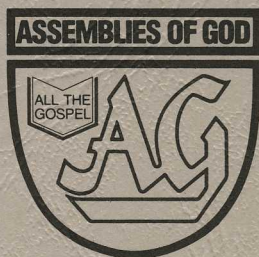


MINUTES

Revised Constitution and Bylaws

The General Council of the Assemblies of God



48th GENERAL COUNCIL

Orlando, Florida

August 10-13, 1999

MINUTES
of the
48th Session of
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
of the
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Convened at Orlando, Florida
August 10-13, 1999
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)

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THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

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

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FOREWORD

“Serving Our Generation” was the theme for our 48th General Council in Orlando, Florida, August 10-13, 1999. Today more than ever our Fellowship needs people who are willing to do what God calls them to do with humble, servant hearts. Our generation will only be reached as all of us take responsibility for preaching and living the gospel through our lives. “Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45, NIV).

GEORGE O. WOOD
GENERAL SECRETARY

**MINUTES OF
THE 48TH GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
CONVENED AT ORLANDO, FLORIDA
AUGUST 10-13, 1999**

TUESDAY EVENING—AUGUST 10

The opening service of the 48th General Council began at 7 p.m. in the Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida, following 20 minutes of pre-service music provided by "The Sound," a male quartet from Houston, Texas. Assistant General Superintendent Charles T. Crabtree served as chairman for the service. Paul Ferrin, director of the Music Department, led the congregation in praise and worship. Ramona Crabtree, Springfield, Missouri, and Marjorie Ferrin, Colorado Springs, Colorado, served at the piano and organ, respectively.

Welcome and greetings were extended to the delegates of the 48th General Council by Terry Raburn, superintendent of the Peninsular Florida District, and Edward Martinez, superintendent of the Southeastern Spanish District. Mel Martinez, Orange County chairman, also extended greetings from the city of Orlando.

Terry Raburn received the offering and the offertory was a trumpet solo by Ryan Anthony, Lakewood, Ohio. Edward Martinez read the Scripture and offered prayer for the General Council in session. A mass choir from the churches in the Orlando area provided music, directed by Paul Ferrin.

Prior to the message of the evening a video of the Spiritual Life Report was presented.

The keynote message for the 48th General Council was brought by General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask. His message was from Acts 20:24-31 and presented "Seven Challenges for the Assemblies of God as We Move Into the 21st Century." He called on Assemblies of God leaders and laity to:

1. Remain doctrinally sound;
2. Be a people given to prayer and fasting;
3. Prepare young people for an experience *with*, not just *about*, God in our Christian higher education institutions;
4. Provide music for all segments of the congregation to worship;
5. Evangelize and make disciples in the present harvest;
6. Be a church that is Spirit-dependent and Spirit-led; and
7. Be a Pentecostal church with the fire of Pentecost burning.

Moving through each of his seven challenges, Trask urged ministers to expound the Word of God. The doctrines of the church are not negotiable. As ministers we must be fully persuaded individually that what we preach and teach is the whole counsel of God.

WEDNESDAY MORNING—AUGUST 11

Sacred Gathering

The Wednesday session began at 8 a.m. with a Sacred Gathering chaired by Thomas E. Trask. Paul Ferrin led the congregation in praise and worship. Ramona Crabtree, Springfield, Missouri, and Marjorie Ferrin, Colorado Springs, Colorado, served at the piano and organ, respectively. Scripture was read by James K. Bridges, general treasurer, and prayer was offered by Charles T. Crabtree, assistant general superintendent. Bill Bright, president of Campus Crusade for Christ, brought greetings and spoke briefly.

In memory of those ministers who have passed away since the last meeting of the General Council a video scroll was presented. George Wood, general secretary, presided over this part of the service. He called attention to the *Book of Memory* which was on display. Music was provided during the playing of the scroll by gospel singer Larry Ford. Following the presentation of the scroll, 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.

In Memoriam

The following list includes all whose names had been reported to the general secretary's office from June 1, 1997, to May 31, 1999, and were included in the video presentation:

Abbott, Robert M., Springfield, Missouri
Acevedo, Rafael, Mission, Texas
Alire, Juan F., San Jose, California
Allen, David R., Battle Creek, Michigan
Allen, Logan, Shawnee, Kansas
Ammons, Lemuel F., Lindale, Texas
Andersen, Magnes S., North Loup, Nebraska
Anderson, Edgar R., Irving, Texas
Anderson, Edward W., Everett, Washington
Andes, William C., Strasburg, Virginia
Andrews, Jack A., Seattle, Washington
Anglin, Oliver L., Sr., Cleveland, Texas
Anglin, William H., Southport, Florida
Antolic, Richard H., Pennsauken, New Jersey
Archuleta, Francisco, Grants, New Mexico
Ariza, Romualdo E., Roxbury, Massachusetts
Armstrong, Blanche, Saint Thomas, Pennsylvania
Arnold, Leonard H., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Arnold, Percy Q., Natchez, Mississippi
Ashbrook, Edna T., West Monroe, Louisiana

Avery, James W., Porterville, California
Ayala, Jose J., Longmont, Colorado
Bailey, Bobby R., Lebanon, Ohio
Baker, Harold J., Prague, Oklahoma
Baldwin, Harry E., Ridgeley, West Virginia
Baldwin, Melvin, Unionville, Missouri
Balestrini, Robert, Vallejo, California
Ball, O.R., Farmington, Arkansas
Ballard, James F., Summit, Mississippi
Barfoot, Milton, West Covina, California
Barger, Eugene E., Sallisaw, Oklahoma
Barnes, Charles K., Bingen, Washington
Barnhill, Dorland J., Baker, Florida
Barrett, Lessie C., Cedar Park, Texas
Bass, Leonard W., Salem, Virginia
Baxter, Alice M., Keokuk, Iowa
Beaber, James R., Waunakee, Wisconsin
Beard, John H., Sr., El Dorado, Arkansas
Bean, Darrel E., Apache Junction, Arizona
Beasley, Claude A., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Beasley, William L., Jr., Fresno, California
Beck, Florence M., Altadena, California
Beck, John L., Claremore, Oklahoma
Bedell, Zola P., Kingfisher, Oklahoma
Beeton, Harvey J., Virginia Beach, Virginia
Belleville, Mark T., Okeechobee, Florida
Bellows, Ralph D., Roy, Washington
Bender, Ralph F., Garden Grove, California
Betancourt, Jose A., Campbell, California
Bicket, Paul J., Waupaca, Wisconsin
Bishop, Sarah L., Scotts Valley, California
Blackwell, Oliver L., Weatherford, Texas
Blair, Mancil W., Brewton, Alabama
Blanton, Jimmie D., Shingle Springs, California
Bledsoe, Jack D., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Blick, Tomey L., Everett, Washington
Block, Gust F., Fresno, California
Bocanegra, Emma G., Fort Worth, Texas
Bogdan, Dan M., Irvine, California
Bolger, Gottlieb J., Torrington, Wyoming
Booher, Lenora A., Grand Junction, Colorado
Booher, Mary A., Phoenix, Arizona
Booher, Virgil L., Grand Junction, Colorado
Borders, Pauline, Benton, Arkansas
Borrego, Jesus G., Houston, Texas

Bottenfield, Clarice, Mount Solon, Virginia
 Bowen, Robert E., Pensacola, Florida
 Bowen, Tommie L., Pensacola, Florida
 Bower, Bill R., Zillah, Washington
 Bowers, Clifton, Quincy, Florida
 Bowman, Edna B., Greensburg, Pennsylvania
 Bowman, Oscar H., Pangburn, Arkansas
 Boyd, Robert H., Glenwood, Missouri
 Boyer, Vernon P., Battle Creek, Michigan
 Brackett, William S., Vicksburg, Mississippi
 Bradley, Beufard, Samson, Alabama
 Bradshaw, Eula B., Dallas, Texas
 Bradshaw, Leona E., Eugene, Oregon
 Branchfield, Opal, Havana, Illinois
 Brand, Ruby, Riverside, California
 Brann, O. Kenneth, Louisville, Kentucky
 Bratvold, Claude E., Saint Cloud, Minnesota
 Brecheen, Dallas W., Greensburg, Louisiana
 Breusch, L. Percival, New Holland, Pennsylvania
 Breusch, Ruth A., New Holland, Pennsylvania
 Brewer, Nell, Memphis, Tennessee
 Briggs, Earl R., Thermal, California
 Brinkley, Marshall E., Quitman, Texas
 Brooks, James A., Sr., Pensacola, Florida
 Brotton, Thelma, Tempe, Arizona
 Brubaker, Ada E., Springfield, Missouri
 Brumbelow, Robert E., Seguin, Texas
 Bruton, Audie L., Camden, Arkansas
 Bruton, Samuel J., Denver City, Texas
 Bryant, Harold R., Sr., Plaquemine, Louisiana
 Buck, Mary E., Springfield, Missouri
 Burdick, Jack, Montgomery, Alabama
 Burris, Marie, Cody, Wyoming
 Bush, Edgar A., Huntsville, Alabama
 Byron, Melvin M., Fort Mill, South Carolina
 Calfee, Donald E., Princeton, West Virginia
 Campbell, Ivan L., Chautauqua, Kansas
 Campbell, Robert D., Rogersville, Missouri
 Campbell, Warren J., Middlefield, Ohio
 Canales, Miguel, Carson, California
 Cantelon, Willard T., Victoria, British Columbia, Canada
 Cantu, Alicia R., Elgin, Texas
 Carl, Richard G., Kenilworth, New Jersey
 Carlblom, Harold R., Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin
 Carlile, John C., Gore, Oklahoma

Carlson, Beulah M., Orange, California
 Carlson, G. Raymond, Springfield, Missouri
 Carpenter, Ben E., Stuttgart, Arkansas
 Carter, Joseph C., Colmesneil, Texas
 Carter, Orville E., Rochester, Minnesota
 Casady, Sandra K., Buffalo, Minnesota
 Caughman, Kenneth E., Wynona, Oklahoma
 Cauley, William R., Pascagoula, Mississippi
 Cavens, Ermyn A., Nampa, Idaho
 Cazzell, Marion F., Worthington, Indiana
 Ceravolo, George, Phoenix, Arizona
 Chamberlin, Velma P., Olathe, Kansas
 Champion, Edith, San Diego, California
 Chandler, Frank H., Bossier City, Louisiana
 Chapa, Paulita, Uvalde, Texas
 Chapman, Elmer A., Enid, Oklahoma
 Chapman, William F., Chandler, Oklahoma
 Charter, Dorthey J., Luther, Oklahoma
 Chegwin, Cyril T., Elkton, Maryland
 Childs, Dewey, Ceres, California
 Choate, Myrna A., Magnolia, Texas
 Choe, Su Chol, Torrance, California
 Christenson, Raymond, Pampa, Texas
 Cimino, Ralph L., Springfield, Missouri
 Cisneros, Henry M., Mesa, Arizona
 Clarke, Neva M., Palestine, Texas
 Clayton, Robert R., Oakhurst, California
 Clendenen, Robert E., Waco, Texas
 Clonce, Gertrude, Springfield, Missouri
 Clouch, Winifred M., Porterville, California
 Cole, Earl, Harrisburg, Arkansas
 Combs, David O., Brownsville, Tennessee
 Cook, Charlie C., Gallatin, Tennessee
 Cook, J. Dial, Como, Texas
 Cook, Robert O., Brandon, Mississippi
 Cooper, Herbert J., Enterprise, Alabama
 Cooper, James H., Millry, Alabama
 Cooper, James T., Paducah, Kentucky
 Corder, Travis F., Lake Dallas, Texas
 Corey, Hugh M., Malden, Massachusetts
 Corp, Emma, Eakly, Oklahoma
 Correa, Louis G., Danville, Pennsylvania
 Cortes, Marina, Brooklyn, New York
 Covington, Juanita V., Saint Paul, Minnesota
 Cowen, Lillian R., Yucaipa, California

Cozad, Virgil L., Shoshone, Idaho
 Crabtree, Richard P., Advance, Missouri
 Cranford, Earl O., Dallas, Texas
 Crawford, Hubert, Medford, Oregon
 Crenshaw, Richard M., Pass Christian, Mississippi
 Cruz, Israel, New York, New York
 Curtis, Lyle E., Waupaca, Wisconsin
 Dalan, Melvin H., Fairview Heights, Illinois
 Damiani, Ellis C., Poughkeepsie, New York
 Daniel, Clyde W., Lawton, Oklahoma
 Daniel, Vista H., Dallas, Texas
 Darnell, Charles, Hayti, Missouri
 Davi, Ross, Copiague, New York
 Davis, George J., Salem, Oregon
 Davis, Hughbert H., Fort Smith, Arkansas
 Davis, Paul W., Tequesta, Florida
 Dayka, Eugene, Greenville, Illinois
 Dean, Rowland H., Duluth, Minnesota
 Delgado, Anastacio R., San Diego, California
 Denmark, Pauline, Mobile, Alabama
 Dennis, Edith M., Rocky Mount, Missouri
 Diamond, Clifford L., Madera, California
 Dickson, Murrell J., San Antonio, Texas
 Ditto, Alma B., Tampa, Florida
 Dixon, James E., Newport, North Carolina
 Dobyns, Robert C., Princeton, Texas
 Doersom, Bernice, Red Springs, North Carolina
 Doleshal, Frank W., Paradise, California
 Donnell, Cordelia, Midwest City, Oklahoma
 Downs, Eleanor T., West Monroe, Louisiana
 Dozier, Melba D., North Little Rock, Arkansas
 Drain, William C., Edmond, Oklahoma
 Drake, A. Harold, Stockton, California
 Drake, Vallariee M., De Kalb, Texas
 Duford, Richard L., Rochester, Indiana
 Duhon, Mable E., Bossier City, Louisiana
 Duncan, Walter, Tupelo, Mississippi
 Dunn, Luther A., Lemay, Missouri
 Earnest, Ella M., Clearlake, California
 Eaves, William J., Berwick, Pennsylvania
 Edmonds, Jesse E., Morristown, Tennessee
 Edwards, William A., Winter Haven, Florida
 Elliott, Oscar A., Aztec, New Mexico
 Elliott, Wilbur, Lavale, Maryland
 Ellsworth, Bernard W., Port Angeles, Washington

Ellsworth, Irene B., Baltimore, Maryland
 Engstrom, James E., Anderson, Indiana
 Enriquez, John P., Corona, California
 Enyart, Ruby M., Fair Play, Missouri
 Eppinette, Jesse C., Rayville, Louisiana
 Erickson, Clifton O., Orlando, Florida
 Eskelin, Ray C., Woodland Hills, California
 Eubanks, Donald D., Springtown, Texas
 Ewing, Gilbert R., Tulare, California
 Ezzo, Domenick C., Utica, New York
 Fairbanks, Edward R., Midland, Texas
 Farmer, Blake L., Ennis, Texas
 Farrow, Lillie, Hartshorn, Missouri
 Fee, Donald H., Seattle, Washington
 Felton, Olga M., Tuolumne, California
 Ferguson, Larry J., Mount Sterling, Kentucky
 Field, L.D., Selma, California
 Fincher, Billie M., Fort Worth, Texas
 Fischer, Floyd J., Booneville, Arkansas
 Fishel, Maynard C., Fort Dodge, Iowa
 Fitzjarrell, Charles, Porterville, California
 Fleming, Marguerite, Meridian, Idaho
 Flores, Joseph P., Hacienda Heights, California
 Flores, Pearl, San Antonio, Texas
 Fogle, Dorothy F., Fordland, Missouri
 Fogle, Nadine, Weaubleau, Missouri
 Ford, Ruth S., Oakland, California
 Forrest, Orville O., Troy, Montana
 Fortenberry, Howard F., Mooresville, North Carolina
 Fortune, T.J., Fort Walton Beach, Florida
 Franklin, Elizabeth A., Irvine, California
 Freeman, Cletta M., Santa Clara, California
 Freeman, Henry F., Thomaston, Georgia
 Freeman, William G., Spencer, Indiana
 Friend, Iris V., Mountain Lake Park, Maryland
 Froats, Edna E., North Canton, Ohio
 Fugate, Pamela R., Pittsburg, Missouri
 Fulfer, H.M., Mountainair, New Mexico
 Fussell, Cecil W., Vivian, Louisiana
 Gainey, William Y., Pensacola, Florida
 Galarza, Domingo O., Mayaguez, Puerto Rico
 Gallatin, Helen M., Greensboro, Pennsylvania
 Gallop, Norice C., Richmond, Indiana
 Galyen, Byron E., Ogden, Utah
 Gamble, John D., Tampa, Florida

Garcia, David, Sr., Greenville, Texas
 Gardiner, James D., Loomis, California
 Garrison, Marvin L., Sr., Chino Valley, Arizona
 Garza, Eleazar A., Floresville, Texas
 Garza, Manuel B., La Feria, Texas
 Garza, Ramiro, Dinuba, California
 Gentry, Pauline M., Kingsland, Arkansas
 George, Harold V., Glendora, California
 Gesell, William A., Flint, Michigan
 Gilbert, Paul F., Duncan, Oklahoma
 Gilbert, Roy G., Fort Collins, Colorado
 Gill, Harry D., San Bernardino, California
 Gillis, Karo, Seminary, Mississippi
 Glass, Frank, Donalsonville, Georgia
 Glassbrook, Robert R., Mobile, Alabama
 Golden, William W., Hot Springs, Arkansas
 Gonzales, Richard S., Roswell, New Mexico
 Gonzales, Victor G., Carol City, Florida
 Gonzalez, Epifanio, Homeland, California
 Gottschalk, William B., Coeur d' Alene, Idaho
 Gouge, Agnes H., Galena, Missouri
 Goumas, Marian, Saint Petersburg, Florida
 Graf, Henry H., Menasha, Wisconsin
 Graham, Catherine, Mineral Wells, Texas
 Green, Ernest, West Helena, Arkansas
 Green, Juanita, Lafayette, Louisiana
 Green, Marva L., Calimesa, California
 Greene, B.L., Tyler, Texas
 Greer, Icy Bell, Brewton, Alabama
 Gresham, Jack R., Plain Dealing, Louisiana
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 Grimes, Lionel, Harrisonville, Missouri
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 Hall, Ted, Bonham, Texas
 Hamman, Ronald R., Richmond, Virginia
 Hammock, Mattie J., Newton, Texas
 Hand, Gary W., Pueblo, Colorado

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 Janzen, Wesley G., Port Chester, New York
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 Jeffcoat, Nancy J., Santa Paula, California
 Jensen, Anton P., Okeechobee, Florida

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 Johnson, Dale O., Onalaska, Washington
 Johnson, Dolly A., Toxey, Alabama
 Johnson, Glenn H., Leavenworth, Washington
 Johnson, Paul E., Henry, Virginia
 Johnson, Ruby A., Hays, Kansas
 Johnson, Wilbert A., North Saint Paul, Minnesota
 Johnston, Rachel L., Flagstaff, Arizona
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 Jones, Fred L., Commerce, Oklahoma
 Jones, W. Cornish, Ukiah, California
 Jordon, Edgar J., Honea Path, South Carolina
 Judah, Mary E., Lakeland, Florida
 Kaluai, Richard K., Hilo, Hawaii
 Karajian, Samuel L., Oakland, California
 Karns, William L., Tacoma, Washington
 Kaufman, Riley E., Centralia, Washington
 Keck, Arlen, Fort Smith, Arkansas
 Keener, Otis M., Santa Ana, California
 Keener, Otis R., Visalia, California
 Keller, Felix, Carol Stream, Illinois
 Kelly, Howell W., Springfield, Missouri
 Kennard, William H., Stone Mountain, Georgia
 Kenney, John H., Kennewick, Washington
 Kenney, Winnifred I., Kennewick, Washington
 Kensinger, David L., Springfield, Missouri
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 Kirvin, Jewell F., Sr., Texarkana, Arkansas
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 Lockyer, Fay M., Grand Junction, Colorado
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 Long, Willis G., Buckeye, Arizona
 Looper, A.J., Keller, Texas
 Lopez, Jose, Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico
 Lopez, Juan, Los Angeles, California
 Lowenberg, Bernice V., Wichita, Kansas
 Luker, Annie M., Mobile, Alabama
 Lund, Myrtle E., Keller, Texas
 Lunsford, William E., Montgomery, Alabama
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 Malone, Willie J., Cookeville, Tennessee
 Mangold, Marion A., Mount Sterling, Kentucky
 Mankins, Harvey, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Maracle, Andrew C., Deseronto, Ontario, Canada
 Marion, Oleana R., Waco, Texas
 Markese, David R., Salem, Oregon
 Markin, J.T., Swartz Creek, Michigan
 Marlar, William P., Cadiz, Kentucky
 Marquis, Walter T., Phoenix, Arizona
 Martin, George G., Lakeland, Florida
 Martin, Kathleen R., Fort Worth, Texas
 Martin, Max L., Springfield, Missouri
 Martinez, Maximiliano, Kissimmee, Florida
 Mason, Laurance A., Castroville, California
 Masto, John, Nutter Fort, West Virginia
 Maxwell, Rolland E., Azle, Texas
 Mayberry, James O., Browns Mills, New Jersey
 McAdams, Albert L., Jr., Waynesboro, Mississippi
 McCarty, Billy M., Memphis, Tennessee
 McCleary, Elwood, Morganton, North Carolina

McCluskey, James C., Canyon Lake, Texas
 McCormack, Nettie W., Atwood, Kansas
 McCoy, Emerald T., Humboldt, Tennessee
 McCrary, Cleaburn A., Houston, Texas
 McCrory, Andrew L., Jr., Mobile, Alabama
 McCulley, David W., Alexandria, Virginia
 McElyea, Ewell O., Floydada, Texas
 McGaugh, Alvin C., Texarkana, Arkansas
 McIntosh, Dessie E., Falling Waters, West Virginia
 McIntosh, Lloyd, Seymour, Texas
 McKenney, Ruth L., Saint Paul, Nebraska
 McLane, Thomas R., Olivet, Michigan
 McLaughlin, Dwight H., Lynnwood, Washington
 McMullen, James C., Dustin, Oklahoma
 McWhinney, Winifred, Lakeland, Florida
 Medina, Nicolas, Modesto, California
 Meekins, Edison M., Wheeling, West Virginia
 Meier, Esther E., Hurst, Texas
 Mendez, Angel M., Queens Village, New York
 Merring, David C., Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 Meyer, Alma D., Taft, California
 Michael, Alvin K., Brodnax, Virginia
 Michael, Stanley V., Springfield, Missouri
 Middaugh, Paul M., Groom, Texas
 Middleton, Willis C., Trenton, Florida
 Miles, Elva F., Marshall, Missouri
 Mitchell, Bernard G., Clearwater, Florida
 Mitchell, Guy S., Charleston, South Carolina
 Mitchell, William H., Shreveport, Louisiana
 Mitchem, Robert A., Tallahassee, Florida
 Mizelle, W. Grady, Hurley, Mississippi
 Moneachi, Harriett A., Corpus Christi, Texas
 Montenegro, Ranulfo, Moreno Valley, California
 Montgomery, Sherman I., Chester, Virginia
 Montoya, Frank Y., Santa Maria, California
 Mooney, Charles L., Seattle, Washington
 Moore, Edith M., Ashland, Kentucky
 Moore, Robert C., Roseville, California
 Moore, Thomas H., Claremont, California
 Morgan, Ernest, Trenton, New Jersey
 Morris, M. Albert, Clarksville, Arkansas
 Morris, Stanley J., Richlands, Virginia
 Morrison, Lawrence, Rock Island, Illinois
 Moscufo, Joseph, Idamay, West Virginia
 Moss, Harmel E., El Dorado, Arkansas

Moss, Judy F., Ozark, Missouri
 Mullen, Lonnie R., Dallas, Texas
 Murray, Ferne H., Mooresville, North Carolina
 Murry, George W., North Little Rock, Arkansas
 Myers, Alva R., Jr., Davenport, Iowa
 Myers, Tessie, San Bernardino, California
 Neel, Ronnie D., North Tazewell, Virginia
 Nellesen, Esther B., Mesa, Arizona
 Nelson, Howard A., Schaumburg, Illinois
 Newby, John W., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Nicholson, James W., Turner, Oregon
 Noah, Hal C., Red Oak, Texas
 Norcross, David O., Chino, California
 Norsworthy, Rex G., Opp, Alabama
 Null, Albert L., Sikeston, Missouri
 Nutt, Nellie, Henderson, Texas
 Nyien, David W., Springfield, Missouri
 Nykiel, John, Dorchester, Massachusetts
 Oakley, Harold D., Jackson, New Jersey
 Ochoa, Manuel M., Hollister, California
 Olsen, Gunder A., Yakima, Washington
 Olson, Hugo W., Madison, Wisconsin
 Ong, Tiang H., Kew Gardens, New York
 Orsini, Rodolfo A., Sanford, Florida
 Ortiz, Margaret, Kaneohe, Hawaii
 Ortlieb, R. David, Ash Grove, Missouri
 Osgood, Edith B., Millville, New Jersey
 Oster, Edwin N., Bellevue, Washington
 Paino, Thomas III, Carmel, Indiana
 Parker, Luther P., Versailles, Missouri
 Parker, Violet M., Phoenix, Arizona
 Parr, Edward B., Sr., Poulsbo, Washington
 Partida, Ernesto A., Baytown, Texas
 Paschal, Loftin S., Reidsville, North Carolina
 Patnode, Richard W., San Diego, California
 Pearce, George F., Saginaw, Texas
 Pearson, Gladys E., Poulsbo, Washington
 Pearson, Marie, Quincy, Washington
 Peck, John W., Fresno, California
 Pecota, Daniel B., Redmond, Washington
 Peel, Rosie N., Panama City, Florida
 Pegg, Harold A., Fresno, California
 Pennington, Miriam, Springfield, Missouri
 Pepper, Beulah M., Sidney, Montana
 Perea, Arturo, Tucumcari, New Mexico

Perry, James F., Crossett, Arkansas
 Persons, Orville D., Collinsville, Illinois
 Petersen, Philip L., Glendora, California
 Petroskey, Charles F., Fort Myers, Florida
 Petty, E. Dolores, Portland, Maine
 Peugh, Leonard G., Oroville, Washington
 Phillipps, John P., Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Phillips, Anderson W., Columbia, Maryland
 Philpott, H.V., Tyler, Texas
 Phinney, W. Wayne, Dayton, Washington
 Platt, Robert E., Pascagoula, Mississippi
 Plotts, Morris, Lake Charles, Louisiana
 Pons, Francis A., Sr., Metairie, Louisiana
 Porter, Donald E., Havana, Illinois
 Porter, Hugh L., Barton, Maryland
 Portin, Lloyd O., Seattle, Washington
 Posey, Nellie, Snohomish, Washington
 Pottorff, Russell B., Martinsburg, West Virginia
 Powell, David F., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Preiser, Dale P., Miami, Florida
 Preslar, Allen W., Norwalk, Connecticut
 Priest, Delbert H., Pampa, Texas
 Pugh, Neva, McPherson, Kansas
 Quillin, Leon C., Hurst, Texas
 Racine, Franklin L., Rochester, Michigan
 Rahner, Lillian A., Springfield, Missouri
 Ramirez, Angel R., La Puente, California
 Rasske, Herbert C., Bakersfield, California
 Rayl, Kiah E., Bloomington, Indiana
 Reddout, Ralph L., Commerce, Oklahoma
 Redmon, C. Eugene, Taylorsville, Kentucky
 Reed, Franklin D., Spring Valley, California
 Reep, Louie G., Phoenix, Arizona
 Reese, Roy, Saint Ignatius, Montana
 Reid, Elmer V., Kennedale, Texas
 Reif, Leroy L., San Andreas, California
 Remus, Wilbert J., Kenosha, Wisconsin
 Rhodes, Loraine A., Riverside, California
 Richardson, Nathan A., North Chili, New York
 Richendrfer, Leonard, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania
 Riendeau, Jean Louis, Killeen, Texas
 Rieson, Clyde C., Beaumont, Texas
 Riley, William R., Concord, North Carolina
 Rios, Damaso S., Fabens, Texas
 Ritter, Lela S., Albuquerque, New Mexico

Rivera, Manuel, Bronx, New York
 Roach, Erron D., Kountze, Texas
 Roark, Theodore T., Thayer, Missouri
 Robins, Roy A., Durango, Colorado
 Rodriguez, Ambrosio, Bronx, New York
 Rodriguez, Fernando, Jamaica, New York
 Rogers, J.J., Corsicana, Texas
 Roggow, Louis L., North Platte, Nebraska
 Romero, Tomas P., Toppenish, Washington
 Rosen, Edward C., Staples, Minnesota
 Ross, Edward M., Brooksville, Florida
 Rotherth, Clive R., Jacksonville, Florida
 Russell, Marvin R., Fort Worth, Texas
 Ruth, Pauline N., Whiting, New Jersey
 Rutherford, Robert W., Jacksboro, Texas
 Ryan, Reed, Catoosa, Oklahoma
 Saltzman, Rene, Westlake, Louisiana
 Samuelson, George E.H., New Bern, North Carolina
 Samuelson, Vera M., Wichita, Kansas
 Sanchez, Josue, San Antonio, Texas
 Sanchez, Ramon, Maunabo, Puerto Rico
 Sandahl, Esther E., Hacienda Heights, California
 Santiago, Blanca L., Orlando, Florida
 Santiago, Joseph, Orlando, Florida
 Sasser, Kie, Elba, Alabama
 Satterfield, Elvis L., Branson, Missouri
 Savoie, Bessie T., Dallas, Texas
 Sawyers, Lucille B., Springfield, Missouri
 Scharnberg, C.G., Des Moines, Iowa
 Schinzing, Albert, New Baltimore, Michigan
 Schirman, Russell L., Springfield, Missouri
 Schladenhauffen, Roger E., New Haven, Indiana
 Schmidgall, Robert K., Naperville, Illinois
 Schubert, Nick, Sr., Miami, Florida
 Schwalbe, Marie A., Longwood, Florida
 Scott, John B., Santa Ana, California
 Scott, Samuel J., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Scott, Silas B., Newport, Arkansas
 Searles, Lester G., Phoenix, Arizona
 Senechal, Charles J., Prescott, Arizona
 Serrano, Raul, Aguadilla, Puerto Rico
 Severe, Ken, Modesto, California
 Sexton, Gerald, Castlewood, Virginia
 Shaffer, Edward L., Bakersfield, California
 Shamp, Fern H., Las Vegas, Nevada

Shane, Willis E., Spokane, Washington
 Shannon, Lester R., Houston, Texas
 Sharpe, Wilbur L., Quincy, Illinois
 Sheets, Berniece M., Santa Barbara, California
 Shepard, Vivian R., Ozark, Missouri
 Sherwood, Leslie I., Concord, California
 Sherwood, Violet B., San Diego, California
 Shockley, Lester E., Florissant, Missouri
 Shoemaker, E. Lloyd, La Habra, California
 Showers, James H., Front Royal, Virginia
 Shugart, Charles R., Norman, Oklahoma
 Shumway, Eva O., Shawnee Mission, Kansas
 Simmons, Claudine R., Cortez, Colorado
 Simmons, Frances G., Portland, Oregon
 Simmons, Ross P., Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin
 Simons, James R.S., Huntsville, Arkansas
 Sizemore, Ruben E., Dothan, Alabama
 Skiles, Garnett, Moorpark, California
 Skipper, Bobby J., Grand Prairie, Texas
 Skymer, Albert D., Clearwater, Florida
 Slater, Charles S., Jamestown, North Dakota
 Smith, Boyd U., Jonesboro, Arkansas
 Smith, Iola E., Hamilton, New Jersey
 Smith, James E., Wellington, Texas
 Smith, Paul J., Lindsay, California
 Smith, William E., Saraland, Alabama
 Snodgrass, Jerry D., Turlock, California
 Sorenson, Marjorie E., Laguna Niguel, California
 Southard, Roy E., Shoreline, Washington
 Spainhoward, James F., Henderson, Kentucky
 Spann, John R., Sr., Phenix City, Alabama
 Sparks, Agnes, Victoria, Texas
 Speake, Eulish, Springfield, Missouri
 Speer, Opal, Alma, Michigan
 Spellman, Clarence J., North Charleston, South Carolina
 Spence, Thomas H., Springfield, Missouri
 Spong, Norman T., Lakeland, Florida
 Spurlock, Kizzie B., Gulf Breeze, Florida
 Squires, Kenneth E., Saint Petersburg, Florida
 Stafford, Bryan L., Bernalillo, New Mexico
 Stebens, Juanita P., Carmen, Oklahoma
 Stepp, William C., Riverside, California
 Sterling, Mattie L., Springfield, Missouri
 Steward, Harold F., Hercules, California
 Stewart, Orvis D., Little Rock, Arkansas

Still, Hugh A., Rogers, Arkansas
 Stockton, Lola B., Shawnee, Oklahoma
 Stokley, Manson D., Irving, Texas
 Stovall, Homer A., Schertz, Texas
 Stover, Searl W., Petersburg, Virginia
 Strange, Edna R., Carrollton, Texas
 Strange, Howard A., Carrollton, Texas
 Strickland, Harry M., Harrisonburg, Virginia
 Stumbaugh, Joe, Stillwater, Oklahoma
 Suarez, Bella G., Longwood, Florida
 Suarez, Juanita, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 Sublett, Herbert E., Salem, Virginia
 Sullivan, Lillian, East Brewton, Alabama
 Sullivan, Roy L., McNary, Arizona
 Tammen, Marguerite, San Angelo, Texas
 Tanon, Ricardo, Tampa, Florida
 Tarolli, James W., Solvay, New York
 Tatham, J.L., Enid, Oklahoma
 Taylor, Dan L., Fort Collins, Colorado
 Taylor, Thomas J., Jr., Tyler, Texas
 Teeter, Earl, Sr., Waxahachie, Texas
 Terry, Christopher D., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Tew, Ralph L., Bonifay, Florida
 Thomas, Jones E., Brighton, Colorado
 Thomas, Joseph A., Toccoa, Georgia
 Thompson, John E., Coarsegold, California
 Thompson, Ovid E., Monticello, Florida
 Thompson, Patrick, Sr., Jena, Louisiana
 Thompson, Russell L., Waterloo, Iowa
 Tinsman, John C., Silverdale, Washington
 Todd, A.L., Magnolia, Texas
 Treeby, Dwight L., Odessa, Texas
 Tucker, J. Boyd, Rattan, Oklahoma
 Tucker, Lura I., Des Moines, Iowa
 Tuliau, Tulaga S., Seattle, Washington
 Turner, Edwin C., Conroe, Texas
 Valdez, Anselmo, Sr., Kyle, Texas
 Vandermerwe, Stephen, West Monroe, Louisiana
 Vander Ploeg, Alpha R., Toledo, Ohio
 Vanzant, Earl G., Portales, New Mexico
 Vasko, Rosemary, Wheelersburg, Ohio
 Vasquez, Irene, Weslaco, Texas
 Vaughan, Frances E., Springdale, Arkansas
 Vazquez, Jose A., Yauco, Puerto Rico
 Ventris, Clyde A., Minco, Oklahoma

Vick, Arne H., Canoga Park, California
 Vigil, Antonio F., San Antonio, Texas
 Vili, Vaalele, Burien, Washington
 Villegas, Rebecca H., San Antonio, Texas
 Vincent, Cecil D., Bolivar, Missouri
 Vitai, Emery, Nicholasville, Kentucky
 Wagenknecht, Hilda, Las Vegas, Nevada
 Wakefield, W. Glenn, Salem, Oregon
 Waldrop, Joanna, Sandia, Texas
 Walker, Aaron W., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Walker, Henry L., Deer Park, Texas
 Walker, Louise Jeter, Springfield, Missouri
 Wallace, Bertha O., Bakersfield, California
 Wallace, C.C., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Wallace, John F., Jr., La Mesa, California
 Waller, Laura L., Waynesboro, Mississippi
 Wannenmacher, Philip, Springfield, Missouri
 Ware, Lula M., Miami, Oklahoma
 Warner, Roy B., Peoria, Illinois
 Warren, Mary E., Bois D' Arc, Missouri
 Wasson, Ora L., Midland, Texas
 Watkins, Elmer T., Midwest City, Oklahoma
 Weatherman, A.G., Newkirk, Oklahoma
 Webster, Charlotte, Windsor, Ontario, Canada
 Weides, Wilbur E., Burnsville, Minnesota
 Welch, Cecil R., Forsyth, Missouri
 Wells, Joseph D., Sandersville, Mississippi
 Wells, Paul M., Oakhurst, California
 Wesley, Mae Bell, Melbourne, Florida
 West, Richard B., Catoosa, Oklahoma
 Wheeler, Dale P., Sand Springs, Oklahoma
 White, Harold O., Durant, Florida
 White, Jesse L., Alamogordo, New Mexico
 Wiggins, Etha M., Weatherford, Texas
 Wilcox, Jeremiah, Rialto, California
 Wiley, Raymond R., New Hope, Minnesota
 Williams, John T., Jr., Cordele, Georgia
 Willis, William L., Pleasant Hill, Iowa
 Wilson, Elizabeth A.G., Alvarado, Texas
 Wilson, Ferguson A., Yucaipa, California
 Wilson, Guy, Fort Worth, Texas
 Wisenbaker, H.M., Sr., Houston, Texas
 Wood, Lester, Cornelius, Oregon
 Woodcock, Nelson, Sulphur, Oklahoma
 Woodruff, Robert P., Pacific, Missouri

Wright, A.D., Troy, Missouri
 Wright, Paul C., Modesto, California
 Wyckoff, Alta A., Springfield, Missouri
 Wynkoop, Pearl D., La Habra, California
 Young, D. Roland, Eufaula, Oklahoma
 Zellers, Ethelyn E., Columbus, Georgia

George Wood, general secretary, read the names of the following ministers who were deceased after June 1, 1999, and were reported to the general secretary's office by August 9, 1999:

Baker, Webster L., Arton, Alabama
 Beauford, Ruth A., Seminole, Oklahoma
 Bragdon, Ida B., Fort Lauderdale, Florida
 Bray, Jerry, Stone Mountain, Georgia
 Brotzman, Clarence, Gering, Nebraska
 Brotzman, Inez, Gering, Nebraska
 Carroll, Ola M., Springfield, Missouri
 Craighead, Florence, Weatherford, Texas
 Davidson, Henry D., Cross Plains, Tennessee
 Davidson, Howard R., Columbus, Ohio
 Dixon, Harold W., Lawton, Oklahoma
 Drake, James W.C., Kirbyville, Texas
 Franklin, John Lewis, Houston, Texas
 Green, Arlin H., Cleveland, Texas
 Green, Murry E., Winnsboro, Texas
 Huffman, Lawrence N., Des Moines, Iowa
 Jankowski, Peter P., Hamburg, New York
 Kaspasian, George M., Fresno, California
 Keeton, Idama, Denton, Texas
 Kelley, Elbert H., Clanton, Alabama
 Kerr, Coleatus, Lansing, Kansas
 Langley, Forrest L., Clinton, Mississippi
 Logan, Lloyd R., Springfield, Missouri
 McGhghy, Dolores J., Springfield, Missouri
 Menchaca, Velia F., Houston, Texas
 Messer, Edmae, Sulphur Springs, Texas
 Mundt, Lillie B., Waxahachie, Texas
 Nelson, Richard W., Southport, Florida
 Pedrin, Dennis J., Williamstown, Massachusetts
 Price, Donald R., Watsonville, California
 Rebuck, Ira, Jr., Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania
 Rice, Duane E., Murphy, North Carolina
 Robertson, F. Ellis, La Mirada, California
 Ross, Clyde O., San Francisco, California

Rousonelos, Anthony N., Largo, Florida
Savage, Kenzy K., Albuquerque, New Mexico
Simpson, Frank W., Visalia, California
Slater, Paul W., Plymouth, New Hampshire
Sullivan, Betty A., Erie, Pennsylvania
Taylor, Donald E., Rainier, Oregon
Valentine, Arvel T., Monroe, Louisiana
Ward, Leonard R., Duncan, Oklahoma
Woods, James M., Dallas, Texas
Yeary, James B., Mentor, Ohio
Ziemann, Edwin G., Watertown, Wisconsin

Business Session

The first business session of the 48th General Council of the Assemblies of God convened at the Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida, Wednesday, August 11, 1999, at 10 a.m. General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask welcomed the delegates and called the business session to order. The session was opened with prayer by Doug Clay, Toledo, Ohio.

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: L. John Bueno, executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions; Charles E. Hackett, executive director of the Division of Home Missions; David Argue, North Central Area; Almon M. Bartholomew, Northeast Area; M. Wayne Benson, Great Lakes Area; C. Dan Betzer, Southeast Area; Robert L. Brandt, Northwest Area; Richard Dresselhaus, Southwest Area; Gene Jackson, Gulf Area; Jesse Miranda, Language Area; Armon Newburn, South Central Area.

Introduction of Retired Executive Presbyters

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

Introduction of Headquarters Personnel

The chairman expressed appreciation to headquarters staff serving many long hours to make this 48th General Council operate efficiently, calling attention to those listed in the program booklet. Special recognition was given to Mike Messner, Danette McCabe, Shelly Mackey, and Jewell Woodward.

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, chairperson; Leslie M. Addison, Steven R. Brown, Billy J. Glover, Edward Martinez, Donald E. Price, Terry R. Raburn

Parliamentary

Gene M. Roncone II, chairperson; Jay Alford, D.V. Hurst, Ansley Orfila

Resolutions

Ronald F. McManus, chairperson; Charles E. Crank, Efraim Espinoza, D.V. Hurst, Elmer Kirsch, Armon Newburn, H. Robert Rhoden, Gene Roncone II

Roster

Larry L. Alverson, David L. Wigington, cochairmen; Tim Strathdee, liaison; Timothy Coats, Robert Costello, Myke Crowder, Mark Einersen, Leland Flaherty, Jeffrey Good, Stephen Harris, Greg Johnson, Randy Jones, Larry Maddux, Steve Rose

Spiritual Life

Charles B. Nestor, chairperson; Mike Messner, coordinator; Isaac J. Canales, Hal Donaldson, J. Phillip Epperson, Doris Johnson, R. Kenneth George, Nam Soo Kim, William N. Kirk, Donald G. Meyer, Priscilla W. Taylor

Tellers

Rollin Carlson, chairperson; Lee Baca, Deborah Gill, Maria Kahleel, Randall S. Rogers, Richard Hopping, captains; Efraim Espinoza, liaison; Manuel Alvarez, Chris Annas, David Bonilla, Douglas Brown, Steven Bursey, Mike Carosiello, Ron Coghlin, Timothy Collins, Rick Comstock, Robert Couch, Gary Cullison, Craig Dacus, Roger Davis, Terry Deffenbaugh, DeWayne Dickerson, Robert Eby, Dale Ekstrand, Ronald Ferrell, B.F. Flowers, Stan Fortenberry, Zenaido Garza, Michael Goldsmith, Hutson Goza,

Richard Greenwald, Charles Hefton, James Henegar, Ramon L. Hernandez, David Irwin, Jeff Krist, Randy Hopkins, Kurt Kinney, Leland Lewis, Michael Livengood, Larry Malcolm, Donald Maranville, Tom McRae, Kevin Milcarek, Carlos Mojica, Arlis Moon, C. Bradley Morris, David Nelson, Everette Pafford, Mark Palenske, Ray Reynolds, Stephen Rhoades, Andy Robertson, Lavern Rodgers, Ramon J. Rojas, Robert Rosinski, Togiva Savini, Charlie J. Scaif, David Snodgrass, Phillip Stephens, Derrel Strickland, Patrick Thompson, Jr., Robert Thompson, Curtis Tucker, Steve Tvedt, Randy Valimont, Matt Varnell, Jesse White, Vernon Willis, Art Wood, Mark Wootton, Manzer Wright

Operational Committees

Accounting Committee

Clyde Hawkins, chairperson; Jerry Barton, Dan Clopine, Janice Hayes; Jim Stalnaker, personnel coordinator

Children's Activities

Sharon Ellard, Early Childhood coordinator; Verda Rubottom, Kids Council chairperson; Glenda Barton, personnel coordinator; Jim Gerhold, crafts/games coordinator; Becky Street

Communications Committee (Program Subcommittee)

David Lee, Jeff Nene, Dan Castor, production support

Computer Support (Equipment Subcommittee)

Tim Strathdee, coordinator; Bruce Harp, Kelly Rhea; Cheryl Feller, Mac support

Convention Coordinator's Team

Michael Messner, ex-officio; Sharon L. Lee, convention coordinator; Jeanne A. Estebo, housing coordinator; Lori K. Lawley, registration coordinator

Equipment

Norm Gannon, chairperson; DeEtta Cox; Don Goss, trucking

Exhibits

Steve Turner, coordinator

Hospitality

Charlie Hungerford, chairperson; Belinda Conway

Human Resources

Jim Stalnaker, personnel coordinator; Katie Burgess

Music Program (Program Subcommittee)

Paul Ferrin, chairperson

Operational Committee

Michael Messner, chairperson; LeRoy Bartel, Clyde Hawkins, David Lee, Sharon Lee, Jeff Nene, Arlyn Pember

Photos Committee (Promotions/Press Subcommittee)

Mel Snyder, chairperson; Derald Musgrove

Platform (Program Subcommittee)

Michael D. Messner, chairperson; Rachael Lenz, Beth Carroll; Greg Slape, stage manager

Prayer

Madonna Paulson, chairperson; Benny Ferguson, Lillian Sparks, Juleen Turnage

Printed Materials

Jean Lawson, coordinator; Mike Murphy, Danny Espinoza

Program

Thomas E. Trask, chairperson; Charles T. Crabtree, George O. Wood, James K. Bridges, Michael D. Messner

Promotion/Press

Juleen Turnage, chairperson; Bill Campbell, Internet services; Barry Copeland, Hal Donaldson, Scott Harrup, Rick Knoth

Registration

Sharon L. Lee, ex-officio; Lori Lawley, registration coordinator; Tim Strathdee, roster liaison; Don Bagwell, John Ivaska, Todd Nicholson

Security

Paul Griffin, coordinator

Tellers Liaison

Efraim Espinoza

Translations

Kevin Babin, deaf coordinator; Efraim Espinoza, language translations coordinator

Transportation

Gerald Jackson, chairperson; Larry Bull, William Conley, John Savage

Ushers/Communion

Larry Thomas, chairperson; Clancy Hayes, Communion coordinator; Mike Cooper, Rhonda Curtis, Jerry Parks

Youth Congress (Program Subcommittee)

Eddie Rentz, chairperson; Tom Greene, Phil Rasmussen, Jim Wellborn, Nancy Williams

Fraternal Delegates

The chairman recognized that a number of fraternal delegates will be in attendance at this General Council. He extended a welcome to these friends and indicated they would be introduced at an appropriate time.

Expression of Appreciation to the City of Orlando, Florida

Appreciation was expressed to the city of Orlando for its hospitality and for the kindness it has shown to the General Council delegates. The chairman stated that the city has been a very gracious host.

Expression of Appreciation to the Peninsular Florida and the Southeastern Spanish Districts

Thomas Trask expressed appreciation to the Peninsular Florida District and to the Southeastern Spanish District and to their superintendents for their kind hospitality in hosting this 48th 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.

General Superintendent's Report

General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask read his report to the General Council delegates as printed in the *Biennial Report*. His report gave a look inside Headquarters and its ministries. In addition to what was printed, he also mentioned the formation of a Children's Ministries Department and the purchase of a new press for the Gospel Publishing House.

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 appreciation.

The chair was returned to the general superintendent.

Spiritual Life Committee Report

The general superintendent indicated to the delegates that the report of Spiritual Life Committee presented on video during the Tuesday evening service needed to be acted upon by the General Council in session. A motion prevailed to receive the report of the Spiritual Life Committee with appreciation.

The report as presented by video is as follows:

The Assemblies of God arrives at the end of this century of its founding with rejoicing and with challenges. The Spiritual Life Committee affirms both the vitality of God's presence in our midst and the need to hear the voice of the Spirit.

The committee calls attention to four areas in which our awareness must be keen and our response wise. God's blessing will help us avoid pitfalls as we move through generational, cultural, organizational and spiritual transitions.

1. Core values

Centrality of Christ. Pentecostal experience and proclamation rest upon the Spirit's work to make Jesus preeminent. In our post-Christian society, Jesus is seen more and more as one among many options of faith. Those who declare His divinity, lordship and authority as exclusive will be considered intolerant and bigoted. Any attempt to compromise the truth that Jesus of Nazareth is God; that He suffered and died on the cross; that He physically arose from the dead; that He ascended to heaven; and that He will literally physically return to the earth must be resisted through careful study and fervent proclamation.

Second coming of Christ. The imminence of Christ's return must drive the church's commitment to evangelism and missions. Readiness for His return must be exemplified in godly living in a hedonistic world.

Extreme and unbiblical teaching on the Second Coming must not deter the preacher/teacher from clearly announcing this truth. Believers must be warned about lax living and preoccupation with the temporal and material.

The supernatural. In an age of skepticism and scientific agnosticism, those who assert God's ability and desire to demonstrate His power must maintain an expectancy and openness to the demonstration of the glory of God. The New Testament believers knew that the risen Lord was in their midst performing acts of power that confirmed the gospel and bringing the transcendent power of God to mankind in tangible ways.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit. This committee calls every preacher to proclaim the baptism in the Holy Spirit and to consistently invite believers to receive it. We affirm that adherence to this truth is fundamental to our identity as a Pentecostal church.

People and churches in the Assemblies of God must be Pentecostal in practice—not in doctrine alone. This New Testament experience of the infusion of God's power for life and ministry must be kept before every believer as available and desirable. Every level of leadership must resist attempts to view the Baptism as optional or to affirm the principle while dissuading the practice.

The altar. Responding to God, hearing from God, surrendering to God and receiving from God are aspects of spirituality we hold as primary. The altar as a place of repentance, humility and surrender to God should not be lost. We affirm that the altar is more than a place or fixture; it is an attitude and posture of the heart. Those who challenge God's people to know and experience God's presence must allow opportunities for them to internalize His work.

Biblical preaching. Biblical preaching as the primary means of corporate communication of the gospel must be nurtured. Preaching was chosen by God as a means to communicate His message to men. The Scriptures must not be approached as a source book of clever phrases and anecdotes for motivational talks, but rather as "God-breathed" truth for all ages and the only authority for faith and practice.

2. Culturally relevant ministry

Doctrine. Culturally relevant ministry is essential to reach a nonchurched world, but relevance can never become a synonym for compromise of eternal truth. Doctrine, rooted in biblical understanding, must be communicated in ways that make the Christian faith clear, meaningful and comprehensive to the 21st-century mind.

Styles of communicating this "once-delivered-to-the-saints" faith may evolve; but, when it is heard, the audience must understand the formulation of truth that is immutable. In an age when the very existence of truth is questioned, eternal verities must be affirmed.

Worship. Worship in the church must strive to retain its Pentecostal characteristics, while avoiding conflicts created by increasingly diverse styles. Pentecostal worship at its core is focused on the immediacy of God's presence in the midst of His people. When the church worships, God is present—in praise, preaching, fellowship and in the manifestation of the graces and gifts

of the Holy Spirit.

According to the Scriptures, when the body of Christ is functional in all of the Spirit's gifts, even the outsider will declare that God is present. Pentecostal worship is not focused on self; it is focused on God. It does not seek to amuse the worshiper; it seeks to adore God. It is motivated by a vision of heaven, not by the vanity of man. Worship styles must avoid extreme fanaticism, if unity and cohesiveness are to be maintained and Assemblies of God churches in their sovereignty under God are to retain an identifiable relationship to each other.

Youth. Retaining our young people, who are our greatest resource, should be a major objective. Our culture has targeted youth for their energy, vision and material resources. Young people will invest their lives in what is meaningful and worthwhile. The Assemblies of God must articulate to them their value to the Kingdom.

Diverse peoples. The population at home and abroad will continue to become more diverse. In order for the church to maintain growth and vitality, this diversity must be embraced. The Assemblies of God from its inception has had a place for cultural and ethnic diversity. The language districts and fellowships have been an integral part of our accelerated growth.

Repair of past racial barriers, which has come supernaturally, must be embraced in practice. The growth of non-English-speaking, nonwhite congregations is a badge of spiritual honor, as we continue to pursue our stated reason-for-being; that is, to win every person to Christ. The face of the Assemblies of God is changing. We must affirm this diversity with excitement and thanksgiving.

Holiness. The Scriptures clearly define conduct, thought and speech that offend God. Purity must be held in high esteem, and a clear rationale based upon biblical understanding must be communicated to an immoral and unethical society.

Technology. The technological age is here. However, effectiveness cannot be measured in terms of the hardware we use. Tools are tools, and the timelessness of the message we preach must be seen and heard above the clatter of hard drives. On the other hand, we cannot expect to command the attention of an audience who all week long work with the latest devices, but find the church unable to capture their attention because its methods are out of date.

3. Compassion for people

The Assemblies of God exists to reach people. Nearly a century ago a small group believed it was called to reach the entire world. This number has swelled into the millions. But we must not measure our success by the numbers that are harvested but against the numbers that remain in the fields.

Ministry to the whole person. The church must be prepared to show Jesus' love and compassion by feeding and clothing the poor and providing health measures. As disaster after disaster leaves homeless and helpless people in the wake, we must be immediately available to those places with food, clothing and the message of eternal life.

Lostness of mankind. Any apathy concerning the lostness of mankind must be arrested and repented of in a spirit of brokenness and conviction. Success cannot be proclaimed among us as long as one person on this planet is lost. Jesus commanded that the gospel be preached to every creature.

Evangelism. The committee calls every Assemblies of God minister to a renewed commitment to personal evangelism. We affirm our Lord's gift of the evangelist to the church. Jesus assigned His disciples the task of preaching the gospel to the lost. Their confidence must be ours that the ascended Lord will work with us.

Missions. Missions must continue to be carried on with expediency. Missions efforts that have been used of God to advance the Kingdom around the world are supported by churches and career missionaries. Recent Spiritual Life committees have warned our Fellowship of the danger of abandoning the calling, training and commitment to the lifelong missionary in favor of short-term efforts. While the latter is not to be demeaned, the former has been the bulwark by which the Fellowship has waged war against the darkness among the masses. The committee challenges every church to place missions at the forefront to ensure that each adherent has the opportunity to pray, give and participate in reaching the world.

4. Call to the future

The development of effective leadership in the church must be a priority.

Education. Education is a gift of God to His people and is at the heart of the church's mission. The Assemblies of God worldwide is at the forefront in ministry training. Our seminary, universities, colleges, institutes, church-based Bible institutes, extension schools and secondary schools must be supported.

Seniors. Seniors—seasoned, experienced and eager to provide the wisdom they have gleaned in service—must be embraced. As society grays, the church must affirm her senior members and ministers as gifts from God. The vigor, vision and energy of youth combined with the experience, judgment and wisdom of years will provide continuity and unity. Mentoring—delivering into the life of another what one has received—is a mandate.

Spiritual disciplines. Prayer, study, accountability, simplicity, quietness, humility are keys to anointed ministry. A clamorous world needs models who emulate the value of the inner life and follow Jesus wholeheartedly. Techniques, tools, and talents cannot produce inner strength of soul and spirit. Success as a Christian must start with knowing Jesus and abiding in His Spirit.

Laypersons. Equipped laity must be viewed as a key to carrying out ministry in the next millennium. Leaders must focus on identifying, developing and releasing trained laity. A growing church will occur when every believer finds his or her place and becomes fruitful.

Women in ministry. Women in ministry have been a vital part of the history and growth of the Assemblies of God. The church must continue to affirm the place of women in leadership and build on our heritage. The Scriptures declare

that there is neither male nor female in the kingdom of God. Let us not retreat but advance in making room for the plethora of gifts God has provided to this Fellowship through the women among us.

Prayer. No precedent exists for a powerful awakening among God's people or in the world without prayer. A prayer awakening is taking place within the church. The committee calls all of us to pray. It will be a shallow undertaking to learn techniques, master materials or announce intentions to pray, if these are not undergirded by time alone with God.

The prayers of a leader in the body of Christ will spread throughout the church. A refreshing sound is being heard in the land as God's people are praying. As this advances from closet to church, God will hear and heal our land. The movement of prayer that transcends denominational distinctives is the work of the Spirit. As men and women humble themselves, let us join them in calling on heaven.

Revival and renewal. Revival and renewal are the seedbeds from which the Assemblies of God was birthed. God's Spirit breathing life into the spiritually dead and dormant is the vision of a Pentecostal people. We must embrace the full range of the Spirit's work. He is the wind that blows as He wills. When we attempt to direct the wind, we cause the destructive work of a windstorm rather than the breeze of the refreshing breath of God. We will recognize His work by the principles and precepts which He has already breathed into the pages of His Word.

Conclusion

God is at work among us.

Before us is the greatest opportunity in the history of the Assemblies of God. We have more people, more open doors and more resources than ever before. We must seize this moment in faith and with renewed commitment. We stand upon the shoulders of our founders who believed they were called to reach the entire world. We must see the world as they saw it—lost, but loved by God. We must move forward with renewed dependency upon the Holy Spirit to accomplish the Great Commission.

The Spiritual Life Committee concludes that the challenges we face can be met in the power of the Holy Spirit. This is possible as we seek God humbly, walk uprightly, live godly and holy lives, work diligently and believe and pray fervently.

We declare that we will be that people.

Assistant General Superintendent's Report

Assistant General Superintendent Charles T. Crabtree, read his report to the General Council delegates as contained in the *Biennial Report*.

A motion prevailed to receive the report of the assistant general superintendent with appreciation.

General Secretary's Report

George Wood, general secretary, presented highlights from his written report in the *Biennial Report* and also gave an oral report. He appealed to every pastor to please complete the Annual Church Ministries Report.

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

General Treasurer's Report

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

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

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 to the delegates that a copy of the full audit was available and could be picked up as they left the center.

He indicated that the independent auditing firm of Baird, Kurtz and Dobson has given 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 \$915,934,000, and liabilities in the amount of \$678,274,000.

A motion prevailed to adopt the Audit Report as printed.

Divisional and Departmental Reports

A motion prevailed to receive the remainder of the divisional and departmental reports as contained in the 1997-99 *Biennial Report*, without the reports being read. The general superintendent urged the delegates to read these reports and become familiar with the different departments and areas available to the Fellowship from our national headquarters.

Roster Committee Report

Larry L. Alverson, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 11:15 a.m., Wednesday, August 11, 1999:

Ordained	3,148	
Delegates	<u>625</u>	
Voting constituency		3,773

Licensed/certified ministers	546	
Kids Council	600	
Youth Congress	1,615	
Visitors	<u>3,634</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>6,395</u>
Total		10,168

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Resolution 14. Equivalency Examinations

The general secretary explained that at the 1997 General Council Resolution 8. Equivalency Examinations was referred to the Executive Presbytery for referral to the Committee To Study Credentialing Concerns. That committee reported to the 1998 General Presbytery and Resolution 14 is coming as a recommendation from the General Presbytery. The general secretary read Resolution 14 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, 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 136, 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 the final examinations in the prescribed courses, or

The motion to adopt Resolution 14 was carried.

Credentialing of Persons Convicted Criminally of Child Abuse

The general secretary reported that at the 1997 General Council Resolution 10. Credentialing of Persons Convicted Criminally of Child Sexual Abuse,

was referred to the Executive Presbytery to consult with legal counsel and that a report be brought back to the 1999 General Council. He read the following report from the Executive Presbytery:

It is our opinion that Resolution 10. Credentialing of Persons Convicted Criminally of Child Abuse, which was referred to the Executive Presbytery by action of the 1997 General Council, not be adopted as presented. We base this conclusion on the following consideration.

1. The resolution would impose on the General Council a legal duty to conduct criminal records checks on every applicant for credentials. Only in this way could the General Council be assured that an applicant had no prior conviction for child abuse. The cost and time involved in such a task would impose a substantial burden on the General Council. Such a burden is not warranted at this time, since no court has found a denominational agency liable for the sexual misconduct of a minister on the basis of its failure to conduct criminal records checks on applicants for credentials.

2. The standard set forth in Resolution 10 is ambiguous because (1) it would only apply to applicants who have been convicted of child sexual abuse, and not to the many child molesters who are never convicted; (2) it would impose on the General Council the sometimes difficult task of determining the precise age of victims of child molestation; (3) it would impose on the General Council the sometimes difficult task of determining the precise nature of acts of child molestation; and (4) many child molesters plead guilty to a lesser charge, and have no conviction for child sexual abuse.

3. The standard set forth in Resolution 10 is inflexible. An applicant who has a previous criminal conviction for child sexual molestation would be ineligible for credentials under all circumstances, without exception. In fact, there may be circumstances in which such a rule would be unnecessarily severe. To illustrate, consider a person who was convicted of child sexual abuse prior to his conversion many years ago for a relatively minor infraction that occurred only once and involved an adolescent, and who has lived a blameless life ever since. Should such a person be forever barred from qualifying for ministerial credentials? Or, should district and General Council credentials committees have the discretion to make judgments on a case-by-case basis, considering all the facts?

4. To be sure, the problem of child sexual abuse is a serious one. We appreciate the spirit and objective of Resolution 10. But a rejection of Resolution 10 does not leave children exposed to molesters or churches exposed to molesters or churches exposed to liability. Local church leadership can and should screen pastoral and ministerial applicants. By doing so, they not only reduce the risk of hiring a child molester, but they also significantly reduce their own liability for negligent hiring.

5. Credential applications already ask applicants about prior criminal convictions, and applicants are asked to provide references. These and other precautions make it unlikely that a convicted child molester will receive ministerial credentials.

A motion prevailed to receive the report as presented by the Executive Presbytery.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 11:45 a.m. Howard Burroughs, superintendent of the South Texas District, closed in prayer.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 11

The Wednesday afternoon business session of the 48th General Council opened with singing and worship led by Timothy Loar, Salem, Oregon.

Business Session

The business session was called to order at 2 p.m. by General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask. Glen Cole, superintendent of the Northern California-Nevada District, opened in prayer.

Roster Committee Report

Larry L. Alverson, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 1:45 p.m., Wednesday, August 11, 1999:

Ordained	3,172	
Delegates	<u>626</u>	
Voting constituency		3,798
Licensed/certified ministers	552	
Kids Council	601	
Youth Congress	1,633	
Visitors	<u>3,664</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>6,450</u>
Total		10,248

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Election of Assistant General Superintendent

The general secretary read Constitution Article IX, Section 1, paragraph a, and Bylaw Article II, Section 2, paragraph a, pertaining to the election of officers. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

Rollin J. Carlson, chairman of the Tellers Committee, gave the following

report of the nominating ballot for the office of assistant general superintendent:

Total votes cast	1,618
Needed to elect	1,079
Charles T. Crabtree	1,318

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 that he does not take election lightly and feels tremendous responsibility to this constituency. He pledged to Superintendent Trask, the Board of Administration, the Executive Presbytery, and the General Presbytery that he will do everything in his power to fulfill the spiritual agenda laid out by the general superintendent and he further pledged his allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ and this Movement.

The following is a list of all other nominees: George O. Wood 27, C. Dan Betzer 14, Glen D. Cole 14, Everett Stenhouse 14, Warren D. Bullock 12, Robert D. Crabtree 9, James K. Bridges 8, Gene Jackson 8, Agnes D. Crabtree 7, Richard Dresselhaus 7, Thomas E. Trask 7, Charles E. Hackett 6, M. Wayne Benson 5, John M. Palmer 5, Charles E. Crank 4, Armon Newburn 4, H. Robert Rhoden 4, Richard L. Crabb 3, Daniel H. Crabtree 3, C. David Gable 3, Nam Soo Kim 3, Jesse Miranda, Jr. 3, Joel A. Pavia 3, Almon Bartholomew 2, James D. Biram 2, Donald Butterfield 2, Steven J. Conrad 2, Loralie A. Crabtree 2, Ray L. Crabtree 2, Desmond T. Evans 2, William F. Leach 2, H. Maurice Lednický 2, Thomas H. Lindberg 2, Paul R. Martin 2, Charles B. Nestor 2, Randall F. Popineau 2, T. Ray Rachels 2, Donald H. Steiger 2, Karl D. Strader 2, William L. Tipton 2, Leslie M. Addison 1, Saied Adour 1, Gordon L. Anderson 1, Matthew J. Anderson 1, Steven S. Antin 1, David W. Argue 1, Donald Argue 1, David W. Auterson 1, Earl J. Banning 1, Tommy J. Barnett 1, Donna L. Barrett 1, James W. Bobo, Jr. 1, Daniel J. Bombay 1, John Bosman 1, Lawrence E. Bradley 1, Donald L. Brankel 1, Robert D. Bridges 1, David L. Broberg 1, James P. Bryant 1, L. John Bueno 1, Howard D. Burroughs 1, Rollin J. Carlson 1, Tommy Carpenter II 1, Dale C. Carpenter 1, Craig W. Carter 1, Clarence D. Cauley 1, Carl J. Colletti 1, Derald W. Compton 1, G. Robert Cook, Jr. 1, D. Wendel Cover 1, David B. Crabtree 1, John O. Crabtree 1, William Craighead 1, Kenneth R. Davidson 1, G. Mark Denyes 1, Donald J. Evans 1, Steven R. Finton 1, Robert S. Fisher 1, Douglas L. Ford, Jr. 1, James K. Free 1, Ronald M. Garner 1, L. Alton Garrison 1, Clayton B. Glickert 1, Saturnino Gonzalez 1, Wayde I. Goodall 1, William R. Handley 1, Stephen L. Harris 1, Ted R. Heaston 1, Stephen L. Hill 1, Joseph Jackson, Sr. 1, Bobby L. Johnson 1, Samuel H. Johnson 1, Terry D. Johnson 1, Spencer Jones 1, Peter A. Joudry 1, Gregory D. Kelley 1, Murray D. Kelley 1, John A. Kilpatrick 1,

Norman J. Kjos, Jr. 1, David Kwon 1, Vaudie Lambert, Jr. 1, John P. Leslier 1, Kae Joo Lim 1, Thomas W. Mather 1, Ronald F. McManus 1, Raymond P. Monroe 1, L. Jack Moore 1, P. Bong Woo Nam 1, Robert L. Nazarenus 1, Phillip S. Necly 1, Gregory S. Perkins 1, Dennis E. Rabineau 1, Terrell R. Raburn 1, James E. Rentz, Jr. 1, Robert J. Rhoden 1, Mark Rutland 1, Clarence W. St. John 1, Carl Stephens 1, Doyle L. Surratt 1, Edmund Tedeschi, Jr. 1, Earl H. Thornton 1, Bradley T. Trask 1, Thomas E. Traynor 1, Robert T. Wagers 1, William M. Walker 1, David G. Watson 1, Otto J. Wegner 1, Ricky D. Welborne 1, Leslie E. Welk 1, Roger L. Williams 1, George C. Woods 1, Terry L. Yancey 1, Jing J. Yu 1.

Election of General Secretary

A ballot was cast for the office of general secretary. Rollin J. Carlson gave the following report of the nominating ballot for the office of general secretary:

Total votes cast	1,697
Needed to elect	1,132
George O. Wood	1,518

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 responded by accepting the election and expressing his gratitude for confidence expressed and referred to his rich heritage in this Movement.

The following is a list of all other nominees: James K. Bridges 36, George C. Woods 25, Charles E. Crank 6, Gene Jackson 6, Warren D. Bullock 4, Joseph R. Flower 4, Glen D. Cole 3, Jesse Miranda, Jr. 3, R. Paul Wood 3, M. Wayne Benson 2, C. Dan Betzer 2, Donald Butterfield 2, Rollin J. Carlson 2, Richard Dresselhaus 2, L. Alton Garrison 2, Paul E. Grabill 2, Charles E. Hackett 2, John A. Kilpatrick 2, L. Jack Moore 2, Clarence W. St. John 2, Everett Stenhouse 2, James B. Wood 2, Charles J. Aaron 1, Gordon L. Anderson 1, Matthew J. Anderson 1, Richard G. Arrowood 1, Tommy J. Barnett 1, Daniel P. Bell 1, Ray A. Berryhill, Sr. 1, Keith L. Boucher 1, David L. Broberg 1, Tommy Carpenter II 1, G. Robert Cook, Jr. 1, Marne K. Cottriel 1, D. Wendel Cover 1, Charles T. Crabtree 1, John O. Crabtree 1, Robert D. Crabtree 1, Kenneth R. Davidson 1, Gary A. Denbow 1, Thomas E. Dewlen 1, Robert S. Fisher 1, John H. Fuiten 1, Paul M. Goulet 1, Douglas A. Hammond 1, William R. Hadley 1, James E. Hennessy 1, Duane V. Hurst 1, Allen Jan 1, Terry D. Johnson 1, Peter A. Joudry 1, Murray D. Kelley 1, Nam Soo Kim 1, Thomas G. Lawrence 1, John D. Marvin 1, Ronald F. McManus 1, J. Derald Musgrove 1, James R. Palmer 1, Edward Peecher 1, Randall F. Popineau 1, Dennis E. Rabineau 1, H. Robert Rhoden 1, Charles E. Savage 1, John W.

Smith 1, Edward Spinola 1, Garnet L. Strom 1, Juan H. Suarez 1, Edmund Tedeschi, Jr. 1, John W. Thompson 1, Bradley T. Trask 1, Thomas E. Trask 1, James R. Trewern 1, Dwaine K. Umbel 1, Robert D. Umphrey 1, David R. Williams 1, Randy Williamson 1, Stephen W. Wilson 1, V. Eddie Wilson 1, Darrell F. Wood 1, Foster B. Wood 1, Jim D. Wood 1, Kerry V. Wood 1, Ronald H. Wood 1, Susan E. Wooden 1, Wayne W. Woody 1.

Election of General Treasurer

The general secretary read Bylaw Article II, Section 2, paragraph b and presented the name of James K. Bridges as the nominee from the General Presbytery.

Rollin J. Carlson, chairman of the Tellers Committee, gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the office of general treasurer:

Total votes cast	1,746
Needed to elect	1,164
Yes votes	1,658
No votes	88

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

James K. Bridges expressed his appreciation to the Fellowship and to the Lord for the honor given him to work for this great Fellowship. He also expressed appreciation to the Board of Administration and the Executive Presbytery for the privilege of working with the brethren on these boards.

Election of Executive Director of the Division of Foreign Missions

The general secretary read the Bylaw provision for the election of the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions, Article II, Section 2, paragraph e and presented the name of L. John Bueno as the nominee from the General Presbytery.

Rollin J. 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	1,725
Needed to elect	1,150
Yes	1,679
No	46

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

John Bueno expressed his deep appreciation for the confidence of this body in him. He further stated that the response to worldwide missions has been unprecedented and it brings the assurance that this Movement is about the business of fulfilling the Great Commission of our Lord. He also expressed appreciation for the love and support of the Board of Administration and the general superintendent.

Election of Executive Director of the Division of Home Missions

The general secretary read the Bylaw provision for the election of the executive director of the Division of Home Missions, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, and presented the name of Charles E. Hackett as the nominee from the General Presbytery.

Rollin J. 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	1,630
Needed to elect	1,087
Yes	1,557
No	73

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 expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to work in this enriching and fulfilling ministry and also his appreciation to the Lord for this privilege and opportunity.

Convoy of Hope Presentation

Bradley Trask, pastor of Brighton Assembly of God, Brighton, Michigan, gave a report of the Convoy of Hope outreach conducted in Detroit that he had the privilege of being a part of. He stated, "The Convoy of Hope is about treating people in the inner city like royalty for one day. Being involved with Convoy of Hope will change your life."

A video was shown and then Dave Donaldson, president of Convoy of Hope, reported on the ministry of Convoy of Hope. He shared that many families in America rely on emergency assistance and it is time for churches to rise up and take their rightful place. A brochure regarding the opportunities to be involved in a Convoy of Hope was made available to the delegates.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Northwest Area

The general secretary read Bylaw Article II, Section 2, paragraph e, dealing with the election process for the nonresident executive presbyters.

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	1,062
Needed to elect	708
Ted R. Boatsman	57
Robert L. Brandt	464
Ted O. Britain	12
Duane E. Buhler	22
Warren D. Bullock	276
Dale C. Carpenter	36
William I. Gallaher	21
Paul D. Goodman	70
Roland L. Peretti	45
Larry M. Savage	17
Lewis R. Shelton	30
Daniel M. York	12

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

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

Total votes cast	1,079
Needed to elect	720
Ted R. Boatsman	61
Robert L. Brandt	552
Ted O. Britain	3
Duane E. Buhler	14
Warren D. Bullock	373
Dale C. Carpenter	9
William I. Gallaher	6
Paul D. Goodman	30
Roland L. Peretti	19
Larry M. Savage	3
Lewis R. Shelton	8
Daniel M. York	1

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

Rollin Carlson gave the following report of the third elective ballot for the Northwest Area:

Total votes cast	1,000
Needed to elect	667
Ted R. Boatsman	22
Robert L. Brandt	563
Ted O. Britain	3
Duane E. Buhler	12
Warren D. Bullock	382
Dale C. Carpenter	2
William I. Gallaher	3
Paul D. Goodman	6
Roland L. Peretti	4
Larry M. Savage	2
Lewis R. Shelton	0
Daniel M. York	1

Since there was no election, a fourth ballot would be cast on Thursday morning.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:45 p.m. Samuel Sanchez, superintendent of the Southern Pacific Latin American District, closed in prayer.

WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICE—AUGUST 11

The Wednesday evening service began at 6:40 p.m. with a musical prelude by Neale and Webb (Michael Neale and Devin Webb), Nashville, Tennessee. James K. Bridges, general treasurer, was chairman for the evening service. A time of praise and worship was led by Tom Matrone, minister of music, Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri. Darlene Matrone, Springfield, Missouri, and Benny Ferguson II, West Memphis, Arkansas, served at the piano and organ, respectively. Special music was provided by the choir and orchestra from Victory Assembly of God, Lakeland, Florida, under the direction of Eddie Hawks, and Bob Kilpatrick, Fair Oaks, California. Scripture for the service was read by Leslie Addison, superintendent of the Alabama District, and prayer was offered by Katie Peecher, Chicago, Illinois.

John Bosman, pastor of Glad Tidings Assembly of God, Lake Charles, Louisiana, and assistant superintendent of the Louisiana District, was the speaker for the evening. His text was from Isaiah 64:1-7. He told the crowd that, "Our prayers must ignite the fires in the oven again, and our worship must produce fresh bread indicating the manifest presence of God." He urged each

one to pray that God will renew in us His vision for the world: To reach the nations, serve our generation, and reap the harvest from the four corners of the earth. As the altar call was given, hundreds upon hundreds responded in an extensive season of prayer.

THURSDAY MORNING—AUGUST 12

A time of prayer and praise led by Dick Eastman, Colorado Springs, Colorado, began at 8 a.m. Worship was led by Dwane Swindal, Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Kenton Lee, Tacoma, Washington, and Marjorie Ferrin, Colorado Springs, Colorado, served at the piano and organ, respectively. A special piano offertory was presented by Kenton Lee.

Business Session

Thomas E. Trask called the business session to order at 9:23 a.m. and Loren Triplett, Springfield, Missouri, led in prayer.

Roster Report

Larry L. Alverson, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 9 a.m., Thursday, August 12, 1999:

Ordained	3,199	
Delegates	<u>629</u>	
Voting constituency		3,828
Licensed/certified ministers	577	
Kids Council	617	
Youth Congress	6,031	
Visitors	<u>3,696</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>10,921</u>
Total		14,749

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Northwest Area (continued)

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

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

Total votes cast	1,367
Needed to elect	912

Ted R. Boatsman	56
Robert L. Brandt	686
Ted O. Britain	27
Duane E. Buhler	11
Warren D. Bullock	411
Dale C. Carpenter	24
William I. Gallaher	20
Paul D. Goodman	64
Roland L. Peretti	30
Larry M. Savage	18
Lewis R. Shelton	14
Daniel M. York	6

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

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

Total votes cast	1,305
Needed to elect	870
Ted R. Boatsman	18
Robert L. Brandt	788
Ted O. Britain	11
Duane E. Buhler	7
Warren D. Bullock	460
Dale C. Carpenter	2
William I. Gallaher	7
Paul D. Goodman	8
Roland L. Peretti	0
Larry M. Savage	1
Lewis R. Shelton	2
Daniel M. York	1

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

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

Total votes cast	1,228
Needed to elect	819
Ted R. Boatsman	12
Robert L. Brandt	816
Ted O. Britain	2
Duane E. Buhler	5
Warren D. Bullock	354

Dale C. Carpenter	6
William I. Gallaher	7
Paul D. Goodman	10
Roland L. Peretti	3
Larry M. Savage	5
Lewis R. Shelton	7
Daniel M. York	1

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

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

Total votes cast	1,410
Needed to elect	940
Ted R. Boatsman	5
Robert L. Brandt	1,119
Ted O. Britain	0
Duane E. Buhler	0
Warren D. Bullock	276
Dale C. Carpenter	0
William I. Gallaher	2
Paul D. Goodman	1
Roland L. Peretti	1
Larry M. Savage	0
Lewis R. Shelton	4
Daniel M. York	2

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

Special Recognition of Adele Carmichael

The general superintendent gave special recognition to Mrs. Adele Carmichael for her many years of ministry as an ordained minister. Mrs. Carmichael is the longest credential holding minister in the Assemblies of God, having been ordained on January 5, 1918. The general superintendent expressed to her the deep appreciation of the Fellowship for her 81½ years of service as an ordained minister of the gospel. In honor of this special occasion, he presented her a certificate of appreciation.

General Superintendent's Medal of Honor

The General Superintendent's Medal of Honor was presented by the general superintendent to the following two outstanding laymen:

David Cribbs

David Cribbs, a gifted businessman, has owned and operated a number of companies and has been a real estate developer and cattle rancher. He has served on the boards of a number of companies as well as his local church and Assemblies of God national ministries. He willingly serves the church in many ways, from developing church building plans, to removing snow from the church parking lot, to sitting on the board of directors for the Assemblies of God Financial Services Group. He and his wife Betty work closely with the Convoy of Hope outreach to needy families and individuals. They are testimonies of God's grace and love.

Barry Meguiar

Barry Meguiar is president and CEO of Meguiar's Inc., one of the leading manufacturers of surface car care products in the world. Barry and his wife Karen are members of Orange County Worship Center, Santa Ana, California, and are involved in many ways in the church's ministries. Also, Barry has served the Assemblies of God Fellowship as a member of various boards and committees, including the Division of Foreign Missions and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary. Currently, Barry chairs the Laity Advisory Committee for the Fellowship. Barry is also involved with Teen Challenge—both in the Southern California District and nationally.

Constitution and Bylaws Revision Committee Report

Ronald McManus, chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Revision Committee, was asked by the chairman to present the report of the committee. He requested the members of the committee to be seated with him on the platform. The members of this committee were: Ronald R. McManus, chairman; Charles E. Crank, Richard R. Hammar, D.V. Hurst, Elmer E. Kirsch, Armon Newburn, H. Robert Rhoden, Gene M. Roncone II, George O. Wood, Michael Messner (resource person).

The chairman of the committee briefly explained the history of the committee and the color coding of the report. He further pointed out that this report had been mailed to all ordained ministers and General Council affiliated churches several weeks in advance in compliance with the requirements for amendments as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council.

The report was considered seriatim. Motions were received and adopted for each article in the constitution as presented by the committee and recommended and endorsed by the General Presbytery.

Ron McManus then proceeded to present the proposed amendments to the Bylaws.

Two amendments to the proposed amendments were offered from the floor:

1. A motion was made and seconded to amend Article II, page 17, line 5 by changing the word "vote" to the word "majority." The motion was lost.

2. A motion prevailed to amend Article II, page 17, lines 6 and 7, lines 21 and 22, and lines 36 and 37, by substituting the words "required to elect" for the words "necessary to constitute an election."

Prior to recess, proposed amendments to Bylaws Article I through Article VIII had been adopted.

Ministerial Enrichment Presentation

Wayde Goodall, coordinator of the Ministerial Enrichment Office and editor of the *Enrichment* journal, called attention to the latest issue. He indicated that this issue is full of historical information about the outpouring of Pentecost at the turn of the century, Azusa Street in 1906, the beginning of the Council in 1914 and from then on. "You will be thrilled and you will recognize that God has had His hand of blessing on this church." Copies were made available to the delegates.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 11:45 a.m. to reconvene at 1:45 p.m.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 12

The Thursday afternoon business session was opened with singing by John Hall. The chairman called the business session to order at 1:55 p.m.

Roster Report

Larry L. Alverson, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 1:45 p.m., Thursday, August 12, 1999:

Ordained	3,214	
Delegates	<u>630</u>	
Voting constituency		3,844

Licensed/certified ministers	584	
Kids Council	617	
Youth Congress	6,031	
Visitors	<u>3,711</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>10,943</u>
Total		14,787

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Introduction of New President of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary

Thomas Trask introduced Byron Klaus, the new president of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary. He expressed appreciation for the opportunity afforded him to serve in this great institution. He pledged to the Council that AGTS will be a place that follows the mission of God to redeem the lost, that strategizes, that creates the structures by which we may bring leadership training to those whom God is raising up. George Wood, chairman of the Board of Directors of AGTS, offered prayer for Dr. and Mrs. Klaus.

Constitution and Bylaws Revision Committee Report (continued)

Ron McManus, chairman of the Constitution and Bylaws Revision Committee, continued with the presentation of amendments to the Bylaws.

Two amendments to the proposed amendments were offered from the floor:

1. A motion prevailed to amend Article X, Section 7, paragraph d, page 52, line 16 by deleting the words "his or her" so the sentence will read: Refusal to surrender ministerial credentials and current fellowship card may result in placing an additional charge against the minister.

2. An amendment was made and seconded to amend Article XXVII. General Council Policy Manual, page 110, lines 16 and 17 by replacing the word "report" with "submit for approval by that body" and the addition of a sentence at the end to read, "This document shall be made available to pastors and/or churches upon request."

An amendment to the amendment was made and seconded, replacing the last sentence with the following sentence: "The General Council policy manual shall be available upon request to churches and credentialed ministers." The amendment to the amendment carried.

It was moved and seconded to amend the amendment by deleting the words "for approval by that body," so the amendment would read: "The Executive

Presbytery shall submit annually to the General Presbytery all additions, deletions, and modifications to the General Council Policy Manual. The General Council Policy Manual shall be available upon request to churches and credentialed ministers." The chair called for a division of the house with a result of 439 in favor and 400 opposed. The chairman declared that the amendment to the amendment did carry.

Motions to adopt Articles IX through XXX were presented and adopted as each section was given consideration.

A motion prevailed that the amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, as recommended by the Constitution and Bylaws Revision Committee and amended by the Council in session, be adopted as a whole.

[Note: The newly revised Constitution and Bylaws as amended and adopted, appears in this book and can be found on pages 85-173.]

Distinguished Administrator Award

Wayne Kraiss, commissioner for the Commission on Christian Higher Education, presented the Distinguished Administrator Award. Two distinguished administrators were recognized:

Zenas Bicket

Zenas Bicket began his teaching career at Central Bible Institute 45 years ago in 1954. He earned his Ph.D. in English literature from the University of Arkansas. He later joined the Evangel College faculty as a full-time faculty member and became academic dean in 1966. In 1989, he accepted the call to be president of Berean University. For the past 19 years, Dr. Bicket and his wife Rhoda have faithfully taught an adult Sunday school class at Central Assembly of God in Springfield, Missouri. He was ordained by the Wisconsin-Northern Michigan District in 1957. He has served this Fellowship with distinction as a member of the Commission on Doctrinal Purity since 1988 and currently chairs this strategic commission. He is the author or coauthor of nine publications and numerous articles.

Delbert H. Tarr, Jr.

Del Tarr began his ministerial service in the Assemblies of God in 1954 in Hopkins, Minnesota. He was appointed as a foreign missionary 5 years later to Burkina Faso, West Africa. His distinguished background in Assemblies of God education includes the director of the Mossi Land Bible School in Upper Volta. He was the cofounder of the West African Advanced School of Theology in Togo, West Africa. He has served the Assemblies of God

Theological Seminary as associate professor and coordinator of cross-cultural communication studies, dean of missions, chairman and professor of the missions and communications departments, and president. He has retired from the presidency of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary after leading the institution in a very successful capital campaign and the construction of its beautiful new facilities in Springfield, Missouri. He is known to be deeply committed to our Pentecostal heritage and coined the motto, "Knowledge on Fire," which is a theme phrase at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary.

Billie Davis Educator of the Year Award

The Billie Davis Educator of the Year Award is the highest award this denomination gives to volunteer teachers in the church. Dr. Billie Davis helped make the presentation of this award.

Roxanne Umphenour

Roxanne Umphenour is a wife and mother of five. She is a dedicated teacher. The Umphenour family are members of the Assembly of God in Clinton, New Jersey. Lawrence Frank is her pastor. Roxanne is a wise and loving teacher who presents eternal truths and helps children find in these eternal truths the right keys to the future.

Who's Who Among Christian School Educators

LeRoy Bartel, national director of the Division of Christian Education, and Jimmy Ames, Christian schools representative for the Division of Christian Education, presented the first annual Who's Who Among Assemblies of God Educators Awards. This is an annual award to recognize Pentecostal educators who have dedicated themselves to teaching children in either the public or private schools of America. To be eligible, nominees must be full-time teachers, preschool through high school, with an appropriate academic preparation for a distinguished educator. Nominees are required to have demonstrated classroom excellence as recognized by administrators, peers, parents, and students. Fourteen people were named this year to receive the Who's Who among Assemblies of God Educators Award. They are as follows:

Ruth Ann Blackwell, Alabama
Karla Born, Washington
Sandra Bruk, Wisconsin
Barbara Culpepper, Arkansas
Merle Dorey, Arkansas
Frances Ferrell, Florida
Margaret Hunt, Florida
Loren Hyllberg, Wisconsin

Ruth Karode, Ohio
Glenda Laurents, Louisiana
Sheila Monus, Louisiana
Paul Moody, Washington
Karen Smith, Ohio
Lisa Taylor, Alabama

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:45 p.m. with prayer.

THURSDAY EVENING—AUGUST 12

Prior to the Thursday evening service a children's musical was presented beginning at 6 p.m. entitled "Mercy Med Center."

The Thursday evening service begin with a missionary parade introduced by Charles Hackett, executive director of the Division of Home Missions. Randy Hurst, Springfield, Missouri, led in worship with Dawn Crabtree, Worcester, Massachusetts, at the piano and Phil Pfaltzgraff, Petoskey, Michigan, at the organ. The offering appeal was made by Dan Betzer, executive presbyter from the Southeast Area. The offertory was presented by Jimmy Fedorkevich, Franklin, Tennessee. Special music was provided by the choir from Faith Assembly of God, Orlando, Florida, directed by Jonathan Faggart.

Thomas Trask introduced fraternal delegates who were present. Prior to the introduction of the speaker, the general superintendent made a special presentation in honor of the late John "Hap" McPherson, who was an American Indian and a much-loved early pioneer in ministry to his people. The speaker for the service was John Bueno, executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions. He focused on the global mission of the Assemblies of God and the theme for the turn of the new century, "That My House Be Filled!" Taking the Parable of the Supper in Luke 14:16-23 as a text, he emphasized "... yet there is room ..." and "... that my house be filled." He pointed out from the parable that there is no need to wait. Future blessings will come, but God has given us the best, a spiritual kingdom, to proclaim now and all excuses are foolish in refusing to accept the invitation of the Lord. He urged that everyone who proclaims the name of Jesus join in this hour to hear the words of Jesus "... My house is not filled!"

FRIDAY MORNING—AUGUST 13

The Friday morning session began at 8 a.m. with a time of prayer and worship led by Dick Eastman. John Skipper, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, led in worship. David Thomas, Fort Myers, Florida, and Darlene Betzer, Fort Myers, Florida, served at the piano and organ respectively.

Business Session

Chairman Trask called the business session to order at 9:25 a.m. Morris Ivey, assistant superintendent of the North Texas District, led in prayer.

Roster Report

Larry L. Alverson, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the final report of the Roster Committee as of 9 a.m., Friday, August 13, 1999:

Ordained	3,221	
Delegates	<u>630</u>	
Voting constituency		3,851
Licensed/certified ministers	593	
Kids Council	617	
Youth Congress	6,031	
Visitors	<u>3,729</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>10,970</u>
Total		14,821

A motion prevailed to receive the report. A motion prevailed that the registration for this General Council is officially closed.

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	1,348
Needed to elect	899
Glen D. Cole	380
Richard Dresselhaus	668
Stephen L. Harris	34
Terry Inman	20
James D. Marocco	13
Phillip S. Neely	25
T. Ray Rachels	128
Donald H. Steiger	20
David L. Stevens	39
Woodrow Yasuhara	21

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

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

Total votes cast	1,119
Needed to elect	746
Glen D. Cole	179
Richard Dresselhaus	863
Stephen L. Harris	9
Terry Inman	3
James D. Marocco	3
Phillip S. Neely	8
T. Ray Rachels	32
Donald H. Steiger	2
David L. Stevens	9
Woodrow Yasuhara	5
Invalid	6

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

Election of Executive Presbyter—North Central Area

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

Total votes cast	1,326
Needed to elect	884
David W. Argue	667
Richard Arrowood	29
Gary A. Denbow	35
Leon Freitag	7
Darrell Losing	12
Robert L. Nazareus	15
David Nelson	29
John M. Palmer	343
Joel A. Pavia	28
Clarence St. John	80
Manuel Shoults	20
Daniel B. Spina	12
Edmund Tedeschi	36
Ronald J. Traub	13

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	1,345
Needed to elect	897
David W. Argue	1,082
Richard Arrowood	6
Gary A. Denbow	4
Leon Freitag	1
Darrell Losing	0
Robert L. Nazareus	0
David Nelson	2
John M. Palmer	214
Joel A. Pavia	3
Clarence St. John	23
Manuel Shoults	2
Daniel B. Spina	1
Edmund Tedeschi	2
Ronald J. Traub	3
Invalid	2

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	1,314
Needed to elect	876
Earl J. Banning	127
Howard D. Burroughs	30
H. Franklin Cargill	31
Micheal Dickenson	22
Derwood W. Dubose	71
J. Don George	220
R. Kenneth George	52
Jonathan M. Hollis	37
Thomas D. Lakey	28
Armon Newburn	610
Robert G. Slaton	18
Terry L. Yancey	68

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

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

Total votes cast	1,166
Needed to elect	777
Earl J. Banning	39
Howard D. Burroughs	6
H. Franklin Cargill	1
Micheal Dickenson	0
Derwood W. Dubose	10
J. Don George	93
R. Kenneth George	11
Jonathan M. Hollis	4
Thomas D. Lakey	2
Armon Newburn	988
Robert G. Slaton	2
Terry L. Yancey	9
Invalid	1

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	1,327
Needed to elect	885
Jay T. Alford	45
M. Wayne Benson	635
Ray A. Berryhill	102
James D. Biram	13
Robert D. Crabtree	157
Charles E. Crank	198
Ron Crum	13
Marvin R. Dennis	23
Joseph R. Hardt	11
William F. Leach	25
Paul R. Martin	58
Jerry G. McCamey	47

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	883
Needed to elect	556
Jay T. Alford	11
M. Wayne Benson	658
Ray A. Berryhill	29
James D. Biram	4
Robert D. Crabtree	35
Charles E. Crank	66
Ron Crum	1
Marvin R. Dennis	3
Joseph R. Hardt	3
William F. Leach	3
Paul R. Martin	14
Jerry G. McCamey	6

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	1,335
Needed to elect	890
John Bosman	295
Walter Davis	24
Douglas E. Fulenwider	34
L. Alton Garrison	327
Gene Jackson	486
Bobby L. Johnson	53
J. D. Middlebrook	37
L. Jack Moore	46
Roger N. Perkin	18
J. Howard Reynolds	15

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

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

Total votes cast	1,036
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Needed to elect	691
John Bosman	114
Walter Davis	3
Douglas E. Fulenwider	11
L. Alton Garrison	310
Gene Jackson	554
Bobby L. Johnson	12
J. D. Middlebrook	10
L. Jack Moore	16
Roger N. Perkin	3
J. Howard Reynolds	2
Invalid	1

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

Rollin Carlson gave the following report of the third elective ballot for the Gulf Area executive presbyter:

Total votes cast	1,240
Needed to elect	827
John Bosman	53
Walter Davis	2
Douglas E. Fulenwider	4
L. Alton Garrison	304
Gene Jackson	863
Bobby L. Johnson	2
J. D. Middlebrook	4
L. Jack Moore	1
Roger N. Perkin	3
J. Howard Reynolds	4

Having noted that Gene Jackson had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as 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	1,303
Needed to elect	869
Saied Adour	42
Almon M. Bartholomew	681
Philip Bongiorno	75
Carl J. Colletti	60
George D. Cope	67

D. Wendel Cover	54
Richard E. Fogel	27
Dennis W. Marquardt	24
James E. Morris	26
W. Eugene Petty	30
H. Robert Rhoden	182
Otis D. Stanley	32
Invalid	3

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	1,099
Needed to elect	733
Saied Adour	23
Almon M. Bartholomew	810
Philip Bongiorno	48
Carl J. Colletti	15
George D. Cope	24
D. Wendel Cover	13
Richard E. Fogel	4
Dennis W. Marquardt	7
James E. Morris	5
W. Eugene Petty	8
H. Robert Rhoden	128
Otis D. Stanley	2
Invalid	12

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	1,353
Needed to elect	902
Leslie M. Addison	16
C. Dan Betzer	984
Steven R. Brown	27
Billy J. Glover	29
Charles O. Kelly	21

Vaudie V. Lambert	70
Glyn Lowery, Jr.	26
Kenneth Owen	13
Donald E. Price	16
Mark Rutland	132
David L. Scruggs, Sr.	17
Invalid	2

Having noted that C. Dan Betzer had 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-Spanish Area

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

Total votes cast	1,286
Needed to elect	857
Adolfo Carrion	45
Daniel De Leon	143
Bernardino P. Espinoza, Jr.	73
Saturnino Gonzalez	58
Clemente Maldonado, Jr.	25
Ignacio Marrero	15
Jesse Miranda	805
Samuel P. Molina	63
John M. Neciuk	9
Jose M. Quiles	10
Rafael Reyes	21
Richard K. Tanon	19

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	726
Needed to elect	484
Adolfo Carrion	1
Daniel De Leon	29
Bernardino P. Espinoza, Jr.	7
Saturnino Gonzalez	7
Clemente Maldonado, Jr.	2
Ignacio Marrero	2

Jesse Miranda	654
Samuel P. Molina	8
John M. Neciuk	0
Jose M. Quiles	0
Rafael Reyes	2
Richard K. Tanon	3
Invalid	11

Having noted that Jesse Miranda had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected executive presbyter from the Language-Spanish Area.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Language-Other Area

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

Total votes cast	1,162
Needed to elect	775
Ouriel De Jesus	169
Nam Soo Kim	534
David Rueb	268
Paulo R. Rosa	191

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

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

Total votes cast	1,012
Needed to elect	675
Ouriel De Jesus	25
Nam Soo Kim	895
David Rueb	61
Paulo R. Rosa	18
Invalid	13

Having noted that Nam Soo Kim had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him elected as executive presbyter from the Language-Other Area.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Ethnic Fellowship Area

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

Total votes cast	1,238
Needed to elect	825
Rodger Cree	141
Emory J. Dively	36
Spencer Jones	473
John Maracle	152
Viliame Naivalu	20
Edward Peecher	248
C. Blair Schlepp	37
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	129
Invalid	2

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	990
Needed to elect	660
Rodger Cree	18
Emory J. Dively	11
Spencer Jones	784
John Maracle	24
Viliame Naivalu	2
Edward Peecher	107
C. Blair Schlepp	1
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	40
Invalid	3

Having noted that Spencer Jones had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him elected as executive presbyter from the Ethnic Fellowship Area.

Resolution 10. Honorary General Presbyter—Joseph M. Beretta

Ron McManus, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read resolution 10. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 10, as follows:

WHEREAS, Joseph M. Beretta, a dedicated and faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ, has spent his life in service to the Lord and to the Assemblies of God for 42 years as an ordained minister; and

WHEREAS, He has served the New Jersey District as superintendent for 10 years and assistant superintendent for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served with distinction on the board of trustees of Valley Forge Christian College and Evangel University and has served on the

national Home Missions Board and other General Council committees; and
WHEREAS, He has served on the General Presbytery for 22 years and his experience, wisdom, and love for the Assemblies of God have made him a valuable member of the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph g, page 113, 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 Joseph M. Beretta be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 11. Honorary General Presbyter—Adolfo Carrion

Ron McManus, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 11. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 11, as follows:

WHEREAS, Adolfo Carrion has served this Fellowship with distinction as an ordained minister for 38 years; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the Spanish Eastern District as assistant superintendent for 1 year, and superintendent for 33 years; and

WHEREAS, He has been a model of a distinguished servant-leader to the evangelical faith within the Hispanic community; and

WHEREAS, He has served the clergy and Christian ministries within the Spanish Eastern District and other Spanish-speaking Pentecostal councils that have requested his services; and

WHEREAS, He has served 33 years as a member of the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph g, page 113, 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 Adolfo Carrion be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter

Resolution 12. Honorary General Presbyter—Vaudie V. Lambert, Jr.

Ron McManus read Resolution 12. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 12 as follows:

WHEREAS, Vaudie V. Lambert, Jr., has served as a credentialed Assemblies of God minister for 51 years and as an ordained minister for 46 years; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the Alabama District of the Assemblies of God with distinction as pastor, Christian education director, and 21 years as district superintendent; and

WHEREAS, He has served 21 years as a member of the General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph g, page 113, 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 Vaudie V. Lambert, Jr., be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 13. Honorary General Presbyter—William H. Robertson

Ron McManus read Resolution 13. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 13, as follows:

WHEREAS, William H. Robertson served as a member of the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God continuously from 1958 to 1980; and

WHEREAS, William H. Robertson received a Certificate of Appointment as an honorary executive presbyter in recognition of 23 years of meritorious service to the Southern California District during the District Council, April 11-14, 1988; and

WHEREAS, During this time he served as the secretary-treasurer of the Southern California District Council for 12 years, and superintendent of the Southern California District Council for 11 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served as chairman of the board of Southern California College, and as a member or chairman of numerous other committees of the Southern California District Council and the General Council; and

WHEREAS, Following the age of retirement he continues to serve this Fellowship as a missionary to South Asia, including Singapore and Malaysia, since 1986 to the present; and

WHEREAS, Since he was ordained in 1942, he has served as evangelist, pioneer pastor, administrator, theologian, wise counselor, and a spiritual statesman; and

WHEREAS, We have all reaped the benefits of his leadership, wisdom, ministry, and life; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph g, page 113, 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 H. Robertson be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

World Ministries Giving Awards

World Ministries Giving awards for giving during the calendar years of 1997 and 1998 were presented by James K. Bridges, general treasurer, as follows:

Total Dollar Giving (Churches)

5. West End Assembly of God, Richmond, Virginia (\$1,707,037)
4. Mt. Hope Church & International Outreach Ministries, Lansing, Michigan (\$2,379,482)
3. Calvary Church, Naperville, Illinois (\$3,036,321)
2. Lakeside Assembly of God, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (\$3,108,078)
1. First Assembly of God, Phoenix, Arizona (\$18,445,546)

Balance-in-Participation Giving (Churches)

5. First Full Gospel Assembly of God, Patterson, Missouri (417 points)
4. First Assembly of God, Newton, Iowa (420 points)
3. Western Hills Assembly of God, Jefferson City, Missouri (426 points)
2. First Assembly of God, Statesboro, Georgia (435 points)
1. Full Gospel Church Assembly of God, Livingston, New Jersey (449 points)

Total Dollar Giving (Districts)

3. Arizona District Council (\$26,623,511)
2. Southern California District Council (\$30,385,320)
1. Northern California-Nevada District Council (\$33,263,326)

Balance-in-Participation Giving (Districts)

3. North Dakota District Council (56.85 percent)
2. South Dakota District Council (56.95 percent)
1. German District Council (59.95 percent)

Resolution 1. A Call for Extraordinary Prayer

Ron McManus read Resolution 1, as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God Fellowship recognizes our absolute dependence on God; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God Fellowship recognizes that there is a moral and spiritual crisis facing our nation; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God Fellowship recognizes that our nation is in desperate need of divine intervention; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God Fellowship recognizes our great hope for a general awakening to the lordship of Christ and the sovereignty of His kingdom; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God Fellowship recognizes the unique opportunity that the dawn of a new millennium presents to us for offering the gospel of Christ to everyone in our nation and throughout the world; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we strongly urge all churches and all Christians of America to unite in seeking the face of God through prayer and fasting, persistently asking our Father to send revival to the church and spiritual awakening to our nation so that Christ's Great Commission might be fulfilled worldwide in our generation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we humbly yet strongly request all churches and all Christians to join together in following five rhythms of prayer:

1. By **daily** spending time with the Lord in prayer and in the reading of His Word so as to yield ourselves fully to the control and empowerment of the Holy Spirit;
2. By **weekly** humbling ourselves before God by designating a day (Tuesday if possible) for united prayer and fasting, as the Lord leads;
3. By **monthly** designating in individual churches one service for concerted prayer emphasizing this call, with special focus on its neighborhood applications;
4. By **quarterly** assembling in multichurch prayer events emphasizing this call, with special focus on its citywide applications; and
5. By **annually** participating in the nationwide prayer events emphasizing this call, with special focus on its national and global applications;

The motion to adopt Resolution 1 carried.

Resolution 2. 2000 Celebration

Ron McManus read Resolution 2 and moved its adoption.

The motion to adopt Resolution 2 carried.

A motion prevailed to amend the preamble of Resolution 2 on page 4, line 19 with the addition of another whereas to read: WHEREAS, The American church will likewise greatly benefit from the presence and testimony of the worldwide Assemblies of God family; and.

Resolution 2 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The 20th century began with an outpouring of the Holy Spirit which has resulted in the worldwide Pentecostal Movement; and

WHEREAS, An integral part of the Pentecostal Movement is the Assemblies of God, formed in 1914 with 300 delegates and now encompassing a worldwide family of believers numbering approximately 30 million in 158 countries; and

WHEREAS, The turn of the millennium affords a most precious and unique opportunity to celebrate what the Lord has done through the

Assemblies of God, to renew commitment to the task of completing the Great Commission, and to collectively as a worldwide Assemblies of God family make intercession for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the new millennium; and

WHEREAS, Most of the ministers and laypersons of the Assemblies of God in the United States have never had opportunity to travel abroad and see firsthand what God has done through their investment of prayer, personnel, and finances in missions; and

WHEREAS, Inviting the Assemblies of God worldwide to the United States for a 2000 Celebration hosted by the American church would provide an opportunity to see and hear firsthand what God hath wrought; and

WHEREAS, The opportunity to come to the United States and meet the American church would be welcomed and beneficial to the worldwide Assemblies of God family; and

WHEREAS, The American church will likewise greatly benefit from the presence and testimony of the worldwide Assemblies of God family; and

WHEREAS, The turn of the millennium reminds us that the clock of human history is winding down and the return of the Lord is near; and

WHEREAS, The imminency of His return, the outpouring of the Spirit, and the increasing globalization of the Assemblies of God combine to bring urgency to the task of evangelizing the world by reaching remaining nations, people groups, and all persons with the gospel; and

WHEREAS, In recent days as this century closes, God has been reviving His church with a visitation of His presence; and

WHEREAS, Biblical precedent exists for God's people gathering together for holy convocations, festivals, and jubilees; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery has set aside the days of August 8-10 for a 2000 Celebration in Indianapolis, Indiana, for the purpose of gathering the Assemblies of God in America and throughout the world; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council endorse 2000 Celebration as a time for the entire Assemblies of God family to gather together to thank God for His great grace in the past and present and ask for His blessing in the future; and be it further

RESOLVED, That invitation be given to the World Assemblies of God Fellowship to gather at 2000 Celebration for its third triennial convocation; and be it further

RESOLVED, That every Assemblies of God General Council in the world and the leadership thereof be invited to participate in 2000 Celebration; and be it further

RESOLVED, That every pastor, along with laypersons, in every Assemblies of God church in the United States be requested and urged to attend so that in 2000 Celebration there will be a solidarity within the church in its thanksgiving, intercession, and declaration; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all ministers, including home and foreign missionaries, be urged to participate in 2000 Celebration; and be it further

RESOLVED, That 2000 Celebration include a time of thanksgiving expressed in humility, with the seeking of a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit for the years ahead, should Jesus tarry; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the general superintendent and our leadership present fresh vision to the Assemblies of God for the future; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, in preparation for 2000 Celebration, the Assemblies of God engage in a grassroots process to assess what the Holy Spirit is saying to the church in these hours, and that the vision presented by leadership reflect this assessment; and be it further

RESOLVED, That strategic plans be developed to carry the Assemblies of God into the years ahead in fulfillment of the fresh vision; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we ask the Lord of the harvest to make 2000 Celebration on August 8-10 in Indianapolis, Indiana, an epicenter for the outpouring of His Spirit upon the Assemblies of God as we enter a new century and a new millennium; that we will indeed witness a new Pentecost as the Assemblies of God comes together from the nations of this earth in the most international gathering ever witnessed by this church.

Resolution 3. Terms for Officers

Ron McManus read Resolution 3 as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, God has blessed the Assemblies of God with anointed and gifted leadership; and

WHEREAS, Our executive officers and executive directors of the divisions of foreign and home missions are asked to resign positions where they enjoy a high level of security in order to serve the Fellowship from our national headquarters; and

WHEREAS, We have previously recognized the importance of extending the term of office for the general superintendent; and

WHEREAS, We presently require election every 2 years for the offices of assistant general superintendent, general secretary, general treasurer, executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions, and executive director of the Division of Home Missions; and

WHEREAS, The act of voting every 2 years on these offices can contribute to a feeling of unrest in the Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God has traditionally recommended to our churches that our pastors be called for an indefinite term; and

WHEREAS, Ministers with a longer tenure are historically more effective; and

WHEREAS, If there should ever be a problem serious enough to require replacement of an officer, our Constitution and Bylaws provide ade-

quate authority for the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery to handle the matter within proper guidelines; and

WHEREAS, It would seem beneficial to the General Council for its officers to be elected for a term longer than 2 years; and

WHEREAS, The 4-year term for the general superintendent has proven beneficial for the Fellowship; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Constitution Article IX. Officers, Section 1. Executive Officers, a. Officers and terms of office, page 111, which now reads:

a. Officers and terms of office. The officers shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, and the general treasurer, together with such other officers as may be authorized in the future. Their terms of office shall begin 3 months after the date of election. The term of office for the general superintendent shall continue for 4 years or until his successor qualifies. The terms of office for all other officers shall continue for 2 years or until their successors qualify.

Be amended to read:

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, and shall continue for 4 years or until a successor qualifies. And, be it further

RESOLVED, That Constitution Article IX. Officers, Section 2. Executive Presbytery, a. Composition and terms of office, page 112, which now reads:

a. Composition and terms of office. The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of 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 to 2 years or until their successors qualify.

Be amended to read:

a. Composition and terms of office. The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions, the executive director of the Division of Home Missions, together with 11 other persons to bring the number to 17. The terms of office for the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions and the executive director of the Division of Home Missions shall continue for 4 years or until their successors qualify. The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery, except as stated in this section and Section 1, shall continue for 2 years or until their successors qualify.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That full implementation of the above change be delayed so as to provide staggered terms for the officers and executive directors of the Division of Foreign Missions and Division of Home Missions. The phase-in of the above constitutional change shall be as follows:

The 1999 General Council shall elect the following officers to 4-year terms:

assistant general superintendent
general secretary
executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions

The 1999 General Council shall elect the following officers to 2-year terms; and after the 2001 General Council the term shall be for 4 years:

general treasurer
executive director of the Division of Home Missions

The motion to adopt Resolution 3 carried.

Resolution 4. Pornography and Obscenity

Ron McManus read Resolution 4 and moved its adoption.

A motion prevailed to amend page 10, line 3, by substituting the words "sexual intimacy" for the word "sex."

A motion prevailed to amend page 10, line 20, by substituting the words "sexual intimacy" for the word "sexuality."

A motion prevailed to amend page 11, lines 2 and 3 by the deletion of the word "sex" and replace it with the words "sexually oriented."

A further motion prevailed to amend page 11, line 6, by the deletion of the word "sex" and replacing it with the words "sexually oriented."

It was moved and seconded to amend line 27, page 10, by the addition of the words "to attempt" following the word "congregations," so the paragraph would read: That we encourage pastors and congregations to attempt to protect their youth and children from exposure to these materials. The motion was lost.

A motion prevailed to amend line 9, page 11, by the adding the words "the ministry of prayer" following the word "through" so the sentence would read: That we call upon these same people to join together in their own communities to win the battle against pornography and obscenity through the ministry of prayer, education, appropriate law enforcement efforts, and by helping those who have been harmed.

A motion prevailed that a new resolve be added on page 10, following line 23, which would read as follows: Resolved, That we as a church do all in our power to emphasize systematic Bible study in providing moral protection for youth and adults according to Psalm 119:9 which enables them to keep their way pure; and be it further.

A motion prevailed that a new resolve be added on page 11, before line 1, which would read as follows: Resolved, That we urge local, state, and federal governments to enact legislation to make illegal the production and distribution of pornography and the operation of sexually oriented businesses; and be it further.

A motion prevailed that page 11, line 5, be amended by the replacement of the words "be 'salt and light'" and that it be replaced with the words "work together."

The motion to adopt Resolution 4 as amended was carried: Resolution 4 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The Scriptures declare that all persons are made in the image of God and are therefore to be treated with respect and dignity; and

WHEREAS, We affirm that sexual intimacy is a gift from our loving Father to be enjoyed within the sacred bonds of marriage between husband and wife; and

WHEREAS, Because of man's sin, we as individuals and as a nation continue to experience a decline in moral values and beliefs; and

WHEREAS, Man's sinful behavior has resulted in the increasing rate of sexual activity among unmarried adolescents, adult immoral sexual activity, the birth of children to unwed mothers, the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, and decreasing marital fidelity; and

WHEREAS, Pornography and obscenity are available through increasingly sexually explicit movies and television programs, magazines, videotapes, and most recently, the Internet; and

WHEREAS, The Internet brings pornography into our homes, schools, and libraries—everything from soft-core to hard-core to child pornography—making it available not just for adults, but for children; and

WHEREAS, Pornography and obscenity cause harm to those (often women and children) who are abused in the production of it as well as to those who use it; and

WHEREAS, These materials exploit persons made in God's image, destroy healthy relationships, and distort God's gift of loving, mutual sexual intimacy between husband and wife; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That as a Movement we commit ourselves to educating both our members and the broader culture about the harm of pornography. and be it further

RESOLVED, That we as a church do all in our power to emphasize systematic Bible study in providing moral protection for youth and adults according to Psalm 119:9 which enables them to keep their way pure; and be it further

RESOLVED, That to facilitate that commitment, we encourage all our churches and ministers to implement an educational process that will protect God's people from the impact of pornography; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we encourage pastors and congregations to protect their youth and children from exposure to these materials; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon leaders of businesses, schools, and libraries as well as parents to participate in an effort to protect children and youth from being harmed by these materials; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge local, state, and federal governments to enact legislation to make illegal the production and distribution of pornography and the operation of sexually oriented businesses; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we urge local, state, and federal agencies to prosecute aggressively those who break the law in producing and distributing pornography or who operate sexually oriented businesses; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon all leaders of the broader faith community, all persons of good will, and especially representatives of the evangelical community to work together in protecting people from the harm of pornography, obscenity, and sexually oriented businesses; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we call upon these same people to join together in their own communities to win the battle against pornography and obscenity through the ministry of prayer, education, appropriate law enforcement efforts, and by helping those who have been harmed.

Resolution 5. Chaplaincy Support

Ron McManus, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, stated that the sponsor of this resolution has withdrawn the resolution and therefore it will not be presented.

Resolution 6. Children of Ministers Sunday

Ron McManus read Resolution 6 as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The children of ministers are unique and strong in spirit; and

WHEREAS, The children of ministers are our heritage; and

WHEREAS, The children of ministers often have to sacrifice friends, school, and much more when moving to another city; and

WHEREAS, The children of ministers are an intricate part of their parents' ministry; and

WHEREAS, Their role in ministry has never been totally recognized by the local church; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That The General Council of the Assemblies of God encourage churches to honor all children of ministers annually; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the General Council identify an appropriate Sunday to honor children of ministers in keeping with its calendar of events.

Following discussion of this resolution, a division of the house was called and the chairman ruled that the motion to adopt Resolution 6 lost.

Recess

The meeting was recessed at 11:45 p.m. Kathy Benson, Grand Rapids, Michigan, closed in prayer.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 13

The Friday afternoon business session was opened with singing led by Brenda Siirila, Willmar, Minnesota. Linda Greer, Plainfield, Indiana, and Jeff Nordin, Kansas City, Missouri, served at the piano and organ, respectively. Prior to the business being called to order Jeff Nordin presented a piano solo.

Business Session

The chairman called the afternoon business session to order at 1 p.m. D.V. Hurst, Kirkland, Washington, opened the session with prayer.

Resolution 7. Restriction Against Performing Wedding for Persons of the Same Sex

Ron McManus read Resolution 7 and moved its adoption. He noted that line 20 of the resolution would have read "may be dismissed from the Fellowship" instead of "will be subject to discipline by the Fellowship." This was the wording originally submitted by the author.

A motion was made and seconded to amend line 22 by replacing the word "urged" with the word "required." The motion lost.

A motion was made and seconded to amend line 8 and line 20 by substituting the word "shall" for the word "may." The motion lost.

A motion prevailed to amend line 21 by adding a phrase at the end of the sentence, to read: "unless innocently deceived into doing so."

A motion prevailed to amend line 20 by changing the word "may" to "shall."

A further motion prevailed to amend line 20 by deleting the words "this type of disapproved marriage" and replacing it with the words "for these

types of disapproved relations.”

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

WHEREAS, There is a need for The General Council of the Assemblies of God to emphatically and unapologetically state our position on the issues of homosexuality and same-sex marriages; and

WHEREAS, On November 3, 1998, the people of the State of Florida passed Proposition 9 which opened the door to state recognition of homosexual marriages; and

WHEREAS, Inclusion into the General Council Bylaws of a provision which bans same-sex marriages will help to offer protection of individual ministers from discrimination lawsuits brought by radical homosexuals seeking to destroy churches and individual ministers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph d, page 149, which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 the 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 innocently deceived into doing so, may be dismissed from the Fellowship.

(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.

(3) *Same-sex ceremonies.* No minister shall perform any type of marriage, cohabitation or covenant ceremony for persons who are of the same sex. Such a ceremony would endorse homosexuality which is a sin and strictly forbidden in God's Word (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26,27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:9-11). Any minister of our Fellowship who performs a ceremony for these types of disapproved relations, unless innocently deceived into doing so, shall be dismissed from the Fellowship.

(4) *Counsel.* An Assemblies of God minister is urged to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies with scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior to performing the ceremony. A minister may not perform ceremonies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom, and sobriety.

Resolution 8. District Intervention

Ron McManus read Resolution 8, as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, prescribes a minimum of six criteria for church affiliation with the General Council as a sovereign assembly; and

WHEREAS, Those criteria include issues of doctrinal agreement, standard of membership, minimum membership, approved constitution and bylaws, qualified leadership, and providing for a qualified pastor; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws Article VI, Section 5, page 134, only speaks to the issue of number of members as necessary to retain General Council affiliation; and

WHEREAS, The present process may allow continued erosion, sometimes resulting in closure before the district officer is allowed to intervene; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article VI, Section 5, page 134, which presently reads:

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.
Be amended to read:

If a General Council affiliated church is unable to meet any of the criteria for affiliation as set forth in the Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, it shall seek the assistance of the district officers for help in maintaining the minimal requirement for General Council affiliation. The district may use any means prescribed by its bylaws to assist the church in returning to a position of strength. If after 1 year the minimal requirements have not been attained, the church shall revert to district affiliated status until the minimal requirements for General Council affiliation have been attained.

The motion to adopt Resolution 8 was carried.

Resolution 9. Ethnic Representation

Ron McManus read Resolution 9, as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The 1997 General Council adopted Resolution 3 (Ethnic Representation on Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery); and

WHEREAS, The annual election of the representatives would place an undue hardship upon the fellowships by mandating an annual business meeting with an election and thereby virtually eliminating the hope of regional or geographical fellowship meetings, which would meet in the off year as an effort to strengthen the fellowships' support base; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph f (5), page 122, which now reads:

(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.

Be amended to read:

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

Resolution 15. Provisional Certificate of Ministry

Ron McManus read Resolution 15, as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The General Council has made it possible for a provisional Certificate of Ministry to be issued to a person who has not complet-

ed all the requirements for a credential; and

WHEREAS, This provisional Certificate of Ministry allows a person a period of time to complete all the educational requirements as outlined by the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, This provisional Certificate of Ministry is to be ministry driven; and

WHEREAS, The Bylaws stipulate that this is given only when no other duly credentialed and qualified minister is available to fill the position; and

WHEREAS, This stipulation has been found to be unnecessarily restrictive; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 3, paragraph b, (3), page 138, which presently reads:

(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.

Be amended to read:

(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. 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.

The motion to adopt Resolution 15 was carried.

Celebrate Jesus 2000

Charles Crabtree introduced Larry Lewis and Chris Cooper who were at the General Council representing the Celebrate Jesus 2000 project. He particularly called attention to the Lighthouse Movement which is a challenge to all Christians to make their place of residence a place of prayer, ministry, and witness to their own neighborhood. Sign-up forms were distributed so that those present could have the opportunity to sign their home up as a lighthouse.

Resolution 16. A Return to Biblical Integrity

Ron McManus read Resolution 16, as follows, and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The first of the 16 Fundamental Truths asserts unequivocally that the Scriptures are the "infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct"; and

WHEREAS, The report of the Spiritual Life Committee in Minutes, Revised Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God 1993 states:

We believe that God's Spirit never goes where His Word does not. . . . We have been lambasted by elements of the electronic church and charismatic renewal as being backslidden and non-Spirit led when we have not jumped on popular bandwagons of the day loaded with the meringue of personality and spiritual excess rather than the plain meat of God's Word. So be it! If criticism is the price we must pay for asking the question: "What saith the Lord in His written Word?"—then let us wear that criticism gladly as a sign of fidelity to Christ.

and

WHEREAS, The current "river of God" includes many alleged manifestations of the Spirit which are extra-biblical. These extra-biblical manifestations have become a de facto evidence of a new level of spirituality and/or a new anointing. They are eclipsing in importance the biblical anointing called the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which is witnessed by speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance; and

WHEREAS, Latter Rain doctrines such as impartation, birthing, Joel's Army, and the five-fold ministries taught as offices with predictive prophecy are again being heard in the new revival; and

WHEREAS, As a result, ministers and churches are being divided and members are becoming confused about the authority of the Scripture; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council reaffirm the decision of the General Council of 1949, as stated:

We recognize a hunger on the part of God's people for a spiritual refreshing and manifestation of His Holy Spirit [and]

That we set our hearts to seek for a continued outpouring of the Holy

Spirit founded upon the clear teaching of the Word of God.
Be it further

RESOLVED, That we disapprove of Latter Rain doctrines and practices such as "impartation," "birthing," "Joel's Army," and the "five-fold ministries" taught as "offices" with "predictive prophecy," and other extraneous teachings "which, being unfounded scripturally, serve only to break fellowship . . . and tend to confusion and division."

Following the reading of Resolution 16, the chairman of the Resolutions Committee read the following motion from the General Presidency:

WHEREAS, Resolution 16 details concerns which could more thoroughly be addressed through a General Presidency adopted position paper than through a discussion on the General Council floor; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presidency has taken action to authorize the Committee on Doctrinal Purity to prepare a position paper dealing with current emphases, teachings, or practices which mark a departure from our scriptural understanding of local church government and ministry; and a variety of issues or excesses surfacing in charismatic/Pentecostal churches today, which can impact various of our churches and ministers; and

WHEREAS, Such a position paper when prepared, and approved, and published will provide guidance and help to all our churches and ministers—including many who are not able to attend a General Council; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Resolution 16 be postponed indefinitely.

A motion prevailed that the motion/resolution presented by the General Presidency be adopted.

Resolution 17. Honorary General Presbyter—Marcus Bakke

Ron McManus read Resolution 17. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 17 as follows:

WHEREAS, Marcus Bakke, a native of the great state of North Dakota, has served his entire ministry in the state; and

WHEREAS, He has been a minister of the North Dakota District for 49 years, serving as pastor in one county; and

WHEREAS, He has served 9 years as sectional presbyter, 13 years as assistant superintendent; and for the last 19 years as superintendent with distinction and honor; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph g, page 113, 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 Marcus Bakke be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 18. Honorary General Presbyter—Samuel R. DiTrollo

Ron McManus read resolution 18. A motion prevailed that Resolution 18 as follows be adopted:

WHEREAS, Samuel R. DiTrollo has served this Fellowship with distinction as a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God for 42 years having been licensed in 1957 and ordained in 1959; and

WHEREAS, He has served in the Northern New England District since 1962, having served as assistant superintendent 1 year from 1970-71 and as superintendent 28 years from 1971 to 1999 as well as serving on the board of Valley Forge Christian College and other committees over the years; and

WHEREAS, He has served as general presbyter for 28 years with great distinction; and

WHEREAS, He has demonstrated a life of honor, wisdom, maturity, and demonstrated godly leadership in every area of calling in his life; and

WHEREAS, His vast experience has distinguished him as an elder whose counsel and leadership is highly esteemed and sought; and

WHEREAS, The Northern New England District Council and its executive presbytery and executive officers wish to express our deep love and appreciation for Samuel R. DiTrollo and the gift from God he has been to our district and fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph g, (page 113) 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 Samuel R. DiTrollo be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 19. Honorary General Presbyter—Norman D. Tosten

Ron McManus read Resolution 19. A motion prevailed that Resolution 19 be adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, Norman D. Tosten has served this Fellowship as an ordained minister for 43 years; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the Iowa District with distinction as assistant superintendent for 3 years; secretary-treasurer for 18 years; and superintendent for 8 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served a total of 29 years as a member of the General Presbytery; and

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

RESOLVED, That Norman D. Tosten be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Introduction of Nonresident Executive Presbyter

The general superintendent recognized and introduced all of the newly elected nonresident executive presbyters and asked them to share any comments or expressions they had on their hearts.

Resolution 20. Courtesy Resolution

Ron McManus read Resolution 20. A motion prevailed that Resolution 20 be adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, The 48th General Council of the Assemblies of God has been accorded great kindness and hospitality by the officials and agencies of the City of Orlando, the Peninsular Florida District Council, and the Southeastern Spanish 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 ensuring 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—Peninsular Florida District Council, and its superintendent, Terry Raburn; and the Southeastern Spanish District Council, and its superintendent, Edward Martinez; and be it further

RESOLVED, That sincere appreciation be expressed to the City of Orlando, its mayor, Glenda Hood, and the Orange County chairman, Mel Martinez, and the following of the Orange County Convention Center for their assistance: executive director, Tom Akert; general manager, Jesse Allen; marketing manager, Kathy Canning; sales manager, Jeff Maggerine; senior account executive, Rodney Rackley; Valerie Spence, event services; convention services managers, Tamma McDonough and Lori Frecking; and be it further

RESOLVED, That appreciation be expressed to those of the Orlando Convention & Visitors Bureau: William C. Peeper, president; Amy B. Jacobson, convention services manager; and Judy Lilge, housing director; and be it further

RESOLVED, That appreciation be expressed to Emilio Fabico, general manager; Linda Vandergriff, director of sales and marketing; and Crystal Grice, convention services manager of the Omni Rosen 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 48th General Council and that "Serving Our Generation" be the consuming cry of our hearts as we go forth to the fields of harvest. His name be praised.

Adjournment

A motion prevailed to adjourn the business meeting of the 48th General Council at 4:40 p.m., Friday, August 13, 1999. General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask closed in prayer.

FRIDAY EVENING—AUGUST 13

The Youth Congress of over 6,000 young people joined the main Friday evening service. The Fine Arts winners provided the preservice music. George O. Wood served as chairman for the service. Kyle Rasmussen, Bothell, Washington, led worship. Bernie Herms, Nashville, Tennessee, was at the piano. Special music was provided by a youth choir directed by Brenda Rasmussen, and a solo by Natalie Grant, Nashville, Tennessee.

Speaker for the evening was Missionary-evangelist Stephen Hill, Lillian, Alabama. His text was from Revelation 3:11. He focused on the words of Jesus: "Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown." He referred to the apostle Paul's confident expectation of a winner's crown at the close of his race and urged, "Don't let anyone steal your crown." He emphasized, "At the end of every life there is a time of reward or punishment . . . you will be blessed or cursed . . . it will be great, or you will wish you were never there. God has a judicial system." He said God will judge everyone for three things, "Words, works, and walk." He warned that "the devil can steal your crown. Other people can steal your crown if you let them, but saddest of all," he said, "you can freely give it up." The service concluded with a call for people to rededicate their lives and to regain their crown. The altars were filled with young and old alike seeking God. Thus an extended altar call closed the final moments of this last General Council in the 20th century, a century in which God birthed this Movement in earnest and prevailing prayer, and an outpouring of His Spirit over all these past 85 years. Members of the General Council went forth from this meeting resolved to follow in the steps of our founding fathers and mothers to do, by the enablement of the Holy Spirit, "the greatest work of evangelism the world has ever seen!" "Til Jesus comes! Maranatha!

George O. Wood
General Secretary

CONSTITUTION

OF

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

REVISED AUGUST 10, 1999

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Constitution		
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Constitution and Bylaws
of
The General Council of the Assemblies of God
in the
United States of America and
Selected Territories

CONSTITUTION

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 to be known as *The General Council of the Assemblies of God* whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local

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assemblies, nor to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and privileges; but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work, and business for God; and to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines and conduct, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

ARTICLE I. NAME

The corporate name is *The General Council of the Assemblies of God*, which refers to the legal entity.

The term *General Council* refers to sessions of the corporation.

The term *Assemblies of God* refers 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 scriptural teachings and practices, and to disapprove unscriptural teachings and practices. A list of disapproved doctrines and practices is set forth in Articles IX and X of the Bylaws.
- g. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property 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, the body of Christ as described in the New Testament. 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

ARTICLE V

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 ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Ghost come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost

The baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4-10,28), but different in purpose and use.

9. Sanctification

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1,2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command: "Be ye holy, for I am holy" (1 Peter 1:15,16).

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon

the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-11,13; 8:1,2,13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12,13; 1 Peter 1:5).

10. The Church and Its Mission

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

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

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 salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21,22; Zephaniah 3:19,20; Romans 11:26,27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3,4).

15. The Final Judgment

There will be a final judgment in which the wicked dead will be raised and judged according to their works. Whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, together with the devil and his angels, the beast and the false prophet, will be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death (Matthew 25:46; Mark 9:43-48; Revelation 19:20; 20:11-15; 21:8).

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

"We, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21,22).

ARTICLE VI. RELATIONSHIPS

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall prosecute its activities through its general offices.

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 consist of all members of The General Council of the Assemblies of God holding a current fellowship certificate who are present and registered and those delegates chosen by churches affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God who are present and registered, 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 shall be called by the Executive Presbytery if agreed to by a majority of the general presbyters.

Section 3. Right of initiative

Special sessions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God may be called by the Executive Presbytery when presented with a written statement signed by at least 15 ordained Assemblies of God ministers setting forth the reasons for a special session, but only if the Executive Presbytery determines that such a special session is advisable.

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, and shall continue for 4 years or until a successor qualifies.

b. Board of Administration. The executive officers shall constitute a Board of Administration.

Section 2. Executive Presbytery

a. Composition and terms of office. The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the

general secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions, the executive director of the Division of Home Missions, together with 11 other persons to bring the number to 17. The terms of office for the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions and the executive director of the Division of Home Missions shall continue for 4 years or until their successors qualify. The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery, except as stated in this section and Section 1, shall continue for 2 years or until their successors qualify.

b. Board of directors. The Executive Presbytery shall constitute a Board of Directors, performing such functions as are usual and customary for a board of directors. *Executive Presbytery* and *Board of Directors* shall be interchangeable terms.

Section 3. General Presbytery

a. Representation, qualifications, and responsibilities. The General Presbytery shall be composed of individuals of maturity, experience, and ability whose lives and ministry are above reproach, who shall represent the Fellowship in all phases of its work 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 their 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 regional directors of the Division of Foreign Missions and by two others from each of the overall areas which the regional directors represent.

d. Endorsed postsecondary schools representation. The duly endorsed postsecondary schools of the Assemblies of God shall be represented on the General Presbytery by three presidents.

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

f. 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.

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

h. 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 be in addition to the regular number of presbyters granted each district.

ARTICLE X. DISTRICT COUNCILS

Section 1. Membership

Membership of each district council shall be determined by the district's constitution and bylaws.

Section 2. Area of supervision

The district council shall have supervision over all the ecclesial and sacerdotal activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed field, except as provided for in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws or in cooperative agreements between the General Council and the district council.

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 area of operation may therefore overlap or coincide with that of one or more other district councils. (See Article V of the Bylaws.)

Section 4. Credentialing authority

The district council shall have the authority to examine and present candidates who qualify as certified ministers, licensed ministers, or ordained ministers in accordance with Article VII of the Bylaws. The applications of such candidates shall be forwarded to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for presentation to the General Council Credentials Committee for final review and issuance of the ministerial credential if the qualifications prescribed by Article VII of the Bylaws are satisfied. 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. Relationship with the General Council

The district council shall not violate the Constitution or Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. In the prosecution of its work the district council shall keep vigilant watch against any violation of the principles of spiritual unity and cooperative fellowship to which the Assemblies of God Fellowship is unalterably dedicated. It shall be amenable to The General Council of the Assemblies of God in matters of doctrine and the discipline of ministers.

ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES**Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies**

A General Council affiliated assembly is one that 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 that 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 responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body;
- (4) Adopt a constitution or bylaws compatible with those recommended by the district council;
- (5) Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its constitution or bylaws; and
- (6) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and 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 constitution or 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 it is affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no way 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. (See Article IX of the Bylaws.)

e. Right of appeal. When in need of counsel or advice, the General Council affiliated assembly may appeal to the district officers for help. It may appeal from a decision by the district officers to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God when there is a question whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the district. When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the Executive Presbytery, either by the General Council affiliated assembly or by the district presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery.

Section 2. District Council Affiliated Assemblies

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

Section 3. World Ministries Giving Participation

All assemblies are expected to have an interest in, and contribute regularly to, World Ministries Giving of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION

The assets of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri corporation, are irrevocably dedicated to religious and charitable purposes as stated in its Articles of Agreement and this Constitution. In the event of the dissolution of the corporation, and after providing for the payment of its debts and obligations, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons but will be distributed to one or more nonprofit organizations which are organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes and which are exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regularly called session of the General Council provided that the proposed amendments have been submitted in writing at least 6 months in advance to the Executive Presbytery. Before the Executive Presbytery may submit proposed amendments for consideration by a session of the General Council, it shall provide written notice of the

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proposed amendments by regular mail to the office of each district superintendent and each district secretary, and by insertion in the *Assemblies of God Minister* or any successor publication 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 10, 1999

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Bylaws

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BYLAWS

OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

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 its regular meetings in the manner provided in these Bylaws. They shall be chosen from the membership of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be persons 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, 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, 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 office 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. The candidates shall be presented to and voted upon by secret ballot by the General Council in session. In the event that only one candidate receives at least 15 votes in the General Presbytery nomination, the vote distinction by the General Council shall be by selecting "yes" or "no." There shall be no further nominations from the General Council floor. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be required to elect.

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 office 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. The candidates shall be presented to and voted upon by secret ballot by the General Council in session. In the event that only one candidate receives at least 15 votes in the General Presbytery nomination, the vote distinction by the General Council shall be by selecting "yes" or "no." There shall be no further nominations from the General Council floor. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be required to elect.

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 office 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. The candidates shall be presented to and voted upon by secret ballot by the General Council in session. In the event that only one candidate receives at least 15 votes in the General Presbytery nomination, the vote distinction by the General Council shall be by selecting "yes" or "no." There shall be no further nominations from the General Council floor. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be required to elect.

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 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, Northern Pacific Latin American, Southern Pacific Latin American, Puerto Rico, Southeastern Spanish, Spanish Eastern

Language Area-Other: German, Korean, Portuguese

(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 superintendent of each district, who shall serve on the General Presbytery by virtue of office, two others shall be elected by the district council in session, both of whom shall be ordained Assemblies of God ministers, and at least one of whom shall be a pastor of a church located in the district. They shall take office immediately upon election.

(2) *Foreign Missions representatives.* Regional 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 regional 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) *Endorsed postsecondary school representatives.* Endorsed postsecondary school 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 to elect. 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 f, shall be elected biennially by their respective ethnic fellowships. A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect. 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 h, 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 XVIII, Section 2, paragraph d, and the Laymen's Advisory Committee of the Division of Foreign Missions as provided for in Article XIV, Section 2, paragraph f, 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 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 all votes cast.

(d) In the event a nonresident executive presbyter moves to a location outside of the boundaries of the area, the Executive Presbytery shall 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 all votes cast.

c. General presbyters

(1) In the event a general presbyter shall move to another district or shall vacate the 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 the alternate meets the ordinary requirements for general presbyters. The alternate 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

The duties of the general superintendent shall include the following:

- a. 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. Superintend all work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- c. Act as president of the corporation in all legal matters, and be an ex officio member of all committees and boards.
- d. Preside at the sessions of the General Presbytery and the General Council.
- e. Preside at all meetings of the General Council Credentials Committee and sign all credentials.
- f. Preside at all sessions of the Executive Presbytery and the Board of Administration and receive all communications directed to these bodies.
- g. Administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the General Council Credentials Committee.
- h. Sign all official and legal documents (see Section 7 of this Article).
- i. 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

The duties of the assistant general superintendent shall include the following:

- a. Assist the general superintendent.
- b. 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. 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

The duties of the general secretary shall include the following:

- a. 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. Serve as the custodian of the official seal and 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. Sign all official and legal documents (see Section 7 of this Article).
- d. Serve as secretary of the General Presbytery, Executive Presbytery, the General Council Credentials Committee, and the Board of Administration and keep accurate minutes of the deliberations of these bodies.
- e. Edit and prepare for distribution the minutes of the meeting of the General Presbytery after examination and approval thereof by the Executive Presbytery.
- f. 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

The duties of the general treasurer shall include the following:

- a. Serve as the executive director of the Division of the Treasury.
- b. Serve as custodian of all funds.
- c. Keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements, conducting the work of the office according to accepted business methods. The treasurer's books shall be audited annually by competent auditors.
- d. Give a report from time to time as may be requested by the General Council or the Executive Presbytery.
- e. Give bond in an amount determined by the Executive Presbytery.
- f. Perform such other functions as are customary to the 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

The executive director of Foreign Missions, under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery, shall perform the following duties and render the following services:

- a. Direct the foreign missions activities of the Fellowship.
- b. Represent The General Council of the Assemblies of God in all relation-

ships with governments or authorities where our foreign missions work is involved.

c. Distribute all foreign missions funds as directed by the Foreign Missions Committee.

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

e. Serve as chairperson of the Foreign Missions Committee and Foreign Missions Board.

f. Keep a record of all official acts of the foreign missions board and other committees of the division.

g. 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

The executive director of Home Missions, under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery, shall perform the following duties and render the following services:

a. 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.

b. Represent The General Council of the Assemblies of God in all relationships with governing authorities where home missions work is involved.

c. Distribute all home missions funds as directed by the Home Missions Committee.

d. Serve as chairperson of the Home Missions Board and Home Missions Committee.

e. Keep a record of all official acts of the Home Missions Board and other committees of the division.

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

Section 7. Duties of the Executive Presbytery

The Executive Presbytery is authorized to perform the following functions and duties:

a. 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 k of Section 7 and paragraph a of Section 9 of this Article.

b. Interpret policy originating in the legislation of the General Council or the General Presbytery. Such interpretations shall be final unless reversed at the next meeting of the body in which the legislation originated.

c. 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. Hold in trust such funds as may be committed to them as trustees, or to dispose of the same as may be directed.

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

f. Purchase or dispose of securities as need requires in an effort to strengthen the financial position of the corporation.

g. 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.

h. Call business meetings of the General Presbytery when deemed advisable.

i. Make a report to the General Council of their activities on behalf of the Fellowship as may be directed.

j. 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.

k. Be amenable to the General Presbytery. It shall communicate with the members of the General Presbytery before final action shall be taken on all matters of great importance.

Section 8. Duties of the Board of Administration

The Board of Administration shall be responsible to the Executive Presbytery and is authorized to perform the following functions and duties:

a. Serve as the executive arm of the Executive Presbytery.

b. Provide for general services as required for the various operations at general headquarters.

c. Execute those matters delegated to it by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 9. Duties of the General Presbytery

The General Presbytery is authorized to perform the following functions and duties:

a. 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. Act as a court of final appeal for a disciplined minister.

c. Determine the salaries and 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.

d. Ten percent or more of the 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.

e. 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.

ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

Standing committees shall be appointed as necessary. 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, and said credentials committee shall be referred to in these Bylaws 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. Badges shall be issued by the committee to all qualified delegates and ministers, and any other relevant status.

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 at least 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 General 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 spokesperson appointed by the author or sponsor 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 the author of his or her right to present the proposed resolution to the General Council in session for a determination as to appropriateness.

e. **Format of presentation.** The Resolutions Committee shall:

- (1) Put resolutions in proper form.
- (2) Eliminate duplication of similar resolutions relating to a specific subject.
- (3) Present resolutions in a logical sequence.

Section 5. Spiritual Life Committee

A Spiritual Life Committee shall be appointed by the general superintendent in consultation 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 devel-

opment potential, the first step may be the establishing of a conference status that would provide assistance of an existing district until the new district is capable of independent operation.

b. Guidelines. Guidelines for the establishing of new districts shall include:

- (1) A minimum of 40 Assemblies of God churches.
- (2) Size and maturity of the churches as to membership, leadership, and program ministries.
- (3) The location, size, and potential growth of the geographical area under consideration.
- (4) The effect the establishment of the proposed new district will have on other districts.

c. Boundaries. The boundaries of the new district shall be determined by cooperative agreement between the district or districts geographically affected and the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Section 2. Officers

Each district council shall elect a superintendent, together with such other officers as may be deemed advisable by the district membership, such as, assistant superintendent, secretary-treasurer, and presbyters.

Section 3. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency shall consist of all ordained and licensed ministers, and accredited delegates from affiliated churches, and such other persons as may be prescribed by the district constitution and bylaws, who are present and registered at district meetings.

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 facilitating evangelism, and establishing churches. Until such time as it is qualified to form a district, it shall be part of the geographic or language district. Leadership for fellowship groups shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery.

b. Equality with geographical districts. A language district shall have the same privileges and responsibilities which are accorded district councils within the framework of the Constitution and Bylaws.

c. 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 or consult with each other 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.

d. Sponsorship and affiliation of a language group. Should an English-speaking church desire to initiate sponsorship of a language group, it shall consult with its district officials for counsel and guidance. The geographical district should inform 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 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.

e. 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 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 shall be reduced to less than 40 churches, General Council or district affiliated, its recognition shall cease, unless an exception is granted by the General Presbytery.

b. General Presbytery prerogative. Dissolution of a district shall be the prerogative of the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

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, facilitating evangelism, and establishing churches. 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 assembly shall have matured to a point where a sufficient number of qualified per-

sons 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 located. 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 that 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 occur upon receipt by the assembly of an official Certificate of Affiliation issued by the general secretary.

Section 2. Annual Report From Assemblies

Each church of the Assemblies of God is requested to keep a current record of its membership and to report this information annually, on forms provided, to the office of the district secretary and the General Council secretary.

Section 3. Safeguarding the Assemblies

a. 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. It is recommended that Assemblies of God churches use Assemblies of God ministers since the use of non-Assemblies of God ministers may bring confusion and problems detrimental to the Fellowship.

b. No minister dismissed by the Assemblies of God may be allowed to pastor or have ministry in an Assemblies of God church. Pastors and district officials should maintain an exchange of information regarding 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 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 or board shall invite the district officers to participate in a specially called business meeting for the express purpose of giving the district officers 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

If a General Council affiliated church is unable to meet any of the criteria for affiliation as set forth in the Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, it shall seek the assistance of the district officers for help in maintaining the minimal requirement for General Council affiliation. The district may use any means prescribed by its bylaws to assist the church in returning to a position of strength. If after 1 year the minimal requirements have not been attained, the church shall revert to district affiliated status until the minimal requirements for General Council affiliation have been attained.

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 in each case will 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 inappropriate conduct resulting in a division, the district presbytery shall deal appropriately with the minister as provided in Article X, Section 3, of the Bylaws.

Section 7. Transfer of Local Church Membership

a. **Letter of introduction.** It is recommended that members request a letter of introduction from the church of which they are a member to be sent by mail to the church with which they desire 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: 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.

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 a minister 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 mature Christians 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 postsecondary 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 Global University of the Assemblies of God, or pass the final examinations in the prescribed courses; 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 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 or she 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. 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 the minister 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. Licensed ministers 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 (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 or she has held a license to preach and has 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 or she is seeking ordination at least 1 year. Applicants who have not been a member of the district where they apply for ordination for 2 full consecutive years must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the officers of the district in which they were previously licensed, as well as the district of their 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 or she 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. Active ministers. The official list of all credential holders shall be compiled by the General Council Credentials Committee and published for the convenience of the Fellowship, with the understanding it is not to be used for purposes of solicitation. This official list shall be revised annually and shall contain the names of those who are engaged in active ministry and whose credentials have been renewed by the issuance of a fellowship card for the current year.

b. Inactive ministers. All credentialed ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time ministry, shall be expected to notify the district office, which shall inform the general secretary who 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 requests otherwise by letter.

(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 inactive for 2 or more consecutive years, his or her name shall be eliminated from the ministerial list, unless the credentials committee of the district of which said person is a member requests otherwise by letter.

(3) *Exceptions.* This shall not apply to those whose inactivity has been caused by infirmity; 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 officary.

Section 7. Senior Ministers

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

a. Terminology

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

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

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

b. Application for retired category. Senior-semiretired and senior-retired status shall be granted only to those ministers who filed a request for such status with their district office. The district secretary shall forward annually to the general secretary a list of those ministers who have made these requests.

c. Guidelines

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

(2) *Sources of income.* These designations and guidelines shall apply regardless of whether the senior minister's income is from 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 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 Bylaws Article XIII, 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 discipline. (See Bylaws Article X.)

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.* Ministers who reside in one district but pastor a church located in another district shall be required to be a member of the district in which the church is located.

(2) *Nationally appointed home missionaries.* Nationally appointed home missionaries shall become members of the district in which they serve and shall be listed on the ministerial roster of that district by the office of the general secretary. They may also retain honorary membership in their home district, be listed as a missionary under national appointment in the home district's yearbook, and be extended voice and vote in their home district while on official furlough.

(3) *Church-planting ministries.* Ministers who serve in a transdistrict ministry related to church-planting efforts may do so provided:

(a) They have a scope of ministry which reaches beyond district boundaries; and

(b) Both districts agree to the assignment; and

(c) If the assignment involves a language group, they follow the guidelines provided by the Executive Presbytery of the General Council and adhere to these Bylaws governing interdistrict relations. (See Article V, Section 4.)

Church planters holding credentials may obtain affiliation with the district they intend to serve and retain honorary membership in their home district, be listed in the home district's yearbook, and be extended voice and vote in their home district for such time as they serve in another district. The financial responsibilities shall be the same as those of a nationally appointed

ed 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 or approved home missionaries.* Nationally appointed 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. Missionaries who minister in their home district shall contribute a minimum of 50 percent of their 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 or she is a member, unless there are charges pending against the minister. The certificate of transfer shall be accepted by the district into which the minister moves. Exceptions may be made for the following:

(1) Ministers moving to serve at the Assemblies of God 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 minister who is transferring into another district, a transcript giving helpful information concerning the minister and his or 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. Ministers who do not receive an annual renewal form by December 1 should notify their district office.

c. Grace period until January 15. All who have not renewed 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.

d. Reinstatement of lapsed minister. Ministers whose renewal applications are not postmarked by January 15 shall be recorded as lapsed as of December 31. They must make application for reinstatement and pay a nonrefundable fee of \$50, to be divided equally between the district and the General Council. 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 is removed from our rolls for any cause, except failure to renew and dismissal, and shall apply for reinstatement, he or she shall not be eligible for reinstatement until at least 6 months have elapsed after his or her name has been stricken from our list of ministers. The application must be made in the district where the minister resides and be accompanied with a nonrefundable fee of \$50 to be divided between the district and the General Council (See Bylaws Article X, Section 12, paragraph b, for reinstatement of dismissed minister.)

The district of residence shall seek a letter of clearance from the district that 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.* Ministers who do not renew their credentials shall be listed as lapsed, provided there is no cause for disciplinary action. Their names shall be published as lapsed in the Assemblies of God Minister, hereinafter referred to as the ministers letter.

(2) *Resigned.* Ministers who elect to remove themselves from the Fellowship shall submit a letter of resignation to the district with which they are affiliated. If there is no cause for disciplinary action, their resignation shall become effective after having been approved by both the district council and General Council credentials committees. Their termination shall be listed in the ministers letter as resigned.

b. On the initiative of the district. (See Article X, Section 4.)

(1) *Inactive.* When a minister becomes inactive for 2 consecutive years, according to the stipulations set forth in Bylaws Article VII, Section 6, paragraph b, his or her 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, the minister's 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 with another organization granting ministerial credentials, and shall have received such credentials, his or her 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 or her credential (Certificate of Ordination, License to Preach, Specialized Ministries License, Certificate of Ministry) and 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 or her 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 or 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 min-

isterial capacities as spiritual counselors and are encouraged not to disclose such confidential information except with the permission of the confidant, to prevent the commission of a crime, or if required by law.

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 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 area divisions of the Assemblies of God. Members shall be recognized authorities in biblical knowledge. Their terms of office shall be for 4 years.

c. Vacancies and terminations. The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to declare the office of any commission member vacant should it deem such action advisable. A decision to declare a vacancy and to fill such vacancy may be made at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery.

B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

In accord with its constitutional prerogatives, The General Council of the

Assemblies of God has declared itself pertaining to disapproval of certain matters as follows:

Section 1. Unconditional Security

In view of the biblical teaching that the security of the believer depends on a living relationship with Christ (John 15:6); in view of the Bible's call to a life of holiness (1 Peter 1:16; Hebrews 12:14); in view of the clear teaching that a man may have his part taken out of the Book of Life (Revelation 22:19); and in view of the fact that one who believes for a while can fall away (Luke 8:13); The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the unconditional security position which holds that it is impossible for a person once saved to be lost.

Section 2. Legalism

a. Matters of conscience. The Assemblies of God disapproves of those who hold to matters of conscience, such as eating or not eating meats, who press their 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 keeping 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 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-year reign of Christ on the earth, and substitutes for it the theory that this Christian or Church dispensation is the

spiritual Millennium of which, its proponents say, the Bible writers prophesied.

e. Credentials jeopardized if made an issue. We recommend that those ministers who embrace any of the foregoing eschatological errors 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 the Assemblies of God should refrain from identifying themselves with any of the secret orders that the General Council recognizes as essentially of the world, worldly; and the General Council advises any who may have identified themselves with such orders to sever their connections with them (2 Corinthians 6:17). Furthermore, Assemblies of God 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 marriages.* 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 or she 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 the 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 innocently deceived into doing so, may be dismissed from the Fellowship.

(2) *Violation of conscience not required.* We realize that the remarrying 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.

(3) *Same-sex ceremonies.* No minister shall perform any type of marriage, cohabitation, or covenant ceremony for persons who are of the same sex. Such a ceremony would endorse homosexuality which is a sin and strictly forbidden in God's Word (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26,27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:9-11). Any minister of our Fellowship who performs a ceremony for these types of disapproved relations, unless innocently deceived into doing so, shall be dismissed from the Fellowship.

(4) *Counsel.* An Assemblies of God minister is urged to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies with scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior to performing the ceremony. A minister may not perform cere-

monies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom, and sobriety.

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 Scriptures warn against participation in activity that 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 or her 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 officers.

Projects or institutions of national scope that plan to solicit funds from Assemblies of God churches 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 of title to such properties by the ministers of the Assemblies of God, through private ownership, corporations sole, or closed corporations. 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.

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 discipline.

Section 9. Ministry in a Non-Assemblies of God 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 offi-

cials 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 or she shall be expected to refrain from conducting services for the church. Ministers who violate this principle shall be subject to discipline.

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 those 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 that 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 or her Pentecostal witness or participation on a local level with interdenominational activities.)

ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE

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 gospel.
- 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 of God 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 that is 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 leaders, 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 officers 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, 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, or an appointed representative, 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 complainants.* The persons involved shall be interviewed to ascertain the facts in the case and the reasons underlying the persistence of the reports or complaints.

(2) *Interview with accused minister.* The accused minister 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, a signed complaint shall be filed with the district office by each complainant describing the alleged offense.

(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 filing 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 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, the district officers 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, at the last address furnished to the district, of the charges made in keeping with Article X, 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 for failure to appear at the hearing, or if proof is found of willful neglect to take advantage of rights and privileges provided in these Bylaws.

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, 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 (Bylaws Article X, Sections 8 and 9).

d. Surrender of credentials. Disciplined ministers shall be required to surrender their ministerial credentials and their 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 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 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, 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, 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 for 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 or her membership to another district during the period of rehabilitation.

(d) *Publication.* While the minister's credentials are in a state of suspension, the minister's name shall not be removed from the ministerial roster, nor shall the minister's disciplinary status be published in either the General Council or district council official publications.

(e) *Credentials renewal.* The minister shall renew his or her credentials annually in the regular manner.

(f) *Supervision.* In the event his or her 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 min-

ister 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 or her 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 previously 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. The dismissed minister 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 or she 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, 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

a. Filing of appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee. 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 mailed to appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee. The minister shall be apprised officially of this right at the time notification is given to the minister of the decision of the General Council Credentials Committee. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the general superintendent, and should include any new or exculpatory information not previously considered, with copies sent to the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation and any other districts involved.

b. Consideration of appeal by the General Council Credentials Committee. The General Council Credentials Committee may respond to the appeal in one of the following ways:

(1) *Remanding of case to the 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. The district shall report the results of its review to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.

(2) *Denial of appeal.*

(a) *Forfeiture of right of appeal.* No appeal shall be granted by remanding the case to the district presbytery if proof is found of willful neglect on the part of the accused to take advantage of available rights and privileges during the district hearing (see Section 5, 6, & 7 of this Article).

(b) *Insufficient grounds.* The General Council Credentials Committee shall have the prerogative to determine whether there is sufficient cause to grant an appeal, and remand the case to the district.

c. Right of appeal to the General Presbytery. A disciplined minister whose appeal has been denied by the General Council Credentials Committee may appeal to the General Presbytery. An accused minister shall have 30 days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee decision was mailed to appeal to the General Presbytery. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the general superintendent, and should include any new or exculpatory information not previously considered, with copies sent to the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation and any other districts involved. The decision of the General Presbytery shall be final.

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 the 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, 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 Bylaws 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 or she 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 the application to be divided equally between the district council and the General Council.

Section 13. Notice

Notice shall be deemed to have been given to a minister by certified mail from the district or General Council Credentials Committee on the basis of the last address furnished to the district or General Council by the minister. In the event the certified letter is returned as undeliverable for any reason, notice will have been deemed to have been given in view of the fact it is the minister's responsibility to furnish the district or General Council his or her address, and to accept lawful mail.

ARTICLE XI. GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Section 1. Spiritual Life

a. Authorization and purpose. There shall be a Spiritual Life 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 coordinator shall be nominated by the general superintendent and appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) *Committee on Mission*

(a) *Authorization.* There shall be a Committee on Mission to give careful attention to fulfilling the threefold mission of the church.

(b) *Purpose.* The purpose of the committee shall be to serve in an advisory capacity to the general superintendent and the Executive Presbytery by:

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

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

(3) Recommending organizational changes that will facilitate effective ministry to the Fellowship; and

(4) Offering advice on ways resources can be used in fulfilling the mission of the church.

(c) *Composition.* The Committee on Mission shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall consist of the Board of Administration, the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions, the executive director of the Division of Home Missions, the Spiritual Life coordinator, at least 10 members representing the area divisions of the Assemblies of God, and representatives from the various headquarters ministries. The general superintendent shall serve as chairperson of the Committee on Mission. The Spiritual Life coordinator shall serve as secretary.

(d) *Term of office.* Those members of the committee not serving by virtue of office shall serve on a rotating basis on a 2-year assignment to allow greater representation from the field. Members may be appointed for one succeeding term. The committee chairperson and ex officio members will have no term limitations.

(e) *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.

c. Functions

(1) The Spiritual Life 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 spiritual life emphases; and
- (c) Serving the evangelists fellowship.

Section 2. Office of Public Relations

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Authorization.* There shall be an Office of Public Relations to communicate information about the church and its threefold mission.

(2) *Purpose.* The primary responsibility of the Office of Public Relations shall be to serve as an agency for the dissemination of news and information about the Assemblies of God through print and electronic media, public relations helps, and other means as deemed necessary in helping the church fulfill its threefold mission.

b. Organization and governance

(1) *Leadership.* The Executive Presbytery shall elect a leader of the Office of Public Relations.

(2) *Amenability.* The Office of Public Relations and all of its functions 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) *Authorization.* 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. Organization and governance

(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*.

Section 4. Enrichment—A Journal for Pentecostal Ministry

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Authorization.* *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. Organization and governance

(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 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.

(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.

Section 5. Commission on Ethnicity

a. Authorization. There shall be a Commission on 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; and
- (3) Recommending organizational changes that will facilitate effective ministry to ethnic constituents and enhance the participation of these within the Fellowship.

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

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 chairper-

son, cochairperson, the Board of Administration, ethnic executive presbyters, and one general presbyter from each ethnic district or fellowship. Members-at-large shall include but not be limited to representatives from the various headquarters ministries 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) *Term 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. Members may be appointed for one succeeding term. The commission chairperson and ex officio members will have no term limitations.

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

Section 6. Commission on Evangelism

a. Authorization. There shall be a Commission on Evangelism which shall coordinate the evangelism efforts of the church.

b. Purpose. The purpose of the commission is to seek effective ways to intentionally fulfill the Great Commission by the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ and that disciples be made of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20) in keeping with the threefold mission of the church.

c. Leadership. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a leader subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery, who shall be charged with the operation of the Commission on Evangelism.

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

e. Composition of Commission on Evangelism. The Commission on Evangelism shall consist of no more than 40 members to include: the leader of the Commission on Evangelism, who shall serve as chairperson; the Board of Administration (ex officio), the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions (ex officio), the executive director of the Division of Home Missions, (ex officio) the Spiritual Life coordinator (ex officio); the national evangelist representative (ex officio), the leader of the Commission on Discipleship; one nonresident executive presbyter; four pastors who have demonstrated zeal and effectiveness in evangelistic ministries within the Assemblies of God (representative of churches of up to 99, 100-199, 200-399, 400 and over), four district office representatives, four evangelists, and representatives from the various headquarters ministries. There shall be an annual meeting of the commission.

(1) *Selection of commission.* Those members of the commission not serving by virtue of office shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery and elected by the General Presbytery in their annual meeting.

(2) *Term of office.* The members of the commission who do not serve by virtue of office shall serve for terms of 2 years or until their successors qualify. Members may be appointed for one succeeding term. The commission chairperson and ex officio members will have no term limitations.

(3) *Authority.* The commission shall be responsible for providing counsel and guidance to the various departments and ministries of the Assemblies of God in evangelism initiatives. The authority of the commission shall include:

(a) Coordination of the various evangelistic efforts within the Assemblies of God;

(b) Promotion of various evangelistic initiatives within the Assemblies of God;

(c) Coordination and conducting of conventions, conferences and seminars emphasizing evangelism; and

(d) Development of programs and resources to facilitate evangelism within Assemblies of God churches.

(4) *Resource committee.* There shall be a resource committee of the commission that shall meet at least quarterly to coordinate the various evangelism initiatives within the Assemblies of God and explore ways to implement the recommendations of the full commission. The resource committee shall consist of the chairperson of the Commission on Evangelism, who shall serve as chairperson; the Spiritual Life coordinator (ex officio); the national evangelist representative (ex officio); and representatives from the various headquarters ministries. The general superintendent shall serve as an ex officio member of the resource committee. The resource committee shall be appointed by the Board of Administration.

Section 7. Commission on Discipleship

a. Authorization. There shall be a Commission on Discipleship which shall coordinate the disciple-making efforts of the various headquarters ministries.

b. Purpose. The purpose of the commission is to seek effective ways to intentionally fulfill the Great Commission which mandates that disciples be made of all nations (Matthew 28:18-20) in keeping with the threefold mission of the church.

c. Leadership. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a leader subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. That person shall be charged with the operation of the Commission on Discipleship.

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

e. Composition of Commission on Discipleship. There shall be a Commission on Discipleship which shall consist of no more than 40 members to include the leader of the Commission on Discipleship, who shall serve as chairperson; the Board of Administration (ex officio), the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions (ex officio), the executive director of the Division of Home Missions (ex officio), the Spiritual Life coordinator (ex officio); the leader of the Commission on Evangelism; one nonresident executive presbyter; four pastors who have demonstrated zeal and effectiveness in disciple-making ministries within the Assemblies of God (representative of churches of up to 99, 100-199, 200-399, 400 and over), four district office representatives, representatives from the various headquarters ministries, and a professor from one of our endorsed higher education institutions. There shall be an annual meeting of the commission.

(1) *Selection of commission.* Those members of the commission not serving by virtue of office shall be nominated by the Executive Presbytery and elected by the General Presbytery in their annual meeting.

(2) *Term of office.* The members of the commission who do not serve by virtue of office shall serve for terms of 2 years or until their successors qualify. Members may be appointed for one succeeding term. The commission chairman and ex officio members will have no term limitations.

(3) *Authority.* The commission shall be responsible for providing counsel and guidance to the various departments and ministries of the commission in their disciple-making initiatives. The authority of the commission shall include:

(a) Coordination of the various disciple-making efforts within the Assemblies of God;

(b) Promotion of various disciple-making initiatives within the Assemblies of God;

(c) Coordination and conducting of conventions, conferences, and seminars emphasizing discipleship; and

(d) Development of programs and resources to facilitate disciple-making ministry within Assemblies of God churches.

(4) *Resource committee.* There shall be a resource committee of the commission that shall meet at least quarterly to coordinate the various disciple-making initiatives within the Assemblies of God and explore ways to implement the recommendations of the full commission. The resource committee shall consist of the chairperson of the Commission on Discipleship, who shall serve as chairperson; the various leaders of departments and ministries from within the Division of Christian Education and the Division of Church Ministries, and other representatives from the various headquarters ministries. The general superintendent shall serve as an ex officio member of the resource committee. The resource committee shall be appointed by the Board of Administration.

ARTICLE XII. DIRECTORS, COMMISSIONERS, MANAGERS, LEADERS, AND OTHER DESIGNATIONS

The term *leader* shall be used in a generic manner within these bylaws to refer to those individuals who are selected by the Executive Presbytery or General Presbytery, or both, to serve as directors, commissioners, managers, or some other specific designation commensurate with the position being filled.

ARTICLE XIII. DIVISION OF THE TREASURY

a. Authorization. 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) *Authorization.* 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) *Purpose.* 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. Organization and governance

(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 persons 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 term of office 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.

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 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 or she 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 are encouraged to send offerings at regular intervals.

(2) *Combined report.* A combined report of all offerings that are desig-

nated 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 Ministries, and Youth Ministries), Media Ministries; the executive and Spiritual Life 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) *Authorization.* There shall be an Audit Department which shall conduct independent protective and constructive audits and review effectiveness of controls, financial records, and operations.

(2) *Purpose.* 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. Organization and governance

(1) *Internal auditor.* There shall be an internal auditor who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. The internal auditor 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. The work of the internal auditor 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**

(1) *Authorization.* There shall be a Benevolences Department that 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 that may be committed to it.

(2) *Purpose.* 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. Organization and governance

(1) *Executive director.* The general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be the executive director of the department.

(2) *Director.* There shall be a director 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 chairperson, the director 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 spouse 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 officers.

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.

ARTICLE XIV. DIVISION OF FOREIGN MISSIONS**Section 1. Authorization and Purpose**

a. Authorization. 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. Purpose. 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; and

(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. Organization and Governance

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. Administrator. The Executive Presbytery shall elect an administrator who shall serve under the executive director in the administration of the division.

c. Departments. The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish departments within the division at the initiative of the Executive Presbytery. Departments shall operate within the parameters and guidelines of the General Council Policy Manual.

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.

e. 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; the general superintendent (ex officio); two executive presbyters; the administrator; the regional directors; eight pastors of proven foreign missions zeal and accomplishments, each from a different area of the nation; and eight laypersons, endorsed by their pastors, each from a different area of the nation and from churches other than those whose pastors serve concurrently on the Foreign Missions Board.

(2) *Elections.* The members of the Foreign Missions Board shall be nominated by the executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions, and elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.

(3) *Term of office.* The term of office of the appointed pastors and laypersons shall be for 3 years, rotated so some of the pastors will be elected each year to maintain continuity. Upon completion of a term they shall not succeed themselves in office.

(4) *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.

(5) *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.

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

f. Regional directors. There shall be regional directors who shall direct the missions activities in their assigned geographical regions. 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. Area directors. There shall be area directors who shall serve under the regional directors, directing and coordinating missions activities in their assigned areas. They shall be appointed by the Foreign Missions Board on the basis of nominations by the Foreign Missions Committee and regional director in their respective areas.

h. Foreign Missions Committee. The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a Foreign Missions Committee consisting of the executive director as chairperson, the administrator as vice-chairperson, the regional directors, the leaders of major departments of the division, and other personnel as determined by the Executive Presbytery. The responsibilities of the Foreign Missions 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.

i. General Presbytery representatives. Each of the regions shall be represented on the General Presbytery by its regional director and two others. [See Article II, Section 2, paragraph f, (2).]

j. 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. 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 4. 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 all applicants receiving appointment shall have the unqualified endorsement of their district councils, 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 and teachers, 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 5. 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 6. 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 7. 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 assigned permanently to a region 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 areas 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 8. 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 whenever 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 that 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 that 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 XV. DIVISION OF HOME MISSIONS

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

a. Authorization. The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall assume responsibility and do all within its power to spread the gospel to the homeland. In keeping with this obligation, there shall be a Division of Home Missions.

b. Purpose. The primary responsibility of this division shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission. The essential functions are promoting the establishing of indigenous churches representing all cultural, socioeconomic, and other identifiable groups requiring specialized understanding and methods; and facilitating the evangelization and discipleship of individuals within these groups. All such activities shall be conducted in full cooperation with the district councils. The division shall provide coordination, promotion, assistance to motivate action, and shall receive and disburse funds.

Section 2. Organization and Governance

a. Executive director. There shall be an executive director of the Division of Home Missions who shall be elected in the manner described in Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph d.

b. Administrator. The Executive Presbytery shall elect an administrator who shall serve under the executive director in the administration of the division.

c. Departments. The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish departments within the division at the initiative of the Executive Presbytery. Departments shall operate within the parameters and guidelines of the General Council Policy Manual. These departments shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) Church Planting
- (2) Intercultural Ministries
- (3) Chaplaincy
- (4) Chi Alpha Campus Ministries
- (5) Teen Challenge International, U.S.A.
- (6) Mission America Placement Service

The Executive Presbytery shall elect a leader for each department to be charged with the operation of the department under the direction of the executive director.

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. Home Missions Board. The work of the Division of Home Missions shall be under the supervision of a Home Missions Board.

(1) *Composition.* The Home Missions Board shall consist of the executive director of the Division of Home Missions; the general superintendent (ex officio); the administrator; one additional member of the Board of Administration; two nonresident members of the Executive Presbytery; and eight ministers, each from a different area of the nation. 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 leaders, 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.

(2) *Elections.* The members of the Home Missions Board shall be nominated by the executive director of the Division of Home Missions, and elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.

(3) *Term of office.* A term of office shall be for 2 years and so arranged that some of the pastors will be elected each year to maintain continuity. Members may be elected for one succeeding term. The chairperson and ex officio members will have no term limitations.

(4) *Authority and amenability.* It is the responsibility of the Home Missions Board to evaluate policies of the Division of Home Missions and to offer guidance and counsel in the areas of its supervision, including the approval of policies and procedures governing the operation of the various ministries of the division. The Home Missions Board shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

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

f. Home Missions Committee. The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a Home Missions Committee consisting of the executive director as chairperson, the administrator as vice-chairperson, the leaders of the major departments of the division, and other personnel as determined by the Executive Presbytery. The responsibilities of the Home Missions 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.

g. 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, Industrial, and Institutional Chaplaincies, one of whom shall be the leader of the Chaplaincy Department, and eight others. They shall consist of two executive presbyters, two active-duty military chaplains, two industrial/institutional chaplains, 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.* The term of office shall be for 2 years and so arranged that one-half of the terms expire annually. Members may be appointed for one succeeding term. The commission chairperson and ex officio members will have no term limitations.

(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.

h. 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 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.

i. 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 shall be made according to administrative criteria established by the Division of Home Missions upon the approval of the work district.

Section 3. 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 that 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 and International Student Ministry works shall contribute 5 percent of their budget to the national Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department.

i. Teen Challenge International, U.S.A.

All Teen Challenge centers shall contribute monthly in support of Teen Challenge International, U.S.A.

ARTICLE XVI DIVISION OF CHURCH MINISTRIES

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

a. Authorization. There shall be a Division of Church Ministries which shall serve the Fellowship.

b. Purpose. 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 responsibilities of the division shall include the coordination and correlation of local church programs on the national level.

Section 2. Organization and Governance

a. Leadership. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a leader of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. That person shall be charged with the operation of the division.

b. Departments. The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish departments within the division at the initiative of the Executive Presbytery. Departments shall operate within the parameters and guidelines of the General Council Policy Manual. These departments shall include, but not be limited to the following:

- (1) Men's Ministries
- (2) Women's Ministries
- (3) Senior Adult Ministries
- (4) Music Ministries
- (5) Youth Ministries

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.

ARTICLE XVII. DIVISION OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

a. Authorization. There shall be a Division of Christian Education that shall serve the Fellowship.

b. Purpose. 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. This mission includes the fulfillment of the Great Commission, that 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; and
- (2) Providing curricular materials and services for Sunday schools, Christian schools (K-12), and adult lay education.

Section 2. Organization and Governance

a. Leadership. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a leader of the division, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. That person shall be charged with the operation of the division.

b. Departments. The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish departments within the division at the initiative of the Executive Presbytery. Departments shall operate within the parameters and guidelines of the General Council Policy Manual.

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. Board of Christian Education There shall be a Board of Christian Education consisting of up to 15 members to include, but not limited to, the following: The leader of the Division of Christian Education, who shall serve as chairperson; four pastors of demonstrated support for Christian education (representative of churches up to 99, 100-199, 200-399, 400 and over, 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 postsecondary schools; 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) *Term of office.* The members of the Board of Christian Education who do not serve by virtue of office shall serve for terms of 2 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. The commission chairperson and ex officio members will have no term limitations.

(3) *Authority and amenability.* The Board of Christian Education shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Division of Christian Education and to the Executive Presbytery in matters 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.

ARTICLE XVIII. COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

a. Authorization. There shall be a Commission on Christian Higher Education which shall serve the Fellowship in matters of Christian higher education.

b. Purpose. The primary responsibility of this commission in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission through:

- (1) Guiding in the development of a higher education system and structure, both traditional and nontraditional; and
- (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.

Section 2. Organization and Governance

a. Leadership. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a leader subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. That person shall be charged with the operation of the Commission on Christian Higher Education and its department(s).

b. Departments. The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish departments within the commission at the initiative of the Executive Presbytery. Departments shall operate within the parameters and guidelines of the General Council Policy Manual.

c. Amenability. The commission and all of its functions shall be amenable

to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

d. Composition of Commission on Christian Higher Education. There shall be a Commission on Christian Higher Education that shall include, but not be limited to, the following members: the leader of the Commission on Christian Higher Education, who shall serve as chairperson; the leader(s) of the Christian Higher Education Department(s); the general superintendent (ex officio); an executive presbyter; four pastors who have demonstrated zeal and support for Assemblies of God higher education; and a representative from each of the endorsed postsecondary schools of the Assemblies of God. The representatives from the postsecondary schools shall be configured in such a way as to have six presidents of endorsed postsecondary schools, a minimum of three lay members of postsecondary school boards, and a minimum of three chairpersons of postsecondary school boards at any one time. The chairperson shall designate the secretary of the commission.

(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 postsecondary school presidents.

(2) *Term 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 chairperson 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(s). There shall be an annual meeting of the commission. Special meetings shall be at the call of the commission chairperson. The presidents of endorsed postsecondary schools 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(s) 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 that 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; and

(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 members including the commission chairperson, the leader(s) of the Christian Higher Education Department(s), two postsecondary school 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.

ARTICLE XIX. MEDIA MINISTRIES

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

a. Authorization. There shall be a Media Ministries office which shall serve the Fellowship.

b. Purpose. The primary responsibility of the media ministries in its field of shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission through television, radio, audiovisuals, and similar media. The responsibilities of the Media Ministries office shall include the following:

(1) Provide audio and video services to all entities of the Assemblies of God. The Media Ministries office will also initiate, create, and market such products and programs that will further the work of the church; and

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

Section 2. Government and Organization

a. Leadership. The Executive Presbytery shall elect a leader of the media ministries subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. The leader shall be charged with the operation of this ministry.

b. Departments. The Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to establish departments within the Media Ministries office. Departments shall operate within the parameters and guidelines of the General Council Policy Manual.

c. Amenability. The Media Ministries office and all of its functions shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

ARTICLE XX. DIVISION OF PUBLICATION

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

a. Authorization. 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.

b. Purpose. 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 responsibilities of the Gospel Publishing House shall include the publication and distribution of books, curriculum, periodicals, and other materials as may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 2. Organization and Governance

a. Leadership The Executive Presbytery shall elect a leader of the division subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. That person shall be charged with the operation of the division.

b. Departments. The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish departments within the division at the initiative of the Executive Presbytery. Departments shall operate within the parameters and guidelines of the General Council Policy Manual.

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.

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 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 national 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 is 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 is 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 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 Assemblies of God Theological Seminary.

Section 5. Global University of the Assemblies of God

a. Authorization and purpose. Global University, a nontraditional distance education university of Bible and general Christian service training, providing ministers and laypersons worldwide accredited distance education, 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 whether to declare their position as a combatant, a non-combatant, 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 exists 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 exists 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 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 distributed 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 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

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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 Youth Ministries office at the discretion of the district officary.

Section 3. Other Offerings

Offerings for Boys and Girls Missionary Crusade, Light for the Lost, and other departments and ministries shall be distributed in accordance with provisions made in the General Council Policy Manual (see Article XXVII).

ARTICLE XXVII. GENERAL COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL

The Executive Presbytery shall be empowered to develop and maintain a set of documents referred to as the General Council Policy Manual. These documents shall set forth the policies, procedures, guidelines, and parameters relating to the operation and structure of divisions, departments, commissions, and ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. The General Council Policy Manual shall be administered by the Board of Administration. The Executive Presbytery shall submit annually to the General Presbytery all additions, deletions, and modifications to the General Council Policy Manual. The General Council Policy Manual shall be available upon request to churches and credentialed ministers.

ARTICLE XXVIII. 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 XXIX. 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 XXX. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Amendments to be adopted shall require a majority of all votes cast.

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THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF
THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
(With revised Constitution and Bylaws)
August 10-13, 1999—Orlando Florida**

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