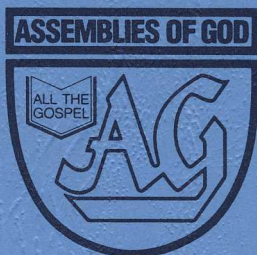


MINUTES

Revised Constitution and Bylaws

The General Council of the Assemblies of God



47th GENERAL COUNCIL

Indianapolis, Indiana

August 5-10, 1997

MINUTES
of the
47th Session of
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
of the
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Convened at Indianapolis, Indiana
August 5-10, 1997

with
Revised Constitution and Bylaws

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

Printed in U.S.A.

Cost: \$5 (Available from general secretary's office)

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Thomas E. TraskGeneral Superintendent
Charles T. Crabtree.....Assistant General Superintendent
George O. Wood.....General Secretary
James K. Bridges.....General Treasurer

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY

Thomas E. Trask, Chairman

David W. Argue	Charles T. Crabtree
Almon M. Bartholomew	Richard Dresselhaus
M. Wayne Benson	Charles E. Hackett
C. Dan Betzer	Jesse Miranda
Robert L. Brandt	Armon Newburn
James K. Bridges	Philip Wannenmacher
L. John Bueno	George O. Wood

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

1445 Boonville Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802-1894
Telephone: 417-862-2781
Fax: 417-862-0133

FOREWORD

“Lord, Send a Revival!” served as the theme for our 47th General Council in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 5-10, 1997. May the winds of revival continue to blow through this Fellowship so that we may be fully equipped to take the gospel to the lost and dying of this generation.

GEORGE O. WOOD
GENERAL SECRETARY

**MINUTES OF
THE 47TH GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
CONVENED AT INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
AUGUST 5-10, 1997**

TUESDAY EVENING--AUGUST 5

The opening service of the 47th General Council began at 7 p.m. in the RCA Dome, Indianapolis, Indiana, following a pre-service musical presentation by The Celebration Choir of Evangel Assembly of God, Chicago, Illinois, with soloist Grace Jones. Assistant General Superintendent Charles T. Crabtree served as chairman for the service. Paul Ferrin, secretary of the Music Department, led the congregation in musical praise and worship, with Ramona Crabtree, Springfield, Missouri, serving at the piano and Marjorie Ferrin, Colorado Springs, Colorado, at the organ. Ignacio Marrero, Midwest Latin American District superintendent, read the Scripture. Special music was provided by Ray Boltz and a mass choir directed by Paul Ferrin. Charles Crank, host district superintendent, brought greetings and received the offering. Special guests were introduced, including Congresswoman Linda Smith.

The keynote speaker for the evening service was General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask. He delivered the message, "The Spirit at Work." Drawing on 2 Corinthians 3:1-18, he focused on what God is doing and what He wants to do in the Assemblies of God--illumination, liberation, and transformation. He reminded the Council of two abiding necessities: "the great gospel of an atoning and glorified Lord," along with "the presence and power of the Spirit." The general superintendent said he is excited about what God is doing across the Assemblies of God, "but it is absolutely essential that we recognize it is from God." It is not man's doing, he stated.

WEDNESDAY MORNING--AUGUST 6

General Council Prayer Breakfast

The Prayer Breakfast was the first event of the 47th General Council. Held in the RCA Dome at 7:30 a.m., August 6, in the Sagamore Ballroom, Thomas E. Trask served as chairman. Special music was provided by the Byerly trio, and Sandra Clopine gave an update on the National Prayer Center ministry. Dick Eastman, international president of Every Home for Christ, was the featured speaker. Using Matthew 24:14 and Acts 2:17,18 as his text, he presented four principal prayer indicators pointing towards a pending global revival. There was a special time of prayer and worship led by Loren Triplett, Sandra Clopine, and Hal Donaldson as those gathered brought needs before the body and prayer was offered.

Morning Worship

David Richards, minister of music, Lakeview Temple, Indianapolis, Indiana, led the singing and worship. Karen Hyfield, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Doug Gilliland, Chesterfield, Missouri, served on the piano and organ respectively. Thomas E. Trask opened the session in prayer and a time of worship. The offertory was a piano and organ duet presented by Doug and Latisha Gilliland, Chesterfield, Missouri.

Business Session

The first business session of the 47th General Council of the Assemblies of God convened at the RCA Dome, Indianapolis, Indiana, Wednesday, August 5, 1997, at 9:30 a.m. General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask welcomed the delegates and called the business session to order.

Introduction of Executive Presbytery

Chairman Trask introduced the executive officers and asked them to stand: Charles T. Crabtree, assistant general superintendent; George O. Wood, general secretary; James K. Bridges, general treasurer. He then recognized and introduced the executive presbyters, as follows: Loren O. Triplett, executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions; Charles E. Hackett, executive director of the Division of Home Missions; David Argue, North Central Area; Tommy Barnett, Southwest Area; Almon Bartholomew, Northeast Area; Robert Brandt, Northwest Area; M. Wayne Benson, Great Lakes Area; C. Dan Betzer, Southeast Area; Jesse Miranda, Language Area; Armon Newburn, South Central Area; Philip Wannenmacher, Gulf Area.

Introduction of Retired Executive Presbyters

Chairman Trask expressed deep appreciation for those who have given themselves unstintingly for this Fellowship. The retired executive presbyters were introduced and recognized as follows: G. Raymond Carlson, former general superintendent; Everett R. Stenhouse, former assistant general superintendent; Joseph R. Flower, former general secretary; Raymond H. Hudson, former general treasurer; J. Philip Hogan, former executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions; J. Foy Johnson, former executive presbyter of the Southeast Area; Herman H. Rohde, former executive presbyter of the North Central Area. Paul E. Lowenberg, former executive presbyter of the South Central Area; and Dwight H. McLaughlin, former executive presbyter of the Northwest Area were unable to be present.

Introduction of Headquarters Personnel

The chairman expressed appreciation to Headquarters staff serving many long hours to make this 47th General Council operate efficiently, reading the

names of those listed in the program. Special recognition was given to Mike Messner, Alice Kirsch, Jewell Woodward, and Norma Thomas.

Introduction of General Council Committees

Thomas E. Trask highlighted the list of committee members expressing appreciation for their work in the various areas of this General Council. Those who served as members in the respective capacities are as follows:

Budget

James K. Bridges, chairman; Charles Crank, Paul Martin, Robert Crabtree, William Leach, James Biram

Parliamentary

Gene M. Roncone II, chairman; Jay Alford, Michael B. Bacchus, D. V. Hurst

Resolutions

Warren D. Bullock, chairman; H. Franklin Cargill, Paul D. Goodman, Nam Soo Kim, Ronald F. McManus, St. Clair Mitchell, Carolyn G. Tennant

Roster

Larry L. Alverson, chairman; David L. Wigington, assistant chairman; Sam Balias, Kyle Burchett, Roy Cazares, Ron Crum, Gary Elrod, Paul Hamelink, Rolland Havener, Paul Holmquist, Jeffrey Leake, Charles Lenn, Stephen Linney, Elwin Mack, James Marocco, Elaine Moody, James Plata, Steve Rose, J. Derrel Strickland, Jerry Van Pelt

Spiritual Life

Gordon Anderson, chairman; Charles R. Bradley, James K. Bridges, Randy Hurst, Robert H. Johnson, John E. Lindell, Samuel P. Molina, Charles B. Nestor, Michael D. Messner, Judy R. Rachels, Arthelene Rippey, Thomas E. Trask

Tellers

Rollin J. Carlson, chairman; Captains: Kenneth Broadus, Robert Carlson, Richard Hopping, Clemente Maldonado, Gary Moreno, Douglas Oss; Members: David Atkins, Jeff Arp, John Bates, Mike Blatchley, Bill Bolin, Marke Boone, John C. Branch, Michael Branson, Murray Brown, Gregory Burchfield, James Burnette, N. Joseph Burnside, Chester Caudill, Robert M. Cave, John Chase, Randle Copeland, William Draughon, Bernardino

Espinoza, Greg Farmer, Jim Foster, Vincent Fraser, David French, Dalton Froman, David Gall, Mark Glenn, Felix Gonzales, Glynn Grantham, Dwayne Harper, Bill Hartman, Rodrick Highsmith, Cordell Hines, Robert Hogan, Ric Hohm, Michael Hopkins, David Iverson, David Jahn, Wayne Jameson, Paul Keil, Tim Keinath, Paul Kleindl, John B. Krans, Dexter Lambert, Matthew C. Larson, Jerry Lewin, Todd Lillard, Darrel Loughridge, Pablo Morales, Gary Olson, Ansley Orfila, Norman Owens, Tim Powell, Greg Rakes, Delbert Roberts, Jr., Eleazar Rodriguez, Harley Sampson, Ronald Sarbo, John Sayre, Patrick Schatzline, Tom R. Shepherd, Duane Smelser, David Stanton, Garlin Strough, Sualua Tauala, Philip Taylor, Scott Von Lanken, Phillip Wall, Terry Watkins, J. Sidney Watson, Kenneth Wilcox, William Yacko

Operational Committees

Accounting Committee

Clyde Hawkins, chairman; Jerry Barton

Children's Activities

Sharon Ellard, Early Childhood coordinator; Jim Gerhold, Kids Council chairman; Kathy Gerhold, personnel coordinator; Sherri Ferguson, Connie Hart, crafts/games coordinators

Communications Committee

(Program Subcommittee)

Jeff Nene, chairman; Brian Roggow, sound; Michael Messner, Program Committee chairman

Computer Support

(Equipment Subcommittee)

Tim Strathdee, coordinator; Kelly Rhea, Bruce Harp, Wendell Goss

Convention Coordinator's Staff

Michael Messner, convention coordinator; Sharon L. Lee, event coordinator; Jeanne A. Estebo, housing coordinator, Danette S. McCabe, secretary

Equipment Committee

Arlyn Pember, chairman; Gary Sherman, Steve Turner

Exhibits

Carol Ball, coordinator

Hospitality & Information Committee

Charlie Hungerford, chairman; Belinda Conway

Music Program & Platform Committee

(Program Subcommittee)

Paul Ferrin, chairman; Danette McCabe; Beth Wannemacher; Brian Roggow, Sound; Michael Messner, Program Committee chairman

Photos Committee

(Promotions Subcommittee)

Mel Snyder, coordinator

Prayer Committee

Sandra Clopine, chairperson; Benny Ferguson, Michael Messner, Peggy Musgrove, Juleen Turnage

Printed Materials Committee

(Promotions Subcommittee)

Ann Floyd, Jean Lawson

Program Committee

Michael Messner, chairman, ex-officio of all committees; Thomas Trask, Charles T. Crabtree, James K. Bridges, George O. Wood

Promotions and Press Committee

Juleen Turnage, chairperson; Hal Donaldson, Rick Knoth, Scott Harrup

Protocol Committee

Ron Roberts, chairman

Registration Committee

Terry King, chairman; Don Bagwell, LaDonna Bagwell, Dan Cook

Roster Liaison

Tim Strathdee

Tellers Liaison

Efraim Espinoza

Transportation Committee

Gerald Jackson, chairman; Larry Bull, Norm Gannon, John Savage

Ushers & Communion Committee

Ken Hunt, chairman; Michael Clarensau, Communion coordinator; Larry Thomas, Clancy Hayes, Mike Cooper, Beth McAtee

Youth Congress Committee (Program Subcommittee)

Doug Clay, chairman; Tom Greene, Monty Hipp, Jim Wellborn

Fraternal Delegates

The chairman recognized fraternal delegates who will be in attendance for the Thursday evening service and extended a welcome to these friends from the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada; Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee; Free Gospel Church, Inc.; Anchor Bay Evangelistic Association; and International Pentecostal Church of Christ.

Messages and Greetings

Greetings were received from the Pentecostal Assemblies of Newfoundland, Assemblies of God in New Zealand, Pentecostal Church of God, International Pentecostal Church of Christ, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, Open Bible Standard Churches, The Church of God of Prophecy, Elim Fellowship, and from the Central European superintendents.

Expression of Appreciation

to the City of Indianapolis, Indiana

Appreciation was expressed to the City of Indianapolis for its hospitality and for the kindness it has shown to the General Council delegates, indicating that the city has been a very gracious host.

Expression of Appreciation

to the Indiana and Midwest Latin American Districts

Thomas Trask expressed appreciation to the Indiana District and to the Midwest Latin American District and to their superintendents for their kind hospitality in hosting this 47th General Council.

Adoption of Agenda

The chairman called attention to the agenda, briefly summarizing items to be covered. A motion prevailed to adopt the agenda as a guide.

Roster Committee Report

Larry L. Alverson, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 8 a.m., Wednesday, August 6, 1997:

Ordained ministers	2,964	
Delegates	<u>698</u>	
Voting constituency		3,662
Licensed/certified ministers	422	
Visitors	<u>4,407</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>4,829</u>
Total		8,491

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

General Superintendent's Report

General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask read his report to the General Council delegates highlighting several points, including the current revival in our churches, the plans for media involvement, the Leadership Ministerial Training Institutes, and the Millennium Pentecost Celebration in August 2000. He recognized Mr. and Mrs. David Cribbs who purchased a truck for the Convoy of Hope and spoke of that ministry.

Charles Crabtree, assistant general superintendent, assumed the role of chairman to bring the report before the body. A motion prevailed to receive the report of the general superintendent with great appreciation to our general superintendent.

The chair was returned to the general superintendent.

Convoy of Hope Ministry

Thomas E. Trask highlighted the Convoy of Hope, distributed their brochure, and introduced the three Donaldson brothers—Hal, David, and Steve. Hal Donaldson gave a report of the ministry and a video was shown after which Thomas Trask read Psalm 41. Following prayer by Hal Donaldson, president of the Convoy of Hope, monthly pledges and an offering were received. The pledges amounted to \$14,530. The cash offering was \$222,415.

Biennial Divisional and Departmental Reports

A motion prevailed to receive the remainder of the divisional and departmental reports as contained in the 1995-97 *Biennial Report* without the reports being read.

General Secretary's Report

George O. Wood referred to his report highlighting the importance of the Annual Church Ministries Report from the churches. He referred to the increase in the numbers of converts and other statistics as printed. He drew particular note of the Archives section then announced a million-dollar capital campaign and the naming of the new Archives complex as the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center, which will be located in Springfield, Missouri.

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

General Treasurer's Report

James K. Bridges expressed appreciation for Clyde Hawkins, administrator for the Division of the Treasury, and then highlighted his report as printed in the 1995-97 *Biennial Report*.

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

General Council Audit Report

James K. Bridges, general treasurer, using a summary statement which was distributed to all delegates, reviewed the Audit Report.

He indicated that the independent auditing firm gave a clean, unqualified opinion of the General Council audit and all the General Council affiliates. He referred to the Audit Summary and highlighted the report by showing asset totals of \$682,957,000, and liabilities in the amount of \$514,980,000, with net assets in the amount of \$167,977,000. This is an increase in net assets of \$17,183,000, including \$10,044,000 in unrestricted net assets. He explained the shifting of accounting principles dealing with unconditional promises in the form of gift annuities and other trust agreements.

A motion prevailed to adopt the Audit Report as printed.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 11:45 a.m. Don Argue, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, dismissed in prayer.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON-AUGUST 6

The Wednesday afternoon business session of the 47th General Council opened with singing and worship led by Marty Freeman, minister of music, Bethel Life Center, Wichita, Kansas. Serving at the piano and organ, respectively, were Linda Greer, minister of music, First Assembly of God, Plainfield, Indiana, and Jonathan Faggart, minister of music, Faith Assembly of God, Orlando, Florida. The offertory featured a vocal solo by Marty Freeman.

Commission on Christian Higher Education

Excellence in Education Awards

Wayne Kraiss, commissioner for the Commission on Christian Higher Education, presented the Distinguished Educator and the Distinguished Administrator Awards. Two distinguished educators were recognized:

Distinguished Educator Awards

Alma Thomas

Alma Thomas since 1996 has been professor emeritus at American Indian College of the Assemblies of God. For 12 years she taught in public schools and then spent 20 years at American Indian College of the Assemblies of God. She's the editor and publisher of a book, *Trail to the Tribes*, and she has had four pastoral assignments.

William C. Williams

William C. Williams for 28 years has been professor of Old Testament at Southern California College. He has also been a visiting professor at Regent University, the Institute of Holy Land Studies, Continental Bible College, and Fuller Theological Seminary, and has served as a reference librarian in the Hebraic section of the Library of Congress. Dr. Williams is the author of the Hebrew I and II study guides for ICI. He is a consultant to the New American Standard Bible and has written the notes to Ecclesiastes for the Spirit-filled Life Study Bible.

Distinguished Administrator Award

J. Robert Ashcroft

The first Distinguished Administrator Award was given posthumously to J. Robert Ashcroft. He served as secretary of the Assemblies of God Education Department, was president of Central Bible College, Evangel College, Valley Forge College, and Berean University. Among other accomplishments are the authorship of *The Body of Christ*, *The Sequence of the Supernatural*, and *Ways of Understanding God's Word*. Ordained in the Assemblies of God in 1931, he held pastoral assignments in Chicago; West Hartford, Connecticut; and Brussels, Belgium. A long list of honorary recognitions and degrees accompany the resume of Dr. J. Robert Ashcroft. His son Robert accepted the award for the family.

Business Session

The business session was called to order at 1:50 p.m. by General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask.

Billie Davis Excellence in Christian Education Award

Noting that today is Laity Day at General Council, LeRoy Bartel, national director of the Division of Christian Education, presented the Billie Davis Excellence in Christian Education Award, highlighting the ministry of laity teachers. He introduced Billie Davis, who presented the Billie Davis Excellence in Christian Education Award to Shirley Griffin, Lisbon, Ohio. Shirley Griffin began her preparation as a child in Sunday school. She became the first Missionettes Honor Star in the Ohio District. She has earned annual training certificates and completed the Christian Worker Bible study courses. She is a superb example of what a Christian teacher should be.

General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask prayed a prayer of blessing upon the teachers of our Fellowship.

Roster Committee Report

Larry L. Alverson, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 1 p.m., Wednesday, August 6, 1997:

Ordained ministers	3,140	
Delegates	<u>729</u>	
Voting constituency		3,869
Licensed/certified ministers	430	
Visitors	<u>4,443</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>4,873</u>
Total		8,742

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

Election of General Superintendent

The assistant general superintendent assumed chairmanship of the meeting. Ballots were distributed for casting the nominating ballot for the office of the general superintendent. Rollin Carlson, chairman of the Tellers Committee, gave brief instructions on the voting process.

The general secretary read Constitution Article IX, Section 1, paragraph a, and Bylaw Article II, Sections 1 and 2, paragraph a, pertaining to the election of officers. J. Foy Johnson, former executive presbyter from the Southeast Area, was asked to lead in prayer for God's guidance. The ballots were collected, and the chair declared the voting closed.

The chair was returned to Thomas E. Trask.

Study Committee—Ministers From Other Organizations

The general secretary presented the report of the Committee To Study

Ministers From Other Organizations as called for by Resolution 21 from the 1995 General Council, as follows:

In compliance with Resolution 21 adopted by the 1995 General Council, a Study Committee—Ministers From Other Organizations, was appointed by the general superintendent with the approval of the Executive Presbytery.

The committee's assignment was to review our process for credentialing ministers from other denominations and religious organizations and to bring a report to the 1997 General Council in session.

Resolutions 21 and 22 from the 1995 General Council were referred to this committee for study.

This committee met in Springfield, Missouri, on January 5, 1996, with all members present.

A broad-based dialogue was held regarding credentialing ministers from other credentialing groups who seek affiliation with the Assemblies of God, and consideration was given to current Bylaws as well as past procedures in these matters.

The committee also reviewed action of the General Presbytery in August 1995 which upgraded the present credentialing process. It was felt that many of the concerns expressed in Resolutions 21 and 22 had already been addressed by the General Presbytery when it adopted new application forms for all credential levels, new written examinations, and extensive oral interview questionnaires for use by presbyteries in interviewing candidates.

Therefore, it was the feeling of the committee that only minor amendments to the Bylaws should be recommended. The committee concurred that it would not be advisable to recommend the substantial Bylaws changes called for in Resolution 22.

The committee therefore has prepared an appropriate resolution to incorporate minor changes in the Bylaws, as such changes relate to those who are seeking a transfer of their ministerial credential from another organization (see Resolution 1).

A motion prevailed to adopt the report.

Allegiance to Sound Doctrine

The general secretary presented a report from the Executive Presbytery regarding the matter of Allegiance to Sound Doctrine as called for by Resolution 27 to the 1995 General Council. The report is as follows:

The 1995 General Council referred Resolution 27. Allegiance to Sound Doctrine, to the Executive Presbytery with a request that a report be brought back after review was given.

The Executive Presbytery reviewed the concerns expressed in the res-

olution that the General Council adhere to sound doctrine, strictly adhere to the examination and credentialing process outlined by the Bylaws, and maintain the biblical standards that mark and distinguish this Movement.

The Executive Presbytery takes satisfaction in reporting to the 1997 General Council that the Assemblies of God remains committed to sound doctrine as exemplified in our Statement of Faith, that great care is given by district councils and the General Council to ensure that the examination and credentialing process provided in the Bylaws is strictly adhered to, and that biblical standards continue which mark and distinguish this Movement.

A motion prevailed to adopt the report.

Commission on Local Church Autonomy

The general secretary presented a report from the Executive Presbytery regarding a Commission on Local Church Autonomy, which was called for by Resolution 28 (Revised) from the 1995 General Council. The report is as follows:

The 1995 General Council referred Resolution 28 Revised, Commission on Local Church Autonomy, to the Executive Presbytery with a request that a report be brought back after review was given.

The Executive Presbytery reviewed the concerns expressed in the resolution and the proposed Bylaws amendment establishing a Commission on Local Church Autonomy.

The Executive Presbytery recommends that no further action be recommended to the General Council regarding the creation of a Commission on Local Church Autonomy in view of the fact that the General Council Constitution Article XI and Bylaws Article VI already provide for the autonomy of the local church.

A motion prevailed that the report from the Executive Presbytery regarding a Commission on Local Church Autonomy be adopted.

Ministerial Opportunities

The general secretary presented a report from the Executive Presbytery regarding ministerial opportunities which was called for by Resolution 31 from the 1995 General Council. The report is as follows:

The 1995 General Council referred Resolution 31. Ministerial Opportunities, to the Executive Presbytery for study with a request that a report be brought back to the 1997 General Council.

Resolution 31, if enacted, would require each district office to semi-monthly (15/30) make it known to the General Council all pastoral openings for a listing that shall be available to all current ordained ministers

in good standing with the General Council. The list would be available by mail upon request of such minister, and ordained ministers could add their name to a list of those seeking staff positions.

The Executive Presbytery does not feel it would be wisdom for the General Council to enact such legislation, for the following reasons:

- (1) It would create a cumbersome amount of paperwork at the district and General Council level.
- (2) The General Council, throughout our history, has never acted in a placement capacity for ministers—opportunities for ministry being handled at the local church and district level.
- (3) It is highly doubtful that such a system, even if in place, would be used by many ministers or churches. By the time the information was received and disseminated, much of it would be outdated.
- (4) The General Council administration will, however, explore the feasibility of providing access to placement opportunities through direct communication on the Internet. Such a system could be used by those districts, churches, and ministers who may elect to make opportunities or availabilities known.

A motion prevailed that the report from the Executive Presbytery regarding ministerial opportunities be adopted.

Greetings From the National Association of Evangelicals

Don Argue, president of the National Association of Evangelicals and a member of the Assemblies of God, brought greetings to the General Council on behalf of the National Association of Evangelicals. He stated that evangelicals are on the move in the nation today and Pentecostals are in the forefront. He summed up what NAE does: it is a forum for leadership in the evangelical church; it is a voice to the world on behalf of evangelicals and our interests; and it is a resource. He spoke of the persecution of Pentecostal believers around the world and noted that the International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church will be November 16, 1997. His presentation concluded with a video regarding the International Day of Prayer.

1997 World Assemblies of God Congress

Loren Triplett, executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions, announced that the World Assemblies of God Congress will meet September 25-28, 1997, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and urged all who could attend to do so.

Procedural Motion

Warren Bullock, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, offered a procedural motion that the oral reading of resolutions be waived for those resolutions which have been printed and mailed prior to Council, with the exception of a directive from the chair or this body.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Resolution 1. Ministers From Other Organizations

Warren Bullock, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 1 and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The 1995 General Council referred Resolutions 21 and 22 to a special committee appointed by the general superintendent and approved by the Executive Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The committee studied the matter referred to it; namely, the credentialing of ministers from other organizations; and

WHEREAS, The committee feels a few minor changes in General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, paragraph 1 (page 135) would further strengthen and safeguard procedures for reviewing ministers from other credentialing bodies; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, paragraph 1 (page 135) which presently reads:

1. Ministers from other organizations. If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the credentials committees of both the General Council and the district councils are under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on his or her own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted. Such applicants shall be required to:

- (1) Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.
- (2) Complete an application for ministerial recognition.
- (3) Submit a recommendation for ministerial recognition.
- (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.

Be amended to read as follows:

1. Ministers from other organizations. If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the credentialing 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 letter of recommendation from a neighboring Assemblies of God minister and/or the sectional presbyter for the applicant's area.
- (4) Submit a recommendation from the body with which the minister 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, two of whom should be with the applicant's former credentialing body.
- (5) Take the credential examination.
- (6) Complete such courses as may be prescribed by the General Presbytery for ministers transferring from other credentialing bodies.
- (7) Meet with the district credentials committee for an oral interview.

(8) Be recommended by the district credentials committee for action by the General Council Credentials Committee.

(9) 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. All other applicants so approved shall receive the appropriate level of credential recognition.

(10) Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition shall relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization.

The motion to adopt Resolution 1 carried.

Resolution 2. Evangelists Representation on the General Presbytery

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 2 as follows and moved its adoption:

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

(Ephesians 4:11,12); and

WHEREAS, The gift of the evangelist in Ephesians 4:11 serves as the bridge between the prophetic gift and the pastoral gift; and

WHEREAS, Jesus Christ, the Seventy (Luke 10), and Philip (Acts 8) served as evangelists; and

WHEREAS, All of the New Testament books were written by itinerant ministers, and,

WHEREAS, Christ has commissioned the Church to world evangelization; and

WHEREAS, Every nationwide revival or spiritual awakening has utilized the gift of the evangelist, and

WHEREAS, Holy Spirit endued evangelists have contributed historically to the birth of the Assemblies of God and are presently fulfilling a leading role in the late 20th-century revival in our Fellowship; and

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

WHEREAS, At the present, the Assemblies of God has more evangelists couples than foreign and home missionary couples combined; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God has more evangelists than any other denomination in North America, and

WHEREAS, The evangelists are a God-ordained ministry gift not specifically represented on the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, This proposal was unanimously recommended by the national Evangelists Committee; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the U.S. credentialed evangelists of the Assemblies of God be represented on the General Presbytery; and, be it further

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

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

And, be it further

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

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph f (page 121), be amended by adding a new subparagraph (4), which shall read as follows:

(4) *Evangelists representative.* A national evangelists representative, who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery, shall be responsible for coordinating, heightening, and strengthening all aspects of the ministry of the evangelists.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That present subparagraphs (4) and (5) be renumbered (5) and (6), respectively.

The motion to adopt Resolution 2 carried.

Resolution 3. Ethnic Representation on the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery

Warren Bullock, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 3.

The chairman asked that Resolution 3 be dealt with by sections: Section A dealing with representation on the Executive Presbytery; and Section B dealing with representation on the General Presbytery.

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented Section A and moved its adoption. The motion to adopt Section A was carried.

Section B was likewise presented by Warren Bullock, who moved its adoption.

A question was raised concerning the cost of adding such representatives to the General Presbytery. The chairman summarized the costs which are involved.

An additional question was asked concerning the actual definition of an ethnic fellowship. The general secretary stated that the specific criteria is found in Article V, Section 4 on page 130 in the Constitution and Bylaws. There are presently four or five which have been approved by the Executive Presbytery.

A motion prevailed to adopt Section B of Resolution 3.

Resolution 3 as adopted follows:

Section A

Ethnic Representation on Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery

WHEREAS, The 1995 General Presbytery authorized the general superintendent to appoint a committee to study what changes would be advisable in the composition of the General Presbytery and Executive Presbytery so as to more accurately reflect the composition in language and culture of our Fellowship itself; and

WHEREAS, The finding and recommendations of this committee were to be made to the 1996 General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The committee appointed by the general superintendent has completed its study with findings and recommendations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Constitution Article IX. Officers, Section 2, paragraph a (page 111), 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 the Division of Foreign Missions, the executive director of the Division of Home Missions, together with nine other brethren to be chosen from the active Fellowship to bring the number to 15. 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 the Division of Foreign Missions, the executive director of the Division of Home Missions, together with 11 other ordained ministers to be chosen from the active Fellowship to bring the number to 17. The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery, except as stated in Section 1, shall continue for 2 years or until their successors qualify.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph e (page 120), 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 nine 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 nine areas, according to district boundary lines in the following manner:

Northwest Area: Alaska, Montana, Northwest, Oregon, Southern Idaho, Wyoming

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

North Central Area: Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota,

Northern Missouri, South Dakota, Wisconsin-Northern Michigan

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

South Texas, West Texas

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

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

Northeast Area: New Jersey, New York, Northern New England, Pennsylvania-Delaware, Potomac, Southern New England

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

Language Area: Central Latin American, German, Gulf Latin American, Korean, Midwest Latin American, Pacific Latin American, Puerto Rico, Southeastern Spanish, Spanish Eastern

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.

(a) *By area.* The nominations for 10 area 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.

(b) *By ethnic fellowship.* The nominations for one ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter shall be made as follows: Each general presbyter from an ethnic fellowship, serving in the year General Council meets, shall be presented to the General Council as a nominee from the respective ethnic fellowships. 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 elect.

(2) *Divisions for electing nonresident executive presbyters.*

(a) *By area.* For the purpose of electing nonresident executive presbyters, The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be divided into 10 areas, according to district boundary lines in the following manner:

Northwest Area: Alaska, Montana, Northwest, Oregon, Southern Idaho, Wyoming

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

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

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

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

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

Northeast Area: New Jersey, New York, Northern New England, Pennsylvania-Delaware, Potomac, Southern New England

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

Language Area-Spanish: Central Latin American, Gulf Latin American, Midwest Latin American, Pacific Latin American, Puerto Rico, Southeastern Spanish, Spanish Eastern

Language Area-Other: German, Korean

(b) *By ethnic fellowship.* For the purpose of electing an ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter, only those ethnic fellowships duly recognized (Article V, Section 6) shall be represented.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 3, paragraph b (page 122) which now reads:

b. Nonresident executive presbyters.

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

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

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

(4) In the event a nonresident executive presbyter moves to a loca-

tion outside of the boundaries of the area, it shall be incumbent upon the Executive Presbytery to declare a vacancy in that office.

Be amended to read:

b. Nonresident executive presbyters.

(1) *By area.*

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

(b) 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.

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

(d) 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.

(2) *By ethnic fellowship.*

(a) In the event a vacancy shall occur, for any reason, in the office of an ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter, the general secretary shall submit as nominees all current general presbyters who represent an ethnic fellowship. (See Bylaws Article V, Section 6.) 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.)

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

Section B

WHEREAS, The 1995 General Presbytery authorized the general superintendent to appoint a committee to study what changes would be advisable in the composition of the General Presbytery and Executive Presbytery so as to more accurately reflect the composition in language and culture of our Fellowship itself; and

WHEREAS, The finding and recommendations of this committee were to be made to the 1996 General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The committee appointed by the general superintendent has completed its study with findings and recommendations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Constitution Article IX. Officers, Section 3, paragraphs d and e (page 111) be renumbered e and f respectively, and that a new paragraph d be added as follows:

d. Ethnic fellowship representative. A duly authorized ethnic fellowship shall be represented on the General Presbytery by one of its qualified members. An ethnic fellowship comprised of more than 100 churches shall be represented by two of its qualified members; and, an ethnic fellowship exceeding 150 churches shall be represented on the General Presbytery by three of its qualified members.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph f, (3), (4), and (5) (pages 121-122) be renumbered (4), (5), and (6), and that a new paragraph (3) be added as follows:

(3) *Ethnic fellowship representatives.* Ethnic fellowship representatives, as provided for in Constitution Article IX, Section 3, d, shall be elected annually by their respective ethnic fellowships. A two-thirds vote shall be required. They shall take office immediately upon election.

Resolution 4. Honorary General Presbyter—Robert J. Gatlin

Warren Bullock read Resolution 4 in its entirety as follows and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by the West Florida District superintendent, Donald Price:

WHEREAS, Robert J. Gatlin has served the Fellowship with distinction as an ordained minister for 41 years; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the West Florida District as superintendent for 26 years; and

WHEREAS, He served in pastoral ministry for 13 years; and

WHEREAS, He also served the Peninsular Florida District as secretary-treasurer and youth director; and

WHEREAS, He has served with great distinction as a general presbyter for 26 years; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e (page 111) 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 Robert J. Gatlin be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter. The motion to adopt Resolution 4 carried.

Resolution 5. Honorary General Presbyter—Cecil T. Janway

Warren Bullock, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 5 in its entirety and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by the Louisiana District superintendent, Douglas Fulenwider:

WHEREAS, Cecil T. Janway has served as an Assemblies of God minister for 52 years; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the General Council and Louisiana District Council of the Assemblies of God as pastor, church planter, and district superintendent; and

WHEREAS, He has served 20 years as a member of the General Presbytery of the General Council; and

WHEREAS, Those who have served 20 years on the General Presbytery are eligible for election by the General Council as lifetime honorary general presbyters; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e (page 111) 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 Cecil T. Janway be elected by the General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter. The motion to adopt Resolution 5 carried.

Resolution 6. Honorary General Presbyter—T. Burton Pierce

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 6 in its entirety as follows and moved its adoption. The Potomac District superintendent, H. Robert Rhoden, seconded the motion.

WHEREAS, T. Burton Pierce has served this Fellowship as an ordained minister for 42 years; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the Potomac District with distinction as secretary-treasurer for the past 22 years; and

WHEREAS, He served a total of 20 years as a member of the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e (page 111) 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 T. Burton Pierce be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter. The motion to adopt Resolution 6 carried.

**Resolution 7. Honorary General
Presbyter—Wm. Nelson Sachs**

Warren Bullock read Resolution 7 in its entirety and moved its adoption, which was seconded by Southern Missouri District Superintendent L. Jack Moore:

WHEREAS, William Nelson Sachs has served the Southern Missouri District for 16 years as superintendent, and additionally many years as assistant district superintendent; and

WHEREAS, This District Council should render honor to whom honor is due; and

WHEREAS, It is a significant honor for a district to nominate someone to the office of honorary general presbyter; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e (page 111) 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 William Nelson Sachs be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

The motion to adopt Resolution 7 carried.

Resolution 8. Equivalency Examinations

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 8 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, We want to encourage God-called men and women who could be inadvertently excluded by our current credentialing process; and

WHEREAS, Currently there are no provisions in the General Council Bylaws to measure knowledge gained through self-study and/or life experience; and

WHEREAS, Ministerial knowledge may be gained by self-study and experience under the leadership of the Holy Spirit; and

WHEREAS, It is unnecessary to require courses in areas where applicants are already qualified; and

WHEREAS, It is important for the Assemblies of God to have qualified ministers; and

WHEREAS, Objective standards are needed for qualification; and

WHEREAS, Currently there are Assemblies of God institutions which allow credit for courses if equivalency tests are passed; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 2, paragraph h (3) (page 134) of the General Council Bylaws which currently reads:

(3) Successfully complete courses, prescribed by the General Presbytery, offered in correspondence through Berean University of the Assemblies of God; or

Be amended to read as follows:

(3) Successfully complete courses, prescribed by the General Presbytery, offered in correspondence through Berean University of the Assemblies of God or pass equivalency examinations in the prescribed courses; or

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 2, paragraph h (page 134) be amended by adding a subparagraph (5) which shall read as follows:

(5) Demonstrate self-study and ministerial experience by testing in the areas deemed necessary for ministry. The tests shall be based upon general biblical knowledge and ministerial experience rather than knowledge from specific textbooks. The tests shall be approved by the General Presbytery.

Following a time of discussion, a substitute motion prevailed to refer this resolution to the Executive Presbytery for assignment to the Committee To Study Credentialing Concerns appointed by the 1997 General Presbytery; and, further that the report and any recommendations of this committee be presented first to the General Presbytery, and that no recommendation be presented to the 1999 General Council unless it has the approval of the General Presbytery.

**Resolution 9. Credentialing of Divorced
and Remarried Individuals**

At the request of the chairman Resolution 9 was read in its entirety by Warren Bullock, who moved its adoption. It was seconded, and the superintendent of the Southern California District, the sponsor of the resolution, spoke in favor of the resolution. Resolution 9 as read follows:

WHEREAS, The present General Council Bylaws do not make provision for credentialing a person with a former living spouse whose marriage ended before conversion; and

WHEREAS, We are taught that any sin committed prior to conversion is forgiven and that we become new creatures at conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17); and

WHEREAS, We know that Scripture is its own best interpreter; and

WHEREAS, We have already interpreted husband of one wife (lit. "One woman man") in such a manner as to indicate that it does not exclude from credentials one who is: 1. single, 2. female, or 3. a remarried widow or widower; and

WHEREAS, There are also those among us whom God has called into ministry who have a former living spouse because of a preconversion divorce; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, paragraph i (page 134) which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read as follows:

i. Marriage status. We disapprove of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God if either marriage partner has a former companion living, unless their divorce occurred prior to their conversion or except as hereinafter provided.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph c (1) (page 146) which presently 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 as follows:

(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), except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17).

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph e (page 146) which presently 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 as follows:

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 their divorce occurred prior to conversion. (See also Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs i and j.)

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 2, paragraph j (page 134) which presently 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 as follows:

j. Annulments and marriage dissolutions and divorces. 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, or if the divorce occurred prior to conversion. The application must be accompanied by clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud, or that the divorce did occur prior to a genuine conversion experience. Appeals from the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.

Election of General Superintendent

Assistant General Superintendent Charles Crabtree assumed the chair for the receiving of the report from the Tellers Committee regarding the election of the general superintendent. Rollin Carlson, chairman of the Tellers Committee, gave the following report of the nominating ballot for general superintendent:

Ballots cast	1,679
Needed to elect	1,119
Thomas E. Trask	1,369

Charles Crabtree, noting that Thomas E. Trask had received well in excess of the two-thirds votes required, declared Thomas E. Trask reelected as general superintendent.

Thomas E. Trask, joined by his wife, responded by expressing appreciation to the delegates.

The following is a list of all other nominees: Jay Alford 1, Donald Annas 1, Don Argue 1, Tommy Barnett 2, M. Wayne Benson 1, Dan Betzer 3, James Biram 1, Philip Bungiorno 1, Louis Boston 2, Don Brankel 1, James Bridges 23, Warren Bullock 2, Dale Carpenter 1, Adolfo Carrion 2, Glen Cole 8, Robert Cooley 1, Charles Crabtree 58, Ray Crabtree 1, Robert Crabtree 3, Charles Crank 12, Richard Dresselhaus 2, Charles Hackett 2, Kenneth

Herbruck 1, Steve Hill 1, Bell Housen 1, Invalid ballots 19, Gene Jackson 10, J. Foy Johnson 1, Bobby Johnson 3, Spencer Jones 1, Paul Keil 1, John Kilpatrick 3, Maurice Lednicki 4, Paul Martin 1, Edgar McElhannon 1, Ron McManus 1, Jesse Miranda 2, Ernest Moen 1, L. J. Moore 1, David Moore 1, Randolph Nelson 1, Armon Newburn 7, Billy Newby 2, John Palmer 2, Joel Pavia 1, Roger Perkin 1, Art Pettyjohn 1, T. Ray Rachels 2, Robert Rhoden 3, Robert Schmidgall 3, Walter G. Smith 1, Robert Spence 1, Clarence St. John 1, Everett Stenhouse 30, Robert Strand 1, Ed Tedeschi 1, Loren Triplett 5, Norm Tosten 1, William O. Vickery 1, Daniel Wood 1, George Wood 62.

Former general superintendent G. Raymond Carlson, joined by members of the Executive Presbytery, led in prayer for Brother and Sister Trask.

The chair was returned to Thomas Trask.

Election of Assistant General Superintendent

Ballots were distributed for the casting of the nominating ballot for the office of assistant general superintendent. The general secretary read Constitution Article IX, Section 1, paragraph a, and Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph a, pertaining to the election of officers. The ballots were collected, and the chair declared the voting closed.

Resolution 9. Credentialing of Divorced and Remarried Individuals (continued)

Discussion continued regarding Resolution 9. Credentialing of Divorced and Remarried Individuals. At the time of recess a number were at microphones wishing to discuss this resolution. The chairman indicated that the order of those wishing to speak would be honored in the next business session.

Recess

The Wednesday afternoon session recessed at 4:30 p.m. R. Kenneth George, superintendent of the New Mexico District, closed in prayer.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE--AUGUST 6

The Wednesday evening service began at 6:40 p.m. with a musical prelude by Access Ministry, Terre Haute, Indiana. Jesse Miranda, executive presbyter for the Language Area, was chairman for the service. A time of praise and worship was led by David Carpenter, minister of music, Calvary Temple, Irving, Texas. Kelle Collins and Bobby Connors, both from Calvary Temple, Irving, Texas, served at the piano and organ, respectively. Special music featured Spiritbound, a trio composed of Rick Brummett, Keith Larson, and David Gallagher. Offertories were provided by the Latin American Bible

Institute choir, San Antonio, Texas, under the direction of Diane Platta, and the Teen Challenge choir, Tucson, Arizona, directed by Ladelle Peabody.

Janie Boulware-Wead was the speaker for the evening, declaring that missions has come to America. Her text from John 4:35 brought emphasis to the whitened harvest field and the influx of immigrants to the United States. Her cry was that God will move us from being threatened by these language groups to being challenged by the unprecedented opportunity afforded us. The issue is not ethnicity, but of millions without Christ, without hope, without God. The mandate of Jesus is to see lost souls through His eyes. She closed with a call for the church to pool its resources, for Anglos and Hispanics to join hands to reach the ethnic populations here in America. General Superintendent Thomas Trask gave a challenge and invitation for financial faith promises for Project 2000 to launch 12 new Hispanic churches. The Council responded with \$327,553.95 in pledges and offering.

THURSDAY MORNING--AUGUST 7

A time of prayer and praise led by Dick Eastman began at 8:15 a.m. David Byerly served at the piano during the time of worship and praise and was joined by Renee Byerly, Rhonda Roncone, and Grace Jones.

Worship Time

Brian Keith, minister of music, Evangel Assembly of God, Tallahassee, Florida, led in singing. Jeff Nordin, minister of music, Evangel Temple, Kansas City, Missouri, served at the piano, and Dawn Crabtree, minister of music, First Assembly of God, Worcester, Massachusetts, at the organ. Offering envelopes were distributed and Thomas Trask encouraged the Fellowship to stand by our Hispanic brethren and support them in the Project 2000 ministry shared on Wednesday evening. Brian Keith presented a vocal solo for the offertory.

Business Session

Thomas E. Trask called the business session to order at 9:32 a.m. and Randy Hurst, Springfield, Missouri, led in prayer.

Roster Report

Larry Alverson, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 8:00 a.m. Thursday, August 7:

Ordained ministers	3,207
Delegates	<u>740</u>

Voting constituency	3,947
Licensed/certified ministers	437
Visitors	<u>4,467</u>
Nonvoting constituency	<u>4,904</u>
Total	8,851

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Election of Assistant General Superintendent

Rollin J. Carlson, chairman of the Tellers Committee, gave the following report of the nominating ballot for the office of assistant general superintendent:

Ballots cast	1,621
Needed to elect	1,082
Charles T. Crabtree	1,378

Having noted that Charles T. Crabtree received in excess of the two-thirds vote, the chairman declared Charles T. Crabtree reelected as assistant general superintendent.

Charles T. Crabtree responded by accepting the election and expressing appreciation for the opportunity to serve this great Fellowship, pledging loyalty to Superintendent Trask and to the Assemblies of God.

The following is a list of all other nominees: Jay Alford 2, Almon Bartholomew 5, Homer Bennett 1, M. Wayne Benson 5, Dan Betzer 11, James Bridges 13, Warren Bullock 5, Dwight Burchett 1, Dale Carpenter 1, David Cawston 1, Glen Cole 10, Robert Cooley 4, David Crabtree 1, Robert Crabtree 5, Charles Crank 8, Richard Dresselhaus 1, George Flattery 2, Saturnino Gonzalez 1, Charles Hackett 4, Invalid ballots 65, Gene Jackson 5, Spencer Jones 1, Peter Joudry 1, Vaudie Lambert 1, William Leach 1, Paul Martin 1, Ron McManus 1, Jesse Miranda 2, Ernest Moen 1, Armon Newburn 4, Billy Newby 1, John Palmer 2, Joel Pavia 1, Roger Perkin 1, T. Ray Rachels 7, Robert Rhoden 1, Robert Schmidgall 1, Clarence St. John 2, Everett Stenhouse 14, Robert Strand 1, Loren Triplett 4, David Watson 1, George Wood 43.

Election of General Secretary

Ballots were distributed for the election of the general secretary. George O. Wood read the bylaw provision for the election of executive officers. Charles Nestor, pastor of the Assembly of God, Manassas, Virginia, led in prayer.

Rollin Carlson gave the following report of the nominating ballot for general secretary:

Ballots cast	2,020
Needed to elect	1,348
George O. Wood	1,903

Having noted that George O. Wood received in excess of the two-thirds vote required, the chairman declared George O. Wood reelected as general secretary.

George O. Wood expressed appreciation for the vote of confidence and accepted the position indicating that it is a joy to serve this Fellowship. Thinking back to the time of his parents and their inability to attend General Council and now staying in such beautiful facilities, and knowing that there are many who, for one reason or another, cannot be here, it is his desire that our Fellowship could help make it possible for all pastors to attend General Council who do not have the means.

The following is a list of all other nominees: Jay Alford 1, Tommy Barnett 1, Almon Bartholomew 1, M. Wayne Benson 7, Dan Betzer 2, James Bridges 29, Warren Bullock 1, Howard Burroughs 1, Rollin Carlson 2, Tom Carpenter 1, John Castellani 1, Glen Cole 2, Charles Coletti 1, Fred Cottriel 1, Charles Crabtree 2, David Crabtree 2, Robert Crabtree 1, Charles Crank 8, Roy Crenner 1, Derwood Dubose 1, Glen Gabbard 1, Charles Hackett 1, James Hall 1, Ron Hawkins 1, James Hennesy 2, Brian Hughes 1, Illegal ballots 16, Gene Jackson 3, William Leach 1, Maurice Lednický 3, Lemuel McElyea 1, David McLucas 1, Ron McManus 1, Jack Moore 1, Norman Muhling 1, Armon Newburn 3, Billy Newby 2, John Palmer 1, Terry Raburn 1, Robert Rhoden 1, Robert Spence 1, Everett Stenhouse 2, Loren Triplett 1, David Wigington 2, John Wood 1, Paul Wright 1.

Superintendent's Medal of Honor Presentations

The Assemblies of God has been blessed with men and women from all walks of life who have used their talents for the kingdom of God. We have chosen to distinguish these laypeople with the General Superintendent's Medal of Honor. The three to receive this honor for exemplary lives, bringing glory and honor to God, His church, and this Fellowship are:

Elizabeth Zimmerman

Elizabeth Zimmerman, former first lady of the Assemblies of God, served this Fellowship quietly supporting her husband's call to ministry since their marriage in 1933. In 1953 her husband, Thomas Zimmerman, was elected to an executive office with the Assemblies of God and served until his death. Together they traveled to nearly 150 countries meeting presidents, kings, and religious leaders. More recently she has quietly served those in Maranatha Village.

Charles Freeman

Charles "Chuck" Freeman is a pioneer in business and in God's work. Thirty years ago he pioneered Light-for-the-Lost in the Oklahoma District and

has enrolled over 1,100 active laymen as councilmen in this program. He gives about 4 months a year to Light-for-the-Lost ministry, while continuing Chuck's Auto Body Repair and Freeman Properties business in Bethany, Oklahoma. In addition he is a prayer partner in his local assembly, is actively involved in men's ministry, and has taken 17 teams around the world distributing the *Book of Life*.

Raymond A. Neill

Raymond A. Neill is a builder. He built the Neill Aircraft Company and is also a builder of churches. He and his wife have financed 15 Assemblies churches overseas, making frequent trips to assist missionaries in Good News Crusades and distributing Light-for-the-Lost literature. In 1975 Mr. Neill was invited to serve on the official Council of the United Nations Commemoration of the UN's 30th anniversary. He is a member of the General Council Finance Committee, active in his local church, and helping to fund a youth center/school facility for that assembly. Mr. Neill has the heart of a servant and high integrity.

Resolution 9. Credentialing of Divorced and Remarried Individuals (continued)

The chairman explained that, at the time of recess, Resolution 9 was under debate and those waiting to speak will have first opportunity to do so.

A motion was made and seconded that this matter be referred to a special committee of not less than five ministers, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery, for a comprehensive study of the scriptural teaching on marriage, divorce, and remarriage. The committee will bring a thorough report to the General Presbytery for approval of biblically based recommendations for needed changes in our official statement and our Bylaws and the General Presbytery will bring a report to the General Council in session.

An amendment was made, seconded, and carried that would permit a minority report coming out of the committee, if there is such, to accompany the majority report to go to the General Presbytery and on to the General Council.

A further amendment was made, seconded, and carried that the minority report, if there is such, with the majority report to be sent out ahead of the 1999 General Council where it will be presented in Orlando, Florida.

The motion to refer, along with the two amendments, was declared lost.

Election of General Treasurer

Ballots were distributed for the election of the general treasurer.

The general secretary read Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph b and

presented the name of James K. Bridges as the nominee from the General Presbytery.

Rollin Carlson gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the office of general treasurer:

Votes cast	2,425
Needed to elect	1,618
Yes votes	2,312
No votes	11
Illegal ballots	102

The chairman, noting that James K. Bridges received well in excess of the two-thirds vote required, declared him reelected as general treasurer.

James Bridges expressed appreciation to the body for its support.

Report of Spiritual Life Committee

Gordon Anderson, chairman of the Spiritual Life Committee, highlighted the report of the Spiritual Life Committee, printed here in its entirety:

INTRODUCTION

The Spiritual Life Committee is pleased to report that there are many signs of renewed spiritual life in our Fellowship and across the world today. We rejoice in reports which demonstrate that God is answering the prayers of those who have set aside business as usual to seek Him with a whole heart, discovering that the promise of the Spirit is as real today as it was in the Upper Room nearly 2,000 years ago. We affirm that God is abundantly pouring out His Spirit in various places and in unusual ways. We find in all this reason to rejoice and to be hopeful that the spiritual life of the Movement will flourish and that testimonies of spiritual renewal will swell to a flood.

We note, however, that hope for renewal in a person, church, or the Movement does not lie in merely tapping into the spiritual energy in some special meeting or place. What made the Azusa Street revival fruitful is that people who visited the meetings went home determined to see the fire fall in their own lives, churches, and communities. Moreover, they found at Azusa not only a personal experience, but a theology to provide ongoing guidance for the Pentecostal movement. They found anew, and forged afresh, the Pentecostal message that would enable them to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and teach the truths of the Word of God at home and abroad.

CALL TO SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Spiritual vitality is the very life and power of almighty God poured into the believer to bring about the will and character of God in that person, and through that person, in the world. The principles of spiritual life are simple. But they are absolutely contrary to the sinful makeup of the unbeliever, and the natural makeup of every Christian. Paul warned the church at Galatia that their flesh would always be fundamentally at enmity with the Spirit of God (Galatians 5:17). It is only as we continue to walk in the Spirit that we will succeed in overcoming the desires of the flesh. A history of spiritual activity and success, be it personal or denominational, does not negate this basic principle. In fact, it is often confidence in that very spiritual heritage which lulls the church to sleep, testifying that it has need of nothing, not recognizing that it is spiritually wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. Spiritual life is rekindled only as we lay down our pride in past achievements, set aside our confidence in personal or corporate ability, and turn again to God, who waits to pour out His Spirit on those who ardently seek His face. Constant themes in this current renewal are humility, confession, repentance, and change. The Spiritual Life Committee believes that God is speaking to this Movement and that these basic principles must continually be emphasized if individuals and the Movement are to experience the ongoing flow of the Holy Spirit.

Second Chronicles 7:14 outlines a familiar pattern for spiritual life. God promises that if we humble ourselves and pray, seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways, He will hear from heaven and heal our land. This admonition follows immediately the dedication of the temple and one of the most spectacular spiritual events in human history. When Solomon finished praying at the dedication of the temple, fire fell from heaven, the glory of the Lord filled the house, the priests could not enter the temple because of the glory of God, and all the people bowed with their faces to the ground to worship and praise God. Why, then, the warning? Because pride and apostasy can closely follow spiritual victory. Sadly, proof of this can be seen in biblical and human history.

Therefore, if we have any hope of spiritual success, we must take the admonition of God seriously and make it an ongoing pattern for our lives.

Spiritual renewal has a number of essential characteristics. The Spiritual Life Committee believes that if the Assemblies of God is to experience ongoing spiritual life we must confess where we have fallen short and ask God to forgive us. We urge every leader in this Movement to prayerfully consider these characteristics and to humbly confess to God deficiency wherever it may be, to earnestly repent, and to ask God for spiritual restoration. We cry out to God, "Revive us again!"

We affirm that spiritual vitality is always characterized by a hunger and thirst for God and His righteousness. As the deer pants for the brook, and as the thirsty soul in a dry and weary land longs for water, those who are spiritually alive continually long for the presence of God. This thirst is not quenched by anything less than the nearness of God. It cannot be satisfied by entertainment, nor be replaced by a busy schedule. When religious activity takes the place of spiritual vitality, people may drink from a variety of wells and many substitutes take the place of God. This is idolatry. Let us be known for our constant hunger and thirst for the presence of God.

We affirm that spiritual vitality is always characterized by dissatisfaction with the status quo. Sin is not tolerated. Lack of Christlikeness is dealt with promptly and thoroughly. Inefficiency is unacceptable. Programs that don't work are revised or eliminated. Personnel who don't contribute are not allowed to take up space and eat up resources. Evaluation, revision, change, flexibility, and cooperation are common. But, religion has a narcotic effect on this dissatisfaction. We tolerate and then defend things which hinder the work of God. Bumper stickers admonishing people to be patient with us replace an altar of confession and repentance. Committees replace commitment. Adages about how long it takes to turn the *Queen Mary* mask our complacency with the direction the old ship is sailing. Bureaucratic territory and budgetary turf are the battlefields of the church which has lost sight of its spiritual objectives. Internal squabbles replace spiritual warfare. If we are guilty, let us confess it, repent of it, and change our ways. Let us be known for our constant lack of toleration for anything which does not further the kingdom of God, a holy aversion to the deficiencies of things as they are.

We affirm that humility is the bedrock of spirituality. Early in his reign Asa declared that there was no one but God to help the weak in the battle against the strong (2 Chronicles 14:11). Zechariah recognized that even though he would work through the entirety of the rebuilding of the temple, it was not by his might nor power, but by the Spirit of God that the project would succeed (Zechariah 4:6,9). Jesus humbled himself so that redemption from sin could be accomplished, making himself to be nothing, taking the form of a lowly servant (Philippians 2:8). And Peter made it clear that God resists the proud, giving grace to the humble (1 Peter 5:5,6). Pride is at the heart of sin and makes it impossible for God to work on our behalf. Man has a fatal tendency to take credit for what God has done and to become confident in his own ability. All this is attended by the right words, giving lip service to God, but positioning ourselves as the center of attention. We toil beyond what God requires, claiming to trust God but working as though it all depends on us. We claim to seek direction from God, but hesitate to admit we don't know what to do, fearing that if we do not have all the answers, our credibility as leaders will be lost. We claim to seek God's guidance, but turn to past battle strategies to fight today's wars. After 35 years on the throne, Asa had developed enough political alliances and monetary reserves to enable him to win battles without prayer. Far behind were his days of simple dependence on God. As Pentecostals we are fond of quoting Zechariah in print and from the pulpit, but are now able to turn to organization, education, and a vast fund-raising base to build what we want, when we want, giving glory to God for what He helps us do. Pride thanks God for His help. Humility is

certain that without Him we can do nothing. To the extent that we are guilty of pride, and the resulting sins of self-sufficiency, self-confidence, self-reliance, and self-congratulation, let us humble ourselves before God and pray, earnestly seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways. Truly, only God can help us in the battle against the powers of darkness. Let us be known for our continual dependence on God alone, giving Him glory for what only He can do.

We affirm the command of our Lord to go and make disciples (Matthew 28:19). This is the mission of the church and the only measure by which we may accurately assess our obedience. Discipleship is a lifelong process whereby a person, who has responded to the gospel and experienced new birth, becomes an obedient follower of Jesus and matures spiritually by the power of the Holy Spirit. Discipleship is accomplished by following Christ in water baptism; ardently pursuing Spirit baptism; maintaining mutual accountability and a loving relationship in the church; diligently studying the Word and applying it to daily life; and actively participating in prayer, worship, ministry, and evangelism.

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship means that we must evangelize and win people to the Lord. Our most recent U.S. records show that in 1996 we had a total of 508,296 conversions reported by 8,271 churches, 272,816 more than were reported 10 years earlier. From 1986 through 1996 we show 3,429,927 conversions. We rejoice in this. Still, we must ask ourselves, "Is this adequate? Does it indicate a church on fire for God? Does it sufficiently fulfill the Great Commission?" We cannot establish a specific number of conversions which accurately represents an adequate response in evangelism. We can, however, confidently assert that every church should have regularly scheduled, carefully planned, prayerfully supported, adequately funded, and vigorously executed evangelistic efforts as a prominent feature among its ministries. An ad in the religion page of the local newspaper and a few days of lackluster meetings is not evangelism. This Movement has regularly emphasized the need to evangelize. At the beginning of this decade we offered such an emphasis, and as the century closes there are many opportunities for each church to tap into a variety of resources to reach its community for Christ. We urge every pastor to pray, to seek the Holy Spirit for God's unique plan to evangelize his or her church's community for Christ.

Discipleship is more than evangelism. While we record a large number of conversions, there is something troubling in our statistics. We currently have about 2.5 million adherents. From 1986 to 1996 we won about 3.4 million people to the Lord. That's approximately 900,000 more converts than the total of all who currently attend our churches. Where are the converts? The conclusion is inescapable. Various kinds of attrition are lessening the gains we should be seeing. We are losing our people at an alarming rate.

There are a number of reasons for these losses, but two of our records provide insight into the problem. In 1984 our number of water baptisms was 44 percent of our total number of converts. By 1996 that percentage had fallen to 23 percent. Steadily declines mark the period. In 1984 our total number of Spirit baptisms was 35 percent of our total number of converts. By 1996 that percentage had fallen to 18 percent. Conclusion? We are winning some, losing many, and failing to make disciples.

Discipleship means water baptism and the crucified life it represents. Every convert should follow Christ in the waters of baptism shortly, if not immediately after conversion. We know that baptism does not save, but we have become too lax in leading our converts into this ordinance. Converts should be instructed to obey the Lord in baptism and to identify with Jesus in His death, burial, and resurrection. If we fail to lead them in this initial step, we should not be surprised at their disobedience in other areas later. If we have failed to baptize our converts, let us humble ourselves before God, confess it as sin, and determine to change. Let us be known for leading our converts into the waters of baptism.

Discipleship means the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the divinely empowered life. Recent studies (Poloma, Barrett) show that 70-80 percent of those attending Pentecostal churches do not speak in tongues. This indicates that we have failed to emphasize properly the biblical truth that tongues is the initial, physical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Within the context of Pentecostal theology, the Spirit-empowered life which issues out of the experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues is our distinctive. It is a shame that fewer of our people are entering into the fullness of the Spirit as it is revealed in the New Testament and demonstrated in Pentecostal history. We also recognize that there is increasing

confusion over what it means to be Pentecostal. Many now see it only as a worship style or a certain kind of emotional attitude in church. Growing numbers of our people, including leaders, have become doctrinally committed, but nonpracticing Pentecostals—people with a history of the power of God, but little current expression. Post-Pentecostals are a mere shadow of their heritage, retaining a form, but without the power. Many people, failing to find real Pentecost in their nominal Pentecostal churches, are seeking refuge in evangelical fellowships. To the extent that we have failed in this we must humble ourselves, confess it to God, repent, and change our ways. We call upon our leaders to rekindle the fires of true Pentecost, preaching, teaching, and providing opportunity for people to come into this experience, leading them by example, along with heartfelt exhortation. Let us bring Pentecostal theology and practice back into the mainstream of our churches. Pentecost does not belong merely in the periphery of infrequent special meetings, summer camps, and an occasional emphasis led by a Pentecostal specialist. It belongs in our churches, our schools, our board rooms, and our altars where people can have ongoing exposure and opportunity to experience this area of discipleship. We must not relegate the miraculous and supernatural to a few missionary outposts where we think the power of God is more urgently needed. Let us bring it down front and center where the sinner can be saved, the sick can be healed, the bound can be set free, the oppressed can be liberated, and where weak Christians can be endowed with power. Let us reaffirm our commitment that all people, old and young, men and women, rich and poor, can experience the baptism in the Holy Spirit and can be used of God in all the varied manifestations of the Spirit, anointed to serve God and carry the gospel to the ends of the earth. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not just an option for Pentecostals. It is absolutely essential if we are to preach the gospel and build the church from the inner cities of America to the far-flung corners of the globe. Our founders knew this. Let us do likewise.

Discipleship means discipline. No vibrant spiritual life can be maintained without it. Disciples must pray, fast, and study the Word. We need an altar of sacrifice, a commitment to self-denial, regular fasting, and a rich life of Bible study. No church can be effective without frequent and vibrant prayer meetings, regular periods of community fasting, and a program of incisive Bible study. But we know these practices are not always followed. Religious business often replaces spiritual work, resulting in form without power. If we are guilty, let us confess it as sin, repent of it, and change our ways. Let us be known for fervent prayer, regular fasting, and diligent Bible study, and let it be evident in our personal and church schedules.

Discipleship means the discipline of church attendance. Spiritually alive people spend time together in worship, praise, prayer, preaching, and ministry. The history of revival clearly shows this. Born in the fires of spiritual intensity, renewed churches are known for long and frequent services, with ample time given to the many different kinds of spiritual activity needed to keep spiritual fires burning and ministries effective. Over time, however, frequency, length, intensity, and attendance wane, leaving a church in need of revival, incapable of producing one. Love of worldly amusements, recreation, and entertainment replace love of God's house, God's people, and God's ways. In this life, God's people live with the tension of being in, but not of the world. We are a "called out" company of saints who are sanctified unto God, set apart for God's work, who go into the world to bring sinners to God and into His Body. Some, loving this present world, and unwilling to live the separated life, set aside the healthy sectarian nature of the church, and become increasingly secular. Church attendance remains a part of life, but not the center. The body of Christ becomes just another set of acquaintances, no longer the center of fellowship. This kind of church has forgotten that we are pilgrims looking for a permanent city whose founder and maker is God. It is unmindful that our citizenship is in another realm. It has adopted a secularized form of religion, its love and interests so merged with this world that it can no longer call the ungodly to come out and be separate. Where this is the case let us confess it, repent of it, and change our ways. Let us be known as a people who rejoice and are glad when we have opportunity to go to the house of God. Let us make church the center of our lives, with the body of Christ at the heart of our earthly fellowship. And let us then lead our followers by example, teaching them that commitment to things eternal is paramount while living in a temporal world.

Finally, discipleship means stewardship of time, money, and service, so we can impact society. The church is called to be salt and light in the world, a preserving influence in a decadent society. When the power of God's Spirit works in a life, it always creates a concrete example of the life of Christ. We must resist any decline toward self-centeredness. The Pentecostal move-

ment began with a simple mission—to receive the fullness of the power of God and to be channels of that power to a world that is lost and dying. To be used of God in this way demands careful stewardship of our resources, using them to further the kingdom of God, rather than to increase our own comfort. Ultimately, missions, at home and abroad, across the street and across the sea, lies at the heart of this Movement. We have done well, but we have not yet done all we can, nor all we should. Where we have failed to guard our time, to give generously of our resources, and to press forward fervently with a spirit of ministry, urgency, and sacrifice, let us confess it, repent of it, and change our ways. Let us be known as a simple, sacrificial people, good stewards of God's resources, serving God fervently at home and abroad.

OUR CRY

The Spiritual Life Committee rejoices in the many areas of spiritual health we see in our Movement, but we call our people to humility about our accomplishments, to confession of pride and self-sufficiency, and to repentance of laxity where we should be more fervent. We dare not grow comfortable with any shred of complacency or self-congratulation. Until our whole Fellowship burns with the fire of revival, until sinners are converted and followers are sanctified, until the church flows with the power of the Spirit and the gifts of supernatural ministry, we should find ourselves prostrate at an altar of contrition, confessing our shortcomings, and waiting on God to fulfill the promise of Pentecost once again. We call our Movement to fasting and prayer and to a new sense of brokenness and dependence before God. We call leaders to relinquish the reins of human control to the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and to lead in spiritual vitality both by exhortation and example. May our people see their leaders model Christlike humility, holiness, worship, and the flow of the power of the Holy Spirit of God.

Our cry is truly, "Revive us again!"

Following the report, committee members led the body in prayer after which Thomas E. Trask closed the meeting in prayer.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 11:45 a.m.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 7

The Thursday afternoon business session was opened with singing and worship led by David Collins, minister of music, Assembly of God, Bloomington, Minnesota. Joan Rosenberg, Fairfield, Ohio, and Phil Pfaltzgraff, Petoskey, Michigan, served at the piano and organ, respectively. Phil Pfaltzgraff provided an organ solo for the offertory. Johnny R. Chase, pastor, Trinity Tabernacle, Decaturville, Tennessee, opened the session in prayer.

The general superintendent called the business session to order at 1:40 p.m.

World Ministries Giving Awards

World Ministries Giving awards for giving during the calendar years of 1995-1996 were presented by James K. Bridges, general treasurer, as follows:

Total Dollar Giving (Churches)

5. Mount Hope Church, Lansing, Michigan (\$1,929,369.24)
4. First Assembly of God, North Little Rock, Arkansas (\$1,958,603.50)

3. Capital Christian Center, Sacramento, California (\$2,484,146.84)
2. Calvary Church, Naperville, Illinois (\$2,691,448.33)
1. First Assembly of God, Phoenix, Arizona (\$7,359,990)

Balance-in-Participation Giving (Churches)

5. Full Gospel Assembly of God, Patterson, Missouri (453 points)
4. First Assembly of God, Statesboro, Georgia (469 points)
3. First Assembly of God, Akron, Ohio (471 points)
2. Calvary Assembly, Wayne, New Jersey (473 points)
1. Praise Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri (478 points)

Total Dollar Giving (Districts)

3. Northern California-Nevada District (\$23,261,168.84)
2. Illinois District (\$23,269,650.63)
1. Southern California District (\$26,983,107.28)

Balance-in-Participation Giving (Districts)

3. Oregon District (55.55 percent)
2. Northern Missouri District (56.20 percent)
1. North Dakota District (56.65 percent)

Roster Committee Report

Larry L. Alverson gave the following roster report as of 1 p.m., Thursday, August 7:

Ordained ministers	3,244	
Delegates	<u>747</u>	
Voting constituency		3,991
Licensed/certified ministers	442	
Visitors	<u>4,476</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		4,918
Total registration		8,909

A motion prevailed to receive the report of the Roster Committee as of 1:30 p.m., Thursday, August 7, 1997.

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

The chairman indicated that Loren Triplett, who has filled the position of executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions for the past 8 years, has announced his retirement. Brother Triplett brought greetings to the body and expressed thanks for their support.

Ballots for the office of executive director of the Division of Foreign

Missions were distributed.

The general secretary read the Bylaws provision for the election of the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions and presented the names of L. John Bueno, Robert Houlihan, and Jerry L. Parsley as the three nominees being presented for election by the General Presbytery. Dan Betzer led in prayer for God's guidance in this important election.

J. Rollin Carlson gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the office of the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions:

Total votes cast	2,294
Needed to elect	1,531
L. John Bueno	1,206
Robert Houlihan	660
Jerry Parsley	421
Illegal ballots	7

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

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

Total votes cast	2,309
Needed to elect	1,541
L. John Bueno	1,943
Robert Houlihan	296
Jerry Parsley	69
Illegal ballots	1

The chairman, noting that L. John Bueno received over the two-thirds vote required, declared him elected as executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions.

There was a response from Brother and Sister Bueno expressing appreciation for the vote of confidence. Loren Triplett led in special prayer for the Buenos.

**Resolution 9. Credentialing of Divorced
and Remarried Individuals (continued)**

Debate continued on Resolution 9.

An amendment was offered to add throughout the document the words "and remarriage" after the word "divorced." The motion to amend was lost.

After several delegates had spoken for and against the resolution, the chairman called for a secret ballot, and at the request of a delegate he moved to the podium to pray for God's wisdom and guidance in casting the vote.

The Tellers Committee gave the following report of the secret ballot cast regarding the adoption of Resolution 9:

Total votes cast	2,706
------------------	-------

Yes votes	996
No votes	1,707
Abstain	2
Illegal ballots	1

Having received the report of the Tellers Committee, the chairman ruled that the motion to adopt Resolution 9 lost.

Presentation of Korean Delegation

The general superintendent requested the superintendent of the Assemblies of God Full Gospel Korean Council, Yi Shik Cho, to come to the podium to receive a plaque commemorating the unification which took place several months ago between the two groups of Korean brethren. Superintendent Cho expressed appreciation to the body.

HonorBound: Men of Promise (Men's Ministries)

The chairman presented materials which are available from Men's Ministries and HonorBound, and introduced Ron Roberts, secretary of Men's Ministries Department and HonorBound: Men of Promise. He presented a brief video about the work of HonorBound. Ron Roberts then spoke of the available materials to help men in this Fellowship prepare to support their pastors and the ministries of the local church.

Resolution 10. Credentialing of Persons Convicted Criminally of Child Sexual Abuse

Warren Bullock presented Resolution 10 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Richard Hammar, editor of *Church Law and Tax Report* and legal counsel for The General Council of the Assemblies of God, has repeatedly recommended local churches implement policies to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse; and

WHEREAS, Ministerial publications of The General Council of the Assemblies of God have promoted the implementation of policies to reduce the risk of child sexual abuse in local assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Jesus said, "Whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea" (Matthew 18:5,6, NASB); and

WHEREAS, The media has brought to public attention numerous cases of child sexual abuse by clergy; and

WHEREAS, Current laws allow communities to track child sexual abuse offenders; and

WHEREAS, Qualification for a pastor is that "...he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil" (1 Timothy 3:7, NASB); and

WHEREAS, Credentialing of persons with a criminal conviction of child sexual abuse can cause serious problems for local assemblies; and

WHEREAS, Use of ministers with a criminal conviction of child sexual abuse by a local assembly creates a tremendous liability; and

WHEREAS, Local assemblies have an inherent expectation that ministers credentialed by The General Council of the Assemblies of God will not present them with great liability; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the following statement be added to the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, Article VII. Ministry, Section 2. Basic Qualifications (page 135) as paragraph m:

m. Criminal convictions of child sexual abuse. The General Council of the Assemblies of God will not consider applications for ministerial credentials of anyone who has a criminal conviction for sexual contact with children age 15 and under or for sexual intercourse with children age 16 or 17.

The general secretary shared information pertaining to the resolution, explaining that what this resolution calls for is presently being done. The present application for ministerial credentials includes questions which cover this matter.

A motion was made to amend line 5, page 39, for 16 or 17, by the addition of the wording "unless it occurred prior to conversion." There was no second to the motion. The chairman ruled that the amendment would not be considered due to the lack of a second.

After a time of discussion, a motion prevailed to amend line 5 on page 39, by changing the wording to: "age 17 and under."

A further amendment was offered for line 3 of page 39, to remove the words "a criminal conviction for."

A motion prevailed to refer Resolution 10 and the amendment to the Executive Presbytery to consult with legal counsel and that a report be brought back to the 1999 General Council.

Ministerial Enrichment Presentation

Wayde Goodall, coordinator of the Ministerial Enrichment Office for the Assemblies of God, was introduced to speak in behalf of the concerns and

development of the Ministerial Enrichment Office. A short video was presented.

Wayde Goodall concluded his presentation with an expression of appreciation to Dr. Richard Dobbins for the help he has given in establishing this office.

The general superintendent appealed to pastors and churches to write EMERGE Ministries into their budgets for regular support to help underwrite the cost of services which are given to our ministers.

Election of Executive Director of the Division of Home Missions

Ballots for the office of the executive director of the Division of Home Missions were distributed.

The general secretary read the Bylaw provision for the election of the executive director of the Division of Home Missions and presented the name of Charles Hackett as the nominee from the General Presbytery.

J. Rollin Carlson gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the office of the executive director of the Division of Home Missions:

Total votes cast	1,621
Needed to elect	1,082
Charles Hackett	1,596
Illegal ballots	23
No votes	2

The chairman, noting that Charles Hackett received well in excess of the two-thirds vote required, declared him reelected as executive director of the Division of Home Missions.

Charles Hackett responded by accepting the position and expressing appreciation for the vote of confidence.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:35 p.m. Frank Martin, missionary to Russia, closed in prayer.

THURSDAY EVENING--AUGUST 7

The Thursday evening service featured fraternal delegates with Thomas E. Trask serving as chairman. Home Fire Ministries provided music prior to the service. Paul Ferrin led in worship with Ramona Crabtree at the piano and Marjorie Ferrin at the organ. The offering appeal was made by Robert Crabtree, superintendent of the Ohio District. Ministering in special music were Bill Murk, violinist from Naperville, Illinois; the Lakeview Temple choir, Indianapolis, Indiana, combined with Nancy Stainback and Jonathan Pierce

singing "I've Just Seen Jesus."

Dr. Paul L. Walker, general overseer for the Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee, and pastor for 37 years of Hemphill/Mount Paran Church of God, Atlanta, Georgia, was the evening speaker. He looked to Matthew 16:18 for describing the "Revival Church in Contemporary Times" and declaring that God is confirming His covenant and building His church. Walker outlined the revival church that functions in faith, focuses on the founder, fights the fight, and fulfills the formula. He emphasized that Christ is the only one who can say, "I will build My church." He called the church to repent of lukewarmness, and to be open to Christ standing at the door desiring to give an outpouring of the Spirit.

FRIDAY MORNING--AUGUST 8

The Friday morning session began at 8 a.m. with a time of prayer and worship led by Dick Eastman. David Byerly led in worship from the piano, joined by a worship team of Rhonda Roncone and Grace Jones.

Business Session

Music prior to the opening of the business session was provided by Paul Ferrin at the piano, and Dan Scherling, Colorado Springs, Colorado, at the organ. Kent Ferrin led in singing. Chairman Trask opened the business session with prayer and then called the business to order at 9:25 a.m.

Roster Report

Larry Alverson, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave a Roster Report as of 9:00 a.m. Friday, August 8, as follows:

Ordained ministers	3,271	
Delegates	<u>749</u>	
Voting constituency		4,020
Licensed/certified ministers	443	
Visitors	<u>4,494</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>4,937</u>
Total registration		8,957

A motion prevailed to receive the report of the Roster Committee as of 9 a.m., Friday, August 8.

Balloting for Nonresident Executive Presbyters

J. Rollin Carlson, chairman of the Tellers Committee, gave instructions on balloting for the nonresident executive presbyters. The general secretary read

Article II, Section 1, paragraph e pertaining to the election of nonresident executive presbyters. Joseph Flower, former general secretary, was asked to pray for God's guidance during the election process.

While the distribution of the ballots took place, the general superintendent asked Mrs. Klayton Ko, pastor's wife from Honolulu, Hawaii, to favor the Council with a piano solo. She rendered a beautiful medley of songs of praise.

The chairman declared balloting closed.

Resolution 11. Closed Captioning for Deaf

Warren D. Bullock, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, highlighted the essential portions of Resolution 11 and read the changes that would be made in the Bylaws, and moved its adoption. Resolution 11 as presented follows:

WHEREAS, In the United States of America, there are approximately 25 million deaf and hard-of-hearing people who greatly enjoy accessibility to television and video programs via the closed-captioning services; and

WHEREAS, The deaf and hard-of-hearing people are severely limited in accessing the gospel on television programs, videos, audiovisual media of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, The federal regulations since 1982 require all 13 inches or larger television screens to include closed-captioning capabilities and all or most prime-time television programs provide closed-captioning for American households; and

WHEREAS, Numerous immigrants and children are using closed captioning as a tool to improve their reading and written English language skills, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That all videos, films, and television programs through the Assemblies of God national ministries provide closed captioning; and be it further

RESOLVED, That General Councils and national ministries provide real-time captioning services for deaf and hard-of-hearing participants and visitors; and be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article XVI. Electronic Media Board, Section 1, Media Center, paragraph a (page 177) be amended by the addition of a new subparagraph (4) to read as follows:

(4) Provide closed-captioning services for Assemblies of God videos, television programs, films, and programs. Provide real-time captioning services at General Councils for business sessions, workshops, services, and programs. National ministries will provide real-time captioning services if needed.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That the present subparagraph (4) be renumbered (5).

A motion prevailed to refer Resolution 11 to the Executive Presbytery for study with power to act.

Recognition of Dorothy Ward

Chairman Trask recognized Dorothy Ward, widow of C.M. Ward, *Revivaltime* speaker for 25 years, and encouraged the purchase of C.M. Ward's latest book, *Old Testament Stories with New Testament Applications*.

Resolution 12. HonorBound: Men of Promise

Warren Bullock presented Resolution 12 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, "HonorBound: Men of Promise" has been tested for over one year as a replacement name for Men's Ministries Department; and

WHEREAS, "HonorBound: Men of Promise" has gained favor and acceptance across the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, "HonorBound: Men of Promise" to be fully implemented requires modification of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, A 2-year study of potential revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God has been authorized by the Executive Presbytery; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That "HonorBound: Men of Promise" headed by a national coordinator, continue to be used as the name for Men's Ministries Department and that organizational changes, if any, be reserved pending the outcome and recommendations of the Constitution and Bylaws Revision Committee.

The motion to adopt Resolution 12 carried.

Resolution 13. Reelection—Simple Majority

Warren Bullock presented Resolution 13 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Our district and national leadership is elected from among us by a two-thirds majority vote; and

WHEREAS, They are chosen after prayer and consideration of years of proven and esteemed ministry; and

WHEREAS, Newly elected officials often leave the comfort and security of ministries built up over many years, tearing their family's roots from school and community, to serve us; and

WHEREAS, Many pastors throughout our Movement, while elected by a two-thirds majority, either are elected for an indefinite term or are reelected by a simple majority; and

WHEREAS, We require district and national officials to be voted on regularly, requiring a two-thirds majority for reelection; and

WHEREAS, This empowers a one-third plus one minority to overrule a two-thirds majority save one; and

WHEREAS, This often results in long, drawn-out balloting with votes finally being switched simply to expedite matters; and

WHEREAS, We have traditionally governed our churches and sought God's will democratically with majority rule; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That a committee of not less than five or more than seven be appointed by the general superintendent to study the advisability of national and district officials being reelected by a simple majority and report back with any recommended change to our next General Council.

In light of the fact that the sponsor of this resolution was not present, a motion prevailed to postpone action on this resolution indefinitely.

Resolution 14. Vacancy-Executive Officers

Warren Bullock highlighted Resolution 14 and read the Bylaws changes that would be affected if this resolution were passed and moved its adoption. Resolution 14 as presented follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws provide that the assistant general superintendent shall fill the office of general superintendent in the event of a death or incapacity of the general superintendent; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws do not specify how the office of general superintendent would be filled in the event the office of assistant general superintendent was vacant when the office of general superintendent also became vacant; and

WHEREAS, It would be wise to provide for a clear order of transition so that no Bylaw ambiguity exists as to who is the chief officer of the General Council in the event there was neither a general superintendent nor an assistant general superintendent; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 3, Vacancies, paragraph a (page 122), which now reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 the office of general superintendent becomes vacant, the assistant general superintendent shall succeed to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council or in the event the offices of general superintendent and assistant general superintendent both become vacant, the succession to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council shall be as follows: first, the general secretary; and second, the general treasurer.

A question was raised on what the procedure would be if such a succession caused a vacancy in another executive office. The chairman responded that according to our Bylaws the responsibility would fall to the Executive Presbytery.

The motion to adopt Resolution 14 carried.

Musical Interlude

Chairman Trask requested John Hall to minister in music. He sang "The Master's Touch" and "How Great Thou Art." He later sang "The Blood-Bought Church of the Redeemed."

Resolution 15. Filling of Vacancies on Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, Warren Bullock, read Resolution 15 as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws make provision for the Executive Presbytery to nominate and the General Presbytery to elect members of the Commission on Christian Higher Education; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws make provision for the Executive Presbytery to elect and the General Presbytery to ratify members to the following boards and committees: Board of Christian Education, Home Missions Board, Committee on Finance, and Ministers Benefit Association Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws make provision for the Executive Presbytery to appoint and the General Presbytery to ratify members to the Foreign Missions Board, the Assemblies of God Foundation Board of Directors, and the Assemblies of God Loan Fund Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, No provision is made in the Bylaws for filling vacancies in any of the above boards, commissions, or committees; and

WHEREAS, The work of these boards, etc., would be enhanced by providing a process for more rapid replacement of positions vacated with an unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, It would be appropriate to entrust the election or ratification

to the Executive Presbytery of persons to fill an unexpired term on said boards, commissions, or committees; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Bylaws be amended by the following additions:

Article XIII. Commission on Christian Higher Education, paragraph e. Composition of Commission on Christian Higher Education (page 166)

(5) *Vacancies.* The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the Commission on Christian Higher Education by appointment until the term is expired.

Article XIV. Division of Christian Education, paragraph e. Board of Christian Education (page 169)

(5) *Vacancies.* The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the Board of Christian Education by appointment until the term is expired.

Article XVII. Division of Foreign Missions, Section 2. Government and Organization, paragraph d. Foreign Missions Board (page 179)

(5) *Vacancies.* The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the Foreign Missions Board by appointment until the term is expired.

Article XVIII. Division of Home Missions, Section 2. Government and Organization, paragraph b. Home Missions Board (page 186)

(4) *Vacancies.* The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the Home Missions Board by appointment until the term is expired.

Article XX. Division of the Treasury, Section 1. Finance Department, paragraph b. Government and organization, (3) Committee on Finance (page 194)—the following sentence to be added as a final paragraph:

The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the Committee on Finance by appointment until the term is expired.

Article XXIII. Assemblies of God Foundation, Section 3. Administration (page 200)—the following sentence to be added as a final paragraph:

The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the board of directors by appointment until the term is expired.

Article XXIV. Assemblies of God Loan Fund, Section 3. Administration (page 201)—the following sentence to be added as a final paragraph:

The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the board of directors by appointment until the term is expired.

Article XXV. Ministers Benefit Association, Section 2. Administration (page 202)—the following sentence to be added at the

end of the paragraph:

The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the board of directors by appointment until the term is expired.
A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 15.

Resolution 16. National Ministers Day

Warren Bullock read Resolution 16 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The 1981 General Council established the third Sunday of September as a day in which to honor the *ministers of our communities*, to express appreciation for their continuing role as worthy members of our society in the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, A change of date to the second Sunday of October would be more appropriate in view of present national recognition of *ministers* being promoted in the general public; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council ratify the changing of the National Ministers Day recognition authorized by the Executive Presbytery from the third Sunday of September to the second Sunday of October for 1997; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery be authorized to set the Sunday annually when recognition will be given to ministers to coincide with the national recognition of ministers day.
The motion to adopt Resolution 16 carried.

Resolution 17. The Persecuted Church Worldwide

Warren Bullock read Resolution 17 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The persecution of Christian believers has become an increasingly tragic fact in today's world; and

WHEREAS, Pentecostals and evangelical Protestants have become special targets of *reigns of terror* initiated by authorities who feel threatened by Christian faith and worship; and

WHEREAS, There is an *increasingly intolerant* and sometimes militant version of religious fundamentalism in many countries which poses a grave threat to Christian churches and believers; and

WHEREAS, A number of Assemblies of God national leaders have been martyred for their faith in recent months; and

WHEREAS, In many other countries of the world remnant Communist regimes feel threatened by persons whose Christian faith places them under authority transcending governments; and

WHEREAS, A growing number of countries now imprison or torture persons for simply attending Christian worship services or Bible studies; and

WHEREAS, There is growing persecution, torture, and even murder of practicing Christians under infamous and broadly construed "blasphemy" or "apostasy" laws; and

WHEREAS, There exists in several countries the literal sale into slavery of Christian children abducted by government forces; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we confess our own culpability in failing to do all within our power to alleviate the suffering of those persecuted for their religious beliefs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we express to our government our uncompromising opposition to religious persecution wherever it is found; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we inform our constituency on an ongoing basis of the plight of such persecuted Christians; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we join other Christians in observing an International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church with a season of intercession beginning September 28 and culminating with over 50,000 churches praying on November 16.

Expressions from the floor stressed the need for prayer and action for those who are involved in the bloodiest century the church has ever known. The State Department has taken action because the church has gotten involved. A suggestion was presented to keep this before our constituency through the *Pentecostal Evangel*, *Enrichment* journal, and the ministers letter.

The motion to adopt Resolution 17 unanimously prevailed. Chairman Trask encouraged all to continue to make this a matter of earnest prayer in their churches and to write appropriate officials in behalf of this need.

The chairman asked Loren Triplett to speak on the issue of the persecuted church. He gave examples and testimonies, indicating that godly protection is one thing that helps those who are persecuted. We are a worldwide network, using our influence wisely and prayerfully, and God is helping.

"We Build People" Presentation

Chairman Trask expressed appreciation to LeRoy Bartel, Mike Clarensau, and other staff members in the Division of Christian Education, who are involved in the publication of excellent curriculum. He asked LeRoy Bartel to make a presentation of the new material, "We Build People." He stated that hundreds are coming into the Kingdom and the church must disciple these into the truths of the church. It would be a tragedy to see these new converts lost from the church and so discipleship must be done on purpose. The "We Build People" material will give the tools to do this. The division does not simply focus on Sunday school, but on the total church effort to evaluate its ministries, its purposes, and to join hands and hearts across departments to see people become a fruitful and functioning part of the church. The "We Build People" video was shown.

Assemblies of God World Congress

John Bueno announced the Second Assemblies of God World Congress in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and encouraged those who could to attend September 25-28, 1997. Further information can be secured from the Foreign Missions and the Madison Travel booths in the exhibit hall.

Resolution 18. Honorary General Presbyter— Edward B. Berkey

Warren Bullock read Resolution 18 and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by the Southern New England District superintendent, Otis D. Stanley:

WHEREAS, Edward B. Berkey, a dedicated and faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, has given his life unselfishly for 50 years as an Assemblies of God minister with 46 of those years as an ordained minister; and

WHEREAS, He has served with distinction and honor at all levels of our Fellowship, local, district, and national including service as a general presbyter for 21 years and a member of the Board of Trustees for Valley Forge Christian College for 39 years; and

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

WHEREAS, He has served the Southern New England District for 7 years as superintendent and 15 years as assistant superintendent; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e (page 111) 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 Edward B. Berkey be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter. The motion to adopt Resolution 18 carried.

Resolution 19. Honorary General Presbyter— Irvin G. Steiding

Warren Bullock read Resolution 19 and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by the Appalachian District superintendent, Marvin R. Dennis:

WHEREAS, Irvin G. Steiding has served this Fellowship with distinction as an ordained minister for 39 years; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the Appalachian District Council as superintendent for 24 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served the Potomac District Council for 4 years as

secretary-treasurer of the Potomac District Youth Department; and

WHEREAS, He has served with distinction on the Board of Directors, and the Board of Administration of Southeastern College of the Assemblies of God for 24 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served on the national Home Missions Board, and the Spiritual Life Committee; and

WHEREAS, He has served a total of 27 years as a member of the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e (page 111) 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 Irvin G. Steiding be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter. The motion to adopt Resolution 19 carried.

Resolution 20. Honorary General Presbyter-- Loren O. Triplett

Warren Bullock read Resolution 20 as follows and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by the Nebraska District superintendent, Robert L. Nazarenus:

WHEREAS, Loren O. Triplett, a dedicated servant of the Lord, has given his life unselfishly in faithful ministry in the Assemblies of God for over 51 years, having started his ministry in 1946 and being ordained in 1950; and

WHEREAS, He served in pastoral ministry for 7 years; and

WHEREAS, He served 20 years as a foreign missionary and later as field director for Latin America and the Caribbean for 16 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served with distinction and honor as a general presbyter for 24 years and executive presbyter for 8 years; and

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

WHEREAS, He served the Fellowship as executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions for 8 years; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e (page 111) 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 Loren O. Triplett be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter. The motion to adopt Resolution 20 carried.

Resolution 21. Honorary General Presbyter-- Norman E. Wenig

Warren Bullock read Resolution 21 and moved its adoption, as follows. The

motion was seconded by the Iowa District superintendent, Norman D. Tosten:

WHEREAS, Norman E. Wenig has served this Fellowship as an ordained minister for 35 years; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the Iowa District with distinction as assistant superintendent for the past 24 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served a total of 22 years as a member of the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e (page 111) 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 Norman E. Wenig be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter. The motion to adopt Resolution 21 carried.

***Pentecostal Evangel* Presentation**

Ken Horn, managing editor of the *Pentecostal Evangel*, presented the ministry of the magazine. He stated that the staff of the *Pentecostal Evangel* wants to be a part of the revival, not just to report it. They do not consider their workplace a news room or profession, but a ministry. Each issue is prayed over by the entire staff so that it will meet needs and that souls will be won through its pages. The video of this ministry was presented.

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	1,150
Needed to elect	768
Teddy R. Boatsman	27
Robert L. Brandt	595
Ted O. Britain	17
Duane E. Buhler	18
Warren D. Bullock	259
Dale C. Carpenter	38
William I. Gallaher	41
Paul D. Goodman	70
Ronald L. Peretti	24
Larry M. Savage	28
Lewis R. Shelton	23
Daniel M. York	7
Illegal ballots	3

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	758
Needed to elect	506
Teddy R. Boatsman	5
Robert L. Brandt	498
Ted O. Britain	6
Duane E. Buhler	3
Warren D. Bullock	210
Dale C. Carpenter	6
William I. Gallaher	3
Paul D. Goodman	14
Ronald L. Peretti	4
Larry M. Savage	1
Lewis R. Shelton	2
Daniel M. York	4
Illegal ballots	2

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

Total votes cast	867
Needed to elect	579
Teddy R. Boatsman	2
Robert L. Brandt	631
Ted O. Britain	1
Duane E. Buhler	1
Warren D. Bullock	226
Dale C. Carpenter	0
William I. Gallaher	0
Paul D. Goodman	4
Ronald L. Peretti	0
Larry M. Savage	1
Lewis R. Shelton	1
Daniel M. York	0

Having noted that Robert L. Brandt has received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as executive presbyter from the Northwest Area.

Election of Executive Presbyter-Southwest Area

Rollin Carlson gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the Southwest Area executive presbyter:

Total votes cast	1,135
Needed to elect	758
Donald E. Annas	19

Glen D. Cole	457
Richard Dresselhaus	327
Virgil L. Jones	41
Eddie T. La'ulu	13
James D. Marocco	19
Phillip S. Neely	28
T. Ray Rachels	180
Donald H. Steiger	12
David L. Stevens	36
Illegal ballots	3

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	842
Needed to elect	562
Donald E. Annas	9
Glen D. Cole	431
Richard Dresselhaus	332
Virgil L. Jones	6
Eddie T. La'ulu	3
James D. Marocco	4
Phillip S. Neely	2
T. Ray Rachels	42
Donald H. Steiger	2
David L. Stevens	8
Illegal ballots	3

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

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

Total votes cast	884
Needed to elect	590
Donald E. Annas	1
Glen D. Cole	465
Richard Dresselhaus	406
Virgil L. Jones	1
Eddie T. La'ulu	1
James D. Marocco	2
Phillip S. Neely	0
T. Ray Rachels	6
Donald H. Steiger	0
David L. Stevens	2

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

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

Total votes cast	725
Needed to elect	484
Donald E. Annas	2
Glen D. Cole	318
Richard Dresselhaus	402
Virgil L. Jones	1
Eddie T. La'ulu	0
James D. Marocco	0
Phillip S. Neely	0
T. Ray Rachels	1
Donald H. Steiger	0
David L. Stevens	1

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

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

Total votes cast	614
Needed to elect	410
Donald E. Annas	1
Glen D. Cole	161
Richard Dresselhaus	444
Virgil L. Jones	1
Eddie T. La'ulu	0
James D. Marocco	0
Phillip S. Neely	0
T. Ray Rachels	5
Donald H. Steiger	0
David L. Stevens	2

Having noted that Richard Dresselhaus had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him elected as executive presbyter from the Southwest Area.

Expression of Appreciation to Tommy Barnett, Southwest Area Executive Presbyter

The chairman expressed appreciation to Tommy Barnett for the service he has given to the Assemblies of God as the Southwest Area executive presbyter, and stated that he had not allowed his name to be submitted for reelection as the Southwest Area executive presbyter due to his heavy schedule as a pastor in Phoenix, and also with the Los Angeles Project which has a February 1998 deadline for refurbishing the building. Brother Barnett expressed appreciation to the body for electing him to this high post and stated that the last 2 years of

service on the Executive Presbytery have been a delight.

Election of Executive Presbyter--North Central Area

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

Total votes cast	1,141
Needed to elect	762
David W. Argue	512
Marcus Bakke	25
Gary A. Denbow	26
Robert L. Nazarenes	17
David L. Nelson	27
John Palmer	312
Joel Pavia	38
Daniel D. Rothwell	7
Clarence St. John	55
Manuel Shoults	43
Daniel B. Spina	6
Edmund L. Tedeschi	33
Norman Tosten	18
Ronald J. Traub	18
Illegal ballots	4

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

Rollin Carlson gave the following report of the second elective ballot for the North Central Area:

Total votes cast	888
Needed to elect	593
David W. Argue	611
Marcus Bakke	5
Gary A. Denbow	3
Robert L. Nazarenes	3
David L. Nelson	1
John Palmer	232
Joel Pavia	7
Daniel D. Rothwell	3
Clarence St. John	7
Manuel Shoults	8
Daniel B. Spina	1
Edmund L. Tedeschi	3
Norman Tosten	1
Ronald J. Traub	3

Having noted that David W. Argue had received more than the two-thirds

vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as executive presbyter from the North Central Area.

Election of Executive Presbyter—South Central Area

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

Total votes cast	1,136
Needed to elect	758
Earl J. Banning	119
Howard Burroughs	33
H. Franklin Cargill	30
Micheal Dickenson	10
Derwood W. Dubose	38
J. Don George	203
R. Kenneth George	34
Jonathan M. Hollis	21
Thomas D. Lakey	22
Armon Newburn	558
Richard Petersen	48
Robert G. Slaton	17
Illegal ballots	3

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	933
Needed to elect	623
Earl J. Banning	38
Howard Burroughs	9
H. Franklin Cargill	3
Micheal Dickenson	0
Derwood W. Dubose	8
J. Don George	103
R. Kenneth George	4
Jonathan M. Hollis	5
Thomas D. Lakey	1
Armon Newburn	752
Richard Petersen	3
Robert G. Slaton	3
Illegal ballots	4

Having noted that Armon Newburn had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as executive presbyter from the South Central Area.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Great Lakes Area

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

Total votes cast	1,134
Needed to elect	757
Jay Alford	38
M. Wayne Benson	407
James D. Biram	11
Robert D. Crabtree	128
Charles E. Crank	196
Ronnie J. Crum	6
Marvin R. Dennis	10
William F. Leach	25
Paul R. Martin	43
Jerry G. McCamey	27
Robert K. Schmidgall	239
James D. Wells	3
Illegal ballots	1

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	963
Needed to elect	643
Jay Alford	9
M. Wayne Benson	690
James D. Biram	6
Robert D. Crabtree	29
Charles E. Crank	84
Ronnie J. Crum	1
Marvin R. Dennis	1
William F. Leach	1
Paul R. Martin	8
Jerry G. McCamey	7
Robert K. Schmidgall	126
James D. Wells	1

Having noted that M. Wayne Benson had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Gulf Area

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first

elective ballot for executive presbyter from the Gulf Area:

Total votes cast	1,136
Needed to elect	758
Walter L. Davis	19
Douglas Fulenwider	49
Gene Jackson	241
Bobby L. Johnson	84
Don R. Logan	21
J. D. Middlebrook	71
L. Jack Moore	39
J. Howard Reynolds	16
Philip Wannenmacher	570
E. Joe Wilmoth	26

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

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

Total votes cast	973
Needed to elect	649
Walter L. Davis	41
Douglas Fulenwider	21
Gene Jackson	149
Bobby L. Johnson	23
Don R. Logan	9
J. D. Middlebrook	16
L. Jack Moore	9
J. Howard Reynolds	5
Philip Wannenmacher	688
E. Joe Wilmoth	10
Illegal ballots	2

Having noted that Philip Wannenmacher had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him to be reelected 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	1,131
Needed to elect	755
Almon M. Bartholomew	554
Joseph M. Beretta	45
Edward B. Berkey	30
Philip Bongiorno	99

D. Wendel Cover	45
Samuel R. DiTrollo	20
Courtneil E. Francois	22
Dennis W. Marquardt	11
James E. Morris	37
Ronald E. Piedmonte	14
H. Robert Rhoden	193
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	52
Illegal ballots	9

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

Rollin Carlson gave the following report of the second elective ballot for the Northeast Area executive presbyter:

Total votes cast	941
Needed to elect	628
Almon M. Bartholomew	755
Joseph M. Beretta	2
Edward B. Berkey	5
Philip Bongiorno	28
D. Wendel Cover	2
Samuel R. DiTrollo	2
Courtneil E. Francois	9
Dennis W. Marquardt	0
James E. Morris	2
Ronald E. Piedmonte	3
H. Robert Rhoden	117
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	16

Having noted that Almon M. Bartholomew had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him to be reelected executive presbyter from the Northeast Area.

Election of Executive Presbyter-Southeast Area

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

Total votes cast	1,145
Needed to elect	764
Leslie M. Addison	9
Dan Betzer	771
Steven R. Brown	7
Charles O. Kelly	21
Vaudie V. Lambert	52
John A. Loper, Jr.	32
Glyn Lowery, Jr.	15

Ronald F. McManus	196
Kenneth W. Owen, Sr.	13
Donald E. Price	17
Jimmy R. Swilley	9
Illegal ballots	3

Having noted that Dan Betzer has received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected executive presbyter from the Southeast Area.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Language Area

Rollin Carlson gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the Language Area executive presbyter:

Total votes cast	1,126
Needed to elect	752
Adolfo Carrion	25
Wilfredo Diaz	7
Daniel De Leon	191
Bernardino P. Espinoza, Jr.	69
Ulrich H. Hohm	11
Nam Soo Kim	99
Jesse Miranda	647
Samuel P. Molina	39
Juan H. Suarez	7
David D. Rueb	27
Illegal ballots	4

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	991
Needed to elect	661
Adolfo Carrion	3
Wilfredo Diaz	1
Daniel De Leon	54
Bernardino P. Espinoza, Jr.	11
Ulrich H. Hohm	0
Nam Soo Kim	21
Jesse Miranda	884
Samuel P. Molina	9
Juan H. Suarez	0
David D. Rueb	5
Illegal ballots	3

Having noted that Jesse Miranda had received more than the two-thirds vote

required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as executive presbyter from the Language Area.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 11:45 a.m. William J. Behr, Sussex, New Jersey, closed in prayer.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 8

The Friday afternoon business session was opened with singing led by General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask. He reported that he had received word that over 1,200 were saved at today's Convoy of Hope ministry.

Business Session

The chairman called the afternoon business session to order at 1:50 p.m.

Roster Report

Larry Alverson, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave a roster report as of 1 p.m., Friday, August 8, as follows:

Ordained ministers	3,282	
Delegates	<u>750</u>	
Voting constituency		4,032
Licensed/certified ministers	447	
Visitors	<u>7,396</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>7,843</u>
Total registration		11,875

A motion prevailed to receive the report of the Roster Committee as of 1 p.m. Friday, August 8.

Celebration 2000

The chairman made a special announcement about the Celebration 2000 to be held August 8-10, 2000, in Indianapolis, Indiana. This will be the Third World Assemblies of God Congress.

International Bible Society Presentation

Dr. Lars B. Dunberg, president of the International Bible Society, brought greetings from the International Bible Society, which is committed to the inspiration and the infallibility of the Word of God. IBS is involved in translation, production, and distribution of Scriptures in over 600 languages to make sure that the Word of God is there to provide hope and meaning for people in every country.

Evangelists Representative Presentation

Speaking on behalf of the more than 1,600 evangelists and their spouses in the Assemblies of God, Jimmy Davis, evangelists representative, presented five pledges to every pastor of the Fellowship made by the evangelists:

1. We pledge to possess Pentecostal purpose when we come to be with you;
2. We pledge to perceive Pentecostal perspective. Our vision is to believe that God will send revival to every Assemblies of God church in the U.S. and Canada by the close of the 20th century;
3. We pledge to every pastor to pray for Pentecostal power;
4. We pledge to practice Pentecostal purity. We are willing to sacrifice and go the extra mile and do our very best to see God do a genuine work—a life change and a character change—in the hearts of men and women who will be in local crusades; and
5. We pledge to promote Pentecostal partnership as the Pentecostal church enters the 21st century.

Greetings from Cuba's General Superintendent

General Superintendent Hector A. Hunter Wright from the Assemblies of God of Cuba brought greetings to the General Council. He stated: "I don't bring you greetings from the suffering church of Cuba; I bring greetings from the victorious church that is in Cuba. In reality we have gone through some very difficult times, and even now we are going through some of those difficult moments. But the church in Cuba is not on the losing side."

Resolution 22. National Commission on Ethnicity

Warren Bullock, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 22. National Commission on Ethnicity, as follows, and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, The ethnic population continues to grow both in our society and in our Fellowship, and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God ethnic constituency has become a major component now representative of 25 percent; and

WHEREAS, We, the Assemblies of God have dealt seriously with the issue of becoming a multicultural, multiethnic church in America; and

WHEREAS, We need to address the issue of including appropriate ethnic minority representation at leadership and ministry development levels of this organization; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God's commitment to the Great Commission demands our response to the challenges of the multiethnic,

multi-cultural realities of America and as stewards of the manifold grace of God to the development of ministry to the growing and diverse population of our society, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That an amendment be made to Bylaws Article XI. General Superintendent's Office (page 164) through the addition of a new Section 5 which shall read:

Section 5. Commission on Ethnicity

a. Sphere of authority. There shall be a Commission of Ethnicity which shall have oversight of a national ethnic agenda for the Assemblies of God.

b. Purpose. The purpose of the commission is to fulfill the Great Commission which mandates seeking to fulfill the threefold mission of the Assemblies of God through:

(1) Providing a forum for listening and understanding the ethnic issues that relate to our Fellowship;

(2) Giving direction to formulate, establish, and communicate a vision of the ethnic opportunities for ministry.

(3) Recommending organizational changes that will facilitate effective ministry to ethnic constituents and enhance the participation of these within the Fellowship.

c. Commission chairman. The general superintendent shall serve as chairman and a cochairman will be selected from the ethnic members of the commission to assist the chairman.

d. Amenability. The commission shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

e. Composition of Commission on Ethnicity. There shall be a Commission on Ethnicity which shall consist of the following: The Administrative Committee on Mission, the chairman, cochairman, ethnic executive presbyters, and one general presbyter from each ethnic district or fellowship. Members-at-large shall include but not be limited to the following personnel: Office of Public Relations, Division of Home Missions, Division of Church Ministries, Division of Christian Education, Division of Publication, and others by virtue of office and/or as deemed necessary.

(1) *Selection of commission.* Those members of the commission not serving by virtue of office shall be selected as follows: The members of the commission shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery and elected by the General Presbytery in their annual meeting. Care shall be taken to maximize rotation among the ethnic presbyters.

(2) *Terms of office.* Those members of the commission not serving

by virtue of office shall serve on a rotating basis on a 2-year assignment to allow greater representation from the field.

(3) *Meetings.* There shall be an annual meeting of the commission during the month of December. Special meetings shall be scheduled as needed at the call of the commission chairman.

A motion was made to amend line 20 on page 9 by removing the sentence: "Care shall be taken to maximize rotation among the ethnic presbyters." The next paragraph lines 22-24 would also be removed. The motion did not receive a second and was lost due to lack of support.

A delegate spoke concerning "multiethnic ministry" especially to second-generation ethnics in the U.S. today who are being assimilated into the American culture, and we are losing many of them because they no longer identify with the culture of their fathers. It was further noted that the Anglo community needs to diversify its ministry in order to become more effective in reaching today's society. The chairman stated that this concern should be reached into the minutes, since it is a vital issue for this church.

Following a time of further discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 22 was carried.

San Juan '98

The chairman announced that an historic convocation will take place in Puerto Rico on May 25-30, 1998, in San Juan. This meeting will be a point of historic convergence to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying and doing in Latin America, and to formulate a strategy for penetrating the Spanish-speaking world with the gospel of Jesus Christ in the 21st century. It will also bring together the hearts and minds of Christian leadership who have invested in the Spanish-speaking world over the years.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m. with Thomas Gotcher, Hot Springs, Arkansas, closing in prayer.

FRIDAY EVENING—AUGUST 8

The Youth Congress joined the main Friday evening service for a youth emphasis. The Fine Arts winners provided the preservice music. George O. Wood served as chairman for the service. Paul Ferrin and Kylan Rasmaussen, Bothell, Washington, combined to lead in worship. Ramona Crabtree served at the piano and Dixie Hackett, at the organ. Mayor Steve Goldsmith greeted the Council, thanking delegates for coming to Indianapolis. Senator John Ashcroft brought greetings, stating that those things of value are accomplished in the Spirit of Christ. He related to the theme of the service a "Generation

Connection," by telling the congregation that members of one generation needs to knit with the next generation, closing his statements by singing, "Carry the Cross." Other special music included a youth choir directed by Brenda Rasmaussen, Fine Arts winners, and the Katinas.

Speaker for the evening, Doug Clay, national secretary for the Youth Department, sounded the call to make "A Generation Connection." The theme threaded throughout the evening from the opening choir number to the altar service. He began his message with a skit illustrating the generation gap but affirming the impact of adults on youth. He connected Samuel's anointing of David as the example, indicating that Samuel took time and was sensitive to finding God's choice. With the preaching assistance of Tom Greene and Monty Hipp, he also pointed out that the older generation needs to invest wisdom and discernment in the younger generation, concluding with the challenge to touch the young people. Four thousand young people responded to the altar appeal to commit their lives to the Lord and the leadership of the church.

SATURDAY MORNING—AUGUST 9

A time of prayer and praise began at 8:15 a.m., Saturday, under the leadership of Dick Eastman.

Business Session

The business meeting opened with the singing and worship led by Steven McLellan, minister of music, Oak Brook Christian Center, Oak Brook, Illinois. John Cernero, Carmel, Indiana, and Rodney Homer, Shrewsburg, Pennsylvania, served on the piano and organ, respectively. Wayne Blackburn offered prayer, especially bringing the need of Thomas Paino III, pastor in Carmel, Indiana, before the Lord.

Pastor Nam Soo Kim gave a report of the Assemblies of God delegation that went into North Korea, stating that 2.1 million are dying because of lack of food. Chairman Thomas Trask has been officially invited to North Korea in May. Pastor Kim led the congregation in prayer in behalf of the church in North Korea.

Thomas Trask called the business session to order at 9:40 a.m.

Roster Report

Larry Alverson gave the final roster report as of 9 a.m., Saturday, August 9, as follows:

Ordained ministers	3,285	
Delegates	750	
Total voting constituency		4,035

Licensed/certified ministers	448
Visitors	7,428
Nonvoting constituency	7,876
Total registrants	11,911

A motion prevailed to adopt the final report of the Roster Committee.

Resolution 23. Senior Adult Ministries Commission

Warren Bullock read Resolution 23, as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Action of the 46th General Council of the Assemblies of God approved Resolution 2 which authorized the Commission on Senior Adult Ministries; and

WHEREAS, The authorization of this ministry should be included in the General Council Bylaws; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article XV. Division of Church Ministries be amended by the addition of a new Section 3 to read as follows:

Section 3. Senior Adult Ministries Commission

a. Authorization and Purpose

(1) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* There shall be a Senior Adult Ministries Commission 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) *Focus.* The focus of this commission shall include the encouragement of those in our Fellowship who are 50 and over to participate in activities that foster spiritual growth and health, age-level educational pursuits, evangelistic outreach, and wholesome fellowship events.

(3) *Functions.* The functions of this commission shall include the following:

- (a) encourage district, sectional, and local structure and leadership
- (b) communicate with leadership and laity
- (c) work with leadership for training and coordinating activities
- (d) serve as a resource for exchange of ideas and information
- (e) produce brochures, plan books, and helps
- (f) schedule seminars and conventions, as needed and approved
- (g) endeavor to identify and involve individuals and groups from clergy and laity in ministry activities

b. Government and organization

(1) *Commission coordinator.* The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to appoint a commission coordinator who shall serve

under the national director of the Division of Church Ministries.

(2) *Committees.* Special committees may be appointed when approval has been received from the director of the Division of Church Ministries.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That present Section 3 and Section 4 be renumbered Section 4 and Section 5.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Bylaw Article XV, paragraph a, which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read as follows:

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

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article XV, paragraph d which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read as follows:

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

The motion to adopt Resolution 23 carried.

Resolution 24. Evangel College Name Change

Warren Bullock read Resolution 24, as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Evangel College has had a distinguished 42-year history of providing educational opportunities for more than 22,000 students; and

WHEREAS, Evangel College is recognized as a diverse institution with programs of study in many fields of learning; and

WHEREAS, A name change to university would both recognize the present character of the institution as well as facilitate its future development including the addition of graduate studies; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XXI. Institutions, Section 3. Evangel College (page 198) which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

Section 3. Evangel University

a. Authorization and purpose. Evangel University of the Assemblies of God, a Christian university of arts and sciences, shall be owned and operated at all times by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The university 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 university shall be delegated to a board of directors in accordance with the provisions of its constitution and bylaws.

c. Amenability. The university 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 university.

The motion to adopt Resolution 24 carried.

Resolution 25. Addition of Northern Pacific Latin American District of the Assemblies of God

Warren Bullock read Resolution 25 and moved its adoption.

A motion prevailed to amend by adding "Southern" before the words "Pacific Latin American" on line 17.

The motion to adopt as amended carried:

Resolution 25 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws make provision for the Executive Presbytery to establish boundaries for new district councils in

cooperative agreement with the districts involved; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery in session on July 23, 1997, has approved the establishment of the Northern Pacific Latin American District of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, The name of this new district needs to be included in the General Council Bylaws; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph e, (2), *Language Area* (page 121) which presently reads:

Language Area: Central Latin American, German, Gulf Latin American, Korean, Midwest Latin American, Pacific Latin American, Puerto Rico, Southeastern Spanish, Spanish Eastern

Be amended to read:

Language Area-Spanish: Central Latin American, Gulf Latin American, Midwest Latin American, Northern Pacific Latin American, Southern Pacific Latin American, Puerto Rico, Southeastern Spanish, Spanish Eastern [Other changes in paragraph are the result of the adoption of Resolution 3.]

American Bible Society Presentation

Eugene Habecker, president of American Bible Society, expressed appreciation for those in this body that prayed for him during his time of physical testing, attesting to his healing. He quoted Psalm 119:81 and Romans 15:4, expressing the hope of the life-changing Word of God. He reported that since its beginning, the ABS has distributed 6 billion Bibles. He shared that ABS partners with organizations and fellowships like Promise Keepers, Intervarsity, Prison Fellowship, and International Bible Society. ABS is working in more than 200 countries. He encouraged young people to study in the biblical languages so they can be translators of God's Word. It takes \$250,000 and over 10 years to give birth to a Bible translation for a new language group.

Charles Crabtree offered prayer for the American Bible Society and for Dr. Habecker.

Question on Commissions

In response to a question, Thomas Trask gave an overview of the divisions, departments, and commissions at Headquarters, indicating that special areas of ministry have been given the title of commission in order to heighten awareness of a particular ministry. These are much like departments. While some stand alone, others are under the office of the general superintendent.

Right of Sponsorship

Dennis E. Rabineau, Bridgewater, New Jersey, expressed his desire to exer-

cise his right of sponsorship of a resolution which has been rejected by the Resolutions Committee. He read his proposed resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, In that we are a cooperative Fellowship and each church should prayerfully be doing their best to support the ministries of the Assemblies of God on local, state, national, and international levels; and

WHEREAS, Each church, due to membership, size, and financial ability is able to support those ministries at varying levels; and

WHEREAS, The goal of a cooperative fellowship should not be equal amount but equal sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, The national and district officials can and should speak with pastors and churches where full cooperation may be in doubt; and

WHEREAS, The publishing of financial amounts via Assemblies of God Headquarters publications may foster unjust comparisons, wrongful pride, or unnecessary feelings of failure; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That each church continually be encouraged to do their best, but that no listing of dollar amounts per church be published in any national publication; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the practice of awarding plaques and trophies for such giving be discontinued so that our praise might go to Him whom we worship and serve, and that the honor might come from Him when we enter into His presence.

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee was requested to give the reason for rejecting this resolution. He explained that it was rejected by the Resolutions Committee because when it comes to World Ministries Giving, the Bylaws specifically speak about recognition for contributions and Bylaw authority for determining the content of publications lies with the Executive Presbytery.

A vote was taken as to the appropriateness of this resolution and the body determined that the resolution was inappropriate.

Resolution Regarding Disney Corporation

An emergency resolution was presented from the floor as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has called for, and endorsed by way of encouragement, a boycott of the Disney Corporation; refraining from purchasing Disney products and attending Disney theme parks; and

WHEREAS, Our brethren in the Southern Baptist Convention have recently called for a boycott of the Disney Corporation among their constituency; and

WHEREAS, This action of the Southern Baptist Convention avails us a sterling opportunity to express unanimity, and a spirit of cooperation, with our brethren in the Southern Baptist Convention; and

WHEREAS, It would be appropriate to voluntarily encourage our

churches and people to support this boycott; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That we, the Assemblies of God, both support and affirm our Southern Baptist Convention brethren's call for a boycott of the Disney Corporation as endorsed and encouraged by our General Presbytery.

A count vote was taken regarding the desire of the body to consider this resolution as an emergency. The vote indicated that it did not receive the two-thirds vote required and the chair ruled that the matter would not be considered.

A question was raised as to whether the General Presbytery action still stands and the chairman indicated that it very much stands. The general secretary was requested to read the resolution adopted by the General Presbytery regarding the Disney Corporation. He read the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The individuals and families of the Assemblies of God have vested trust and confidence in the Disney name and products, thinking children and teens could benefit through lessons taught and values espoused by Disney; and

WHEREAS, We have promoted visits to the Disney theme parks, participated in the Magic Kingdom Club, and provided membership cards to our employees; and

WHEREAS, We are concerned about the deterioration of decency and morality in our nation; and

WHEREAS, In recent years we have watched with dismay the productions of the Disney Corporation abandoning the commitment to strong moral values, and have noticed this moral shift in a number of Disney-sponsored films and events; and

WHEREAS, The publication of *Growing Up Gay*, a book for teens by Disney-owned Hyperion Press, encourages readers to explore the homosexual lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, Disney's acquisition of Miramax and the subsequent production of the movie, *Priest*, is totally outside the reputation and image of the Disney Corporation; and

WHEREAS, We are greatly disturbed that Disney World in Florida has been the site of a Gay and Lesbian Day for the past several years, and at this past event families purchasing tickets for the park were not warned of the Gay Day; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Assemblies of God in its General Presbytery meeting August 6, 1996, go on record as expressing deep disappointment for these actions of the Disney Corporation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage our constituents to boycott Disney Corporation by refraining from purchasing and supporting their products or attending their parks; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we request our Spiritual Life Committee to monitor

Disney products and theme parks until Disney returns to its former stance of producing products of high family and moral values; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we appeal to our national and district publications to inform our constituents of this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon the Disney Corporation to return to the values that strengthen and build this nation, such as honesty, respect, integrity, decency, and trust.

Resolution 26. Courtesy Resolution

Warren Bullock read Resolution 26, as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The 47th General Council of the Assemblies of God has been accorded great kindness and hospitality by the officials and agencies of the City of Indianapolis, the Indiana District Council, and the Midwest Latin American District Council as the host districts; and

WHEREAS, Numerous persons, committees, and agencies have combined efforts to provide efficient services; and

WHEREAS, Many have given generously of their time and talents 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: the host districts—Indiana District Council and its superintendent, Charles E. Crank, and the Midwest Latin American District Council, and its superintendent Ignacio Marrero; and be it further

RESOLVED, That sincere appreciation be expressed to the City of Indianapolis, its mayor, Stephen Goldsmith, and the following of the Indianapolis Convention Center and RCA Dome for their assistance: Barney Levengood, executive director; Linda Addaman, director of marketing; Paul Quay, sales manager; Andrew Poultney, director of operations; Izelqe DeKock, event coordinator; and be it further

RESOLVED, That appreciation be given to general manager Sean Beard, and national sales manager Robin Lux of the Service America Corporation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That appreciation be expressed to those of the Indianapolis Convention and Visitors Association: William K. McGowan, Jr., president; Rich Hughes, vice president of sales and marketing; Susie Townsend, director of convention services; Robert E. Desautels, convention services and community relations manager; Douglas Bennett, director of sales; Wendy Drook, housing manager; and be it further

RESOLVED, That appreciation be expressed to Charles Satkewich, general manager; Kevin Herbst, sales manager; and John Saveley, convention services manager of the Westin Hotel for their kind hospitality; and be it further

RESOLVED, That great appreciation be expressed to General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask, Assistant General Superintendent Charles T. Crabtree, the executive officers and members of the Executive Presbytery for their leadership; to all other General Council personnel for efficiency in planning, support, and coordination of the numerous details essential to all services rendered; and to all who ministered unto the Lord and edified His church with anointed preaching, inspirational worship, and anointed music by the talented singers and musicians; for a most encouraging and uplifting Council; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we affirm our thankfulness to the Lord for His significant presence and leadership in this 47th General Council and that "Lord, Send a Revival" be the consuming cry of our hearts as we go forth to the fields of harvest. His name be praised.

The motion to adopt Resolution 26 carried.

Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, John Hall was requested to sing "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" and "O for a Thousand Tongues," and Thomas Trask announced the afternoon session and the remainder of the special services.

A motion prevailed to adjourn the business meeting of the 47th General Council at 11:20 a.m., Saturday, August 9, 1997. General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask closed in prayer.

SATURDAY EVENING—AUGUST 9

The Saturday evening service began at 6:40 p.m. with preservice music featuring the choir from Covina Assembly of God, Covina, California, directed by Tony Carpenter. The chairman for the service was M. Wayne Benson, executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area. Tom McDonald, minister of music, Church on the Way, Van Nuys, California, led the congregation in singing and worship. Ramona Crabtree and Marjorie Ferrin served at the piano and organ, respectively. The offertory featured a saxophone solo by Nathan Gifford, Bloomington, Indiana.

Special music for the evening serving included the Covina Assembly of God choir, Covina, California, and Mike Purkey, pastor of Lenexa Christian Center, Lenexa, Kansas. The speaker for the evening was Sam Rijfkgel, who has served as an evangelist for over 12 years. He also serves as vice president at large for Southwestern Assemblies of God University. He emphasized that "we have come to the Kingdom for such a time as this." He drew an allegory from the Book of Esther to sound a revival call. He said God is calling His church to "come on out and show your beauty"—to show forth His glory, to be cleansed, and to conquer. Rijfkgel said God is moving across the nation with

the same story of revival coming from churches of all sizes.

SUNDAY MORNING—AUGUST 10

James K. Bridges, general treasurer, served a chairman for the memorial-Communion service which began at 9:45 a.m. Ramona Crabtree, Springfield, Missouri, and Karen Cox Mattocks, Euless, Texas, served at the piano and organ, respectively. J. Daniel Smith, minister of music, Bethesda Community Church, Fort Worth, Texas, led the congregation in praise and worship. The offertory featured the choir from Bethesda Community Church, Fort Worth, Texas.

Charles Hackett, executive director of the Division of Home Missions, was the speaker for the service. The theme of his message was preparing the church for the 21st century. His text was taken from Act 2:17. He admonished the ministers and laymen that there is a work for them to do to prepare the church for the 21st century.

In Memoriam

Prior to the morning message, a video scroll was presented containing the names of deceased ministers. The following list includes all whose names had been reported to the general secretary's office from July 1, 1995, to May 31, 1997, and were included in the video presentation:

Addison, Ezra A., Panama City, Florida
Adkins, Harold D., Mathis, Texas
Ahalt, Blossom E., Manteca, California
Ahpehtone, Spencer, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Alber, George D., Cheyenne, Wyoming
Alicca, Santos, Charlotte, North Carolina
Allen, Charles L., Platte City, Missouri
Amick, James L., Bedford, Indiana
Anderson, Goldia, Tacoma, Washington
Andrews, L. C., Augusta, Georgia
Ansohn, Paul A., Spring, Texas
Applegate, Philip E., Greencastle, Indiana
Arce, Victor B., San Antonio, Texas
Archuleta, Felix G., Oakland, California
Arnesen, Doris G., Cottage Grove, Oregon
Arnold, Oscar F., Lakeland, Florida
Bade, Kenneth, Fairbury, Nebraska
Bagley, Homer L., Victorville, California
Bailey, Donald Lee, Seth, West Virginia

Baker, Katie, Frostburg, Maryland
Baldridge, Walter L., Fort Smith, Arkansas
Baldwin, Mary R., Douglas, Arizona
Baldwin, Mervin J., Mesa, Arizona
Bankson, Leo C., Rockford, Illinois
Barbary, William L., Marshalltown, Iowa
Barfield, James H., Quincy, Florida
Barstad, Dewey E., Prineville, Oregon
Bazan, Nellie T., Vista, California
Beatty, D. Madelyn, Rockville, Indiana
Beckdahl, Samuel T., Springfield, Missouri
Becksei, Julia, Detroit, Michigan
Bell, Ida M., Macon, Georgia
Bell, James D., Dallas, Texas
Bell, Leonard R., Oologah, Oklahoma
Bench, John E., Salem, Oregon
Benjamin, Ella, Siloam Springs, Arkansas
Bergstrom, Gustav A., Springfield, Missouri
Biffert, Adam, Waupaca, Wisconsin
Bingham, Mary J., Arnold, Missouri
Birkland, Mathilda, De Kalb, Illinois
Bishop, John F., Tucson, Arizona
Bjur, Verle H., Lewiston, Idaho
Blair, Troy L., Joplin, Missouri
Blaise, Albert E., Stafford, Virginia
Blankinship, C., Lawton, Oklahoma
Blumer, Vera M., Seiling, Oklahoma
Boardman, Helen D., Lincoln, California
Bocchichio, Michael, Woodbridge, New Jersey
Boese, Hubert D., Fayetteville, North Carolina
Bond, Ethel, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Bonilla, Juan, Hatillo, Puerto Rico
Booher, Alvin R., Phoenix, Arizona
Borreson, Eldon G., Alma Center, Wisconsin
Bostrom, Dorothy S., Blue Jay, California
Boswell, Evelyn R., Riverside, California
Boyd, Ernest V., Parsons, Kansas
Boyd, Kenneth J., Columbus, Ohio
Boyle, Joseph L., Glendale, Arizona
Boze, Claude C., Harrison, Arkansas
Braco, Paul A., Revere, Massachusetts
Brann, Harriett M., Elizabethtown, Kentucky

Brasier, Lyall R., Sr., Belleville, Kansas
 Braun, Susie, Winter Haven, Florida
 Brazier, George, Birmingham, Alabama
 Brewer, M. E., Memphis, Tennessee
 Bridges, Oren J., Clarksville, Arkansas
 Brissey, Hildreth E., Pryor, Oklahoma
 Broaddus, N. Jay, Tyler, Texas
 Brown, Charles S., Daytona Beach, Florida
 Brown, Edna E., Springfield, Missouri
 Bruton, Waylon W., Lubbock, Texas
 Bryan, Boyd H., Maiden, North Carolina
 Buchwalter, Paul R., New Port Richey, Florida
 Buck, Walter A., Borrego Springs, California
 Bunch, Freddie C., Newport News, Virginia
 Bunn, Douglas E., Portland, Oregon
 Buntenbach, Novin L., Kennedale, Texas
 Burgess, Robert, Richmond, Ontario, Canada
 Burnell, William A., Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania
 Burroughs, John M., Edgewater, Maryland
 Burrows, Willard G., Marrero, Louisiana
 Byrd, Jasper H., McDavid, Florida
 Cagle, Lloyd J., Hemet, California
 Cain, James L., Blountstown, Florida
 Calcote, Dwayne W., Rockwall, Texas
 Caldwell, Reynell, Little Rock, Arkansas
 Cantrell, Bessie, Harrah, Oklahoma
 Carlson, David M., Lakeland, Florida
 Carrington, Fred R., Westville, Oklahoma
 Carrington, Lewis A., Paris, Texas
 Cason, James M., Shreveport, Louisiana
 Cawston, Elizabeth, Edina, Minnesota
 Celentano, Charles S., San Jacinto, California
 Chaffin, Nelda, Lovell, Wyoming
 Chambers, Cecil L., Shingletown, California
 Chapa, Reynaldo, Uvalde, Texas
 Chappell, Raymond R., Casa Grande, Arizona
 Chavez, Lawrence, Cuchillo, New Mexico
 Ciociola, Alan M., North Haven, Connecticut
 Clair, Robin R., Eaton Rapids, Michigan
 Clark, Chester H., Brady, Texas
 Clark, John W., Woxall, Pennsylvania
 Clayton, Agnes D., Sasakwa, Oklahoma

Clement, Orval R., Springfield, Missouri
 Clingsings, Floy, Owasso, Oklahoma
 Coburn, Orvell M., Huntsville, Texas
 Colas, Jack C., Lower Lake, California
 Cole, Wendell S., Phoenix, Arizona
 Collins, Clarence G., Cottonwood, Arizona
 Collins, Hattie D., Wilson, North Carolina
 Collins, John H., Bushnell, Florida
 Colombo, Robert, Scotts Valley, California
 Compton, Benson B., West Des Moines, Iowa
 Conner, Homer A., Waxahachie, Texas
 Connett, Marine, Sapulpa, Oklahoma
 Cook, Mary E., Vidor, Texas
 Cook, Paul F., Modesto, California
 Cordero, Alex, Oakdale, Minnesota
 Cordle, Beulah M., Geneva, Alabama
 Cornelius, H. Daniel, Falling Waters, West Virginia
 Cosner, Stanley E., Springfield, West Virginia
 Couch, Wilson W., Grand Terrace, California
 Cover, Elmer L., Quitman, Texas
 Covlasky, Lois J., Wasilla, Alaska
 Coward, B. W., Pinetown, South Africa
 Cowgill, Ruth C., Cumberland, Maryland
 Cox, Herbert F., Hooks, Texas
 Cox, Marnie L., Saint Charles, Missouri
 Crabb, A. B., Spokane, Washington
 Craig, Wilburn P., Anchorage, Alaska
 Crawford, Sudie R., Ashdown, Arkansas
 Crews, Etta M., Lakewood, Colorado
 Cross, Orville R., Portland, Oregon
 Currie, Winifred, Hendersonville, North Carolina
 Curtis, Marion A., Bellingham, Washington
 Dalan, Donald, Redmond, Washington
 Dalc, Leola M., Springfield, Missouri
 Danner, Myrtle, Mount Juliet, Tennessee
 Dashiell, George M., Clearwater, Florida
 Daugherty, Phillip A., Togiak, Alaska
 David, Wilford M., Springfield, Missouri
 Davidson, E. Martha, Columbus, Ohio
 Davidson, Pauline S., Springfield, Missouri
 Davidson, Roy J., Springfield, Missouri
 Davis, Joil R., Keyser, West Virginia

Davis, J. Reuben, Vacaville, California
 Davis, Loran P., Flemington, West Virginia
 Davis, Ralph M., Carlyle, Illinois
 Davis, Sallie Ann, Cypress, Texas
 Dawidiuk, Andrew, Union, New Jersey
 Dearing, John D., Sebewaing, Michigan
 De Julio, Joseph R., Fountain Valley, California
 De La Rosa, Disidoro, Lamesa, Texas
 Dick, Bert C., Fortuna, California
 Dixon, Lillian, Milton, Ontario, Canada
 Donahue, Laurence H., Leander, Texas
 Doss, Loren D., Fresno, California
 Dougherty, Willard E., Rochester, New Hampshire
 Downey, Nannie D., Albany, Oregon
 Drake, Cecil E., Oracle, Arizona
 Drake, Francis C., Silsbee, Texas
 Driver, Michael W., Linn Grove, Iowa
 Drumm, Roy F., Fairhope, Alabama
 Drumright, Lenzie T., Knoxville, Tennessee
 Drumright, Nina L., Knoxville, Tennessee
 Drury, Laurene L., Encinitas, California
 Dullabaun, Virgil M., Baltimore, Maryland
 Dunbar, Erwin V., Omaha, Nebraska
 Eastes, George W., Dallas, Texas
 Eberhardt, Anne Rose, Aurora, Ohio
 Edwards, Ernest E., Birmingham, Alabama
 Edwards, Fred M., Sidney, Nebraska
 Eldridge, Oleta G., Lakeland, Florida
 Elkins, Cora R., Chesapeake, Ohio
 Elliott, Charles V., Saint Petersburg, Florida
 Elliott, Giles C., Houston, Texas
 Elwell, Nancy I., Vancouver, Washington
 Emery, Charles W., Red Hill, Pennsylvania
 Ennis, Paul E., Freeport, Texas
 Etier, H. O., El Dorado, Arkansas
 Evans, A. F., Battiast, Oklahoma
 Evans, Paul A., Flower Mound, Texas
 Eversole, Jesse, Englewood, Colorado
 Farrant, Peter, Orlando, Florida
 Farrington, Marian L., La Belle, Florida
 Feezell, Daniel W., Lancaster, California
 Fenton, Douglas, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

Ferguson, Michael A., Henderson, Texas
 Ferrell, Harvey D., Lakeland, Florida
 Flack, William F., Edwardsville, Illinois
 Flagstad, Alice, Willmar, Minnesota
 Fleming, Wilburn D., Crestview, Florida
 Fletcher, Woodrow J., Bothell, Washington
 Flores, Ben, San Antonio, Texas
 Flowers, Fagen J., Stonewall, Oklahoma
 Fojt, Bertha M., Snook, Texas
 Foraker, Raymond, Florence, Colorado
 Forbes, Wayne W., Baker, Florida
 Fountain, W. Thurman, Columbus, Georgia
 Franks, Escal E., Truth Or Consequences, New Mexico
 Frazier, Troy F., Plano, Texas
 Friedrich, Shondra L., Syracuse, New York
 Friend, William B., Metairie, Louisiana
 Froats, Edward E., Muskegon, Michigan
 Fuentes, Rodolfo M., San Antonio, Texas
 Fulbright, Claude E., Batesville, Arkansas
 Fuller, Thomas H., Fresno, California
 Fulton, Luther M., Mount Airy, North Carolina
 Furman, Lionel P., Redmond, Oregon
 Gabriel, Herbert R., Afton, Oklahoma
 Gaddis, Nina A., Muskogee, Oklahoma
 Gaddis, Okra E., Licking, Missouri
 Gallops, William D., Milton, Florida
 Garcia, Angel E., Pomona, California
 Garcia, Raul M., Fillmore, California
 Garcia, Ubalina R., Harlingen, Texas
 Garlock, Ruth E., Bulverde, Texas
 Garner, William A., Winston, Oregon
 Garrison, Frederick L., Centralia, Washington
 Garrison, W. Dean, Corsicana, Texas
 Garza, Sam P., Abilene, Texas
 Gaub, David H., Longview, Washington
 Gentry, Judy L., Bellflower, California
 Gibbs, Forrest R., Broken Bow, Oklahoma
 Gibby, Alvis W., North Little Rock, Arkansas
 Gilliland, E. L., Orangeburg, South Carolina
 Gilmore, Leon G., Pensacola, Florida
 Going, J. Robert, Okeechobee, Florida
 Goldizen, John A., Medley, West Virginia

Gomez, Ana M., Clearwater, Florida
 Gomez, Moises, Tyler, Texas
 Goodwin, Wesley A., Ponca City, Oklahoma
 Gott, Joshua G., Hamilton, Ohio
 Grajales, Pablo, Jr., Elizabeth, New Jersey
 Grant, Silas M., Dallas, Texas
 Graves, Bernon D., Paso Robles, California
 Green, Eulma L., McAlester, Oklahoma
 Greer, Morgan R., West Monroe, Louisiana
 Gressett, James K., Escondido, California
 Griessmann, Rudolf K., Beavercreek, Oregon
 Griffis, Lenard E., Santa Rosa, California
 Grove, Harold C., Lake Stevens, Washington
 Grove, James C., Altoona, Pennsylvania
 Gurule, Isabel, Hesperia, California
 Gutierrez, Maurilio, Stockton, California
 Hadley, Jessie, Myrtle Creek, Oregon
 Hafner, Edmor C., Rochester, Washington
 Hager, Ralph N., Sr., Bluefield, West Virginia
 Halsey, Hobart, Mount Sterling, Kentucky
 Halvorson, L. E., Riverside, California
 Hamlin, Mildred M., Coldwater, Michigan
 Hance, Earl J., Kent, Washington
 Hancock, Rex O., Haysville, Kansas
 Hanson, Robert C., Carrier Mills, Illinois
 Harden, Doris A., McComb, Mississippi
 Hardt, David L., Irwin, Pennsylvania
 Harrell, Josie M., Bynum, Alabama
 Harrison, C. Barker, Montgomery, Alabama
 Hastie, Ronald W., Olympia, Washington
 Hathaway, Lucille, Kansas City, Kansas
 Havemann, Lorraine S., Clarkston, Washington
 Havner, Lorene H., Shady Point, Oklahoma
 Hawkes, Howard B., Belchertown, Massachusetts
 Haynes, John S., Vernon, Texas
 Hays, Norman E., Whitehall, Wisconsin
 Hearn, Donna, Gadsden, Alabama
 Heath, Ira L., Costa Mesa, California
 Heetebry, Charlotte, Lower Lake, California
 Heiney, Lewis J., Ozark, Missouri
 Held, Nellie R., Orlando, Florida
 Helle, Dale V., Salem, Oregon

Hendrick, Arthur V., Conyers, Georgia
 Hendrickson, Myron M., Dallas, Texas
 Henry, William H., Yuba City, California
 Herrick, H. D., Longview, Washington
 Hess, James W., Westcliffe, Colorado
 Hickman, Alice G., Columbus, Mississippi
 Hicks, James C., Jerome, Idaho
 Hill, Warren L., Wrightwood, California
 Hillegas, Ralph W., Albany, Oregon
 Hinson, Kenneth D., Hendersonville, Tennessee
 Hite, Bernie W., Sherman, Texas
 Hodges, John W., Citrus Heights, California
 Holdridge, H. Paul, Plainview, Texas
 Holleman, Margaret E., Glendale, Arizona
 Holloway, Paul D., Kingman, Arizona
 Honeycutt, Ebbin A., Columbia, Louisiana
 Hooks, Miriam A., North Little Rock, Arkansas
 Horton, Norman V., Sr., White Cloud, Michigan
 Hottel, Jacob K., Abbeville, Alabama
 Houghton, Philip B., Mission Viejo, California
 Howard, David L., Columbia, South Carolina
 Howze, Alvin M., Orangeburg, South Carolina
 Hubbard, Otis B., Los Angeles, California
 Hudgins, John D., Sebastopol, California
 Hudson, L. Gene, Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Humphrey, Grace, Alexander, Arkansas
 Ibarra, Daniel S., Eloy, Arizona
 Ingram, William T., Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
 Inlow, James E., Beaumont, Texas
 Jackson, Elbert, Dothan, Alabama
 Jackson, R. Harry, Conneaut, Ohio
 Jamison, Vivian M., Oviedo, Florida
 Jarrell, Milton L., Greenwood Springs, Mississippi
 Jeffers, Louise, Portland, Texas
 Jeffery, Richard E., Phoenix, Arizona
 Jensen, Hildegard E., Mansfield, Ohio
 Jimenez, Gustavo A., Plant City, Florida
 Johnson, Eleanor M., Box Elder, South Dakota
 Johnson, Emogean M., Phoenix, Arizona
 Johnson, Emuel R., Poplar Bluff, Missouri
 Johnson, James E., Charlottesville, Virginia
 Johnson, L. Maye, Ozark, Alabama

Johnson, Stanton E., Phoenix, Arizona
 Johnson, Victor, Vacaville, California
 Johnson, William I., Terre Haute, Indiana
 Jones, Earl H., Yuba City, California
 Jones, Norman F., Las Cruces, New Mexico
 Jones, Raymond F., Amarillo, Texas
 Jones, R. D. (Celesta), Valley Village, California
 Jones, W. Thelon, Hamlin, Texas
 Joseph, Xavier, Alakanuk, Alaska
 Kamp, Michael L., Sand Lake, Michigan
 Kelly, Charles E., Martins Ferry, Ohio
 Kelly, Everett, Windsor, Missouri
 Kelso, Marguerite E., Tacoma, Washington
 Kemp, Robert V., Houston, Texas
 Kesler, Hugh T., Parkville, Missouri
 Kiddy, Zora D., Irvine, California
 Killingsworth, O. W., Phoenix, Arizona
 Killion, Olen T., Houston, Texas
 Kimball, Mildred E., Seattle, Washington
 Kimbrel, James F., Cocoa, Florida
 King, Ferman P., Dallas, Texas
 Kingsriter, Delmar C., Fridley, Minnesota
 Kitano, Ellen J., Minami Saitama Gun, Saitamaken, Japan
 Kleinsteuber, R. L., Horseheads, New York
 Knudson, Albert P., Dallas, Texas
 Knuth, Katherine, Silver City, New Mexico
 Krist, Harvey A., Flint, Michigan
 Kubilis, Roger E., Reydon, Oklahoma
 Ladd, Carl E., Canton, Ohio
 Lafferty, Henry C., Eureka, California
 Langford, Norman F., Marysville, Washington
 Langford, William C., Nashville, Tennessee
 Langwell, Samuel C., Springfield, Missouri
 Lara, Raul A., Freeport, New York
 Lathem, James V., Newington, Georgia
 Lawhead, Wendell H., Waukegan, Illinois
 Lawson, E. Lee, Bakersfield, California
 Leach, Lena M., Newtown, Pennsylvania
 Leavins, Howard G., Bagdad, Florida
 Lebeck, Albert J., Sacramento, California
 Ledbetter, Nellie O., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Lee, Gerald S., Alexandria, Minnesota

Lee, Graham E., Blaine, Minnesota
 Lee, Gwenyth A., Huntsville, Alabama
 Lee, Samuel, Sandusky, Ohio
 Lemon, Kenneth W., Wasilla, Alaska
 Lessten, Fred I., Lincoln, Nebraska
 Lett, Essie H., Atascadero, California
 Lindsey, Switzer, Pensacola, Florida
 Link, C. Emery, Casper, Wyoming
 Lockhart, R. Owen, Saint Croix, Virgin Islands
 Long, Ada J., Mount Morris, Pennsylvania
 Lopez, John M., Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
 Lord, Melvin B., Pagosa Springs, Colorado
 Lourance, Dorothy M., Ash Grove, Missouri
 Lucero, Abdon, San Bernardino, California
 Lummer, Gladys A. D., Anaheim, California
 Lutter, Ralph C., Roseville, Minnesota
 Mace, Melba E., Rolla, Missouri
 Mangano, Mary V., Piermont, New York
 Mardock, Chester G., Louisville, Kansas
 Markstrom, Paul R., Springfield, Missouri
 Marler, Robert J., Sr., Mineral Point, Missouri
 Martin, Harold L., Lakeland, Florida
 Martin, Vernon H., North Little Rock, Arkansas
 Martin, Violet, Fort Worth, Texas
 Mast, Bernice T., Morgan Hill, California
 Masters, Ted A., Pismo Beach, California
 Mataka, Sione U., Laie, Hawaii
 Mather, Craig D., Saint Paul, Minnesota
 Mathers, Evelyn, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Matovich, Jim, Hurricane, West Virginia
 McAdams, Frank R., Albuquerque, New Mexico
 McCarty, Harold L., Kingman, Arizona
 McClure, Vonnice A., Daytona Beach, Florida
 McCormack, Lyal W., Atwood, Kansas
 McCoy, Etta L., Dona Ana, New Mexico
 McGee, Velda L., Tahlequah, Oklahoma
 McGill, Sam, Oceanside, California
 McGlamery, James E., New Market, Tennessee
 McIntosh, J. Billy, Nashville, Tennessee
 McKeel, Paul E., Raven, Virginia
 McKnight, Melvin R., Pasadena, Texas
 Mercedes, Neuly, Providence, Rhode Island

Mercer, William F., Arlington, Texas
 Mignano, Joseph, Rochester, New York
 Millbrandt, George M., Versailles, Missouri
 Miller, James W., Jr., Newville, Pennsylvania
 Milton, C. A., Geneva, Alabama
 Mitchell, Huey, Florala, Alabama
 Mitchell, Ione, Fort Worth, Texas
 Mitchell, Jack, Wayland, Massachusetts
 Mitchell, O. H., Visalia, California
 Mones, Pedro S., Montrose, California
 Montelongo, Antonio, El Paso, Texas
 Moore, Billy J., Jones, Oklahoma
 Moore, Estel I., Springfield, Missouri
 Moore, J. C., Sr., Irvington, Alabama
 Moore, Paul H., Canfield, Ohio
 Moore, Thomas M., Sheridan, Wyoming
 Moreland, John R. W., Muskogee, Oklahoma
 Morse, Clement A., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Morton, Gladys L., Everett, Washington
 Moser, Ted, Jamestown, North Dakota
 Muni, Michael A., Lawrenceville, New Jersey
 Munoz S, Lucas E., Sacramento, California
 Murphy, Clyde H., Quincy, Illinois
 Murphy, James M., Notasulga, Alabama
 Murray, J. Clifford, Olympia, Washington
 Myrick, William E., Bourbon, Missouri
 Nelson, Florence C., Lewisville, Texas
 Nelson, Forest T., Muncy, Pennsylvania
 Newby, Ezra R., Fanshawe, Oklahoma
 Newman, Leonard H., Sr., Azle, Texas
 Newman, Lottie V., Highland, California
 Nicholson, Carl A., Camp Hill, Pennsylvania
 Nicholson, Enoch C., Poulsbo, Washington
 Nickerson, Merritt, Fort Morgan, Colorado
 Nikoloff, Martha, Springfield, Missouri
 Nissley, David E., Lakeland, Florida
 Nixon, Paul L., Montgomery, Alabama
 Noles, Docia M., Mansfield, Georgia
 Nordlund, Arvid S., Waukegan, Illinois
 Nygren, Dean G., Wichita, Kansas
 Ochoa, Agustin M., San Bernardino, California
 Odum, Wallace P., Falling Waters, West Virginia

Olson, Russell H., Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Ong, Maria Hian, Brooklyn, New York
 Osborn, Raymond S., Albany, Oregon
 Owens, Dale L., Galveston, Indiana
 Padilla, Jose, Hanford, California
 Pagano, John J., New London, Connecticut
 Palmer, Rossie B., Sebring, Florida
 Papit, Theodore, Sicklerville, New Jersey
 Parker, Bert, Phoenix, Arizona
 Parsons, Arthur H., Mulberry, Florida
 Pearson, Troyce A., Longview, Texas
 Pecorino, Johnnie P., Houston, Texas
 Penny, J. M., Center, Texas
 Pepper, James F., Sidney, Montana
 Perkins, Thomas C., Mendon, Missouri
 Perkins, William E., Somerset, Kentucky
 Petroskey, Frances L., Fort Myers, Florida
 Phifer, J. D., West Helena, Arkansas
 Phillips, Frances L., Morton, Illinois
 Phillips, Mabel L., Trussville, Alabama
 Phillips, Rachel, San Diego, California
 Pixley, Leland D., Somerton, Arizona
 Plymire, Wardella F., Springfield, Missouri
 Poag, Opal E., Chickasha, Oklahoma
 Poertner, Patricia J., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Porter, William E., Centralia, Washington
 Powell, David R., Oakville, Connecticut
 Powell, Quinnie, Oneonta, Alabama
 Prasch, Edward H., Jr., Louisville, Kentucky
 Pruitt, James H., Irving, Texas
 Pryor, Arthur L., Bakersfield, California
 Pulley, David R., Terrell, Texas
 Pulley, Symphy A., Athens, Texas
 Putinsky, George W., Charlotte, North Carolina
 Pyle, Mildred M., Turlock, California
 Quanabush, Katherine, Newport Beach, California
 Quibodeaux, Curlin, Kaplan, Louisiana
 Rachels, Thomas D., New Brockton, Alabama
 Railey, Myra J., Atlanta, Georgia
 Ramirez, Enoch V., Lubbock, Texas
 Ramos, Bienvenido, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico
 Ramos, Ernesto A., Sterling, Colorado

Randall, Roy L., Fairbanks, Alaska
 Razer, Sidney E., Clarkton, Missouri
 Rech, Stephen J., Riverside, California
 Reddick, James W., Mustang, Oklahoma
 Reeves, Mary A., Minden, Louisiana
 Reilley, William T., Anchorage, Alaska
 Rentz, William A., Beatty, Oregon
 Reyes, Aida, Clearwater, Florida
 Reynolds, Avis, Wellington, Kansas
 Reynolds, Wilson W., De Soto, Texas
 Rhyand, William L., Cleveland, Ohio
 Rice, Fred O., Indianapolis, Indiana
 Richard, Lee W., Grand Prairie, Texas
 Richards, David L., Niles, Ohio
 Richeson, Alice G., Springfield, Missouri
 Rider, James D., Santa Cruz, California
 Riley, Lloyd D., Milton, Florida
 Rivera, Francisco, Pittsburg, California
 Roberts, C. Gerald, Oroville, California
 Robertson, Kenneth D., Spiro, Oklahoma
 Robinson, Orie L., Hemet, California
 Rogers, Willie C., Amarillo, Texas
 Roush, Edward W., Richardson, Texas
 Runyon, Goldie C., Lakeland, Florida
 Sadorra, Eliseo M., Los Angeles, California
 Saint, Patrick L., Gainesville, Georgia
 Salazar, Ignacio, San Marcos, Texas
 Salazar, Mike A., Denver, Colorado
 Salter, Percy, Castleberry, Alabama
 Sarver, Bertie L., Ocean Park, Washington
 Sasser, Samuel L., Midland, Georgia
 Schmidt, Robert E., Bakersfield, California
 Schneider, Eldred H., Nampa, Idaho
 Schwandt, Irvin O., Sanger, California
 Schwilke, Emily C., East Wenatchee, Washington
 Scott, Dean A., Canton, South Dakota
 Scott, Gertrude V., Springfield, Missouri
 Segovia, Florentino, San Antonio, Texas
 Selph, Opal, Sallisaw, Oklahoma
 Selvey, J. Darrell, Russellville, Arkansas
 Sharp, Charles L., Enterprise, Alabama
 Sharp, Joseph F., Mesa, Arizona

Shaw, Viola F., Marshall, Missouri
 Shelton, Basil N., Sr., New Athens, Illinois
 Shelton, Ronald G., Fairfield, Ohio
 Sherrill, Juanita M., San Diego, California
 Shirley, Clarence R., Orlando, Florida
 Siczko, Alexander I., Chicago, Illinois
 Simmons, Edward H., Lakeland, Florida
 Simmons, Sheldon L., Ventura, California
 Slaughter, Paul A., Bakersfield, California
 Smith, Bessie E., Ward, Arkansas
 Smith, Elva, Hinton, Oklahoma
 Smith, Forrest E., San Angelo, Texas
 Smith, Johnnie, Alta Loma, California
 Smith, Ola B., Apache Junction, Arizona
 Smith, Robert R., Lakeland, Florida
 Snodderly, Claude, Andersonville, Tennessee
 Snodgrass, Clarence A., Elk City, Oklahoma
 Snook, Harry M., Vineland, New Jersey
 Snyder, Fred F., Salem, Oregon
 Snyder, James L., Red Bluff, California
 Solis, Florencio, Cayey, Puerto Rico
 Solis, Ignacio, Mesilla, New Mexico
 Sorbo, Clara, Pitman, New Jersey
 Spain, Virgil W., McLeansboro, Illinois
 Spann, R. D., Magnolia, Texas
 Sparks, John T., Ontario, California
 Specter, Hyman I., Victorville, California
 Stahl, Harley E., Eckert, Colorado
 Stallings, J. Marvin, Winter Park, Florida
 Stallings, Onivia, Altamonte Springs, Florida
 Stalons, E. L., Tucson, Arizona
 Stark, Bernice M., Tucson, Arizona
 Starling, Dale David, Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Steele, Eunice B., Lorena, Texas
 Stephens, Gary L., Juneau, Alaska
 Stevenson, Hugh I., West Fargo, North Dakota
 Stewart, Reuben I., Houston, Texas
 Stewart, William K., Tunnelton, West Virginia
 Stewart, William M., Waverly, Tennessee
 Stokes, Lee F., Bethany, Oklahoma
 Stokley, Arintha, Waynesboro, Mississippi
 Stokley, Sylvia I., Dallas, Texas

Stoops, Barbara W., Sterling, Colorado
 Strang, A. Edward, Brooksville, Florida
 Strickland, Elmo A., Honey Grove, Texas
 Strobbe, Joseph P., Olathe, Kansas
 Stubblefield, A. F., Oakridge, Oregon
 Stubbs, Gladwyn A., Pine Bluff, Arkansas
 Sullivan, Curtis L., Chatom, Alabama
 Sumrall, Roan, Sr., Waynesboro, Mississippi
 Sutton, Myrtle M., Fullerton, California
 Swanson, Arline G., Saint Peters, Missouri
 Swearingen, Rena M., Marianna, Florida
 Symonds, Annie M., Walton On The Naze, England
 Symonds, Emily J., Leesburg, Florida
 Tackett, Raymond, Russellville, Arkansas
 Tate, James A., Bainbridge, Georgia
 Tate, Thomas B., Sun City, California
 Taylor, Bob, Dallas, Texas
 Taylor, Mary J., San Antonio, Texas
 Taylor, Waymon D., Humble, Texas
 Teichman, Vivian, Irving, Texas
 Testasecca, Anthony H., Springfield, Missouri
 Thomas, Amey A., Wewoka, Oklahoma
 Thomas, Garland R., Falling Waters, West Virginia
 Thomas, James R., Fort Worth, Texas
 Thompson, Gene, Prattsville, Arkansas
 Thompson, Jackie W., Sr., Hereford, Texas
 Thornton, Charles E., Modesto, California
 Throgmartin, C. O., Mountain Pine, Arkansas
 Thurman, Faye W., Coldwater, Kansas
 Tillman, Roy E., Costa Mesa, California
 Tipton, Lawrence E., Jr., Colonial Heights, Virginia
 Trask, Waldo W., Sun City, Arizona
 Traub, Ronald A., Phoenixville, Pennsylvania
 Trout, Jane, Rapid City, South Dakota
 Tuamasaga, Feterika S., Oakland, California
 Tunis, Paul C., Sierra Vista, Arizona
 Tuttle, Myrtle, Woodville, Texas
 Tyler, Evelyn P., Las Vegas, Nevada
 Underwood, Gerald R., Seminole, Oklahoma
 Uribe, Lazaro, Bay City, Michigan
 Vaale, O. Eugene, Albert Lea, Minnesota
 Valentine, Harry E., Salfordville, Pennsylvania

Vandermerwe, M., Kaufman, Texas
 Vanley, John M., Bartlesville, Oklahoma
 Van Meter, Violet D., Springfield, Missouri
 Vaughan, A. Raymond, Midland, Texas
 Vaughn, Everett L., Rogue River, Oregon
 Velez, Blanca R., Far Rockaway, New York
 Villanueva, Felix, National City, California
 Vines, Robert O., Duncanville, Texas
 Vitello, Louis N., Memphis, Tennessee
 Vosika, John A., Spokane, Washington
 Wahl, Raymond, Mountlake Terrace, Washington
 Walden, Raymond E., Lynnwood, Washington
 Waldrep, George N., Spurger, Texas
 Walker, Clair L., San Diego, California
 Walker, Coy E., Lufkin, Texas
 Walker, Haley T., Columbia, South Carolina
 Walker, John G., Milford, Nebraska
 Walker, Lucy L., Greer, South Carolina
 Wall, Harold B., Davenport, Washington
 Wallace, Lloyd, Bakersfield, California
 Waller, William J., Gardendale, Alabama
 Walton, Annie M., Shelton, Washington
 Ward, C. Morse, Stockton, California
 Ward, Janet L., Poth, Texas
 Washington, Abbott, Bakersfield, California
 Watson, Vestal A., Baker, Louisiana
 Way, Robert R., Houston, Texas
 Wells, Aaron J., Navarre, Florida
 Werden, Eugene C., Royal Oak, Michigan
 Weston, Louis E., San Diego, California
 Whaley, Holmes W., Coushatta, Louisiana
 Whicker, Robert R., Atwater, California
 Whitcomb, Wilbur W., Jr., Virginia, Illinois
 White, Sidney S., Gresham, Oregon
 Whitehead, T. Delma, Columbus, Georgia
 Whittum, David A., Wyoming, Michigan
 Wiegand, Clarence C., Jonesboro, Arkansas
 Williams, Alfred R., Saratoga Springs, New York
 Williams, Betty V., Portland, Oregon
 Williams, Jack E., Grand Bay, Alabama
 Williams, Joe J., Rocky Mount, Missouri
 Willis, Karen E., Victorville, California

Wilmoth, H. Mae, Reno, Nevada
 Winkle, Archie J., Enid, Oklahoma
 Winstead, James E., Strasburg, Virginia
 Wise, Ralph C., Waynesboro, Pennsylvania
 Wiseman, Jack L., Crowley, Louisiana
 Wishon, Clifford W., Boring, Oregon
 Witt, Susan D., McMinnville, Oregon
 Witten, Paul K., Malvern, Arkansas
 Wolff, Walter H., Cedaredge, Colorado
 Woodruff, Wilbur A., Rolla, Missouri
 Wooldridge, Joseph W., Durant, Florida
 Woolf, Oscar C., Abilene, Texas
 Wooten, William W., Odessa, Texas
 Wyncoop, Pamela J., Alexandria, Louisiana
 Youngblood, James R., Huntington, Texas
 Younglund, Mason A., Rancho Cordova, California
 Zamorano, Oscar M., Phoenix, Arizona

George Wood, general secretary, read the names of the following ministers who were deceased after June 1, 1997, and were reported to the general secretary's office by August 8, 1997:

Anderson, Edward W., Everett, Washington
 Bishop, Sarah L., Scotts Valley, California
 Boyd, Robert H., Glenwood, Missouri
 Breusch, Ruth A., New Holland, Pennsylvania
 Bruton, Audie L., Camden, Arkansas
 Carl, Richard G., Kenilworth, New Jersey
 Chegwin, Cyril T., Elkton, Maryland
 Clarke, Neva M., Palestine, Texas
 Clounch, Winifred M., Porterville, California
 Cooper, James T., Paducah, Kentucky
 Damiani, Ellis C., Poughkeepsie, New York
 Daniel, Vista H., Dallas, Texas
 Ferguson, Larry J., Mt. Sterling, Kentucky
 Gallatin, Helen M., Greensboro, Pennsylvania
 Garza, Eleazar, Floresville, Texas
 Gilbert, Paul R., Duncan, Oklahoma
 Gulick, Glenn, Carthage, Missouri
 Hollis, Myrtle M., Osborne, Kansas
 Jackson, Alice L., Franklin, Texas
 Jones, Clyde A., Coolidge, Arizona

Kenney, Winnifred I., Kennewick, Washington
 Lynd, James W., Jr., Chico, California
 McIntosh, Dessie E., Falling Waters, West Virginia
 McIntosh, Lloyd, Seymour, Texas
 Mankins, Harvey, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Medina, Nicolas, Modesto, California
 Merring, David C., Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 Montgomery, Sherman I., Chester, Virginia
 Morris, Stanley J., Richlands, Virginia
 Noah, Hal C., Red Oak, Texas
 Olson, Hugo W., Madison, Wisconsin
 Orsini, Rodolfo A., Sanford, Florida
 Osgood, Edith B., Millville, New Jersey
 Pecota, Daniel B., Redmond, Washington
 Perea, Arturo, Tucumcari, New Mexico
 Remus, Wilbert J., Kenosha, Wisconsin
 Ritter, Lela S., Albuquerque, New Mexico
 Smith, Iola E., Hamilton, New Jersey
 Smith, Paul J., Lindsay, California
 Smith, William E., Saraland, Alabama
 Sterling, Mattie L., Springfield, Missouri
 Sublett, Herbert E., Salem, Virginia
 Thomas, Jones E., Brighton, Colorado
 Vazquez, Jose A., Yauco, Puerto Rico
 Wisenbaker, H. M., Sr., Houston, Texas
 Webster, Charlotte, Windsor, Ontario, Canada
 Williams, John T., Jr., Cordele, Georgia

Communion Service

Following the morning message, Communion was observed. General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask presided during the Communion service. He was assisted by members of the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery. Ramona Crabtree and Karen Cox Mattocks served at the piano and organ during the Communion service.

SUNDAY EVENING—AUGUST 10

The Sunday evening service began at 5 p.m. The emphasis for the service was missions. The congregation was led in praise and worship by Kenton Lee, minister of music, First Assembly Life Center, Tacoma, Washington. Benita Lee and Tedde Gibson, both from First Assembly Life Center, Tacoma, Washington, served at the piano and organ, respectively.

Loren Triplett, executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions, was chairman for the service. The evening offering was designated for missions. The offertory was provided by LaDonna and Dave Weston, Parkcrest Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri.

Special music for the evening service featured a premiere of the missions musical *Jesus Is Coming!* accompanied by Bethesda Community choir under the direction of J. Daniel Smith from Fort Worth, Texas.

The speaker for the evening was David Grant, who serves as area director of the Division of Foreign Missions for Southern Asia, including the countries of India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, and Bangladesh. His text was taken from Hebrews 11. The theme of this message was: "Men Who Can See in the Dark."

GEORGE O. WOOD
GENERAL SECRETARY

CONSTITUTION
OF
THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

REVISED AUGUST 5, 1997

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Constitution

<u>Article</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
I.	Name	104
II.	Nature	104
III.	Prerogatives	104
IV.	Principles for Fellowship	104
V.	Statement of Fundamental Truths	105
VI.	Relationships	110
VII.	Membership	110
VIII.	Meetings	111
IX.	Officers	111
X.	District Councils	113
XI.	Local Assemblies	114
XII.	Dissolution	116
XIII.	Amendments	116

Constitution and Bylaws of

The General Council of the Assemblies of God in the United States of America and Foreign Lands Revised to August 5, 1997

CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION

WE BELIEVE:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

and business for God; and to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines and conduct, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

ARTICLE I. NAME

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

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

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

ARTICLE II. NATURE

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

ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES

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

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

ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP

The Assemblies of God shall represent, as nearly as possible in detail, the body of Christ as described in the New Testament Scriptures. It shall recognize the principles inherent in the Body as also inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, cooperation, and equality. It recognizes that these principles will enable it to achieve its priority reason-for-being as an agency of God for evangelizing the world, as a corporate body in which man may worship God, and as a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

ARTICLE V. STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

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

1. The Scriptures Inspired

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

2. The One True God

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

THE ADORABLE GODHEAD

(a) Terms Defined

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

(b) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

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

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

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

(d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are never **identical** as to **person**; nor **confused** as to **relation**; nor **divided** in respect to the Godhead; nor **opposed** as to **cooperation**. The Son is **in** the Father and the Father is **in** the Son as to relationship. The Son is **with** the Father and the Father is **with** the Son, as to **fellowship**. The Father is **not from** the Son, but the Son is **from** the Father, as to authority. The Holy Ghost is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation and authority. Hence no person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30,32,37; 8:17,18).

(e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

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

(f) The Lord Jesus Christ, God with us

The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature. He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, 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 min-

istry (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:

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

12:13).

- c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).

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

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

11. The Ministry

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

CONSTITUTION

tion 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 mem-

ARTICLE IX

bers 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.

CONSTITUTION

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 the Division of Foreign Missions, the executive director of the Division of Home Missions, together with 11 other brethren to be chosen from the active Fellowship to bring the number to 17. 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. Evangelists representation. The Assemblies of God evangelists shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the national evangelists representative, by virtue of his office.

f. Ethnic fellowship representative. A duly authorized ethnic fellowship

ARTICLE X

shall be represented on the General Presbytery by one of its qualified members. An ethnic fellowship comprised of more than 100 churches shall be represented by two of its qualified members; and, an ethnic fellowship exceeding 150 churches shall be represented on the General Presbytery by three of its qualified members.

g. Honorary general presbyters. Upon the approval of the General Presbytery, honorary members may be chosen by the General Council from among those ministers who (1) have reached the age of 60 years and (2) have served on the General Presbytery for 20 years or more, or served on the General Presbytery as a General Council executive officer for 8 years or more. The addition of such honorary members shall not disturb the regular number of presbyters granted each district.

h. Auditors. Duly qualified auditors may attend the sessions of the General Presbytery.

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, approve, and recommend candidates who qualify as certified ministers, licensed ministers, and ordained ministers. The applications of the recommended candidates shall be

endorsed by the district and forwarded to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for the final approval and issuance of the ministerial credential by the General Council Credentials Committee. Any level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall not be a requirement for credentials, but it shall be required of applicants that they take such courses and pass examinations as shall be prescribed by the General Presbytery unless an exception is provided for in the Bylaws.

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 recommend-

ed 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.

CONSTITUTION

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

OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

REVISED AUGUST 5, 1997

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Bylaws

<u>Article</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
I.	Parliamentary Order	119
II.	Election of Officers	119
III.	Duties of Officers	124
IV.	Committees	128
V.	District Councils	130
VI.	Assemblies	132
VII.	Ministry	135
VIII.	Christian Marriage and Family	145
IX.	Doctrines and Practices Disapproved	146
X.	Discipline	152
XI.	General Superintendent's Office	166
XII.	National Directors	169
XIII.	Commission on Christian Higher Education	170
XIV.	Division of Christian Education	174
XV.	Division of Church Ministries	178
XVI.	Electronic Media Board	184
XVII.	Division of Foreign Missions	185
XVIII.	Division of Home Missions	193
XIX.	Division of Publication	201
XX.	Division of the Treasury	202
XXI.	Institutions	207
XXII.	Military Service	209
XXIII.	Assemblies of God Foundation	209
XXIV.	Assemblies of God Loan Fund	210
XXV.	Ministers Benefit Association	211
XXVI.	World Missions Plan	212
XXVII.	Order of Business	212
XXVIII.	Quorum	213
XXIX.	Amendments	213

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. There shall be no further nominations from the General Council floor. 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. There shall be no further nominations from the General Council floor. A two-thirds vote of the General Council shall be required for election.

d. Executive director of home missions. The executive director of home missions shall be elected in the following manner: The General Presbytery, serving as a nominating committee, shall be entrusted with the responsibility of making careful investigation concerning the qualifications and general fitness of available 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. There shall be no further nominations from the General Council floor. A two-thirds vote of the General Council shall be required for election.

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.

(a) *By area.* The nominations for 10 area 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.

(b) *By ethnic fellowship.* The nominations for one ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter shall be made as follows: Each general presbyter from an ethnic fellowship, serving in the year General Council meets, shall be presented to the General Council as a nominee from the respective ethnic fellowships. These nominees shall be presented to and be balloted upon by the General Council in session. A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect.

(2) *Divisions for electing nonresident executive presbyters.*

(a) *By area.* For the purpose of electing nonresident executive presbyters, The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be divided into ten areas, according to district boundary lines in the following manner:

Northwest Area: Alaska, Montana, Northwest, Oregon, Southern Idaho, Wyoming

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

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

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

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

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

Northeast Area: New Jersey, New York, Northern New England, Pennsylvania-Delaware, Potomac, Southern New England

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

Language Area-Spanish: Central Latin American, Gulf Latin American, Midwest Latin American, Northern Pacific Latin American, Southern Pacific Latin American, Puerto Rico, Southeastern Spanish, Spanish Eastern

Language Area-Other: German, Korean

(b) *By ethnic fellowship.* For the purpose of electing an ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter, only those ethnic fellowships duly recognized (Article V, Section 6) shall be represented.

f. 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.

(4) *Evangelists representative.* A national evangelists representative, who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery, shall be responsible for coordinating, heightening, and strengthening all aspects of the ministry of the evangelists.

(5) *Ethnic fellowship representatives.* Ethnic fellowship representatives, as provided for in Constitution Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d, shall be elected annually by their respective ethnic fellowships. A two-thirds vote shall be required. They shall take office immediately upon election.

(6) *Auditors.*

(a) National directors elected by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery shall serve as auditors of the General Presbytery.

(b) The legal counsel of the General Council shall be granted the privilege of auditing the General Presbytery meetings.

(c) A district may select no more than one auditor for all duly called sessions of the General Presbytery. Any auditor selected by a district shall be one of its full-time executive presbyters or officers. Expenses for the district auditors shall not be the responsibility of the General Council.

(d) Auditors shall be without vote and shall have voice only at the request of the chairman. They shall absent themselves from any executive session of the General Presbytery.

(7) *Honorary members.* Honorary general presbyters as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e, shall have the right of voice and vote at all duly called sessions of the General Presbytery.

g. Commission on 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 Commission on Christian

Higher Education in compliance with Bylaw Article XIII, paragraph e, and the Laymen's Advisory Committee of the Division of Foreign Missions as provided for in Article XVII, 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 or in the event the offices of general superintendent and assistant general superintendent both become vacant, the succession to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council shall be as follows: first, the general secretary; and second, the general treasurer.

b. Nonresident executive presbyters.

(1) *By area.*

(a) In the event a vacancy shall occur, for any reason, in the office of an area 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. 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.)

(b) 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.

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

(d) 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.

(2) *By ethnic fellowship.*

(a) In the event a vacancy shall occur, for any reason, in the office of an ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter, the general secretary shall submit as nominees all current general presbyters who represent an ethnic fellowship. (See Bylaws Article V, Section 6.) 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.)

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

c. General presbyters.

(1) 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.

(2) In the event an elected general presbyter is unable to attend a duly called session of the General Presbytery, by reason of illness or any other emergency, the district executive presbytery or district presbytery shall have the right to select an alternate, provided he meets the ordinary requirements for general presbyters. He shall have all the rights and privileges of a regularly elected general presbyter. The district shall present certification of an alternate to the general secretary not later than the opening session of the General Presbytery.

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, licensed, and certified ministers, 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 Director of Home Missions

He shall be the executive director of the Division of Home Missions under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery. Under his direction the division shall perform the following duties and render the following services:

- a. Keep a record of all official acts of the Home Missions Board and other committees of the division.
- b. Conduct all correspondence with prospective home missionaries and with those already under appointment.
- c. Prepare the home missions material in the *Pentecostal Evangel* from letters and reports.
- d. Represent The General Council of the Assemblies of God in all relationships with governing authorities where home missions work is involved.
- e. Direct the home missions activities of the Fellowship, insofar as such activities are not already directed within and by the respective district councils of the General Council.
- f. Distribute all home missions funds as directed by the donors by agreement with the Home Missions Committee.

g. Act as a purchasing agent for home missions supplies.

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

Section 7. 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 paragraphs h and j of Section 7 and paragraph a of Section 9 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 8. 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 9. 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 certified ministers 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 bylaws.
- (2) Those proposals absurd in substance.

d. Right of sponsor. If the Resolutions Committee determines that a resolution is inappropriate, it shall so advise the author and shall apprise him of his right to present the proposed resolution to the house for determination as to appropriateness.

e. Format of presentation. The Resolutions Committee shall:

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

Section 5. 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 dis-

trict 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.

Section 6. Ethnic Fellowships

An ethnic group 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. Although functioning as a fellowship, the ethnic churches shall remain affiliated with the appropriate district.

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 assem-

bly shall have matured to a point where a sufficient number of qualified persons are available for the offices called for in its constitution and bylaws.

The procedure for affiliation shall be:

a. A church desiring affiliation shall forward its request to the office of the district in which it is situated. The district council shall provide an approved application form and procedural instructions.

b. The meeting in which an assembly shall be set in order shall be presided over by an officer of the district who shall assist the assembly in the adoption of a constitution and bylaws acceptable to the district.

c. An existing, mature church which desires to affiliate with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall apply to the office of the district council for guidance and assistance.

d. Upon approval by the district presbytery, the application for affiliation shall be forwarded to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Recognition of affiliation shall be regarded as completed upon receipt by the assembly of an official Certificate of Affiliation to be issued by the general secretary.

Section 2. Annual Report from Assemblies

Each church of the Assemblies of God shall be requested to keep an up-to-date record of its membership and a report of the same shall be sent annually, on forms provided, to the office of the district secretary and the General Council secretary.

Section 3. Safeguarding the Assemblies

Pastors and leaders of assemblies should make proper investigation of persons who seek to gain entrance to teach, minister, or pastor. 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. No dismissed minister may be allowed to pastor or have recognized ministry in an Assemblies of God church. Any church persisting in retaining a dismissed minister shall place its certificate of affiliation in jeopardy. Pastors and district officials should maintain a reciprocal exchange of information relative to dismissed ministers known to be 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 X, 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 certified minister.

All ministers holding current ministerial credentials are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church in accordance with applicable federal or state laws.

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 education requirements. Any level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall not be a requirement for credentials; however, credential applicants shall meet the following criteria:

(1) All applicants are required to be interviewed by the district credentials committee and, in preparation for the interview, pass a standard exam approved by the General Presbytery whereby they demonstrate knowledge of the Bible, Assemblies of God doctrines, and ministerial practices; and either

(2) Successfully complete equivalent training to that indicated in paragraph (3) below, preferably, in an endorsed Assemblies of God post-secondary school; or in a seminary, college, Bible college, or school approved by the district credentials committee consistent with criteria established by the General Council Credentials Committee; or

(3) Successfully complete courses, prescribed by the General Presbytery, offered in correspondence through Berean University of the Assemblies of God; or

(4) Be recommended by a district credentials committee as qualifying for credentials through self-study and ministerial experience. Such candidates shall have a proven and fruitful ministry of substantial duration. Requests from a district for such a candidate shall be presented to the General Council Credentials Committee and may be granted on a case by case basis.

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 letter of recommendation from a neighboring Assemblies of God minister and/or the sectional presbyter for the applicant's area.

(4) Submit a recommendation from the body with which the minister 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, two of whom should be with the applicant's former credentialing body.

(5) Take the credential examination.

(6) Complete such courses as may be prescribed by the General Presbytery for ministers transferring from other credentialing bodies.

(7) Meet with the district credentials committee for an oral interview.

(8) Be recommended by the district credentials committee for action by the General Council Credentials Committee.

(9) 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. All other applicants so approved shall receive the appropriate level of credential recognition.

(10) Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition shall relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization.

Section 3. Specific Qualifications

a. Residency requirements of applicants. Applicants for all credentials must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credentials committee.

b. Certified minister.

(1) *General requirements.* They shall show promise of usefulness in the gospel work. They shall devote a part of their time to Christian ministry and, at the discretion of the district credentials committees remain under the supervision of a pastor or a designated supervisor. 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.

(2) *Pastoral requirements.* In the event a certified minister is serving in a position as the pastor, he shall be expected to advance to license to preach within 2 years of acceptance of the pastorate. This shall not apply to any minister who has reached the age of 65 or older, or whose certificate has been issued on a provisional basis. Any exceptions shall be at the discretion of the district credentials committee.

(3) *Exception for provisional issuance.* A Certificate of Ministry may be issued on a provisional basis to a person who has not met all the credentialing requirements but who is deemed by the district credentials committee to be essential to the continuity of a church or a ministry outreach for which a duly credentialed and qualified minister is unavailable. The reason for such a provisional issuance must be ministry driven, and the justification for its use is terminated when the minister ceases to be involved in the ministry for which it was initially granted unless he accepts another qualifying assignment. Other limitations are:

(a) The ministry certificate on a provisional basis will be issued for 1 year and shall not be renewed more than two times.

(b) A person who has been granted the Certificate of Ministry on a provisional basis must meet the qualifications for a ministry certificate within a 3-year period.

c. Licensed minister. 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.

d. 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 requirements.* The General Council Credentials Committee, upon request by a district credentials committee and where exceptional circumstances exist, may waive the requirements for an applicant holding a license to preach for 2 full consecutive years or being a member of the district in which he is seeking ordination for at least 1 year.

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

Section 4. Action of Credentials Committee

The General Council Credentials Committee delegates to the district councils the authority to examine, approve, and recommend candidates who qualify as certified ministers, licensed ministers, and ordained ministers. Final approval and issuance of the ministerial credential shall be made by the General Council Credentials Committee. All ordination services, with the laying on of hands, 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 Certificates of Ministry, together with the accompanying annual fellowship card, to all properly qualified and approved candidates.

Section 6. Official List

a. Acâe 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 certified ministers 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, or those whose spouse is disabled or has retired giving them little opportunity for public ministry.

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

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

Section 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 senior-semiretired ministers shall continue to designate the required amount of support to the General Council headquarters as set forth in Bylaw Article XX, Section 1, paragraph 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 cooperate with other district councils in which they may labor temporarily. It is recommended as a standard of proper practice that all 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 January 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 December 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 December 1, he/she should notify his/her district office.

c. Grace period until January 15. All who shall have failed to renew their fellowship certificates by mail postmarked on or before December 31 shall be considered delinquent. They shall be required to pay a late fee of \$25 up until January 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 January 15 shall be recorded as lapsed as of the expiration date of December 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 from our list of ministers. The application must be made in the district where he/she resides and be accompanied with a nonrefundable fee of \$50 which will be divided between the national and district offices. (See Bylaws Article X, 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 X, 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, Certificate of Ministry) 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. CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Section 1. Christian Marriage

Marriage was established by God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:18, 21-25) and confirmed by Jesus Christ to be a permanent relationship between a

BYLAWS

man and a woman (Matthew 19:4-6). Because marriage is not only a commitment to a spouse, but also to God (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:9; Ephesians 5:31), a believer should marry only another believer (2 Corinthians 6:14). Christian marriage is a reflection of the love, purity, and permanence between Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:23-33).

Even though some marriages may fall short of the biblical ideal (see Article IX, Section 5), husbands and wives who devote themselves to God (Ephesians 5:21) and find nurture and instruction in the body of Christ (Hebrews 10:25) can realize the strength and blessing of God in their relationship.

Section 2. Children

Children "are a heritage from the Lord"; therefore, rearing them is to be treated as a sacred trust. God's strength and wisdom are available on a daily basis in order to bring up children to love and obey God (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4).

ARTICLE IX. 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

ARTICLE IX

of holiness (1 Peter 1:16; Hebrews 12:14); in view of the clear teaching that a man may have his part taken out of the Book of Life (Revelation 22:19); and in view of the fact that one who believes for a while can fall away (Luke 8:13); The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the unconditional security position which holds that it is impossible for a person once saved to be lost.

Section 2. Legalism

a. Matters of conscience. The Assemblies of God disapproves of those who hold to matters of conscience, such as the eating or not eating of meats, who press their personal opinions on others.

b. Adding conditions to salvation. The Assemblies of God also disapproves of those who hold to issues which seem to add conditions to salvation, such as the keeping of the seventh day, who press their opinions on others.

Section 3. Eschatological Errors

a. The restitution of all things. The Assemblies of God understands the teaching of Acts 3:21 to limit the restoration to that of which the prophets have spoken, thus denying the universal redemption theory. We are opposed to all forms of universalism (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10).

b. Setting a date for the Lord's return. It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing (Mark 13:32,33; Luke 12:37-40; 1 Thessalonians 5:2). It is also unwise to give out from the platform, or publish, visions of numbers and dates fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.

c. Post-Tribulation Rapture. The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself in the Statement of Fundamental Truths that it holds to the belief in the imminent coming of the Lord as the blessed hope of the Church; and since the teaching that the Church must go through the Tribulation tends to bring confusion and division among the saints, it is recommended that all our ministers teach the imminent coming of Christ, warning all men to be prepared for that coming, which may occur at any time, and not lull their minds into complacency by any teaching that would cause them to feel that specific Tribulation events must occur before the rapture of the saints.

d. Amillennialism. The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the amillennial teaching and its attendant erroneous philosophy which denies the fact of a literal 1,000 years' reign of Christ on the earth, and substitutes for it the theory that this Christian or Church dispensation is the spiritual Millennium of which, its proponents say, the Bible writers prophesied.

c. Credentials jeopardized if made an issue. We recommend that should any of our ministers embrace any of the foregoing eschatological errors, they refrain from preaching or teaching them. Should they persist in emphasizing these doctrines to the point of making them an issue, their standing in the Fellowship will be seriously affected (Luke 21:34-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:9,10; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10; Revelation 3:10,19,20).

Section 4. Membership in Secret Orders

Ours is a last-day message in preparation for the coming of the Lord (Matthew 24:14), leaving us no alternative but wholehearted devotion to the cause of spreading the gospel (Luke 9:62), and it is well known that the various secret orders require much valuable time and interest, thus diverting the servant of the Lord out of the way (Ephesians 5:16).

The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20; Acts 26:26) reinforced by religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who are for the most part unregenerated (2 Corinthians 6:14). The spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders aim at the improvement of the natural man only (1 Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:8), thus wrongly channeling by incorrect interpretation important spiritual truths (2 Peter 3:16).

Confidence in these secret orders and their teachings has always tended toward the embracing of a false hope of salvation through good works and improved moral service (Ephesians 2:8,9).

In consideration of the foregoing, all ministers affiliated with us should refrain from identifying themselves with any of the secret orders which we recognize as essentially of the world, worldly, and we advise any who may have identified themselves with such orders to sever their connections therewith (2 Corinthians 6:17). Furthermore, our ministers are requested to use their good influence among our lay members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage

a. Membership

(1) *Marriage entanglements before conversion.* There are now among Christian people those who became entangled in their marriage relations in their former lives of sin and who do not see how these matters can be adjusted. We recommend that these people be received into the membership of local assemblies and that their marriage complications be left in the hands of the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:17,20,24).

(2) *Common-law marriage.* We recommend that in no case shall persons be accepted into membership who are known to be living in a common-law state of matrimony.

b. Remarriage. Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We positively disapprove of Christians getting divorces for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matthew 19:9). Where these exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer as he walks in the light of God's Word (1 Corinthians 7:15,27,28).

c. Local church leadership

(1) *Standard for offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon.* Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:12). However, we recommend that all other opportunities for Christian service for which these believers may be qualified be made available to them.

(2) *Prerogative of local assemblies.* It is understood that recommendations are not binding, but local assemblies shall maintain the prerogative of setting their own standards (in accord with provisions of Article XI of the Constitution).

d. Performing marriage ceremonies

(1) *Ministerial guidelines.* We disapprove of any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living, unless his case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in Article IX, 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 IX, 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, and local churches holding certificates of affiliation, shall refrain from taking an attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of the brethren entrusted with this responsibility. Those who fail to support said verdict 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 X. 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 IX, B, Section 5, paragraphs d and e.)
- k. Violations of ministerial courtesy. (See Article IX, B, Section 8.)
- l. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies church. (See Article IX, B, Section 9.)
- m. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship. (See Article IX, B, Section 10.)

Notwithstanding the above, when more than 7 years have elapsed from an occurrence which is the cause for disciplinary action, a district credentials committee may recommend to the General Council Credentials Committee that no discipline be administered when, in view of all the circumstances, it would appear that such discipline would only serve as punitive in nature rather

than rehabilitative. In all such cases, final determination shall be made by the General Council Credentials Committee.

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 officary 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 X, 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 X, A, 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 X, 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 X, 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 X, A, Section 3) may request a program of rehabilitation as an alternative to dismissal. Rehabilitation is a privilege granted out of mercy and not a right to be expected or demanded: the primary purpose is to restore a person to God, spouse, and family; with the results leading to possible restoration to ministry. 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 X, 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 terminated, 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) *Transfer of information.* A rehabilitation information form for district use, prepared and distributed by the general secretary, shall be completed by the district in which the rehabilitation occurred when the rehabilitated minister requests a transfer to a new district. The completed rehabilitation form shall accompany the Certificate of Transfer to another district. A disciplined minister shall, as a condition of entering a rehabilitation program, sign a Limited Disclosure Agreement approved by the General Presbytery allowing the basis of his rehabilitation program to be disclosed by the district superintendent or district secretary of a transferring district. The information shall be preserved for future reference in the files of the district in which the rehabilitation occurred and the General Council.

d. Eligibility of previous dismissed. 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 X, 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 X, 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 X, 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, paragraph d, 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.

ARTICLE XI. GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Section 1. Spiritual Life—Evangelism

a. 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.

b. Organization

(1) *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.

(2) *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.

(a) *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.

(b) *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.

(c) *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.

c. Functions

(1) The Spiritual Life—Evangelism office shall serve as an agency to provide leadership and to coordinate efforts through all divisions and departments.

(2) Specific functions shall include:

(a) Providing leadership in coordination of efforts to fulfill the threefold mission of the church.

(b) Planning and promoting special evangelistic and spiritual life emphases.

(c) Serving the evangelists fellowship.

Section 2. Office of Public Relations

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) There shall be an Office of Public Relations to communicate information about the church and its threefold mission to the various publics of the Fellowship, including Assemblies of God publics, such as districts, ministers, Assemblies of God institutions, headquarters' departments and employees; and non-Assemblies of God publics such as media, community, other religious bodies, and nonchurched peoples.

(2) The Office of Public Relations shall serve as an agency for the dissemination of news and information about the Assemblies of God Fellowship through print and electronic media, public relations helps, and other means as deemed necessary in helping the church fulfill its threefold mission.

b. Government and organization

(1) *Secretary.* The secretary of public relations shall be nominated by the general superintendent and elected by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) *Amenability.* The Office of Public Relations shall be under the direction of the general superintendent and amenable to the Executive Presbytery.

Section 3. The *Pentecostal Evangel*

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Official magazine.* The *Pentecostal Evangel* shall be the official magazine 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 nominated by the general superintendent and elected by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) *Amenability.* The Executive Presbytery, through the general superintendent, shall have the overall responsibility for the editorial content of the *Pentecostal Evangel* within guidelines set by the policy-making bodies.

(3) Approval of 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. *Enrichment*—A Journal for Pentecostal Ministry

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Liaison.* *Enrichment* journal shall be a principal liaison between Assemblies of God ministers and national headquarters ministries.

(2) *Purpose.* *Enrichment* journal shall be published:

(a) To help fulfill the threefold mission of the church;

(b) To serve as a ministerial resource tool, provide ministerial helps and administration aids, and provide information about program promotional materials;

(c) To serve the minister with principles and methods that assist in clarifying the mission, objective, and strategies for the local church; and

(d) To announce and promote emphases and programs of the Assemblies of God.

b. Government and organization

(1) *Executive editor.* There shall be an executive editor who shall be nominated by the general superintendent and elected by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) *Editor/managing editor.* There shall be an editor and/or a managing editor, who shall be nominated by the general superintendent and elected by the Executive Presbytery.

(3) *Amenability.* The Executive Presbytery through the general superintendent shall have the overall responsibility for the editorial content of the *Enrichment* journal within the guidelines set by the policy-making bodies.

(4) *Budget support and changes.* Funding for the *Enrichment* journal shall be derived from ministers' contributions to the General Council and revenue from advertising of headquarters' ministries, related institutions, and selected independent suppliers. 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 5. Commission on Ethnicity

a. **Sphere of authority.** There shall be a Commission of Ethnicity which shall have oversight of a national ethnic agenda for the Assemblies of God.

b. **Purpose.** The purpose of the commission is to fulfill the Great Commission which mandates seeking to fulfill the threefold mission of the Assemblies of God through:

(1) Providing a forum for listening and understanding the ethnic issues that relate to our Fellowship;

(2) Giving direction to formulate, establish, and communicate a vision of the ethnic opportunities for ministry.

(3) Recommending organizational changes that will facilitate effective ministry to ethnic constituents and enhance the participation of these within the Fellowship.

c. **Commission chairman.** The general superintendent shall serve as chairman and a cochairman will be selected from the ethnic members of the commission to assist the chairman.

d. **Amenability.** The commission shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

e. **Composition of Commission on Ethnicity.** There shall be a Commission of Ethnicity which shall consist of the following: The Administrative Committee on Missions, the chairman, cochairman, ethnic executive presbyters, and one general presbyter from each ethnic district or fellowship. Members-at-large shall include but not be limited to the following personnel: Office of Public Relations, Division of Home Missions, Division of Church Ministries, Division of Christian Education, Division of Publication, and others by virtue of office and/or as deemed necessary.

(1) *Selection of commission.* Those members of the commission not serving by virtue of office shall be selected as follows: The members of the commission shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery and elected by the General Presbytery in their annual meeting. Care shall be taken to maximize rotation among the ethnic presbyters.

(2) *Terms of office.* Those members of the commission not serving by virtue of office shall serve on a rotating basis on a 2-year assignment to allow greater representation from the field.

(3) *Meetings.* There shall be an annual meeting of the commission during the month of December. Special meetings shall be scheduled as needed at the call of the commission chairman.

ARTICLE XII. 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, sub-

ject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. Their terms of office shall be indefinite but reviewed periodically by the General Presbytery.

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 XIII. COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

a. Sphere of authority. There shall be a Commission on Christian Higher Education which shall have general oversight of the Christian Higher Education Department.

b. Purpose. The purpose of the commission is to fulfill the Great Commission which mandates seeking to fulfill the threefold mission of the Assemblies of God through:

(1) Guiding in the development of a higher education system and structure, both traditional and nontraditional;

(2) Directing the national promotion of Assemblies of God higher education and developing resources in cooperation with the Assemblies of God Foundation for all postsecondary institutions endorsed by the Commission on Christian Higher Education.

c. Commission chairman. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a chairman subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. He shall be charged with the operation of the Commission on Christian Higher Education and the Christian Higher Education Department.

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

e. Composition of Commission on Christian Higher Education. There shall be a Commission on Christian Higher Education which shall consist of 25 members to be constituted as follows: the chairman of the Commission on Christian Higher Education, who shall serve as chairman; the secretary of the

Christian Higher Education Department, who shall serve as secretary; the general superintendent (ex officio); an executive presbyter; four pastors who have demonstrated zeal and support for Assemblies of God higher education, nominated by the Executive Presbytery subject to election by the General Presbytery; and a representative from each of the endorsed colleges of the Assemblies of God. The representatives from the colleges shall be configured in such a way as to have six presidents of endorsed colleges, a minimum of three lay members of college boards, and a minimum of three chairpersons of college boards at any one time.

(1) *Selection of commission.* Those members of the commission not serving by virtue of office shall be selected as follows: The members of the commission shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery and elected by the General Presbytery in their annual meeting. Care shall be taken to maximize rotation among the college presidents.

(2) *Terms of office.* The members of the commission who do not serve by virtue of office shall serve for terms of 3 years or until their successors qualify. Members may be appointed for one succeeding term, except the presidents who may serve only a 3-year term and will be replaced. The commission chairman and ex officio members will have no term limitations.

(3) *Authority and amenability.* The commission is responsible for the government and work of the Christian Higher Education Department. There shall be an annual meeting of the commission. Special meetings shall be at the call of the commission chairman. The presidents of endorsed colleges and institutions who are not members of the commission are invited to the meetings of the commission at their own expense, with the privilege of the floor but without the privilege of voting. The commission shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery. The authority of the commission shall include:

(a) Supervision of the activities of the Christian Higher Education Department as well as the committees functioning under it in fulfilling the departmental mission.

(b) Review of the endorsement of Assemblies of God postsecondary schools on the basis of endorsement criteria developed by the commission 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 commission shall establish for this purpose.

(c) Disbursement and apportionment of whatever funds shall come into its possession to the various educational institutions of the Assemblies of God under guidelines approved by the Executive Presbytery.

(d) 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 as determined by the needs of the Fellowship.

(e) Promoting current educational technology in appropriate distance education programs as may be needed in the ministries of the Fellowship.

(4) *Executive committee.* There shall be an executive committee of the commission that shall meet if necessary to conduct business when the commission is not in session. The executive committee shall consist of five members including the commission chairman, the secretary of the Christian Higher Education Department, two college presidents, and one pastor. The general superintendent shall serve as an ex officio member of the executive committee. Those not serving by virtue of office shall be selected by the commission.

(5) *Vacancies.* The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the Commission on Christian Higher Education by appointment until the term is expired.

Section 1. Christian Higher Education Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Responsibility.* There shall be a Christian Higher 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 commission and comprised of soundly conceived, strong institutions which are equal in status before the commission and equal in support by the entire Fellowship. The commission, 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 educational 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, graduate schools, and seminaries.

(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 commission chairman shall be empowered to appoint a department secretary who shall serve under the commission chairman.

c. *Duties and functions.* It shall be the responsibility of the Christian Higher 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.

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) *Theological integrity.* It shall be charged with the maintaining of theological integrity and spiritual vitality of all endorsed Assemblies of God institutions.

(2) *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.

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

(4) *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 qualification of the faculty and staff, the required subject of the curriculum, the requirements of admission and for graduation, and the general regulations of school life.

(5) *General service to all schools.* The Christian Higher 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.

(6) *Distance education technologies.* It may facilitate utilization of current educational technology in both traditional and distance education programs in the postsecondary schools of the Fellowship.

d. Rights and prerogatives

(1) *Certificates of endorsement.* The Christian Higher Education Department shall issue certificates of endorsement to postsecondary schools meeting the standards for endorsement established by the commission 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 commission. 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 commission and has been officially endorsed by the commission.

(2) *Equality of endorsed schools.* In the discharge of its duties and functions and the exercise of its rights and prerogatives, the Christian Higher 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 Christian Higher Education Department shall enjoy equal rights of publicity and emphasis in Assemblies of God publications and in the promotional work of the Christian Higher Education Department.

(3) *Textbooks.* It shall be the prerogative of the Christian Higher Education Department to seek to provide textbooks for our schools reflecting the Assemblies of God doctrine and polity.

Section 2. Resource Development

The commission chairman shall work with and encourage the Assemblies of God Foundation in its development efforts for all postsecondary institutions endorsed by the Commission on Christian Higher Education. The Commission on Christian Higher Education shall provide the Assemblies of God Foundation with the pro rata distribution formulas for the institutions eligible to receive distributions and grants from the Assemblies of God Foundation.

ARTICLE XIV. 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 Field Ministries and 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 17 members to be constituted as follows: The national director of the Division of Christian Education who shall serve as chairman; the secretary of the Sunday School Promotion and Training Department; the editor in chief of the Sunday School Curriculum and Literature Department; the secretary of the Sunday School Field Ministries and Literature Sales Department; the Christian school representative; four pastors of demonstrated support for education (representative of churches of 0-99, 100-299, 300-499, 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 Christian Teachers and Schools (ACTS); 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 elected 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 seven members including the national director of Christian Education, the secretary of the Sunday School Promotion and Training Department, the editor in chief of the Sunday School Curriculum and Literature Department, the secretary of the Sunday School Field Ministries and Literature Sales Department, the Christian school representative, one pastor, and one district Christian education director. Those not serving by virtue of office shall be selected by the Board of Christian Education.

(5) *Vacancies.* The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the Board of Christian Education by appointment until the term is expired.

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. 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.

d. Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade. Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade shall be recognized as the children's missions education program of the Division of Christian Education and the children's missions fund-raising program of the Division of Christian Education of the Assemblies of God. The mission of BGMC shall be to multiply the efforts of foreign and home missionaries by providing evangelism and education resources deemed necessary for reaching our world with the gospel of Jesus Christ. There shall be a BGMC constitution and bylaws guiding the program and disbursement of funds which shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery.

e. Official publication. The *Christian Education Counselor* shall be recognized as the official publication of the Division of Christian Education and the Sunday School Promotion and Training Department.

Section 3. Sunday School Field Ministries and Literature Sales Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) There shall be a Sunday School Field Ministries and 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 XV. 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, Senior Adult Ministries Commission, 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 or commissions 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, motivating, and discipling men throughout the Fellowship to grow into their full potential of manhood in Christ Jesus.

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

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

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

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

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

(g) Organizing and promoting a program for boys.

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

(i) 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.

(j) 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 coordinator of Light-for-the-Lost, the commander of the Royal Rangers, the coordinator of Lifestyle Evangelism, the president of the national Light-for-the-Lost Council, the president of the national Royal Rangers Council, and the president of the national Lifestyle Evangelism Council. Two additional representatives—a district men's director and a representative of a district Church Construction Corps—shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall serve 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. Senior Adult Ministries Commission**a. Authorization and Purpose**

(1) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* There shall be a Senior Adult Ministries Commission 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) *Focus.* The focus of this commission shall include the encouragement of those in our Fellowship who are 50 and over to participate in activities that foster spiritual growth and health, age-level educational pursuits, evangelistic outreach and wholesome fellowship events.

(3) *Functions.* The functions of this commission shall include the following:

- (a) to encourage district, sectional, and local structure and leadership
- (b) to communicate with leadership and laity
- (c) to work with leadership for training and coordinating activities
- (d) to serve as a resource for exchange of ideas and information

- (e) to produce brochures, plan books, and helps
- (f) to schedule seminars and conventions, as needed and approved
- (g) to endeavor to identify and involve individuals and groups from clergy and laity in ministry activities

b. Government and organization

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

(2) *Committees.* Special committees may be appointed when approval has been received from the director of the Division of Church Ministries.

Section 4. Women's Ministries Department**a. Authorization and purpose**

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

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

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

(b) Correlating the work of the women with the needs represented by foreign missions, home missions, and benevolences in such a way that the needs may be met quickly and equitably, with each district and local group carrying its proportionate share of service.

(c) Encouraging district and local groups to view their service as a spiritual ministry and stewardship in which faithfulness is important.

(d) Encouraging the women of the Fellowship to engage in the ministry of personal witnessing and the ministry of intercessory prayer.

(e) Offering encouragement and assistance to district leaders and local groups for organization and operation.

(f) Conducting conventions, seminars, and rallies concerning Women's Ministries and its program.

(g) Organizing and promoting a program for girls.

(h) Preparing and publishing handbooks and manuals and issuing such bulletins as may be needed to implement the department program.

(i) Publicizing the Women's Ministries through the media of the *Pentecostal Evangel* and other periodicals as opportunity affords.

b. Government and organization

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

(2) *National Women's Ministries Committee.* There shall be a national Women's Ministries Committee which shall consist of the national director of the Division of Church Ministries and the secretary of the department by virtue of office; two other persons from within the department recommended by the department secretary to represent Women's Ministries and its 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 5. Youth Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Responsibilities.* There shall be a national Youth Department which shall have the responsibility of encouraging and promoting ministry to youth in every district, section, and local church.

(2) *Agency to fulfill church's mission.* The primary responsibility of this department in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission: evangelization of the world, worshiping God, and building a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son. In part, it shall fulfill this responsibility by planning and promoting ministry directed toward the youth of the Assemblies of God, encouraging them to fulfill the threefold mission of the church.

(3) *Focus.* The primary focus of ministry shall be:

(a) to those persons aged 12 through their early 20s (in education, seventh grade through college), and

(b) to district youth directors, sectional and local youth leaders.

(4) *Function.* The primary function of this department shall be to win youth to Jesus Christ, build them into disciples by training them to be an integral and productive part of the church, and send them into ministry.

Additional functions shall include:

(a) Encouraging and helping equip district, sectional, and local youth ministries to involve and train youth in the areas of evangelism, worship, fellowship, and discipleship.

(b) Coordinating national programs such as Speed-the-Light, Bible Quiz, Youth Alive, Ambassadors in Mission, Discipleship, etc.

(c) Preparing and publishing evangelistic, inspirational, training, and promotional materials for youth, youth leaders, and local youth ministries.

(d) Ministering to youth and youth leaders through seminars, tours, retreats, conventions, and other feasible and acceptable means.

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, a representative from each of the eight geographical areas, and a representative from the language districts to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. The term shall be for 3 years. Each person holding a supervisory level position in the national Youth Department will also serve on the committee. The secretary of the Youth Department shall serve as chairman. The committee shall meet at least once a year.

c. District youth ministries

(1) It is recommended provision be made for a district youth department in each district of the Assemblies of God. The purpose shall be:

(a) to win youth, reaching them with the gospel of Jesus Christ; build youth by training them to be an integral and productive part of the church; and send youth into ministry within the church, community, and world.

(b) to design and promote ministries which will involve youth in evangelism, worship, fellowship, and discipleship.

(c) to coordinate national, district, sectional, and local youth ministry programs.

(2) There shall be a district youth director. He shall be chosen in keeping with the district constitution and bylaws.

d. Sectional youth ministries

(1) It is recommended that provision be made for a sectional youth ministry in each section of the Assemblies of God.

(2) The purpose of the sectional youth ministry shall be to promote, plan, and implement ministries and events which help the local church fulfill its mission of winning, building, and sending youth.

(3) The sectional youth ministry shall represent district and national youth ministries.

(4) The sectional youth representative shall be chosen in keeping with the district constitution and bylaws.

e. Local youth ministries

(1) All churches are urged to develop a vigorous youth ministry; to give every youth in their community a clear, personal presentation of the gospel of Jesus Christ; to train and equip youth leaders; to involve every youth in the process of discipleship; and to involve every youth in the cause of world evangelization.

(2) Youth ministries, as any other ministry of the church, will come under the general supervision of the pastor. His counsel, advice, and direction shall be sought and respected.

f. Speed-the-Light offerings

(See Article XXVI. World Missions Plan, Section 2.)

ARTICLE XVI. ELECTRONIC MEDIA BOARD

a. Authorization and purpose. There shall be an Electronic Media Board which shall be responsible to serve the Fellowship in implementing the three-fold mission of the church through television, radio, audiovisuals, and similar media.

b. Government and organization

(1) *Electronic Media Board.* The Executive Presbytery shall appoint members of the Electronic Media Board. Members shall be appointed for 2 years or until their successors are appointed. Members may be reappointed.

(2) *Electronic Media Board Composition.* The Electronic Media Board shall be chaired by a resident member of the Executive Presbytery, under the direction of the Executive Presbytery, and amenable to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery. Other members of the board shall include two additional resident members of the Executive Presbytery, the general manager of the Media Center, the secretary of Broadcast Ministries, and four other individuals selected for their expertise in the area of media and/or marketing. The board shall meet annually or at the call of the chairman.

(3) *Media Coordinating Committee.* The Executive Presbytery shall appoint members of the Media Coordinating Committee. This committee shall be chaired by a resident executive. The members shall consist of a

minimum of four members who have interest and expertise in media ministries. Meetings shall be called at the discretion of the chairman. The basic function of the committee is to serve as a nonlegislative resource committee to facilitate all aspects of media ministry.

Section 1. Media Center

a. Authorization and purpose. There shall be a Media Center. Its responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, the following operations and ministries to assist toward fulfilling the threefold mission of the church:

(1) Provide audio and video services to departments, ministries, and institutions of the Assemblies of God. The media production center will also initiate, create, and market such products and programs that will further the work of the church;

(2) Acquire and maintain such equipment as necessary to produce video, audiovisual and audio materials, products, and programs;

(3) Build and maintain a library of videotapes, films, filmstrips, and other audiovisual resources which will be made available on a sale and rental basis to Assemblies of God churches and to produce a catalog of these items, including those produced by the Assemblies of God and other producers; and

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

b. General manager. The Executive Presbytery shall appoint a general manager of the Media Center who shall be amenable to the Electronic Media Board.

Section 2. Broadcast Ministries Department

a. Authorization and purpose. There shall be a Broadcast Ministries Department which shall be responsible for originating, producing, promoting, and funding the official broadcast ministries of the Fellowship in fulfilling the threefold mission of the church.

b. Secretary. The Executive Presbytery shall appoint a Broadcast Ministries secretary who will be amenable to the Electronic Media Board.

ARTICLE XVII. 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 Missions' decision to the Board of Appeals, but shall not be present at the time of deliberation or voting. The missionary or Foreign Missions Committee may appeal to the Executive Presbytery or General Presbytery from the decision of the Board of Appeals.

(5) *Vacancies.* The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the Foreign Missions Board by appointment until the term is expired.

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, f, (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 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. 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 Presidency.

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 XXVI. 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 XXVI. 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 XVIII. 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 functions being the establishing of indigenous churches representing all cultural, socioeconomic, and ethnic groups; evangelizing and discipling students on America's secular colleges and universities; assisting persons with life-controlling problems; and ministering to those in military, industrial, institutional, and correctional settings. All such activities shall be conducted through the auspices of and in full cooperation with the district councils.

c. Departments. The work of the division shall include six major departments:

- (1) New Church Evangelism Department
- (2) Intercultural Ministries Department
- (3) Chaplaincy Department
- (4) Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department
- (5) Teen Challenge Department
- (6) Mission America Placement Service Department

Section 2. Government and organization

a. Executive director. There shall be an executive director of the Division of Home Missions who shall be elected in the manner described in Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, of the bylaws.

b. Home Missions Board. The New Church Evangelism Department, the Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department, the Intercultural Ministries Department, the Teen Challenge Department, and the Mission America Placement Service Department shall be under the supervision of a Home Missions Board. It shall consist of the executive 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 and other key Division of Home Missions personnel as determined by the executive director 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 in its area of supervision. It shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

(4) *Vacancies.* The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the Home Missions Board by appointment until the term is expired.

c. Home Missions Committee. The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a Home Missions Committee consisting of the executive director as chairman, the department secretaries of the division, and other personnel as determined by the executive director. 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 Home Missions Board. The executive director shall meet on a regular basis with the Board of Administration to report the action of the Home Missions Committee.

d. 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.

e. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Administrative Committee. The general administrative work of the Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department shall be conducted by the Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Administrative Committee according to the provisions outlined in Section 6.

f. Teen Challenge Board. The general administrative work of the Teen Challenge Department shall be conducted by the Teen Challenge Board according to the provisions outlined under Section 7.

g. Special committees. Other special committees may be appointed at the discretion of the Executive Presbytery.

h. National representatives. National representatives to serve in specific areas of Home Missions work may be appointed by the Executive Presbytery as it becomes advisable and practical.

i. Functions. The Division of Home Missions shall provide coordination, promotion, assistance to motivate action, and the receiving and disbursing of funds.

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

k. 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 upon the approval of the work district.

Section 3. New Church Evangelism 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 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) Seeking to acquire information regarding various methods of financing and making this information available to various districts.

(2) Providing information of available materials such as evangelism literature, Sunday school materials, architectural services, and other helps for the new church and supplying these as funds permit.

(3) Providing promotional materials for districts, colleges, and local churches to impart vision and motivation for the planting and establishing of new churches.

(4) Assisting in the further development of New Church Evangelism programs for the involvement of students and faculty members of Assemblies of God colleges.

(5) Utilizing the personnel resources of our Fellowship in conjunction with Mission America Placement Service to assist in New Church Evangelism.

(6) Assisting districts with church planting by providing trained missionaries to serve in strategic urban areas of the United States.

c. Cooperation with districts. The New Church Evangelism Department shall function in cooperation with the various districts as set forth in Section 2, paragraphs i and j.

Section 4. Intercultural Ministries 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 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 evangelism 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. Relationship with districts. The Intercultural Ministries Department shall function in cooperation with the various districts as set forth in Section 2, paragraphs i and j. Practical assistance shall be provided by:

(1) Providing literature and other information on the dynamics of cross-cultural ministry, including church planting among ethnic Americans.

(2) Assisting in meeting the needs of ethnic and specialized ministries by providing trained missionaries.

(3) Promoting the indigenous principles of church organization.

(4) Helping to align ethnic congregations with the appropriate language or geographic districts.

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 h and i. 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

Section 5. Chaplaincy 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 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 executive 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 five 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. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries 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 Home Missions in supervising the work of the department. He shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

b. Function. The Chi Alpha Campus 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. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Administrative Committee

(1) *Composition.* The general administrative work of the Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department shall be conducted by the Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Administrative Committee consisting of the executive director of the Division of Home Missions, the secretary of the Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department, and residential national staff with national portfolios.

(2) *Function.* The Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Administrative Committee shall supervise and direct the work of the department and its personnel in conformity with the established policies and principles of the Division of Home Missions, the Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department, and the Home Missions Board. The secretary of the Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department shall serve as chairman.

Section 7. Teen Challenge 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 Home Missions in supervising the work of the department. He shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

b. 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 churches, and 6 of whom shall be proven ministers or laymen from other evangelical groups. Its membership shall consist of the executive director of the Division of Home Missions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God serving as chairman of the board and the secretary of the Teen Challenge Department serving as president, both of whom will serve by virtue of office.

c. Function. The Teen Challenge Department shall assist the local centers through the networking of information, national curriculum, available workers, fund-raising, and public relations. Further, the Teen Challenge Department will oversee the national accreditation of every local center. Teen Challenge endeavors to help people become mentally sound, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, physically well, and spiritually alive.

Section 8. Mission America Placement Service 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 Home Missions in supervising the work of the department. He shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

b. Field representatives. There shall be field representatives who shall be amenable to and serve under the department secretary. Field representatives shall supervise the areas assigned to them.

c. Function. The Mission America Placement Service Department shall coordinate all laypersons' short-term activities of the Division of Home Missions. Its responsibilities shall include:

- (1) Recruit short-term lay volunteers as needed.
- (2) Receive and process requests for short-term lay ministries, including those for individuals or teams.
- (3) Coordinate short-term construction efforts.
- (4) Coordinate summer intern programs.
- (5) Recruit, coordinate, and process requests for short-term RV Volunteers requests for lay ministry.
- (6) Perform other duties as may be assigned by the executive director, Home Missions Administrative Committee, or national Home Missions Board.

Section 9. 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 XXVI. 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 Military Chaplaincy contributions shall be placed in the Military Chaplaincy Fund.

h. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department

- (1) All Chi Alpha campus ministers shall contribute one-half of their tithes to the national Chi Alpha Campus 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 Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department.
 - (3) All Chi Alpha chapters (groups) and International Student Ministry works (programs) shall contribute 5 percent of their budget to the national Chi Alpha Campus 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 XIX. 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 Sales Department, the Marketing Services 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 XX. 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 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.

The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the Committee on Finance by appointment until the term is expired.

(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 \$15 per month from their tithes, or as an offering. Licensed ministers should contribute \$10 per month and certified ministers should contribute \$5 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.

d. 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 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 Fellowship Partnership

Plan for support of the General Council; the Divisions of Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Christian Education, Christian Higher Education (including educational institutions), Church Ministries (including Men's Ministries, Women's Ministries, Music, and Youth Departments), Media Ministries; the executive and Spiritual Life-Evangelism offices; Benevolences Department; and other General Council, regional, and district-sponsored or approved projects. Contributions from districts other than where a district-approved project is located can only be granted World Ministries Giving credit if the district where the contribution originates gives its approval and if the contribution is channeled through that district or the national headquarters. It is expected that the national division related to a given project will be notified of approved projects. It is also understood that no district or region may receive World Ministries Giving credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.

Section 2. 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 3. 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 XXI. 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 University

a. Authorization and purpose. Evangel University of the Assemblies of God, a Christian university of arts and sciences, shall be owned and operated at all times by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The university 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 university shall be delegated to a board of directors in accordance with the provisions of its constitution and bylaws.

c. Amenability. The university 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 university.

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 University of the Assemblies of God

a. Authorization and purpose. Berean University, a nontraditional distance education university of Bible and general Christian service training, providing for ministers and lay persons accredited distance education, based on a Christian worldview, utilizing current technologies to facilitate the evangelization of the world, the nurture of the church, and improvement of society, shall be owned and operated at all times by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The university 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 university shall be delegated to a board of directors in accordance with the provisions of its constitution and bylaws.

c. Amenability. The university 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 university.

Section 6. Maranatha Village

a. Authorization and purpose. Maranatha Village, a retirement home and care center, shall be owned and operated at all times by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Maranatha Village 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 Maranatha Village shall be delegated to a board of directors in accordance with the provisions of its constitution and bylaws.

c. Amenability. Maranatha Village 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 Maranatha Village.

ARTICLE XXII. 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 XXIII. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD FOUNDATION

Section 1. Organization

There shall be an organization known as the Assemblies of God Foundation.

Section 2. Mission

The organization is organized for the exclusive benefit of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and all of its affiliated ministries, including local Assemblies of God churches; district organizations; national, regional, and district Assemblies of God colleges; and national and district ministries.

The organization is formed to establish, promote, fund, extend, and maintain the Christian faith according to the Statement of Fundamental Truths of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

It shall be the responsibility of the organization in its field of activity to fulfill the threefold mission of the church.

Section 3. Administration

There shall be a Board of Directors appointed by the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.

The Board of Directors shall establish an executive committee and such other standing or ad hoc committees as may be needed to carry out the objectives of the corporation.

There shall be a president, one or more vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as may be appointed by the Board of Directors.

The general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors by virtue of office.

The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the board of directors by appointment until the term is expired.

Section 4. Amenability

The organization and Board of Directors shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 5. Fiscal Affairs

The Board of Directors of the Assemblies of God Foundation shall be authorized to receive and invest the funds of the fund according to its bylaws.

The Board of Directors shall direct the president and treasurer to present at a regular meeting of the Board of Directors an annual report verified by said officers, which shall be filed with the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors, and copies shall be transmitted to the Executive Presbytery.

The books of the organization shall be audited annually by a certified public accountant selected by the Board of Directors and reported to the General Presbytery and the General Council in session.

ARTICLE XXIV. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD LOAN FUND**Section 1. Organization**

There shall be an organization known as the Assemblies of God Loan Fund.

Section 2. Mission

The organization is organized for the exclusive benefit of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and all of its affiliated ministries, including local Assemblies of God churches; district organizations; national, regional, and district Assemblies of God colleges; and national and district ministries.

The organization is to establish, promote, fund, extend, and maintain the Christian faith according to the Statement of Fundamental Truths of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

It shall be the responsibility of the organization in its field of activity to fulfill the threefold mission of the church.

Section 3. Administration

There shall be a board of directors appointed by the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.

The board of directors shall establish an executive committee and such other standing or ad hoc committees as may be needed to carry out the objectives of the corporation.

There shall be a president, one or more vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, and such other officers as may be appointed by the board of directors.

The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the board of directors by appointment until the term is expired.

Section 4. Amenability

The organization and board of directors shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 5. Fiscal Affairs

The board of directors of the Assemblies of God Loan Fund shall be authorized to receive and invest the funds of the fund according to its bylaws.

The board of directors shall direct the president and treasurer to present at a regular meeting of the board of directors an annual report, verified by said officers, which shall be filed with the minutes of the meeting of the board of directors, and copies shall be transmitted to the Executive Presbytery.

The books of the organization shall be audited annually by a certified public accountant selected by the board of directors, and such audit shall be included with The General Council of the Assemblies of God annual audit report.

ARTICLE XXV. 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.

The Executive Presbytery may fill a vacancy on the board of directors by appointment until the term is expired.

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 Council or district council officials when applicable.

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 XXVI. 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 officer.

ARTICLE XXVII. 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 XXVIII. 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 XXIX. 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.

INDEX OF 1997 GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Acknowledgments

See APPRECIATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Addition of Northern Pacific Latin American District of the Assemblies of God . . . 76-77

ALLEGIANCE TO SOUND DOCTRINE

Report from Executive Presbytery . . . 17-18

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Greetings from representative . . . 77

APPRECIATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS . . . 8-12

Courtesy Resolution . . . 80-81

ARGUE, DAVID W.

Reelected North Central Area executive presbyter . . . 63-64

ARGUE, DON

National Association of Evangelicals representative . . . 19

ASHCROFT, J. ROBERT

Distinguished Administrator Award [posthumously] . . . 15

ASSISTANT GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

Election of Charles T. Crabtree . . . 34,36

AUDIT REPORTS

General Council and the General Council Affiliates . . . 14

BARNETT, TOMMY

Expression of appreciation to . . . 62

BARTHOLOMEW, ALMON

Reelected Northeast Area executive presbyter . . . 66-67

BENSON, M. WAYNE

Elected Great Lakes Area executive presbyter . . . 65

BERKEY, EDWARD B.

Elected honorary general presbyter . . . 57

BETZER, DAN

Reelected Southeast Area executive presbyter . . . 67-68

BIENNIAL REPORT, 1995-97 . . . 13

BRANDT, ROBERT L

Reelected Northwest Area executive presbyter . . . 59-60

BRIDGES, JAMES K.

Report of general treasurer . . . 14

General Presbytery nomination as general treasurer . . . 38-39

Reelected general treasurer . . . 39

BUENO, L. JOHN

Elected executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions. . . 44-45

CELEBRATION 2000, Announcement of . . . 69

CHO, YI SHIK,

Presentation to Korean Delegation . . . 46

CLOSED CAPTIONING FOR THE DEAF, Resolution 11 . . . 50-51

COMMUNION SERVICE . . . 82

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ethnic Representation on Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery . . . 23-28

Ministers From Other Organizations . . . 16-17

COMMISSIONS, Question on . . . 77

CONVOY OF HOPE MINISTRY . . . 13

CREDENTIALS

Credentialing of Divorced Individuals, Resolution 9 [Lost] . . . 31-33; 34, 45-46

Credentialing of Persons Convicted Criminally of Child Sexual Abuse . . . 46-47

DAVIS, BILLIE

Excellence in Education Award . . . 16

DAVIS, JIMMY

Presentation by evangelists representative . . . 70

DISNEY BOYCOTT

Request to consider resolution [Declared inappropriate] . . . 78

General Presbytery Resolution presented . . . 78-80

DIVISIONAL AND DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS, BIENNIAL . . . 13

DUNSBURG, DR. LARS B., International Bible Society representative/president . . . 69

EASTMAN, DICK

Prayer Breakfast speaker . . . 7

Prayer and praise leader . . . 35,49,73

EDUCATION AWARDS

Distinguished Administrator . . . 15

Distinguished Educators . . . 15

Excellence in Christian Education, Billie Davis . . . 16

ETHNICITY, NATIONAL COMMISSION ON, Resolution 22 . . . 70-72

EVANGELISTS PRESENTATION

Davis, Jimmy, representative . . . 70

EVANGELISTS REPRESENTATION ON THE GENERAL PRESBYTERY, Resolution 2 . . . 21-23

EVANGEL UNIVERSITY, Resolution 24 . . . 75-76

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS/EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY

ELECTION OF NONRESIDENT . . . 59-69

Great Lakes Area . . . 65

Gulf Area . . . 65-66

MINUTES

Language Area . . .	68-69
North Central Area . . .	63-64
Northeast Area . . .	66-67
Northwest Area . . .	59-60
South Central Area . . .	64
Southeast Area . . .	67-68
Southwest Area . . .	60-62
ELECTED/REELECTED	
Argue, David W., North Central Area . . .	63-64
Bartholomew, Almon, Northeast Area . . .	66-67
Benson, M. Wayne, Great Lakes Area . . .	65
Betzer, Dan, Southeast Area . . .	67-68
Brandt, Robert L., Northwest Area . . .	59-60
Dresselhaus, Richard, Southwest Area . . .	60-62
Miranda, Jesse, Language Area . . .	68-69
Newburn, Armon, South Central Area . . .	64
Wannenmacher, Philip, Gulf Area . . .	65-66
EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY	
Allegiance to Sound Doctrine, Report . . .	17-18
Local Church Autonomy, Commission on, Report . . .	18
Ministerial Opportunities . . .	18-19
FERRIN, PAUL, Musical praise and worship leader . . .	7
FILLING OF VACANCIES ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS,	
Resolution 15 . . .	53-55
FOREIGN MISSIONS, DIVISION OF	
Election of executive director . . .	44-45
Expression from Loren Triplett . . .	44
FREEMAN, CHARLES "CHUCK"	
Recipient of Superintendent's Medal of Honor . . .	37-38
GENERAL PRESBYTERS, HONORARY	
Edward B. Berkey . . .	57
Robert J. Gatlin . . .	28
Cecil T. Janway . . .	29
T. Burton Pierce . . .	29
Wm. Nelson Sachs . . .	30
Irvin G. Steiding . . .	57-58
Loren Triplett . . .	58
Norman E. Wenig . . .	58-59
GENERAL SECRETARY	
Report of George O. Wood . . .	14
Reelection of . . .	36-37
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT	
Report of Thomas E. Trask . . .	13

INDEX

Medal of Honor Recipients	
Charles "Chuck" Freeman . . .	37-38
Raymond A. Neill . . .	38
Elizabeth Zimmerman . . .	37
Reelection of . . .	33-34
GENERAL TREASURER	
Report of James K. Bridges . . .	14
General Council Audit Report . . .	14
Nomination of James K. Bridges by General Presbytery . . .	38-39
Reelection of . . .	39
GRANT, DAVID	
Sunday evening speaker . . .	100
GRIFFIN, SHIRLEY	
Recipient of Billie Davis Excellence in Christian Education Award . . .	16
HABECKER, EUGENE	
American Bible Society president/representative . . .	77
HACKETT, CHARLES E.	
General Presbytery nomination for executive director of Division of Home Missions . . .	48
Reelected Division of Home Missions executive director . . .	48
Speaker for Communion/Memorial Service . . .	82
HOME MISSIONS, DIVISION OF	
General Presbytery nomination for executive director . . .	48
Reelection of executive director . . .	48
HONORBOUND: MEN OF PROMISE	
Presentation by Ron Roberts . . .	46
Resolution 12 . . .	51
INTERNATIONAL BIBLE SOCIETY	
Dr. Lars B. Dunberg, president/representative . . .	69
KIM, NAM SOO, Report on Korea . . .	73
LANGUAGE AREA	
Ethnicity, National Commission on, Resolution 22 . . .	70-72
Jesse Miranda reelected as executive presbyter . . .	68-69
LOCAL CHURCH AUTONOMY, COMMISSION ON	
Report from Executive Presbytery . . .	18
MEMORIAL LISTING . . .	
82-99	
MINISTERIAL ENRICHMENT PRESENTATION . . .	
47-48	
MINISTERIAL OPPORTUNITIES, Report from Executive Presbytery . . .	
18-19	
MINISTERS FROM OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, Resolution 1 . . .	
16-17	
MIRANDA, JESSE	
Reelected Language Area executive presbyter . . .	68-69

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS

Greetings from representative . . . 19

NATIONAL MINISTERS DAY, Resolution 16 . . . 55

NEWBURN, ARMON

Reelected South Central Area executive presbyter . . . 64

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE . . . 9

Pentecostal Evangel Video presentation . . . 59

PERSECUTED CHURCH WORLDWIDE, THE, Resolution 17 . . . 55-56

PRAYER BREAKFAST, GENERAL COUNCIL . . . 7

Dick Eastman, speaker . . . 7

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Waiver oral reading of resolutions printed and mailed prior to General Council . . . 20

PROJECT 2000, HISPANIC

Faith pledges for launching . . . 35

REELECTION, SIMPLE MAJORITY, Resolution 13 . . . 51

RESOLUTIONS

1. Ministers From Other Organizations . . . 20-21
2. Evangelists Representation on the General Presbytery . . . 21-23
3. Ethnic Representation on Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery . . . 23-28
4. Honorary General Presbyter: Robert J. Gatlin . . . 28
5. Honorary General Presbyter: Cecil T. Janway . . . 29
6. Honorary General Presbyter: T. Burton Pierce . . . 29
7. Honorary General Presbyter: Wm. Nelson Sachs . . . 30
8. Equivalency Examinations . . . 30-31
9. Credentialing of Divorced & Remarried Individuals [Lost] . . . 31-33;34,38
10. Credentialing of Persons Convicted Criminally of Child Abuse . . . 46-47
11. Closed Captioning for Deaf & Hard-of Hearing People (to EP with power to act) . . . 50-51
12. HonorBound: Men of Promise . . . 51
13. Reelection--Simple Majority [Postponed indefinitely] . . . 51-52
14. Vacancy--Executive Offices . . . 52-53
15. Filling of Vacancies on Boards, Committees, and Commissions . . . 53-55
16. National Ministers Day . . . 55
17. The Persecuted Church Worldwide . . . 55-56
18. Honorary General Presbyter: Edward B. Berkey . . . 57
19. Honorary General Presbyter: Irvin G. Steiding . . . 57-58

20. Honorary General Presbyter: Loren Triplett . . . 58

21. Honorary General Presbyter: Norman E. Wenig . . . 58-59

22. National Commission on Ethnicity . . . 70-72

23. Senior Adult Ministries Commission . . . 74-75

24. Evangel College Name Change . . . 75-76

25. Addition of Northern Pacific Latin American District of the Assemblies of God . . . 76-77

26. Courtesy . . . 80-81

Right of Sponsorship [vote to consider as an emergency resolution [lost] . . . 77-78

Disney Corporation, Consideration of declared inappropriate . . . 78-80

RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE . . . 9

RIGHT OF SPONSORSHIP RESOLUTION [Lost] . . . 77-78

ROSTER COMMITTEE . . . 9

Reports of . . . 13,16,35,44,49,69,73-74

SAN JUAN '98, ANNOUNCEMENT OF . . . 72

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES, Resolution 23 . . . 74-75

SOUND DOCTRINE, ALLEGIANCE TO, Report . . . 17-18

SPEAKERS

Janie Boulware-Wcad . . . 35

Doug Clay . . . 73

Dick Eastman . . . 7

Charles E. Hackett . . . 82

Rijfkgel, Sam . . . 81

Thomas E. Trask . . . 7

Paul L. Walker . . . 49

SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE . . . 9

Report of . . . 39-43

THOMAS, ALMA

Recipient of Distinguished Educator Award . . . 15

TRASK, THOMAS E.

Keynote address . . . 7

Report of general superintendent . . . 13

Reelection as general superintendent . . . 16,33-34

Superintendent's Medal of Honor Presentations . . . 37-38

TRIPLETT, LOREN

Greetings from . . . 44

Election as honorary general presbyter . . . 58

WAIVER OF ORAL READING OF PRINTED AND MAILED RESOLUTIONS . . . 20

WALKER, DR. PAUL

Thursday evening speaker . . . 49

WANNENMACHER, PHILIP

- Reelected Gulf Area executive presbyter . . . 65-66
- WARD, DOROTHY (MRS. C. M.)
 - Recognition of . . . 51
- We Build People* Presentation . . . 56
- WENIG, NORMAN E.
 - Elected honorary general presbyter . . . 58-59
- WOOD, GEORGE O.
 - REPORT OF GENERAL SECRETARY . . . 14
 - REELECTED AS GENERAL SECRETARY . . . 36-37
- WORLD ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CONGRESS, 1997 . . . 19,57
- WORLD MINISTRIES GIVING AWARDS . . . 43-44
- WRIGHT, HECTOR A. HUNTER
 - Greetings from Assemblies of God in Cuba . . . 70
- ZIMMERMAN, ELIZABETH (MRS. THOMAS F.)
 - Recipient of Superintendent's Medal of Honor . . . 37

INDEX FOR CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

- Administration, Board of . . . 111
 - Duties . . . 128
- Adorable Godhead, The . . . 105-106
- Aged Ministers Assistance . . . 206
- Amendments
 - Bylaws . . . 213
 - Constitution . . . 116
- Amillennialism . . . 147
- Annulments and marriage dissolution . . . 136-137
- Appeals
 - Boards of
 - Appointed by Executive Presbytery . . . 165
 - Foreign Missions . . . 187
 - General Presbytery . . . 128
 - Home Missions . . . 194
 - Church . . . 115
- Area divisions . . . 120-121
- Assemblies (Bylaws)
 - Affiliation . . . 132
 - Preservation of . . . 134
 - Procedure for . . . 134
 - Annual report . . . 133
 - Minimal membership . . . 134
 - New assemblies from a division . . . 134-135
 - Organizational assistance . . . 134
 - Relationships . . . 133-134
 - Safeguarding the . . . 133
 - Transfer of membership . . . 135
- Assemblies, local (Constitution) . . . 114-116
 - District council affiliated . . . 115
 - General council affiliated . . . 114
 - Requirements . . . 114
 - Right of appeal . . . 115
 - Sovereign rights . . . 115
 - Support of General Council and district council . . . 115
 - World Ministries participation . . . 116
- Assemblies of God
 - Dissolution . . . 116
 - Membership . . . 110
 - Name . . . 104
 - Nature . . . 104

Prerogatives . . . 104
 Principles for fellowship . . . 104
 Relationships . . . 110
 Assemblies of God Loan Fund . . . 210-211
 Assemblies of God Foundation . . . 209-210
 Assemblies of God Theological Seminary . . . 208
 Assistant general superintendent
 Duties . . . 125
 Election procedure . . . 119
 Audit Department . . . 205
 Baptism
 Holy Ghost . . . 107
 Water . . . 107
 Benevolences Department . . . 205-206
 Aged Ministers Assistance . . . 206
 Funds . . . 206
 Homes . . . 206-207
 Institutions . . . 207-209
 Berean University of the Assemblies of God . . . 208-209
 Nontraditional education . . . 208
 Blessed hope, The . . . 109
 Board of directors
 Assemblies of God Loan Fund . . . 211
 Assemblies of God Theological Seminary . . . 208
 Berean University of the Assemblies of God . . . 208
 Central Bible College . . . 207
 Evangel University . . . 207-208
 Executive Presbytery . . . 112
 Ministers Benefit Association . . . 211-212
 Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade (BGMC) . . . 177
 Broadcast Ministries Department . . . 185
 Central Bible College . . . 207
 Certificates
 Church . . . 133
 Endorsement, Postsecondary schools . . . 173
 Ministers . . . 139
 Transfer . . . 143
 Chaplaincy Department . . . 197-198
 Chaplains
 Commission on . . . 195, 197
 Industrial and institutional . . . 197-198
 Military . . . 198
 Charges, preparation and filing of . . . 155

Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department . . . 198-199
 Administrative committee . . . 195, 199
 Christian Education, Division of . . . 174-178
 Board of Christian Education . . . 175-176
 Christian schools . . . 178
 National director . . . 174
 Sunday School Curriculum and Literature Department . . . 176
 Sunday School Field Ministries and Literature Sales
 Department . . . 177-178
 Sunday School Promotion and Training Department . . . 176-177
 Christian Higher Education, Commission on . . . 170-174
 Christian Higher Education Department . . . 172-174
 Commission chairman . . . 170
 Commission on Christian Higher Education . . . 122-123, 170-172
 Resource Development . . . 174
 Christian Marriage and Family . . . 145-146
 Church and its mission, The . . . 108-109
 Church Loan Department
 See Assemblies of God Loan Fund . . . 210-211
 Church Ministries, Division of . . . 178-184
 Men's Ministries Department . . . 179
 Music Department . . . 180
 National Director . . . 178
 Senior Adult Ministries Commission . . . 180-181
 Women's Ministries Department . . . 181-182
 Youth Department . . . 182-183
 College representation on General Presbytery . . . 112, 122
 Committees
 Credentials . . . 129
 Other . . . 130
 Resolutions . . . 129-130
 Roster . . . 129
 Spiritual Life . . . 130
 Standing . . . 128
 Communion, Holy . . . 107
 Conference status . . . 130
 Conscientious objector . . . 209
 Constitutional Declaration . . . 103-104
 Reason-for-being . . . 103
 Cooperative fellowship . . . 103, 134
Counselor, Christian Education . . . 177
 Credentials

- Basic educational requirements . . . 136
- Committee . . . 129
- Renewals and reinstatement . . . 143-144
- Restoration of . . . 159-160, 165
 - Authorization of . . . 159-160
 - Rehabilitation obligatory . . . 160
 - Reinstatements of lapsed ministers . . . 144
 - Reinstatements of other than dismissed ministers . . . 144
 - Renewals and Reinstatements . . . 143-144
 - Terminology . . . 143-144
 - Time-lapse . . . 160
- Termination . . . 144-145
 - Affiliation with another church organization . . . 145
 - Initiative of district . . . 145
 - Initiative of minister . . . 144
 - Referral to General Council Credentials Committee . . . 158-159
 - Right of Appeal . . . 160-161
- Transfer of . . . 143
- Date-setting for the Lord's return . . . 147
- Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ . . . 106
- Disabled ministers . . . 140
- Discipline . . . 152-165
 - Attitude toward those disciplined . . . 152
 - Causes of . . . 153-154, 156
 - Charges, preparation and filing of . . . 155
 - Hearings . . . 155-156
 - Initiative in . . . 154
 - General Council responsibility . . . 154
 - Home district responsibility . . . 154
 - Prior right . . . 154
 - Investigation of reports . . . 154-155
 - Nature and purpose . . . 152-153
 - Publication of dismissal . . . 159
 - Rehabilitation . . . 158
 - Referral to Credentials Committee . . . 158-159
 - Reinstatement
 - Application for . . . 159-160
 - Fee . . . 160
 - Rehabilitation obligatory . . . 160
 - Time-lapse for . . . 160
 - Relationship between district and General Council . . . 153
 - Right of appeal . . . 160

- Right of initiative . . . 154
- Trial by jury . . . 160-165
- Dismissal . . . 158-159
- Dissolution
 - District councils . . . 132
 - General Council . . . 116
- Distance Education University
 - See Berean University of the Assemblies of God . . . 208-209
- District councils
 - Amenability to General Council . . . 114
 - Area of supervision . . . 113
 - Areas of authority . . . 114
 - Boundaries . . . 131
 - Conference status . . . 130
 - Cooperative relationship . . . 131
 - Credentialing authority . . . 113-114
 - Dissolution of . . . 132
 - Formation of new districts . . . 130-131
 - Guidelines . . . 130
 - Language . . . 113, 131
 - Membership . . . 113
 - New districts, formation of . . . 130-131
 - Officers . . . 131
 - Voting constituency . . . 131
- District membership
 - Foreign missionaries . . . 142
 - Home missionaries . . . 142
 - Ministers . . . 142
 - Pastors . . . 142
- Divine healing . . . 109
- Divorce and remarriage
 - Church leadership . . . 149
 - Church membership . . . 148
 - Ministerial credentials . . . 149
 - Performing ceremony for divorced . . . 149
- Doctrinal Purity, Commission on . . . 146
- Doctrines
 - Approved . . . 105-110
 - Disapproved . . . 146-152
- Duties of
 - Assistant general superintendent . . . 125
 - Board of Administration . . . 128

- Executive director of Foreign Missions . . . 126
- Executive director of Home Missions . . . 126-127
- Executive Presbytery . . . 127-128
- General Presbytery . . . 128
- General secretary . . . 125
- General superintendent . . . 124
- General treasurer . . . 125-126
- Ecumenical movement . . . 152
- Education, Board of Christian
 - Selection of members . . . 175
- Elections
 - Officers . . . 119
 - Nominations . . . 119-124
 - Executive director of Foreign Missions . . . 120
 - Executive director of Home Missions . . . 120
 - General treasurer . . . 119
 - Nonresident executive presbyters . . . 120-121
- Electronic Media Board . . . 184-185
 - Media Coordinating Committee . . . 184-185
- Enrichment Journal* . . . 168
- Eschatological errors . . . 147-148
- Ethnic Fellowships . . . 132
- Ethnicity, Commission on . . . 168
- Evangel University . . . 207-208
- Executive officers . . . 111
 - Vacancies . . . 123
- Executive presbyters, nonresident . . . 120-121, 123
 - Election procedure . . . 120-121
 - Vacancies . . . 123
- Executive Presbytery . . . 112
 - Duties of . . . 127-128
- Executive Salary Review Committee . . . 128
- Fall of man . . . 106-107
- Fellowship certificates, renewal of . . . 143-144
- Fellowship Partnership . . . 204
- Final judgment, The . . . 110
- Finance Department . . . 203-205
 - Finance, Committee on . . . 203
 - Investment Committee . . . 203
- Financial responsibility
 - Chaplains
 - Industrial and institutional . . . 142
 - Military . . . 142

- Foreign missionaries . . . 142
- Headquarters . . . 203-204
 - Churches . . . 204
 - Ministers . . . 203-204
- Home missionaries . . . 200
- Foreign missionaries . . . 190-191
 - Appointment . . . 190-191
 - Candidates . . . 190-191
 - Ordination . . . 191
 - Property . . . 192-193
 - Specialized . . . 191
 - Support of . . . 191
- Foreign Missions, Division of . . . 185-193
 - Administrative assistant . . . 186
 - Board . . . 186-187
 - Selection of members . . . 186
 - Committee (administrative) . . . 187
 - Communications Department . . . 189
 - Executive director . . . 120, 186
 - Duties . . . 126
 - Election procedure . . . 120
 - Field directors . . . 187
 - Field organizations . . . 192
 - Finance Department . . . 189
 - General Presbytery representatives . . . 121, 188
 - Laymen's Advisory Council . . . 122-123, 187
 - Missionary candidates . . . 190-191
 - Missions Abroad Placement Service (MAPS) Department . . . 190
 - Personnel and Family Life Department . . . 188
 - U. S. Relations Department . . . 188
 - Research Department . . . 189-190
 - Property of . . . 192-193
 - Support of . . . 191
- Fundamental Truths, Statement of . . . 105-110
- General Council
 - Meetings . . . 111
 - Order of business . . . 212-213
 - Quorum . . . 213
 - Special sessions . . . 111
 - Membership . . . 110
 - Relationships . . . 110
- General presbyters

- Alternate . . . 124
- Auditors . . . 113, 122
- Election procedure . . . 121, 122
- Honorary . . . 113, 122
- Vacancies . . . 123
- General Presbytery . . . 112, 121-122
 - Alternate . . . 124
 - Auditors . . . 113, 122
 - College representation . . . 112, 122
 - District representation . . . 121
 - Duties . . . 128
 - Ethnic Fellowship representative . . . 112-113, 122
 - Evangelists representative . . . 122
 - Foreign missions representation . . . 112, 121-122
 - Honorary . . . 113, 122
 - Representation . . . 112-113
- General secretary
 - Duties . . . 125
 - Election procedure . . . 119
- General superintendent
 - Duties . . . 124-125
 - Election procedure . . . 119
 - Office of . . . 166-169
- General treasurer
 - Duties . . . 125-126
 - Election procedure . . . 119
- Godhead, The Adorable . . . 105-106
- Gospel Publishing House . . . 202
- Headquarters, support of . . . 203-204
 - Churches . . . 204
 - Ministers . . . 203-204
- Home Missions, Division of . . . 193-201
 - Board . . . 194
 - Chaplaincy Department . . . 197-198
 - Chaplains, Commission on . . . 186, 195, 197
 - Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department . . . 198-199
 - Administrative committee . . . 195, 199
 - Committee (Administrative) . . . 194
 - District membership . . . 142
 - Executive director . . . 194
 - Duties . . . 126-127
 - Election procedure . . . 120
 - Intercultural Ministries Department . . . 196-197

- Mission America Placement Service (MAPS) Department . . . 199-200
- New Church Evangelism Department . . . 195-196
- Representatives . . . 200
- Support of . . . 200-201
- Teen Challenge Department . . . 199
 - Teen Challenge Board . . . 199
- Homes
 - Aged . . . 206-207
 - Children's . . . 207
 - Missionary . . . 207
- Honorary general presbyters . . . 113, 122
- Inactive ministers . . . 140
- Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy
 - See: Chaplaincy Department . . . 197-198
- Initial physical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Ghost . . . 108
- Institutions . . . 207-209
 - Assemblies of God Theological Seminary . . . 208
 - Berean University of the Assemblies of God . . . 208-209
 - Central Bible College . . . 207
 - Evangel University . . . 207-208
 - Maranatha Village . . . 209
- Intercultural Ministries Department . . . 196-197
- Language districts . . . 113, 121, 131-132
 - Church transfer procedure . . . 132
 - Equality . . . 131
 - Recognition qualifications . . . 131
 - Relationship to geographical district . . . 131
- Language groups . . . 113, 121, 131-132
- Lapse of credentials . . . 144
- Late fee . . . 144
- Legalism . . . 147
- License to preach . . . 135, 138
- Local assemblies
 - See: Assemblies and Assemblies, local . . . 114-116
- Maranatha Village . . . 209
- Marketing Sales Department . . . 201
- Marketing Services Department . . . 201
- Marriage
 - Christian marriage and family . . . 145-146
 - Marriage, common-law . . . 148
- Media Center . . . 185
 - Electronic Media Board . . . 184-185
 - Media Coordinating Committee . . . 184-185

INDEX

Meetings . . . 111
 Membership . . . 110
 Men's Ministries Department . . . 179
 Military
 See: Chaplaincy Department . . . 197-198
 Military service . . . 209
 Millennial reign of Christ . . . 109-110
 Ministerial Enrichment
 See: Enrichment Journal . . . 168
 Ministers
 See also: Credentials, Discipline, and Ministry
 Courtesy violations by . . . 151
 Discipline of . . . 152-165
 District membership . . . 142
 Preaching requirements of . . . 137-139
 Relationships . . . 141-143
 Resigned 144-145
 Status changes . . . 145
 Transfers . . . 143
 Ministers Benefit Association . . . 211-212
 Ministers from other organizations . . . 137
 Ministry . . . 109, 135-145
 Categories of
 Active . . . 139-140
 Certified minister . . . 138
 Disabled . . . 140
 Inactive . . . 140
 Licensed . . . 138
 Ordained . . . 138-139
 Senior . . . 140-141
 Categories of . . . 141
 Support of headquarters . . . 141
 Terminology . . . 140-141
 Specialized (nonpreaching) . . . 138
 Certificates of
 Categories of . . . 139
 Renewal of . . . 143-144
 Credentials
 Transfer
 From district . . . 143
 From other organizations . . . 137
 Described . . . 135

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Educational requirements . . . 136
 In non-Assemblies church . . . 151-152
 Marriage
 Annulment of . . . 136
 Dissolution of . . . 136
 Status . . . 136
 Ministerial relations . . . 141-143
 Official list . . . 139-140
 Privileged communications . . . 145
 Qualifications
 Basic . . . 135-137
 Specific . . . 137-139
 Women, eligibility . . . 137
 Mission, The Church and Its . . . 108-109
 Missionary
 Homes . . . 207
 Schools on mission fields . . . 207
 Music Department . . . 180
 Name . . . 104
 National directors . . . 169-170
 Nature . . . 104
 New Church Evangelism Department . . . 195-196
 New heavens and the new earth . . . 110
 Nominations and elections . . . 119-124
 Non-Assemblies church, Ministry in a . . . 151-152
 Not renewed . . . 145
 Officers
 Duties . . . 124-126
 Election of . . . 119-124
 Executive . . . 111-113
 One true God . . . 105
 Order of business . . . 212-213
 Ordinances of the church . . . 107
 Holy Communion . . . 107
 Water baptism . . . 107
 Ordination . . . 138-139
 Parliamentary order . . . 119
Pentecostal Evangel . . . 167
 Post-Tribulation rapture . . . 147
 Practices disapproved . . . 146-152
 Preaching requirements
 Certified minister . . . 138

- Licensed . . . 138
- Ordained . . . 138-139
- Prerogatives . . . 104
- Principles for fellowship . . . 104
- Private ownership of religious institutions . . . 151
- Privileged communications . . . 145
- Production Department . . . 201
- Publication, Division of . . . 201-202
 - Board of . . . 201-202
 - Gospel Publishing House . . . 202
 - Marketing Sales Department . . . 201
 - Marketing Services Department . . . 201
 - National director . . . 201
 - Production Department . . . 201
- Public Relations, Office of . . . 167
- Quorum . . . 213
- Rapture
 - Date-setting . . . 147
 - Post-Tribulation . . . 147
- Reason-for-being . . . 103
- Regions (See: Area divisions) . . . 120-121
- Rehabilitation . . . 156-158
 - Basis . . . 157
 - Eligibility . . . 158
 - Period of time . . . 157
 - Previous dismissal . . . 158
 - Procedure and requirements . . . 157-158
 - Transfer of information . . . 158
- Reinstatement . . . 143-144
 - Application for . . . 159-160
 - Definition of . . . 143-144, 165
 - Fee . . . 144, 160
 - Lapsed minister . . . 144
 - Other than dismissed minister . . . 144
 - Required after January 15 . . . 144
 - Terminology . . . 143-144
- Relationships . . . 110
- Remarriage . . . 149
- Renewal fee . . . 144
- Residency requirements . . . 139
- Resolutions Committee . . . 129
 - Appropriateness of resolution

- Determined by . . . 130
- Right of appeal . . . 130
- Presentation
 - Format . . . 130
 - Procedure . . . 129
- Sponsorship policy . . . 129
- Restitution of all things . . . 147
- Right of Initiative . . . 111
- Roster Committee . . . 129
- Salaries, elected officers . . . 128
- Salvation of man . . . 107
- Sanctification . . . 108
- Scriptures, Inspired . . . 105
- Secret orders . . . 148
- Senior ministers . . . 140-141
- Solicitation of funds . . . 150-151
- Sovereign rights . . . 115
- Special sessions
 - Right of initiative . . . 111
- Speed-the-Light offerings . . . 212
- Spiritual Life Committee . . . 130
- Spiritual Life-Evangelism . . . 166
- Standing committees . . . 128-129
- Statement of Fundamental Truths . . . 105-110
- Stewardship
 - Abuses of . . . 150
- Sunday School Curriculum and Literature Department . . . 176
- Sunday School Field Ministry and Literature Sales Department . . . 177-178
- Sunday School Promotion and Training Department . . . 176-177
- Support of headquarters . . . 203-204
 - Assemblies . . . 204
 - Ministers . . . 203-204
- Teen Challenge Department . . . 199
 - Teen Challenge Board . . . 195, 199
- Tithing . . . 150
 - Support of headquarters . . . 203-204
- Transfer of credentials . . . 143
- Treasury, Division of . . . 203-207
 - Audit Department . . . 205
 - Benevolences Department . . . 205-207
 - Church Loan Department
 - See: Assemblies of God Loan Fund . . . 210-211

- Executive Director . . . 202
- Finance, Committee on . . . 203
- Finance Department . . . 203-205
- Investment Committee . . . 203
- Support of headquarters . . . 203-204
- World Ministries Giving . . . 204-205
- Trial by jury . . . 160-165
 - Appeal
 - Basis for . . . 164-165
 - Denial of . . . 161
 - Filing of . . . 160
 - Right of . . . 160
 - Authorization for . . . 160
 - Conduct of . . . 162
 - Counsel . . . 162
 - Judge . . . 161
 - Jury . . . 161
 - Notice of . . . 162
 - Order of . . . 163-164
 - Record and report of . . . 163
 - Review by
 - Appeals Board . . . 165
 - General Presbytery . . . 165
 - Surrender of credentials . . . 161
 - Time and place . . . 161-162
 - Verdict . . . 164
 - Witnesses . . . 163
- Unconditional security . . . 146-147
- Universalism . . . 147
- Vacancies
 - Executive officers . . . 123
 - General presbyters . . . 124
 - Nonresident executive presbyters . . . 123-124
- Violations of ministerial courtesy . . . 151
- Voting constituency . . . 110-111, 131
- Women, Credentialing of . . . 137
- Women's Ministries Department . . . 181-182
- World Ministries Giving . . . 204-205
- World Missions Plan . . . 212
- Worldliness . . . 150
- Youth Department . . . 182-184
 - Youth Committee, National . . . 183

Statements Adopted by the General Council

- Divorce and Remarriage, #34-4189, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95, 100 for \$39.95
- †* Charismatic Study Report, 5 or more, 10¢ each
- †* Church Division, Manual for Districts and Ministers, 5 or more, 10¢ each
- †* Pornography, 5 or more, 10¢ each
- †* Sanctity of Human Life (*Abortion Statement*), 5 or more, 10¢ each
- †* AIDS, 5 or more, 10¢ each

Statements Adopted by the General Presbytery

- Abortion, A Biblical Perspective on, #34-4188, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Abstinence, #34-4187, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- † Assemblies of God Philosophy of Education (order from Christian Higher Education Department)
- † Bylaws for Local Assemblies, #02-0819, 60¢ each; \$5.95 for 12
- Can Born-Again Believers Be Demon Possessed?, #34-4176, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Creation, Doctrine of, #34-4177, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Deacons and Trustees, Qualifications and Responsibilities of, #34-4171, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Discipleship and Submission Movement, #34-4174, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Divine Healing, An Integral Part of the Gospel, #34-4184, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Eternal Punishment, #34-4172, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Gambling, A Biblical Perspective on #34-4186, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Homosexuality, #34-4181, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Inerrancy of Scripture, The, #34-4175, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, The, #34-4185, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Kingdom of God as Described in Holy Scriptures, The, #34-4190, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- †* Kingdom Now, white paper, 35¢ each; 12-99 33¢; 100 or more 30¢ each
- Ministry of the Body of Christ, The, #34-4179, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- † Ordination, #02-0821, \$2.95 each
- Positive Confession, The Believer and, #34-4183, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Rapture of the Church, #34-4182, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Role of Women in Ministry, The, #34-4191, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Security of the Believer, #34-4178, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Theology of Ministry, The, #34-4192, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Transcendental Meditation, #34-4173, 49¢ each; 12 for \$4.95; 100 for \$39.95
- Position Paper Packet, #34-4180, \$5.95 each
- Where We Stand (*Book of position papers*) Paperback, #02-0670, \$3.95; Loose-leaf, #02-0674, \$4.50

* May be obtained by writing the General Secretary's Office. All others should be ordered through Gospel Publishing House.

† Not included in position paper packet or book.
Prices subject to change without notice.