." He challenged the audience to "get a first-hand revelation of Jesus." He urged people to know Christ for themselves. "Faith through the testimony of others is not sustaining because it lacks personal inspiration," he said. He urged pastors whose congregations only know Jesus on a second-hand basis that they are making spiritual cripples of themselves and their people. "Why can't they go to the mountain and hear for themselves?"

The council concluded with an extended prayer and praise session as people sought to know Christ in all His fullness.

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, 1991**

**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

## CONSTITUTION

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

## ARTICLE V

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

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

### 3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

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

### 4. The Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression

fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26,27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

### 5. The Salvation of Man

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

(a) **Conditions to Salvation**

Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith 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****Section 1. 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.

**Section 2. 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.

**Section 3. 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****Section 1. 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 council.

**Section 2. 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.

**Section 3. Language districts**

A 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.)

**Section 4. Credentialing authority**

The district council shall have the authority to examine and approve candidates who qualify as Christian workers and licensed ministers. The applications of the approved candidates shall be endorsed by the districts and forwarded to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for the issuance of the appropriate credential. The district council shall also have the authority to examine and ordain ministers after having received approval from the General Council Credentials Committee. 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 General Council Credentials Committee.

**Section 5. Areas of authority**

The district council shall elect its own officers and arrange for its own meetings.

**Section 6. 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. 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:* 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

**e. 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.

**f. Board of Christian Higher Education and foreign missions Laymen's Advisory Committee members.** For the purpose of selection by the General Presbytery of the members of the Board of Christian Higher Education in compliance with Bylaw Article XII, paragraph e, and the Laymen's Advisory Committee of the Division of Foreign Missions as provided for in Article XVI, Section 2, paragraph e, members of 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 Bylaw Article II, Section 2, d.) 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 General Council 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 General Council 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 General Council Credentials Committee and shall keep a record of all ordained and licensed ministers, Christian workers, and assemblies of 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 General Council 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 of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, hereinafter referred to as the General Council Credentials Committee. It shall have the authority to issue certificates of ordination, licenses to preach, specialized ministries licenses and Christian workers certificates, and to issue annual fellowship cards to those persons whose renewal questionnaires have received district endorsement. 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. Language Districts

a. **Recognition qualifications.** In order to become a district of the Assemblies of God, a language group must have a minimum number of 40 churches. Any language group consisting of less than 40 Assemblies of God churches may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery to form a fellowship of churches. The fellowship shall exist for the purpose of exchanging information and facilitating evangelism and the establishing of churches within its group. Until such time as they are qualified to form a district(s), they shall be part of the geographic or language district. Leadership for fellowship groups shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery.

b. **Decrease of churches.** Recognized language districts with less than 40 churches whose number of churches decrease for 2 consecutive years shall move to a fellowship status.

c. **Equality with geographical districts.** A language district shall have the same privileges and responsibilities which are accorded district councils within the framework of these constitution and bylaws.

d. **Cooperative relationship.** Both the language district and the geographical district shall seek to promote a spirit of fellowship and cooperation. The language district officers and the geographical district officers should inform and/or consult together concerning the opening of new language works or institutions of any kind, in a given area. The language churches, whether members of a geographical or language district, are encouraged to unite where possible, in fellowship activities.

e. **Sponsorship and affiliation of a language group.** Should an English-speaking church desire to initiate sponsorship of a language group, it shall consult with its district officials for counsel and guidance. The geographical district should inform and/or consult with language district officers concerning the beginning of a language group within churches belonging to the geographical district. The sponsoring church may provide facilities and/or support to such a work through its district home missions department. Such an effort may be initiated with the objective in mind that it

will develop into an Assemblies of God church. When such a church reaches as many as 20 adult members, it may then seek affiliation with a district of its choice following prescribed guidelines as outlined in these bylaws.

f. **Church transfer procedure.** When a church desires to transfer from a 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 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 (language or geographical) shall be reduced to less than 40 churches, General Council or district affiliated, its recognition shall cease.

b. **Language districts guidelines.** Guidelines for dissolution of language districts are provided for in Section 4, paragraphs a and b, 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 affli-

ation 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 3, 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). We understand God's call to these ministry gifts is totally within His sovereign discretion without regard to gender, race, disability, or national origin.

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. **Salvation.** Testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5).
- b. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** 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. **Evidence of call.** Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.
- d. **Christian character.** A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without (Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:7).
- e. **Doctrinal position.** A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.
- f. **Assemblies of God polity.** 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. **Commitment to the Fellowship.** 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. (See note to minutes, page 100.)
- i. **Marriage status.** We disapprove of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God or district councils granting credentials to such, if either marriage partner has a former companion living, except as hereinafter provided.

j. **Annulments and marriage dissolutions.** The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant's annulment of a former marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or, in the case of a divorce or a dissolution whether the circumstances would more appropriately be classified as calling for an annulment. The application must be accompanied by clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.

k. **Eligibility of women.** The Scriptures plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the Word (Joel 2:29; Acts 21:9; 1 Corinthians 11:5). Women who have developed in the ministry of the Word so that their ministry is acceptable generally, and who have proved their qualifications in actual service, and who have met all the requirements of the credentials committees of the district councils, are entitled to whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and the right to administer the ordinances of the church when such acts are necessary.

l. **Ministers from other organizations.** If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, 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.
- (4) 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.
- (5) Take the credential examination.
- (6) Meet with the credentials committee.
- (7) Be recommended by the district credentials committee for the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee.
- (8) All previously ordained ministers so approved shall receive recognition as ordained Assemblies of God ministers with the laying on of hands by the district presbytery.
- (9) 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, church-related ministry by a minister's spouse, or other full-time ministries. The same qualifications as outlined in Section 2 of this article shall apply.

**c. Ordained minister.** 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 licensed minister.** The General Council Credentials Committee delegates to the district councils the authority to approve candidates who qualify as Christian workers and licensed ministers. The applications of the approved candidates shall be endorsed by the

districts and forwarded to the office of the general secretary for the issuance of the appropriate credential.

**b. Ordained minister.** The General Council Credentials Committee has the authority to approve candidates who qualify for ordination. The applications of the approved candidates shall be endorsed and recommended by the districts to the General Council Credentials Committee for approval prior to the public ordination. All ordinations shall take place under the auspices of the district councils.

**Section 5. Certificates**

The General Council Credentials Committee is authorized to issue Ordination Certificates, Licenses to Preach, Specialized Ministries Licenses, and Christian Workers Certificates, together with the accompanying annual fellowship card, to all properly qualified and approved applicants.

**Section 6. Official List**

**a. Active ministers.** The official list of all credential holders shall be compiled by the General Council Credentials Committee 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 credentials have been renewed by the issuance of a fellowship card for the current year.

**b. Inactive ministers.** All credentialed 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 and licensed ministers who shall have preached less than 15 times and Christian workers who shall have preached less than 12 times within a period of 1 year or have not been actively engaged in some other aspect of ministry 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 credentialed ministers.

(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 7. 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 se-

nior-semiretired ministers shall continue to designate the required amount of support to the General Council headquarters as set forth in Bylaw Article XIX, Section 1, c, (1). 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 7

(1) *For General Council usage only.* The definitions and decisions included in Section 7 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 7 is intended to modify the responsibility of ministers to their districts nor to terminate the Biblical responsibility for tithing.

#### Section 8. 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 credential holders 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.

(3) *Church-planting ministries.* A minister who serves in a transdistrict ministry related to church-planting efforts may do so provided:

(a) He has a scope of ministry which reaches beyond district boundaries; and

(b) Both districts agree to the assignment; and

(c) That in the case the assignment involves a language group, he follow the guidelines provided by the Executive Presbytery of the General Council and adhere to the bylaw governing interdistrict relations. (See Article V, Section 4.)

A church planter holding credentials may obtain affiliation with the district he intends to serve and retain honorary membership in the home district, be listed in the district's yearbook, and be extended voice and vote for such time as he serves in another district. The financial responsibilities shall be the same as those of a nationally

appointed home missionary. {See Article VII, Section 8, paragraph c, subparagraph (3).}

c. **Cooperation with other districts.** Ministers shall be expected to co-operate 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 9. 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.

(9) Church planters involved in transdistrict ministry.

b. **Transcript.** In order to assist a member 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 10. Credential Renewals and Reinstatements

##### a. Terminology

(1) *Renewed.* The term *renewed* shall apply to all ministers who have met the annual deadline for renewal including those who are delinquent but who renew by February 15.

(2) *Reinstated.* The term *reinstated* shall apply to the persons whose names have been deleted from the official ministerial list, who upon application, are approved for restoration of credentials.

b. **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.

c. **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.

d. **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.

e. **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 where he/she resides and be accompanied with a nonrefundable fee of \$50 which will be divided between the national and district offices. (See Bylaw Article IX, A, Section 12, paragraph b, 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 11. Nondisciplinary Credential Terminations

##### 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 shall submit a letter of resignation to the district with which he is affiliated. If there is no cause for disciplinary action, his resignation shall become effective after having been approved by both the district council and General Council credentials committees. His termination shall be listed in the ministers letter as resigned.

##### b. On the initiative of the district. (See Article IX, A, Section 4)

(1) *Inactive.* When a minister becomes inactive for 2 consecutive years, according to the stipulations set forth in Article VII, Section 6, paragraph b, of the bylaws, his name shall be published as inactive in the ministers letter.

(2) *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.

c. *As a result of affiliation with another church organization.* In the event a minister shall identify himself with another organization granting ministerial credentials, and shall have received such credentials, his credentials with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be terminated. An investigation shall be made to determine the proper category of termination.

d. *Surrender of credentials.* In all cases the minister shall be requested to surrender his credential (Certificate of Ordination, License to Preach, Specialized Ministries License, Christian workers Certificate) 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 credential and current fellowship card shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister.

#### Section 12. Ministerial Status Changes

All changes in a minister's status are to be reported immediately 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 13. 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 sal-

vation, 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 prerog-

ative of setting their own standards (in accord with provisions of Article XI of the constitution).

**d. Performing marriage ceremonies**

(1) *Ministerial guidelines.* We disapprove of any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living, unless his case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in Article VIII, B, Section 5, paragraph b. Any minister of our Fellowship who performs a ceremony for a disapproved marriage (indicated above), unless he has been innocently deceived into doing so, may be dismissed from the Fellowship. An Assemblies of God minister is required to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies with scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior to the performing of the ceremony. He may not perform ceremonies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom, and sobriety.

(2) *Violation of conscience not required.* We realize that the remarriage of such persons included in the exceptive circumstances in Article VIII, B, Section 5, paragraph b, could violate the conscience of a minister, and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such ceremonies.

**e. Ministerial credentials.** We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former companion living. (See also Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs i and j.)

**Section 6. Worldliness**

In view of the alarming erosion of national moral standards, we reaffirm our intention of holding up Bible standards against all forms of worldliness. We urge all believers to "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world....For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:15,16).

In its teaching regarding worldliness, the Scripture warns against participation in activity which defiles the body, or corrupts the mind and spirit; the inordinate love of or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions, which lead to their misuse; manifestation of extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance; any fascination or association which lessens one's affection for spiritual things (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8; 12:1,2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10; 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12).

**Section 7. Abuses of Stewardship**

**a. Tithing**

(1) According to the Scriptures, tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the gospel and work

of the Lord and not be given to charity or used for other purposes. In tithing, the ministers ought to be examples.

(2) We recognize the duty of tithing and urge all our people to pay tithes to God. It is recommended that arrangements satisfactory to the pastor and the church be made by all pastors and churches, so that the pastor may receive regular and adequate support. We disapprove, however, of the teaching that all tithes necessarily should belong to the pastor for his support.

**b. Solicitation of funds**

(1) It is considered improper and unethical for ministers or missionaries to solicit funds, by letter or otherwise, for anything or any reason whatsoever without proper authorization.

(2) The purpose of this section is not to hinder or discourage legitimate projects but to protect the Fellowship from those who employ methods not in harmony with Assemblies of God principles or policies.

Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local churches or communities.

Projects of general interest to the district must have authorization of the district officary.

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

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

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

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

be transferred to the corporation, taking into consideration equity that the title holder may legitimately have.

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

#### Section 8. Violations of Ministerial Courtesy

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

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

#### Section 9. Ministry in a Non-Assemblies Church

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

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

We recommend therefore that our ministers confer with district council officials before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings. If the minister does not have district approval, he shall be expected to refrain from conducting services for the church. Ministers who violate this principle shall be considered as having opened the door for censure or charge which may necessitate the recall of their credentials.

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

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

#### Section 11. The Ecumenical Movement

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

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

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

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

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

### ARTICLE IX. DISCIPLINE

#### A. DISTRICT ACTION

##### Section 1. The Nature and Purposes of Discipline

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

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

##### Section 2. The Relationship Between the District and General Council Credentials Committees

The Executive Presbytery of the General Council is the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God (Constitution Article X, Sections 4 and 6). It shall have the final authority in matters of doctrine and the personal conduct of all ministers. District actions related to the termination of credentials or the remedial discipline of rehabilitation are to be in the form of recommendations to the General Council Credentials Committee.

##### Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action

Violations of Assemblies of God principles as stated in these Constitution and Bylaws may give cause for disciplinary action by the credentials committees. Among such causes for action shall be:



- a. Any moral failure involving sexual misconduct.
- b. Any moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct.
- c. General inefficiency in the ministry.
- d. A failure to represent our Pentecostal testimony correctly.
- e. A contentious or noncooperative spirit.
- f. An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.
- g. An arbitrary rejection of district counsel.
- h. A declared open change in doctrinal views.
- i. A habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the cause.
- j. A marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce. (See Article VIII, B, Section 5, paragraphs d and e.)
- k. Violations of ministerial courtesy. (See Article VIII, B, Section 8.)
- l. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies church. (See Article VIII, B, Section 9.)
- m. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship. (See Article VIII, B, Section 10.)

#### Section 4. Right of 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 officer of the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred shall be recognized as having the prior right of initiative in matters of discipline.

c. **Responsibility of district of affiliation.** If the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred for some reason cannot take action, the General Council Credentials Committee 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 a district fails to take action within 90 days after a matter has been referred to it, it shall be the responsibility of the General Council Credentials Committee to see that action is initiated.

#### Section 5. Investigation of Reports or Complaints of Alleged Violations or Confessions of Violations of Assemblies of God Principles

a. **Within the Districts of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.** Reports or complaints of alleged violations of Assemblies of God principles (Article IX, A, Section 3) or confessions of such by a minister shall be investigated. The superintendent of the district in which the

alleged offense is reported to have occurred, and/or an appointed representative(s) shall conduct the investigation to determine their source and validity. It is the responsibility of the district superintendent to safeguard the church, the minister, the district, and the Fellowship. In the event such reports or complaints against a minister are filed with the General Council Credentials Committee, they shall be referred to the district in which the offense occurred for investigation. A copy shall be sent to the district with which the minister is affiliated.

(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 the complaints received 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 violation(s).

(4) **Conditions for ministry during investigation.** Conditions of continuing ministry may be subject to restriction during the time of investigation at the discretion of the appropriate district officers on the basis of evidence at hand and the nature of the alleged offense. Such conditions are subject to review in 3-month intervals until such investigation has been completed resulting in either clearing the person of the allegations or the filing of formal charges.

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 file complete data with the district of the minister's affiliation. Any hearing or trial affecting that individual's ministerial credentials shall be held in the district of the minister's affiliation. The Division of Foreign Missions shall convey all information available to the said district as follows:

(1) **Report to district of affiliation.** 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 district with which the minister is affiliated.

(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 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 6. 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 file 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 3.

**Section 7. District Hearing and Discipline**

**a. District hearing.** 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 required to appear at the hearing in the hope the matter can be resolved.

**b. Forfeiture of rights of accused.** 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. However, an accused member may be found guilty of charges and disciplined if he refuses to appear at the hearing, or if proof is found of willful neglect on his part to take advantage of his rights and privileges.

**c. Discipline**

(1) *Cause for discipline.* A minister who has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles set forth in Article IX, A, Section 3, either by a confession of the minister involved or by deliberation of the district presbytery, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

(2) *Determination of discipline.* It shall be the responsibility of the credentials committees to determine whether the circumstances of the case merit rehabilitation or dismissal. The credentials committees shall weigh decisions on: (a) the basis of the offense itself, (b) the manner and thoroughness of repentance, (c) the attitude of the offending minister toward the discipline, and (d) the willingness manifested to cooperate.

(3) *Administering discipline redemptively.* 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 (Bylaw Article IX, A, Sections 8 and 9).

**d. Surrender of credentials.** The disciplined minister shall be required to surrender his ministerial credentials and his current fellowship card to the district office. In the event of rehabilitation the credentials shall be held in the district office. In the event of dismissal the district shall forward the credentials to the general secretary of The General Council of the

Assemblies of God. Refusal to surrender his ministerial credentials and current fellowship card may result in placing an additional charge against the minister.

**Section 8. 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 be best served with mercy, an effort should be made to lead the offending minister through a program of rehabilitation, administered in brotherly love and kindness. 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 3) may request a program of rehabilitation as an alternative to dismissal. Granting such request shall be at the discretion of the district and General Council credentials committees.

**b. Period of time.** The program for rehabilitation shall continue for not less than 1 year except when the violation involves misconduct defined in Article IX, A, Section 3, paragraph a, in which case it shall continue for not less than 2 years.

**c. Procedure and requirements.** The following procedure shall be used by the district presbytery in determining the specific requirements to rehabilitation for the individual minister.

(1) *Rehabilitation requirements.* The specific terms and conditions of the rehabilitation program as recommended by the district credentials committee are to be forwarded to the General Council Credentials Committee for approval. After such approval they shall be given to the minister.

(a) *Suspension.* The minister shall be considered to be under suspension during the entire period of rehabilitation.

(b) *Extent of ministry.* The extent to which ministry may be permitted, 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.

(c) *District membership.* The minister shall not be permitted to transfer his membership to another district during the period of rehabilitation.

(d) *Publication.* While the minister's credentials are in a state of suspension, his name shall not be removed from the ministerial roster, nor shall his disciplinary status be published in either the General Council or district council official publications.

(e) *Credentials renewal.* He shall renew his credentials annually in the regular manner.

(f) *Supervision.* In the event his ministerial activity has been ter-

minated, the minister must become established in a local church working under the supervision of a pastor or presbyter.

(g) *Reports.* The minister must submit reports quarterly to the district superintendent.

(h) *Ministerial benefits.* During the program of rehabilitation the minister shall continue to be eligible for benefits such as the ministers group insurance and Ministers Benefit Association.

(i) *Program administration.* The approved rehabilitation program shall be administered by the district presbytery.

(2) *District progress reports.* The credentials committee of the district shall submit to the General Council Credentials Committee on February 1 and August 1 of each calendar year a progress report relative to the rehabilitation of ministers under discipline.

(3) *Completion of rehabilitation.* When the rehabilitation program has been satisfactorily completed the suspension shall be lifted and the minister shall be restored to good standing.

(4) *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 General Council Credentials Committee.

**d. Eligibility in Special Circumstances**

(1) *Previous rehabilitation.* In the event a minister has completed a prior rehabilitation program, and is again found to be in violation of Assemblies of God principles, the district shall first obtain permission from the General Council Credentials Committee before recommending a second rehabilitation program as prescribed in Section 8 of this article.

(2) *Previous dismissal.* In the event a minister who has been dismissed requests reinstatement, the district shall first obtain permission from the General Council Credentials Committee before submitting an appropriate rehabilitation program as prescribed in Section 8 of this article. He shall not be eligible for reinstatement until the requirements for rehabilitation have been completed. Consideration may also be given to a minister if in the opinion of the credentials committees he has satisfactorily fulfilled the remedial requirements of such rehabilitation.

**Section 9. Referral for Action to the General Council Credentials Committee**

**a. District recommendation**

(1) *Rehabilitation.* When a minister is to be placed in a rehabilitation program in accordance with Section 8 of this article, the district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and recommended terms of rehabilitation. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

(2) *Dismissal.* When a minister has been found guilty of violating any

of the Assemblies of God principles as set forth in Article IX, A, Section 3, and it is determined that rehabilitation is not feasible or fails, a minister's credentials are to be terminated by dismissal. The district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and its recommendation for dismissal. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

**b. General Council Credentials Committee action.** The General Council Credentials Committee shall consider the recommendation of the district and shall concur if in its judgment the district was justified in the action taken. If the General Council Credentials Committee does not concur, it may remand the case, together with its recommendations, back to the district for review and reconsideration. The district shall report the results of its recommendation to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.

**c. General Council to hold information.** All pertinent information relating to the disciplinary action taken against a minister shall be preserved for future reference in the office of the General Council Credentials Committee.

**d. Final disposition.** The general secretary shall notify the minister and the district(s) involved of the final disposition of the case.

**Section 10. Right of Appeal for a Trial**

The right of appeal applies to all actions of discipline and termination of credentials other than lapsing or resigning on the initiative of the minister. An accused minister shall have 30 days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee decision was received to request a trial. He shall be apprised officially of this right at the time of the decision of the General Council Credentials Committee. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the general superintendent, with copies sent to the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation and any other districts involved. The procedure to follow in appeals for and the granting of a trial are outlined in Bylaw Article IX, B, Section 1.

**Section 11. Publication of Dismissal**

No publication of a dismissed minister's name shall be made until the district has been advised by the office of the general secretary that such has been authorized by the General Council Credentials Committee. An additional 30 days from the date of the notification shall be given the dismissed minister to exercise his right of appeal.

**Section 12. Reinstatement of Credentials**

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

**b. Minimal time-lapse for dismissed ministers.** The minimal time-lapse required before a minister who has been dismissed is eligible for reinstatement shall be 1 year, except it shall be 2 years for a minister who has been dismissed because of charges as stated in Article IX, A, Section 3, paragraph a. The time-lapse shall be computed from the date of the district presbytery action as it appears on the ministerial status report filed with the General Council Credentials Committee. (See Bylaw Article VII, Section 10, for other renewals and reinstatements.)

**c. Rehabilitation obligatory.** When a minister has been dismissed from our Fellowship and applies for reinstatement, he shall comply with the procedures for rehabilitation outlined in Section 8, d, (2), of this article.

**d. Option to refer to General Presbytery.** The General Council Credentials Committee may also hold the 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.

**e. Reinstatement fee.** When applying for reinstatement the minister must include a \$50 reinstatement fee with his application which shall be divided equally between the district council and the General Council.

## 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 General Council Credentials Committee, 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 General Council Credentials Committee, 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 General Council Credentials Committee. The judge shall be a mature, ordained minister in good standing in fellowship with The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Any person known to be prejudiced toward the case shall be disqualified to serve as judge. The judge shall be authorized and instructed to conduct a fair trial.

### Section 4. The Jury

The jury shall be chosen by the presiding judge, subject to agreement both by the plaintiff and the defendant. The jury shall be composed of six ordained ministers who are mature men in good standing in fellowship with the Assemblies of God. There shall be one or more qualified alternates present. The plaintiff and defendant must present valid reasons for the disqualification of a juror prior to the time of trial.

### Section 5. Time and Place

The time and place for the trial shall be determined by the judge, with the convenience of the principals fully considered in connection therewith. Trials shall be held at a place convenient to the location where the facts of the case are available.

### Section 6. Notice of Trial

Preceding the trial the accused shall be notified by the judge of the time and place of trial by registered or certified mail, with a return receipt requested. Up to 30 days shall be allowed to make all necessary arrangements for the trial. An extension of time may be granted at the discretion

of the judge upon request by the defendant, or upon a request by the plaintiff. Such notice of trial shall be accompanied by a copy of the charges in writing, which shall be provided by the district.

Refusal of the defendant to appear for trial may be interpreted as an admission of guilt and shall result in forfeiture of his right to appeal any decision rendered and any discipline administered.

#### Section 7. Conduct of Trial

Trials shall be conducted in all fairness to all concerned as brethren in the ministry and in accordance with Assemblies of God principles and rules for trial by jury as herein defined. Considering the nature of such a trial only participants shall be permitted to attend. No discourtesy to anyone shall be allowed. Counsel in the case must conduct the trial subject to the rulings of the presiding judge. When objections to such rulings are made, they shall be written into the record, but the ruling shall stand for the trial.

Any person involved in or attending a trial, who shall engage in discourteous action or misbehavior, or who shall disregard the rulings of the court, may be held in contempt of court by the judge. The judge shall then order that the record of the court proceeding shall show such ruling. Charges or penalties may be placed against the offender. Should the defendant be found in contempt and refuse to comply with the ruling of the court, the judge may adjourn the court and submit his report to the credentials committees of the district and The General Council of the Assemblies of God. In this event the previous rulings in the case shall stand. Such decision will not jeopardize the defendant's right to appeal.

#### Section 8. Counsel

A mature, ordained minister, resident in the district, and in good standing in The General Council of the Assemblies of God, shall be chosen by the district to conduct the case for the plaintiff. The accused may conduct his own case or be represented by another ordained minister. Counsel for the defendant must be in good standing in The General Council of the Assemblies of God and in his respective district.

Both the counsel for plaintiff and defendant shall recognize the spiritual implications of their trust. They shall be obligated to present only pertinent material relating to the case.

#### Section 9. Record and Report of Trial

Provision shall be made by the plaintiff, with the approval of the judge, for making a true and accurate record of the trial. This shall be the official record and shall be kept on file in the district office for future reference. A certified copy of all records shall be forwarded to the General Council Credentials Committee. 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 General Council Credentials Committee. 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 12. 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 General Council Credentials Committee.

## 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 such committees as may be required to give full emphasis to the mission of the church. They shall be appointed by the Board of Administration.

### Section 3. Functions

a. The Spiritual Life-Evangelism office shall serve as an agency to provide leadership and to coordinate efforts through all divisions and departments.

b. Specific functions shall include:

(1) Providing leadership in coordination of efforts to fulfill the threefold mission of the church.

(2) Planning and promoting special evangelistic and spiritual life emphases.

(3) 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 HIGHER EDUCATION

a. *Sphere of authority.* There shall be a Division of Christian Higher Education which shall have general oversight of the Department of Postsecondary Education, development, and nontraditional aspects of our educational endeavors.

b. *Purpose.* The purpose of the division is to fulfill the Great Commission which mandates reaching and winning the lost, and teaching and training for life and service through:

(1) guiding in the development of a higher education system and structure;

(2) guiding in the development of programs in nontraditional and continuing education; and in its sphere of activity seeking to fulfill the threefold mission of the Assemblies of God;

(3) directing an Office of Development to promote and raise funds for endorsed Assemblies of God institutions.

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

e. *Board of Christian Higher Education.* There shall be a Board of Christian Higher Education which shall consist of 20 members to be constituted as follows: the national director of the Division of Christian Higher Education, who shall serve as chairman; the secretary of the Postsecondary Education Department, who shall serve as secretary; an executive presbyter; four pastors who have demonstrated zeal and support for Assemblies of God higher education, nominated by the Executive Presbytery subject to ratification by the General Presbytery, (not associated with the internal administration of an Assemblies of God college, and distributed equally across the United States); three lay members of college boards, three chairpersons of college boards, six presidents of endorsed colleges; and the general superintendent (ex officio).

(1) *Selection of board.* Those members of the Board of Christian

Higher Education not serving by virtue of office shall be selected as follows: The executive presbyter shall be selected by the Executive Presbytery. The four pastors shall be elected by the General Presbytery during its annual meeting; the three lay members, three chairmen, and six presidents shall be appointed to the board by the Executive Presbytery in such a way that all endorsed institutions are represented in rotation. The presidents shall be nominated on a rotating basis with at least 2 years elapsing before a president can be returned to the board.

(2) *Terms of office.* The members of the Board of Christian Higher Education who do not serve by virtue of office shall serve for terms of 3 years or until their successors qualify. Terms shall be so arranged that approximately one third expire each year. Members may be appointed for one succeeding term, except the presidents and the chairperson of college boards who may serve only a single 3-year term and will then be replaced.

(3) *Authority and amenability.* The government and work of the Division of Christian Higher Education shall be vested in and committed to the Board of Christian Higher Education. It shall conduct its own meetings annually. The presidents of endorsed colleges and institutions who are not members of the board are invited to the meetings of the Board of Christian Higher Education at their own expense, with the privilege of the floor but without the privilege of voting. The board shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery. The authority of the Board of Christian Higher Education shall include:

(a) To supervise the activities of the Division of Christian Higher Education and the department(s) within it as well as the committees functioning under it in fulfilling the division and departmental mission.

(b) To review the endorsement of Assemblies of God postsecondary schools on the basis of endorsement criteria developed by the Board of Christian Higher Education and approved by the Executive Presbytery, and taking appropriate action with regard to the renewal of such endorsement as recommended by a subcommittee which the board shall establish for this purpose.

(c) As determined by the needs of the Fellowship, developing the Assemblies of God education structure through advice and counsel, including recommendations concerning forming, merging, or the continuation of Assemblies of God postsecondary schools.

(4) *Executive committee.* There shall be an executive committee of the Board of Christian Higher Education that shall meet if necessary to conduct business when the Board of Christian Higher Education is not in session. The executive committee shall consist of seven members including the general superintendent, the national director of Christian Higher Education, the head of the Postsecondary Education Depart-

ment, one pastor, one college president, one layman, and one chairman of a college board. Those not serving by virtue of office shall be selected by the Board of Christian Higher Education.

## Section 1. Postsecondary Education Department

### a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Responsibility.* There shall be a Postsecondary Education Department which shall have as its purpose working toward and facilitating the development of a coordinated system of higher education in the Assemblies of God endorsed by the Board of Christian Higher Education and comprised of soundly conceived, strong institutions which are equal in status before the Board of Christian Higher Education and equal in support by the entire Fellowship. The Board of Christian Higher Education, working through the department, may encourage the taking of intermediate steps on a regional or cross-regional basis to achieve this general objective. The department shall be 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 junior colleges, senior colleges, Bible institutes, Bible colleges, and graduate schools.

(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 in consultation with the national director shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Christian Higher Education.

(2) *Committee on postsecondary education.* There shall be a committee on postsecondary education which shall consist of the presidents of all endorsed Assemblies of God postsecondary institutions, one of whom shall serve as chairperson. The secretary of the Postsecondary Education Department shall be a member by virtue of office and shall serve as resource person and secretary of the committee. The national director of the division shall be an ex officio member. The chairperson shall be chosen by the committee. The committee shall report to the board through the chairperson.

c. *Duties and functions.* It shall be the responsibility of the Postsecondary Education Department to seek to maintain a high level of spirituality in all the schools and to guard against any departure from the doctrines set forth in our Statement of Fundamental Truths. This de-



partment shall also encourage educational and administrative efficiency in the various schools.

It shall also be responsible to stimulate and encourage interest in Christian postsecondary education and to promote enrollment at the various Assemblies of God schools.

It shall be the duty of the Postsecondary Education Department to conduct a continuous study of the educational institutions and services of the Assemblies of God with the view of their increased effectiveness. The department 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 and may take the initiative in guiding and encouraging the establishment of such schools.

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

(3) *Standard of endorsement.* It may develop 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 of admission and for graduation; and the general regulations of school life.

(4) *General service to all schools.* The Postsecondary 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) *Certificates of endorsement.* The Postsecondary Education Department shall issue certificates of endorsement to postsecondary schools meeting the standards for endorsement established by the Board of Christian Higher Education after careful evaluation of said schools, with special consideration given to responsiveness to the church's mission, and shall be valid for 1 to 5 years, at the discretion of the Board of Christian Higher Education. No postsecondary 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 established by the Board of Christian Higher Education and has been officially endorsed by the board.

(2) *Supervision of funds.* It shall be the prerogative of the Postsecondary Education Department to disburse and apportion whatever funds shall come into its possession to the various education institutions of the Assemblies of God in the way 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 Postsecondary Education Department shall consider all endorsed Assemblies of God schools as on an equal basis, regardless of origin, ownership, or control. All schools which are endorsed by the Postsecondary Education Department shall enjoy equal rights of publicity and emphasis in Assemblies of God publications and in the promotional work of the Postsecondary Education Department.

(4) *Textbooks.* It shall be the prerogative of the Postsecondary Education Department to seek to provide textbooks for our schools reflecting the Assemblies of God doctrine and policy.

### Section 2. Nontraditional Education

#### a. Authorization and purpose

(1) The Division of Christian Higher Education shall give oversight to the nontraditional aspects of our educational endeavors. This shall include extension education, external studies, weekend programs, intensive ministers institutes and seminars, and credit for life experience for development of the Assemblies of God in general. The division shall develop criteria for nontraditional education programs to insure integrity.

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

#### b. Government and organization

(1) The national director of the Division of Christian Higher Education shall administer this field of activity with the provision that as growth appears, a representative may be appointed by the Executive Presbytery to function under his direction.

(2) There shall be a committee on nontraditional education that shall be constituted as follows: The national director of the Division of Christian Higher Education; the president of Berean College; two representatives from other endorsed schools with nontraditional education programs; the national director of the Division of Communications representing the Media Center; a district secretary; and a pastor. The committee members not serving by virtue of office shall be selected by the Executive Presbytery.

### Section 3. Office of Development

The national director of the division shall also provide leadership in fund-raising and development for all our endorsed colleges and seminary. It shall effect a program for securing funds from foundations and other sources as well as the Movement as a whole. A development representative may be appointed by the Executive Presbytery to function under the national director's supervision.

**ARTICLE XIII. DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

**a. Sphere of authority.** There shall be a Division of Christian Education which shall have general oversight of the Sunday School Promotion and Training Department, the Sunday School Curriculum and Literature Department, the Sunday School Literature Sales Department, and Christian school representative.

**b. Purpose.** The purpose of the division is to fulfill the Great Commission, which mandates reaching and winning the lost, and teaching and training for life and service through:

- (1) promoting the development of Sunday schools, Christian schools (K-12), and lay education at the local church level;
- (2) providing curricular materials and services for Sunday schools, Christian schools (K-12), and adult lay education.

**c. National director.** The Executive Presbytery shall elect a national director 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.

**e. Board of Christian Education.** There shall be a Board of Christian Education consisting of 15 members to be constituted as follows: The national director of the Division of Christian Education who shall serve as chairman; the head of the Sunday School Promotion and Training Department; the head of the Sunday School Curriculum and Literature Department; the head of the Literature Sales Department; four pastors of demonstrated support for education (representative of churches of 0-99, 100-299, 300-499, and 500-plus, regional distribution); two local church Christian education directors; two district Christian education directors (providing some regional distribution); a professor of Christian education from one of the endorsed colleges; the president of the Association of Assemblies of God Christian Schools; an executive presbyter; and the general superintendent (ex officio). The chairperson shall designate the secretary of the board.

(1) *Selection of board.* Those members not serving by virtue of office shall be selected as follows: the members shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery. Effort shall be made to provide general geographical distribution in these nominations.

(2) *Terms of office.* The members of the Board of Christian Education who do not serve by virtue of office shall serve for terms of 3 years or until their successors qualify. Terms shall be so arranged that approximately one third of them expire each year. Members may be appointed for one succeeding term.

(3) *Authority and amenability.* The government and work of the Division of Christian Education shall be vested in and committed to the

Board of Christian Education. It shall conduct its own meetings annually. The board shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery. The authority of the Board of Christian Education shall include: supervising the activities of the Division of Christian Education and the departments within it, as well as the committees functioning under it, in fulfilling the divisional and departmental mission.

(4) *Executive committee.* There shall be an executive committee of the Board of Christian Education which shall meet as needed to carry out the decisions of the Board of Christian Education. The executive committee shall consist of six members including the national director of Christian Education, the head of the Sunday School Promotion and Training Department, the head of the Sunday School Curriculum and Literature Department, the head of the Sunday School Literature Sales Department, one pastor, and one district Christian education director. Those not serving by virtue of office shall be selected by the Board of Christian Education.

**Section 1. Sunday School Curriculum and Literature Department****a. Authorization and purpose**

(1) There shall be a Sunday School Curriculum and Literature Department which shall be charged with the responsibility of preparing all literature, curriculum, and educational materials provided by The General Council of the Assemblies of God for Sunday schools, Christian schools (K-12), and adult lay education in the local church.

**b. Government and organization**

(1) *Editor in chief.* There shall be an editor in chief 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. Sunday School Promotion and Training Department****a. Authorization and purpose**

(1) There shall be a Sunday School Promotion and Training Department which shall be responsible to encourage and promote the development of Sunday schools and local church adult lay education.

(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.

(3) The functions of the Sunday School Promotion and Training Department further shall include:

(a) To assist districts and local churches in setting up effective programs in Sunday school, adult lay education, and other educational activities of the local church, such as vacation Bible school.

(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 promotional literature.

#### b. Government and organization

(1) *Department secretary.* The Executive Presbytery in consultation with the national director shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Christian Education.

c. *Official publication.* The *Sunday School Counselor* shall be recognized as an official publication of the Sunday School Training and Promotion 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, Christian school (K-12), and adult lay education efficiency, growth, and development.

(b) To encourage every Sunday school in the district to establish written operational policies based on "Directions—For the Decade of Harvest."

(c) To promote Sunday school, church school, and adult lay education 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 3. Sunday School Literature Sales Department

#### a. Authorization and purpose

(1) There shall be a Sunday School Literature Sales Department which shall be responsible for the promotion and sale of all material produced by the Division of Christian Education.

(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) *Department secretary.* The Executive Presbytery in consultation with the national director shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Christian Education.

(2) The department shall include regional field representatives who shall be responsible for promoting sales of all Division of Christian Education materials and shall act as Christian education consultants to the churches and districts.

### Section 4. Christian Schools

a. *Authorization and purpose.* There may be a Christian School representative who shall be responsible:

(1) To encourage and promote the development of Christian schools (K-12).

(2) To assist districts and local churches in setting up effective Christian school (K-12) programs.

(3) Within his/her field, to assist the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. *Government and organization.* The Executive Presbytery, in consultation with the national director, shall be empowered to appoint the Christian school representative who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Christian Education.

## ARTICLE XIV. 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, Women's Ministries, and Youth.

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

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

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

### Section 1. Men's Ministries Department

#### a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* There shall be a Men's Ministries Department which shall have as its primary responsibility in its

field of activity to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(f) Organizing and promoting a program for boys.

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

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

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

#### b. Government and organization

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

(2) *National Men's Ministries Committee.* There shall be a national Men's Ministries Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries, the secretary of the department, the commander of the Royal Rangers, the secretary of the Light-for-the-Lost, and four representatives—a district men's director and one from each of the ministries within the department. 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. 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 em-

powered 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 auxiliary, 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 4. Youth Department

#### a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Responsibilities.* There shall be a Youth Department which shall be responsible for the youth work known as Christ's Ambassadors. The department may be responsible for other related youth programs which shall be deemed feasible and desirable.

(2) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission: evangelization of the world, worshipping God, and building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son. In part, it shall fulfill this responsibility by planning and promoting a spiritual program directed toward the youth of the Assemblies of God, encouraging the youth to assist in fulfilling the threefold mission of the church.

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

- (a) Encouraging and assisting the developing of district young people's programs.
- (b) Coordinating the development and promotion of projects of national scope.
- (c) Producing literature and helps to meet the needs of youth.

(d) Promoting spiritual programs adaptable to the particular problems of young people in high schools and colleges.

(e) Developing and promoting guidelines for use at the district and local level.

#### b. Government and organization

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

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

#### c. District Christ's Ambassadors organizations

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

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

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

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

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

**d. Local Christ's Ambassadors organizations**

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

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

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

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

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

**ARTICLE XV. 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 Media Center.

**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. Media Center

a. *Authorization and purpose.* The Media Center shall:

(1) Acquire and maintain such equipment as necessary to produce videos and audiovisual materials.

(2) Provide video and audio services to departments, ministries, and institutions of the Assemblies of God.

(3) Build and maintain a rental library of videotapes, films, and film-strips.

(4) Produce a catalog of rental films—those produced by the Assemblies of God and other producers.

(5) Provide additional services as authorized by the Executive Presbytery.

(6) Initiate, create, and market such products that will further the work of the church.

#### b. Government and organization

(1) *General manager.* The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a general manager who shall serve under the national director of the Division of Communications.

(2) *Administrative committee.* There shall be an administrative committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Communications as chairman, the Media Center general manager, and

three others elected by the Executive Presbytery. Committee members shall serve a 2-year period or until their successors are appointed.

(3) *Advisory board.* There shall be a Media Center advisory board. It shall consist of the national director of the Division of Communications, two executive presbyters, the Media Center general manager, and four other individuals selected for their expertise in areas of media and/or marketing. The board shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery to serve a 2-year term. The board shall meet annually or at the call of the national director.

(4) *Film committee.* There shall be a film committee which shall recommend films to be included in the library. The committee shall consist of the national director of the Division of Communications, the Media Center general manager, and three others appointed by the Executive Presbytery. Committee members shall serve a 2-year period or until their successors are appointed.

### ARTICLE XVI. 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 c, 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 and uphold standards for appointed foreign missionaries and foreign missions candidates for foreign missions appointment. The decisions of the board shall be subject to review by the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

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

e. **Laymen's Advisory Council.** An advisory council consisting of eight consecrated Spirit-filled laymen from among our Fellowship, known for their spirituality, good judgment, and faithfulness, shall be appointed by the General Presbytery. They shall work in cooperation with the Foreign Missions Board in the promotion of world missions. They shall be selected from the eight areas of the nation and shall meet with the Foreign Missions Board at least once annually or as often as deemed necessary by the executive director of the division.

They shall be chosen from churches other than those whose pastors will be serving on the Foreign Missions Board at the same time. They shall

have the endorsement of their respective pastors. Their terms of office shall be for 3 years, rotated so three will be elected annually for each of two terms and two will be elected in the year of the additional term. Upon completion of a term they shall not succeed themselves in office.

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

g. **Foreign Missions Committee.** The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a Foreign Missions Committee consisting of the executive director as chairman, the administrative assistant as vice-chairman, the field directors, the heads of major departments of the division, and other personnel as determined by the Executive Presbytery. The responsibilities of this committee shall be the general supervision and direction of the work of the division and its missionaries in conformity with the established policies and principles of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the Foreign Missions Board.

h. **General Presbytery representatives.** Each of the four fields shall be represented on the General Presbytery by its field director and two others. {See Article II, Section 2, e, (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 and Family Life 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 and Family Life Department shall serve as the primary source for missionary personnel data and shall be responsible for:

- (1) Recruiting and processing prospective missionary candidates.
- (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. U.S. Relations 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 U.S. Relations Department shall manage the stateside relationships of the Division of Foreign Missions. Its responsibilities shall be to:

- (1) Coordinate public, district, church, institutional, and parachurch relations.
- (2) Provide for all Division of Foreign Missions-related deputation activities.
- (3) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the executive director or the Foreign Missions Board.

**Section 5. Communications 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 Communications Department shall manage the promotional aspects of the Division of Foreign Missions. Its responsibilities shall be to:

- (1) Create, direct, and evaluate all promotional and fund-raising strategies and activities.
- (2) Provide for publication services in all media formats.
- (3) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the executive director or the Foreign Missions Board.

**Section 6. 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 or the Foreign Missions Board.

**Section 7. Research 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 Research Department shall serve as a resource to other Division of Foreign Missions elements to collect, evaluate, and disseminate information helpful in achieving the purpose of the division. Its responsibilities shall be to:

- (1) Document all assigned major policy and program decisions.
- (2) Provide specialized research and position papers.
- (3) Gather and analyze statistical information of various types.
- (4) Serve as a resource for strategic planning.
- (5) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the executive director or the Foreign Missions Board.

**Section 8. Missions Abroad Placement Service (MAPS) 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 MAPS Department shall coordinate all laypersons' short-term activities of the Division of Foreign Missions. Its responsibilities shall be to:

- (1) Recruit short-term lay volunteers as needed.
- (2) Receive and process all requests for short-term lay ministry including those for individuals or teams.
- (3) Coordinate all short-term construction efforts.
- (4) Coordinate all summer intern programs.
- (5) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the executive director or the Foreign Missions Board.

**Section 9. Support of Division of Foreign Missions**

The administrative expenses and emergency field needs of the Division of Foreign Missions and its missionaries shall be provided from:

- a. The assigned percentage of World Missions Plan Offerings. (See Article XXIII. World Missions Plan.)
- b. Offerings designated for office expense, in keeping with the recommendation that any who do not contribute under the World Missions Plan should designate a portion of their offerings 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 General Emergency Fund to meet the administrative and emergency expenses for which the Division of Foreign Missions is responsible.

**Section 10. Missionary Candidates**

**a. Appointment.** The selection and appointment of missionaries shall be the prerogative of the Foreign Missions Board on recommendation of the Foreign Missions Committee.

**b. Examination criteria.** The Foreign Missions Board shall be governed in its selection and appointment of missionaries by examining each applicant as to:

- (1) Personal experience of full New Testament salvation.
- (2) Definite experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.
- (3) Definite call to foreign work.
- (4) Physical, mental, and spiritual fitness to work.
- (5) Christian standing and general qualifications. It is required that each applicant receiving appointment shall have the unqualified endorsement of his/her district council, particularly in regard to effective ministry and Christian character. Applicants shall not be granted general missionary appointment until they have first qualified for ordination by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Candidates shall prove their ministry and stability of character by a qualifying period of service in the United States.

**c. Specialized service.** Candidates for foreign service of a specialized character such as nurses, teachers, et cetera, may be granted appointment for such types of work, if properly qualified, without the necessity of being ordained. Nevertheless, such candidates shall have the endorsement of their respective district councils in regard to their Christian experience and local church activity.

**Section 11. Support of Missionaries**

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

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

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

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

**Section 12. Ordination of Missionaries**

The ordination of persons for or 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 13. 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. Missionary fellowships.** Missionary fellowships, composed of all appointed missionaries and approved ministers abroad assigned permanently to a field of the Division of Foreign Missions, may be formed in each political or geographical area as circumstances may indicate. These missionary 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 missionary fellowship. The missionary fellowships shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Division of Foreign Missions in matters of policy and missionary personnel relative to their respective fields.

In those fields where there are insufficient personnel to make the organization of a missionary fellowship practical, the Division of Foreign Missions may appoint a representative(s) to act for the missionaries and the Division of Foreign Missions in matters normally handled by the missionary fellowship.

**Section 14. 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. *Missionary 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 XVII. 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 five major departments:

- (1) New Church Evangelism Department
- (2) Intercultural Ministries Department
- (3) Chaplaincy Department
- (4) College Ministries Department
- (5) Teen Challenge 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, the Intercultural Ministries Department, and the Teen Challenge 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.

The department secretaries of the above-named departments and the Chaplaincy Department shall serve as ex officio members of the Home Missions Board.

(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. *Teen Challenge Board.* The Teen Challenge Board shall consist of 18 members, 12 of whom shall be Spirit-filled members of the Assemblies of God, and six of whom shall be proven ministers or laymen from other evangelical groups. Its membership shall consist of the national director of the Division of Home Missions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, serving as president of the corporation and chairman of the board, the secretary of the Teen Challenge Department, all of whom will serve by virtue of office.

f. *Home Missions Committee.* The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a Home Missions Committee consisting of the national director as chairman and four others appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

g. *Advisory Committee.* The department secretaries of the Division of

Home Missions together with the national director shall constitute an Advisory Committee.

**h. Special committees.** Other special committees may be appointed at the discretion of the Executive Presbytery.

**i. 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.

**j. Mission America Placement Service (MAPS).** The Division of Home Missions MAPS ministries shall function under the direct supervision of the national director of the division, in accordance with policies and guidelines established by the Home Missions Board.

**k. Functions.** The Division of Home Missions shall provide coordination, promotion, assistance to motivate action, and the receiving and disbursing of funds.

**l. 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 (Mission America 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 k and l.

**d. Representatives.** The following ministries shall be the assigned responsibility of national representatives whose duties shall be in accordance with the provisions of Section 2, paragraphs i and k. The national representatives shall serve under and be amenable to the Intercultural Ministries Department secretary:

- (1) Black Ministry.
- (2) Deaf Culture Ministry.
- (3) Native American Ministry.

**e. 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.

**f. 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 Affairs Hospital Chaplaincy).

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

(a) Processing applications of candidates for the Industrial or Institutional Chaplaincy for submission to the Commission on Chaplains for its official endorsement.

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

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

(d) Working among or directing ministry to individuals and their families in industry and institutions, known as Industrial and Institutional Ministries.

(e) Appointing contact pastors for the major correctional, mental health, and medical health facilities in the United States.

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

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

(h) Assisting the districts and local churches in ministry within industrial and institutional settings.

#### 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.

(g) Serving as the certifying and approving authority for those applying to the military as directors of Religious Education.

#### 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.

d. *National representatives.* There shall be national representatives appointed by the Executive Presbytery to serve with national portfolios and/or geographical field responsibilities.

#### Section 7 Teen Challenge 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 Teen Challenge Department shall assist the local centers through the networking of information, national curriculum, available workers, fundraising, and public relations. Further, the Teen Challenge Department will oversee the national certification of every local center. Teen Challenge endeavors to help people become mentally sound, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, physically well, and spiritually alive.

#### Section 8. Support

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

a. The assigned percentage of World Missions Plan offerings. (See Article XXIII. World Missions Plan).

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

g. All endorsed and/or approved Assemblies of God chaplains actively serving full- or part-time, reserve chaplains, chaplain trainees, military trainees, and military seminarians shall contribute one-half of their tithe from their income earned from chaplaincy services to the Chaplaincy Department. Industrial and institutional chaplains' contributions shall be placed in the Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy Fund, and the Mil-

itary Chaplaincy contributions shall be placed in the Military Chaplaincy Fund.

#### h. 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.

#### i. Teen Challenge Department

(1) All Teen Challenge Centers should contribute a minimum of \$50 monthly to assist in supporting the national Teen Challenge Department.

(2) All Teen Challenge center ministers who are appointed Home Missionaries shall contribute one-half of their tithes to assist in supporting the national Teen Challenge Department.

### ARTICLE XVIII. 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 XIX. DIVISION OF THE TREASURY

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

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

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

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

### Section 1. Finance Department

#### a. Authorization and purpose.

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

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

#### b. Government and organization

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

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

(3) *Committee on Finance.* There shall be a Committee on Finance, consisting of seven men from the constituency on the field, elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. This committee shall be charged with the responsibility of studying the budget with the Executive Presbytery and shall serve in an advisory capacity in matters of general finance. They shall give preliminary survey and advice concerning any major project on the denominational or departmental level involving the expenditure of funds. Any project to be submitted for consideration by the General Council which involves the expenditure of funds shall first be submitted to this committee for review and advice.

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

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

#### c. Support of headquarters

(1) *From ministers.* The work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in its program of developing the spirit of cooperation and fellowship in home and foreign fields, incurs considerable expense, including the financial support of the executive officers and offices.

Ordained ministers should recognize their obligation to contribute \$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 called a Fellowship Partnership offering, and shall be included with the Annual Church Ministries Report. It is suggested that each church's minimal offering be based upon its average Sunday morning attendance. A church averaging less than 50 is asked to send \$25 for the year; less than 100 but more than 50, \$50; less than 250 but more than 100, \$100; less than 500 but more than 250, \$250; less than 1,000 but more than 500, \$500; less than 2,000 but more than 1,000, \$1,000; over 2,000, \$2,000.

## 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 scrip-

tural methods of financial support for local assemblies, district councils, and the administrative offices of the General Council.

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

### b. Government and organization

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

(2) *Secretary.* There shall be a secretary of the department who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

(3) *Stewardship Committee.* There shall be a Stewardship Committee which shall give counsel for the operation of the department. The committee shall be composed of the general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, who shall serve as its chairman; the secretary of the Stewardship Department; and three others from the field at large, appointed by the Executive Presbytery for a 2-year term. The committee shall meet annually.

### c. World Ministries Giving

(1) *Participation.* In order to support and develop the work and ministries of the Assemblies of God at home and abroad, all its churches shall be encouraged to send offerings therefor at regular intervals.

(2) *Combined report.* A combined report of all offerings which are designated for departments shall be given under the caption of World Ministries Giving. The intent is to provide recognition for contributions to all ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, to place each appeal and ministry on an equal basis, and to lend encouragement to churches and individual contributors to determine the appeal to which they will respond under the leading of the Spirit.

(3) *Credit.* World Ministries Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to the Divisions of Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Christian Education (including educational institutions), and Church Ministries (including Men's Ministries, Women's Ministries, Sunday School, and Youth Departments), Radio and TV, the executive and Spiritual Life-Evangelism offices, Benevolences Department, and other General Council, regional, and district-sponsored or approved projects. Contributions from districts other than where a district-approved project is located can only be granted World Ministries Giving credit if the district where the contribution originates gives its approval, and if the contribution is channeled through that district or the national headquarters. It is expected that the national division related to a given project will be notified of approved projects. It is also understood that no district or region may receive World Min-



istries 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 Committee to administer the department. It shall consist of the general treasurer, who shall serve as chairman, the secretary of the department, and three other persons appointed by the Executive Presbytery for a 2-year term.

(4) *Amenability.* The department and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

c. *Benevolence funds.* The department shall be authorized to solicit regular contributions from the ministers and churches of the Assemblies of God. Each church in the Fellowship is expected to cooperate by sending two special offerings annually for national benevolences, or by placing the Benevolences Department in its monthly budget.

d. *Aged Ministers Assistance.* Assistance shall be made available to ordained ministers (the term includes ordained missionaries) of the Assemblies of God and to their widows, because of age or physical infirmity and for whom no other means of support is available. Eligibility shall be determined on the following bases:

(1) *Ministerial requirement.* The applicant shall have been an ordained minister in good standing and have held credentials for at least 10 years immediately prior to retirement.

(2) *Age requirement.* The applicant shall have reached the age of 65 in the case of an ordained minister, or 60 in the case of a widow of a minister.

(3) *Disability requirement.* Ministers who have been disabled to the

extent that they cannot perform their ministerial duties shall also be eligible to make application.

(4) *Financial cooperation requirement.* The record of the applicant shall indicate that he or she has complied with the approved financial plans of the district council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

(5) *District endorsement requirement.* Unqualified endorsement must be given by the district officer.

**e. Homes for the aged and children.** Benevolent institutions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be operated by boards of directors nominated by the Benevolences Committee and appointed by the Executive Presbytery. These boards shall be responsible to the Benevolences Department in matters of policy and administration, and their actions shall be reviewed by the Executive Presbytery.

**f. District Council benevolent institutions.** District councils may set up homes for the aged and children's homes and child placement agencies in cooperation with the Benevolences Department. They shall be expected to conform to the standards approved by the department.

## ARTICLE XX. 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 Seminary, 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.

## 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 XXI. 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 XXII. 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 XXIII. 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 XXIV. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The regular order of business for the General Council meeting shall be:

1. Report of the general superintendent
2. Report of the general secretary
3. Report of the general treasurer
4. Departmental reports
5. Unfinished business
6. Election of officers
7. New business
8. Adjournment

All business sessions of the General Council shall commence with prayer.

### ARTICLE XXV. 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 XXVI. 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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