

MINUTES

of the

49th Session of

THE GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD



With revised

Constitution and Bylaws

49th GENERAL COUNCIL

Kansas City, Missouri

August 7-10, 2001

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THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Convened in Kansas City, Missouri

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Revised Constitution and Bylaws

(Incorporated under the laws of the State of Missouri,
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THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY

Thomas E. Trask, Chairman	
David W. Argue	L. Alton Garrison
C. Dan Betzer	J. Don George
James K. Bridges	Charles E. Hackett
L. John Bueno	Spencer Jones
Warren D. Bullock	Nam Soo Kim
Charles T. Crabtree	Jesse Miranda
Charles E. Crank	H. Robert Rhoden
Richard Dresselhaus	George O. Wood

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FOREWORD

"Empowered by the Spirit" was the theme for our 49th General Council in Kansas City, Missouri, August 7-10, 2001.

We have sought and continue seeking to be people of the Spirit. We recognize that the task given to us can be accomplished only as the Holy Spirit enables. The purpose of the Holy Spirit is that Jesus might be exalted in all we think, do, and say! The graces and gifts of the Spirit given us come so that we may bear effective witness of Him at all places and all times.

This General Council witnessed thousands of young people making fresh commitments of their lives to be "Empowered by the Spirit," along with ministers and lay leaders from all across our Fellowship. The times of worship, preaching, prayer, and fellowship were most wonderful.

If Jesus tarries, you will want to be present for the 50th General Council in Washington, D.C., July 30 through August 3, 2003! Until we meet again, may the Lord's rich blessings be yours!

GEORGE O. WOOD
GENERAL SECRETARY

MINUTES OF THE 49th GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CONVENED AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI AUGUST 7-10, 2001

Business Session

The first business session of the 49th General Council of the Assemblies of God convened at the Kansas City Convention Center, Kansas City, Missouri, Tuesday, August 7, 2001, at 2 p.m. General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask welcomed the delegates and called the business session to order at 2:05 p.m. The session was opened with prayer by Charles T. Crabtree, assistant general superintendent.

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; Nam Soo Kim, Language Area—Other; Jesse Miranda, Language Area—Spanish; Armon Newburn, South Central Area; Spencer Jones, Ethnic Fellowship.

Introduction of Retired Executive Presbyters

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

Introduction of Headquarters Staff

The chairman expressed appreciation to the Headquarters staff serving many long hours to make this 49th General Council operate efficiently, calling attention to those listed in the program booklet. Special recognition was given to Michael Messner, Danette McCabe, Shelly Mackey, and Jewell Woodward.

Fraternal Delegates

The chairman recognized that a number of fraternal delegates will be in attendance at this General Council. He introduced those present and extended a

welcome to these friends and indicated that they would be honored at a dinner later during the Council.

Expression of Appreciation to the City of Kansas City, Missouri

Appreciation was expressed to the city of Kansas City for its hospitality and for the kindness it has shown to the General Council delegates. The chairman stated that it has been a joy to be in this great city.

Expression of Appreciation to Host Districts

Thomas Trask expressed appreciation to the following districts for their kind hospitality in hosting this 49th General Council: Kansas District Council, Midwest Latin American District Council, Northern Missouri District Council, and Southern Missouri District Council.

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; Richard Arrowood, Ronald M. Garner, Ignacio Marrero, L. Jack Moore, Robert Nazarenus, Terry Yancey

Parliamentary

Gene M. Roncone II, chairperson; Jay Alford, Paul Hamelink, Ansley Orfila

Resolutions

Zollie Smith, chairperson; Wan Ki Choi, Robert Cook, Larry Griswold, Thomas H. Lindberg, Charles Nestor, T. Ray Rachels, Victor J. Schober, Carolyn Tennant

Roster

Richard Plunk, David L. Wigington, cochairmen; Tim Strathdee, liaison; Robert Abbott, Jeffrey Arp, Frank Baez, Terry Bailey, Eddy Brewer, Gregory Burchfield, Phillip Cochran, Robert Helms, Samuel Rodriguez, Kirk D. Sherman, Johnny Storz, Eric Tomasino, Brian Tracy, Abel Vasquez, Jerry Wade, Kenneth H. Wilcox, James A. Williams, Arthur Wood

Spiritual Life

Paul Martin, chairperson; Thomas E. Trask, ex officio; Michael D. Messner, coordinator; Gary Allen, Kermit S. Bridges, Deborah M. Gill, Beth Grant, Rich Guerra, Felix Posos, Terry R. Raburn, Paulo Roberto Rosa, D. Rick Ross, Zollie L. Smith, Jr., Bradley Trask

Tellers

Rollin Carlson, chairperson; Glenn Beaver, Ray Berryhill, Richard Hopping, Samuel Molina, Boyd Powers, Randall Rogers, captains; Efraim Espinoza, Liaison; Ralph Adecock, Michael Bacchus, Don Bade, Terry Barris, Sr., Jimmy Beggs, David Bennett, Skip Bennett, Tim Boatright, John Branch, IV, Ted Britain, Michael Brown, William Busch, Samuel Bush, Gordon Butler, Don Butterfield, William Button, Randy Carter, Robert Christenson, Lesley W. Clark, Mike Cole, Timothy Collins, Roger Cook, Tracy D. Cook, Don Couch, Alfred L. Crane, Calvin Cumbee, Dennis Curran, Dave Deerman, Caleb Dotomain, Kent L. Duncan, Johnny Durham, Ronald G. Dykes, Rob Elders, Johnny Elliott, Paul Ellis, Gary A. Elrod, Danny Espinosa, B. P. Espinoza, Glenn Forsee, Ron Fortenberry, Jeff Fowler, Vincent Fraser, Cliff Fraticelli, Larry Freitag, Scottie Fulcher, John Garcia, Amos P. Garza, Felix Gonzales, Angel Gonzalez, Glynn Grantham, Cecil Gray, Duane Gryder, Garry Hamilton, Raymond Hansen, Michael Haseltine, R. T. Havener, Ramon L. Hernandez, Lauro C. Hernandez, Charles Hinckley, Orvil Holden, Kurt M. Holthus, Cliff Houghton, Keith Howard, Roger Hunt, Richard Impellizzeri, David Irwin, Dale Jackson, Wayne Jameson, Michael Jankowski, Kent Jensen, Mark R. Johnson, Perry Justus, Carl Kelleher, Larry Kettle, Steven R. King, Bruce O. Klepp, Daniel Krause, Mike Lairsey, Paul A. LeRoy, Michael Levelle, Roger A. Lewis, Douglas N. Lowery, Harvey Macklin, Anibal Maldonado, W. Glenn Mangrum, Jeff Mantz, Walter Martin, Tony Martinez, John Martz, Marcus McClain, David B. McConnell, James McCutchan, Lonnie J. Mikes, Steven Milazzo, Daniel Miller, Mark Miltimore, Vance Mitchell, Guy Mofley, Terry L. Moore, David W. Morton, Viliani Naivalu, Sergio Navarrete, John Nunnally, Mark J. Olson, Chad Payne, Ricky Peebles, Bruce Pennington, Jose M. Perez, James Plata, Jeffrey Prater, Sydney Ramphal, Randy Randle, Ronnie D. Ray, David P. Reese, Israel Reyna, Ray Reynolds, Richard Ridley, Vern Rodgers, Alfred Roever, Angel Rosado, Robert Saenz, Jack Sampier, Phil Sanders, Louis J. Selzer, Colbert Sesanker, Mickey Sexton, Norwood Seymour, Pedro Sola, Jon Stanford, Wayne Steams, Mark Stockburger, William L. Taylor, Paul Valerius, Hector Vega, Todd R. Waggoner, Julian Walker, Louis Walton, Gregory White, Doby Williams, Alan Womack, Derrick Youngblood, William Zimmerman.

National Operational Committees

Accounting Committee

Clyde Hawkins, chairperson; Jerry Barton, Dan Clopine, Fred Gore, Janice Hayes

Children's Activities

Sharon Ellard, Early Childhood coordinator; David Boyd, Kids Council chairperson; Joey Ellis

Computer Support

(Equipment Subcommittee)

Tim Strathdee, computer support coordinator; Bruce Harp, Kelly Rhea, Roger Richardson

Convention Coordinator's Team

Michael Messner, chairman program committee; Sharon L. Lee, convention coordinator; Lori K. Lawley, housing coordinator; Sheila R. Mixer, registration coordinator

Equipment

Norman Gannon, chairperson; Don Goss, trucking; Eric Goss

Exhibits

Steve Turner, coordinator

Hospitality

Jim Stalnaker, chairperson; Debra Collins, Helen Wray

Human Resources

Jim Stalnaker, personnel coordinator; Debra Collins, Katie Burgess (on-site)

Music Program

(Program Subcommittee)

Paul Ferrin, Tom McDonald, Michael D. Messner

Photos Committee

(Promotions/Press Subcommittee)

Mel Snyder, chairperson; Derald Musgrove

Platform

(Program Subcommittee)

Michael D. Messner, chairperson; Greg Flessing, program manager; Greg Slape, stage manager; Janece Carter

Prayer

Madonna Paulson, chairperson

Printed Materials

Jean Lawson, coordinator; Mike Murphy, Danny Espinoza, Rebekah Haught

Program

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

Promotion/Press

Juleen Turnage, chairperson; Hal Donaldson, Brett Risner, Dan VanVeen, Jon Harrell

Registration

Sheila R. Mixer, registration coordinator; Mark Christianson, roster liaison; Todd Nicholson

Security

Paul Griffin, coordinator

Tellers Liaison

Efraim Espinoza

Translations

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

Transportation

Gerald Jackson, chairperson; Erin Buskirk, company pilot; Larry Kolsky, William Conley, Neil Ruda

Ushers/Communion

Clancy Hayes, chairperson; David Moore, Communion coordinator; Mike Cooper, Rhonda Curtis

Youth Congress

(Program Subcommittee)

Tom Greene, chairperson; Phil Rasmussen, Mark McGrath, Jay Mooney

Adoption of Agenda

The chairman called attention to the agenda, briefly summarizing items to be covered. He made note that Resolution 4 and Resolution 6 have been removed from the agenda. A motion prevailed that the agenda be adopted as presented with the removal of Resolution 4 and Resolution 6.

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 emphasized the number of women involved in ministry and encouraged the churches and districts to make room for their ministry. He also highlighted the importance of the development of the Commission on Ethnicity.

Charles Crabtree, assistant general superintendent, assumed the role of the 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.

Roster Committee Report

David Wigington, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 2:30 p.m., Tuesday, August 7, 2001:

Ordained	2,311	
Delegates	<u>402</u>	
Voting constituency		2,713

Licensed/Certified Ministers	410	
Kids Council	409	
Youth Congress	1,146	
Visitors	<u>5,009</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		6,974
Total		9,687

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Election of General Superintendent

The general secretary read Constitution Article IX, Section 1, paragraph a, and Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph a, pertaining to the election of general superintendent. The chair was turned over to Charles T. Crabtree. Armon Newburn, nonresident executive from the South Central Area, led in prayer for God's guidance during the election process. 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 general superintendent:

Total votes cast	1,381
Needed to elect	922
Thomas E. Trask	1,187

Having noted that Thomas E. Trask received in excess of the two-thirds vote, Charles Crabtree declared Thomas E. Trask reelected as general superintendent.

Thomas E. Trask responded by accepting the election and expressed thanks for the vote of confidence and support of the Fellowship. He also expressed his appreciation for the privilege of being a part of such a great heritage and his gratitude to those who have gone before us and who have sacrificed and laid down their lives for the gospel's sake in behalf of the Assemblies of God. He pledged to do his very best to please Him.

The following is a list of all other nominees: Arden Adamson 1, Jay Alford 2, Gordon Anderson 1, Don Argue 2, Tommy Barnett 2, Wayne Benson 2, Dan Betzer 2, Keith Boucher 1, James K. Bridges 14, John Bueno 1, Warren Bullock 1, Isaac Canales 1, Glen Cole 7, Carl Colletti 1, Robert Cook 1, Charles T. Crabtree 45, Robert Crabtree 1, Charles Crank 2, Richard Dresselhaus 2, Derwood Dubose 2, Alton Garrison 2, J. Don George 2, Charles Hackett 2, Gene Jackson 3, Steve Jamison 1, Francis Jones 1, Peter Joudry 1, Wayne Kraiss 1, Maurice Lednicky 2, John Lindell 1, William T. Mahoney 1, Paul Martin 2, Jerry McCamey 1, Ronald McManus 4, Jack Moore 1, Don Myers 1, Armon Newburn 3, John Palmer 1, Robert Rhoden 2, Terry Raburn 3, Ray Rachels 1, Mark Rutland 1, Robert Spence 1, Everett Stenhouse 3, Thurman Strange 1, Loren Triplett 1, Cecil Wiggins 1, George O. Wood 53, Terry Yancey 1, invalid votes 5

General Secretary's Report

George O. Wood, general secretary, presented highlights from his written report in the *Biennial Report*. He shared that the Annual Church Ministries Report is now

available on the Internet. He also gave an update on the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center.

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

Resolution 1. Name Change—DFM and DHM

Zollie Smith, Jr., chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 1. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 1 as follows:

WHEREAS, The term Division of Foreign Missions sometimes communicates to Assemblies of God General Councils in other countries a connotation less desirable than the term Assemblies of God World Missions; and

WHEREAS, Renaming the Division of Home Missions to Assemblies of God Home Missions would assist in clearly delineating the difference between the proposed newly named Assemblies of God World Missions and Assemblies of God Home Missions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the name of the Division of Foreign Missions be changed to Assemblies of God World Missions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the name of the Division of Home Missions be changed to Assemblies of God Home Missions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all references in the General Council Constitution to the Division of Foreign Missions be changed to Assemblies of God World Missions, or references to foreign missions be replaced with world missions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all references in the General Council Constitution to the Division of Home Missions be changed to Assemblies of God Home Missions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all references in the General Council Bylaws to the Division of Foreign Missions be changed to Assemblies of God World Missions, or references to foreign missions be replaced with world missions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all references in the General Council Bylaws to the Division of Home Missions be changed to Assemblies of God Home Missions.

Resolution 2. World Ministries Giving Credit

Zollie Smith read Resolution 2. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 2 as follows:

WHEREAS, In response to requests, the Executive Presbytery appointed a committee in May of 2000 to study renaming World Ministries Giving Credit for Foreign and Home Missions; and

WHEREAS, The committee consisted of James Bridges, chairman; John Bueno; Charles Hackett; Clyde Hawkins; and Mike McClafin (resource person); and

WHEREAS, The committee subsequently reported its findings and recommendations to the Executive Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery recommended that the General Presbytery endorse the committee's recommendations and sponsor said recommendations for approval by the General Council; and
WHEREAS, The General Presbytery in August of 2000 adopted the recommendation of the Executive Presbytery; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That World Ministries Giving be changed to Assemblies of God Total Giving; and be it further
RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 3, page 99, which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

Section 3. Assemblies of God Total Giving Participation

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

And be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XIII, Section 1, paragraph d, (2) and (3), pages 150 and 151, which presently reads:

d. World Ministries Giving

(2) *Combined report.* A combined report of all offerings that are designated for departments shall be given under the caption of World Ministries Giving. The intent is to provide recognition for contributions to all ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, to place each appeal and ministry on an equal basis, and to lend encouragement to churches and individual contributors to determine the appeal to which they will respond under the leading of the Spirit.

(3) *Credit.* World Ministries Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to the Fellowship Partnership plan for support of the General Council; the Divisions of Foreign Missions, Home Missions, Christian Education, Christian Higher Education (including educational institutions), Church Ministries (including Men's Ministries, Women's Ministries, Music 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.

Be amended to read as follows:

d. **Assemblies of God Total Giving**

- (2) *Combined report.* A combined report of all offerings that are designated for departments shall be given under the caption of Assemblies of God Total 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.* Assemblies of God Total Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to the Fellowship Partnership plan for support of the General Council; the Division of Foreign Missions, Division of Home Missions, Benevolences Ministries, Christian Higher Education (including educational institutions), Church Ministries (including men's, women's, music, youth, and senior adults), General Administration (including executive and Spiritual Life offices), and other General Council, regional, and district-sponsored or approved projects. Contributions from districts other than where a district-approved project is located can be granted Assemblies of God Total Giving credit only 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 or department related to a given project will be notified of approved projects. It is also understood that no district or region may receive Assemblies of God Total Giving credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XIV, Section 3, page 155, which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 a. 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.
- e b. A recommended One-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment receiving funds through the division.
- d c. All Undesignated funds.
- e d. Five percent of all missionary offerings (with the exclusion of special personal 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.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XV, Section 3, paragraphs a through e, page 160, which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read as follows:

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 a. 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.
- e- b. Five percent of all funds contributed through the Division of Home Missions for nationally appointed and/or approved Assemblies of God home missions workers.
- d. c. An appropriation of 10 percent of undesignated contributions.

e. d. Five percent of all funds for approved district, regional, or national Assemblies of God home missions projects.

f. e. One-half of the tithes of all ~~nationally appointed home~~ missionaries under appointment receiving funds through the Division of Home Missions.

(Note: paragraphs f, g, and h remain unchanged.)

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Article XXVI. WORLD MISSIONS PLAN be deleted from the Bylaws due to lack of use and that Sections 2 and 3 of this article be made a part of the *General Council Policy Manual*;

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Articles XXVII, XXVIII, XXIX, and XXX be renumbered XXVI, XXVII, XXVIII, and XXIX.

Assistant General Superintendent's Report

Charles Crabtree, assistant general superintendent, presented highlights from his written report in the *Biennial Report* and also gave an update on the renovation of the national headquarters.

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

Resolution 3. Dual Credentials for Missionaries

Zollie Smith read Resolution 3. A motion prevailed to adopted Resolution 3 as follows:

WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, I, (10), page 120, provides that "Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition shall relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization"; and

WHEREAS, From time to time credentialed ministers with a General Council outside the United States come to this country legally to work among persons from their own countries and are desirous of retaining their credentials in their country of origin while holding a ministerial credential in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Missionaries from the United States often hold ministerial credentials in their host countries while retaining their credential with the United States Assemblies of God—such action having historically not been considered a violation of the above bylaw provision; and

WHEREAS, It would seem advisable to welcome ministers from another country with the same hospitality and consideration given by other countries in welcoming missionaries from the United States Assemblies of God; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, I, (10), page 120, which now reads: Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition shall relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization,

Be amended to read:

Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition shall relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee upon recommendation of a district council credentials committee for a minister serving as a

missionary in this country who holds a credential with a member body of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship.

Resolution 5. Commission on Christian Higher Education and Foreign Missions Laymen's Advisory Committee

Zollie Smith read Resolution 5. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 5 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Commission on Christian Higher Education is nominated by the Executive Presbytery and elected by the General Presbytery; and
WHEREAS, Bylaws Article XVIII, Section 2, paragraph d, page 164, makes provision for the appointment of the Commission on Higher Education; and
WHEREAS, The Foreign Missions Laymen's Advisory Committee has been made a part of the Foreign Missions Board; and
WHEREAS, Bylaws Article XIV, Section 2, paragraph e, page 154, makes provision for the appointment of the Foreign Missions Board; and
WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph g, page 107, needs to be eliminated from the Bylaws; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph g, which reads as follows be deleted:

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 Bylaws 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.

Resolution 7. General Council Policy Manual

Zollie Smith read Resolution 7. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 7 as follows:

WHEREAS, The 48th General Council of the Assemblies of God amended the Bylaws to empower the Executive Presbytery to develop and maintain a set of documents referred to as the *General Council Policy Manual*; and

WHEREAS, The above bylaw (Article XXVII. *General Council Policy Manual*, page 172) does not require approval of the manual or any changes to it by the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution (Article IX, Section 3, a, page 96) states: The General Presbytery shall be the official policy-making body of the General Council when the General Council is not in session; and

WHEREAS, The Bylaws cannot conflict with the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, The following matters were removed from the General Council Bylaws to be placed in the *General Council Policy Manual*: the style and format of the budget of the Gospel Publishing House; Division

of Foreign Missions, Personnel and Family Life Department, U.S. Relations Department, Communications Department, Finance Department, Research Department, Missions Abroad Placement Service; Division of Home Missions, New Church Evangelism Department, Intercultural Ministries Department, Industrial and Institutional Chaplaincy, Military Chaplaincy, Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department, Teen Challenge Department, and Mission America Placement Service Department; Men's Ministries Department; Music Ministries Department; Senior Adult Ministries Department; Women's Ministries Department; Youth Ministries Department; Sunday School Curriculum and Literature Department; Sunday School Promotion and Training Department; Sunday School Field Ministries and Literature Sales Department; Christian Schools; Christian Higher Education Department; and Board of Publication; and

WHEREAS, This is in conflict with the above provision of the Constitution; and

WHEREAS, This would make practically meaningless one of the constitutional duties of the General Presbytery; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XXVII, page 172, which currently reads:

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.

Be amended to read as follows:

The General 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 proposed additions, deletions, and modifications to the *General Council Policy Manual* for approval or amendment by the General Presbytery. The *General Council Policy Manual* shall be available upon request to churches and credentialed ministers.

Resolution 10. Nonresident Executive Presbyter Election

Zollie Smith read Resolution 10. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 10 as follows:

WHEREAS, There is provision made in the election of other General Council officers for the elimination of nominees following the third elective ballot; and

WHEREAS, It would be beneficial to follow the same order in the election of nonresident executive presbyters; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article II, Election of Officers, Section 2, paragraph e, subparagraph (1) (a) which reads as follows:

- (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.

Be amended to read:

- (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. If no election has been declared after the third elective ballot has been cast, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.

Election of General Treasurer

The general secretary read the Bylaw provision for the election of the general treasurer, 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	1,313
Needed to elect	876
No votes	36
Yes votes	1,277

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

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	1,315
Needed to elect	878
No votes	28
Yes votes	1,285
Invalid votes	2

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

Resolution 11. Honorary General Presbyter—Roger Noel Perkin

The general secretary read Resolution 11. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 11 as follows:

WHEREAS, Roger Noel Perkin, a native of the great state of Missouri, has served his entire ministry in the Southern Missouri District; and
WHEREAS, He has been a minister of the Southern Missouri District for some 32 successive years, serving as a pastor; and
WHEREAS, He has served 7 years as sectional presbyter, 1 year as district executive presbyter, 20 years as assistant district superintendent, and 20 years as general presbyter of the General Council, serving with honor and distinction; and
WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, 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 Roger Noel Perkin be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 12. Honorary General Presbyter—William E. Ashpole

The general secretary read Resolution 12. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 12 as follows:

WHEREAS, William E. Ashpole has served as a general presbyter for the past 23 years; and
WHEREAS, He has faithfully contributed in these sessions; and
WHEREAS, He has retired from his position as the assistant superintendent of the Hawaii District Council of the Assemblies of God; and
WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, 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 E. Ashpole be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 13. Honorary General Presbyter—James E. Morris

The general secretary read Resolution 13. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 13 as follows:

WHEREAS, James E. Morris, a dedicated and faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, has spent his life as a Bible college instructor and pastor, and is an ordained minister of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, He has served the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council as the assistant superintendent for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served with distinction on many district and General Council boards; and his experience, wisdom, and love for the Assemblies of God has made him a valuable member of the General Presbytery for 20 years, and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, 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 James E. Morris be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 22. Honorary General Presbyter—Almon M. Bartholomew

The general secretary read Resolution 22. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 22 as follows:

WHEREAS, Almon M. Bartholomew served as a member of the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God continuously from 1987 to 2001; and

WHEREAS, He has served as a member of the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for 25 years; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the Assemblies of God with distinction as pastor, home missions representative, youth representative, sectional secretary/treasurer, youth director, and 20 years as superintendent of the New York District Council; and

WHEREAS, He has served on the board of Valley Forge Christian College, and as a member or chairman of numerous other committees of the New York District Council and the General Council; and

WHEREAS, Since he was ordained in 1952, he has served as pastor, administrator, theologian, wise counselor, and spiritual statesman; and

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

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, 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 Almon M. Bartholomew be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 23. Honorary General Presbyter—Robert L. Brandt

The general secretary read Resolution 23. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 23 as follows:

WHEREAS, Robert L. Brandt served as a member of the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God continuously from 1981 to 2001; and

WHEREAS, He has served as a member of the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for 40 years; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the Assemblies of God with distinction as pastor, assistant district superintendent, superintendent of the North Dakota District Council for 7 years, and 13 years as superintendent of the Montana District Council; and

WHEREAS, He served as national secretary of the Home Missions Department for more than 7 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served on the board of Northwest College of the Assemblies of God, and as a member or chairman of numerous other committees of the Montana District Council and the General Council; and

WHEREAS, Since he was ordained in 1941, he has served as pastor, administrator, theologian, camp meeting speaker, author, and spiritual statesman; and

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

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as honorary general presbyters; therefore, be it

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

Resolution 24. Honorary General Presbyter—Howard D. Burroughs

The general secretary read Resolution 24. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 24 as follows:

WHEREAS, Howard D. Burroughs has served this Fellowship with distinction as an ordained minister for 42 years; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the South Texas District Council as presbyter, executive presbyter, assistant superintendent, and, for the past 20 years, has served as its superintendent; and

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

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, 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 Howard D. Burroughs be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 25. Honorary General Presbyter—Arvid C. Kingsriter

The general secretary read Resolution 25. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 25 as follows:

WHEREAS, Arvid C. Kingsriter has served this Fellowship as an ordained minister for 58 years; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the Minnesota District with distinction as assistant superintendent for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served a total of 20 years as a member of the General Presbytery; and
WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, 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 Arvid C. Kingsriter be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 26. Honorary General Presbyter—Jose Leyva

The general secretary read Resolution 26. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 26 as follows:

WHEREAS, Jose Leyva has served the Central Latin American District with distinction and honor; and
WHEREAS, He has been a minister with the Central Latin American District Council for 49 years, serving as pastor, sectional presbyter, and executive presbyter; and
WHEREAS, He has served as district Sunday School director for 6 years, assistant district superintendent for 16 years, district secretary-treasurer for 18 years, and district superintendent for 8 years; and
WHEREAS, He has served on the General Presbytery for 26 years; and
WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, 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 Jose Leyva be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 27. Honorary General Presbyter—David L. Nelson

The general secretary read Resolution 27. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 27 as follows:

WHEREAS, David L. Nelson has served this Fellowship with distinction as a credentialed minister of the Assemblies of God for 42 years having been licensed in 1959 and ordained in 1962; and
WHEREAS, He has served in the South Dakota District since 1973, as sectional presbyter for 5 years from 1976 to 1981, assistant superintendent for 5 years from 1981 to 1986, and as district superintendent 15 years from 1986 to 2001, as well as serving on the boards of North Central University, Trinity Bible College, and Black Hills Indian Bible College, and numerous other committees and boards over the years; and
WHEREAS, He has faithfully served as a general presbyter for the past 20 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 is highly esteemed and sought; and

WHEREAS, The South Dakota District Council and its executive officers wish to express our deep love and appreciation for David L. Nelson and the gift from God he has been to our district and Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, of the General Council Constitution of the Assemblies of God makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as honorary general presbyters; therefore, be it

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

Resolution 28. Honorary General Presbyter—Armon Newburn

The general secretary read Resolution 28. A motion prevailed that Resolution 28 be adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, Armon Newburn, a faithful man of God, has chosen to resign from the elected leadership of the Oklahoma District Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Armon and JoAnn Newburn, both natives of the great Sooner State, have completed 49 years of ministry to our Fellowship having served this entire time with credentials granted through the Oklahoma District Council; and

WHEREAS, Together, this beloved and respected couple has given 27 years of their lives in pastoral ministry to 4 Oklahoma churches, 4 years as district Christ's Ambassadors president; 14 years as an executive presbyter, 3 years as assistant superintendent, and 17 years as superintendent of the Oklahoma District Council; and

WHEREAS Armon Newburn has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God for 8 years as an executive presbyter, 21 years as a general presbyter, and has given many years of service to various colleges and universities as well as numerous commissions and committees; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history and exemplary lifestyle to be honored as honorary general presbyters; therefore, be it

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

Resolution 29. Honorary General Presbyter—E. Joe Wilmoth

The general secretary read Resolution 29. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 29 as follows:

WHEREAS, E. Joe Wilmoth has served the Fellowship with distinction as an ordained minister for 50 years; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the Arkansas District as superintendent for 12 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served the Arkansas District as assistant district superintendent for 13 years; and

WHEREAS, He served the Arkansas District as an executive presbyter for 10 years and as district youth director for 7 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served with great distinction as a General Council general presbyter for 25 years; and
 WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, 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 E. Joe Wilmoth be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 21. The Ministry of Evangelist

Zollie Smith, chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 21.
 A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 21 as follows:

WHEREAS, God has called the entire Church to evangelism and has chosen particular people to be the gift of evangelist to the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11); and
 WHEREAS, The verb for "evangelize" is used 54 times in the New Testament, and the noun "evangel" or "gospel" or "good news" is used 76 times, and the word "evangelist" is used 3 times, and the function and office of the evangelist and the ministry of evangelism were clearly integral elements of the Early Church; and
 WHEREAS, Ephesians 4:11,12 teaches that all ministry gifts, including that of evangelist, are for the equipping of God's people for the "work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;" and
 WHEREAS, Pentecostal church history reminds us of the importance of the evangelist inasmuch as hundreds, if not thousands, of Assemblies of God churches have been pioneered or equipped for evangelism by Assemblies of God evangelists; and
 WHEREAS, There are more than 1,500 evangelists, not including spouses, in the United States Assemblies of God—more evangelists than in any other major denomination; and
 WHEREAS, The ministry of the evangelist is encouraged and helped through the network of relationships and communication facilitated by the office of the national evangelists representative, functioning directly under the general superintendent; and
 WHEREAS, The ministry of evangelist is crucial for the continued vitality of the Pentecostal Church (Acts 8, 21:8; 2 Timothy 4:5); and
 WHEREAS, The beginning of this new century affords a choice opportunity to reaffirm the vital ministry role of the evangelist in the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it
 RESOLVED, That the Assemblies of God express gratitude to the Lord for the historic role evangelists have played in the growth and development of the Assemblies of God; and, further
 RESOLVED, That every effort be given on the national, district, and local level to affirm the evangelist within our Fellowship, and to encourage our pastors and churches to utilize the ministry of the evangelist.

Roster Committee Report

David Wigington, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 4:42 p.m., Tuesday, August 7, 2001:

Ordained	2,464
Delegates	<u>433</u>

Voting constituency		2,897
Licensed/certified ministers	434	
Kids Council	418	
Youth Congress	1,199	
Fine Arts	5,477	
Aimers	375	
Visitors	<u>5,160</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>13,063</u>
Total		15,960

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Election of Executive Presbyters

The general secretary read Bylaw Article II, Section 2, paragraph c, dealing with the election process for the nonresident executive presbyters. Ballots were cast and the chairman declared the vote closed.

Resolution 14. Removing Marital History Requirements for Credentialed Minister's Spouse

Zollie Smith, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 14 as follows and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, paragraph i, page 119, reads as follows:

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.

and

WHEREAS, This provision includes the marital history of the credential holder's or applicant's spouse in the consideration of qualification for credentials; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution Article V, 1, page 89, The Scriptures Inspired, states that the Scriptures are "the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct" (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21); and

WHEREAS, The debate on the General Council floor in 1997 referred to this issue as a "leadership issue" rather than a "sin issue"; and

WHEREAS, The leadership qualifications specifically listed for a leader's (deacon's) spouse in 1 Timothy 3:11 do not include marital history; and

WHEREAS, The only New Testament reference to the spouse's marital history is in the words of Jesus (Matthew 5:31) and He is clearly referring to sin, which thus is forgiven (2 Corinthians 5:17); and

WHEREAS, It is our desire to enable people to fulfill God's calling on their lives; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, paragraph i, page 119, be amended by substitution, removing the phrase, "if either marriage partner" and substituting "if the credential holder or applicant," so the paragraph will read as follows:

We disapprove of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God or district councils granting credentials to such if the credential holder or applicant has a former companion living, except as hereinafter provided.

A motion was made and seconded objecting to this resolution being brought before the General Council. After a division of the house the chair ruled the objection was lost.

A motion was made and seconded to refer both Resolutions 14 and 15 to a committee for study and bring back a report to the next General Council; and that the committee be appointed by the general superintendent and ratified by the General Presbytery, and that a directive be given that if there is a minority report and if there is not total unanimity, that this also be heard at the next General Council.

A motion was made and seconded to amend the motion and request that Resolutions 14 and 15 be referred to the Executive Presbytery for study and then report to the General Presbytery prior to the next General Council and then brought back to the General Council through that process. The motion to amend was carried.

Following discussion, the motion to refer was lost.

Recess

The meeting was recessed at 5:45 p.m. David H. Krist, Mount Morris, Michigan, closed in prayer.

World Missions Banquet

The World Missions Banquet was held on Tuesday evening and began with a missionary parade featuring flags from 163 counties. Each of the six regional directors gave reports from their region. Members of the Bethesda Choir, Fort Worth, Texas, under the direction of J. Dan Smith, presented the 2001 missions musical, *No Other Name*. The Mariachi Los Salmos band also provided music during the banquet.

WEDNESDAY MORNING—AUGUST 8

The Wednesday morning business session was opened with singing led by Tom McDonald, Assemblies of God commissioner on worship. M. Wayne Benson, executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area, opened with prayer. L. John Bueno, executive director of the Division of Foreign Missions, reported that \$830,000 was received in the World Missions Banquet offering.

Business Session

Chairman Trask called the business session to order at 9 a.m. Wayne Benson, executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area, led in prayer.

Roster Committee Report

David Wigington, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the report of the committee as of 8:15 a.m., Wednesday:

Ordained	2,545	
Delegates	<u>445</u>	
Voting constituency		2,990
Licensed/certified ministers	445	
Kids Council	423	
Youth Congress	1,256	
Fine Arts	5,477	
Aimers	375	
Visitors	<u>5,284</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>13,260</u>
Total		16,250

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Resolution 14. Removing Marital History Requirements for Credentialed Minister's Spouse (Continued)

Zollie Smith, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 14. The motion before the house at recess on Tuesday was to adopt Resolution 14.

A motion prevailed that if this resolution should be passed that the word, "companion," be changed to "spouse."

A further motion prevailed that wherever the word "companion" appears in the General Council Bylaws that it be changed to "spouse."

After lengthy discussion and a division of the house, the chairman ruled that the motion to adopt Resolution 14 lost.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Northwest Area

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

Total votes cast	1,203
Needed to elect	803
Ted R. Boatsman	156
Warren D. Bullock	444
Dale C. Carpenter	56
Doyle A. Fulkes	7
William I. Gallaher	71
Paul D. Goodman	204
Edward W. Kreiner	24
Robert D. Ross	49
Larry M. Savage	88
Lewis R. Shelton	58
Roy W. Welch, III	23
Daniel M. York	23

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	1,661
Needed to elect	1,108
Ted R. Boatsman	169
Warren D. Bullock	1,084
Dale C. Carpenter	51
Doyle A. Fulkes	9
William I. Gallaher	33
Paul D. Goodman	152
Edward W. Kreiner	13
Robert D. Ross	19
Larry M. Savage	52
Lewis R. Shelton	41
Roy W. Welch, III	20
Daniel M. York	12
Invalid votes	6

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

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

Total votes cast	1,621
Needed to elect	1,082
Ted R. Boatsman	73
Warren D. Bullock	1,462
Dale C. Carpenter	10
Doyle A. Fulkes	1
William I. Gallaher	15
Paul D. Goodman	28
Edward W. Kreiner	2
Robert D. Ross	0
Larry M. Savage	14
Lewis R. Shelton	6
Roy W. Welch, III	2
Daniel M. York	8

Having noted that Warren D. Bullock had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him elected as executive presbyter from the Northwest Area.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Southwest Area

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

Total votes cast	1,297
Needed to elect	866

Glen D. Cole	364
G. Robert Cook, Jr.	51
Richard Dresselhaus	516
Stephen L. Harris	46
Samuel M. Huddleston	36
George K. Nagato	11
Dary R. Northrop	33
T. Ray Rachels	164
David L. Stevens	30
Woodrow S. Yasuhara	13
Invalid votes	33

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

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

Total votes cast	1,712
Needed to elect	1,142
Glen D. Cole	327
G. Robert Cook, Jr.	33
Richard Dresselhaus	1,150
Stephen L. Harris	24
Samuel M. Huddleston	19
George K. Nagato	6
Dary R. Northrop	23
T. Ray Rache's	97
David L. Stevens	18
Woodrow S. Yasuhara	4
Void votes	11

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	1,244
Needed to elect	830
Arden K. Adamson	62
David W. Argue	461
Richard G. Arrowood	37
Gary A. Denbow	57
Leon D. Freitag	20
Ronald M. Garner	25
Darrell D. Losing	15
Robert L. Nazareus	40
John M. Palmer	371
Clarence St. John	78

Stephen R. Schaible	16
Daniel B. Spina	13
Edmund L. Tedeschi	32
Ronald J. Traub	14
Invalid votes	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 North Central Area:

Total votes cast	1,421
Needed to elect	948
Arden K. Adamson	31
David W. Argue	802
Richard G. Arrowood	24
Gary A. Denbow	22
Leon D. Freitag	9
Ronald M. Garner	7
Darrell D. Losing	10
Robert L. Nazarenius	24
John M. Palmer	423
Clarence St. John	39
Stephen R. Schaible	7
Daniel B. Spina	6
Edmund L. Tedeschi	12
Ronald J. Traub	5

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

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

Total votes cast	1,574
Needed to elect	1,050
Arden K. Adamson	5
David W. Argue	1,264
Richard G. Arrowood	9
Gary A. Denbow	2
Leon D. Freitag	1
Ronald M. Garner	2
Darrell D. Losing	1
Robert L. Nazarenius	1
John M. Palmer	274
Clarence St. John	10
Stephen R. Schaible	2
Daniel B. Spina	0
Edmund L. Tedeschi	3
Ronald J. Traub	0

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	1,202
Needed to elect	802
Earl J. Banning	202
H. Franklin Cargill	110
Micheal E. Dickenson	17
Derwood W. Dubose	138
J. Don George	342
R. Kenneth George	67
Joseph P. Granberry	32
Jonathan M. Hollis	37
Thomas D. Lakey	40
Jim L. McNabb	50
Robert L. Slaton	30
Terry L. Yancey	137

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

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

Total votes case	1,673
Needed to elect	1,116
Earl J. Banning	229
H. Franklin Cargill	97
Micheal E. Dickenson	6
Derwood W. Dubose	93
J. Don George	1,013
R. Kenneth George	42
Joseph P. Granberry	17
Jonathan M. Hollis	18
Thomas D. Lakey	12
Jim L. McNabb	27
Robert L. Slaton	18
Terry L. Yancey	101

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

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

Total votes cast	1,453
Needed to elect	970
Earl J. Banning	53

H. Franklin Cargill	24
Micheal E. Dickenson	3
Derwood W. Dubose	31
J. Don George	1,261
R. Kenneth George	20
Joseph P. Granberry	8
Jonathan M. Hollis	5
Thomas D. Lakey	4
Jim L. McNabb	2
Robert L. Slaton	5
Terry L. Yancey	35
Invalid votes	2

Having noted that J. Don George had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him elected 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	1,237
Needed to elect	826
Jay Alford	96
James D. Biram	37
Isaac T. Boggs	11
Robert D. Crabtree	272
Charles E. Crank	321
Ron J. Crum	15
Marvin R. Dennis	25
William F. Leach	93
S. Robert Maddox	64
Paul R. Martin	151
Jerry G. McCamey	121
David R. Williams	29
Invalid votes	2

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

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the second elective ballot for the Great Lakes Area:

Total votes cast	1,695
Needed to elect	1,131
Jay Alford	36
James D. Biram	16
Isaac T. Boggs	10
Robert D. Crabtree	425
Charles E. Crank	861
Ron J. Crum	4
Marvin R. Dennis	13

William F. Leach	49
S. Robert Maddox	31
Paul R. Martin	156
Jerry G. McCamey	79
David R. Williams	15

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

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the third elective ballot for the Great Lakes Area:

Total votes cast	1,206
Needed to elect	805
Jay Alford	13
James D. Biram	5
Isaac T. Boggs	4
Robert D. Crabtree	194
Charles E. Crank	902
Ron J. Crum	8
Marvin R. Dennis	0
William F. Leach	10
S. Robert Maddox	0
Paul R. Martin	54
Jerry G. McCamey	16
David R. Williams	0

Having noted that Charles E. Crank had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him elected 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	1,252
Needed to elect	836
John Bosman	87
Walter L. Davis	19
Douglas E. Fulenwider	53
L. Alton Garrison	489
Gene Jackson	426
L. Jack Moore	80
Larry Moore	21
Roger N. Perkin	49
Robert E. Turner	18
Robert B. Wilburn	10

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

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

Total votes cast	1,700
Needed to elect	1,134
John Bosman	28
Walter L. Davis	14
Douglas E. Fulenwider	19
L. Alton Garrison	1,079
Gene Jackson	495
L. Jack Moore	32
Larry Moore	4
Roger N. Perkin	14
Robert E. Turner	9
Robert B. Wilburn	6

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

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

Total votes cast	990
Needed to elect	661
John Bosman	11
Walter L. Davis	0
Douglas E. Fulenwider	2
L. Alton Garrison	833
Gene Jackson	137
L. Jack Moore	5
Larry Moore	0
Roger N. Perkin	2
Robert E. Turner	0
Robert B. Wilburn	0

Having noted that L. Alton Garrison had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him elected as executive presbyter for 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	1,268
Needed to elect	846
Saied Adour	68
Philip Bongiorno	199
Carl J. Colletti	72
D. Wendel Cover	61
Paul E. Grabill	85
Richard D. Lafferty	47
Dennis W. Marquardt	43
W. Eugene Petty	74
H. Robert Rhoden	327

Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	210
Otis D. Stanley	82

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:

Total votes cast	1,654
Needed to elect	1,104
Saied Adour	28
Philip Bongiorno	193
Carl J. Colletti	39
D. Wendel Cover	26
Paul E. Grabill	43
Richard D. Lafferty	12
Dennis W. Marquardt	24
W. Eugene Petty	21
H. Robert Rhoden	1,064
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	190
Otis D. Stanley	11
Invalid votes	3

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

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

Total votes cast	966
Needed to elect	645
Saied Adour	7
Philip Bongiorno	43
Carl J. Colletti	14
D. Wendel Cover	14
Paul E. Grabill	12
Richard D. Lafferty	4
Dennis W. Marquardt	2
W. Eugene Petty	8
H. Robert Rhoden	828
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	33
Otis D. Stanley	1

Having noted that H. Robert Rhoden had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him elected as 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	1,193
Needed to elect	796

Leslie M. Addison	4
C. Dan Betzer	674
Steven R. Brown	8
Billy J. Glover	18
Charles Kelly	9
Thomas G. Lawrence	6
John A. Loper, Jr.	24
Glyn Lowery, Jr.	26
Ronald F. McManus	267
Kenneth W. Owen, Sr.	13
Donald E. Price	12
Terrell R. Raburn	132

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

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

Total votes cast	1,655
Needed to elect	1,104
Leslie M. Addison	3
C. Dan Betzer	1,323
Steven R. Brown	5
Billy J. Glover	8
Charles Kelly	14
Thomas G. Lawrence	4
John A. Loper, Jr.	7
Glyn Lowery, Jr.	14
Ronald F. McManus	245
Kenneth W. Owen, Sr.	3
Donald E. Price	7
Terrell R. Raburn	21
Invalid votes	1

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

Election of Executive Presbyter—Language-Spanish Area

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

Total votes cast	1,123
Needed to elect	750
Lee Baca	36
Adolfo Carrion	22
Daniel De Leon	160
Amos P. Garza	51
Clemente Maldonado, Jr.	33
Ignacio Marrero	17
Bernade Medina	16

Jesse Miranda	627
Samuel P. Molina	93
Rafael Reyes	39
Juan H. Suarez	16
Richard K. Tanon	13

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

Rollin Carlson, chairman of the Tellers Committee, gave the following report of the second elective ballot for the Language-Spanish Area:

Total votes cast	1,703
Needed to elect	1,136
Lee Baca	10
Adolfo Carrion	5
Daniel De Leon	126
Amos P. Garza	12
Clemente Maldonado, Jr.	14
Ignacio Marrero	4
Bernade Medina	8
Jesse Miranda	1,457
Samuel P. Molina	44
Rafael Reyes	12
Juan H. Suarez	4
Richard K. Tanon	7

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

Election of Executive Presbyter—Language-Other Area

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

Total votes cast	1,089
Needed to elect	727
Ouriel De Jesus	103
Nam Soo Kim	719
David D. Rueb	119
Paulo R. Rosa	147
Invalid votes	1

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

Rollin Carlson gave the following report of the second elective ballot for the Language-Other Area:

Total votes cast	1,523
Needed to elect	1,016
Ouriel De Jesus	34

Nam Soo Kim	1,409
David D. Rueb	41
Paulo R. Rosa	39

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

Election of Executive Presbyter—Ethnic Fellowship Area

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

Total votes cast	1,143
Needed to elect	763
Rodger A. Cree	70
Emory K. Dively	28
Spencer Jones	501
Gia T. Lee	26
William D. Lee	59
John E. Maracle	116
Armando D. Monzon	29
Sydney H. Ramphal	69
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	221
Mataiasi Waqavesi	24

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

Rollin Carlson gave the following report of the second elective ballot for the Ethnic Fellowship Area:

Total votes cast	1,654
Needed to elect	1,104
Rodger A. Cree	20
Emory K. Dively	9
Spencer Jones	1,223
Gia T. Lee	13
William D. Lee	22
John E. Maracle	59
Armando D. Monzon	9
Sydney H. Ramphal	32
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	235
Mataiasi Waqavesi	25
Invalid votes	7

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

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:

James Blackwood

James Blackwood, known across this nation as Mr. Gospel Music, began singing with his family when he was only 15. The original Blackwood Brothers consisted of James, his brothers Roy and Doyle, and his nephew R.W. Through the years, the popularity and influence of Southern Gospel Music grew, in large part because of the efforts and ministry of James.

James' awards are numerous. He has been nominated for the Grammy Award for 28 consecutive years—a record for consecutive nominations in all fields of music. He has received 9 Grammy Awards, 7 Dove Awards, 4 Singing News Fan Awards, and was inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1974 and Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 1996. He was voted the best gospel singer of the 20th century. James has sung in the White House for several U.S. Presidents and has ministered in many nations around the world. He has sold over 20 million records during his years of ministry in song. This past year, James returned to his native Mississippi to be inducted in the Mississippi Musicians Hall of Fame together with his brothers Roy and Doyle. James and his family are life-long Assemblies of God members.

Bill Hardiman

Bill Hardiman whose full name is Clyde Preston William Hardiman, III, has served as mayor of Kentwood, Michigan, since 1992. His service on civic boards and community programs is too numerous to mention. Michigan Governor Engler has appointed Mayor Hardiman to state leadership posts, including the Secchia Commission on Total Quality Government and the Acts 51 Transit Committee. He also has received special recognition by the Ohio House of Representatives for political, civic, and community contributions.

But Bill is much more than a mayor or a committee member. He is a committed Christian who uses his office and position to testify of God's power to change lives and make a difference. An active member of First Assembly in Grand Rapids, Michigan, Bill is one of the founders and current chairman of the Greater Grand Rapids Community Marriage Policy Steering Committee. This is a broad-based effort to strengthen marriages and families in his community. He is a frequent speaker on the marriage policy as well as a variety of family topics both locally and nationally.

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. LeRoy Bartel, national director of the Division of Christian Education, presented this year's award to Carlos Rodriguez.

Carlos Rodriguez

Carlos Rodriguez and his wife Diana live in Lubbock, Texas, and are members of Immanuel Worship Center. They have three sons who are all active in the church. Carlos is a trophy of God's grace. He is a testimony of the redeeming power of the Lord Jesus Christ, having been an alcoholic for over 5 years. His pastor, Ramundo Alvarez, says that when he hears the word "commitment," this

family stands out. Besides Sunday school, he is involved as the vice president of the Men's Ministries HonorBound, he is overseer of youth ministries, an instructor of the Wednesday night discipleship class, and is a trainer for the new members class. He has taught middlers, high school teens, and is currently the college and career teacher.

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 Who's Who Among Assemblies of God Educators awards. This is an 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. Four people were named this year to receive the Who's Who Among Assemblies of God Educators Award. They are as follows:

Lila Ellison	Thompson Chapel Jemison, Alabama
Alice Mutton	Abundant Life School First Assembly of God North Little Rock, Arkansas
Juanita Burk	West Monroe High School First Assembly of God West Monroe, Louisiana
Patricia Blount	Christian Life School First Assembly of God Kenosha, Wisconsin

Recess

The meeting recessed at 11:50 a.m. J. Derald Musgrove, honorary general presbyter, closed in prayer.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 8

The Wednesday afternoon session began at 1:30 with singing led by Paul Ferrin.

Business Session

Chairman Trask called the business session to order at 1:38 p.m. Tommy Barnett, pastor, First Assembly of God, Phoenix, Arizona, led in prayer.

Roster Committee Report

David Wigington, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 1:10 p.m., Wednesday, August 8, 2001:

Ordained	2,709	
Delegates	<u>454</u>	
Voting constituency		3,163
Licensed/certified ministers	472	
Kids Council	429	
Youth Congress	1,260	
Fine Arts	5,477	
Aimers	375	
Visitors	<u>5,409</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>13,422</u>
Total		16,585

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

U.S. Census Bureau Presentation

Mr. Howard Palacios from the U.S. Census Bureau presented a plaque of recognition to The General Council of the Assemblies of God and to General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask for the participation and assistance of the Assemblies of God in helping with the collection of data for the 2000 Census.

Resolution 15. Credentialing of Divorced and Remarried Persons

Zollie Smith read Resolution 15, and moved its adoption.

A motion was made that any vote on this issue be done by secret ballot. The house was divided on this motion. The chairman ruled that the vote on Resolution 15 would be done by secret ballot.

A motion was made and seconded that Resolution 15 be amended by the addition of the word "initial" before conversation on page 2, line 5 and line 22 and page 3, line 4 and line 28, and the addition of the Scripture reference, James 4:17 on page 2, line 22. The motion lost.

A secret ballot was distributed and cast.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee reported the results of the secret ballot as follows:

Total votes cast	1,832
Yes	998
No	834

Having received the report of the Tellers Committee, the chairman declared that Resolution 15 carried.

Resolution 15 as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The present General Council Bylaws make provision for credentialing everyone who meets the basic qualifications as set forth in Article VII, Section 2, (pages 118, 119) regardless of their preconversion

past, except in the case of those married persons with a former living spouse whose marriage ended before conversion; and

WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that we are all guilty of breaking the whole law so that no one can put his/her preconversion sins in a separate or lesser category than another (James 2:10,11); and

WHEREAS, Even though the apostle Paul referred to himself as the worst of sinners (1 Timothy 1:15), he was placed in the highest office of the Church; and

WHEREAS, Paul stated that because of his preconversion sins he did not deserve to be called an apostle (1 Corinthians 15:9), nevertheless he was given this honor by grace alone (1 Corinthians 15:10); and

WHEREAS, Paul said that this mercy which was shown to him as the worst of sinners serves as an example to all who would believe on Christ (1 Timothy 1:16); and

WHEREAS, All of Paul's teachings that deal with preconversion failings rest wholly on the mercy and grace of Calvary that free the repentant sinner from his/her past sins (Romans 11:32); and

WHEREAS, That part of our Bylaws, which prohibits granting ministerial credentials to those married persons who have a former living spouse whose marriage ended before conversion, appears to stand against this doctrine of all things being made new through the mercies and grace of God; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, paragraph i, page 119, which presently reads:

i. **Marriage status.** We disapprove of any married person holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God or district councils granting credentials to such, if either marriage partner has a former companion living, except as hereinafter provided.

Be amended as follows:

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

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph c (1), page 131, which presently reads:

(1) *Standard for offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon.* Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:12). However, we recommend that all other opportunities for Christian service for which these believers may be qualified be made available to them.

Be amended to read as follows:

(1) *Standard for offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon.* Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:12), except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17).

And be it further
RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph e, page 132,
which presently reads:

- e. **Ministerial credentials.** We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former companion living. (See also Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs i and j.)

Be amended to read as follows:

- e. **Ministerial credentials.** We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former companion living unless the divorce occurred prior to conversion. (See also Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs i and j.)

And be it further
RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, paragraph j, page 119,
which presently reads:

- j. **Annulments and marriage dissolutions.** The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant's annulment of a former marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or, in the case of a divorce or a dissolution whether the circumstance would more appropriately be classified as calling for an annulment. The application must be accompanied by clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.

Be amended to read as follows:

- j. **Annulments, marriage dissolutions, and divorces.** The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant's annulment of a former marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or, in the case of a divorce or a dissolution whether the circumstances would more appropriately be classified as calling for an annulment; or if the divorce occurred prior to conversion. In those cases involving preconversion divorce, they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with annulment are decided. The application must be accompanied by clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud, or that the divorce did occur prior to one's conversion. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.

Spiritual Life Report

The Spiritual Life Report was presented via video. The chairman stated that this is an absolutely critical report. "This Spiritual Life report has gone right to the

heart of the need for this church. I pray that the Holy Spirit will turn us around as a church."

A motion prevailed to receive the Spiritual Life Report with appreciation.

The report is as follows:

SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE REPORT

At the dawn of the third millennium of gospel work, we are keenly aware of the unprecedented opportunities and potential to fulfill the commission our Lord has given us. The world, that God so loved, and all of creation who are to hear, no longer are isolated from one another; rather, through the marvel of technology, comprise a global village whose ideas and values are shaped by a network of media. Most of these influences are positioned against the timeless truth of God's Word. While opportunities abound for proclamation, a prophetic urgency alerts us to the vulnerabilities facing an affluent U.S. church. These vulnerabilities weaken her saltiness and light.

The Spiritual Life Committee sees the need for our Fellowship to ask God the Holy Spirit to diagnose the condition of our first-love passion. The first-century Ephesian believers, after several decades of powerful Kingdom work, found their first-love passion for the Lord lessening. The indictment on them was alarming: "You have forsaken your first love" (Revelation 2:4). The Assemblies of God Fellowship from pulpit to pew needs to humbly ask the Holy Spirit to guide us as we look at the vital signs of our first love.

As a process for this diagnosis, we want first of all to celebrate the vital signs of first-love activity throughout our 87 years. We will then look at symptoms which may indicate a forsaking of our first love, and finally bring a hopeful prognosis for a rekindled love.

1. Vital Signs—Our First Love *"I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance" (Revelation 2:2).*

The Assemblies of God has accomplished much and has many strengths. We are blessed with a history of passionate pioneers who took seriously the mandate to go everywhere and tell everyone the good news. We are further blessed with a solid foundation of Bible-based doctrine. Our 16 Fundamental Truths keep us from being "tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming" (Ephesians 4:14). Historically, our Fellowship has been able to maintain a proper balance of faith and experience, doctrine and practice, further strengthening our influence in a seeking world. Our Great Commission deeds at home and around the world stand as testimony to a passionate first love for the Lord and the lost.

Let's scan a few first-love scenes throughout the approximately nine decades of Assemblies of God world missions involvement.

- In the very early days of the Assemblies of God missionary endeavors, we find Lillian Trasher motivated by first-love passion to leave the comforts of home to begin her legendary work in the orphanages of Egypt.

- In the 1920s first-love passion moved Victor and Ruth Plymire to follow their call deep into the heart of China.
- Beginning in the 1930s Melvin and Lois Hodges embarked on a lifelong journey of first-love passion to reach the unreached in Central America.
- The decade of the 40s found Everett and Dorothy Phillips establishing a beachhead of Assemblies of God work in Nigeria because their hearts burned with a flaming first love for the Lord Jesus.
- For more than 50 years John and Cuba Hall gave their lives to reach the Mossi people in West Africa.
- In the 60s, the Congo (Zaire) felt the impact of the ultimate demonstration of first-love commitment when J.W. and Angeline Tucker gave their all.
- In the 70s when the Iron Curtain seemed invincible, Bob and Bonnie Mackish had no option. First-love commitment demanded convenience give way to the call to Eastern Europe.
- Mark and Gladys Bliss followed their first-love passion to Bangladesh as ambassadors for the Lord Jesus.
- Within the past decade, thousands of people all across America have been reaching out with first-love passion through Convoy of Hope initiatives, touching many in the cities of our nation.

We thank God for all that has been accomplished, all that is being accomplished and all yet to be accomplished for His glory and the salvation of the lost. As we anticipate the great opportunities of the 21st century, may the same passionate love that moved on the pioneers of this great Fellowship continue to move on the hearts of men and women and boys and girls to carry the message to all who have not heard.

We enjoy fresh winds of the Spirit. Large numbers of recruits are in ministry training anxious for end-time harvest assignments. Worship is being revitalized. The ethnic mix of our Fellowship is becoming more reflective of what we can expect around the throne of God. Never before have there been such abundant resources available to our Fellowship. Believers in our churches are demonstrating an unprecedented resolve to serve and make a difference for Christ. These are vital signs of first love. We thank God for His provision and His Spirit which have empowered our Fellowship to lead the way in the greatest cause known to mankind—world evangelization.

2. Symptoms—Our Forsaken Love *“You have forsaken your first love” (Revelation 2:4).*

While we detect strong vital signs in this Movement, we also detect alarming symptoms of a diminishing first love. Some have retreated from a passion to be personally involved in witnessing to satisfaction with a vicarious influence. When individuals do not accept personal responsibility for the Great Commission, a church wanes in vitality.

While healthy in Pentecostal history and doctrine, many are ailing in a personal experience of Pentecost. This lack of personal Pentecost weakens

an impassioned first-love zeal to go everywhere and declare Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

While healthy in resources, programs, and well-trained leaders, we are sensing a diminished dependence upon God. While we have been blessed by sovereign outpourings of the Holy Spirit, some attempt to mimic the experience rather than acknowledge our abject poverty of spirit, trusting Almighty God to carry forward His work in His way.

While we have a solid doctrinal foundation, we are ailing in Bible literacy. The Word of God is to be known and understood by all believers. This lack of Bible knowledge allows seeds of divisiveness to spring from doctrinal minutia.

Our loss of first love is also evidenced in our lack of love for one another. We see factions developing which exhibit intolerant attitudes toward those with differing opinions, many times about non-issues. As brothers and sisters around the world are literally laying down their lives for the gospel, some congregations in America are breaking fellowship over style and preference issues. May we be reminded, in all of God's creation including His church, diversity is to be recognized as a strength. Not only will first love accept others, but it will also cover a multitude of shortcomings. "Let brotherly love continue" (Hebrews 13:1, KJV).

As is the case with a good diagnosis, an element of hope begins to rise. Given the appropriate intervention, the prognosis can be good. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Revelation 2:11).

3. Prognosis—Rekindled Love *"Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first" (Revelation 2:5).*

As a Movement we must remember where we once were in our passionate relationship of dependence on God and humbly return to our first love. We must "love the Lord...with all [our] heart and with all [our] soul and with all [our] mind" (Matthew 22:37). We must further commit to "love one another deeply, from the heart" (1 Peter 1:22). Imagine what could be accomplished when our first love is fanned into flame. What will our Fellowship look like when the Holy Spirit reignites a passionate love for God, for one another, and for those for whom Christ died?

- This rekindled love will cause us to prioritize resources to *reach* our communities, nation, and world. "Tell people about me everywhere in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8, NLT).
- This rekindled love will cause us to *respond* to God in worship and praise—without making musical style the issue. "They will celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness" (Psalm 145:7).
- This rekindled love will cause us to *relate* to one another in true Christian love. "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:35).
- This rekindled love will cause our minds to be *renewed* through the power of God's Word. "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2).

- This rekindled love will cause us to *release* every believer to serve in God-gifted ministry. “God has given gifts to each of you from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Manage them well so that God’s generosity can flow through you” (1 Peter 4:10, NLT).
- This rekindled love will lead the church to *refocus* on the reason for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. We have been baptized with the Holy Spirit to have power to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth (Acts 1:8). A rekindled first love will never be satisfied with quibbling over differences. Rather, Spirit baptism fires a first-love passion for proclamation to all who have yet to hear the good news of Jesus Christ.
- This rekindled love will *refuse* to allow fads to divide us. People from all backgrounds, styles, and ethnic heritages—in the spirit of the Azusa outpouring—must come together again, eager for God to move among us. We must determine to undergo whatever regimen is needed to bring us together in a spirit of unity.
- This rekindled love will bring us to a *reconsecration* of our lives to His service. We must allow the fire from His altar to touch our lives and do for us what it did for the prophet Isaiah, “Here am I; send me” (Isaiah 6:8, KJV).

As we begin to experience a renewed first love, it will be revealed by our love for God, for one another in the family of God, and for those who have not had the privilege to hear the greatest story ever told. An increased love for God will result in a fresh outpouring of Pentecost. An increased love for one another will result in a spirit of unity that crosses ethnic, gender, economic, social, and even denominational lines. An increased love for those who haven’t heard will serve to heighten the urgency of missionary-sending initiatives.

To remedy a diminishing first love, the committee calls for a reemphasis of the things we did at first. “Repent and do the things you did at first” (Revelation 2:5).

- God’s Word must be in the hands and hearts of our constituency. Therefore, we ask:
 1. Each local church to promote a systematic Bible reading program.
 2. Followers of Jesus to be disciplined in Bible study, gaining a working knowledge of the Scriptures.
 3. Local church leadership to base preaching and teaching ministry on a thorough exegesis of the biblical text.
- Sound Bible doctrine, in the spirit of the formation of the 16 Fundamental Truths in 1914 at Hot Springs, Arkansas, must be embraced by all Assemblies of God believers. A cursory reading of the historical record shows the ardent first love of our founding fathers overpowering doctrinal differences, paving the way to include as many as possible in the fledgling Fellowship. To accomplish this, we propose that:
 1. Each local church begin systematic study and memorization of the 16 Fundamental Truths, ensuring that every Assemblies of God believer over 12 years of age knows our basic doctrine.

2. Each local church focus on an apologetic which has been clearly contextualized and is relevant in today's cultural pluralism. We must know why we believe what we believe.
- Finally, we call on all credentialed ministers in our Fellowship to set the pace in building bridges of love to others.
 - a. In the spirit of the Day of Pentecost, Azusa Street, and Hot Springs, let fellowship in Christ move beyond ethnic boundaries, rise above socioeconomic status, and reach across the chasms of carnal classification to lovingly embrace the diversity our Lord intends for His church.
 - b. In the Spirit of our Lord Jesus, may each believer be so totally filled with a rekindled love of God that a fire of evangelism moves the church out of its comfort zone of assurance of heaven to begin a lifestyle of personal witness on behalf of all those who do not know the Lord Jesus.

Conclusion

The Spiritual Life Committee concludes that we, the U.S. Assemblies of God, must return to our first love. Let us love God with all our heart, all our mind, all our strength, and let us love our neighbor as ourselves.

General Treasurer's Report

James K. Bridges expressed appreciation for Clyde Hawkins, administrator for the Division of the Treasury, and introduced him. He also introduced Tim Strathdee, chief information officer for the General Council. He then highlighted his report as printed in the *Biennial Report* and called attention to the summary report which had been distributed.

A motion prevailed to receive the financial 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.

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 total assets as of March 2001 of \$1,102,170,000, and total liabilities in the amount of \$840,330,000.

A motion prevailed to receive the Audit Report as printed.

World Ministries Giving Awards

World Ministries Giving awards for giving during the calendar years of 1999 and 2000 were presented by James K. Bridges, general treasurer, as follows:

Total Dollar Giving (Churches)

- 5th place—Capital Christian Center, Sacramento, California, Rick Cole, pastor
- 4th place—Calvary Church, Naperville, Illinois, Randal Ross, pastor
- 3rd place—Mount Hope Church, Lansing, Michigan, David Williams, pastor
- 2nd place—Lakeside Assembly of God, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Gregory Whitlow, pastor
- 1st place—First Assembly of God, Phoenix, Arizona, Tommy Barnett, pastor

Balance-in-Participation Giving (Churches)

- 5th place—Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, David Watson, pastor
- 4th place—Evangel Temple, Bismarck, North Dakota, Arland Dwelle, pastor
- 3rd place—Full Gospel Church Assembly of God, Livingston, New Jersey, Joseph DePasquale, pastor
- 2nd place—First Assembly of God, Marianna, Florida, Stephen Potter, pastor
- 1st place—Capital Christian Center, Trenton, New Jersey, John Cairns, Jr., pastor

Total Dollar Giving (Districts)

- 3rd place—North Texas, Derwood Dubose, superintendent
- 2nd place—Oklahoma District, Franklin Cargill, superintendent
- 1st place—Northern California-Nevada District, Glen Cole, superintendent

Balance-in-Participation Giving (Districts)

- 3rd place—Ohio District, Robert Crabtree, superintendent
- 2nd place—North Dakota District, Leon Freitag, superintendent
- 1st place—South Dakota District, David Nelson, superintendent

Procedural Motion

A motion prevailed that the reading of Resolutions 8,9,16,17,18,19, and 20 be eliminated.

Resolution 8. Fiscal Affairs

Zollie Smith, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 8. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 8 as follows:

- WHEREAS, The wording in the current Bylaws is not uniform in the sections covering fiscal affairs for the Assemblies of God Foundation, the Assemblies of God Loan Fund, and Ministers Benefit Association; and
- WHEREAS, It is desired that the same requirements be made for all of these units; and
- WHEREAS, The means by which a certified public accountant is selected needs to be clearly articulated; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XXIII. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD FOUNDATION, Section 5. Fiscal Affairs, page 169, which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read as follows:

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 Executive Presbytery, and such audit shall be included with The General Council of the Assemblies of God annual audit reported to the General Presbytery and the General Council in session.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XXIV. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD LOAN FUND, Section 5. Fiscal Affairs, page 170, which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read as follows:

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 Executive Presbytery, and such audit shall be included with The General Council of the Assemblies of God annual audit reported to the General Presbytery and the General Council in session.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XXV. MINISTERS BENEFIT ASSOCIATION, page 171, be amended by the addition of a new Section 5. Fiscal Affairs, which shall read as follows:

Section 5. Fiscal Affairs

The Board of Directors of Ministers Benefit Association 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 Executive Presbytery, and such audit shall be included with The General Council of the Assemblies of God annual audit reported to the General Presbytery and the General Council in session.

Resolution 9. Assemblies of God Financial Services Group

Zollie Smith presented Resolution 9. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 9 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God Financial Services Group has been formed by the General Presbytery to serve as an operational and management umbrella for various financial entities authorized by the General Council Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, A Bylaws revision should be adopted reflecting the existence of this entity, the Assemblies of God Financial Services Group; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council Bylaws be amended by the addition of a new Article XXIII to read as follows:

ARTICLE XXIII. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP

Section 1. Organization

There shall be an organization known as the Assemblies of God Financial Services Group.

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 schools; and national and district ministries.

The organization is formed to serve as an operational and management umbrella for Ministers Benefit Association, Assemblies of God Foundation, Assemblies of God Loan Fund, Ministers Insurance, Master Plan Stewardship Services, Trust and Accounting Services, Legal and Fiduciary Services, and Real Estate Services. The Assemblies of God Financial Services Group also provides integrated loan and investment functions for 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 and ultimately accountable to the General Presbytery. The Board of Directors shall establish details concerning operations, procedures, relationships, structure, and guidelines.

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 books of the organization shall be audited annually by a certified public accountant selected by the Executive Presbytery, and such audit shall be included with The General Council of the Assemblies of God annual audit reported to the General Presbytery and the General Council in session.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the remaining Articles of the General Council Bylaws be renumbered accordingly.

Resolution 16. Divine Healing

Zollie Smith presented Resolution 16. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 16 as follows:

- WHEREAS, The General Council of the Assemblies of God has held in high esteem the doctrine of divine healing throughout its history; and
- WHEREAS, This doctrine remains integral to the preaching of the full-gospel message; and
- WHEREAS, The relationship between divine healing and medical science can present difficult questions concerning faith in God's ability and willingness to heal the physical body; and
- WHEREAS, Past occurrences of counsel to exclude medical advice and/or treatment when praying for healing (although occurring outside of the Assemblies of God) have resulted in tragic loss of life, injured faith, disrepute to the Pentecostal message, and exposure to civil and criminal penalties; and

WHEREAS, The historic roots of medical science coincide with the Christian view of the body as having the design of the Creator, making it an appropriate subject of study; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council of the Assemblies of God:

- a. Affirms that the medical arts and medicines have their origin in God's creation, indicating an essential compatibility between divine healing and modern medicine; and
- b. Rejects as unscriptural any definition of faith that suggests or requires one to exclude competent medical advice and/or treatment when seeking prayer for healing; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article IX, page 128, entitled "Doctrines and Practices Disapproved," be amended with the addition of a Section 12 to read as follows:

Section 12. Divine Healing and Professional Medicine

The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of any credentialed minister counseling a believer to exclude medical advice and/or treatment when seeking prayer for physical healing. Assemblies of God ministers shall not represent medical advice and/or treatment as a lack of faith in God's healing power.

Resolution 17. Sanctity of Human Life

Zollie Smith presented Resolution 17. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 17 as follows:

WHEREAS, All people are loved by God and are precious to Him; and
WHEREAS, The children, the poor, the disabled, and the elderly deserve special care as taught in the Scriptures; and

WHEREAS, The United States government has allowed legal precedents to be established, allowing the abortion of unborn children; and

WHEREAS, The United Nations, through its conventions, is pressing away from a God-centered viewpoint toward a rational population control agenda; and

WHEREAS, Euthanasia is presently gaining momentum as a plausible alternative to natural death; and

WHEREAS, Budget constraints can be falsely used to imply that dependent life is a less desirable life; and

WHEREAS, Right to life has come under increasing pressure to be viewed as less than right through relativistic thinking that pervades our age; and

WHEREAS, Governmental laws could be established making it possible for disabled, physically, or mentally challenged individuals to be demeaned, hurt, and in some cases terminated; and

WHEREAS, The Bible is abundantly clear that the Lord God is the author, creator, and sustainer of all life; and

WHEREAS, Ancient and modern moralists of all persuasions from all belief systems have always considered the taking of human life to be morally wrong; and

WHEREAS, The poor of the world are placed at a greater risk from human laws allowing either abortion or euthanasia; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council go on record concerning the sanctity of human life stating, the Lord God is the giver and sustainer of all human life from conception until natural death, loving every person and considering personal life precious in His sight; and be it further
RESOLVED, That it be recommended to the churches of the General Council that they implement the above statement on the Sanctity of Human Life into their practice of ministry.

Resolution 18. Commission on Chaplaincy

Zollie Smith presented Resolution 18. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 18 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Industrial/Institutional Chaplaincy has expanded beyond the traditional fields of chaplaincy (prisons and hospitals) in the past 20 years; and
WHEREAS, Those new areas of ministry currently comprise 32 percent of the total chaplaincy ministries; and
WHEREAS, These non-traditional ministries continue to grow, including such groups as state legislators, fire and rescue workers, law enforcement personnel, bikers, and transportation workers; and
WHEREAS, The title "Industrial" does not accurately describe this great variety of ministries not included under the title "Institutional;" and
WHEREAS, The Industrial/Institutional Chaplaincy needs a name more accurately describing its expanding ministry; and
WHEREAS, After much research, thought, and consultation the department feels it has achieved that goal; and
WHEREAS, The Commission on Chaplains approved a name change for Industrial/Institutional Chaplaincy at its May 1999 meeting; and
WHEREAS, The Military Chaplaincy has expanded and now includes the area of Veterans Affairs; and
WHEREAS, The title "Military" does not accurately describe the expanded ministry of this area; and
WHEREAS, The Military Chaplaincy needs a name more accurately describing its expanding ministry; and
WHEREAS, Traditionally the Military Chaplaincy has been referred to as Military/Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy; and
WHEREAS, Growth has necessitated the addition of more than one area representative affecting the composition of the Commission on Chaplaincy so that it is in need of a revision to include all areas of ministry in the department; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the name of Industrial/Institutional Chaplaincy be changed to Institutional/Occupational Chaplaincy; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the name of Military Chaplaincy be changed to Military/Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy, and be it further
RESOLVED, That the composition of the Commission on Chaplaincy be revised to include area representatives; and be it further
RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XV. Division of Home Missions, Section 2, paragraph g. Commission on Chaplains, subparagraph (1). Composition, page 159, which presently reads:
(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.

Be amended to read:

- (1) *Composition.* The Commission on Chaplains shall consist of the executive director of the Division of Home Missions, representatives of the Military/Veterans Affairs and Institutional/Occupational Chaplaincies, one of whom shall be the leader of the Chaplaincy Department, and eight others. They shall consist of two executive presbyters, two military/VA chaplains, two institutional/occupational 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.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XV. Division of Home Missions, Section 2, paragraph g, sub-paragraph (3). Authority and amenability, page 160, which presently reads:

- (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.

Be amended to read:

- (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/Veterans Affairs, Institutional/Occupational 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.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article XV. Division of Home Missions, Section 5. Support, paragraph g, page 161, which presently reads:

- 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.

Be amended to read:

- 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. Institutional/Occupational chaplains' contributions shall be placed in the Institutional/Occupational Chaplaincy Fund, and the Military/Veterans Affairs chaplains' contributions shall be placed in the Military/Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy Fund.

Resolution 19. Composition of Commission on Evangelism and Commission on Discipleship

Zollie Smith presented Resolution 19. A motion prevailed that Resolution 19 be adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, The desire exists to have the Commission on Evangelism and the Commission on Discipleship broadly representative of General Council leadership as well as to have representation from districts and churches of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Several key leaders of our Fellowship were inadvertently omitted from the original draft and not explicitly named; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article XI. General Superintendent's Office, Section 6. Commission Evangelism, e. Composition of Commission on Evangelism, page 146, be amended by addition to include the words, "the national directors of the divisions of Christian Education, Church Ministries, and Publication;" after the words, "the executive director of the Division of Home Missions (ex officio)" so the new paragraph will read as follows:

- 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 national directors of the divisions of Christian Education,

Church Ministries, and Publication; the Spiritual Life coordinator (ex officio); the national evangelists 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 various Headquarters ministries. There shall be an annual meeting of the commission.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article XI. General Superintendent's Office, Section 7. Commission on Discipleship, e. Composition of Commission on Discipleship, page 148, likewise be amended by addition to include the words, "the national directors of the divisions of Christian Education, Church Ministries, and Publication;" after the words, "the executive director of the Division of Home Missions (ex officio)" so the revised paragraph will read as follows:

- 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 national directors of the divisions of Christian Education, Church Ministries, and Publication; 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 various Headquarters ministries; and a professor from one of our endorsed higher education institutions. There shall be an annual meeting of the commission.

Resolution 20. Causes of Disciplinary Action

Zollie Smith presented Resolution 20. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 20 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws provision for disciplinary action regarding sexual misconduct makes no distinction among varieties of sexual misconduct; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has reviewed the recent history of discipline cases dealing with sexual misconduct and deems it important to add a new cause of action for discipline specifically involving pornography; and

WHEREAS, In separating pornography as a separate case of disciplinary action from sexual misconduct would permit the district and General Council Credentials Committee to review on a case-by-case basis providing a 1-year rehabilitation period for pornography while maintaining the 2-year suspension period for all other cases of sexual misconduct; and

WHEREAS, In the judgment of the General Presbytery such a change in bylaws would be helpful to district credentials committees in restoring ministers who have fallen; but whose sexual offence is not at the same level of consequence as an adulterous affair; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article X. DISCIPLINE, Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action, (page 135) be amended by striking the word "Any" in paragraph a, and by the addition of a new paragraph b, the remaining paragraphs to be relettered accordingly, so that Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action will read as follows:

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. Moral failure involving sexual misconduct.
- b. Moral failure involving pornography.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article X. DISCIPLINE, Section 8. Rehabilitation, paragraph b. Period of time, (page 138) which reads as follows:

- 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.

Be amended by the renaming of the paragraph as b. Terms and Conditions, and renumbering of the present paragraph as (1) and the addition of a new paragraph (2), so that the new paragraph will read as follows:

b. Terms and Conditions

- (1) *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.
- (2) *Authority.* The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish guidelines and policy in regard to terms and conditions of rehabilitation. Such guidelines and policy shall be consistent with provisions of the bylaws.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Article X. DISCIPLINE, Section 8. Rehabilitation, paragraph c. Procedure and requirements, subparagraph (1)(b), (page 139) which reads as follows:

- (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.

Be amended to read:

- (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 and compatible with the guidelines and policy established by the General Presbytery.

Distinguished Administrators Award

Robert Spence, commissioner for the Commission on Christian Higher Education, presented the Distinguished Administrator Award. He recognized Edgar Lee as the distinguished administrator of the year. The following resolution had been adopted by the Executive Presbytery:

Edgar Lee

WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor Edgar R. Lee has distinguished himself in our Fellowship as an excellent college administrator and faculty member, and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian higher education in the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Lee served the Lord as assistant professor at Southeastern College of the Assemblies of God 1965-1969, vice president for Academic Affairs at Southeastern College of the Assemblies of God 1982-1988, vice president for Academic Affairs at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary 1988-2001, and has been nominated by the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Lee, having met the criteria of service, scholarship, administration, and character, was elected by the Assemblies of God Commission on Christian Higher Education in session May 24, 25, 2001, to receive the Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Award; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 5, 6, 2001, recognizes Doctor Edgar R. Lee as having been a distinguished administrator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for his faithful and excellent service to the Church; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery express thanksgiving to our Lord who appointed Doctor Lee among those with gifts of administration and leadership (1 Corinthians 12:28, Romans 12:8).

Distinguished Educators Award

Thomas Trask announced that the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award is being given to Vincent E. Gil and Gary B McGee who were both unable to be present, but indicated that the award will be giving to both educators. The following resolutions had been adopted by the Executive Presbytery:

Vincent E. Gil

WHEREAS, The Doctor Vincent E. Gil has distinguished himself in our Fellowship by consistent excellence in teaching and has made an

outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian higher education in the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Gil has served the Lord as a faculty member at Southern California College and Vanguard University of Southern California from 1976 to the present; and has been nominated by the Vanguard University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Gil, having met the criteria of service, scholarship, teaching, and character, was elected by the Assemblies of God Commission on Christian Higher Education in session May 24,25, 2001, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 5,6, 2001, recognizes Doctor Vincent E. Gil as a distinguished educator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for his faithful and excellent service to the Church; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery express thanks to our Lord who appointed Doctor Gil among those teachers given to the Church "for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry" (Ephesians 4:12).

Gary B. McGee

WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor Gary B. McGee has distinguished himself in our Fellowship by consistent excellence in teaching and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian higher education in the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor McGee has served the Lord as assistant professor at Central Bible College 1970-84, professor at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary 1984-2001; and has been nominated by the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor McGee, having met the criteria of service, scholarship, teaching, and character, was elected by the Assemblies of God Commission on Christian Higher Education in session May 24,25, 2001, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 5,6, 2001, recognizes Doctor Gary B. McGee as a distinguished educator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for his faithful and excellent service to the Church; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery express thanks to our Lord who appointed Doctor McGee among those teachers given to the Church "for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry" (Ephesians 4:12).

Convoy of Hope Video

A video giving an update on the work and ministry of the Convoy of Hope was shown. The chairman encouraged the delegates to become a part of this ministry which reaches across denominational lines and puts a face on the gospel.

Roster Committee Report

David Wigington, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the final Roster Committee Report as of 3:30 p.m., August 8, as follows:

Ordained	2,738	
Delegates	<u>456</u>	
Voting constituency		3,194
Licensed/certified ministers	489	
Kids Council	439	
Youth Congress	1,261	
Fine Arts	5,477	
Aimers	375	
Visitors	<u>5,467</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>13,508</u>
Total		16,702

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Presentation of Media Campaign Video “God Gives Hope”

A video presenting the new media campaign being made available from the Office of Public Relations giving samples of the new TV promos was shown. The chairman encourages pastors and churches to avail themselves of these materials.

Resolution 30. Courtesy Resolution

Zollie Smith, chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 30. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 30 as follows:

WHEREAS, The 49th General Council of the Assemblies of God has been accorded great kindness and hospitality by the officials and agencies of the City of Kansas City, the Southern Missouri District Council, the Northern Missouri District Council, the Kansas District Council, and the Midwest Latin American District Council as the host districts; and

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

WHEREAS, Many have given generously of their time and talents in the interest of 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—Southern Missouri District Council, and its superintendent, Jack Moore; Northern Missouri District Council, and its superintendent, Ronald Garner; Kansas District Council, and its superintendent, Terry Yancey; and the Midwest Latin American District Council, and its superintendent, Ignacio Marrero; and be it further

RESOLVED, That sincere appreciation be expressed to the City of Kansas City, its mayor, Kay Barnes, and the Kansas City Convention Center for their assistance: director, Bill Beard; assistant manager, Sales and Marketing, Kathleen Lee; event coordinator, Ross Whitacre; Eddy's Catering, Garry Moore and John Shene; and be it further

RESOLVED, That appreciation be expressed to those of the Kansas City Convention & Visitors Bureau: Wayne Chappell, president; Peggy

Barker, convention services; and Valerie Watson, sales; and Mark Ihde, housing manager; 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 signers 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 49th General Council and that we give thanks to the Lord that we have truly been "Empowered by the Spirit" to go forth to the fields of harvest. His name be praised.

Appreciation to Committees

The general superintendent expressed appreciation to all those who served on the Tellers Committee, the Roster Committee, and the Resolutions Committee for their excellent work.

Adjournment

A motion prevailed to adjourn the business meeting of the 49th General Council at 4:20 p.m., Wednesday, August 8, 2001. Gene Jackson, superintendent of the Tennessee District Council and executive presbyter from the Gulf Area, closed in prayer.

WEDNESDAY EVENING—AUGUST 8

The Wednesday evening service of the 49th General Council began at 7 o'clock, in the Kansas City Convention Center, Kansas City, Missouri, following 30 minutes of pre-service music provided by "Hillsong" from Sydney, Australia. Assistant General Superintendent Charles T. Crabtree served as chairman for the service. Darlene Zschech and the Hillsong Worship Team led the congregation in praise and worship.

The theme for the service was "The Great Empowerment of Pentecost."

David Argue, executive presbyter from the North Central Area, read the Scripture and offered prayer for the General Council. L. Jack Moore, superintendent of the Southern Missouri District, received the offering, and the offertory was by El Trio De Hoy. The choir and orchestra from Sheffield Assembly of God, Kansas City, Missouri, pastored by George Westlake, provided music for the evening service.

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

The keynote message for the 49th General Council was brought by General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask. He challenged the Fellowship to not revel in past victories or to be content with where we are, but the Fellowship's challenge lies in how well we finish the mission that God has ordained for us. He said that both clergy and laity must be mobilized and trained for effective cross-cultural evangelism. "It is right that we take this gospel outside of our sanctuaries into the streets, parks, inner cities, highways and byways. We must care for them, feed them, clothe them, and minister unto them. Let us not wait for them to come to us." In order to meet this need he has asked district superintendents to launch a program called "Operation Help." Under this plan, the Fellowship hopes to start 1,000 new Assemblies of God places of worship during the next 3 years. In addition, the Assemblies of God hopes to rescue 600 churches in danger of closing during the next 3 years. He concluded by challenging the audience to examine their personal spiritual condition. He said hunger for God should take precedence above pleasure, success, and prosperity because the work of the Kingdom is eternal.

THURSDAY MORNING—AUGUST 9

Plenary Session

The Thursday morning worship service began at 9 o'clock with worship led by Darlene Zschech and the Hillsong Worship Team of Hillsong Church in Australia. The theme for this session was "The Church Alive and Well."

Following worship, Brian Houston, pastor of Hillsong Church and president of the Assemblies of God in Australia, led a short teaching on the difference between a vision and a cause. He spoke on 10 differences between a vision and a cause as follows:

- ❖ A vision is often personal, but a cause is bigger than any one person, bigger than any church.
- ❖ People generally won't die for a vision, but they die for a cause everyday around the world.
- ❖ Vision is something a person can possess, but a cause possesses us.
- ❖ Vision leaves you with options, but a cause leaves you with no choice, in season and out of season.
- ❖ When someone has a vision, there can be sense that the church exists for that person or his/her vision. When people have a cause, they realize they exist for that cause.
- ❖ You can ignore a vision, but you can't ignore a cause.
- ❖ If you will live for His cause, He will breathe life into your vision. Your vision is only as powerful as the cause it's attached to.
- ❖ Vision is linked to a lifetime, but a cause is eternal.
- ❖ Generally, you can change a vision—though not too often; the cause never changes.
- ❖ A vision will generate excitement, but the cause generates power.

Following Brian Houston's teaching, James Garlow, senior pastor of Skyline Wesleyan Church, San Diego, California, spoke on the Church's history. He traced the spiritual genealogy of today's church, from the Early Church through the Middle Ages to the Reformation to the Pentecostal Movement and the Jesus People. He complimented the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements because of the phenomenal growth experienced.

Afternoon Workshop Session

The afternoon workshop session began at 2 o'clock with a time of worship led by Peter DeJesus, evangelist and music minister. C. Dan Betzer, executive presbyter from the Southeast Area, served as chairman for the service. The session focused on "The Great Themes of Pentecost." The topics covered by the speakers were: The Supernatural, Repentance and Holiness, Prayer, and Sacrifice.

The Supernatural

Scott Hagan, pastor of First Assembly of God, Grand Rapids, Michigan, spoke on the topic of "The Supernatural."

He encouraged the audience to pursue two areas of supernatural breakthrough, drawing from the experiences of two cities in the New Testament—Jerusalem and Antioch.

Repentance and Holiness

St. Clair Mitchell, director of Church Development and Home Missions for the Potomac District, addressed the topic of "Repentance and Holiness."

He stated that today's church lives in a world filled with uncertainty—people are filled with economic, political, and social uncertainty. He emphasized that it is the responsibility of the church to cultivate a spirit of holiness and repentance in the churches. "We must reach for the presence of the living God. You can't make anyone repent, and I can't make anyone repent, but when they have a divine encounter, that's when God brings people to their knees."

Prayer

Martha Tennison, Rocky Mount, Missouri, delivered a call to Pentecostal prayer.

Citing Acts 4:31, she reminded the audience that it was prayer—not preaching or singing—that shook the place where those Early Church believers were gathered. "Pentecostal prayer is simply this—it is prayer in expectation of power," she said. Prayer is the ultimate conversation, expectation is faith in God's ability, and power is God's ability in action. She pointed out that people trust people they know and if a person does not trust God, it is because that person does not know God.

Sacrifice

Mark Bliss, longtime missionary, examined the biblical concept and practice of sacrifice.

He stated that a life of sacrifice will never take a person further than he wants to go or cost a person more than he wants to pay. The life of sacrifice must be patterned after the sacrificial life of Jesus Christ. Any other sacrifice, Bliss said, seems like "holding a candle to the sun and asking the question, 'Which gives the stronger light?'" Sacrifice, he said, is simply love giving. A life of sacrifice has been a distinctive mark since the Day of Pentecost. He further pointed out that money is not very high on God's value list of things that are sacrificed. He is more interested in the sacrifice of life, love, plans, and talents. Love flows out of and through a broken heart.

Evening Worship Service

The Thursday evening worship service began at 7 o'clock with 30 minutes of preservice music provided by a mass choir and orchestra from the Kansas City area under the direction of Paul Ferrin followed by praise and worship led by Tom McDonald, Assemblies of God commissioner on worship. James K. Bridges, general treasurer, was chairman for the evening service. The theme for the service was "The Great Mission of Pentecost."

Scripture for the service was read by M. Wayne Benson, president of Central Bible College and executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area. He also offered prayer for the evening service. Terry Yancey, superintendent of the Kansas District, received the offering. The offertory was provided by the Kansas City mass choir.

Prior to the message, Alicia Britt Chole, national Chi Alpha Missions Network and Mobilization representative, gave her testimony. She pleaded with the audience not to relent in praying for unbelievers, recounting the long journey she took before committing her life to Christ.

Randy Hurst, Assemblies of God commissioner on evangelism, brought the message for the evening. His message centered on the importance of evangelism. The goal of evangelism is to make disciples who will make more disciples. He further emphasized that evangelism cannot be separated from discipleship and discipleship isn't to be a 5-minute process—it involves work. In his sermon, Hurst recounted how in the first year of the Assemblies of God in 1914, the founders committed themselves to boldly go into all the world and preach the gospel, making disciples of all nations. Those commands of Jesus found in Mark and Matthew's gospels have the common word "go" and they still hold true today, Hurst said. He stressed that God uses committed and obedient disciples who rely on the Holy Spirit to do what they can and then God does what they can't.

FRIDAY—AUGUST 10

Worship Service Memorial and Communion

The Friday worship service began at 9 a.m. The service was chaired by George Wood, general secretary. The theme for the service was "The Great Heritage of Pentecost." Scott Creswell, minister of music, First Assembly of God, Griffin, Georgia, led in praise and worship, assisted by the praise band. Also providing music for the morning service was Larry Morbitt, who currently plays the role of Ubaldo Piagni in the Broadway production of *The Phantom of the Opera*. Scripture was read by Armon Newburn, executive presbyter from the South Central Area. He also led in prayer.

A video was shown featuring General Secretary George O. Wood in a boat with the Statue of Liberty in the background. He talked about the great sacrifices of missionaries and how it must have felt to early missionaries whose last sight of America was the Statue. Following the video, John Weidman, whose parents were missionaries to what is now Burkina Faso and whose brother, Paul Jr., died while the family was overseas, spoke of his experiences.

The general secretary introduced one of 45 students from Assemblies of God schools who took part in ministry in The Balkans this summer, Candice Canfield, a student from Evangel University. She spoke about her trip and the impact it had on her life.

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 contains the handwritten-names of ministers and missionaries who held credentials with the Assemblies of God when they died. Following the presentation of the scroll George Wood introduced Isaac Canales, president of Latin American Bible Institute in California, the speaker for the morning service. He spoke about the power of the Holy Spirit and His significance. His sermon was laced with stories about his life and the history and heritage his mother and father left him. Following his message, Communion was observed. General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask presided during the Communion service. He was assisted by members of the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery.

In Memoriam

The following list includes all whose names had been reported to the general secretary's office from June 1, 1999, to May 31, 2001, and were included in the video presentation:

Adams, Glen M., Houston, Texas
Adams, James B., Jr., Glendale, Arizona
Adams, Rachel L., Kerrville, Texas
Ahlf, Delila Ann, Springfield, Missouri
Alexander, A. Lee, Commerce, Texas
Allen, R. B., Tucumcari, New Mexico
Allen, Wayne D., Gering, Nebraska
Almberg, Gust R., Centralia, Washington
Ameperosa, Jack S., Stockton, California
Ancira, Juan, Livermore, California
Anderson, C. Edwin, San Bernardino, California
Anderson, Earl F., Kerrville, Texas
Anderson, Monte G., Ringwood, Oklahoma
Andreasen, Florence, Springfield, Missouri
Ansel, Harold W., Wills Point, Texas
Antley, Curtis E., Coushatta, Louisiana
Arneson, Theodore J., Lynnwood, Washington
Arney, Aura E., Miles City, Montana
Atwood, Leroy, New Braunfels, Texas
Austin, William M., Summit City, California
Avants, Floy M., North Little Rock, Arkansas
Babcock, Glenn M., Lakeland, Florida
Baiza, Reynaldo O., Carlsbad, New Mexico
Baker, Webster L., Ariton, Alabama
Ball, Fred E., San Antonio, Texas
Ball, Richard, Springfield, Missouri
Ball, W. Randall, Santa Barbara, California
Barfield, Marvin G. Jr., Phenix City, Alabama
Barnes, Emma M., Laurel, Mississippi
Barr, Nellie L., Tulsa, Oklahoma
Barrons, Morris R., Fair Oaks, California

Bates, Omar, Mountain View, Missouri
 Batson, R. G., Cassville, Missouri
 Beam, Lucille, Portsmouth, Virginia
 Beauford, Ruth A., Seminole, Oklahoma
 Becerra, Mary C., San Angelo, Texas
 Beckett, Elizabeth, Santa Rosa, California
 Beers, James R., Brewton, Alabama
 Bell, John S., East Prairie, Missouri
 Bell, Ruby B., Kaufman, Texas
 Benefield, Daniel P., Enterprise, Alabama
 Bergstrom, Dean G., Eden Prairie, Minnesota
 Bernal, Sisinio, Parsons, Kansas
 Berringer, William P., Deland, Florida
 Berwick, Wilmuth H., Buckfield, Maine
 Bey, William W., Saint Charles, Missouri
 Blair, G. H., Marianna, Florida
 Blake, Charles N. K., Koloa, Hawaii
 Boatright, Henry E., Kilgore, Texas
 Bohac, Joseph J., Poway, California
 Bombay, Daniel J., Harrington Park, Pennsylvania
 Bond, Wilbur C., Fairfield, Ohio
 Bonham, Frances V., Phoenix, Arizona
 Bonilla, Nicolas, Camuy, Puerto Rico
 Book, Raymond Earl, West Linn, Oregon
 Boulter, John S., Catonsville, Maryland
 Boyd, Nellie H., Kansas City, Kansas
 Boyle, Olive F., Glendale, Arizona
 Bradstreet, Hanford R., Brunswick, Maine
 Brady, Esther L., Santa Clara, California
 Bragdon, Ida B., Fort Lauderdale, Florida
 Brann, Daphne E., Holiday, Florida
 Bratvold, Norman W., Warren, Minnesota
 Bray, Jerry, Stone Mountain, Georgia
 Breedlove, Charles L., Lebanon, Missouri
 Brethouwer, Bertha M., Provo, Utah
 Brethouwer, Kenneth O., Provo, Utah
 Brewer, Nell, Memphis, Tennessee
 Briscoe, Durward W., Wichita Falls, Texas
 Brogan, Ester Y., Edinburg, Texas
 Brooks, Ervin J., Miami, Oklahoma
 Brooks, Henry C., Fairdeal, Missouri
 Brooks, Hershel L., Newberry, South Carolina
 Brothers, Willis W., Houston, Arkansas
 Brotzman, Clarence, Gering, Nebraska
 Brotzman, Inez, Gering, Nebraska
 Brown, Betty L., Woodinville, Washington
 Brown, John, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Brown, R. Dwight, Costa Mesa, California
 Brown, Vera, Fort Worth, Texas
 Bruce, Carnell, Dothan, Alabama
 Bruhn, Herbert, Cape Girardeau, Missouri
 Bruton, Tina M., Plains, Texas
 Bryant, Dallas D., Brundidge, Alabama
 Buck, Joshua J., Half Moon Bay, California
 Budge, O. Cope, Salem, Oregon

Buhler, Melvin L., Oakville, Washington
 Builtron, Federico M., Lubbock, Texas
 Buntenbach, Arthur A., Muscatine, Iowa
 Burger, Lyle G., Spring Hill, Florida
 Burgess, John H., Strafford, Missouri
 Burkett, T. Clifford, Templeton, California
 Burns, A. Neal, Sacramento, California
 Bush, Delia D., Arlington, Texas
 Bush, Leland D., Huntsville, Alabama
 Butcher, Mrs. T. A., Dubberly, Louisiana
 Byrd, William R., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Calaway, Ethel W., Leesville, Louisiana
 Camp, Mrs. Ray, Stilwell, Oklahoma
 Campos, Eduarda, Abilene, Texas
 Capecci, Pasquale, Marlton, New Jersey
 Capehart, Marvin K., Winnsboro, Texas
 Capers, Clarence W., Hartshorne, Oklahoma
 Caringer, Charles G., Buffalo, Missouri
 Carlisle, Malvie M., Lakeland, Florida
 Carlson, Doris V., Springfield, Missouri
 Carmack, Anthony O., Bay City, Michigan
 Carpenter, Dennis, Tallahassee, Florida
 Carpenter, Virginia, Tehachapi, California
 Carr, Linwood J. II, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Carroll, Beula, Holt, Florida
 Carroll, Ola M., Springfield, Missouri
 Carter, William W., Springfield, Missouri
 Case, Edgar L., Portland, Oregon
 Casper, Kenneth H., Chinook, Washington
 Chadwick, Virginia, Lakeland, Florida
 Chaikoff, Donna M., Anchorage, Alaska
 Chamberlain, Fred C., Bossier City, Louisiana
 Chaney, Doyle Bearden, Elkhart, Texas
 Chappell, Jessie C., Ellendale, North Dakota
 Chasteen, Mildred E., Keller, Texas
 Chavez, Saturnino, San Jose, California
 Check, Nell Gaines, Cordova, Tennessee
 Christoffersen, Ivan R., Florence, Colorado
 Cimo, Frank, Sacramento, California
 Ciornei, Zacarias, Roseville, California
 Clay, Daisy B., Broken Bow, Oklahoma
 Cockfield, Simon I., Far Rockaway, New York
 Cohan, Daniel D., Lake Havasu City, Arizona
 Cohn, James R., Greenville, South Carolina
 Collier, Edwin T., Lee's Summit, Missouri
 Collins, Ida S., Marshall, Missouri
 Combs, Warren D., Salt Lake City, Utah
 Connally, Jerry G., Columbus, Georgia
 Coody, Lenard, Tibbie, Alabama
 Cook, Olin B., Malakoff, Texas
 Cooper, Emerson M., Shreveport, Louisiana
 Coor, Leslie W., Fort Jones, California
 Cordle, E. O., Eufaula, Alabama
 Coronado, Miguel V., Bakersfield, California
 Cothran, Clyde J., Stockbridge, Georgia

Cothran, Woodrow W., Georgetown, Texas
 Cox, Helen C., Jacksonville, Illinois
 Craighead, Florence, Weatherford, Texas
 Cranford, Albert, Farmerville, Louisiana
 Crawford, Ralph C., Jr., Jacksonville, Florida
 Crawford, Ruth S., Hansville, Washington
 Crick, T. Noel, West Plains, Missouri
 Cruz, Modesto, Caguas, Puerto Rico
 Culbertson, Terrie L., Fredonia, Kansas
 Cummings, James M., Mitchell, South Dakota
 Cunningham, Frank C., Merrillville, Indiana
 Cunningham, Jewell E., Springdale, Arkansas
 Cunningham, Robert C., Springfield, Missouri
 Cunningham, Violet L., Marion, Iowa
 Daniel, Jennie L., Dallas, Texas
 Davidson, Henry D., Cross Plains, Tennessee
 Davidson, Howard R., Columbus, Ohio
 Davidson, Paul W., Hartford City, Indiana
 Davis, Alpha K., Bethany, Oklahoma
 Davis, Clara M., New Caney, Texas
 Davis, Cyle G., Springfield, Missouri
 Davis, Helen C., Springfield, Missouri
 Davis, Helen R., Paramount, California
 Davis, Johnnie F., Sr., Vidor, Texas
 Davis, Luther V., Potosi, Missouri
 Davis, Ricky O., Willard, Missouri
 Davis, Roger G., Fairbanks, Alaska
 Davis, Vadie L., Bethany, Oklahoma
 Davis, Virginia R., Stamping Ground, Kentucky
 Day, Joseph L., Mesa, Arizona
 Dayka, Rose L., Greenville, Illinois
 Dean, Arthur L., El Mirage, Arizona
 Deaton, Leta M., Clarendon, Arkansas
 Dechert, Walter W., Benton Harbor, Michigan
 DeHoyos, Gabriel, Bronx, New York
 DeLaRosa, Luis, Laredo, Texas
 DeMarco, Frank, Palm Beach, Florida
 Denny, Roy S., Pendleton, Oregon
 Denton, Marjorie H., Springfield, Missouri
 Denton, Warren B., Springfield, Missouri
 Devon, Eva J., Scottsdale, Arizona
 Deyo, Amy J., Lisbon, North Dakota
 Diaz, Antonio, Bronx, New York
 Dickens, Myrtle P., Van Buren, Arkansas
 Dickinson, J. Reece, Fort Worth, Texas
 Dill, Noel E., Spring, Texas
 DiMusto, Alfonso F., Havana, Illinois
 Dinglas, Rolando J., Oxnard, California
 Dixon, Harold Wayne, Lawton, Oklahoma
 Doan, Clarence E., Clarendon, Arkansas
 Donahue, V. Samuel, Princeton, Kentucky
 Doss, James W., Sr., Bland, Missouri
 Doyle, Gertrude, Costa Mesa, California
 Dozier, Johnson J., North Little Rock, Arkansas
 Drake, James W.C., Kirbyville, Texas

Dube, Joseph E., Mesa, Arizona
 Dubose, Bessie L., Columbus, Georgia
 Duffrene, Albert, Houma, Louisiana
 Dunn, Eugene, Calico Rock, Arizona
 Dunn, G. Pauline, Prescott, Arizona
 Dupree, Woodrow, Vernon, Florida
 Durham, Lucille E. I., Springfield, Missouri
 Dutton, Wilburn C., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Egnet, Peter, Centerville, Massachusetts
 Elder, Harry L., Jr., Valley Bend, West Virginia
 Eliker, Audrey V., Dayton, Ohio
 Elliott, Ira E., Watertown, New York
 Ellis, David J., Bald Knob, Arkansas
 Ellis, Fullmer F., Milligan, Florida
 Emerson, Michael J., Packwood, Washington
 Emery, Doris M., Wickliffe, Ohio
 Emory, James E., Sr., Seguin, Texas
 Enders, Donald J., Payette, Idaho
 Epler, Faith I., Boring, Oregon
 Erickson, Emma B., Modesto, California
 Eubanks, Patsy J., Modesto, California
 Everhart, Leon P., Inwood, West Virginia
 Evert, William P., Aurora, Colorado
 Fain, Lucille, Saint Albans, West Virginia
 Farkasdi, Jozsef L., Wapakoneta, Ohio
 Feller, Paul F., Springfield, Missouri
 Ferguson, Leamon U., Twin Falls, Idaho
 Finch, David Z., Satsuma, Alabama
 Fingers, Grace M., Wright City, Missouri
 Finkenbinder, Frank H., Lafayette, Colorado
 Finley, Glynn A., Delhi, Louisiana
 Finley, John C., Judsonia, Arkansas
 Fissel, Joseph C., Biglerville, Pennsylvania
 Flower, Mary Jane, Springfield, Missouri
 Fogger, Nona L., Winnfield, Louisiana
 Foote, Loyd C., Downsview, Louisiana
 Ford, Irving F., Oakland, California
 Foster, Atwood, Portland, Oregon
 Foster, Betty J., Pueblo, Colorado
 Foster, Elizabeth, Cochise, Arizona
 Fotualii, Apelu, Seattle, Washington
 Franklin, John L., Houston, Texas
 Frazier, Wilford M., Sr., Omak, Washington
 Free, McEwell, Monroeville, Alabama
 Freeman, Melba, El Dorado, Arkansas
 Freiheit, Marian M., Eden Prairie, Minnesota
 Frerking, Earl L., Lake Placid, Florida
 Frey, Loretta P., Felton, Delaware
 Friend, Icsal, Mandeville, Louisiana
 Furman, Eltha N., Redmond, Oregon
 Gabriel, Amerigus B., Los Angeles, California
 Galligan, James T., Madison, Alabama
 Gamez, Albert P., Madera, California
 Gannon, James P., Mission, Texas
 Garcia, Pedro, Chicago, Illinois

Garns, Miriam E., Hagerstown, Maryland
 Garnto, Alfred D., East Dublin, Georgia
 Garrison, J. Ray, Indianapolis, Indiana
 Gast, James D., Tomah, Wisconsin
 Gaston, Leo S., Cisco, Texas
 Geedy, Sara J., Beaver Springs, Pennsylvania
 Gentry, Orbe C., Marlow, Oklahoma
 Gibbs, Troy E., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Gillock, Mary D., Midland, Texas
 Giron, Jose E., Farmington, New Mexico
 Giron, Manuel, Nogales, Arizona
 Godbey, Geraldine A., Ocoee, Florida
 Goggins, Chester, River Falls, Alabama
 Goldizen, Donald W., Falling Waters, West Virginia
 Gomez, Eduardo, Fontana, California
 Gomez, Jose P., Littleton, Colorado
 Gonzales, Belia, Whittier, California
 Gonzales, Henry, Whittier, California
 Good, Leland B., La Puente, California
 Goodman, Ray H., Plains, Texas
 Goudie, Dorothy M., Springfield, Missouri
 Grages, Delroy D., Big Lake, Minnesota
 Grams, Betty Jane, Davie, Florida
 Grams, Ralph J., Murrieta, California
 Gray, Louise C., Sandpoint, Idaho
 Green, Arlin H., Cleveland, Texas
 Green, Murry E., Winnsboro, Texas
 Greene, Lawrence C., Ferriday, Louisiana
 Greer, Bracy I., Corona, California
 Gregg, Francis F., Chula Vista, California
 Gregorian, Victoria E., Menlo Park, California
 Gregorie, Mary, Des Moines, Iowa
 Grice, W. C., Dodson, Louisiana
 Grigsby, James M., New Castle, Indiana
 Grubbs, Daniel M., Sr., Eugene, Oregon
 Gunder, Edward G., Blairsville, Pennsylvania
 Gutierrez, Franco, San Jose, California
 Haas, Ruth G., Mountainhome, Pennsylvania
 Hagar, Jack O., Gallatin, Tennessee
 Hageman, Dorothy I., El Paso, Texas
 Hall, Anna L., Rocky Mount, Virginia
 Hall, Edward R., Maryland Heights, Missouri
 Hall, J. Clifford, Bernville, Pennsylvania
 Hall, Norman L., Coeur D Alene, Idaho
 Hall, Warren O., Sr., Tyler, Texas
 Hamilton, Horace G., Huntsville, Alabama
 Hamilton, Teresa, Coeburn, Virginia
 Hamlett, Roy, Ethelsville, Alabama
 Hammer, Samuel A., Casper, Wyoming
 Hampton, Gardner, Pueblo of Acoma, New Mexico
 Hampton, L. R., North Little Rock, Arkansas
 Handy, Abe, Jr., Hamptonville, North Carolina
 Hankins, Luther W., Russellville, Arkansas
 Hanna, W. Joseph, Phoenix, Arizona
 Hanson, Ortwin J., Waupaca, Wisconsin

Hargis, Marian E., Virginia Beach, Virginia
 Harlin, John, Hutchins, Texas
 Harmon, Dale E., Springfield, Missouri
 Harmon, Milo R., Bowie, Texas
 Harp, Norman E., Jr., Jacksonville, Florida
 Harp, Sidney K., Glendale, Arizona
 Harper, William C., Falling Waters, West Virginia
 Harris, Eva L., Pittsburg, Oklahoma
 Harrison, Louise K., Springfield, Missouri
 Haskins, Vernon L., Herrin, Illinois
 Hatcher, Robert, Jr., Hartford, Alabama
 Hathcock, George W., Cherry Valley, Arkansas
 Haycook, Lela B., Springfield, Missouri
 Heady, Mary A., Sullivan, Missouri
 Hearn, David L., Tucker, Georgia
 Heckman, Richard A., Mount Holly, New Jersey
 Heidt, Harry E., Wibaux, Montana
 Henderson, Carl E., Red Bluff, California
 Hendricks, John T., Stow, Ohio
 Henning, Earl S., Rothschild, Wisconsin
 Herman, Benjamin, Oregon City, Oregon
 Herman, Harold C., Eugene, Oregon
 Hernandez, Raymundo D., San Angelo, Texas
 Herrick, Robey F., Macon, Georgia
 Hershman, Elsie A., Indianapolis, Indiana
 Heuser, Darwin H., Vista, California
 Hicks, Herschel E., Muscle Shoals, Alabama
 Hicks, Leonard W., Exeter, California
 Hiebert, Ernest H., Andover, Kansas
 Hill, Leon, Caulfield, Missouri
 Hill, Melton O., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Hill, Oren J., Sr., Statesville, North Carolina
 Hillard, Ervin, Jr., Harrah, Oklahoma
 Hinds, Raymond O., New Philadelphia, Ohio
 Hinman, Leroy B., Portland, Maine
 Hinson, Gladys B., Memphis, Tennessee
 Hixenbaugh, Dayle J., Cheyenne, Wyoming
 Hoffmann, Anna M., Phoenix, Arizona
 Holcomb, K. C., Garland, Texas
 Hollis, Ray F., Godfrey, Illinois
 Holloway, Sybil L., Pensacola, Florida
 Holman, Danny E., Page, Arizona
 Holmes, George E., Little Rock, Arkansas
 Holmes, Robert V., Neosho, Missouri
 Holmquist, John A., Black Hawk, South Dakota
 Hopkins, William F., Jr., Lewisville, Arkansas
 Hopper, Grace E., Seiling, Oklahoma
 Horton, R. J., Camden, Arkansas
 Howard, Johnie O., Shawnee Mission, Kansas
 Huffman, Lawrence N., Des Moines, Iowa
 Hume, M. Marie, Dayton, Ohio
 Hundley, Elizabeth, Springfield, Missouri
 Hunt, Earl T., Kingsburg, California
 Hunter, Pauline B., Sun City, Arizona
 Hyde, Ethel, Lawton, Oklahoma

Inlow, Vera L., Beaumont, Texas
 Jack, Jane G., Lakeland, Florida
 Jackson, Corwin L., Jr., Fort Morgan, Colorado
 Jacobsen, Olaf A., Chester, New York
 James, Alma R., Marianna, Florida
 Jankowski, Peter P., Hamburg, New York
 Jenkins, Gary A., Colonial Heights, Virginia
 Jensen, Anton P., Okeechobee, Florida
 Jimenez, Ernest, Colusa, California
 Johnson, C. Merrill, Hacienda Heights, California
 Johnson, Cleo Sherman, Edmond, Oklahoma
 Johnson, Larry E., Crossett, Arkansas
 Johnson, Marie, Vacaville, California
 Johnson, Theodore L., Camp Verde, Arizona
 Joiner, Lee M., Orange, Texas
 Jollay, McArthur, Arlington, Virginia
 Jones, Charles R., Perryton, Texas
 Jones, Edward H., Lexington, Kentucky
 Jones, Marion L., Memphis, Tennessee
 Jones, Mikey C., Jr., Smyrna, Tennessee
 Jones, Odell, Sr., Arlington, Texas
 Jones, Sylvia G., Eldon, Iowa
 Jones, William L., Birmingham, Alabama
 Juarez, Lupe C., Caldwell, Idaho
 Karnes, Douglas, Jackson, Tennessee
 Kasparian, George M., Fresno, California
 Kauffman, Eugene H., Watsonville, California
 Keeler, George T., Woodstock, Virginia
 Keeling, Elisha H., Topeka, Kansas
 Keeton, Idama, Denton, Texas
 Keith, Paul E., Ellendale, North Dakota
 Kelepolo, Elsie, Hilo, Hawaii
 Kelley, Elbert H., Clanton, Alabama
 Kelley, Millard R., Lamar, Arkansas
 Kendall, Guy P., Lewiston, Idaho
 Kendrick, Orval D., Haileyville, Oklahoma
 Kendrick, William R., Yuba City, California
 Kennedy, A. Reynold, Fort Worth, Texas
 Kerr, Coleatus, Lansing, Michigan
 Kindred, Richard H., Wichita, Kansas
 King, Cecil L., California, Missouri
 King, Joe C., Dallas, Texas
 Kirkendall, D. R., Afton, Oklahoma
 Kirkwood, Alton A., Buckatunna, Mississippi
 Kittrell, Kenneth D., Thayer, Missouri
 Kleppinger, Albert E., Jewell, Kansas
 Knell, B. June, Battle Creek, Michigan
 Knight, Herbert V., Ava, Illinois
 Knight, Odell, Huntsville, Texas
 Krause, Carl A., Swainsboro, Georgia
 Kroah, William T., Diamond Bar, California
 LaBare, Julia M., Fresno, California
 Lackey, Velma A., Modesto, California
 Ladd, Ardelia, Springfield, Missouri
 Laffoon, Ware B., Springfield, Missouri

Lagmay, Romulo D., Sr., Bay Point, California
 Lake, Harriet M., Klondike, Texas
 Lamson, Charles W., Rockford, Illinois
 Landers, Sidney C., Norman, Oklahoma
 Langley, Forrest L., Clinton, Mississippi
 LaRose, Warren P., Marshall, Missouri
 Larson, Walter, Redding, California
 Larue, James C., Tuckerman, Arkansas
 Lawson, Archie P., North Tazewell, Virginia
 Lawson, Hollis K., Springfield, Missouri
 Lawson, Lillie M., Bakersfield, California
 Lee, Bessie C., Panama City, Florida
 Lee, Harold E., Amarillo, Texas
 Levang, Amos H., Dayton, Minnesota
 Lewis, Clifford E., Camp Hill, Pennsylvania
 Lewis, Jerry A., Plummer, Idaho
 Lewis, Verlan W., Phoenix, Arizona
 Liberty, Roderick K., Iola, Kansas
 Lindberg, Dagmar Jennie, Ormond Beach, Florida
 Lindsey, J. B., Russellville, Arkansas
 Lindvall, Arthur E., Corvallis, Oregon
 Lockwood, Erwin R., Longview, Washington
 Lofton, J. Thomas, Nashville, Tennessee
 Lofton, Sherman J.D., Seminole, Oklahoma
 Logan, Lloyd R., Springfield, Missouri
 Long, John H., Landisville, Pennsylvania
 Lonis, Henry C., Lubbock, Texas
 Lopez, Julio, Juncos, Puerto Rico
 Lord, Donald R., Sioux City, Iowa
 Lowell, Louise M., Prudenville, Michigan
 Luce, Maurice H., North Highlands, California
 Mandigo, Wilbur M., Kelseyville, California
 Mangram, Virgil G., Hinton, Oklahoma
 Marialke, Elsie, Springfield, Missouri
 Markey, Ralph G., Garden Grove, California
 Markland, Robert L., Jackson, Wisconsin
 Marks, Ray O., Eugene, Oregon
 Marler, Floyd, Potosi, Missouri
 Marshall, Gerald N., Corbin, Kentucky
 Martin, Donald B., Sylmar, California
 Martin, E. Gene, Rancho Mirage, California
 Martin, Flossie G., Kaufman, Texas
 Martin, Gladys I., Toledo, Iowa
 Martin, James L., Coolidge, Arizona
 Martin, Merle M., Clinton, Iowa
 Martin, Murle L., Marcer, Missouri
 Martindale, W. A., Fresno, California
 Martinez, A. Rosa, Lake Arrowhead, California
 Martinez, Frances, Tampa, Florida
 Maser, Edward C., Lynnwood, Washington
 Matthews, Frances C., Bonifay, Florida
 Maxwell, Glenn A., Bell Gardens, California
 May, Howard S., Seattle, Washington
 Mayfield, Velma P., Marble Falls, Texas
 McAfee, Pauline M., Irving, Texas

McCartt, Howard S., Columbia, South Carolina
 McClain, Eugene, Midland, Texas
 McConnell, Harold L., Hanford, California
 McCrea, Robert H., Louisville, Kentucky
 McGaughy, Melvin T., Alabaster, Alabama
 McGhghy, Dolores J., Springfield, Missouri
 McIntyre, Kenneth, Hardy, Arkansas
 McKeel, Claud R., Powell, Tennessee
 McLarty, T. A., Decatur, Texas
 McLeod, Charles E., Laurel, Mississippi
 McPherson, Arletta H., Bossier City, Louisiana
 Meadors, Bill G., Rankin, Texas
 Medina, Hector, Kissimmee, Florida
 Menchaca, Julian, Fresno, California
 Menchaca, Velia F., Houston, Texas
 Mercado, Ernesto Vega, San Sebastian, Puerto Rico
 Messer, Edmae, Sulphur Springs, Texas
 Messner, Gordon J., Holts Summit, Missouri
 Meszaros, Rose C., Dearborn, Michigan
 Miles, Bruce C., Coeur D' Alene, Idaho
 Miles, Warner L., Marshall, Missouri
 Millard, Edith Mae, Euless, Texas
 Miller, Charles H., Temecula, California
 Miller, Christopher W., Silsbee, Texas
 Miller, Kenneth E., Palm Harbor, Florida
 Miller, Nolia F., Cassville, Missouri
 Mills, Henry, Hernando, Mississippi
 Mininger, Maynard L., Oakhurst, California
 Minor, Malcolm P., Wellington, Alabama
 Minter, Martin L., Tempe, Arizona
 Mitchell, Guy S., Charleston Heights, South Carolina
 Mizelle, W. Grady, Hurley, Mississippi
 Mojer, Miguel, Canovanas, Puerto Rico
 Moore, A. Keene, Bakersfield, California
 Moore, David D., New London, Texas
 Moore, Earl W., Waxahachie, Texas
 Morfin, Isaac C., Hemet, California
 Morrell, Raymond F., Milton, Florida
 Morris, Charles S., Mount Morris, Pennsylvania
 Morris, Cherryl E., Georgetown, South Carolina
 Morrison, Vida M., Wichita, Kansas
 Morrow, T. G., Big Flat, Arkansas
 Mort, Gilbert O., Wasilla, Alaska
 Moses, Arnold J., Hagerstown, Maryland
 Mullins, Clifford, Kansas City, Missouri
 Mundt, Lillie B., Waxahachie, Texas
 Murphy, Nelle S., Dalton, Georgia
 Musgrave, Mamie A., Pearlblossom, California
 Myers, Claud L., Wichita, Kansas
 Myers, Harry M., Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
 Myrick, Gladys F., Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
 Nazworth, Roderick W., Pooler, Georgia
 Nelson, Richard W., Southport, Florida
 Newby, Margaret, Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Nolan, William R., Irvington, Alabama

Norman, Clarence M., Phoenix, Arizona
 Norman, Roy E., Odessa, Texas
 Nultemeier, Delbert L., Brooks, Oregon
 Ogilvie, Wilbur R., Stockton, California
 Oliver, William E., Flint, Michigan
 Olson, Calvin P., Willmar, Minnesota
 Olson, Linda K. Sutter, Oshkosh, Wisconsin
 Ontjes, Willis B., Denison, Texas
 Opie, John K., Bossier City, Louisiana
 Oswalt, Marion R., Danville, Arkansas
 Owens, Bertha P., La Pine, Oregon
 Owens, Edith D., St. Augustine, Florida
 Pahl, Daren S., Modesto, California
 Palser, Duane C., Nampa, Idaho
 Papan, William L., Clarkston, Washington
 Pape, Laura R., Marshfield, Missouri
 Pappan, Bert D., Wynona, Oklahoma
 Parker, John M., West Monroe, Louisiana
 Parks, Vaughn S., Euless, Texas
 Peachee, Willard M., Kiowa, Oklahoma
 Pedrin, Dennis J., Williamstown, Massachusetts
 Pennington, Ferrell O., Moore, Oklahoma
 Peoples, Cephas A., Springfield, Missouri
 Perea, Paul P., Grand Junction, Colorado
 Perry, Philip W., Falling Waters, West Virginia
 Petersen, Peter C., Caldwell, Idaho
 Pettet, Albert W., Sr., Excelsior Springs, Missouri
 Petty, Ronnie D., Park Hills, Missouri
 Pfahning, James E., Columbia Falls, Montana
 Phay, Pat I., San Jose, California
 Phillips, Anderson W., Sr., Columbia, Maryland
 Phillips, Jesse, Springfield, Missouri
 Phillips, John A., Olivehurst, California
 Phillips, Nellie M., Columbia, Maryland
 Phillips, Oscar R., Phoenix, Arizona
 Pike, Larry D., Taloga, Oklahoma
 Plumb, James L., Corpus Christi, Texas
 Plummer, Loretta E., Sioux City, Iowa
 Pointer, Billy J., Enid, Oklahoma
 Pope, Andrew J., Birmingham, Alabama
 Portalatin, Jose, Brooklyn, New York
 Prather, Veola F., Bedford, Indiana
 Pratt, Russell E., San Diego, California
 Presnell, William T., Social Circle, Georgia
 Price, Donald R., Watsonville, California
 Price, M. Handel, Tualatin, Oregon
 Pruitt, Shirley A., Mesquite, Texas
 Puckett, Carey C., Mayfield, Kentucky
 Puckett, Solly E., Cordova, Alabama
 Quanabush, E. T., Irvine, California
 Quinn, Mildred B., Greenville, South Carolina
 Quintero, Israel, Riverside, California

Rawlett, Clara, Morristown, Tennessee
 Rayburn, Nolon B., Henryetta, Oklahoma
 Rebuck, Ira, Jr., Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania
 Reed, David T., Durant, Florida
 Reed, John W., Jr., Gillette, Wyoming
 Rentz, Winona J., Chiloquin, Oregon
 Reynolds, Allie M., Cleburne, Texas
 Reynolds, Bonnie, Waxahachie, Texas
 Reynolds, Cyril R., Durant, Iowa
 Rice, Duane E., Murphy, North Carolina
 Rieson, T. Marie, Beaumont, Texas
 Ritchey, Berenice, Missouri City, Texas
 Rivera, Florentino, Camuy, Puerto Rico
 Rivera, Rena F., Lorain, Ohio
 Robbins, James L., Springfield, Missouri
 Roberts, Delbert E., Jr., Highlands Ranch, Colorado
 Roberts, Virginia Cruz, Glendale, California
 Robertson, F. Ellis, La Mirada, California
 Robeson, Gerald B., Keizer, Oregon
 Rodriguez, Eddie C., Hammond, Louisiana
 Rodriguez, Teofilo G., Houston, Texas
 Roman, Guillermina, Arecibo, Puerto Rico
 Rosario, Samuel, Cleveland, Ohio
 Ross, Clyde O., San Francisco, California
 Ross, William C., Redding, California
 Roush, Bonnie A., Bella Vista, Arkansas
 Roush, Lillian F., Mount Morris, Pennsylvania
 Rousonelos, Anthony N., Largo, Florida
 Royce, George C., Overton, Texas
 Rush, Jimmy E., Seguin, Texas
 Sampier, Leonard C., Santee, California
 Sampson, Kresse C., Waterford, California
 Sanchez, Ruben, Moca, Puerto Rico
 Savage, Kenzy K., Albuquerque, New Mexico
 Schad, Larry T., Savannah, Georgia
 Schaible, Raymond W., Baxter, Minnesota
 Schmidgall, Beverly A., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Schmidt, Anna C., Newcomerstown, Ohio
 Schoneman, Everett L., Denver, Colorado
 Schorsch, Donald, Brainerd, Minnesota
 Schubert, Steve D., Fort Worth, Texas
 Schwenke, John, Ontario, California
 Scott, Mary, Trenton, Missouri
 Scott, Merle E., Union City, California
 Scott, Myrtle M., Woodlyn, Pennsylvania
 Scroggins, Perry A., Tucson, Arizona
 Sewell, James R., La Place, Louisiana
 Shehane, A. V., Clio, Alabama
 Shelley, James H., Excel, Alabama
 Shelton, Ruby J., Rancho Murieta, California
 Sheppard, Wayne E., Searcy, Arkansas
 Sherman, Jere C., Green Bay, Wisconsin

Sherman, Marjorie J.M., Oakland, California
 Sherrer, Oliver E., Geneva, Alabama
 Shields, Creston J., Dayton, Texas
 Shipley, Lavoyd L., Signal Hill, California
 Short, Kenneth G., Scotts Valley, California
 Shumway, V.H., Sr., Lenexa, Kansas
 Silva, Enrique, Brooklyn, New York
 Simpson, Frank W., Visalia, California
 Sims, Wilton C., Marianna, Florida
 Skiles, Donald E., Moorpark, California
 Slagle, Robert M., Buena Park, California
 Slater, Paul W., Plymouth, New Hampshire
 Slatten, Etta, Dardanelle, Arkansas
 Smart, T. J., Coleman, Florida
 Smathers, Lillian K., Carmichael, California
 Smith, Donald A., Saint Paul, Minnesota
 Smith, E. Eloise, Portsmouth, Virginia
 Smith, F. Wesley, Albuquerque, New Mexico
 Smith, James E., Bethalto, Illinois
 Smith, Otho L., Westwood, Kansas
 Smith, Robert W., Barefoot Bay, Florida
 Smith, Ronald M., Williamson, Georgia
 Smith, Troy W., Sapulpa, Oklahoma
 Smith, Victor M., Albuquerque, New Mexico
 Smith, Virgil F., Brazil
 Smothers, Don, Springdale, Arkansas
 Smothers, Ruth, Springdale, Arkansas
 Smyth, Ida A., Norwood, Missouri
 Solberg, Esther M., Mulberry, Florida
 Solis, Maria A., San Antonio, Texas
 Soto, Catalina, Bronx, New York
 Soto, Monserrate D. V., Carolina, Puerto Rico
 Sotomayor, Donato, Juncos, Puerto Rico
 Spangle, James B., Mahaffey, Pennsylvania
 Sparks, Georgann, Whitney, Texas
 Sparks, Melvin E., Grain Valley, Missouri
 Sparks, Virgil C., Garland, Texas
 Spicer, Robert C., Kerrick, Minnesota
 Spilman, Clinton D., Ottumwa, Iowa
 Sprecher, Alvin, Springfield, Missouri
 Springer, William, Fenn, Idaho
 Stephens, Clay H., Emmett, Idaho
 Stevenson, Edwin S., Forked River, New Jersey
 Stickivan, Laurette S., Anchorage, Alaska
 Stigem, Hazel, Rocky Hill, Connecticut
 Stokes, Mrs. George W., Muskogee, Oklahoma
 Stokes, Lillian L., Atlanta, Georgia
 Stone, J. J., San Angelo, Texas
 Stoops, Loretta F., Indianapolis, Indiana
 Story, John E., Bakersfield, California
 Straight, Opal B., Ironton, Ohio
 Stroh, Edwin, Sioux Falls, South Dakota

Strom, Clarence L., Springfield, Missouri
 Sturgeon, James P., Springfield, Missouri
 Sullivan, Betty A., Erie, Pennsylvania
 Sullivan, Ronald B., Pittsfield, Maine
 Sutton, Raymond M., Clovis, New Mexico
 Swain, William J., Springfield, Missouri
 Tapia, Catalina E., Phoenix, Arizona
 Taylor, Donald E., Rainier, Oregon
 Taylor, Furman E., Simpsonville, South Carolina
 Thomas, Donald L., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Thomas, Edgar, Greenville, South Carolina
 Thomas, Mary E., Brighton, Colorado
 Thompson, Lesslie, Jr., Sulphur, Oklahoma
 Thompson, Raymond A., Fort Smith, Arkansas
 Thomson, Dorene J., Scotts Valley, California
 Thornton, Eddie W., Lashmett, West Virginia
 Thornton, F. Arthur, Brooksville, Florida
 Tilley, Buck D., Hominy, Oklahoma
 Todd, Leylon E., Needham, Alabama
 Tomlinson, Hubert L., Columbus, Ohio
 Torres, Raul, Houston, Texas
 Trail, Nell B., El Dorado, Illinois
 Trantham, Jessie O., Springdale, Arkansas
 Traylor, Loyd M., Cotton Wood, Alabama
 Trevino, Juan A., Brownsville, Texas
 Trotta, Louis L., Altoona, Pennsylvania
 Trujillo, Gene T., Durango, Colorado
 Tucker, George L., Parsons, Kansas
 Turk, Dumitri, Bixby, Oklahoma
 Upton, Harland, Mesa, Arizona
 Valentine, Arvel T., Monroe, Louisiana
 Valenzuela, Paul C., Phoenix, Arizona
 Vera, Virginia, Bronx, New York
 Vibbert, Harry V., Evansville, Indiana
 Vidaurri, Sirilo, Sacramento, California
 Vigil, Carolina H., San Antonio, Texas
 Vinson, Floyd D., Ada, Oklahoma
 Vold, Arnold E., Vero Beach, Florida
 Waknitz, Marie M., Great Bend, Kansas
 Walaskay, John, Plymouth, Michigan
 Walker, J. C., Sr., Pensacola, Florida
 Wallace, Kenneth C., Carlinville, Illinois
 Walls, Katie B., Port Orchard, Washington
 Walter, Delynda J., Shawnee, Oklahoma
 Walters, Marvin R., Malden, Missouri
 Wantland, Donovan B., Dana Point, California
 Ward, Leonard R., Duncan, Oklahoma
 Wardlow, Vitura I., Indian Springs, Ohio
 Wattelet, Richard J., Stonington, Illinois
 Weaver, Claude O., Sebastopol, California
 Weigel, Kenneth E., Newport Beach, California
 Welker, C. Lewis, Jefferson City, Missouri

West, Daniel D., Cathlamet, Washington
 Westbrook, R.C., Sr., Pelahatchie, Mississippi
 Wheeler, W. Paul, Libby, Montana
 White, Flarrie, Cottondale, Florida
 White, Harvey, Houston, Texas
 Whitlatch, Kenneth J., Sonora, California
 Wilburn, Donnie F., West Monroe, Louisiana
 Wilkins, Enoch Ira, Senath, Missouri
 Willetts, Mabel, Frostburg, Maryland
 Williams, Addie L., Lubbock, Texas
 Williams, Barry A., Cushing, Oklahoma
 Williams, Lois A., Santa Maria, California
 Williams, Mayme E., Durant, Florida
 Wilson, Carol A., Savannah, Georgia
 Wilson, Erna E., Magnolia, Arkansas
 Wilson, Laurence O., Bellevue, Michigan
 Wilson, Ray H., Tyler, Texas
 Winstead, Roxie, Fort Worth, Texas
 Witt, John T., El Paso, Texas
 Wolverton, Etta, Buckeye, Arizona
 Wolverton, Lyle C., Prescott, Arizona
 Wood, Foster B., Olympia, Washington
 Wood, Ray, Pineland, Texas
 Woods, James M., Dallas, Texas
 Wooster, Karl O., Covington, Georgia
 Worrill, James O., Phenix City, Alabama
 Wright, Vernon D., Oxford, Ohio
 Wyatt, J. R., Jr., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Wyrick, Esther Mae, Auburn, California
 Yeary, James B., Mentor, Ohio
 Ziemann, Edwin G., Watertown, Wisconsin

George Wood, general secretary, read the names of the following ministers who were deceased after June 1, 2001, and were reported to the general secretary's office by August 9, 2001:

Alcorn, Carl D., Grand Prairie, Texas
 Alexander, Lois P., Seminole, Oklahoma
 Arn, Mel E., Tigard, Oregon
 Bayliss, Philip V., Martinsburg, West Virginia
 Beach, Marion A., Stockbridge, Georgia
 Benintendi, Ezra J., Denver, Colorado
 Bennett, Johnnie, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Bishop, J. Bashford, Ball Ground, Georgia
 Brassfield, Venson O., Pryor, Oklahoma
 Brazell, George E., Desdemona, Texas
 Brodehl, Herbert J., Modesto, California
 Brooks, Walter E., Jayton, Texas
 Byard, Glenna J., Fredericktown, Missouri
 Byers, Frederick, Nipomo, California
 Carrasco, Eugenia, Kirbyville, Texas
 Collins, John W., Cedar Hill, Texas

Cooper, H. J., Dammeron Valley, Utah
 Craft, Clarice Y., Ripley, Tennessee
 Cravens, Carl, Energy, Illinois
 Dailey, Maxie C., Columbus, Mississippi
 Enget, Ernest L., Hungry Horse, Montana
 Flaherty, Howard E., Sun City, Arizona
 Friesen, Douglas J., Tarpon Springs, Florida
 Gerlicher, John S., Salem, Oregon
 Hall, Cuba H., Springfield, Missouri
 Hannum, Celia M., Pauls Valley, Oklahoma
 Hayes, Parker B., Dunnellon, Florida
 Henson, Alpha O., Sacramento, California
 Hughie, Rosalyn M., Sydney, Florida
 Jarvis, Danny R., Gastonia, North Carolina
 Lee, T. F., Clovis, California
 Loucks, Helen M., Redway, California
 Lovo, Bonnie F., Salem, Oregon
 Mallory, Helen F., Saint Albans, West Virginia
 Manley, Anabel, Midland, Texas
 Mares, Victor, Dumas, Texas
 Marjama, Herbert G., Menahga, Minnesota
 McDowell, Ruth E., Bloomington, Maryland
 Mercer, Andrew J., Princeton, Texas
 Newman, Milton A., Carmichael, California
 Nichols, Kenneth E., Waupaca, Wisconsin
 Nichols, Shuby M., East Brewton, Alabama
 Porter, Mrs. H. L. (Eva), Barton, Maryland
 Ramon, Timoteo M., Lubbock, Texas
 Reynolds, Cheridale C., La Quinta, California
 Shoff, Don L., Rialto, California
 Sims, Earl O., Falling Waters, West Virginia
 Spurgeon, Helen, Medical Lake, Washington
 Swanner, Jesse L., Hensley, Arkansas
 Torrence, Thomas F., Concord, North Carolina
 Vaughn, Derrald W., Santa Cruz, California
 Williams, Edwin D., Dallas, Texas

Fine Arts Festival Rally

The Friday afternoon service was a Fine Arts Festival rally and featured the winners of the 2001 National Fine Arts Festival. The National Merit Award winners from each of 27 categories were announced during the service. Participating in the service was the youth choir from Trinity Assembly of God, Miami, Florida. Also featured in the service was a drama solo by Robert Madu, a keyboard solo by Rakel Arneson, and songwriting honor to Richard Pearson, the only contestant to score a perfect 40.

Following the presentation of the awards, the 2001 National Fine Arts choir and orchestra performed to close the service.

Evening Worship Service

The concluding service of the 2001 General Council began at 7 o'clock on Friday evening. Prior to the service 30 minutes of preservice music was a mass choir directed by Carol Cymbala, Brooklyn, New York. Worship was led by Paul Ferrin with the Brooklyn Tabernacle Singers, orchestra, and praise band, from Brooklyn, New York, assisting. General Superintendent Thomas Trask served as chairman for the service and opened the service with prayer. The offering was received by Robert Nazarenus, superintendent of the Nebraska District Council. The offertory was provided by the Brooklyn Tabernacle Singers and the mass choir.

The speaker for the evening was Jim Cymbala, pastor of Brooklyn Tabernacle, Brooklyn, New York. He used 2 Chronicles 25 as his text, and related the story of King Amaziah. He told the audience that, "When we stop listening and hearing what God is saying to us by His Word and through His Spirit, I don't care how many people you're running, it's not a Christian church." He further stated, "A Christian church is where God's Spirit is honored and people are listening for God's Spirit." The service concluded with an extended altar service as the final benediction for the 49th General Council and the first Council of the new century.

Final Roster Report

The final closing roster report for the 2001 General Council was reported as follows:

Ordained	2,754	
Delegates	<u>456</u>	
Voting constituency		3,210
Licensed/certified ministers	518	
Kids Council	450	
Youth Congress	1,261	
Fine Arts	5,477	
Aimers	375	
Visitors	<u>5,571</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>13,652</u>
Total		16,862

George O. Wood
General Secretary

CONSTITUTION

OF

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

OF THE

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

REVISED AUGUST 7, 2001

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Constitution

<u>Article</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
I.	Name	88
II.	Nature	88
III.	Prerogatives	88
IV.	Principles for Fellowship	88
V.	Statement of Fundamental Truths	88
VI.	Relationships	94
VII.	Membership	94
VIII.	Meetings	94
IX.	Officers	95
X.	District Councils	96
XI.	Local Assemblies	97
XII.	Dissolution	98
XIII.	Amendments	98

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

CONSTITUTION

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 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).

CONSTITUTION

(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 Savior 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

CONSTITUTION

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).

ARTICLE V

- 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).

CONSTITUTION

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 Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of the Assemblies of God Home Missions, together with 11 other persons to bring the number to 17. The terms of office for the executive director of the Assemblies of God World Missions and the executive director of the Assemblies of God 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. World missions representation. The foreign fields shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the regional directors of the Assemblies of God World Missions and by two others from each of the overall areas which the regional directors represent.

CONSTITUTION

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

ARTICLE XI

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

CONSTITUTION

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. Assemblies of God Total Giving Participation

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

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 proposed amendments by regular mail to the office of each district superintendent and each

ARTICLE XIII

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 7, 2001

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

Bylaws

<u>Article</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
I.	Parliamentary Order	103
II.	Election of Officers	103
III.	Duties of Officers	107
IV.	Committees	111
V.	District Councils	112
VI.	Assemblies	114
VII.	Ministry	116
VIII.	Christian Marriage and Family	126
IX.	Doctrines and Practices Disapproved	126
X.	Discipline	132
XI.	General Superintendent's Office	139
XII.	Directors, Commissioners, Managers Leaders, and Other Designations	145
XIII.	Division of the Treasury	145
XIV.	Assemblies of God World Missions	149
XV.	Assemblies of God Home Missions	153
XVI.	Division of Church Ministries	156
XVII.	Division of Christian Education	157
XVIII.	Commission on Christian Higher Education	158
XIX.	Media Ministries	160
XX.	Division of Publication	160
XXI.	Institutions	161
XXII.	Military Service	163
XXIII.	Assemblies of God Financial Services Group	163
XXIV.	Assemblies of God Foundation	164
XXV.	Assemblies of God Loan Fund	165
XXVI.	Ministers Benefit Association	166
XXVII.	General Council Policy Manual	167
XXVIII.	Order of Business	167
XXIX.	Quorum	167
XXX.	Amendments	167

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.

BYLAWS

c. Executive director of World Missions. The executive director of World 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. If no election has been declared after the third elective ballot has been cast, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.

(b) *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) *World Missions representatives.* Regional directors of the Assemblies of God World 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 World 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.

BYLAWS

(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.

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.

ARTICLE III

(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).

BYLAWS

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 World Missions

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

- a. Direct the world missions activities of the Fellowship.
- b. Represent The General Council of the Assemblies of God in all relationships with governments or authorities where our world missions work is involved.
- c. Distribute all world missions funds as directed by the World 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 World Missions Committee and World Missions Board.
- f. Keep a record of all official acts of the World 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.

BYLAWS

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 world 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.

ARTICLE IV

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

BYLAWS

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 development 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.

ARTICLE V

(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

BYLAWS

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 persons are available for the offices called for in its constitution and bylaws.

The procedure for affiliation shall be:

a. A church desiring affiliation shall forward its request to the office of the district in which it is 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.

ARTICLE VI

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

BYLAWS

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. 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.

ARTICLE VII

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

BYLAWS

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 spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion except as hereinafter provided.

j. Annulments, marriage dissolutions, and divorces. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant's annulment of a former marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or, in the case of a divorce or a dissolution whether the circumstances would more appropriately be classified as calling for an annulment; or if the divorce occurred prior to conversion. In those cases involving preconversion divorce, they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with annulments are decided. The application for an annulment 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 presbytery 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

ARTICLE VII

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, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee upon recommendation of a district council credentials committee for a minister serving as a missionary in this country who holds a credential with a member body of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship.

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.

BYLAWS

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.

ARTICLE VII

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 or not they continue in full-time ministry.

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.

BYLAWS

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

ARTICLE VII

(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 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 world missionaries.* World 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 world 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.

BYLAWS

- (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 ministerial 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.

BYLAWS

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).

BYLAWS

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

ARTICLE IX

(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 spouse 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 ceremonies 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 spouse living unless the divorce occurred prior to conversion. (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).

BYLAWS

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 officials before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings. If the minister does not have district approval, he 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.

BYLAWS

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.)

Section 12. Divine Healing and Professional Medicine

The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of any credentialed minister counseling a believer to exclude medical advice and/or treatment when seeking prayer for physical healing. Assemblies of God ministers shall not represent medical advice and/or treatment as a lack of faith in God's healing power.

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. Moral failure involving sexual misconduct.
- b. Moral failure involving pornography.
- c. Any moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct.
- d. General inefficiency in the ministry.
- e. A failure to represent our Pentecostal testimony correctly.
- f. A contentious or noncooperative spirit.
- g. An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.
- h. An arbitrary rejection of district counsel.
- i. A declared open change in doctrinal views.
- j. A habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the gospel.

ARTICLE X

k. A marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce. (See Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraphs d and e.)

l. Violations of ministerial courtesy. (See Article IX, B, Section 8.)

m. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies of God church. (See Article IX, B, Section 9.)

n. 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 serve only 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.

BYLAWS

(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 Assemblies of God World 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 Assemblies of God World Missions shall convey all information available to the said district as follows:

(1) *Report to district of affiliation.* At the earliest date after the Assemblies of God World 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 Assemblies of God World 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

ARTICLE X

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.

BYLAWS

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) *Terms and Conditions*

(1) *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.

(2) *Authority.* The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish guidelines and policy in regard to terms and conditions of rehabilitation. Such guidelines and policy shall be consistent with provisions of the bylaws.

(c) *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 and compatible with the guidelines and policy established by the General Presbytery.

(d) *District membership.* The minister shall not be permitted to transfer his or her membership to another district during the period of rehabilitation.

(e) *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.

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

(g) *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.

(h) *Reports.* The minister must submit reports quarterly to the district superintendent.

(i) *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.

(j) *Program administration.* The approved rehabilitation program shall be administered by the district presbytery.

(2) *District progress reports.* The credentials committee of the district shall submit to the General Council Credentials Committee on February 1 and August 1 of each calendar year a progress report relative to the rehabilitation of ministers under discipline.

(3) *Completion of rehabilitation.* When the rehabilitation program has been satisfactorily completed, the suspension shall be lifted and the minister shall be restored to good standing.

(4) *Transfer of information.* A rehabilitation information form for district use, prepared and distributed by the general secretary, shall be completed by the district in which the rehabilitation occurred when the rehabilitated minister requests a transfer to a new district. The completed rehabilitation form shall accompany the Certificate of Transfer to another district. A disciplined minister

ARTICLE X

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

BYLAWS

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

ARTICLE XI

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;

BYLAWS

(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 Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of the Assemblies of God 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.

BYLAWS

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 co-chairperson 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 chairperson, co-chairperson, 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.

ARTICLE XI

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 Assemblies of God World Missions (ex officio); the executive director of the Assemblies of God Home Missions (ex officio); the national directors of the divisions of Christian Education, Church Ministries, and Publication; the Spiritual Life coordinator (ex officio); the national evangelists 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 evangelists 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.

BYLAWS

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 Assemblies of God World Missions (ex officio); the executive director of the Assemblies of God Home Missions (ex officio); the national directors of the divisions of Christian Education, Church Ministries, and Publication; 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

ARTICLE XII

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

BYLAWS

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 world missions 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. Assemblies of God Total 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 designated for departments shall be given under the caption of Assemblies of God Total Giving. The intent is to provide recognition for contributions to all ministries of

ARTICLE XIII

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.* Assemblies of God Total Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to the Fellowship Partnership plan for support of the General Council; the Assemblies of God World Missions, Assemblies of God Home Missions, Benevolences Ministries, Christian Higher Education (including educational institutions), Church Ministries (including men's, women's, music, youth, and senior adults), General Administration (including executive and Spiritual Life offices), other General Council, regional, and district-sponsored or approved projects. Contributions from districts other than where a district-approved project is located can be granted Assemblies of God Total Giving credit only 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 or department related to a given project will be notified of approved projects. It is also understood that no district or region may receive Assemblies of God Total 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

BYLAWS

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. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WORLD 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 an Assemblies of God World Missions to which shall be committed all the world 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 Assemblies of God World 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. World Missions Board

(1) *Composition.* The activities of the Assemblies of God World Missions shall be under the supervision of the World 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 world missions zeal and accomplishments, each from a different area

BYLAWS

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 World Missions Board.

(2) *Elections.* The members of the World Missions Board shall be nominated by the executive director of the Assemblies of God World 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 World 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 world missionaries and world missions candidates for world 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 World Missions Board who are not members of the World 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 World Missions Committee may present the case for the Assemblies of God World Missions' decision to the Board of Appeals, but shall not be present at the time of deliberation or voting. The missionary or World 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 World 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 World Missions Board on the basis of nominations by the World Missions Committee and regional director in their respective areas.

h. World Missions Committee. The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a World 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 World 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 World 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).]

ARTICLE XIV

j. World missions policies. All appointed world missionaries shall be required to work in accord with the published policies of the division as authorized by the World Missions Board.

Section 3. Support of Assemblies of God World Missions

The administrative expenses and emergency field needs of the Assemblies of God World Missions and its missionaries shall be provided from:

- a. Offerings designated for office expense.
- b. One-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment receiving funds through the division.
- c. Undesignated funds.
- d. Five percent of all missionary offerings (with the exclusion of special personal designations) received shall be transferred to the General Emergency Fund.

Section 4. Missionary Candidates

a. Appointment. The selection and appointment of missionaries shall be the prerogative of the World Missions Board on recommendation of the World Missions Committee.

b. Examination criteria. The World 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 missions 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 world 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 world 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 Assemblies of God World Missions.

BYLAWS

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.

Section 6. Ordination of Missionaries

The ordination of persons for or under appointment of the Assemblies of God World 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 Assemblies of God World 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 Assemblies of God World Missions since missionary appointment automatically confers membership in the missionary fellowship. The missionary fellowships shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Assemblies of God World 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 Assemblies of God World Missions may appoint a representative(s) to act for the missionaries and the Assemblies of God World 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 Assemblies of God World Missions, these principles shall be followed:

(1) *Title to missionary residences.* All missionary residences shall be held in the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God wherever legally possible.

(2) *Title to institutional properties*

(a) *General policy.* It shall be a general policy to hold institutional properties in the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

ARTICLE XV

(b) *Exceptions.* The Assemblies of God World 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 Assemblies of God World 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 missions properties which have been purchased shall be forwarded to the Assemblies of God World Missions for filing.

ARTICLE XV. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD 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 an Assemblies of God 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 Assemblies of God 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:

BYLAWS

- (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 Assemblies of God 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 Assemblies of God 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 Assemblies of God 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 Assemblies of God 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 Assemblies of God 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 Assemblies of God Home Missions, representatives of the Military/Veterans Affairs and Industrial/Occupational Chaplaincies, one of whom shall be the leader of the Chaplaincy Department, and eight others. They shall consist of two executive presbyters, two military/VA chaplains, two industrial/occupational 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/Veterans Affairs, Industrial/Occupational 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 Assemblies of God Home Missions upon the approval of the work district.

Section 3. Support

Financial assistance in meeting the operating expense of the Assemblies of God Home Missions shall be provided from:

a. Offerings designated for office expense.

b. Five percent of all funds contributed through the national Assemblies of God Home Missions for nationally appointed and/or approved Assemblies of God home missions workers.

c. An appropriation of 10 percent of undesignated contributions.

d. Five percent of all funds for approved district, regional, or national Assemblies of God home missions projects.

BYLAWS

e. One-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment receiving funds through the Assemblies of God Home Missions.

f. All endorsed and/or approved Assemblies of God chaplains actively serving full- or part-time, reserve chaplains, chaplain trainees, military trainees, and military seminarians shall contribute one-half of their tithe from their income earned from chaplaincy services to the Chaplaincy Department. Industrial/Occupational chaplains' contributions shall be placed in the Industrial/Occupational Chaplaincy Fund, and the Military/Veterans Affairs Chaplain's contributions shall be placed in the Military/Veterans Affairs Chaplaincy Fund.

g. 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.

h. 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

BYLAWS

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.

BYLAWS

(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 activity 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.

ARTICLE XXI

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.

BYLAWS

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.

ARTICLE XXII

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 noncombatant, or a conscientious objector.

ARTICLE XXIII. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP

Section 1. Organization

There shall be an organization known as the Assemblies of God Financial Services Group.

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 schools; and national and district ministries.

The organization is formed to serve as an operational and management umbrella for Ministers Benefit Association, Assemblies of God Foundation, Assemblies of God Loan Fund, Ministers Insurance, Master Plan Stewardship Services, Trust and Accounting Services, Legal and Fiduciary Services, and Real Estate Services. The Assemblies of God Financial Services Group also provides integrated loan and investment functions for 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.

BYLAWS

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 and ultimately accountable to the General Presbytery. The Board of Directors shall establish details concerning operations, procedures, relationships, structure, and guidelines.

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 books of the organization shall be audited annually by a certified public accountant selected by the Executive Presbytery, and such audit shall be included with The General Council of the Assemblies of God annual audit reported to the General Presbytery and the General Council in session.

ARTICLE XXIV. 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.

ARTICLE XXV

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 Executive Presbytery, and such audit shall be included with The General Council of the Assemblies of God annual audit reported to the General Presbytery and the General Council in session.

ARTICLE XXV. 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.

BYLAWS

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 Executive Presbytery, and such audit shall be included with The General Council of the Assemblies of God annual audit reported to the General Presbytery and the General Council in session.

ARTICLE XXVI. 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.

Section 5. Fiscal Affairs

The Board of Directors of Ministers Benefit Association 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 Executive Presbytery, and such audit shall be included with The General Council of the Assemblies of God annual audit reported to the General Presbytery and the General Council in session.

ARTICLE XXVII. GENERAL COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL

The General 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 proposed additions, deletions, and modifications to the *General Council Policy Manual* for approval or amendment by the General Presbytery. 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.

INDEX
MINUTES OF THE 49 SESSION OF
THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF
THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
(With revised Constitution and Bylaws)
August 7-10, 2001 – Kansas City, Missouri

APPRECIATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

City of Kansas City, Missouri	8
Executive Presbytery	7
Fraternal Delegates.....	7
General Council Committees	8
Budget.....	8
Parliamentary	8
Resolutions	8
Roster.....	8
Spiritual Life.....	8
Tellers	9
Headquarters Staff.....	7
Host Districts.....	8
National Operational Committees	9
Accounting.....	9
Children's Activities	9
Computer Support.....	9
Convention Coordinator's Team.....	9
Equipment.....	10
Exhibits	10
Hospitality	10
Human Resources	10
Music Program.....	10
Photos Committee.....	10
Platform	10
Prayer.....	10
Printed Materials.....	10
Program	10
Promotional/Press	10
Registration.....	10
Security	10
Tellers Liaison	11
Translations	11
Transportation.....	11
Ushers/Communion	11
Youth Congress	11
Retired Executive Presbytery	7

INDEX

APPRECIATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	
Committees	64
Courtesy Resolution [Resolution 30]	63, 64
ARGUE, DAVID W.	
Reelected North Central Area Executive Presbyter	33
ASHPOLE, WILLIAM E.	
Elected honorary general presbyter	21
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD FINANCIAL SERVICES GROUP	
Assemblies of God Financial Services Group [Resolution 9]	53, 54
Fiscal Affairs [Resolution 8]	51-52, 53
ASSISTANT GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT	
Report of Charles T. Crabtree	17
AUDIT REPORT	
	50
BARTHOLOMEW, ALMON M.	
Elected honorary general presbyter	22
BETZER, C. DAN	
Reelected Southeast Area executive presbyter	38
BLISS, MARK	
Thursday afternoon workshop speaker	66
BRANDT, ROBERT L.	
Elected honorary general presbyter	22, 23
BRIDGES, JAMES K.	
Reelected general treasurer	20
Report of general treasurer	50
BULLOCK, WARREN D.	
Elected Northwest Area executive presbyter	30
BURROUGHS, HOWARD D.	
Elected honorary general presbyter	23
CANALES, ISAAC	
Friday morning speaker	68
CHAPLAINCY, COMMISSION ON	
Commission on Chaplaincy [Resolution 18]	56-57, 58
CHOLE, ALICIA	
Thursday evening speaker--testimony	67
CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION, COMMISSION ON	
Commission on Christian Higher Education and Foreign Missions	
Laymen's Advisory Committee [Resolution 5]	18
COMMITTEE REPORTS	
Spiritual Life	45-49, 50
COMMUNION SERVICE	
	68
CONVOY OF HOPE	
Video	62
CRABTREE, CHARLES T.	
Report of assistant general superintendent	17

CRANK, CHARLES E.	
Elected Great Lakes Area executive presbyter.....	35
CREDENTIALS	
Causes of Disciplinary Action [Resolution 20].....	59-60, 61
Credentialing of Divorced and Remarried Persons	43-44, 45
Dual Credentials for Missionaries [Resolution 3]	17, 18
Removing Marital History Requirements for Credentialed Minister's Spouse [Resolution 14].....	27-28, 29
CYMBALA, JIM	
Friday evening speaker.....	84
DISCIPLESHIP, COMMISSION ON	
Composition of Commission on Evangelism and Commission on Discipleship [Resolution 19]	58
Divine Healing [Resolution 16].....	54, 55
DRESSELHAUS, RICHARD	
Reelected Southwest Area executive presbyter.....	31
EDUCATION AWARDS	
Billie Davis Educator of the Year Award.....	41, 42
Carlos Rodriguez	41, 42
Distinguished Administrators	
Edgar Lee.....	61
Distinguished Educators	
Gary B. McGee	62
Vincent E. Gil	61, 62
Who's Who Among Christian School Educators	
Alice Mutton.....	42
Juanita Burk	42
Lila Ellison.....	42
Patricia Blount	42
ELECTIONS	
Ethnic Fellowship Area.....	40
Executive Director, Assemblies of God Home Missions	20, 21
Executive Presbyters	27
General Superintendent.....	12
General Treasurer.....	20
Great Lakes Area.....	34, 35
Gulf Area.....	35, 36
Language-Other Area.....	39, 40
Language-SpanishArea	38, 39
North Central Area.....	31-32, 33
Northeast Area	36, 37
Northwest Area	29, 30
South Central Area.....	33, 34

INDEX

Southeast Area	37, 38
Southwest Area	30, 31
EVANGELISM, COMMISSION ON	
Composition of Commission on Evangelism and Commission on	
Discipleship [Resolution 19]	58, 59
EVANGELISTS	
The Ministry of Evangelist [Resolution 21]	26
EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS	
Argue, David W.	33
Betzer, C. Dan, Southeast Area	38
Bullock, Warren D., Northwest Area	30
Crank, Charles E., Great Lakes Area	35
Dresselhaus, Richard, Southwest Area	31
Ethnic Fellowship Area	40
Garrison, L. Alton, Gulf Area	36
George, J. Don, South Central Area	34
Great Lakes Area	34, 35
Gulf Area	35, 36
Jones, Spencer, Ethnic Fellowship Area	40
Kim, Nam Soo, Language-Other Area	40
Language-Other Area	39, 40
Language-Spanish Area	38, 39
Miranda, Jesse, Language-Spanish Area	39
North Central Area	31-32, 33
Northeast Area	36, 37
Northwest Area	29, 30
Rhoden, H. Robert, Northeast Area	37
South Central Area	33, 34
Southeast Area	37, 38
Southwest Area	30, 31
EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY	
Nonresident Executive Presbyter Election [Resolution 10]	19, 20
FINE ARTS FESTIVAL RALLY	83
FOREIGN MISSIONS, DIVISION OF	<i>See</i> WORLD MISSIONS,
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	
GARLOW, JAMES	
Thursday morning speaker--church history	65
GARRISON, L. ALTON	
Elected Gulf Area executive presbyter	36
GENERAL COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL	
General Council Policy Manual [Resolution 7]	18, 19
GENERAL PRESBYTERS, HONORARY	
Ashpole, William E.	21
Bartholomew, Almon E.	22
Brandt, Robert L.	22, 23

MINUTES

Burroughs, Howard D.	23
Kingsriter, Arvid C.	23, 24
Leyva, Jose.	24
Morris, James E.	21, 22
Nelson, David L.	24, 25
Newburn, Armon.	25
Perkin, Roger Noel.	21
Wilmoth, E. Joe.	25, 26
GENERAL SECRETARY	
Report of George O. Wood.	12, 13
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT	
Keynote address.	65
Medal of Honor.	40, 41
Bill Hardiman.	41
James Blackwood.	41
Reelection of.	12
Report of Thomas E. Trask.	11
GENERAL TREASURER	
General Council Audit Report.	50
Reelection of.	20
Report of James K. Bridges.	50
GEORGE, J. DON	
Elected South Central Area executive presbyter.	34
HACKETT, CHARLES E.	
Reelected Assemblies of God Home Missions executive director.	20, 21
HAGAN, SCOTT	
Thursday afternoon workshop speaker.	66
HILLSONG WORSHIP TEAM	
.....	64, 65
HOME MISSIONS, ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	
Name Change.	13
Reelection of executive director.	20, 21
HOUSTON, BRIAN	
Thursday morning speaker.	65
HURST	
Thursday evening speaker.	67
JONES, SPENCER	
Reelected Ethnic Fellowship Area executive presbyter.	40
KIM, NAM SOO	
Reelected Language-Other Area executive presbyter.	40
KINGSRITER, ARVID C.	
Elected honorary general presbyter.	23, 24
LEYVA, JOSE	
Elected honorary general presbyter.	24

INDEX

MEDAL OF HONOR

Bill Hardiman	41
James Blackwood	41

MEDIA CAMPAIGN

God Gives Hope	63
----------------------	----

MEMORIAL LISTING

68-82, 83

MIRANDA JESSE

Reelected Language-Spanish Area executive presbyter	39
---	----

MITCHELL, ST. CLAIR

Thursday afternoon workshop speaker	66
---	----

MORRIS, JAMES

Elected honorary general presbyter	21
--	----

NELSON, DAVID L.

Elected honorary general presbyter	24
--	----

NEWBURN, ARMON

Elected honorary general presbyter	25
--	----

PERKIN, ROGER NOEL

Elected honorary general presbyter	21
--	----

REPORTS

Audit	50
General Secretary's	12, 13
General Superintendent's	11
General Treasurer's	50
Assistant General Superintendent's	17
Roster Committee	11, 26, 27, 29, 42, 43, 63, 84

RESOLUTIONS

1. Name Change--DFM and DHM	13
2. World Ministries Giving Credit	13-16, 17
3. Dual Credentials for Missionaries	17, 18
4. Removal	11
5. Commission on Christian Higher Education and Foreign Missions Laymen's Advisory Committee	18
6. Removal	11
7. General Council Policy Manual	18, 19
8. Fiscal Affairs	51-52, 53
9. Assemblies of God Financial Services Group	53, 54
10. Nonresident Executive Presbyter Election	19, 20
11. Honorary General Presbyter--Roger Noel Perkin	21
12. Honorary General Presbyter--William E. Ashpole	21
13. Honorary General Presbyter--James E. Morris	21, 22
14. Removing Marital History Requirements for Credentialed Minister's Spouse	27-28; 29
15. Credentialing of Divorced and Remarried Persons	43-44, 45
16. Divine Healing	54, 55
17. Sanctity of Human Life	55, 56

MINUTES

18. Commission on Chaplaincy	56-57, 58
19. Composition of Commission on Evangelism and Commission on Discipleship	58, 59
20. Causes of Disciplinary Action.....	59-60, 61
21. The Ministry of Evangelist.....	26
22. Honorary General Presbyter--Almon M. Bartholomew	22
23. Honorary General Presbyter--Robert L. Brandt	22, 23
24. Honorary General Presbyter--Howard D. Burroughs	23
25. Honorary General Presbyter--Arvid C. Kingsriter	23, 24
26. Honorary General Presbyter--Jose Leyva	24
27. Honorary General Presbyter--David L. Nelson	24, 25
28. Honorary General Presbyter--Armon Newburn	25
29. Honorary General Presbyter--E. Joe Wilmoth	25, 26
30. Courtesy Resolution	63, 64

RHODEN, H. ROBERT

Elected Northeast Area executive presbyter.....	37
---	----

ROSTER COMMITTEE

Reports of.....	11, 26, 27, 29, 42, 43, 63, 84
-----------------	--------------------------------

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE [Resolution 17]	55, 56
--	--------

SPEAKERS

Bliss, Mark	66
Canales, Isaac	68
Chole, Alicia	67
Cymbala, Jim	84
Garlow, James	65
Hagan, Scott	66
Houston, Brian	65
Hurst, Randy	67
Mitchell, St. Clair	66
Tennison, Martha	66
Trask, Thomas E.	65

SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE

Report of	45-49, 50
-----------------	-----------

TENNISON, MARTHA

Thursday afternoon workshop speaker.....	66
--	----

THEMES.

1. The Great Empowerment of Pentecost.....	64
2. Great Themes of Pentecost.....	66
3. The Great Mission of Pentecost	67
4. The Great Heritage of Pentecost	67
5. The Great Future of Pentecost.....	84

TOTAL GIVING ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Name Change	13
World Ministries Giving Awards.....	50

INDEX

TRASK, THOMAS E.

Keynote address.....	65
Presided over communion service	68
Reelected general superintendent	12
Report of general superintendent	11
Superintendent's Medal of Honor presentations	40, 41

U.S. Census Bureau Presentation.....	43
--------------------------------------	----

VIDEO PRESENTATIONS

Convoy of Hope.....	62
George O. Wood.....	67
Office of Public Relations - God Gives Hope.....	63
Spiritual Life.....	45, 64

WILMOTH, E. JOE

Elected honorary general presbyter	25, 26
--	--------

WOOD, GEORGE O.

Report of general secretary	12, 13
Presided over Memorial Service.....	67

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

The Supernatural.....	66
Repentance and Holiness	66
Prayer.....	66
Sacrifice	66

WORLD MINISTRIES GIVING

.....See TOTAL GIVING, ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

WORLD MISSIONS, ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Commission on Christian Higher Education and Foreign Missions	
Laymen's Advisory Committee [Resolution 5]	18
Name Change	13
World Missions Banquet	28
Offering	28

YOUTH

Fine Arts Festival Rally	83
--------------------------------	----

INDEX FOR CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Administration, Board of.....	95
Duties	110
Adorable Godhead, The.....	89, 90
Aged Ministers Assistance	148
Amendments.....	98, 99, 167
Amillennialism	127
Annulments and marriage dissolutions.....	118
Appeals	
Boards of	
District	98
Executive Presbytery	98, 114
General Presbytery.....	98, 107, 138
World Missions.....	149
Churches.....	98
Area divisions.....	104
Assemblies (Bylaws)	
Affiliation.....	114, 115, 116
Preservation of.....	115, 116
Procedure for	114
Annual Report.....	115
Membership guidelines	116
New assemblies from a division.....	116
Organizational assistance	115
Relationships.....	115, 116
Safeguarding	115
Transfer of Local Church Membership	116
Assemblies of God	
Dissolution	98
Membership	94
Name	88
Nature.....	88
Prerogatives.....	88
Principles for fellowship	89
Relationships.....	94
Assemblies of God Financial Services Group	163, 164
Assemblies of God Foundation	164, 165
Assemblies of God Loan Fund	165, 166
Assemblies of God Theological Seminary	162
Assemblies, local (Constitution)	
District Council affiliated.....	98
General Council affiliated Assemblies.....	97
Requirements for affiliation	97

INDEX

Right of appeal.....	98
Sovereign rights.....	97, 98
Subordinate in matters of doctrine and conduct.....	98
Support of General Council and district council.....	97
Total Giving Participation	98
Assistant General Superintendent	
Duties.....	108
Election of.....	103
Audit Department.....	147
Baptism	
Holy Ghost.....	91, 92
Water	91
Benevolences	147-148
Aged Ministers Assistance.....	148
Funds	148
Homes.....	148
Institutions	148
Blessed Hope, The	93
Board of Administration	95
Duties.....	110
Board of directors	
Assemblies of God Financial Services Group	164
Assemblies of God Foundation.....	164, 165
Assemblies of God Loan Fund	165, 166
Assemblies of God Theological Seminary.....	162
Central Bible College	161
Evangel University	162
Executive Presbytery	95
Global University.....	162, 163
Maranatha Village	163
Ministers Benefit Association.....	166
Central Bible College.....	161
Certificates	
Church	94
Local Assembly	97
Minister.....	120
Transfer.....	123, 124
Chaplains, Commission on.....	155
Charges, preparation and filing	134
Chi Alpha	156
Christian Education, Division of.....	157, 158
Board	157, 158
Christian Higher Education, Commission on.....	158-159, 160
Christian Marriage and Family	128

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Church and its Mission, The	92, 93
Church Ministries, Division of	157, 158
College representation on General Presbytery	96
Commissions	
Chaplaincy	155
Christian Higher Education	158
Discipleship	144, 145
Doctrinal Purity	126
Ethnicity	142
Evangelism	142-143
Committees	
Credentials	111
Other	112
Resolutions	111, 112
Roster	111
Spiritual Life	112
Standing	111
Communion, Holy	91
Conference status	112
Conscientious objector	163
Constitutional Declaration	87
Reason for being	87
Cooperative fellowship	88
Credentials	
Ministerial Status Changes	125
Nondisciplinary Credential Terminations	125
Renewals and Reinstatements	124
Restoration of	
Authorization of	138
Option to refer to General Presbytery	139
Rehabilitation obligatory	139
Reinstatement of lapsed minister	124
Reinstatement of other than dismissed minister	124
Time-lapse for dismissed ministers	138, 139
Termination	
Affiliation with other church organization	125
Initiative of district	125
Initiative of minister	125
Referral to General Council Credentials Committee	137
Right of appeal	138
Transfer	123, 124
Credentials Committee	111
Actions	120
Referral for action	137
Relationship between district	132

INDEX

Date-setting for the Lord's return.....	127
Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.....	90, 91
Disabled ministers.....	121
Discipleship, Commission on.....	144, 145
Discipline.....	132-138, 139
Appeal	
Churches.....	98
Ministers.....	138
Attitude toward those disciplined.....	131
Causes of.....	132, 133, 135
Charges, preparation and filing.....	134
Hearings.....	134, 135
Initiative in	
General Council responsibility.....	133
Home District responsibility.....	133
Prior right.....	133
Investigation of reports.....	133, 134
Nature and Purposes.....	132
Notice.....	139
Publication of dismissal.....	138
Referral to Credentials Committee.....	137
Rehabilitation.....	135-136, 137
Reinstatement.....	138, 139
Application.....	138
Fee.....	139
Option to refer to General Presbytery.....	139
Rehabilitation obligatory.....	139
Time-lapse for.....	138, 139
Relationship between district and General Council.....	132
Right of Appeal.....	137, 138
Right of Initiative.....	133
Dismissal.....	138
Dissolution.....	98
District Councils.....	96, 97, 112, 113
Amenability to General Council.....	97
Area of supervision.....	96
Areas of authority.....	97
Boundaries.....	113
Conference Status.....	112
Cooperative relationship.....	113
Credentialing authority.....	96
Dissolution of district.....	114
Formation of new districts.....	112-113, 114
Guidelines.....	112, 113

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Language.....	96, 113, 114
Membership.....	96
New districts, formation of.....	112
Officers.....	113
Voting constituency.....	113
District membership	
Church-planting ministries.....	122, 123
Home missionaries.....	122, 123
Ministers.....	122, 123
Pastors.....	122
World missionaries.....	123
Divine healing.....	93, 132
Divorce and Remarriage.....	128, 129
Church leadership.....	128, 129
Church membership.....	128
Ministerial credentials.....	129
Performing ceremony for divorced.....	129
Doctrinal Purity, Commission on.....	126
Doctrines	
Approved.....	89-93
Disapproved.....	126-131, 132
Duties of	
Assistant general superintendent.....	108
Board of Administration.....	110
Executive director of Assemblies of God Home Missions.....	109
Executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions.....	109
Executive Presbytery.....	109, 110
General Presbytery.....	110, 111
General secretary.....	108
General superintendent.....	107, 108
General treasurer.....	108
Ecumenical movement.....	131
Education, Board of Christian	
Selection of members.....	157, 158
Education, Commission on Christian Higher	
Selection of members.....	159
Elections.....	103-106, 107
Nominations and Elections.....	103-106, 107
Officers.....	103-104, 105
Vacancies	
Executive officers.....	106
General presbyters.....	107
Nonresident executive presbyters.....	106, 107
<i>Enrichment—A Journal for Pentecostal Ministry</i>	141

INDEX

Eschatological errors.....	127
Ethnic fellowships.....	104, 114
Ethnicity, Commission on.....	142
Evangel University.....	162
Evangelism, Commission on.....	142-143
Executive Officers.....	95
Vacancies.....	106
Executive presbyters, nonresident	
Election of.....	104, 105
Vacancies.....	106, 107
Executive Presbytery.....	95
Duties.....	109, 110
Fall of man.....	91
Final Judgment, The.....	93
Finance Department.....	145-146, 147
Finance, Committee on.....	145, 146
Financial responsibility	
Chaplains.....	123
Headquarters	
Churches.....	146
Ministers.....	146
Home missionaries.....	123
World missionaries.....	123
Foreign missionaries.....	<i>See World Missionaries</i>
Foreign Missions, Division of.....	<i>See World Missions</i>
Fundamental Truths, Statement of.....	88-93
General Council	
Meetings.....	94
Order of business.....	167
Quorum.....	167
Regular sessions.....	94
Special sessions.....	94
Membership.....	94
Voting constituency.....	94
General Council Policy Manual.....	167
General Presbyters/General Presbytery	
Alternate.....	107
Auditors.....	96
College representation.....	96
Duties.....	110, 111
Election of.....	105, 106
Ethnic fellowship representation.....	96
Evangelists representation.....	96
Honorary.....	96

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Representation.....	95, 96
Vacancies	107
World Missions representation.....	95, 150
General Secretary	
Duties	108
Election of.....	103
General Superintendent	
Duties	107, 108
Election of.....	103
Office of	139 - 145
General Treasurer	
Duties	108
Election of.....	103
Global University	162, 163
Godhead, The Adorable.....	89-90
Gospel Publishing House.....	161
Headquarters, support of.....	146
Churches.....	146
Ministers.....	146
Retired ministers	122
Healing, Divine.....	93
Holy Ghost	
Baptism in	91, 92
Initial Physical Evidence	92
Home Missions.....	153-156, 157
Administrator	153
Board.....	154
Chaplains, Commission on.....	155
Chi Alpha	156
Committee.....	154
Executive director	104, 153
Duties.....	109
Election procedure	104
Missionaries	155
Organization and Governance	153-154, 155
Support.....	155, 156
Teen Challenge.....	156
Homes	
Aged.....	148
Children.....	148
Missionary.....	161
Honorary general presbyters.....	96
Voting privileges.....	106
Inactive ministers.....	121

INDEX

Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost	92
Institutions.....	161-162, 163
Assemblies of God Theological Seminary.....	162
Central Bible College	161
Evangel University	162
Global University.....	162, 163
Maranatha Village	163
Miscellaneous	
Missionary homes	161
Missionary schools	161
Language districts	96, 105, 113, 114
Church transfer procedure	114
Equality.....	113
Recognition qualifications	113
Relationship to geographical districts.....	96, 113
Language groups	96, 105, 113, 114
Lapse of credentials.....	125
Late fee.....	124
Leaders.....	145
Legalism.....	127
License to preach	117, 119
Local assemblies	
See Assemblies, local	97, 98
Maranatha Village.....	163
Marriage	
Christian marriage and family	126
Marriage, common-law.....	128
Media Ministries	160
Meetings.....	94
Membership	94
Military service	163
Millennial Reign, The	93
Ministers	See also: Credentials, Discipline, and Ministry
Courtesy violations by	131
Discipline of	132-138, 139
District membership.....	122, 123
Preaching requirements of	121
Relationships	122, 123
Resigned	125
Status changes.....	125
Transfer.....	123, 124
Ministers Benefit Association	166
Ministers from other organizations	118, 119
Ministry.....	93, 116-125

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Categories of	119-121
Active	120
Certificates	120
Certified	119
Disabled	121
Inactive	121
Licensed	119
Ordained	120
Renewal of	124
Senior	121, 122
Categories of	121
Support of Headquarters	122
Terminology	121
Specialized (nonpreaching)	119
Transfer	
From district	123, 124
From other organizations	118, 119
Described	116, 117
Educational requirements	117, 118
In non-Assemblies of God church	131
Marriage	
Annulment of	118
Dissolution	118
Status	118
Ministerial relations	122, 123
Nondisciplinary Credential Terminations	125
Official list	120, 121
Privileged communications	125
Qualifications	
Basic	117-118, 119
Specific	119, 120
Women, eligibility of	118
Mission, The Church and its	92, 93
Missionary	
Candidates	151
Fellowships	153
Homes	161
Schools on mission fields	161
Support of	151, 152
Name	88
Nature	88
New heavens and the new earth, The	93
Nominations and elections	103-106, 107
Non-Assemblies church, Ministry in a	131

INDEX

Not renewed	125
Officers	
Duties	107-110, 111
Elections	103-104, 105
Executive officers	95, 96
Vacancies	106
One True God	89
Order of business	167
Ordinances of the church	91
Holy Communion	91
Water baptism	91
Ordination	120
Parliamentary order	103
<i>Pentecostal Evangel</i>	141
Post-Tribulation rapture	127
Practices disapproved	126-131, 132
Preaching requirements	
Certified minister	121
Licensed	121
Ordained	121
Prerogatives	88
Principles for Fellowship	88
Private ownership of religious institutions	130
Privileged communications	125
Public Relations, Office of	140
Publication, Division of	160, 161
Gospel Publishing House	161
Quorum	167
Rapture	
Date-setting	127
Post-Tribulation	127
Reason for being	87
Rehabilitation	135-136, 137
Basis	135
Eligibility	137
Period of time	135
Previous dismissal	137
Procedure and requirements	136, 137
Transfer of information	136, 137
Reinstatement	
Application for	124
Definition of	124
Fee	124
Lapsed minister	124

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Other than dismissed minister.....	124
Required after January 15	124
Terminology	124
Relationships	94
Remarriage	128
Residency requirements.....	119
Resolutions Committee.....	111, 112
Appropriateness of resolution	
Determined by	112
Right of sponsor.....	112
Presentation	
Format.....	112
Procedure for presentation.....	111, 112
Sponsorship policy	112
Restitution of all things.....	127
Right of appeal	98, 137
Right of initiative.....	94, 133
Roster Committee	111
Salaries, elected officers	111
Salvation of man.....	91
Sanctification	92
Scriptures Inspired	89
Secret orders	128
Senior ministers	121, 122
Solicitation of funds.....	130
Sovereign rights.....	97, 98
Special sessions	94
Right of initiative	94
Spiritual Life.....	139, 140
Spiritual Life Committee	112
Standing committees.....	111
Stewardship	
Abuses of.....	130
Support of headquarters.....	146
Assemblies	146
Ministers.....	146
Teen Challenge	154, 156
Tithing	130
Support of headquarters	146
Total giving	98, 146
Transfer of credentials	123, 124
Treasury, Division of.....	145-148
Audit Department.....	147
Benevolences Department.....	147-148

INDEX

Executive director	145
Finance Department.....	145-146, 147
Finance, Committee on.....	145, 146
Support of headquarters.....	146
Total giving.....	98, 146, 147
Unconditional security	126, 127
Universalism	127
Vacancies	
Executive officers	106
General presbyters	107
Nonresident executive presbyter.....	106, 107
Violations of ministerial courtesy	131
Voting constituency	94
Water baptism	91
Women, Credentialing of.....	118
World Missionaries	
Appointment	151
Candidates	151
Ordination.....	152
Property	152, 153
Specialized.....	151
Support of.....	151, 152
World Missions, Assemblies of God.....	149-152, 153
Administrator.....	149
Area directors	150
Board	149, 150
Selection of members	149, 150
Committee	150
Executive director.....	104, 149
Duties	109
Election procedure.....	104
Field organizations.....	152
General Presbytery representatives.....	150
Missionary candidates	151
Ordination.....	152
Policies	151
Property of.....	152, 153
Regional directors.....	150
Support of.....	151, 152
Worldliness	129

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

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