

MINUTES
of the
50th Session of
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD



With revised

Constitution and Bylaws

50th GENERAL COUNCIL
Washington, D.C.
July 31- August 3, 2003

MINUTES

of the

50th Session of

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Convened in Washington, D.C.

July 31-August 3, 2003

with

Revised Constitution and Bylaws

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

Printed in U.S.A.

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

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Thomas E. Trask, General Superintendent
Charles T. Crabtree, Assistant General Superintendent
George O. Wood, General Secretary
James K. Bridges, General Treasurer
L. John Bueno, Executive Director of A/G World Missions
Charles E. Hackett, Executive Director of A/G U.S. Missions

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	Nam Soo Kim
Warren D. Bullock	Jesse Miranda
Charles T. Crabtree	H. Robert Rhoden
Charles E. Crank	Zollie L. Smith, Jr.
Richard Dresselhaus	George O. Wood

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

1445 N. Boonville Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65802-1894
Telephone: 417-862-2781
FAX: 417-862-0133
E-mail: gensec@ag.org

FOREWORD

“Turn America—Pray the Way!” was the theme for our 50th General Council in Washington, D.C., July 31-August 3, 2003.

This General Council was the most well attended in our history—with over 31,000 registered. Our special focus centered on Vision for Transformation and new church planting.

We look forward to the next General Council, should Jesus tarry, in Denver, Colorado, August 2-5, 2005.

May the Lord richly bless you.

GEORGE O. WOOD
GENERAL SECRETARY

MINUTES OF THE 50TH GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CONVENED AT WASHINGTON, D.C. JULY 31-AUGUST 3, 2003

Business Session

The first business session of the 50th General Council of the Assemblies of God convened at the MCI Center in Washington, D.C., Wednesday, July 31, 2003, at 9 a.m. General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask welcomed the delegates and called the business session to order at 9:19 a.m.

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 Assemblies of God World Missions; Charles E. Hackett, executive director of Assemblies of God Home Missions; David Argue, North Central Area; C. Dan Betzer, Southeast Area; Warren D. Bullock, Northwest Area; Charles E. Crank, Great Lakes Area; Richard Dresselhaus, Southwest Area; L. Alton Garrison, Gulf Area; J. Don George, South Central Area; Nam Soo Kim, Language Area—Other; Jesse Miranda, Language Area—Spanish; H. Robert Rhoden, Northeast Area; Zollie L. Smith, Jr., Ethnic Fellowships.

Introduction of Retired Executive Presbyters

Chairman Trask introduced the retired executive officers and presbyters and asked those present to stand and be recognized. He expressed deep appreciation for the years of service these men have given to the General Council. The retired executive officers and presbyters were introduced and those present recognized as follows: Almon M. Bartholomew, former executive presbyter, Northeast Area; Robert L. Brandt, former executive presbyter, Northwest Area; Joseph R. Flower, former general secretary; Raymond H. Hudson, former general treasurer; J. Foy Johnson, former executive presbyter, Southeast Area; Paul E. Lowenberg, former executive presbyter, South Central Area; Armon Newburn, former executive presbyter, South Central Area; Everett R. Stenhouse, former assistant general superintendent; and Loren Triplett, former executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions.

Introduction of Headquarters Staff

The chairman expressed appreciation to the Headquarters staff serving many long hours to make this 50th General Council in Washington, D.C., operate efficiently, calling attention to those listed in the program booklet. Special recognition was given to Harold Sallee, administrative assistant to the general superintendent, and to Shelly Mackey and Jewell Woodward, recording secretaries.

Fraternal Delegates

The chairman recognized that a number of fraternal delegates will be in attendance at this General Council. He extended a welcome to these friends and indicated that they would be honored at a dinner later during the Council.

Expression of Appreciation to the City of Washington, D.C.

Appreciation was expressed to the city of Washington, D.C., for its hospitality and for the kindness it has shown to the General Council delegates. The chairman indicated that it was a joy to be in our nation's capital.

Expression of Appreciation to Host Districts

Thomas Trask expressed appreciation to the Potomac District and the Spanish Eastern District for their kind hospitality in hosting this 50th General Council. He also expressed appreciation to the following superintendents of the other districts in the Northeast Area for their kindness to the General Council: Carl Colletti, New Jersey District; Saied Adour, New York District; Dennis W. Marquardt, Northern New England District; Stephen R. Tourville, Pennsylvania-Delaware District; and Otis D. Stanley, Southern New England District.

Rafael Reyes, superintendent of the Spanish Eastern District, welcomed the General Council and delegates to Washington, D.C., in Spanish and then in English.

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; L. Alton Garrison, J. Don George, H. Robert Rhoden, Zollie L. Smith, Jr.

Parliamentary

Gene M. Roncone II, chairperson; Jay Alford, Ansley Orfila; Dennis J. Rivera

Resolutions

Larry H. Griswold, chairperson; R. Kenneth George, Dennis W. Marquardt, Ronald F. McManus, Sergio Navarrete, Edward Peecher, Steven L. Powell, Jane L. Wead

Roster

St. Clair Mitchell, David L. Wigington, cochairmen; Mark Christianson, liaison; Michael Bean, Steve Bradshaw, Mike Evans, Neil Chadwick, Michael Neff, Jeff Mantz, Peter Schalembier, Mickey Davis

Spiritual Life

Clarence St. John, chairperson; Teofilo J. Aguillon, Alicia B. Chole, Michael H. Clarensau, Ronald G. Cox, Morris Ivey, William N. Kirk, Winston K. Larry, Ronald F. McManus, Opal S. Reddin

Tellers

Rollin Carlson, chairperson; Lee Baca, Glenn R. Beaver, Robert J. Carlson, B. P. (Dino) Espinoza, Richard A. Hopping, Virgil Illum, Randall S. Rogers, Stephen R. Schaible, captains; Efraim Espinoza, liaison; Jamal Alexander, Mark S. Anderson, Jeffery D. Baker, Rennie Baker, Tim Barker, Gerry A. Bass, Ron Bates, Dale Bean, Quentis Beard, Michel Beaudouin, Jerry Beebe, Henry Bello, Tim W. Boyd, Garry Brackett, Carol Brown, Gaylord Brown, Julie Burmeister, Ron Burnett, Marty Carter, Wanda R. Carter, Raul Castro, Daniel Clark, Clifford Close, Arthur Coffman, Douglas Cowie, Gerald Crownover, Dennis R. Davis, Michael Dillman, Dwight Dozier, David Earls, Phil Edwards, Paul Ellis, Dan Estes, Thomas Faulk, Don Fisher, Juan Francisco, Ric Freeman, Lee Freshour, William Fritzky, Mark Gasque, Donald Graber, Larry Griffin, Richard Gurganus, Edgar Hanohano, Darryl Harless, Andy Harris, Mike Haseltine, Todd Hastings, Ted Heaston, John A. Hilberling, Joe Hunkin, Dale Jackson, Tom Jacobs, John B. Johnson, Ray Johnson, Kenneth Kelly, Larry Krake, Tony LaGamba, Vern Lathe, Glenn Lee Roger Loomis, Winferd Mack, Don MacPherson, Anibal Maldonado, J. D. Mallory, Tony Martinez, Brian McGuire, Robert Meadows, Phillip Menditto, William A. Mills, Thomas Moore, Brian Norvell, George Pallil, Gerald Patterson, Larry Perry, Jofrey Rabanal, David Reese, Terry A. Reilly, Randy Rhoads, Timothy Rickman, Cesar Rodriguez, Les Sanders, Dean Sanner, Paul E. Scull, Louis Selzer, Randy Shibilo, Micah Smith, Walt Spradling, Joe Stanford, Mark R. Thompson, Dan Vargas, Edward E. Walker, Louis Walton, Michael Washburn, Gary Watkins, David Welle, Brian Whidden, Larry White, Jeffery Wiedenmeyer, Herbert Wilcox, Kenneth Wilcox, Rex Williams, Charles Winters, Russell Witkowski, Stephen J. Wright, Dan York, Doug York, Derek Youngblood.

National Operational Committees

Program Committee

Thomas E. Trask, chairperson; Charles T. Crabtree, George O. Wood, James K. Bridges, Tom McDonald, *music*, Harold W. Sallee, *resource*

Accounting Committee

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

Children's Activities

Carolyn Burwell, Early Childhood coordinator; David Boyd, Kids Council chairperson; Joey Ellis

Computer Support

Tim Strathee, chairperson; Justin Butler, Fine Arts; Bill Campbell, Webmaster; Bruce Harp, Chris Hill, Bookstore; Darrin Hull, John Ivaska, Kelly Rhea, Fine Arts; Roger Richardson

Convention Coordinating Team

Sharon L. Lee, convention coordinator; Lori K. Lawley, housing coordinator; Sheila R. Mixer, registration coordinator; Paul Griffin, security coordinator; Dan Castor, Encore Production, event production; Greg Flessing, Fresh Air Media, program director

Equipment

Norman Gannon, chairperson; Don Goss, Eric Goss, trucking; Jim French, Don Lander

Exhibits

Steve Turner, coordinator

Hospitality

Stephen Graff, chairperson; Debra Collins, Pat Hawkins, Helen Wray

Human Resources

Beth Carroll, personnel coordinator; Debra Collins, Steve Graff

Prayer

Madonna Paulson, chairperson; Sheryl Haseltine, Juleen Turnage

Printed Materials

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

Promotion/Press

Juleen Turnage, chairperson; Jon Harrell, John Kennedy, Dan Van Veen

Registration

Sheila R. Mixer, coordinator; Mark Christianson, Todd Nicholson

Tellers Liaison

Efraim Espinoza

Translations

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

Transportation

Gerald Jackson, chairperson; Erin Buskirk, Dan Clopine, Bill Conley, Gerri Jackson, Larry Kolsky, Neil Ruda

Ushers/Communion

Clancy Hayes, chairperson; Gary Allen, Communion coordinator; Mike Cooper, Rhonda Curtis, Larry Thomas

National Youth Convention

Tom Greene, chairperson; Rick Lorimer, Mark McGrath, Jay Mooney, David Raley, Jerry Dahlberg, youth outside production; Mike Crane, youth outside production

Adoption of Agenda

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

General Superintendent's Report

The general superintendent's report as printed in the *Biennial Report* was given via video.

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.

Assistant General Superintendent's Report

The assistant general superintendent's report as printed in the *Biennial Report* was given via video.

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

General Secretary's Report

The general secretary's report as printed in the *Biennial Report* was given via video.

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

General Treasurer's Report

The general treasurer's report as printed in the *Biennial Report* was given via video.

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

A motion prevailed to receive the Audit Report as presented.

Departmental/Divisional Reports

The general superintendent called attention to the fact this year the Departmental/Divisional Reports are presented to the delegates in the form of a computer disk and can be found in the back cover of the *Biennial Report*.

A motion prevailed to receive the Departmental/Divisional Reports as presented.

Roster Committee Report

David Wigington, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 9 a.m., Thursday, July 31, 2003:

Ordained	2,718	
Delegates	<u>479</u>	
Voting constituency		3,197
Licensed/Certified Ministers	518	
Kids Council	623	
Youth Convention	12,514	
Other Participants	<u>3,513</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>17,168</u>
Total		20,365

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Election of Assistant General Superintendent

The general secretary read Constitution Article IX, Section 1, paragraph a, and Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph a, pertaining to the election of assistant general superintendent. Gene Jackson, former superintendent of the Tennessee District, 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	1,636
Needed to elect	1,091
Charles T. Crabtree	1,300

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

Charles T. Crabtree 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 serving the Assemblies of God.

The following is a list of all other nominees: Arden Adamson 1, David Argue 2, Don Argue 1, Lee Baca 1, Tommy Barnett 1, Randall Barton 1, Wayne Benson 2, Ray Berryhill 1, Dan Betzer 7, James Biram 1, Wayne Blackburn 1, Phillip Bongiorno 1, James Bridges 6, Kendall Bridges 1, L. John Bueno 1, Warren Bullock 11, Jay Calaway 2, Isaac Canales 1, Rollin Carlson 2, Dennis Clanton 1, Doug Clay 7, Glen Cole 10, Carl Colletti 5, G. Robert Cook 1, D. Wendel Cover 1, David Crabtree 2, Larry Crabtree 1, Richard Crabtree 1, Robert Crabtree 9, Charles Crank 13, John Davidson 1, Emory Dively 1, Richard Dresselhaus 7, Paul Drost 1, Pat Fiore 1, Douglas Fulenwider 1, Doyle Fulkes 1, Alton Garrison 20, J. Don George 8, Deborah Gill 1, Wayne Goodall 1, Joseph Granberry 1, Larry Griswold 1, Richard Gunganus 1, Charles Hackett 4, Dale Hazard 1, Jim Hills 1, Gene Jackson 1, Don James 1, Randy Johnson 1, Ron Johnson 2, Mark Jones 1, Peter Joudry 2, Howard Kenyon 1, John Kilpatrick 1, Byron Klaus 1, James Lagarus 1, Maurice Lednicky 1, John Lindell 2, Glyn Lowry 1, Dennis Marquardt 1, Paul Martin 4, Jerry McCamey 1, Mike McClafflin 1, Steve McGrady 1, Ron McManus 3, Jesse Miranda 10, Maynor Morales 1, Armon Newburn 1, Dary Northrop 3, John Palmer 10, Charles Patrick 1, Joel Pavia 1, Ray Rachels 9, Terry Raburn 1, Robert Rhoden 20, Walter Rose 2, Harley Sampson 1, Steve Skipper 1, Lewis Shelton 1, Bryan Smith 1, Zollie Smith 5, Ron Squibb 1, Clarence St. John 2, Everett Stenhouse 1, Ed Tedeschi 2, Ray Trask 1, Tom Trask 23, Wayne Trask 1, Robert Turner 2, Ray Welch 1, Lesley Welk 3, David Williams 1, George Wood 32, John Wooten 1, Illegal votes 23

Resolution 15. Prayer for Our Country

Larry Griswold, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 15. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 15 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Holy Spirit speaks in 1 Timothy 2:1 and 2 with instructions to the church that "... requests, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for ... all those in authority ..."; and

WHEREAS, Our current President, George W. Bush, has personally demonstrated his reliance on prayer as a source of strength, and has publicly requested citizens throughout the land to pray for our nation and for his leadership; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God as a Fellowship clearly affirms our God-given place of being salt and light to our world, through righteous living and fervent intercessions, especially in these perilous times; and

WHEREAS, The General Council assembling for its 50th Council in the nation's capital, by design, has incorporated important moments of this Council, from opening rally to concluding prayer gathering, to posture itself in prayer before Almighty God on behalf of His Church and this land; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 50th General Council affirm its God-given responsibility to pray for our nation and leaders throughout our days of ministry, business and fellowship in our nation's capital; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the concluding prayer rally scheduled for Sunday, August 3, 2003, at the Washington Mall be considered by ministers and delegates present for this Council not as a culmination of our days in Washington, D.C., but as a launch of purposeful prayer by Assemblies of God people throughout the nation, seeking and interceding that God will truly "heal our land"; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That our general superintendent, Thomas E. Trask, and the members of the Board of Administration, on behalf of the Assemblies of God, be authorized to convey to our President the action of this Council in session, and the full commitment of this Fellowship to respond to his stated desire for prayer on behalf of these beloved United States of America.

Following the adoption of Resolution 15, Charles T. Crabtree, assistant general superintendent, led in prayer for our country.

Resolution 1. Terms of Office of Nonresident Executive Presbyters and Executive Officers

Larry Griswold read Resolution 1. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolutions 1 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God does not make provision for a beginning date for the term of office for nonresident executive presbyters; and

WHEREAS, The term of office for executive officers begins 3 months after the date of election; and

WHEREAS, Due to the schedule established for meetings of the Executive Presbytery it would be advantageous for the terms of office for nonresident executive presbyters to begin 60 days from the date of election; and

WHEREAS, Three months allotted for transition of executive officers appears to be excessively long in an era of more accelerated change; and

WHEREAS, It would also seem advisable to make the transition in newly elected officers at the same time as nonresident executive presbyters; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Constitution Article IX. OFFICERS, Section 1. Executive Officers, a., page 95, which now reads:

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

Be amended to read:

a. Officers and terms of office. The officers shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, and the general treasurer, together with such other officers as may be authorized in the future. Their terms of office shall begin 60 days after the date of election, and shall continue for 4 years or until a successor qualifies.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That Constitution Article IX. OFFICERS, Section 2. Executive Presbytery, paragraph a. Composition and terms of office, page 95, which now reads:

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

Be amended to read:

a. Composition and terms of office. The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of 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 Assemblies of God World Missions and the executive director of 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 begin 60 days after date of election and shall continue for 2 years or until their successors qualify.

Resolution 4. Brazilian District Council of the Assemblies of God

Sergio Navarette, member of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 4. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 4 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws make provision for the Executive Presbytery to establish new district councils in cooperative agreement with the districts involved; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery in session on January 21, 2003, has approved the establishment of the Brazilian District Council of the Assemblies of God; and

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

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph c, (2), *Language Area—Other* (page 105) which presently reads:

Language Area—Other: German, Korean, Portuguese

Be amended to read:

Language Area—Other: Brazilian, German, Korean, Portuguese

Following the adoption of Resolution 4, the general superintendent introduced the leaders of the new Brazilian District.

Resolution 5. Scriptural Interpretation

Dennis Marquardt, member of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 5. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 5 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Statement of Fundamental Truths of The General Council of the Assemblies of God affirms that, "The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice;" and

WHEREAS, Our Fellowship has historically emphasized the necessity of "rightly dividing the word of truth" in all scriptural interpretations; and

WHEREAS, This Fellowship has established a Commission on Doctrinal Purity "for the purpose of giving careful attention to preventing deviations from the Statement of Fundamental Truths and proliferation of unscriptural teachings;" therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article IV, Committees, Section 4, Resolutions Committee, page 111, be amended by the addition of a new paragraph c to read as follows:

c. Scriptural Interpretation. All resolutions involving scriptural interpretation shall be forwarded to the Commission on Doctrinal Purity. The commission shall evaluate and draft a brief assessment of the scriptural interpretation embodied in the resolution. Their assessment, stating their agreement or disagreement with the scriptural interpretation, shall accompany the resolution when presented to the General Council for consideration.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That present paragraphs c, d, and e be redesignated as d, e, and f.

Resolution 6. Minimal Membership Guidelines for General Council Affiliated Assemblies

Larry Griswold read Resolution 6. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 6 as follows:

WHEREAS, Article VI, Section 5 of the General Council Bylaws provides for a General Council Assembly to revert to district affiliated status if, after 1 year, it has failed to meet the minimal requirements for General Council status provided in the General Council Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a.; and

WHEREAS, Many district bylaws do not provide a waiting period of 1 year; and

WHEREAS, There are many occasions when a 1-year waiting period is of such long duration that effective assistance arrives too late to help the church in maintaining spiritual strength and vitality; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article VI, Section 5, page 116, which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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.

Resolution 7. Eligibility of Women

Janie Wead, member of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 7. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 7 as follows:

WHEREAS, The eligibility of women for credentialed ministry is provided for in General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, paragraph k, page 118; and

WHEREAS, It would seem appropriate to delete unnecessary language in this bylaws provision; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, paragraph k, which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 meet the qualifications for ministerial credentials are eligible for whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and have the right to administer the ordinances of the church when such acts are necessary and are eligible to serve in all levels of church ministry, and/or district and General Council leadership.

Recess

The meeting was recessed at 11:45 a.m. Thomas E. Trask closed in prayer.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON—JULY 31

The Thursday afternoon business session was opened with music by Stephen Phifer, Springfield, Virginia. David Argue, executive presbyter, North Central Area, opened in prayer. A quartet from Headquarters composed of Dennis Franck, Stephen Sparks, Ken Horn, and Marc Cerce, known as HQ4, sang two songs.

Distinguished Administrators Award

Robert H. Spence, commissioner for the Commission on Christian Higher Education, present the Distinguished Administrator Award. He recognized Dorothea Lotter as the first recipient of the Distinguished Administrator Award. The following resolution had been adopted by the Executive Presbytery:

Dorothea J. Lotter

WHEREAS, Dorothea J. Lotter has distinguished herself in our Fellowship as an excellent college administrator, and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian higher education in the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lotter served the Lord in the following positions at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary: secretary/administrative assistant to the executive vice president, 1972 to 1976; acting registrar, 1976 to 1979; registrar, 1979 to 1988; director of Admissions and Records, 1988 to 1993; and director of Admissions, Records, and Financial Aid, 1993 to 2003; and has been nominated by the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Lotter, 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 22, 2003, to receive the Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Award; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 9-11, 2003, recognizes Mrs. Dorothea J. Lotter as having been a distinguished administrator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for her faithful and excellent service to the Church; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery express thanksgiving to our Lord who appointed Mrs. Lotter among those with gifts of administration and leadership (1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:8); and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of the General Council Commission on Christian Higher Education luncheon, July 31, 2003, in Washington, D.C.

Robert Spence recognized Klaude Kendrick as second recipient of the Distinguished Administrator Award. The following resolution had been adopted by the Executive Presbytery:

Klaude Kendrick

WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor Klaude Kendrick has distinguished himself in our Fellowship as an excellent college administrator, and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian higher education in the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Kendrick served the Lord as an administrator at Southwest Bible Institute 1940 to 1954; president of Evangel College 1955 to 1958; academic dean of Evangel College 1958 to 1960; president of Southwestern Assemblies of God College 1960 to 1964; dean of Southern California College 1977 to 1979; and president of Far East Advanced School of Theology 1984 to 1986; and has been nominated by the Southwest Assemblies of God University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Kendrick, 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 22, 2003, to receive the Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Award; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 9-11, 2003, recognizes Doctor Klaude Kendrick 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 Kendrick among those with gifts of administration and leadership (1 Corinthians 12:28, Romans 12:8); and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of the General Council Commission on Christian Higher Education luncheon, July 31, 2003, in Washington, D.C.

Distinguished Educators Award

Robert Spence, commissioner for the Commission on Christian Higher Education, presented the Distinguished Educators Award. He recognized Benny C. Aker as the first recipient of the Distinguished Educators Award. The following resolution had been adopted by the Executive Presbytery:

Benny C. Aker

WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor Benny C. Aker 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 Aker has served the Lord as a faculty member at Central Bible College, 1968 to 1982, and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, 1990 to 2003, 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 Aker, 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 22, 2003, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 9-11, 2003, recognizes Doctor Benny C. Aker 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 Aker among those teachers given to the Church "for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry" (Ephesians 4:12); and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of the General Council Commission on Christian Higher Education luncheon, July 31, 2003, in Washington, D.C.

Robert Spence announced that Calvin M. Johansson was the second recipient of the Distinguished Educator Award. The following resolution had been adopted by the Executive Presbytery:

Calvin M. Johansson

WHEREAS, Doctor Calvin M. Johansson 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 Johansson has served the Lord as a faculty member at Evangel College and Evangel University from 1964 to the present, and has been nominated by the Evangel University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Johansson, 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 22, 2003, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 9-11, 2003, recognizes Doctor Calvin M. Johansson 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 Johansson among those teachers given to the Church "for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry" (Ephesians 4:12); and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of the General Council Commission on Christian Higher Education luncheon, July 31, 2003, in Washington, D.C.

Roster Committee Report

David Wigington, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 9 a.m., Thursday, July 31, 2003:

Ordained	3,060	
Delegates	<u>561</u>	
Voting constituency		3,621
Licensed/Certified Ministers	586	
Kids Council	643	
Youth Convention	12,636	
Other Participants	<u>3,638</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>17,503</u>
Total		21,124

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Election of General Secretary

The general superintendent requested that a ballot be distributed for the election of the general secretary. Everett Stenhouse, former assistant general superintendent, led in prayer for God's direction and guidance. 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 secretary:

Total votes cast	1,596
Needed to elect	1,065
George O. Wood	1,417

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

George O. Wood 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 serving the Assemblies of God.

The following is a list of all other nominees: Matthew Anderson 1, Leslie Addison 1, Saied Adour 1, David Argue 4, Jay Alford 1, Almon Bartholomew 1, Dan Betzer 4, Wayne Benson 4, Wayne Blackburn 1, James Bridges 28, Steve Brown 1, John Bueno 2, Warren Bullock 5, Rollin Carlson 1, Neil Chadwick 1, Larry Chapman 1, Glen Cole 6, Dennis Clanton 1, Carl Colletti 1, Don Cogle 1, Charles Crabtree 1, Charles Crank 7, Dwight Dozier 1, Richard Dresselhaus 2, Paul Drost 1, Derwood Dubose 2, Russell Eggert 2, Cortez Frazier 1, Alton Garrison 4, Hilario Garza 1, J. Don George 3, Ken George 1, Billy Glover 3, Paul Grabill 2, Larry Griswold 1, Carl Guiney 1, Charles Hackett 2, James Jackson 1, John Johnson 1, Terry Johnson 1, Peter Joudry 3, Fabian Kalapach 1, Ronald Johnson 1, Bruce Klepp 1, Maurice Lednicky 1, Paul Martin 1, Dave McManus 1, Ron McManus 2, Jesse Miranda 1, Arlis Moon 1, Jack Moore 1, Jay Norman 1, John Palmer 2, Rob Phraner 1, Richard Plunk 1, T. Ray Rachels 3, Terry Rayburn 2, Robert Rhoden 3, Clarence St. John 1, Ronald Traub 1, Randy Valimont 1, Ed Wilson 1, Dan Wood 1, James Wood 4, Roger Woodwell 1, Terry Yancey 1, Illegal votes 37

Resolution 8. Marriage Ceremonies

Larry Griswold read Resolution 8, and moved its adoption.

A motion was offered to amend lines 28 and 29 on page 14 so that the sentence will read: Any Assemblies of God minister may perform a marriage ceremony... The motion was not seconded, and the chair ruled that the amendment lost due to lack of support.

The motion to adopt Resolution 8 carried. Resolution 8 as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, It has been said that one in two marriages presently end in divorce; and

WHEREAS, Increasing numbers of people within our congregations have been divorced; and

WHEREAS, It is now permissible for a minister within the Assemblies of God to have been divorced, given certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, The prohibition on ministers performing wedding ceremonies except in the circumstances described in Bylaws Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph b. creates an increasing hardship on the local pastor; and

WHEREAS, The prohibition forces the pastor to assume the role of judge in some very difficult and untenable situations; and

WHEREAS, The Scriptures are silent on the issue of ministers performing wedding ceremonies; and

WHEREAS, This difficult decision should be left in the hands of the local pastor who may be acquainted with the couple in question and is better equipped to decide whether or not he or she should perform the ceremony without threat; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That we amend Bylaws Article IX, Section 5, paragraph d. Performing marriage ceremonies, subparagraph (1), page 129, which presently reads:

(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.

Be amended to read:

(1) *Ministerial guidelines.* We ~~disapprove of~~ discourage 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.~~

Resolution 9. Committee on Finance

Larry Griswold read Resolution 9. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 9 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws provide for a Committee on Finance; and

WHEREAS, The Bylaws give instructions for the organization and governance of this important committee; and

WHEREAS, The work and responsibilities of this committee have changed over the years of its existence; and

WHEREAS, The current language in the Bylaws is out of date and should be brought into conformity with the present work and responsibility of this committee; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article XIII. Division of the Treasury, Section 1. Finance Department, paragraph b, subparagraph (3). *Committee on Finance*, pages 145 and 146, which presently reads:

(3) *Committee on Finance.* There shall be a Committee on Finance, consisting of seven persons from the constituency on the field, elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. This committee shall be charged with the responsibility of studying the budget with the Executive Presbytery and shall serve in an advisory capacity in matters of general finance. They shall give preliminary survey and advice concerning any major project on the denominational or departmental level involving the expenditure of funds. Any project to be submitted for consideration by the General Council which involves the expenditure of funds shall first be submitted to this committee for review and advice.

Be amended by the deletion of the last two sentences so the new paragraph will read as follows:

(3) *Committee on Finance.* There shall be a Committee on Finance, consisting of seven persons from the constituency on the field, elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. This committee shall be charged with the responsibility of studying the budget with the Executive Presbytery and shall serve in an advisory capacity in matters of general finance. ~~They shall give preliminary survey and advice concerning any major project on the denominational or departmental level involving the expenditure of funds. Any project to be submitted for consideration by the General Council which involves the expenditure of funds shall first be submitted to this committee for review and advice.~~

Resolution 10. Fellowship Partnership Offering

Larry Griswold read Resolution 10. He indicated that the term "Partners in Ministry" is a trademarked name so the Executive Presbytery is recommending the term "Fellowship Partners." A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 10 with the term "Fellowship Partners." Resolution 10 as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council in 1989 adopted a resolution recommending that each church send an annual offering for the support of the administrative offices of the General Council; and

WHEREAS, The resolution adopted by the 1989 General Council indicated that this annual offering shall be called a Fellowship Partnership offering; and

WHEREAS, This offering was to be included with the Annual Church Ministries Report; and

WHEREAS, This offering has proven to be a major help in the support of the administrative offices of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Executive Presbytery that this offering be renamed; and

WHEREAS, The proposed new name would be Fellowship Partners offering; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article XIII, Section 1, paragraph c. Support of Headquarters, subparagraph (2) *From assemblies*, page 146 which presently reads:

(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.

Be amended to read:

(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 Fellowship Partners 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.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XIII, Section 1, paragraph d. Assemblies of God Total Giving, subparagraph (3) *Credit*, page 147, which presently reads:

(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.

Be amended to read:

(3) *Credit.* Assemblies of God Total Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to the Fellowship Partners plan for support of the General Council; 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.

Resolution 11. AGWM Creation of New Region

Larry Griswold read Resolution 11. A motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution 11.

A motion prevailed to delete the word "designate" on line 15.

A motion prevailed that line 19 be corrected to read: That paragraphs g, h, and i be relettered as h, i, and j.

The motion to adopt Resolution 11 carried. Resolution 11 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, It has become necessary from time to time to create new regions within the division of Assemblies of God World Missions; and

WHEREAS, The balloting by missionaries for the position of regional director occurs every 2 years; and

WHEREAS, It may become a hardship on the work of the division to delay the appointment of a regional director until the balloting process is completed; and

WHEREAS, It has been found to be helpful for the regional director to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery until the normal process can be followed; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XIV, Section 2, page 150 be amended by the addition of a new paragraph g which shall read as follows:

g. Creation of new region. With the creation of a new region, the World Missions Board shall have the discretion of nominating a regional director, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery. The normal cycle of missionary endorsement will follow.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That paragraphs g, h, and i be relettered as h, i, and j.

Resolution 12. Appointment of Home Missionaries

Larry Griswold read Resolution 12. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 12 as follows:

WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws Article XV, Section 2, paragraph i, page 155, states that nationally appointed home missionaries are appointed by the Home Missions Board; and

WHEREAS, The Home Missions Board meets only one time per year; and

WHEREAS, Home missionary candidates attend candidate orientation and are appointed twice a year; and

WHEREAS, It would delay allowing the missionary candidate to begin itineration if appointments are approved only once per year; and

WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws Article XV, Section 2, paragraph f, page 154, states that the general administration 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; and

WHEREAS, The Home Missions Committee meets on a regular basis each month; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XV, Section 2, paragraph i, page 155, which now reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

i. National home missionaries. National home missionaries shall be appointed by ~~the Home Missions Board.~~ action of the Home Missions Committee, 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.

Resolution 13. Home Missionaries Support of AGHM

Larry Griswold read Resolution 13. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 13 as follows:

WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws Article XV, Section 3. Support, paragraph e, page 156, states that one-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment receiving funds through the Assemblies of God Home Missions is to be sent to Assemblies of God Home Missions for operating expenses; and

WHEREAS, Some appointed home missionaries are incorporated and are paid through their corporation, rather than through Assemblies of God Home Missions; and

WHEREAS, Some appointed home missionaries are paid through a church rather than through Assemblies of God Home Missions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XV, Section 3. Support, paragraph e, page 156, which now reads:

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

Be amended to read:

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

Resolution 14. District Evangelists Representative

Edward Peecher, member of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 14. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 14 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 1,300 evangelists, not including their spouses, in the United States Assemblies of God; 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; and

WHEREAS, Many districts have already incorporated the integral use of a district evangelists representative, seeing tremendous results; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That every effort be given for the establishment of a district evangelists representative throughout the Assemblies of God Fellowship, to minister, support, and report to the district and national offices in matters pertaining to the roles and goals of the evangelist; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That this district evangelists representative appointment be under the direction and authority of each respective Assemblies of God district office, as set forth in that district's constitution and bylaws.

Vision for Transformation

Information Regarding Committee Study

Thomas Trask explained that the new booklet of resolutions from the Vision for Transformation Committee is a replacement for the booklet that was mailed earlier to all ministers. The resolutions contained in the new booklet comes to the General Council cosponsored by the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

The chairman explained the Vision for Transformation process that has been going on and the philosophy behind the study being done by this committee. He explained that everything within the Assemblies of God has been open for review and discussion with the exception of doctrine.

A video presentation was presented regarding the work and vision of the Vision for Transformation.

Resolution 2. Honorary General Presbyter—Philip Bongiorno

Larry Griswold read Resolution 2. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 2 as follows:

WHEREAS, Philip Bongiorno, a dedicated and faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, has spent his life as an evangelist and pastor and is an ordained minister of the Assemblies of God; 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 26 years; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 96, 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 Philip Bongiorno be elected by The General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 3. Honorary General Presbyter—Don R. Logan

Larry Griswold read Resolution 3. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 3 as follows:

WHEREAS, Don R. Logan served as a member of the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God from 1982-2002; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the Assemblies of God with distinction as evangelist, pastor, Christian education director, youth director, sectional presbyter, missions secretary, executive presbyter, and assistant superintendent of the Louisiana District Council; and

WHEREAS, He has served on the Board of Directors of Ministers Benefit Association, and as a member of numerous other committees of the district and General Council; and

WHEREAS, He has served on the Board of Regents of Southwestern Assemblies of God University, his alma mater; and

WHEREAS, He has served this Fellowship as an ordained minister for 41 years, and is esteemed as a faithful administrator, wise counselor, Christ-like statesman, and godly mentor; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 96, 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 Don R. Logan be elected by The General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 23. Honorary General Presbyter—Robert Dee Crabtree

Larry Griswold read Resolution 23. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 23 as follows:

WHEREAS, Robert Dee Crabtree has served with vision and distinction for more than 20 years as the district superintendent of the Ohio District Council, Inc., of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, His long and distinguished career includes serving as a pastor for more than 22 years, as a missionary to Austria, Yugoslavia, and Belgium for 11 years, 3 of which as president of Continental Bible College in Brussels, Belgium; and

WHEREAS, He has served on numerous boards and General Council committees, including the Board of Directors of Central Bible College, the National Board of Education, and the Board of Directors of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary; and

WHEREAS, He has been a member of the General Presbytery for more than 21 years, as well as a member of the Ohio District executive presbytery, and a member of the Ohio District presbytery; and

WHEREAS, He has had a fruitful ministry since his ordination April 26, 1961, touching the lives of a host of people, both at home and abroad; and

WHEREAS, He has announced that he will be retiring from office in June of 2004; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such outstanding ministry to be chosen as honorary general presbyters; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Robert Dee Crabtree be elected by this 50th General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter, effective June 13, 2004.

Resolution 24. Honorary General Presbyter—Tommy G. Crider

Larry Griswold read Resolution 24. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 24 as follows:

WHEREAS, Tommy G. Crider has served this Fellowship with honor and distinction as an ordained minister for 42 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served the New Mexico District Council as presbyter of the Northwest section for 2 years, presbyter of the Southwest section for 3 years, and district youth director for 4 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served several years on the Board of Regents of Southwestern Assemblies of God University and on the Board of Regents of the American Indian College, along with serving on numerous committees for the General Council and the New Mexico District Council; and

WHEREAS, He has served continually for 24 years as a general presbyter for the General Council, and he has faithfully served these same 24 years as district secretary and treasurer of the New Mexico District Council; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 96, 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 Tommy G. Crider be elected by this General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 25. Honorary General Presbyter—Gene Jackson

Larry Griswold read Resolution 25. A motion prevailed that Resolution 25 be adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, Gene Jackson has served this Fellowship with great distinction as a minister of the gospel for 51 years; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the Tennessee District Council in pastoral ministry at Milan First Assembly of God and planted Hendersonville First Assembly of God; and

WHEREAS, He has mentored hundreds of young ministers who are now actively involved in spreading the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the ministry of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, He has served in the district as youth director, Christian education director, secretary-treasurer; and

WHEREAS, He has served 26 years as district superintendent for a total of 39 years in the district office; and

WHEREAS, He has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God for 3 years as a General Council executive presbyter for the Gulf Area, 34 years as a general presbyter, 21 years on the Board of Directors of Central Bible College, 25 years on the board of Hillcrest Children's Home and various other boards and committees; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 96, 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 Gene Jackson be elected by this 50th General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 26. Honorary General Presbyter—J. Donald McManness

Larry Griswold read Resolution 26. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 26 as follows:

WHEREAS, J. Donald McManness has served with integrity and unwavering commitment for 20 years a district secretary of the Ohio District Council, Inc., of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, His distinguished leadership in the district also includes generating hundreds of thousands of dollars for Assemblies of God ministries as the district stewardship director; and

WHEREAS, He has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as a general presbyter for 20 years, and as a member of the General Council Committee on Finance; and

WHEREAS, He faithfully pastored Calvary Assembly of God in Toledo, Ohio, for 22 years, building a life-giving church that continues to impact its community today; and

WHEREAS, He has had effective Kingdom-building ministry since ordination on November 3, 1949; and

WHEREAS, The General Council makes provision for persons with such outstanding ministry to be chosen as honorary general presbyters; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That J. Donald McManness be elected by this 50th General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 27. Honorary General Presbyter—Larry M. Savage

Larry Griswold read Resolution 27. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 27 as follows:

WHEREAS, Larry M. Savage, a dedicated and faithful servant of Jesus Christ, has spent his life in the ministry of the Assemblies of God, serving as an evangelist, pastor, district official, and ordained minister; and

WHEREAS, He has served with distinction as district secretary, assistant district superintendent, and district superintendent of the Wyoming District, and has been a member of the General Presbytery for 23 years; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 96, 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 Larry M. Savage be elected by this 50th General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Election of Executive Director Assemblies of God World Missions

The general secretary read the Bylaws provision for the election of the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, Article II, Section 2, paragraph c, and presented the name of L. John Bueno 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 executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions:

Total votes cast	1,743
Needed to elect	1,163
No votes	34
Yes votes	1,706
Illegal ballots	3

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

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:15 p.m. James K. Bridges, general treasurer, closed in prayer.

Compassion Banquet

A Compassion Banquet was held on Thursday at 5 p.m. prior to the evening service at the Washington Convention Center ballroom. The speaker for the banquet was U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft. He was accompanied by his wife, Janet. Additional guests included: U.S. Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah; Andrew Card, White House chief of staff; and Card's wife Kathleene, who is an ordained Methodist minister.

THURSDAY EVENING—JULY 31

The Thursday evening service of the 50th General Council began at 7 o'clock, in the MCI Center, Washington, D.C., following 30 minutes of pre-service music provided by the choir and band from Faith Assembly of God, Orlando, Florida, directed by Jonathan Faggart. Assistant General Superintendent Charles T. Crabtree served as chairman for the service.

The service opened with the showing of *Love in Action* video followed by the Presentation of Colors and the singing of the “Star Spangled Banner” by Shana Wigington, Bloomington, Indiana.

The theme for the service was “Pray the Way.”

H. Robert Rhoden, superintendent of the Potomac District, read the Scripture and Rafael Reyes, superintendent of the Spanish Eastern District, offered prayer for the General Council. A welcome to Washington, D.C., was given by the mayor of the city, Anthony A. Williams. H. Robert Rhoden presented a \$30,000 check to the mayor for the city to use in its transformation schools program.

L. Alton Garrison, executive presbyter from the Gulf Area, received the offering. The choir and band from Faith Assembly of God, Orlando, Florida, provided music for the evening service.

Prior to the message of the evening, President George W. Bush sent video greetings to those gathered, saying the Assemblies of God shares common values with the administration on such issues as the protection of the unborn, the sanctity of heterosexual marriage, and opposition to human cloning. Bush also thanked the assembled for their faithfulness. Tim Goegelin, special assistant to the president, thanked the crowd for offering prayers for the chief executive and members of his administration.

The keynote message for the 50th General Council was brought by General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask. He presented a roadmap for the future of the Assemblies of God, saying the Fellowship is at a crucial crossroads of whether it is Pentecostal in actual practice or merely in historical tradition. Trask reviewed how the Fellowship has been on a Vision for Transformation journey for the past 18 months. He stated, “We are being called upon as a Movement to make some decisions that will stretch us and move us from a comfort zone to a commitment.” He believes this is a defining moment for the Assemblies of God. “We will decide whether we want to be a Spirit-filled movement or a monument. Are we transformed enough to be able to transform our society, or is society going to transform us?” Churches that conform to societal norms soon stop emphasizing healing, deliverance, and baptism in the Holy Spirit, Trask said. The church cannot afford to become weary about evangelism, because such an attitude leads to empty sanctuaries. This is no time for Christians to be exhibiting bitter, critical, fleshly or compromising attitudes, Trask said. He stated that in order to achieve victory, the Christian must act in faith to produce works that please the Lord: reaching the lost, making disciples, healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and casting out demons.

FRIDAY MORNING—AUGUST 1

The Friday morning session began at 9 a.m. with singing led by Paul Ferrin, Colorado Springs, Colorado. Special music was provided by Tony Bilotta.

Business Session

Chairman Trask called the business session to order at 9:20 a.m.

Roster Committee Report

David Wigington, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 9 a.m., Thursday, July 31, 2003:

Ordained	3,232	
Delegates	<u>592</u>	
Voting constituency		3,824
Licensed/Certified Ministers	619	
Kids Council	650	
Youth Convention	12,710	
Other Participants	<u>3,685</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>17,664</u>
Total		21,488

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Vision for Transformation

Randall Barton, chairman of the Vision for Transformation Committee, introduced the members of the committee and read the preamble on pages 1 and 2 of the booklet containing the proposed resolutions from the Vision for Transformation Committee that were being sponsored by the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery to the General Council for consideration.

VFT Resolution 1 (Amended) Providing for Flexible Local Church Governance Models for General Council Affiliated Churches

Larry Griswold presented VFT Resolution 1 as mailed to delegates and indicated that the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery are sponsoring an amended version of this resolution and he then read VFT Resolution 1 as amended. It was moved and seconded to adopt VFT Resolution 1 (amended).

A motion was made and seconded to amend line 14 by striking the words "district approved." The motion lost.

A motion was made and seconded to amend line 14 by replacing the words "district approved" with the words "General Council approved." The motion lost.

The motion to adopt VFT Resolution 1 (amended) was adopted. VFT Resolution 1 as adopted follows:

Currently, a General Council affiliated assembly must adopt bylaws recommended by a district. Recognizing the need for more flexibility in governance structure, this resolution provides that a General Council affiliated church would have flexibility in choosing different governance models. This would not affect district affiliated churches.

RESOLVED. That General Council Constitution Article XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES, Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies, paragraph a. Requirements for affiliation, subparagraph (4), page 97, which presently reads:

(4) Adopt a constitution or bylaws compatible with those recommended by the district council;

Be amended to read:

(4) Adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution or bylaws compatible with models recommended by the district council, or district approved governance models that provide

for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing board cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church;

VFT Resolution 2 (Amended)
Reinforcing the Sovereign Rights
of General Council Affiliated Churches

Larry Griswold presented VFT Resolution 2 as mailed to delegates and indicated that the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery are sponsoring an amended version of this resolution and he then read VFT Resolution 2 (amended). A motion prevailed to adopt VFT Resolution 2 (amended) as follows:

To reinforce the constitutional provision of the right of self-governance, this resolution provides that a General Council affiliated church may adopt different governance models.

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution Article XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES, Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies, paragraph c. Right of self-government (sovereign rights), pages 97-98, which presently reads:

c. Right of self-government (sovereign rights). Each General Council affiliated assembly has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its constitution or bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit. The fact it is affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no way destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty.

Be amended to read:

c. Right of self-government (sovereign rights). Each General Council affiliated assembly has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its constitution or bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit. The fact it is affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no way destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty. The governance model adopted by the local assembly shall conform to the guidelines of Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (4).

VFT Resolution 3 (Amended)

Restoring Cooperating Assembly Status

Larry Griswold presented VFT Resolution 3 as mailed to delegates and indicated that the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery are sponsoring an amended version of this resolution and he then read VFT Resolution 3 (amended). A motion prevailed to adopt VFT Resolution 3 (amended) as follows:

Historically, The General Council of the Assemblies of God recognized a "cooperating assembly" status to allow interested congregations to participate in the ministries of the Fellowship without officially affiliating. Many strong churches have entered the Fellowship in previous years through this opportunity, while some churches still exist in this category with no official status.

This resolution restores the cooperating assembly status to allow a congregation to cooperate on a transitional basis with either the district council or the General Council if they subscribe to the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution Article XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES, Section 3, page 98, be renumbered as Section 4, and that a new Section 3 be added to read as follows:

Section 3. Cooperating Assemblies

Provision may be made by district councils and the General Council Executive Presbytery for the status of a cooperating assembly, which would allow churches that subscribe to Article V. Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council Constitution to enter into a cooperative status with a district and the General Council on a temporary basis (4-year term, renewable by the request of the local church congregation at the discretion of the district council in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery) before officially affiliating with the district council and the General Council.

VFT Resolution 4 (Substitute)

Church Planting Emphasis

Larry Griswold presented and read the substitute VFT Resolution 4 which was a replacement for the resolution that was mailed out earlier. A motion was made and seconded to adopt substitute VFT Resolution 4.

A motion prevailed to amend line 27 by striking the words "to appeal the decision of a sectional committee" and changing the sentence so that it will read: If it is determined that a compelling reason exists, a minister or local church desiring to plant the church shall have the right to appeal to their district presbytery or authorities within a district...

A motion was made and seconded to amend line 22 by adding a sentence following the words "district councils." Said sentence to read: Pastors of these new assemblies shall hold transferable credentials with The General Council of the Assemblies of God and be in good standing. The motion was lost.

The motion to adopt substitute VFT Resolution 4 as amended carried. VFT Resolution 4 as amended and adopted follows:

The Constitutional Declaration of The General Council of the Assemblies of God states that a 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 people 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.

Biblically, the local church is central to the multiplication and reproduction of followers of Christ. The local church must be reaffirmed as central to any Assemblies of God church-planting effort. The establishment of new churches is one of the most effective ways to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) and to accomplish our constitutional declaration.

There is no present policy regarding the encouragement of church planting within the General Council Bylaws. This resolution would create a new bylaw to provide direction to districts and entities within a district to facilitate, encourage, and remove obstacles to the planting of new churches.

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VI. Assemblies, Sections 6 and 7, page 116, be renumbered as Sections 7 and 8 respectively; and that a new Section 6 be added as follows:

Section 6. New Assemblies

The planting of new churches shall be a priority goal for The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Resources at all levels shall be aligned to accomplish this purpose. Initiative for establishing new churches and the oversight of those churches may emanate from local assemblies, sections, and district councils. District presbyteries, sectional committees, or the authorities within a district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches shall not prohibit the planting of new churches unless a compelling reason exists. If it is determined that a compelling reason exists, a minister or local church desiring to plant the church shall have the right to appeal to their district presbytery or authorities within a district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches, and the decision of the district may be appealed to the General Council Executive Presbytery, whose decision shall be final.

Total Giving Awards

Total Giving awards for giving during the past biennium were presented by James K. Bridges, general treasurer, as follows:

Total Dollar Giving (Churches)

- 5th place—Mount Hope Church and International Outreach Ministries, Lansing, Michigan, David R. Williams, pastor
4th place—First Assembly of God, Des Moines, Iowa, John Palmer, pastor
3rd place—Calvary Church, Naperville, Illinois, Randal L. Ross, pastor
2nd place—First Assembly of God, Phoenix, Arizona, Tommy Barnett, pastor
1st place—Lakeside Assembly of God, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Otis Garrison, III, pastor

Total Dollar Giving (Districts)

- 3rd place—Southern Missouri, L. Jack Moore, superintendent
2nd place—Oklahoma, H. Franklin Cargill, superintendent
1st place—Northern California-Nevada, Glen D. Cole, superintendent

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	1,360
Needed to elect	907
Ted R. Boatsman	142
Warren D. Bullock	687
Doyle A. Fulkles	30
Paul D. Goodman	101
Edward W. Kreiner	17
Vernon J. Marks	34
Robert D. Ross	66
Lewis R. Shelton	66
Roy W. Welch, III	25
Leslie E. Welk	62
Jesse C. Ybarra	70
Daniel M. York	55
Illegal ballots	5

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	1,812
Needed to elect	1,208
Ted R. Boatsman	89
Warren D. Bullock	1,429
Doyle A. Fulkles	6
Paul D. Goodman	66
Edward W. Kreiner	8
Vernon J. Marks	16
Robert D. Ross	52
Lewis R. Shelton	31
Roy W. Welch, III	19
Leslie E. Welk	21
Jesse C. Ybarra	42
Daniel M. York	19
Illegal ballots	14

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

Election of Executive Presbyter—Southwest Area

Richard Hopping, member of the Tellers Committee, gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the Southwest Area executive presbyter:

Total votes cast	1,469
Needed to elect	980
Glen D. Cole	333
Rick J. Cole	60
G. Robert Cook, Jr.	64
Richard Dresselhaus	620
Stephen L. Harris	62
George K. Nagato	29
Dary R. Northrop	68
T. Ray Rachels	165
G. Dean Reid	18
David L. Stevens	31
Illegal ballots	19

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	1,900
Needed to elect	1,267
Glen D. Cole	423
Rick J. Cole	26
G. Robert Cook, Jr.	20
Richard Dresselhaus	1,237
Stephen L. Harris	20
George K. Nagato	12
Dary R. Northrop	29
T. Ray Rachels	101
G. Dean Reid	8
David L. Stevens	13
Illegal ballots	11

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:

Total votes cast	1,451
Needed to elect	968
Glen D. Cole	165
Rick J. Cole	14
G. Robert Cook, Jr.	12
Richard Dresselhaus	1,184
Stephen L. Harris	7
George K. Nagato	3
Dary R. Northrop	15
T. Ray Rachels	30

G. Dean Reid	0
David L. Stevens	14
Illegal ballots	7

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	1,413
Needed to elect	943
Arden K. Adamson	67
David W. Argue	570
Richard G. Arrowood	19
Gary A. Denbow	48
Leon D. Freitag	23
Ronald M. Garner	16
Darrell D. Losing	6
Robert L. Nazareus	37
John M. Palmer	405
Clarence St. John	107
Stephen R. Schaible	11
Daniel B. Spina	25
Edmund L. Tedeschi	49
Ronald J. Traub	25
Illegal ballots	5

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	1,825
Needed to elect	1,218
Arden K. Adamson	41
David W. Argue	862
Richard G. Arrowood	13
Gary A. Denbow	26
Leon D. Freitag	11
Ronald M. Garner	7
Darrell D. Losing	5
Robert L. Nazareus	21
John M. Palmer	698
Clarence St. John	76
Stephen R. Schaible	2
Daniel B. Spina	19
Edmund L. Tedeschi	16
Ronald J. Traub	16
Illegal ballots	12

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	1,455
Needed to elect	971
Arden K. Adamson	6
David W. Argue	818
Richard G. Arrowood	6
Gary A. Denbow	4
Leon D. Freitag	4
Ronald M. Garner	8
Darrell D. Losing	2
Robert L. Nazareus	7
John M. Palmer	560
Clarence St. John	22
Stephen R. Schaible	1
Daniel B. Spina	3
Edmund L. Tedeschi	4
Ronald J. Traub	0
Illegal ballots	10

Since there was no election, a fourth elective ballot was cast eliminating all but the top three candidates.

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

Total votes cast	1,301
Needed to elect	868
David W. Argue	736
John M. Palmer	540
Clarence W. St. John	21
Illegal ballots	4

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

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

Total votes cast	1,016
Needed to elect	678
David W. Argue	662
John M. Palmer	339
Clarence W. St. John	11
Illegal ballots	4

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

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

Total votes cast	878
Needed to elect	586
David W. Argue	744
John M. Palmer	125
Clarence W. St. John	1
Illegal ballots	8

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	1,398
Needed to elect	933
H. Franklin Cargill	109
Derwood W. Dubose	76
J. Don George	780
R. Kenneth George	75
Joseph P. Granberry	29
Jonathan M. Hollis	29
Thomas D. Lakey	45
Marcus W. McClain	33
Jim L. McNabb	45
Tom R. Shepherd	24
Robert L. Slaton	27
Terry L. Yancey	114
Illegal ballots	12

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 cast	1,755
Needed to elect	1,171
H. Franklin Cargill	81
Derwood W. Dubose	35
J. Don George	1,385
R. Kenneth George	69
Joseph P. Granberry	18
Jonathan M. Hollis	15
Thomas D. Lakey	14
Marcus W. McClain	9
Jim L. McNabb	19
Tom R. Shepherd	12
Robert L. Slaton	5
Terry L. Yancey	88
Illegal ballots	5

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

Election of Executive Presbyter—Great Lakes Area

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

Total votes cast	1,432
Needed to elect	955
James D. Biram	38
Robert D. Crabtree	286
Charles E. Crank	458
Ron J. Crum	17
Marvin R. Dennis	21
Joseph S. Girdler	6
Larry H. Griswold	135
William F. Leach	88
J. Donald McManness	75
Paul R. Martin	178
Jerry G. McCamey	84
David R. Williams	41
Illegal ballots	5

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	1,775
Needed to elect	1,184
James D. Biram	11
Robert D. Crabtree	304
Charles E. Crank	1,132
Ron J. Crum	11
Marvin R. Dennis	10
Joseph S. Girdler	6
Larry H. Griswold	57
William F. Leach	24
J. Donald McManness	26
Paul R. Martin	116
Jerry G. McCamey	46
David R. Williams	18
Illegal ballots	14

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

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

Total votes cast	1,454
Needed to elect	970
James D. Biram	9
Robert D. Crabtree	196
Charles E. Crank	1,102
Ron J. Crum	6
Marvin R. Dennis	4
Joseph S. Girdler	3
Larry H. Griswold	21
William F. Leach	14
J. Donald McManness	15

Paul R. Martin	46
Jerry G. McCamey	25
David R. Williams	8
Illegal ballots	5

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

Election of Executive Presbyter—Gulf Area

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

Total votes cast	1,414
Needed to elect	944
J. Randal Carter	54
Walter L. Davis	47
Douglas E. Fulenwider	80
L. Alton Garrison	895
L. Jack Moore	103
Larry Moore	56
Bill R. Newby	64
P. T. Palmer	36
Walter L. Rose	31
Robert E. Turner	46
Illegal ballots	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 executive presbyter from the Gulf Area:

Total votes cast	1,731
Needed to elect	1,155
J. Randal Carter	17
Walter L. Davis	15
Douglas E. Fulenwider	33
L. Alton Garrison	1,546
L. Jack Moore	44
Larry Moore	0
Bill R. Newby	27
P. T. Palmer	18
Walter L. Rose	2
Robert E. Turner	21
Illegal ballots	8

Having noted that L. Alton Garrison had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected 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	1,390
Needed to elect	927
Daniel R. Abbatiello	41
Saied Adour	51
Carl J. Colletti	70
D. Wendel Cover	72
Russell W. Eggert	38
Paul E. Grabill	152
William N. Kirk	28
Richard D. Lafferty	51
Dennis W. Marquardt	79
H. Robert Rhoden	660
Otis D. Stanley	59
Stephen R. Tourville	82
Illegal ballots	7

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	1,513
Needed to elect	1,009
Daniel R. Abbatiello	8
Saied Adour	24
Carl J. Colletti	28
D. Wendel Cover	27
Russell W. Eggert	6
Paul E. Grabill	61
William N. Kirk	14
Richard D. Lafferty	16
Dennis W. Marquardt	9
H. Robert Rhoden	1,279
Otis D. Stanley	21
Stephen R. Tourville	18
Illegal ballots	2

Having noted that H. Robert Rhoden had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected 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	1,440
Needed to elect	960
C. Dan Betzer	927
Steven R. Brown	16
Billy J. Glover	31
Raymond J. Hoggard, Jr.	11
Charles Kelly	32
Thomas G. Lawrence	10

John A. Loper, Jr.	54
Glyn Lowery, Jr.	43
Kenneth W. Owen, Sr.	22
Robert S. Thompson	20
Terrell R. Raburn	210
Randy L. Valimont	60
Illegal ballots	4

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

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

Total votes cast	1,535
Needed to elect	1,024
C. Dan Betzer	1,300
Steven R. Brown	11
Billy J. Glover	14
Raymond J. Hoggard, Jr.	11
Charles Kelly	10
Thomas G. Lawrence	5
John A. Loper, Jr.	23
Glyn Lowery, Jr.	15
Kenneth W. Owen, Sr.	4
Robert S. Thompson	2
Terrell R. Raburn	112
Randy L. Valimont	27
Illegal ballots	1

Having noted that C. Dan Betzer received more than the two-thirds vote required, 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	1,371
Needed to elect	914
Teofilo J. Aguillon	41
Lee Baca	36
Angel M. Colon	22
Daniel De Leon	165
Nicanor Gonzalez	24
Clemente Maldonado, Jr.	21
Ignacio Marrero	18
Jesse Miranda	858
Samuel P. Molina	74
Rafael Reyes	71
Juan H. Suarez	21
Richard K. Tanon	15
Illegal ballots	5

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	1,485
Needed to elect	990
Teofilo J. Aguillon	17
Lee Baca	12
Angel M. Colon	9
Daniel De Leon	62
Nicanor Gonzalez	9
Clemente Maldonado, Jr.	9
Ignacio Marrero	9
Jesse Miranda	1,295
Samuel P. Molina	25
Rafael Reyes	26
Juan H. Suarez	5
Richard K. Tanon	1
Illegal ballots	6

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	1,317
Needed to elect	878
Ouriel De Jesus	111
Nam Soo Kim	950
David D. Rueb	105
Paulo R. Rosa	150
Illegal ballots	1

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 Area:

Total votes cast	1,271
Needed to elect	848
Jim R. Butler	76
Emory K. Dively	36
Dennis H. Geronimo	102
Taniela Kaufusi	6
Gia T. Lee	44
Stephen Lim	89
John E. Maracle	181
Nicky Pop	53
Sydney H. Ramphal	68

Alex A. Shevchenko	45
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	459
Wade Southerland	65
Thomas Valtierra, Jr.	24
Mataiasi Waqavesi	19
Illegal ballots	4

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

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

Total votes cast	1,091
Needed to elect	727
Jim R. Butler	8
Emory K. Dively	4
Dennis H. Geronimo	39
Taniela Kaufusi	5
Gia T. Lee	19
Stephen Lim	22
John E. Maracle	54
Nicky Pop	12
Sydney H. Ramphal	17
Alex A. Shevchenko	7
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	876
Wade Southerland	16
Thomas Valtierra, Jr.	2
Mataiasi Waqavesi	3
Illegal ballots	7

Having noted that Zollie L. Smith, Jr. 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.

VFT Resolution 5 Providing Licensed Minister the Right to Vote at General Council

Larry Griswold, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read VFT Resolution 5. A motion was made and seconded to adopt VFT Resolution 5.

A motion was made and seconded to amend by the addition of the words, "and certified" on line 15. The motion lost.

A motion was made and seconded to postpone indefinitely. The motion lost.

The motion to adopt VFT Resolution 5 was carried. VFT Resolution 5 as adopted follows:

In order to encourage loyalty and participation by the diverse group of ministers credentialed as licensed, this resolution would provide a voice and vote at General Council business sessions.

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution Article VII. MEMBERSHIP, Section 1. The General Council of the Assemblies of God, page 94, which presently reads:

Section 1. The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The membership of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall consist of all ordained ministers holding a current fellowship certificate and churches holding a Certificate of Affiliation issued by The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Be amended to read:

Section 1. The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The membership of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall consist of all ordained and licensed ministers holding a current fellowship certificate and churches holding a Certificate of Affiliation issued by The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

VFT Resolution 6
Reciprocity With Other Assemblies of God
International Fellowships for Credentialing
(Substitute)

Larry Griswold presented and read the substitute VFT Resolution 6 which was a replacement for the resolution that was mailed out earlier. A motion was made and seconded to adopt substitute VFT Resolution 6.

A motion prevailed to amend line 13 by adding the words, "or equivalent letter of recommendation."

The motion to adopt substitute VFT Resolution 6 as amended carried. VFT Resolution 6 as amended and adopted follows:

The globalization of America has created a pressing need for language/ethnic ministers coming from our Assemblies of God fellowships overseas to be given an opportunity to minister in the United States as a credential holder. This provision would give appropriate deference to their ministry experience and existing credential while assuring an acceptable level of equivalency.

Transfer of Credentials

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article VII, Section 9, be amended by adding the following

b. Transfers From Assemblies of God World Fellowship.

A minister holding ordination (or equivalent) with a member group of the Assemblies of God World Fellowship, may transfer his or her ordination to The General Council of the Assemblies of God if the following criteria are met:

- (1) A letter of recommendation from the executive committee of the national church or equivalent letter of recommendation.
- (2) Acceptable equivalency between our governing bodies.
- (3) A course on history and polity of U.S. church.
- (4) Application completed in the same form as U.S. applicants in the language of the applicant, if possible, at the discretion of the general secretary.

Recess

The Friday morning meeting recessed at 11:50 a.m. Michael Messner, Springfield, Missouri, closed in prayer.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 1

C. Dan Betzer opened the afternoon session. David Thomas, minister of music, Fort Myers, Florida, led in worship. Special music was presented by Sound of Praise, a group formed in 1985 in New York City.

Business Session

Chairman Trask called the business session to order at 2:30 p.m.

Roster Committee Report

David Wigington, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of noon on Friday, August 1, 2003:

Ordained	3,278	
Delegates	<u>597</u>	
Voting constituency		3,875
Licensed/Certified Ministers	631	
Kids Council	650	
Youth Convention	12,710	
Other Participants	<u>3,703</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		17,694
Total		21,569

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Spiritual Life Report

The Spiritual Life Report was presented as a video followed by a presentation by each member of the committee. Prayer and worship followed the presentation. The report as presented follows:

Peace and safety—these two concepts have defined the United States for decades. For more than a generation, our nation has enjoyed a strong economy and seemingly impregnable borders. But sudden destruction has shattered the stillness. Rising from the smoke of hatred and terrorism, a new day has dawned—a day of great determination, but also a day of uneasiness, where peace seems fragile and security less certain, a day where hope has been weakened by reality.

Much has changed since the summer of 2001 when we gathered in Kansas City. Within a month of launching this biennium, we saw our nation's borders penetrated for the first time in half a century. Endless news reports emphasized the continued threat and the imminent response. Subsequent months saw the rise of a war on terror that reached into the heart of civilization's cradle. Precision-guided strength became the answer for many, air supremacy a salve for the shaken. Some sought answers in allegiance and duty; some surrendered to despair. But for the first time in a generation, Americans were forced to turn somewhere—and some turned to God. Churches welcomed security-seekers in record

numbers, people searching for foundations that would not crumble with the rise and fall of terror alerts.

Did they find answers? As insecurity overwhelmed the unsuspecting, did they find what they desperately sought within our churches? It was for the despairing that Jesus came. It was for the oppressed that He accepted mockery and rejection. It was for hope and peace that He came and proclaimed the timeless security of an everlasting gospel. We have marveled at His outpouring among the dry, thirsty, and desperate around the world. As America makes a rare plea for a sip of eternal hope, were we—are we—ready to satisfy that thirst?

It is a new day in America. Will we seize our day? Will we bring hope to this generation or will we be content to let our voices echo within the confines of our own walls? As a Movement, God has called us for such a time as this.

DILEMMA

Are we actually reaching the lost?

Amid this enormous moment of opportunity our growth line is flat. Our pulpits are full but the altars of our people's hearts are empty. Hundreds of thousands are reached across the world and our pursuit of their souls reveals our confidence in the message of Christ, but our own communities frequently remain unaffected by our priorities. Though shining exceptions exist, as a Fellowship we are not reaching the lost.

God has equipped us by the power of the Holy Spirit, but we often expend our energy in concern over matters of style and the comforts of our preferences. If we choose the verbiage of our own subculture rather than learning to speak the language of those we need to reach, we will keep the uninitiated beyond the wall of understanding.

Opportunity stands pleading before us, leaving us with the question: Will we take the church to the lost or keep waiting for the lost to come to us?

DESPERATION

Are we desperate to make a difference?

Reaching the lost is the clearest expression of the heart of our God. He has revealed His priority throughout human history, giving its greatest expression in the mission of Christ—to seek and to save what is lost. Can we concern ourselves with other matters while the One who has called us longs for our participation in His agenda?

Mankind is lost; this becomes clearer each day. Can the heart of a Savior, forgiving as He died, beat within us once again? This is our first purpose. It must again become our first passion. For what other purpose shall we give ourselves? Thousands longing for hope drink sand, while we swim in living water.

We always find a way to obtain what we truly treasure. What do we treasure more than the lost?

DYNAMIC

Are we empowered to be His witnesses?

Our very existence celebrates the power of God's purpose. When Christ's first followers stood overwhelmed by the impossibility of their commission, it was the promise of His power that sounded in their souls. Our hunger and pursuit of that power has founded, established, and propelled us for nearly a century.

But it is the purpose of that power that must command our attention. We must grasp that our greatest need for the Holy Spirit is not to preserve our identity, but to empower us to fulfill the impossible. We need an outpouring of God's Spirit, not so that we can be what we have been, but that we might become what we absolutely need to be.

It is only through the creativity and energy of His Spirit that we have any hope of answering the cry of our Lord's heart. We must be less consumed with our place in the ecclesiastical landscape and more concerned with our power in the marketplace. Will we see Pentecost as an end in itself or as a means to an end—God's end of seeking and saving the lost?

DEPENDENCE

Do we truly believe that apart from Him we can do nothing?

The harvest is God's and we are dependent on Him for all things. Without God's Spirit, we are left alone with only human strategies of organizational growth. Our forefathers feared the unknown less than we do. They risked all when the outcome was far from certain. We have sought a more guaranteed success. In our pursuit of careful stewardship, could it be that we have moved from a centered dependence on the miraculous God we represent?

"All the world" is a scope beyond human capacity. We are no more capable of it than the original fishermen or the pioneers of our Fellowship. They understood their need of Him and it fueled their desperation for Him. Can we continue to depend upon our man-sized capacities when our commission is God-sized?

DIVERSITY

Are we willing to proclaim God's eternal message in a new day?

The times have changed. Those we have been called to seek have moved from where we left them. We have held to the purity of our message, but seem reluctant to proclaim it in tangible ways. In Jesus' day, the sick were being healed and the lost were being found, but the Pharisees felt threatened by Jesus' unusual ministry and distracted by His less than traditional methods. At times, we too—like the Pharisees—have become suspicious and critical of relevance.

But the creative Holy Spirit longs to empower us for effective ministry in this new day. In a culture where the only constant is change, our God equips us with diverse gifts and methodologies to keep pace with our quest.

Let us celebrate the diversity among us! Can we grant each other permission to share the same substance but be creatively diverse in the forms and methods of ministry?

DISCOVERY

Will we humble ourselves and assume the attitude of a learner?

New and renewed churches are conquering forgotten battlefields. Campuses are afire with the message of grace. Stories of breakthrough punctuate our landscape and mark the maps of other partners in the harvest, offering us lessons to discover. Victories are emerging, the lost are being found, and some are seeing the fulfillment of our highest agenda. Can we suspend our skepticism and take on the attitude of a learner?

Studying principles of others' victories infuses worthy contributions into our efforts. Territorial attitudes and competitive relationships block the path to transformational discovery. Heaven celebrates salvation. Should we not also rejoice with those who work His harvest field at our side? Will we find growth in tearing down another's labor or can we learn to reap in new ways by observing the skills our Master has given them?

DESTINATION

What future are our choices forging?

Each day as we choose our priorities we determine our destination. Ours is a remarkable past, but we own no right to a preferred future. Only as our spirits are ignited by the passion of God can we anticipate His remarkable hand.

Our future rests upon our commitment to reach the lost. Our future is in sharing God's hunger for the salvation of mankind. Our call is to make disciples of all nations, including our own. If we let God's agenda drive us, we will go where He goes. He will reveal His power in us and exercise His power through us. Will we truly live for what Jesus died for?

VFT Resolution 7

Establishing a Local Church Credential (Substitute)

Larry Griswold read VFT Resolution 7 (Substitute) and moved its adoption.

A motion was made to amend by deleting the words on lines 10 and 11, page 16, following the word "church." The motion lost due to the lack of a second.

A motion was made and seconded to strike the words on lines 6, 7, and 8, page 16, "and shall be limited to 2 years (renewable by the local church for an additional 2-year term)."

An amendment to the amendment was made and seconded to add the words, "renewed annually," to the proposed amendment so that the sentence will read: The local church credential shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church) and shall be renewed annually. The amendment to the amendment lost.

The motion to amend lost.

A motion was made and seconded to amend by substituting the word "lay minister" for the term "local church credential." The motion lost.

The motion to adopt substitute VFT Resolution 7 carried. VFT Resolution 7 as adopted follows:

There is a growing concern that local churches are disconnected from the credentialing process. This resolution would create, for the first time, a local church credential so that the mentoring and ministry development process could begin for an applicant at his/her local church. The credential would be deemed temporary for 2 years (renewable up to 4 years total) while the applicant is completing course work and a mentoring process. The credential is non-transferable. Only churches that are General Council affiliated with a prescribed program under guidelines established by a district can offer a local church credential.

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 1. Ministry Described, pages 116-117, which presently reads:

Section 1. Ministry Described

Christ's gifts to the Church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders, and helpers (Romans 12:7,8). We understand God's call to these ministry gifts is totally within His sovereign discretion without regard to gender, race, disability, or national origin.

In terms of maturity, 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.

Be amended to read:

Section 1. Ministry Described

Christ's gifts to the Church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders, and helpers (Romans 12:7,8). We understand God's call to these ministry gifts is totally within His sovereign discretion without regard to gender, race, disability, or national origin.

~~In terms of maturity,~~ Three classifications of ministry are recognized and transferable among all Assemblies of God districts: the ordained minister, the licensed minister (including specialized licenses), and the certified minister.

All ordained, licensed, and certified ministers holding current ministerial credentials are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church, and those holding a local church credential as provided below.

A fourth classification of ministry, a local church credential, may be provided by a local General Council

affiliated church under basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the district council. The local church credential shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church) and shall be limited to 2 years (renewable by the local church for an additional 2-year term). A person holding a local church credential can perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church if authorized in writing by the senior pastor of the local church issuing the credential.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 3. Specific Qualifications, page 119, be amended by that addition of a new paragraph b to read as follows, and the remaining paragraphs to be relettered accordingly:

b. Local church credential. A local church credential shall be administered by the local church pursuant to basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the district council. It shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church).

Who's Who Among Christian School Educators

Deborah Gill, national director of the Division of Christian Education, and R. Jay Nelson, Christian schools representative for the Division of Christian Education, assisted by Ike Stokes, office manager, 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. The following persons were named this year to receive the Who's Who Among Assemblies of God Educators Award. They are as follows:

Sharleen Andersen, Waxahachie, Texas
Ruth Cuarado-Wilkins, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Mary Dukes, Cincinnati, Ohio
Carol Fulkerson, Cincinnati, Ohio
Joan Grunenwald, Youngstown, Ohio
Mary Ann Haines, Houston, Pennsylvania
Michelle Lee, Coweta, Oklahoma
Maurice Rider, Osceola, Arkansas
Brenda Smith, Spanish Fort, Alabama
John Wells, Edenton, North Carolina

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:

Augie Lopez

God gives each of us different gifts, inspirations, and strengths—and through these He helps us be victorious over the challenges we face and to serve as shining examples for others. For a life that brings glory and honor to God, Augie Lopez of

Orange County, California, has been selected to receive the General Superintendent's Medal of Honor for 2003—the highest honor that can be presented to outstanding laypersons of the Assemblies of God.

Augustin V. Lopez, of Orange County, California, was born to Assemblies of God pastor Augustin T. Lopez and his wife Mary, pioneers of several Assemblies of God churches. While attending the Latin American District Council in San Antonio Texas, Augie met his wife Dina. They were married in 1955. Ministry with the Assemblies of God seems to be a family tradition. Augie and Dina's son, Rusty, is married to Rhonda Ellingwood, daughter of Assemblies of God missionaries to Africa. Their daughter, Cynthia, and her husband, Jeff Hudlin, are Assemblies of God HealthCare missionaries.

Augie has owned and operated a real estate brokerage firm since 1971. God has gifted him in the area of real estate and he has used this gifting to help numerous churches. He was the broker involved in putting together the deal for the former Queen of Angels hospital in Los Angeles, which is now home to the Los Angeles Dream Center. As a member of the Orange County Assessment Appeals Board, Augie has been an advocate for providing relief to many, including churches that have fallen on hard times. He has served as a consultant to Southern Pacific Latin American District; graciously helping churches such as Templo Calvario, which went from 50 members to 5,000 members today. "Augie has always come to the defense of these smaller churches. Many times giving of his time, sometimes weeks on end, without any remuneration, in order to help struggling churches and even some of the larger churches with their financial loans as well as real-estate transactions."

In addition to his wonderful work with churches in financial trouble, he also serves on several ministry boards including Vanguard University, Latin American Bible Institute, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, and the Commission on Christian Higher Education, to name a few. Perhaps one of the dearest to his heart is Friendship Ministries, a special "church" sponsored by Orange County Worship Center uniquely designed to minister to the needs of the developmentally disabled. "My dad has such a servant heart. He is always giving of himself to others and he gives his time, his energy, his resources, whether it be financial, or business resources. He's always giving to churches and to ministries and pastors and individuals and missionaries and districts. He's always there to help others."

David Green

David Green has been awarded many honors in the business world. His is a rags-to-riches story like few others. But today, we recognize David Green, president and founder of Hobby Lobby of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for more than his business accomplishments. David has succeeded greatly because he has never ceased in maintaining the cause of Christ as the reason for his achievements. Although known as a quiet man, David's life and ministry shout from the rooftops that Jesus is Lord.

One of six children, David grew up in the humble surroundings of a pastor's home. He worked in a five & dime store, where he met his high school sweetheart Barbara, whom he later married. They have three children, Mart, Steven, and Darsee, all of whom still work in the family business.

In 1970, the Greens borrowed \$600 to start a small business out of their garage, manufacturing miniature picture frames. Two years later, they opened their first store—a mere 300 square feet. Today, Hobby Lobby has over 300 retail locations across 27 states and employs more than 12,500 people. Last year, sales totaled \$1.2 billion. With affiliate companies such as Mardel, Hemispheres, Crafts, Etc!., and Basket Market; David's dream continues to grow...for God's glory.

Members of Lakeside Assembly of God, David and Barbara have supported the spread of the gospel by giving funds to Book of Life International and Light for the Lost to distribute millions of Bibles and copies of other gospel literature. David is one of the Book of Hope's biggest supporters. Because of his faithful support, untold souls have been reached. Each year during the Easter and Christmas seasons, Hobby Lobby sponsors full-page newspaper advertisements in each city where a store is located. These ads portray the love of Christ and the message of salvation.

Mart Green accepted the award for his father.

VFT Resolution 9 Technical Changes to Facilitate A Local Church Credential (Substitute)

Larry Griswold read substitute VFT Resolution 9. It was moved and seconded that VFT Resolution 9 be adopted.

A motion prevailed to amend by the addition of the words, "the General Presbytery" on line 15, page 17, so the sentence would read: All local church credential holders shall be amenable to their local church under guidelines established by the General Presbytery and the district council in matters of doctrine and discipline.

The motion to adopt substitute VFT Resolution 9 as amended carried. VFT Resolution 9 as amended and adopted follows:

In order to provide for the establishment of a local church credential two technical changes are necessary to bring all the constitution and bylaws provisions into conformity.

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 8. Ministerial Relations, subparagraph a. Amenability, page 122, which reads:

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.)

Be amended to read:

Section 8. Ministerial Relations

a. Amenability. All ministers holding credentials certified, licensed, and ordained ministers 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.) All local church credential holders shall be

amenable to their local church under guidelines established by the General Presbytery and district council in matters of doctrine and discipline.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article X. DISCIPLINE, Section 2. The Relationship Between the District and General Council Credentials Committees, page 132, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 certified, licensed, and ordained 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. All references to the discipline of ministers within this article of the bylaws relate solely to certified, licensed, and ordained ministers.

VFT Resolution 10

Mandatory Screening for All Credential Holders

Larry Griswold read VFT Resolution 10. A motion prevailed to adopt VFT Resolution 10 as follows:

Increased litigation risks and liability insurance mandates now require that all ministers receiving credentials be screened.

RESOLVED, That a fee-based clearinghouse be established by the Executive Presbytery where all ministers receiving credentials would have mandatory screening through a designated screening agency.

VFT Resolution 11

Flexibility for District Leadership Models

Larry Griswold read VFT Resolution 11. A motion prevailed to adopt VFT Resolution 11 as follows:

Many districts in our Fellowship have been exploring new leadership models. This resolution clearly states that districts have the discretion to allow any officer to serve other than full time.

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 2. Officers, page 113, which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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. A district superintendent or any other elected officer may serve other than full time at the discretion of the district council.

VFT Resolution 12

Encouraging New District Governance Models Through Presbyters (Substitute)

Larry Griswold read substitute VFT Resolution 12. He indicated that this is a substitute for the one originally mailed out. A motion prevailed to adopt VFT Resolution 12 as follows:

Currently, bylaws do not provide a definition of a presbyter. Existing models almost always provide for presbyters to be elected on a geographic basis. With the growing interest to explore alternate models of district governance structures (e.g., the Indiana District Council), this resolution encourages districts to consider organizing themselves in such a way that the presbyters can focus on ministering to ministers; providing ministers encouragement, prayer, and coaching in leadership development; and modeling spiritual strategic maturity and leadership to the pastors, ministers, and churches assigned to the responsible presbyter. District bylaws could allow the presbyter selection to be by appointment or election or both and provide for non-geographic sections.

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, page 113, be amended by the addition of a new Section 4, and that the current sections be renumbered Section 5 and Section 6, to read as follows:

Section 4. Presbyters

Districts are encouraged to organize in such a way that the presbyter may focus on ministering to ministers, providing encouragement, prayer, leadership development, by modeling spiritual maturity and leadership to the pastors, ministers, and churches assigned to the responsible presbyter.

VFT Resolution 13

District Presbytery Representatives From Ethnic/Language Fellowships (Substitute)

Larry Griswold read substitute VFT Resolution 13. He explained that this is a substitute resolution to replace the one that was mailed out. A motion prevailed to adopt VFT Resolution 13 as follows:

Our bylaws refer to ethnic fellowships, but not language fellowships. This has been clarified by replacing "ethnic" with "ethnic/language." This resolution requires a district to appoint a presbyter to represent each ethnic/language group from a recognized fellowship within their district when that ethnic or language group reaches an adequate number of churches. The number of ethnic/language churches required to appoint a presbyter has not been stated, since current district models vary substantially.

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 6. Ethnic Fellowships, page 114, which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

Section 6. Ethnic and Language Fellowships

An Ethnic or Language groups 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. When a ethnic or language group recognized by the Executive Presbytery functions as a fellowship and represents a specific number of churches determined by and within a district, a presbyter shall be appointed or elected from the ethnic or language fellowship to represent the ethnic or language fellowship within a district.

**VFT Resolution 14
Strengthening the Cooperative
Relationship Between Ethnic/Language
and Geographical Districts**

Larry Griswold read VFT Resolution 14 and moved its adoption.

A motion was made and seconded to amend line 23, page 25, by the addition of the words, "be encouraged to" between the words "shall consult." The motion lost.

The motion to adopt VFT Resolution 14 carried. Resolution 14 as adopted follows:

This bylaws amendment would strongly recommend that ethnic/language districts and geographical districts appoint representatives to serve with their respective presbyteries to provide and encourage cooperative strategies and relationships.

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 4. Language Districts, page 113, which reads:

Section 4. Language Districts

- a. **Recognition qualifications.** In order to become a district of the Assemblies of God, a language group must have a minimum number of 40 churches. Any language group consisting of less than 40 Assemblies of God churches may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery to form a fellowship of churches. The fellowship shall exist for the purpose of exchanging information, facilitating evangelism, and establishing churches. Until such time as it is qualified to form a district, it shall be part of the geographic or language district. Leadership for fellowship groups shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery.
- b. **Equality with geographical districts.** A language district shall have the same privileges and responsibilities which are accorded district councils within the framework of the Constitution and Bylaws.
- c. **Cooperative relationship.** Both the language district and the geographical district shall seek to promote a spirit of fellowship and cooperation. The language district officers and the geographical district officers should inform or consult with each other concerning the opening of new language works or institutions of any kind, in a given area. The language churches, whether members of a geographical or language district, are encouraged to unite where possible, in fellowship activities.
- d. **Sponsorship and affiliation of a language group.** Should an English-speaking church desire to initiate sponsorship of a language group, it shall consult with its district officials for counsel and guidance. The geographical district should inform or consult with language district officers concerning the beginning of a language group within churches belonging to the geographical district. The sponsoring church may provide facilities and support to such a work through its district home missions department. Such an effort may be initiated with the objective in mind that it will develop into an Assemblies of God church. When such a church reaches as many as 20 adult members, it may then seek affiliation with a district of its choice following prescribed guidelines as outlined in these Bylaws.
- e. **Church transfer procedure.** When a church desires to transfer from a language district to the district in which it is located, a church business meeting shall be called and the minutes of said meeting shall reflect the action

authorized by the congregation. This action shall be submitted to the officers of the language district and the geographical district. If either district has objections, the church shall have the right of appeal to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in accord with the provisions of the Constitution (Article XI).

Be renumbered and amended to read:

Section 6. Ethnic/language Districts

- a. **Recognition qualifications.** In order to become a district of the Assemblies of God, an ethnic/language group must have a minimum number of 40 churches. Any ethnic/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 ethnic/language district. Leadership for fellowship groups shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery.
- b. **Equality with geographical districts.** An ethnic/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 ethnic/language district and the geographical district shall seek to promote a spirit of fellowship and cooperation. The ethnic/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. It is strongly recommended that the ethnic/language district and the geographical district appoint representative(s) to serve with their respective presbyteries to provide and encourage cooperative strategies and relationships. The language churches, whether members of a geographical or ethnic/language district, are encouraged to unite where possible, in fellowship activities.
- d. **Sponsorship and affiliation of an ethnic/language group.** Should an English-speaking church desire to initiate sponsorship of an ethnic/language group, it shall consult with its district officials for counsel and guidance. The geographical district should inform or consult with ethnic/language district officers concerning the beginning of an ethnic/language group within churches belonging to the geographical district. The sponsoring church may provide facilities and support to such a work through its district home missions department. Such an effort may be initiated with the

objective in mind that it will develop into an Assemblies of God church. When such a church reaches as many as 20 adult members, it may then seek affiliation with a district of its choice following prescribed guidelines as outlined in these Bylaws.

- e. **Church transfer procedure.** When a church desires to transfer from an ethnic/language district to the geographical district in which it is located or from a geographical district to an ethnic/language district, 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 ethnic/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).

VFT Resolution 15 Electing Executive Presbyters by Region Rather Than At-Large Voting

Larry Griswold read VFT Resolution 15 as follows:

It has been recommended that the nonresident executive presbyters be elected from their areas and not by the entire General Council. The General Council may choose to express its desire for legislation to be drafted for consideration at the 2005 General Council which would provide for the election of nonresident executive presbyters by caucus at General Council for voting members belonging to the specific region represented by the nonresident executive presbyter.

The chairman indicated that the vote on this proposal would be either by an expression of yes or no. The no vote considerably outnumbered the yes vote.

VFT Resolution 16 Participation of Women in Governance at the General Presbytery Level

Larry Griswold read VFT Resolution 16 and moved its adoption.

A motion was made and seconded to amend line 9 by changing the word "three" to "four" and adding the phrase, "one of which shall be from an ethnic/language district." The motion lost.

A motion was made and seconded to postpone action on this resolution until the beginning of the next session. The motion lost.

The motion to adopt VFT Resolution 16 lost. VFT Resolution 16 is as follows:

Currently, the General Presbytery composition has been designed to include representative stakeholders, such as missionaries, evangelists,

and educators. This provision would add “women in ministry” representatives to the General Presbytery to encourage the participation of women in governance and leadership in the Assemblies of God.

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph f. General presbyters, subparagraphs (6) and (7), page 106, be renumbered, and a new paragraph (6) be added as follows:

(6) *Women in ministry representatives.* Three women, active in gospel ministry, ordained in the Assemblies of God, shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery by a two-thirds vote for a 2-year term.

VFT Resolution 17

Internal Realignment To Avoid Duplication and Proliferation Between Divisions, Departments, Commissions, and Committees (Substitute)

Larry Griswold read substitute VFT Resolution 17. He explained that this is a substitute resolution to replace the one that was mailed out. A motion prevailed to adopt VFT Resolution 17 as follows:

The Executive Presbytery, with consultation from the Vision for Transformation Committee, is working on a detailed internal realignment proposal. An example of that realignment is contained in resolutions offered bringing the executive directors of Assemblies of God World Missions and Home Missions into the Board of Administration.

Therefore, it is recommended that the General Council go on record authorizing the Executive Presbytery to make such internal changes as may be deemed advisable between now and the 2005 General Council, and offer proposed bylaws revisions detailing any needed changes in Bylaws Article XI through XXI at the 2005 General Council, and bring an interim progress report to the General Presbytery in 2004.

Further, the Executive Presbytery recommends that the title Assemblies of God Home Missions, wherever used in the Constitution and Bylaws be changed to Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.

VFT Resolution 19

Expansion of the Board of Administration To Include All Elected Executives

Larry Griswold read VFT Resolution 19. A motion prevailed to adopt VFT Resolution 19 as follows:

The Board of Administration is charged with the responsibility to provide oversight to the operations of the General Council and implement the decisions of the Executive Presbytery. Two of the largest ministry areas, Assemblies of God World Missions and Assemblies of God Home Missions, are not represented in many of the decisions that affect their areas. It is strategically important for the executives over the two largest ministry areas to serve on the Board of Administration. This

resolution defines World Missions and Home Missions executive directors as members of the Board of Administration.

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, Section 5. Duties of the Executive Director of World Missions, page 109, be amended by the addition of a new paragraph g and the relettering of present paragraph g to become paragraph h, so that Section 5 will read:

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. Serve as an executive officer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and thus serve on the Board of Administration.
- h. Perform such other functions as may be directed by the Executive Presbytery or the General Presbytery.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, Section 6. Duties of the Executive Director of Home Missions, page 109, be amended by the addition of a new paragraph f and the relettering of present paragraph f to become paragraph g, so that Section 6 will read:

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. Serve as an executive officer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and thus serve on the Board of Administration.
- g. Perform such other functions as may be directed by the Executive Presbytery or the General Presbytery.

VFT Resolution 20

Expansion of Commission on Christian Higher Education

Larry Griswold read VFT Resolution 20. A motion prevailed to adopt VFT Resolution 20 as follows:

Currently, there is minimal coordination between ministerial training functions or opportunities represented by accredited colleges and universities, church-based Bible institutes, Master's Commissions, and nontraditional educational systems. This resolution would expand the charter of Commission on Christian Higher Education to provide coordination and resources for all ministerial training institutions.

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XVIII.

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION,
Section I. Authorization and Purpose, which presently reads:

Section I. 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.

Be amended to read:

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 Education; and
 - (3) The Commission on Christian Higher Education shall be a resource and provide partnership opportunities for other ministerial training institutions including church-based Bible institutes, Master's Commissions, nontraditional educational systems, and other entities providing ministerial training.

VFT Resolution 21

National Placement Service

To Serve Church Leadership

Larry Griswold read VFT Resolution 20. A motion prevailed to adopt VFT Resolution 20 as follows:

Churches struggle with a pastoral selection process that can match their unique needs and culture with that of a qualified minister. Small churches are finding it increasingly difficult to locate qualified ministerial candidates. Senior pastors often find it difficult to find qualified staff to fill ministry positions. In order to serve local churches in the ministerial selection process, a national placement service is proposed.

RESOLVED, That a national placement service (paid for by the users) be established and would do the following: assist ministerial candidates in locating ministry opportunities, train church leadership in a selection process; and help assess the culture of a particular church so the church can identify potential candidates that match their unique needs, values, and ministry focus.

Resolution 22. Commission on Ethnicity

Larry Griswold read Resolution 22. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 22 as follows:

WHEREAS, Currently the bylaws state that each member of the Commission on Ethnicity is appointed to serve as a member on a 2-year rotation basis; and

WHEREAS, The bylaws further state that a member may only be appointed for one succeeding term; and

WHEREAS, This would limit Headquarters personnel who serve by virtue of office from serving on the commission for more than 4 years; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Policy Manual is being amended to provide for ex officio members to serve without term limitations; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article XI. GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE, Section 5. Commission on Ethnicity, paragraph e, page 142, which presently reads:

Section 5. Commission on Ethnicity

e. **Composition of Commission on Ethnicity.** There shall be a Commission on 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.

Be amended to read as follows:

Section 5. Commission on Ethnicity

e. **Composition of Commission on Ethnicity.** There shall be a Commission on Ethnicity, which shall consist of the following: The chairperson, co-chairperson, the Board of Administration (ex officio), ethnic executive presbyters (ex officio), 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 and ethnic ministers 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 except for those from fellowships entitled to only one general presbyter. The commission chairperson, ex officio members, and Headquarters representatives will have no term limitations.

Operational Definition

Apostolic Ministry and the U.S. Assemblies of God

The general superintendent presented a statement adopted by the Executive Presbytery regarding the subject of Apostolic Ministry and the U.S. Assemblies of God. He stated that it is the desire of the Executive Presbytery that this statement be in the hands of every Assemblies of God minister. The statement as presented follows:

The Executive Presbytery adopted the following as an operational definition in regard to Apostolic Ministry and the U.S. Assemblies of God.

Biblical apostolic ministry is marked by God-sent, church-recognized leaders whose ministry, through the anointed proclamation of the gospel, with accompanying signs and wonders, results in the expansion of the kingdom of God.

Biblical Apostolic leadership as demonstrated by the Early Church...

- *Depends totally on the enduement of the Holy Spirit's power for the release of His supernatural gifts.*
- *Extends the borders of the kingdom of God through penetrating and impacting unevangelized and unreached people groups with the gospel.*
- *Develops enduring relationships through mentoring.*
- *Enlists, equips, empowers, and releases new generations of leaders.*
- *Plants and develops healthy local self-supporting and reproducing New Testament congregations.*
- *Produces lasting fruitfulness through the continuous multiplication of New Testament congregations.*
- *Models spiritual responsibility, accountability, and humility, aspiring to neither title nor office.*

A suggestion was made that when this statement is issued that it include also the phrase, "depends totally on the Word of God."

North Texas District Appeal

Credentialing of Divorced and Remarried Persons

The chairman explained that the North Texas District is appealing the decision of the General Council Resolutions Committee to not present a resolution submitted by the district regarding the subject of the credentialing of divorced and remarried persons. He indicated that the General Presbytery is making the following recommendation:

RESOLVED, That the resolution submitted by the North Texas District to the General Council regarding preconversion divorce be referred to the General Council, and that the General Presbytery request that the General Council table the North Texas District resolution until the 2005 General Council with a recommendation that an accompanying position paper articulating the biblical position of the credentialing of ministers with the preconversion divorce be presented alongside the North Texas District resolution to the 2005 General Council.

A motion prevailed to adopt the recommendation of the General Presbytery.

The resolution submitted by the North Texas District is as follows:

- WHEREAS, The General Council of the Assemblies of God, from its inception, has held the institution of marriage in highest regard, demonstrating to a fallen world the biblical concept of the covenant relationship between husband and wife, patterned after Christ and the Church; and
- WHEREAS, Scripture clearly states that ministers of the gospel are to be above reproach in all matters of life and conduct and that our theology should shape our culture instead of our theology being shaped by our culture; and
- WHEREAS, Scripture teaches that ministers should be the husband or wife of but one living spouse; and
- WHEREAS, Bylaws changes in the last General Council give the appearance of condoning divorce and remarriage among credentialed ministers, thereby departing from biblical guidelines upheld in Titus 1:5-9 and 1 Timothy 3:12; and
- WHEREAS, We maintain a desire to impede the lowering of morality within our churches, where divorce rates approach those of the world; and
- WHEREAS, The 87th North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God went on record as upholding scriptural standards in the credentialing of ministers; and
- WHEREAS, The council in session directed the North Texas District Council to present the following resolution to the next General Council in session; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 2, paragraph i, page 118, 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 spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion except as hereinafter provided.

Be amended to read as follows:

- 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.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Article VII, Section 2, paragraph j, page 118, which presently reads:

- 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.

Be amended to read as follows:

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

And be it further
RESOLVED, That Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph c. (1), page 128, 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), except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17).

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 office of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that the 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.

And be it further
RESOLVED, That Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph e, page 129, 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 spouse living unless the divorce occurred prior to conversion. (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. (See also Article VII, Section 2, paragraph i. and j.)

Courtesy Resolution

Edward Peecher, member of the Resolutions Committee, read a courtesy resolution. A motion prevailed that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, The 50th General Council of the Assemblies of God has been afforded gracious hospitality and accommodation by the officials and agencies of the City of Washington, D.C., the Potomac District Council, and the Spanish Eastern District Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, A wide host of persons, countless agencies, and firms have committed much in order to provide effective service to the members, delegates, and guests of this 50th General Council; and

WHEREAS, The 50th General Council has experienced record total attendance by its members, the wide and varied expressions of this church through its effective ministries at home and abroad, and the intentional involvement of compassion ministry to many needy residents of our host city; be it, therefore

RESOLVED, That sincere appreciation be expressed to: Mayor Anthony Williams, and the City of Washington, D.C.; the Washington Convention Center; the MCI Center; the Potomac District Council; and the Spanish Eastern District Council who have all hosted us graciously; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we give thanks to God for the gifted and visionary leadership He has raised up among us in the persons of our general superintendent, Thomas E. Trask, the Board of Administration, and the Executive Presbytery; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the ministers and churches of this Fellowship determine that the clarion call issued by our Lord at this 50th General Council in the expression of the Vision for Transformation and church-planting emphasis be not soon forgotten but rather become a lasting mandate for our labors, and be sustained by our ongoing commitment to prayer for one another, and for this great land; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That on this historic occasion of our 50th General Council of the Assemblies of God which is gathered in the nation's capital—that we rededicate ourselves, the Holy Spirit being our helper, to fulfill the commission of our Lord Jesus Christ to—"go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" by equipping our missionaries, empowering our evangelists, releasing our laity and encouraging our pastors to this great enterprise till our Lord return.

Roster Committee Report

David Wigington, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the final roster report as of 4:30 p.m., Friday, August 1, 2003:

Ordained	3,281	
Delegates	<u>596</u>	
Voting constituency		3,877
Licensed/Certified Ministers	641	
Kids Council	650	
Youth Convention	12,711	
Other Participants	<u>3,712</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>17,714</u>
Total		21,591

A motion prevailed to adopt the report.

Adjournment

A motion prevailed to adjourn the business meeting of the 50th General Council at 5:27 p.m., Friday, August 1, 2003.

FRIDAY EVENING—AUGUST 1

The Friday evening service of the 50th General Council began at 7 o'clock, in the MCI Center in Washington, D.C., following 30 minutes of pre-service music provided by Latin American ChildCare singers. Following the pre-service music and presentation, missionaries from 206 countries paraded into the arena with flags and attire from the country where they serve. The Latin American ChildCare choir opened with a Spanish-language rendition of "Ancient of Days." Worship was led by the Samoan Youth Choir from Oahu, Hawaii. Prayer for the service was offered by Loren Triplett, former executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions.

The theme for the service was "The Time Has Come."

The speaker for the service was L. John Bueno, executive director of A/G World Missions. C. Dan Betzer, executive presbyter from the Southeast Area, made an appeal in behalf of the Senders Fund offering. This fund is to help missionary candidates by cutting the itineration time. He urged everyone to generously support this fund.

The evening service included the debut of "The Time Has Come," a 25-minute musical directed by J. Daniel Smith of Bethesda Community Church in Fort Worth, Texas. As members from Bethesda Community Church, Latin American ChildCare choir, and the Samoan choir sang, a video compilation of missionaries in action was viewed.

SATURDAY MORNING—AUGUST 2

The Saturday morning service began at 9 a.m. in the Washington, D.C. MCI Center, following 30 minutes of pre-service music provided by P.A.R.K. (Praising And Rejoicing Kids) directed by Bob and Starla Frymire, Tri-County Assembly of God, Fairfield, Ohio. Worship was led by Ron Cochran, music associate pastor, Portland, Christian Center, Portland, Oregon. Zollie Smith, executive presbyter from the ethnic fellowships, received the offering.

The emphasis of the service was on Christian education and discipleship. The speaker for the service was Deborah M. Gill, national director of the Division of Christian Education. She centered her message on effective discipleship and stated that effective discipleship is marked by five key characteristics that are found in the ministry of Jesus: The authorities of grace, creativity, the supernatural, obedience, and multiplication.

The Saturday morning service also featured a testimony from Stanley Paimnath, who survived the September 11, 2001, attack on the World Trade Center. He told of his experiences of that day and how he managed to escape from the building after the crash, as God provided strength and exits along the way. Also during the service, the Billie Davis Christian Educator of the Year Award was presented to Russ and Sandy Conner, Westside Assembly of God, Davenport, Iowa.

SATURDAY EVENING—AUGUST 2

The Saturday evening worship service began at 7 o'clock with 30 minutes of pre-service music provided by Sue Dodge, Vienna, Virginia. James K. Bridges, general treasurer, was chairman for the evening service. The theme for the service was an emphasis on Home Missions and church planting. Worship was led by Ray Berryhill and the Evangel Assembly of God band, Chicago, Illinois.

Scripture for the service was read by James K. Bridges. Maria Khaleel, pastor of New Life Assembly of God, Pembroke Pines, Florida, led in prayer. J. Don George, executive presbyter from the South Central Area, received the offering. The offertory was provided by a 700-member Teen Challenge Choir, directed by Dick Evans, Lansing, Michigan. Special music for the service was provided by a Korean mass choir.

Speakers for the service included three pastors who have been involved in church planting. The first speaker was Kendall S. Bridges, who planted the Worship Center in Houston, Texas; Ronald Johnson, pastor of Bethel Temple Assembly of God, Hampton, Virginia; and St. Clair Mitchell, director of church development and home missions for the Potomac District. John Lindell, pastor of James River Assembly of God, Ozark, Missouri, also presented a testimony of the church planting that has been done by his church.

SUNDAY—AUGUST 2

Worship Service

Memorial and Communion

The Sunday morning worship service began at 9:30 a.m. Thomas McDonald, director of the Music Department, led in worship following pre-service music provided by Golden West International Symphonic Band directed by Thomas F. Hernandez, The Light Springs Singers, and the Duffield family singers. George Wood, general secretary, offered prayer and read the Scripture for the service. H. Robert Rhoden, executive presbyter from the Northeast Area, received the offering. The offertory was provided by the Duffield family, consisting of Wendi Watson Miller, Jeff and Sue Duffield.

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. During the playing of the memorial scroll music was provided by the Golden West International Symphonic Band and Tommy Hernandez. Following the presentation of the scroll Thomas E. Trask, general superintendent, introduced Warren D. Bullock, executive presbyter from the Northwest Area and dean of the School of Ministry at Northwest College in Kirkland, Washington, the speaker for the morning service. 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, 2001, to May 3, 2003, and were included in the video presentation:

Abrahamson, Arne V., Brazil
 Acevedo, Felipe G., McAllen, Texas
 Acuna, Marcelino, Milliken, Colorado
 Adams, Dewey, Opp, Alabama
 Adams, Jay R., Springdale, Arkansas
 Adkins, J. Gene, Victorville, California
 Akins, Joseph F., Shreveport, Louisiana
 Alaniz, Tomas R., Wasco, California
 Alcorn, Carl D., Grand Prairie, Texas
 Alexander, Byrd Lee, Seminole, Oklahoma
 Alexander, Lois P., Seminole, Oklahoma
 Allegaocoon, William R., Colorado Springs, Colorado
 Allen, Harold E., Berthoud, Colorado
 Allen, Leavie A., Winter Haven, Florida
 Allen, Marvin C., Sulphur Springs, Texas
 Allen, Vernon R., Roswell, New Mexico
 Amburgy, Ilene, Lebanon, Ohio
 Anderson, Donald L., Watsonville, California
 Anderson, Eileen R., Raymore, Missouri
 Anderson, George B., Corralitos, California
 Anderson, J. Edwin, Kelseyville, California
 Anderson, Roy W., Paragould, Arkansas
 Anderson, Tommy C., Victorville, California
 Anderson-Ponge, Dorothy, Jacksonville, Florida
 Andreasen, Albert B., Kimberling City, Missouri
 Ankario, Isabell, Maryville, Illinois
 Arellano, Pedro B., Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin
 Arn, Mel E., Tigard, Oregon
 Atchison, John D., Millry, Alabama
 Ates, James A., Milton, Florida
 Baca, Patricio, Espanola, New Mexico
 Bailey, James H., Independence, Missouri
 Bard, Forrest B., Woodinville, Washington
 Barfoot, Howard M., Tucson, Arizona
 Barnard, Robert P., Borger, Texas
 Barnes, Clifford L., Arkansas City, Kansas
 Barney, J. Evangeline, Portland, Maine
 Barriss, Richard J., Palmetto, Florida
 Bartholf, Ray A., Galena Park, Texas
 Bayliss, Philip V., Martinsburg, West Virginia
 Beach, Marion A., Stockbridge, Georgia
 Becker, Karl S., Newport, Oregon
 Bell, Mark J., Laguna Hills, California
 Bell, Michael W., Morgantown, Indiana
 Benintendi, Ezra J., Denver, Colorado
 Bennett, Johnnie, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Bensiek, Mary E., Saint Charles, Missouri
 Berquist, Ernest V., Springfield, Missouri
 Bettencourt, Hector M., San Jose, California
 Bilton, Elmer G., Kansas City, Missouri
 Bird, Alva C., Tucson, Arizona
 Bishop, J. Bashford, Springfield, Missouri
 Blackard, Alvin G. Sr., Springfield, Missouri
 Bloom, Robert E., Santa Clarita, California
 Blubaugh, Jack J., Melcher, Iowa
 Blythe, Harold E., Salinas, California
 Bogdan, Stephen, Cheltenham, Pennsylvania
 Borrows, William A., New Bedford, Massachusetts
 Bowers, Kermit, Samson, Alabama
 Boyer, Paul S., West Covina, California
 Bradford, Huey P. Sr., Ridgecrest, Louisiana
 Bradford, Jonathan L., Dalton, Georgia
 Brammer, Clyde J., Vienna, West Virginia
 Brandt, William W., Englewood, Colorado
 Branham, Mary R., Fayetteville, Arkansas
 Brasier, Blanche L., Belleville, Kansas
 Brassfield, Venson O., Pryor, Oklahoma
 Brazell, George E., Desdemona, Texas
 Bredbenner, Elwood C., Raleigh, North Carolina
 Brewer, Madge, Litchfield, Illinois
 Brock, Raymond T., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Brockman, John W. Sr., Chestertown, Maryland
 Brodehl, Herbert J., Modesto, California
 Brooks, Walter E., Jayton, Texas
 Brown, Clare D., Arlington, Washington
 Brown, Douglas H., Atascadero, California
 Brown, John E., Sand Springs, Oklahoma
 Brown, Lela, Livingston, Texas
 Brown, Sara V., Cartersville, Georgia
 Brown, Warren J., La Porte, Texas
 Brummett, Vernon G., Sapulpa, Oklahoma
 Bryant, Sydney S., Springfield, Missouri
 Bucher, Beatrice L., Springfield, Missouri
 Buck, Brent D., Horseheads, New York
 Burke, Frederic H., South Africa
 Butler, Floyd H., Green Forest, Arkansas
 Byard, Glenna J., Fredericktown, Missouri
 Byers, Frederick, Nipomo, California
 Calhoun, Allen L., Bynum, Alabama
 Cameron, Simon, Montgomery, Alabama
 Camp, Elmer W., Bentonville, Arkansas
 Campbell, James T., Fort Cobb, Oklahoma
 Cann, Ponsford, Bloomington, Texas
 Cannon, James A., Sedro Woolley, Washington
 Carbajal, Esteban, Dumas, Texas
 Carbajal, Frank, Los Banos, California
 Carlin, J. Curtis, Crowley, Texas
 Carlitz, Joseph H. Jr., Hemet, California
 Carlson, Orville H., Springfield, Missouri
 Carlston, Margaret, Gallup, New Mexico
 Carney, Kenneth R., Fallbrook, California
 Carney, Ruby A., Fallbrook, California
 Carpenter, Mattie R., Groesbeck, Texas
 Carrasco, Eugenia, Kirbyville, Texas
 Cavazos, Joel G., Emporia, Kansas
 Chambers, Glenn R., Delight, Arkansas
 Chambers, Jeff D., Benton, Arkansas
 Chandler, Julius M., Clanton, Alabama
 Chapman, Mary A., Franklin, Tennessee
 Chapman, N. Ray, Toxey, Alabama
 Christiansen, Lloyd, Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Christie, Florence V., Huntington Beach, California
 Cisneros, Dionisio, Fresno, California
 Clark, Shirley M., Kirkland, Washington
 Cleghorn, Coy R., Genoa, Illinois
 Clowers, Otho W., Fordyce, Arkansas
 Collins, John W., Cedar Hill, Texas
 Collins, Pearl, Gary, Texas
 Colon, Angel Jr., Scarsdale, New York
 Colton, Glen A., Fowler, Colorado
 Colvin, Stafford, Auburndale, Florida

Conaway, John T., Muncie, Indiana
 Cook, Malachi R., Spring Hill, Florida
 Cook, Wilbur L., Hydro, Oklahoma
 Cooksey, Henry C., Tallahassee, Florida
 Cooper, Edward E., Brownsburg, Indiana
 Cooper, Harold N., Webb City, Missouri
 Cooper, H. J., Dammeron Valley, Utah
 Cooper, Homer C., Niagara Falls, New York
 Corbin, Ernest T., Holt, Florida
 Corey, Danny L., Brandon, Mississippi
 Costner, Faye, Springdale, Arkansas
 Covell, Lloyd E., North Little Rock, Arkansas
 Cox, Wilbur J., Cantonment, Florida
 Cox, William F., Humble, Texas
 Coyne, Russell L., Joplin, Missouri
 Craft, Clarice Y., Ripley, Tennessee
 Craig, Donald L., Salem, Oregon
 Cravens, Carl, Energy, Illinois
 Crawford, Christopher, Midland, Maryland
 Creel, Ida M., Dover, Florida
 Creider, Ralph A., Corpus Christi, Texas
 Cress, Fielden J., Springfield, Missouri
 Crider, Linda S., Estancia, New Mexico
 Crone, Eugenia B., Houston, Texas
 Crook, D. Deloss, Lacey, Washington
 Cropp, William C. Jr., Lawton, Oklahoma
 Cross, James D., Fresno, California
 Crowell, Harold L., Carbondale, Illinois
 Crume, Jack E., Tumwater, Washington
 Culver, Ralph E., Baxter Springs, Kansas
 Dailey, Maxie C., Columbus, Mississippi
 Daily, James R., Santa Rosa, Texas
 D'Angelo, Philip, Clifton, New Jersey
 Daniel, Gorman K., Subiaco, Arkansas
 Darling, Lila S., Rome, New York
 Davis, Arthur S., Diboll, Texas
 Davis, John H. Sr., Moss Point, Mississippi
 Decker, Dorse R., Paris, Texas
 Deerman, Willis, Belen, New Mexico
 De Greef, Elizabeth, Newton, Iowa
 Dela Cruz, Michael A., Cape Coral, Florida
 De La Rosa, Oralia, Laredo, Texas
 Deovletian, Carol A., Clawson, Michigan
 De Pinto, Thomas E., Tahlequah, Oklahoma
 De Santo, Sal J., Rye, New York
 Diaz, Mario, Bronx, New York
 Di Bella, G. Frank, Nutley, New Jersey
 Dillingham, Ovid A., Pinole, California
 Dodson, Randy R., Deer Park, Texas
 Dominguez, Carlos H., Renton, Washington
 Douglas, A. G., Parsonsburg, Maryland
 Douglas, Jesse R., Green Forest, Arkansas
 Dowdy, Virgil, Walnut Creek, California
 Dowling, Don L., Hartford, Alabama
 Dron, Paul R., Tigard, Oregon
 Dron, Richard A., Kennewick, Washington
 Duncan, Harlen, Antlers, Oklahoma
 Dunets, Helen A., Portland, Oregon
 Dunlap, Lee B., Gans, Oklahoma
 Dunn, T. Glenn, Prescott, Arizona
 Durbin, Herbert F., Wyandotte, Oklahoma
 Duren, Johnnie D. Jr., Wynona, Oklahoma
 Duty, Gladys B., Dayton, Washington
 Dyer, Theodore E., Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Eagan, John J., Township of Washington, New Jersey
 Eatmon, Harold R., Athens, Texas

Eberly, Corinne L., Tallmadge, Ohio
 Edwards, Milton H., Warrensburg, Missouri
 Eide, Bertha B., East Windsor, New Jersey
 Eldridge, Orville E., Pueblo, Colorado
 Elias, Harold E., Prescott, Wisconsin
 Ellison, Lodi D., Clanton, Alabama
 Emerson, Elva E., Alta Loma, California
 Enget, Ernest L., Hungry Horse, Montana
 England, David, Pembroke Pines, Florida
 Engstrand, Florence S., Bismarck, North Dakota
 Espino, Angel L., San Juan, Puerto Rico
 Espinoza, Dolores J., Sylmar, California
 Espinoza, Salvador, Arroyo Hondo, New Mexico
 Estep, James C., Ewart, Michigan
 Estep, Pearl M., Yakima, Washington
 Evans, Mark W., Pawnee, Oklahoma
 Evans, T. Burt, Lynchburg, Virginia
 Falley, Cecil A., Visalia, California
 Farrell, Ethan A., Barto, Pennsylvania
 Farrell, John W., Russellville, Arkansas
 Ferguson, Paul L., Hemet, California
 Fields, Glenn R., Coos Bay, Oregon
 Flach, Charles, Hannacroix, New York
 Flack, Margarette V., Wood River, Illinois
 Flaherty, Howard E., Sun City, Arizona
 Fogger, Lonnie S., Jonesboro, Louisiana
 Foss, Carl E., Tacoma, Washington
 Foster, Lawrence L., Dublin, Ohio
 Fox, Esther R., Calexico, California
 Franks, Mary V., Albuquerque, New Mexico
 Franks, Myrna L., Salem, Oregon
 Freeman, H. Travis, Waxahachie, Texas
 Friesen, Bob A., Fairfield, California
 Friesen, Douglas J., Tarpon Springs, Florida
 Fritchey, Almer J., Van Buren, Arkansas
 Frivold, Ruth A., Seattle, Washington
 Frost, Freeda M., Fort Smith, Arkansas
 Frost, M. Ray, Fort Smith, Arkansas
 Fuentes, Matias F., Tyler, Texas
 Fuller, Hazel B., Campbell, Missouri
 Garcia, Anna L., Haverhill, Massachusetts
 Garcia, N. Hilda, Hogsburg, New York
 Gardiner, Ruth B., Phoenix, Arizona
 Garrett, Ruth T., Durant, Florida
 Garrison, Arthur, Escatawpa, Mississippi
 Gaul, Clarence L., Palmer, Alaska
 Gaxiola, Elias V., Oakland, California
 Geesey, George W., Kansas City, Missouri
 Gerhart, Ruth E., Santa Cruz, California
 Gerlicher, John S., Salem, Oregon
 Gibson, Robert E., Statesville, North Carolina
 Girdner, Doris, Springfield, Missouri
 Goad, Rose E., Riverside, California
 Godaert, Ron, Albany, Oregon
 Goff, Naamon C., Ripley, Tennessee
 Golden, Horace C. Jr., Dickinson, Texas
 Gomez, Octaviano, Taylor, Texas
 Goodman, Reuben S., West Des Moines, Iowa
 Goodpasture, Leona F., Canyonville, Oregon
 Gookin, Harold D., Pasadena, Texas
 Gossett, Lucy M., Upper Marlboro, Maryland
 Gotcher, Goldie, Carlinville, Illinois
 Gouge, Robert G. III, Wichita, Kansas
 Gower, Olan E., Deer Park, Texas
 Gowins, Robert R., Mount Olive, Alabama
 Graf, Henry, Maplewood, New Jersey

Graham, Ronald P., Newport, Washington
 Grant, U. S., Lenexa, Kansas
 Greathouse, Lucille, Youngtown, Arizona
 Green, Glenn A., Springfield, Missouri
 Green, Philip N., Tampa, Florida
 Gregg, Kenneth B., East Wenatchee, Washington
 Gregorian, Blossom B., Fresno, California
 Greve, Fred J., Aptos, California
 Grice, Ethel M., Locust Grove, Georgia
 Grice, William D., Gresham, Oregon
 Groomer, A. Joyce, Dallas, Texas
 Guerrero, George M., Lubbock, Texas
 Gullett, Clearencene, Ankeny, Iowa
 Gulsvig, Richard, Waterloo, Iowa
 Gundlach, Lester H., Peoria, Arizona
 Ha, Howard W. P., Alameda, California
 Hagerman, Jan Lewis, Cedar Hill, Tennessee
 Hall, Cuba H., Springfield, Missouri
 Hall, Edith G., Chula Vista, California
 Hall, Forrest H., Baton Rouge, Louisiana
 Hall, Mike L., Monroe, Louisiana
 Hamlin, Walter J. Sr., Talladega, Alabama
 Hampton, Ella M., Madisonville, Texas
 Hankins, Billy B., West Columbia, Texas
 Hannum, Celia M., Pauls Valley, Oklahoma
 Hanson, Walter T., Loomis, California
 Harbaugh, Wayne M., Baytown, Texas
 Hare, Daniel W., Falling Waters, West Virginia
 Hare, Edgar A., Frostburg, Maryland
 Harris, Herby S., Claremore, Oklahoma
 Harris, Wilburn N., Camden, Arkansas
 Harrison, Floyd, Bakersfield, California
 Hartley, William, Solvang, California
 Hartman, Edward, Sun City, Arizona
 Harvey, Fred C., Kansas City, Missouri
 Hatcher, Geraldine E., Birmingham, Alabama
 Hatchner, George, Chesapeake, Virginia
 Haydus, Miriam E., Guatemala
 Hayes, Parker B., Dunnellon, Florida
 Heady, Ray E., Fort Worth, Texas
 Heath, Charles A., Conway, Arkansas
 Helgerman, Roy R. II, Bellefonte, Pennsylvania
 Helms, Lee R., Wichita Falls, Texas
 Henderson, Douglas M., Brainerd, Minnesota
 Hendley, Gerald W., Murray, Kentucky
 Henning, Hazel A., Newberg, Oregon
 Henry, Hazel, Vian, Oklahoma
 Henry, Victor C., Clarkston, Washington
 Henson, Alpha O., Sacramento, California
 Hepworth, Tom, Elma, Washington
 Herbert, Raymond F., Englewood, Florida
 Hertweck, Erma G., Vista, California
 Hertweck, G. P., Ferdinandina Beach, Florida
 Hicks, Oliver C., Haughton, Louisiana
 Hidle, C. C., Chancellor, Alabama
 Higbee, Harold E., Brooklyn Park, Minnesota
 Higginbotham, John W., Fairview Park, Ohio
 Hill, Annabelle, Springfield, Oregon
 Hill, Elmer A., Bloomington, Minnesota
 Hill, Norman E., Wolcottville, Indiana
 Hill, Thurman J., Hector, Arkansas
 Hillyer, Jerry C., Englewood, Colorado
 Hintz, Donald E., Puyallup, Washington
 Hodge, Alta B., Indianapolis, Indiana
 Hodge, Harry E., Carlinville, Illinois
 Hogan, F. Lillian, Thunder Bay Ontario, Canada
 Hogan, J. Philip, Springfield, Missouri
 Holcomb, Carroll H., Waxahachie, Texas
 Holleman, Carl D., Scottsdale, Arizona
 Holliday, Burnnie L., Spartanburg, South Carolina
 Holman, Loren A., Phoenix, Arizona
 Holtzen, Paul R., Columbus, Georgia
 Honeycutt, Jack, Battle Creek, Michigan
 Hood, Broad L., Lindale, Texas
 Hoover, Thomas R., Springfield, Missouri
 Hopkins, Isaac L., Grand Prairie, Texas
 Horn, John E., Wadsworth, Ohio
 Horton, Mildred E., Shoreline, Washington
 Hough, Lula Bell, Huber Heights, Ohio
 Howell, Noma A., Siloam Springs, Arkansas
 Huacuja, Anastasio, San Benito, Texas
 Hubbard, Lewis H., Tyler, Texas
 Hubbard, Nannie K., Panhandle, Texas
 Hughey, Henry J., Columbus, Georgia
 Hughie, Rosalyn M., Sydney, Florida
 Hull, J. E. Warren, San Jose, California
 Hummel, Betty L., Orlando, Florida
 Humphrey, Donna F., Pawtucket, Rhode Island
 Hunsaker, Robert A., Mesa, Arizona
 Hurst, Francis M., Flippin, Arkansas
 Ingram, Lagatha A., Konawa, Oklahoma
 Isacson, Raymond, Kenmore, Washington
 Ivey, Leroyce E., Center, Texas
 Ivie, Marvin P., Cuba, Missouri
 Jackson, Amos R., Madisonville, Kentucky
 Jackson, Betty R., Bonifay, Florida
 Jackson, Elisabeth, Hayden, Idaho
 Jackson, Irvin V., Tyler, Texas
 Jacobs, Paul C., Export, Pennsylvania
 James, John H., Hugo, Oklahoma
 Janway, Cecil T., Monroe, Louisiana
 Jarvis, Danny R., Gastonia, North Carolina
 Jeffers, E. Gelene, Ozark, Arkansas
 Jernigan, Allen H., Del Rio, Texas
 Jessup, Richard E., Everett, Washington
 Johnson, Carl, Lakeland, Florida
 Johnson, C. Max, Dallas, Iowa
 Johnson, Hannah M., Dallas, Iowa
 Johnson, Ralph R., Bay Minette, Alabama
 Johnson, Terrell, Sylvester, Georgia
 Johnson, Thalmer P., Delta, Colorado
 Johnsrud, Marie, Tacoma, Washington
 Johnstone, Hazel, Kemp, Texas
 Jones, Clara J., Ada, Oklahoma
 Jones, George B., North Richland Hills, Texas
 Jones, Margaret E., Ukiah, California
 Jones, Rachel M., Lake Wales, Florida
 Karriker, Herman W., Tonganoxie, Kansas
 Karchner, Ruth, Taylor, Arizona
 Kelley, Evelyn, Clanton, Alabama
 Kendrick, Dean S., Wilburton, Oklahoma
 Kennedy, Bessie A., Evansville, Indiana
 Kensinger, Ruth, Rapid City, South Dakota
 Kercher, Theodore A., Greeley, Colorado
 Kibbe, Mary E., Falling Waters, West Virginia
 Kidroske, Edward D., Lodi, California
 Kindall, Lucile M., Boise, Idaho
 Kleinschmidt, A. L., Hemet, California
 Klingner, George W., Fort Thomas, Kentucky
 Knourek, Leona M., Sacramento, California
 Knutson, Elwood W., Rancho Cordova, California
 Kridler, Virginia A., Phoenix, Arizona

Kunde, Clellan D., La Mesa, California
 Lacey, Jimmy A., Joplin, Missouri
 Lackey, Hollis J., Humboldt, Tennessee
 Lake, Murrell A., Houston, Texas
 Lancaster, Mack D., Alturas, California
 Lane, Daniel W., Lorena, Texas
 Latham, Iva L., Springdale, Arkansas
 Layton, James, Clovis, California
 Leasau, Pita T., Vista, California
 Lednicki, C. F., Snook, Texas
 Lee, Charles, Kirtland, New Mexico
 Lee, T. F., Clovis, California
 Lehmann, Naomi H., Seaside, California
 Le Mon, Marie E., Springfield, Missouri
 Lewis, Albert L., Cottonwood, California
 Lewis, Esther, Indianapolis, Indiana
 Lilly, Herbert W., Chowchilla, California
 Link, Louis P., Malta, New York
 Lombard, A. J., Norton, Massachusetts
 Lotridge, Celia E., Bakersfield, California
 Loucks, Helen M., Redway, California
 Love, C. R., Friendswood, Texas
 Love, Norman G., De Kalb Junction, New York
 Lovo, Bonnie F., Salem, Oregon
 Lowmaster, E. J., Horseheads, New York
 Loyd, J. K., Moriarty, New Mexico
 Lundstrom, Arlyn E., Fair Play, Missouri
 Lundy, Theo E., Wilmer, Alabama
 Luper, Mary, Sand Springs, Oklahoma
 Lutz, Harry W., Fort Mill, South Carolina
 Lynch, Alva A., Springfield, Missouri
 Majors, Walter A., Tyler, Texas
 Maley, James L., Pueblo West, Colorado
 Mallory, Helen F., Saint Albans, West Virginia
 Malmin, Edward J., San Jose, California
 Malone, Sanford M., Wichita Falls, Texas
 Manera, Jaime C., Kapolei, Hawaii
 Mangano, Frank, Cromwell, Connecticut
 Mangrum, W. C., Como, Texas
 Manley, Anabel, Midland, Texas
 Manson, Nelia, Lemmon Valley, Nevada
 Mares, Victor, Dumas, Texas
 Maria, Jerry M., Hathorne, Massachusetts
 Marjama, Herbert G., Menahga, Minnesota
 Markant, Frederick Sr., North Tonawanda, New York
 Martinez, Ramon L., Grand Prairie, Texas
 McAllister, Frank N., Renton, Washington
 McAtee, Ima V., Turnage, Mesa, Arizona
 McCaw, Garry O., Dixon, Illinois
 McCorkle, Marcia R., Phoenix, Arizona
 McCoy, M. Carl, Plano, Texas
 McDearmid, Bernice L., Virginia Beach, Virginia
 McDonald, Harvey W., Neosho, Missouri
 McDowell, Ruth E., Bloomington, Maryland
 McGehee, C. Fomie, Alpena, Arkansas
 McMullen, Bessie M., Kirkland, Washington
 McNab, Max, Dothan, Alabama
 McNabb, Talmadge F., Pemberton, New Jersey
 McNamara, William III, Macedon, New York
 McVicker, Minnie M., Farmerville, Louisiana
 Medlen, Edward L., Clifton, Colorado
 Medlock, Alfred A. Sr., Ocean Springs, Mississippi
 Meeks, Bernice, Houston, Texas
 Mejia, Pablo C., Modesto, California
 Mercer, Andrew J., Princeton, Texas
 Meyer, Vernice L., Belleville, Illinois
 Meyrer, Darrell A., Austin, Texas
 Millard, Virgil C., Carson City, Nevada
 Miller, Floyd C., Pasco, Washington
 Miller, Martha E., Tucson, Arizona
 Ming, Olive M., Kirkland, Washington
 Miranda, Jaime, Ponce, Puerto Rico
 Mocer, August, Amherst, New York
 Moody, Howard L., Homosassa, Florida
 Mooney, James C., Robertsdale, Alabama
 Moreno, Ana M., Aguadilla, Puerto Rico
 Morton, Lula Mae, McCurtain, Oklahoma
 Mosby, George T., Cameron, Missouri
 Mott, Nolan A., Weleetka, Oklahoma
 Murphy, A. C. (Bill), Pocatello, Idaho
 Murray, Willis L., Chambersburg, Pennsylvania
 Nathan, Fern I., Fort Wayne, Indiana
 Neely, Joseph E., Temple, Texas
 Neely, Robert L., Yuba City, California
 Neeter, Sherwin P., Saint Charles, Missouri
 Nelson, Gordon H., Glendale, Arizona
 Nelson, Wesley A., Greenacres, Washington
 Nevarez, Concepcion, Downey, California
 Newman, Milton A., Carmichael, California
 Newman, Sam, Senath, Missouri
 Newton, J. W., Carlsbad, New Mexico
 Newton, Thomas H., Little Rock, Arkansas
 Nichols, Kenneth E., Waupaca, Wisconsin
 Nichols, Ronald R., Shoreline, Washington
 Nichols, Shuby M., East Brewton, Alabama
 Nimmons, Willie R., Kersey, Colorado
 North, Elbert A. 'Pete', Oroville, California
 Nunn, David O., Rowlett, Texas
 Occhipinti, Sylvia G., West Creek, New Jersey
 Ogletree, Eddie L., Radcliff, Kentucky
 Okuhara, Chiyoko, Makaweli, Hawaii
 Olsen, Almer R., Keizer, Oregon
 Olson, Irene, Lakeland, Florida
 Ontiveros, Raymond M., Oxnard, California
 Ortiz, Antonio Soto, Lake Elsinore, California
 Palmer, Rufus W., Wing, Alabama
 Parker, J. W., Pelahatchie, Mississippi
 Parker, Leonard, Gresham, Oregon
 Parker, Mary, Newcastle, Oklahoma
 Parks, Billy S., Selma, California
 Parran, Robert A., Lanham, Maryland
 Patton, Howard T., Tecumseh, Oklahoma
 Pauneto, Jose M., Vineland, New Jersey
 Peasley, Allan E., Colorado Springs, Colorado
 Peck, J. Mervin, Kearney, Nebraska
 Pegram, Walter L., Verdale, Washington
 Pena, Josue, Harlingen, Texas
 Perez, Hector P., San Antonio, Texas
 Perna, Theresa, Cherry Hill, New Jersey
 Petersen, Ethel F., Fergus Falls, Minnesota
 Petersen, Hollis E., Gonzales, Texas
 Petersen, S. H., Sherburn, Minnesota
 Pettry, James D., Naoma, West Virginia
 Pettry, William E., Leeds, Alabama
 Petznick, Erna C., Springfield, Missouri
 Phinney, Kathleen M., Mount Vernon, Washington
 Pickney, Richard C., Alton, Missouri
 Pickthorn, William E., Palo Alto, California
 Pierce, Bernice E., Willis, Texas
 Pierce, Lola, Hoxie, Arkansas
 Pigg, John L. Sr., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Pinta, Paul A., Columbia, Illinois

Pitstick, John N., Groveland, California
 Pittman, Donnie M., Bowie, Texas
 Pittman, Joseph L., Hagerstown, Maryland
 Planck, Melvin, Upland, Indiana
 Plunkett, Charles A., West Monroe, Louisiana
 Poldson, Allen W., Enid, Oklahoma
 Pollard, Frankie D., Alma, Arkansas
 Poole, Edward R., Pflugerville, Texas
 Porter, H. L., Barton, Maryland
 Prentice, De Rene L., Garland, Texas
 Price, Donald E., Marianna, Florida
 Price, Hazel J., Seattle, Washington
 Pritchard, Willie C., Carnegie, Oklahoma
 Radanovsky, Eva, Temecula, California
 Radawski, Helen E. R., Lakeside, California
 Ragland, Almyra G., San Jon, New Mexico
 Rainer, Edward W., Gainesville, Florida
 Ramon, Timoteo M., Lubbock, Texas
 Ramsborg, Palma A., Lindstrom, Minnesota
 Rasberry, Reuben, Durham, North Carolina
 Rayborn, Ivan D., Yates Center, Kansas
 Raymond, Irving L. Jr, Austin, Texas
 Redding, Clyde J., Paris, Missouri
 Reeves, Temperance I., Jacksonville, Florida
 Renick, Nina C., Springfield, Missouri
 Reynolds, Cheridale, La Quinta, California
 Rich, Donald W., Payette, Idaho
 Richard, James L., Martinsburg, West Virginia
 Richards, Louis P., Magalia, California
 Richards, Mary C., Cartersville, Georgia
 Richards, R. Leroy, Lufkin, Texas
 Richardson, Dolpha, Little Rock, Arkansas
 Ridener, Florence M., Nampa, Idaho
 Ridener, Fred L., Amarillo, Texas
 Riley, Vera H., Russellville, Arkansas
 Ripley, Floyd E., Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 Ritchie, John J., Schertz, Texas
 Roberson, W. Howard, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 Roberts, Yale E., Neosho, Missouri
 Robeson, Byron B., Salem, Oregon
 Robins, Carthul D., Ponca City, Oklahoma
 Robison, J. Monroe, Hollister, Missouri
 Rodriguez, Rufino, Garrochales, Puerto Rico
 Rodriguez, Simon B., Lubbock, Texas
 Rogers, Clinton, Palmdale, California
 Rogers, Wilburn, Thomaston, Georgia
 Rohde, Herman H., Issaquah, Washington
 Rose, Edward A., Thatcher, Arizona
 Rosenberg, Helen S., Saint John, Kansas
 Rosenkrans, Ernest W., Eureka Springs, Arkansas
 Rousey, Dewitt L., Sparkman, Arkansas
 Rubottom, Sylvia M., San Juan, Texas
 Ruiz, Rosario, Enterprise, Alabama
 Runyon, Hazel L., Newark, Arkansas
 Russell, Parlee D., Leon, Oklahoma
 Rye, Jesse B., Russellville, Arkansas
 Sachs, Melvin R., Tampa, Florida
 Sample, Thomas F., Memphis, Tennessee
 Sampson, Eunice V., Scottsdale, Arizona
 Sanders, Estle A., Hartford, Illinois
 Santana, Mariano Jr, Yabucoa, Puerto Rico
 Sawyer, Irene, Gun Barrel City, Texas
 Schachterle, Margaret, Springfield, Missouri
 Schaffer, Esther, Harbor City, California
 Schmidt, Irene L., Bakersfield, California
 Segers, James R., Wewahitchka, Florida
 Senn, Joe N., Hartford, Alabama
 Settle, Bob D., Anadarko, Oklahoma
 Shaffer, Stephen F., Port Arthur, Texas
 Sharp, Frank G., Springfield, Missouri
 Shell, Charles R., Springfield, Missouri
 Shepard, Gearold L., Ozark, Missouri
 Shin, Chul J., Los Angeles, California
 Shivers, William J., Marion, Indiana
 Shoff, Don L., Rialto, California
 Short, Maurine, Abilene, Texas
 Siitam, Endel, Cobourg Ontario, Canada
 Silva, Juan A., Valley Stream, New York
 Sims, Earl O., Falling Waters, West Virginia
 Sims, Frank E., Lodi, Wisconsin
 Siu, Wai Pun, Aiea, Hawaii
 Skipper, George E., Niceville, Florida
 Skoog, Harold M., Edmonds, Washington
 Smith, Eleanor Kenyon, Millville, New Jersey
 Smith, Hayes E., Coffee Springs, Alabama
 Smith, Loren T., Aurora, Missouri
 Smith, Pauline B., Springfield, Missouri
 Smith, Richard B., Limon, Colorado
 Smith, Wendall D., Wetumka, Oklahoma
 Smith, W. Herman, Tucker, Georgia
 Snitker, Lowell L., Fort Smith, Arkansas
 Snyder, Jerrell E., Selma, California
 Solis, Raul M., San Antonio, Texas
 Soltau, Ione E., Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Sorter, Floyd A., Porter, Texas
 Sorter, Maudie M., Porter, Texas
 Spell, Eula J., Panama City, Florida
 Spell, John E., Hampton, Arkansas
 Spence, Dana H., Williamsport, Maryland
 Spurgeon, Helen S., Medical Lake, Washington
 Spurgeon, Trace E., Vallejo, California
 Stafford, Thelma, Burleson, Texas
 Stanaland, Hamlin Jr, Crosbyton, Texas
 Stanbro, Rodney L., Nixa, Missouri
 St. Angelo, Thomas N., Ozark, Missouri
 Stanley, Emma J., Alvarado, Texas
 Stanley, Wallace E., Pittsfield, Maine
 Starnes, Willie A., Atoka, Tennessee
 Stawinski, Raymond M., Indianapolis, Indiana
 Steinbach, Richard P., Carrollton, Illinois
 Stephens, Pearl E., Commerce, Oklahoma
 Stephens, Willie A., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Stevens, Violet C., Newmarket, New Hampshire
 Stewart, Melvin W., Las Vegas, Nevada
 Stewart, Hal A., Columbus, Georgia
 Stewart, Thelma H., Merced, California
 Stewart, Thelma J., Boynton, Pennsylvania
 Stewart, Verlin E., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Stone, Harry C., Bellingham, Washington
 Storms, Alma R., Fort Mill, South Carolina
 Stout, Floyd A., Clifton, Colorado
 Suarez, Enrique A., Orlando, Florida
 Surgener, Denver, Lake City, Florida
 Swanner, Jesse L., Hensley, Arkansas
 Swartout, Edward H., Little Rock, Arkansas
 Swink, H. Carl, Eagan, Minnesota
 Talamante, Max J., Ralston, Nebraska
 Talbert, Harlan B., Boise, Idaho
 Taucan, Hernan, Kissimmee, Florida
 Taylor, Cedric V., Post Falls, Idaho

Taylor, Franklin S., Vero Beach, Florida
 Taylor, James A., Yuma, Arizona
 Temmel, Felix P. S., Apple Valley, Minnesota
 Temple, H. Duane, Houston, Texas
 Thomas, Charles H., Jacksonville, Florida
 Thomas, Jack V. Jr., Laytonville, California
 Thomas, James F., Camden, Arkansas
 Thomas, J. C., Livingston, Texas
 Thomas, Leonard M., Tempe, Arizona
 Thompson, Ronald L., Angier, North Carolina
 Tibbens, Dorothy M., Lafayette, Louisiana
 Tiner, Carl J., Phoenix, Arizona
 Tipton, Vernon E., Garland, Texas
 Toliver, F. H., Matthews, North Carolina
 Tolleson, Lois, Pampa, Texas
 Torrence, Thomas F., Concord, North Carolina
 Torres, Francisco, Yonkers, New York
 Totaro, Samuel C. Sr., Palm City, Florida
 Tripp, Robert L., Hallock, Minnesota
 Turner, Ruth P., Rice Lake, Wisconsin
 Tyler, Warren B., Madison Heights, Michigan
 Tyson, Walter P., Green Bay, Wisconsin
 Upshaw, Lee Ella, Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Vaughan, Cecil, Springdale, Arkansas
 Vaughn, Derrald W., Santa Cruz, California
 Vibbert, Theodore L., Fishers, Indiana
 Vincent, Henry D., Palestine, Texas
 Vondrasek, L. Paul, Wheatfield, Indiana
 Wafer, P. E. Jack, Houston, Texas
 Wakefield, David L., Grand River, Iowa
 Walkowicz, Josephine, Arlington, Virginia
 Walkup, Roy L., Muskogee, Oklahoma
 Wallace, Charles E., Carlinville, Illinois
 Waller, Roland E., Cold Spring, Minnesota
 Walls, Gerald W., Eufaula, Alabama
 Walter, Marvin C., Perkins, Oklahoma
 Walters, George E., Montgomery, Alabama
 Walton, James C. Sr., Stevenson, Washington
 Watkins, Mary P., San Antonio, Texas
 Watson, Daniel B., Richlands, Virginia
 Watson, George R., Riverview, Florida
 Weatherman, Pernina, Newkirk, Oklahoma
 Weaver, James W., Loganville, Georgia
 Weeks, Estelle, Andalusia, Alabama
 Welch, Melvin E., Sugar Land, Texas
 Welch, Susan K., Harriman, Tennessee
 Weller, Robert M., Hagerstown, Maryland
 Wenig, Robert W., Hastings, Minnesota
 Westerfield, Daniel B., Yakima, Washington
 Wheeler, Walter A., Brewster, Washington
 White, Gladys S., Mulberry, Florida
 White, Louise V., Valdosta, Georgia
 White, Martin L., Little Rock, Arkansas
 Whitman, Johnie M., Proctor, Arkansas
 Whittaker, Melvin E., Benton, Arkansas
 Wilcox, Gladys, Milton, Florida
 Wilcox, Leonard C., Atmore, Alabama
 Wilder, Sherman, Covina, California
 Wiles, Doris C., Houston, Texas
 Wilkers, James D., Grangerland, Texas
 Wilkinson, Betty C., Acworth, Georgia
 Williams, Asa L., Panama City, Florida
 Williams, Edwin D., Dallas, Texas
 Williams, Eugene C., Porterville, California
 Williams, Naomi R., Winslow, Arizona
 Williams, Romey J., Metlakatla, Alaska
 Williamson, Sarah A., Hialeah Gardens, Florida
 Williscroft, Gladys, Pittsburg, California
 Wilson, Jack M., Liberal, Kansas
 Wind, W. J., Phoenix, Arizona
 Winter, Donald G., Canyonville, Oregon
 Witcher, Fred W., Wynne, Arkansas
 Witt, Sam, Fayetteville, Arkansas
 Wolfe, Dolores J., Phoenix, Arizona
 Wolfe, Milton E., Mechanicsville, Maryland
 Wolford, Myrtle L., Mesa, Arizona
 Woodall, James W., Waxahachie, Texas
 Woodall, J. Dan, Springfield, Missouri
 Woodbury, Mary, Springfield, Missouri
 Woods, Milton L., Marysville, California
 Worley, D. Aaron, Greeneville, Tennessee
 Wright, Anna Mae, Aurora, Colorado
 Wright, Ronald E., Newport Beach, California
 Yard, Steven W., Sonora, California
 Yasuhara, Woodrow S., Aiea, Hawaii
 Yates, Alden A., Front Royal, Virginia
 Yendrek, Louis E., Russellville, Arkansas
 Yetley, Lois G., Big Lake, Minnesota
 Young, James C., Silver Creek, Mississippi
 Young, John H., Rose Bud, Arkansas
 Young, Luster J., Harrison, Arkansas
 Younger, William A., Antioch, California
 Ytterock, David, Redford, Michigan

George Wood, general secretary, read the names of the following ministers who were deceased after June 1, 2003, and were reported to the general secretary's office by August 1, 2003:

David E. Baker, Rumney, New Hampshire
Mildred Baker, Des Moines, Iowa
Barbara L. Badger, Sullivan, Indiana
Pansy D. Blossom, Springfield, Missouri
Dorothea E. Blue, Galesburg, Illinois
Rachel Gomez, San Jose, California
Vanessa L. Bowen, Hartman, Arkansas
Alfred D. Boyd, Parkton, Maryland
J. Paul Bruton, Jr., San Luis Obispo, California
Robert G. Caddell, Jr., Seguin, Texas
Norberto Capas, Pittsburg, California
Ethel Carlisle, Lincoln City, Oregon
Paul W. Carlstrom, Seattle, Washington
Maria R. Cruz, Harlingen, Texas
Thomas C. Cunningham, Springdale, Arkansas
Paul E. Davidson, Temecula, California
James I. Dickinson, Fresno, California
Reuben R. Drieth, Greeley, Colorado
James W. Dunsford, Bartow, Florida
Albert W. Earle, Limington, Maine
Linnie M. Fisher, Leeds, Alabama
Yeung Ja Han, Roosevelt Island, New York
Roy B. Harris, Lake Jackson, Texas
J. D. Keen, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Frank V. Kelley, The Villages, Florida
Velma A. Long, Fort Collins, Colorado
Warren W. Lowrie, Waxahachie, Texas
Carroll W. McAnulty, Poplar Bluff, Missouri
James O. McGahey, Yakima, Washington
D. Robert Mackish, Springfield, Missouri
Eugene Martinez, Jr., Caldwell, Idaho
Enos Mick, Garland, Texas
Angelo, Nesto, Ocala, Florida
Edgar C. O'Brien, Toronto, Canada
Walter B. Owen, Kansas City, Missouri
Bernard B. Ridings, Kansas City, Missouri
Kyo Hyun Shin, Lyndhurst, New Jersey
Melvin P. Smith, Madisonville, Texas
Priscilla P. Sparks, Marlow, Oklahoma
H. David Speight, Hardwick, Georgia
Glen W. Springer, Ottumwa, Iowa
Martin V. B. Sumner, Jr., Boise, Idaho
Alfred L. Tedeschi, Mansfield, Ohio
Anthony Vigna, Winona Lake, Indiana
Samuel H. Vilano, Delano, California
Raymond H. Warnick, Grass Lake, Michigan
Betty F. Wheeler, Queen Creek, Arizona
Glenn W. Wilcox, Gladewater, Texas
James M. Wilson, Shady Shores, Texas
John C. Yoon, Sacramento, California

Fine Arts Festival Rally

The Sunday afternoon service was a Fine Arts Festival Gathering on the National Mall and began at 1:30 p.m. The festival featured the winners of the 2003 National Fine Arts Festival. The national winners for each category were announced.

EVENING WORSHIP SERVICE

“Turn America—Pray The Way” Rally

The Turn America—Pray the Way Rally on the National Mall began at 3:30 p.m. The members of the Board of Administration each offered prayer for the nation and for the Assemblies of God. Due to heavy rain and the forecast of more to come, the National Park Service cancelled the remainder of the service.

GEORGE O. WOOD
GENERAL SECRETARY

CONSTITUTION

OF

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

OF THE

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

REVISED AUGUST 3, 2003

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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).

- 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 and licensed 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 60 days 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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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 begin 60 days after date of election and 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.

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.

CONSTITUTION

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

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

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

h. Honorary general presbyters. Upon the approval of the General Presbytery, honorary members may be chosen by the General Council from among those ministers who (1) have reached the age of 60 years and (2) have served on the General Presbytery for 20 years or more, or served on the General Presbytery as a General Council executive officer for 8 years or more. The addition of such honorary members shall be in addition to the regular number of presbyters granted each district.

ARTICLE X. DISTRICT COUNCILS

Section 1. Membership

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

Section 2. Area of Supervision

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

Section 3. Language Districts

A language group may be recognized as a district of the Assemblies of God in accordance with the provision for district councils in the Bylaws. The territory of such a district is confined to ministry among certain language groups, and its geographical area of operation may therefore overlap or coincide with that of one or more other district councils. (See Article V of the Bylaws.)

Section 4. Credentialing Authority

The district council shall have the authority to examine and present candidates who qualify as certified ministers, licensed ministers, or ordained ministers in accordance with Article VII of the Bylaws. The applications of such candidates shall be forwarded to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for presentation to the General Council Credentials Committee for final review and issuance of the ministerial credential if the qualifications prescribed by Article VII of the Bylaws are satisfied. Any level of formal academic achievement (diploma or degree) shall not be a requirement for credentials, but it shall be required of applicants that they take such courses and pass examinations as shall be prescribed by the General Presbytery unless an exception is provided for in the Bylaws.

Section 5. Areas of Authority

The district council shall elect its own officers and arrange for its own meetings.

Section 6. Relationship With the General Council

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

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

A General Council affiliated assembly is one that has applied for and has received a Certificate of Affiliation from The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

a. Requirements for affiliation. Churches desiring to be affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall meet the following requirements. They shall:

- (1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God;
- (2) Adopt a standard of membership that may be determined either by the local assembly or by agreement with the district council;
- (3) Have a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body;
- (4) Adopt Articles of Incorporation, a constitution or bylaws compatible with models recommended by the district council, or district approved governance models that provide for adequate accountability, amenability, and safeguards so that a pastor and/or governing body cannot directly or indirectly exert dictatorial control over a church;
- (5) Have an adequate number of spiritually qualified members to fill the offices of the church called for in its constitution or bylaws; and
- (6) Make provision for a pastor who is a credentialed minister in good standing with the General Council and a district council.

b. Relationship to and support of the General Council and district councils. A General Council affiliated assembly should cooperate in the work and support the programs of the General Council and district councils and may send delegates to the General Council and district councils.

c. Right of self-government (sovereign rights). Each General Council affiliated assembly has the right of self-government under Jesus Christ, its living Head, and shall have the power to choose or call its pastor, elect its official board, and transact all other business pertaining to its life as a local unit. It shall have the right to administer discipline to its members according to the Scriptures and its constitution or bylaws. It shall have the right to acquire and hold title to property, either through trustees or in its corporate name as a self-governing unit. The fact it is affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in no way destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty. The governance model adopted by the local assembly shall conform to the guidelines of Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (4).

CONSTITUTION

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. Cooperating Assemblies

Provision may be made by district councils and the General Council Executive Presbytery for the status of a cooperating assembly, which would allow churches that subscribe to Article V. Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council Constitution to enter into a cooperative status with a district and the General Council on a temporary basis (4-year term, renewable by the request of the local church congregation at the discretion of the district council in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery) before officially affiliating with the district council and the General Council.

Section 4. 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

ARTICLE XIII

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 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 3, 2003

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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	117
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	144
XIII.	Division of the Treasury	145
XIV.	Assemblies of God World Missions	148
XV.	Assemblies of God U.S. 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 U.S. Missions. The executive director of U.S. 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: Brazilian, 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 7) 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 7.) The General Presbytery shall, at its next meeting, elect one minister from among the nominees submitted, to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the General Council. (See Bylaws Article II, Section 1, for qualifications.)

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

c. General presbyters

(1) In the event a general presbyter shall move to another district or shall vacate the office for any other reason, the presbytery of the district council shall appoint one to serve as general presbyter until that office is regularly filled at the next meeting of the district council.

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

ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. Duties of the General Superintendent

The duties of the general superintendent shall include the following:

a. Emphasize and implement the threefold mission of the church: the evangelization of the world, the worship of God, and the building of a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son; and promote and coordinate efforts directed toward the fulfilling of that mission.

b. Superintend all work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

c. Act as president of the corporation in all legal matters, and be an ex officio member of all committees and boards.

d. Preside at the sessions of the General Presbytery and the General Council.

e. Preside at all meetings of the General Council Credentials Committee and sign all credentials.

f. Preside at all sessions of the Executive Presbytery and the Board of Administration and receive all communications directed to these bodies.

g. Administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the General Council Credentials Committee.

h. Sign all official and legal documents (see Section 7 of this Article).

i. Perform any other functions usual and customary as presiding officer or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or by the Executive Presbytery.

BYLAWS

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. Serve as an executive officer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and thus serve on the Board of Administration.
- h. Perform such other functions as may be directed by the Executive Presbytery or the General Presbytery.

Section 6. Duties of the Executive Director of U.S. Missions

The executive director of U.S. 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 U.S. missions work is involved.
- c. Distribute all home missions funds as directed by the U.S. Missions Committee.
- d. Serve as chairperson of the U.S. Missions Board and U.S. Missions Committee.
- e. Keep a record of all official acts of the U.S. Missions Board and other committees of the division.
- f. Serve as an executive officer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and thus serve on the Board of Administration.
- g. 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 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

BYLAWS

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. Scriptural Interpretation. All resolutions involving scriptural interpretation shall be forwarded to the Commission on Doctrinal Purity. The commission shall evaluate and draft a brief assessment of the scriptural interpretation embodied in the resolution. Their assessment, stating their agreement or disagreement with the scriptural interpretation, shall accompany the resolution when presented to the General Council for consideration.

d. 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 those proposals absurd in substance.

e. 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.

f. 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. A district superintendent or any other elected officer may serve other than full time at the discretion of the district council.

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. Presbyters

District are encouraged to organize in such a way that the presbyter may focus on ministering to ministers, providing encouragement, prayer, leadership development, by modeling spiritual maturity and leadership to the pastors, ministers, and churches assigned to the responsible presbyter.

Section 5. Ethnic/Language Districts

a. Recognition qualifications. In order to become a district of the Assemblies of God, an ethnic/language group must have a minimum number of 40 churches. Any ethnic/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. An ethnic/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 ethnic/language district and the geographical district shall seek to promote a spirit of fellowship and cooperation. The ethnic/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. It is strongly recommended that the ethnic/language district and the geographical district appoint representatives(s) to serve with their respective presbyteries to provide and encourage cooperative strategies and relationships. The language churches, whether members of a geographical or ethnic/language district, are encouraged to unite where possible, in fellowship activities.

BYLAWS

d. Sponsorship and affiliation of an ethnic/language group. Should an English-speaking church desire to initiate sponsorship of an ethnic/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 an ethnic/language group within churches belonging to the geographical district. The sponsoring church may provide facilities and support to such a work through its district U.S. 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 an ethnic/language district to the geographical district in which it is located or from a geographical district to an ethnic/language district, 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 ethnic/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 6. 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 7. Ethnic and Language Fellowships

Ethnic or language groups 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. When an ethnic or language group recognized by the Executive Presbytery functions as a fellowship and represents a specific number of churches determined by and within a district, a presbyter shall be appointed or elected from the ethnic or language fellowship to represent the ethnic or language fellowship within a 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.

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.

BYLAWS

c. Organizational assistance. The services of both the General Council and district council are available to assist the General Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the official board of the church or a petition signed by 20 percent of the voting members.

d. Preservation of affiliation. In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor or board shall invite the district officers to participate in a specially called business meeting for the express purpose of giving the district officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. Final disposition of the matter may then proceed in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the local church.

Section 5. Guidelines for Minimal Membership for General Council Affiliated Assemblies

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

Section 6. New Assemblies

The planting of new churches shall be a priority goal of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Resources at all levels shall be aligned to accomplish this purpose. Initiative for establishing new churches and the oversight of those churches may emanate from local assemblies, sections, and district councils. District presbyteries, sectional committees, or the authorities within a district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches shall not prohibit the planting of new churches unless a compelling reason exists. If it is determined that a compelling reason exists, a minister or local church desiring to plant the church shall have the right to appeal to their district presbytery or authorities within a district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches, and the decision of the district may be appealed to the General Council Executive Presbytery, whose decision shall be final.

Section 7. 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 8. 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.

Three classifications of ministry are recognized and transferable among all Assemblies of God districts: the ordained minister, the licensed minister, and the certified minister.

All ordained, licensed, and certified ministers holding current ministerial credentials are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church, and those holding a local church credential as provided below.

A fourth classification of ministry, a local church credential, may be provided by a local General Council affiliated church under basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the district council. The local church credential shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church) and shall be limited to 2 years (renewable by the local church for an additional 2-year term). A person holding a local church credential can perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church if authorized in writing by the senior pastor of the local church issuing the credential.

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.

BYLAWS

g. Commitment to the Fellowship. An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older mature Christians and those in positions of authority.

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

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

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

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

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

i. Marriage status. We disapprove of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God or district councils granting credentials to such, if either marriage partner has a former 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 meet the qualifications for ministerial credentials are eligible for whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and have the right to administer the ordinances of the church and are eligible to serve in all levels of church ministry, and/or district and General Council leadership.

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

- (1) Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.
- (2) Complete an application for ministerial recognition.
- (3) Submit a letter of recommendation from a neighboring Assemblies of God minister or the sectional presbyter for the applicant's area.
- (4) Submit a recommendation from the body with which the minister was formerly affiliated. If such is not available, letters of recommendation should be sought from three reputable ordained ministers who are familiar with the applicant's ministry, two of whom should be with the applicant's former credentialing body.
- (5) Take the credential examination.
- (6) Complete such courses as may be prescribed by the General Presbytery for ministers transferring from other credentialing bodies.
- (7) Meet with the district credentials committee for an oral interview.
- (8) Be recommended by the district credentials committee for action by the General Council Credentials Committee.
- (9) All previously ordained ministers so approved shall receive recognition as ordained Assemblies of God ministers with the laying on of hands by the district presbytery. All other applicants so approved shall receive the appropriate level of credential recognition.
- (10) Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition shall relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization, 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. Local church credential. A local church credential shall be administered by the local church pursuant to basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the district council. It shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church).

c. 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

BYLAWS

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.

d. 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.

e. Ordained minister. Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament (1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9). In addition:

(1) Applicants must be 23 years of age or older.

(2) They must have met all the requirements in making application and in completing the prescribed application form.

(3) No person may be ordained to the ministry until he or she has held a license to preach and has been engaged in active work as a pastor, evangelist, or some other recognized and proven full-time preaching ministry for at least 2 full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.

(4) *Residency requirements of applicants.* Applicants must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credentials committee. District councils are required to refrain from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed in another district, until such licensed minister shall have been a member of the district in which he or she is seeking ordination at least 1 year. Applicants who have not been a member of the district where they apply for ordination for 2 full consecutive years must meet the requirements and secure the endorsement of the officers of the district in which they were previously licensed, as well as the district of their residence.

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

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

Section 4. Action of Credentials Committee

The General Council Credentials Committee delegates to the district councils the authority to examine, approve, and recommend candidates who qualify as certified ministers, licensed ministers, and ordained ministers. Final approval and issuance of the ministerial credential shall be made by the General Council Credentials Committee. All ordination services, with the laying on of hands, shall take place under the auspices of the district councils.

Section 5. Certificates

The General Council Credentials Committee is authorized to issue ordination certificates, licenses to preach, specialized ministries licenses, and certificates of ministry, together with the accompanying annual fellowship card, to all properly qualified and approved candidates.

Section 6. Official List

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

b. Inactive ministers. All credentialed ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time ministry, shall be expected to notify the district office, which shall inform the general secretary who shall then be authorized to transfer the names of such persons to the inactive list, unless the district of which said person is a member requests otherwise by letter.

(1) *Definition.* All ordained and licensed ministers who shall have preached less than 15 times, and certified ministers who shall have preached less than 12 times, within a period of 1 year or have not been actively engaged in some other aspect of ministry shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.

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

(3) *Exceptions.* This shall not apply to those whose inactivity has been caused by infirmity; or those engaged in other aspects of full-time ministry such as Headquarters or district workers, educators, ministers of music, ministers of youth, and ministers of Christian education; or those who have reached the age of 60 years; or those ministers who have had 25 years of approved service as credentialed ministers, or those whose spouse is disabled or has retired giving them little opportunity for public ministry.

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

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

Section 7. Senior Ministers

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

BYLAWS

a. Terminology

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

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

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

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

c. Guidelines

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

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

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

(4) *Support of General Council Headquarters.* Senior-active and senior-semiretired ministers shall continue to designate the required amount of support to the General Council Headquarters as set forth in Bylaws Article XIII, Section 1, paragraph c, (1). Senior-retired ministers shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes previously paid to the General Council.

d. Limitations of this Section 7

(1) *For General Council usage only.* The definitions and decisions included in Section 7 apply only to General Council usage and are not binding upon the various districts, nor to the official legislation under which their members serve.

(2) *Other financial responsibility not circumvented.* No part of Section 7 is intended to modify the responsibility of ministers to their districts nor to terminate the biblical responsibility for tithing.

Section 8. Ministerial Relations

a. Amenability. All certified, licensed, and ordained ministers 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.) All local church credential holders shall be amenable to their local church under guidelines established by the General Presbytery and district council in matters of doctrine and discipline.

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.

ARTICLE VII

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

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

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

(b) Both districts agree to the assignment; and

(c) If the assignment involves a language group, they follow the guidelines provided by the Executive Presbytery of the General Council and adhere to these Bylaws governing interdistrict relations. (See Article V, Section 6.)

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 U.S. 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 U.S. missionaries.* Nationally appointed or approved U.S. 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.

BYLAWS

(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 U.S. 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.

(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. Transfers from Assemblies of God World Fellowship. A minister holding ordination (or equivalent) with a member group of the Assemblies of God World Fellowship, may transfer his or her ordination to The General Council of the Assemblies of God if the following criteria are met:

(1) A letter of recommendation from the executive committee of the national church or equivalent letter of recommendation.

(2) Acceptable equivalency between our governing bodies.

(3) A course on history and polity of U.S. church.

(4) Application completed in the same form as U.S. applicants in the language of the applicant, if possible, at the discretion of the general secretary.

c. 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.

BYLAWS

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.

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, B, 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.

BYLAWS

d. Amillennialism. The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the amillennial teaching and its attendant erroneous philosophy which denies the fact of a literal 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth, and substitutes for it the theory that this Christian or Church dispensation is the spiritual Millennium of which, its proponents say, the Bible writers prophesied.

e. Credentials jeopardized if made an issue. We recommend that those ministers who embrace any of the foregoing eschatological errors refrain from preaching or teaching them. Should they persist in emphasizing these doctrines to the point of making them an issue, their standing in the Fellowship will be seriously affected (Luke 21:34-36; 1 Thessalonians 5:9,10; 2 Thessalonians 1:4-10; Revelation 3:10,19,20).

Section 4. Membership in Secret Orders

Ours is a last-day message in preparation for the coming of the Lord (Matthew 24:14), leaving us no alternative but wholehearted devotion to the cause of spreading the gospel (Luke 9:62); and it is well known that the various secret orders require much valuable time and interest, thus diverting the servant of the Lord out of the way (Ephesians 5:16).

The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20; Acts 26:26) reinforced by religious oaths (Matthew 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who are for the most part unregenerated (2 Corinthians 6:14). The spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders aim at the improvement of the natural man only (1 Corinthians 2:14; Colossians 2:8), thus wrongly channeling by incorrect interpretation important spiritual truths (2 Peter 3:16).

Confidence in these secret orders and their teachings has always tended toward the embracing of a false hope of salvation through good works and improved moral service (Ephesians 2:8,9).

In consideration of the foregoing, all ministers affiliated with the Assemblies of God should refrain from identifying themselves with any of the secret orders that the General Council recognizes as essentially of the world, worldly; and the General Council advises any who may have identified themselves with such orders to sever their connections with them (2 Corinthians 6:17). Furthermore, Assemblies of God ministers are requested to use their good influence among our lay members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:24-26).

Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage

a. Membership

(1) *Marriage entanglements before conversion.* There are now among Christian people those who became entangled in their marriage relations in their former lives of sin and who do not see how these matters can be adjusted. We recommend that these people be received into the membership of local assemblies and that their marriage complications be left in the hands of the Lord (1 Corinthians 7:17,20,24).

(2) *Common-law marriages.* We recommend that in no case shall persons be accepted into membership who are known to be living in a common-law state of matrimony.

b. Remarriage. Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage

ARTICLE IX

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 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).

(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 discourage 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.

(2) *Violation of conscience not required.* We realize that the remarriage of such persons included in the exceptive circumstances in Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph b, could violate the conscience of a minister; and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such ceremonies.

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

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

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

BYLAWS

appearance; any fascination or association which lessens one's affection for spiritual things (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8; 12:1,2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10; 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12).

Section 7. Abuses of Stewardship

a. Tithing

(1) According to the Scriptures, tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the gospel and work of the Lord and not be given to charity or used for other purposes. In tithing, the ministers ought to be examples.

(2) We recognize the duty of tithing and urge all our people to pay tithes to God. It is recommended that arrangements satisfactory to the pastor and the church be made by all pastors and churches, so that the pastor may receive regular and adequate support. We disapprove, however, of the teaching that all tithes necessarily should belong to the pastor for his or her support.

b. Solicitation of funds

(1) It is considered improper and unethical for ministers or missionaries to solicit funds, by letter or otherwise, for anything or any reason whatsoever without proper authorization.

(2) The purpose of this section is not to hinder or discourage legitimate projects but to protect the Fellowship from those who employ methods not in harmony with Assemblies of God principles or policies.

Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local churches or communities.

Projects of general interest to the district must have authorization of the district officers.

Projects or institutions of national scope that plan to solicit funds from Assemblies of God churches must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

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

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

c. Private ownership of religious institutions. The General Council of the Assemblies of God approves the holding of title to all church buildings, schools, or other institutions that are supported by funds solicited for the work of God by properly constituted corporations. It disapproves the holding of title to such properties by the ministers of the Assemblies of God, through private ownership, corporations sole, or closed corporations. In the event a local congregation is not incorporated or set in order by the district council, title should be vested in properly qualified trustees. Where private ownership exists, a properly incorporated body shall be formed and title to the property shall be transferred to the corporation.

A disregard of this principle and recommendation shall seriously affect the relation of the Assemblies of God members involved in such ownership.

Section 8. Violations of Ministerial Courtesy

All discourteous conduct is disapproved, and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of assemblies, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent or by such correspondence with members of the assembly as will hurt the influence of the leader. All correspondence which concerns the whole assembly shall be addressed to the one in charge and not to individual members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work shall be addressed to the officers of the assembly.

Any minister who so offends shall be subject to discipline.

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

Ministers shall not be limited or restrained from entering open doors to preach this Pentecostal message, so long as they retain Assemblies of God doctrine, standards of holiness, proper attitudes, and proper ministerial conduct without compromise.

Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle for growth and spiritual development of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, it is essential that we recognize our relationship to each other and that we practice Christian cooperation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local church work.

We recommend therefore that our ministers confer with district council 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 certified, licensed, and ordained 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. All references to the discipline of ministers within this article of the Bylaws relate solely to certified, licensed, and ordained ministers.

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.

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 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.

ARTICLE X

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. 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.

BYLAWS

(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 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.

c. 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

ARTICLE X

rehabilitation have been completed. Consideration may also be given to a minister if in the opinion of the credentials committees he or she has satisfactorily fulfilled the remedial requirements of such rehabilitation.

Section 9. Referral for Action to the General Council Credentials Committee

a. District recommendation

(1) *Rehabilitation.* When a minister is to be placed in a rehabilitation program in accordance with Section 8 of this article, the district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and recommended terms of rehabilitation. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

(2) *Dismissal.* When a minister has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles as set forth in Article X, Section 3, and it is determined that rehabilitation is not feasible or fails, a minister's credentials are to be terminated by dismissal. The district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and its recommendation for dismissal. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

b. General Council Credentials Committee action. The General Council Credentials Committee shall consider the recommendation of the district and shall concur if in its judgment the district was justified in the action taken. If the General Council Credentials Committee does not concur, it may remand the case, together with its recommendations, back to the district for review and reconsideration. The district shall report the results of its recommendation to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.

c. General Council to hold information. All pertinent information relating to the disciplinary action taken against a minister shall be preserved for future reference in the office of the General Council Credentials Committee.

d. Final disposition. The general secretary shall notify the minister and the district(s) involved of the final disposition of the case.

Section 10. Right of Appeal

a. Filing of appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee. The right of appeal applies to all actions of discipline and termination of credentials other than lapsing or resigning on the initiative of the minister. An accused minister shall have 30 days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee decision was mailed to appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee. The minister shall be apprised officially of this right at the time notification is given to the minister of the decision of the General Council Credentials Committee. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the general superintendent, and should include any new or exculpatory information not previously considered, with copies sent to the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation and any other districts involved.

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

BYLAWS

(1) *Remanding of case to the district.* If in the judgment of the General Council Credentials Committee, justice has not been served, the case shall be remanded to the district presbytery for review and reconsideration. The district shall report the results of its review to the General Council Credentials Committee for final disposition.

(2) *Denial of appeal.*

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

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

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

Section 11. Publication of Dismissal

No publication of a dismissed minister's name shall be made until the district has been advised by the office of the general secretary that such has been authorized by the General Council Credentials Committee. An additional 30 days from the date of the notification shall be given the dismissed minister to exercise the right of appeal.

Section 12. Reinstatement of Credentials

a. Authorization. Application for reinstatement may be made through the district council within which territory the applicant resides. The application shall be considered subject to the approval of the district in which the termination was made.

b. Minimal time-lapse for dismissed ministers. The minimal time-lapse required before a minister who has been dismissed is eligible for reinstatement shall be 1 year, except it shall be 2 years for a minister who has been dismissed because of charges as stated in Article X, Section 3, paragraph a. The time-lapse shall be computed from the date of the district presbytery action as it appears on the ministerial status report filed with the General Council Credentials Committee. (See Bylaws Article VII, Section 10, for other renewals and reinstatements.)

c. Rehabilitation obligatory. When a minister has been dismissed from our Fellowship and applies for reinstatement, he or she shall comply with the procedures for rehabilitation outlined in Section 8, paragraph c, of this Article.

ARTICLE XI

d. Option to refer to General Presbytery. The General Council Credentials Committee may also hold the reinstatement of a minister's credentials in abeyance until the next session of the General Presbytery in order that the General Presbytery may have the opportunity to review the case, in which event the matter of reinstatement of such minister may be left entirely with that body.

e. Reinstatement fee. When applying for reinstatement the minister must include a \$50 reinstatement fee with the application to be divided equally between the district council and the General Council.

Section 13. Notice

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

ARTICLE XI. GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE

Section 1. Spiritual Life

a. Authorization and purpose. There shall be a Spiritual Life planning and coordinating office to assist the general superintendent in implementing the threefold mission of the church. Divisions and departments shall cooperate in this priority effort.

b. Organization

(1) *Coordinator.* This office shall be under the direction of the general superintendent and amenable to the Executive Presbytery. A Spiritual Life coordinator shall be nominated by the general superintendent and appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) *Committee on Mission*

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

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

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

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

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

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

(c) *Composition.* The Committee on Mission shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall consist of the Board of Administration, the executive director of the Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, the Spiritual Life coordinator, at least 10 members representing the area divisions of the

BYLAWS

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 supporters.

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.

BYLAWS

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 on Ethnicity which shall consist of the following: The chairperson, co-chairperson, the Board of Administration (ex officio), ethnic executive presbyters (ex officio), 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, and ethnic ministers 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 except for those from fellowships entitled to only one general presbyter. The commission chairperson, ex officio members, and Headquarters representatives will have no term limitations.

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

Section 6. Commission on Evangelism

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

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

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

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

e. Composition of Commission on Evangelism. The Commission on Evangelism shall consist of no more than 40 members to include: the leader of the Commission on Evangelism, who shall serve as chairperson; the Board of Administration (ex officio); the executive director of the Assemblies of God World Missions (ex officio); the executive director of the Assemblies of God U.S. 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

ARTICLE XI

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.

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.

BYLAWS

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 U.S. 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 the recommendations of the full commission. The resource committee shall consist of the chairperson of the Commission on Discipleship, who shall serve as chairperson; the various leaders of departments and ministries from within the Division of Christian Education and the Division of Church Ministries, and other representatives from the various Headquarters ministries. The general superintendent shall serve as an ex officio member of the resource committee. The resource committee shall be appointed by the Board of Administration.

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

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

ARTICLE XIII. DIVISION OF THE TREASURY

a. Authorization. There shall be a Division of the Treasury which shall have general oversight of the Finance Department, the Audit Department, and the Benevolences Department.

b. Purpose. The purpose of the division shall be to have the oversight and responsibility of safeguarding, supervising, and investing the finances of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and to oversee its benevolences ministries.

c. Executive director. The general treasurer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be the executive director of the division.

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

Section 1. Finance Department

a. Authorization and purpose

(1) *Authorization.* There shall be a Finance Department which shall have the functions usual and ordinary to a Finance Department, and shall include the processing of mail.

(2) *Purpose.* It shall be the responsibility of this department in its field of activities to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its threefold mission.

b. Organization and governance

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

(2) *Executive Finance Committee.* The Board of Administration shall constitute the Executive Finance Committee.

(3) *Committee on Finance.* There shall be a Committee on Finance, consisting of seven persons from the constituency on the field, elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery. This committee shall be charged with the responsibility of studying the budget with the Executive Presbytery and shall serve in an advisory capacity in matters of general finance.

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 U.S. 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

BYLAWS

can be 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 Fellowship Partners 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 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 Partners plan for support of the General Council; the Assemblies of God World Missions, Assemblies of God U.S. 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 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

BYLAWS

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 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

BYLAWS

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. Creation of new region. With the creation of a new region, the World Missions Board shall have the discretion of nominating a regional director, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery. The normal cycle of missionary endorsement will follow.

h. 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.

i. 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.

j. 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).]

k. 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.

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.

BYLAWS

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.

(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.

ARTICLE XV

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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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 U.S. Missions who shall be elected in the manner described in Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph d.

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

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

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

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

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

BYLAWS

e. U.S. Missions Board. The work of the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be under the supervision of a U.S. Missions Board.

(1) *Composition.* The U.S. Missions Board shall consist of the executive director of the Assemblies of God U.S. 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 U.S. missions director.

The department leaders, and other key Assemblies of God U.S. Missions personnel as determined by the executive director, shall serve as ex officio members of the U.S. Missions Board.

(2) *Elections.* The members of the U.S. Missions Board shall be nominated by the executive director of the Assemblies of God U.S. 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 U.S. Missions Board to evaluate policies of the Assemblies of God U.S. 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 U.S. 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 U.S. Missions Board by appointment until the term is expired.

f. U.S. Missions Committee. The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a U.S. 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 U.S. 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 U.S. Missions Board.

g. Commission on Chaplains

(1) *Composition.* The Commission on Chaplains shall consist of the executive director of the Assemblies of God U.S. 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 U.S. missionaries. National U.S. missionaries shall be appointed by action of the U.S. Missions Committee 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 U.S. Missions upon the approval of the work district.

Section 3. Support

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

- a. Offerings designated for office expense.
- b. Five percent of all funds contributed through the national Assemblies of God U.S. Missions for nationally appointed and/or approved Assemblies of God U.S. 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 U.S. missions projects.
- e. One-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment.
- 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.

BYLAWS

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 Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery. Effort shall be made to provide general geographical distribution in these nominations.

BYLAWS

(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.

(3) The Commission on Christian Higher Education shall be a resource and provide partnership opportunities for other ministerial training institutions including church-based Bible institutes, Master's Commissions, nontraditional educational systems, and other entities providing ministerial training.

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

ARTICLE XVIII

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

BYLAWS

committee. Those not serving by virtue of office shall be selected by the commission.

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

ARTICLE XIX. MEDIA MINISTRIES

Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

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

b. Purpose. The primary responsibility of the Media Ministries in its field of 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.

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.

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.

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

BYLAWS

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 50th SESSION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

(With revised Constitution and Bylaws)
July 31-August 3, 2003—Washington, D.C.

AGENDA, adopted.....	10
AFFILIATION	
Minimal Membership Guidelines.....	16
AKER, BENNY C.	19
APOSTOLIC MINISTRY AND U.S. A/G.....	69
APPRECIATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	
City of Washington, D.C.	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	9
Exhibits	10
Hospitality	10
Human Resources	10
National Youth Convention.....	10
Prayer	10
Printed Materials	10
Program	9
Promotional/Press	10
Registration	10
Tellers Liaison.....	10
Translations.....	10
Transportation	10
Ushers/Communion	10
Courtesy Resolution	72, 73
Retired Executive Presbyters.....	7
ARGUE, DAVID W.	
Reelected North Central Area executive presbyter	40-42

MINUTES

ASSEMBLIES

Flexible Local Church Governance	34
Minimal Membership Guidelines for Affiliation	16
Sovereign Rights.....	35

ASSISTANT GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

Reelected of Charles E. Crabtree.....	12
Report of Charles T. Crabtree.....	11

AUDIT REPORT.....

BETZER, C. DAN

Reelected Southeast Area executive presbyter.....	45, 46
---	--------

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

Expansion to Include All Elected Executive Officers.....	64-66
--	-------

BONGIORNO, PHILIP

Elected honorary general presbyter	28
--	----

BRAZILIAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.....

BRIDGES, JAMES K.

Audit Report.....	11
Report of general treasurer	11

BULLOCK, WARREN D.

Reelected Northwest Area executive presbyter.....	38, 39
---	--------

CHURCH PLANTING EMPHASIS.....

CHURCHES

Cooperating Status.....	36
Flexible Local Church Governance	34
Minimal Membership Guidelines for Affiliation.	16
Sovereign Rights.....	35

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Roster	11
Spiritual Life	50-53
Vision for Transformation	28, 34

COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION,

Expansion of.....	66, 67
-------------------	--------

COMMISSION ON ETHNICITY [VFT Resolution 22].....

COMMUNION SERVICE

COOPERATING CHURCH STATUS

COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN ETHNIC/LANGUAGE

AND GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRICT [VFT Resolution 14]	60-63
---	-------

COUNTRY, PRAYER FOR

COURTESY RESOLUTION

CRABTREE, CHARLES T.

Reelected as Assistant General Superintendent	12
Report of assistant general superintendent.....	11

CRABTREE, ROBERT D.

Elected honorary general presbyter.	29
--	----

CRANK, CHARLES E.

Reelected Great Lakes Area executive presbyter.....	42-44
---	-------

CREDENTIALS

Changes to Facilitate Local Church Credential [Resolution 9]	57, 58
Credentialing of Divorced and Remarried Persons,	
North Texas Appeal	70-72

Local Church Credential [VFT Resolution 7].....	53-55
Mandatory Screening for All Credential Holders [VFT Resolution 10].....	58
Reciprocity With Other A/G International Fellowship [VFT Resolution 6].....	49
CRIDER, TOMMY	
Elected honorary general presbyter	30
DEPARTMENTAL/DIVISIONAL REPORTS	11
DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE,	
North Texas District appeal.....	70-72
DRESSELHAUS, RICHARD	
Reelected Southwest Area executive presbyter.....	39, 40
EDUCATION AWARDS	
Billie Davis Educator of the Year Award.....	74
Russ and Sandy Conner	74
Distinguished Administrators	
Klaude Kendrick	18
Dorothea J. Lotter	18
Distinguished Educators	
Benny C. Aker.....	19
Calvin M. Johnansson.....	20
Who's Who Among Christian School Educators	
Sharleen Andersen	55
Ruth Cuarado-Wilkins	55
Mary Dukes.....	55
Carol Fulkerson.....	55
Joan Grunenwald	55
Mary Ann Haines	55
Michelle Lee	55
Maurice Rider	55
Brenda Smith.....	55
John Wells.....	55
ELECTING BY REGION [VFT Resolution 15]	63
ELECTIONS	
Assistant General Superintendent.....	12
Ethnic Fellowship Area	47
Executive Director, Assemblies of God World Missions	32
Executive Presbyters.....	38-48
General Secretary.....	21
Great Lakes Area	42, 43
Gulf Area	44
Language-Other Area	47
Language-Spanish Area.....	46, 47
North Central Area.....	40-42
Northeast Area	44, 45
Northwest Area.....	38, 39
South Central Area.....	42
Southeast Area	45, 46
Southwest Area.....	39, 40
ELIGIBILITY OF WOMEN [Resolution 7].....	17

MINUTES

ETHNICITY, COMMISSION ON [VFT Resolution 21]..... 67-69

EVANGELISTS

District Representative [Resolution 14] 27, 28

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS

Argue, David W., North Central..... 40-42

Betzer, C. Dan, Southeast Area 45, 46

Bullock, Warren D., Northwest Area 38, 39

Crank, Charles E., Great Lakes Area 42-44

Dresselhaus, Richard, Southwest Area..... 39, 40

Ethnic Fellowship Area 47, 48

Garrison, L. Alton, Gulf Area..... 44

George, J. Don, South Central Area 42

Great Lakes Area 42-44

Gulf Area 44

Kim, Nam Soo, Language-Other Area 47

Language-Other Area 47

Language-Spanish Area..... 46, 47

Miranda, Jesse, Language-Spanish Area..... 46, 47

North Central Area..... 40-42

Northeast Area 44, 45

Northwest Area 38, 39

Rhoden, H. Robert, Northeast Area..... 44, 45

Smith, Zollie, Ethnic Fellowship Area 47, 48

South Central Area..... 42

Southeast Area 45, 46

Southwest Area 39, 40

Terms of Office of Nonresident [Resolution 1] 13, 14

FELLOWSHIP PARTNERSHIP OFFERING [Resolution 10] 23-25

FINANCE, COMMITTEE ON [Resolution 9] 22, 23

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL RALLY 83

FLEXIBLE LOCAL CHURCH GOVERNANCE..... 34

FLEXIBILITY FOR DISTRICT LEADERSHIP [VFT Resolution 11] 58,59

GARRISON, L. ALTON

Reelected Gulf Area executive presbyter 44, 45

GENERAL PRESBYTERS, HONORARY

Bongiorno, Philip..... 28

Logan, Don R..... 29

Crabtree, Robert Dee 29, 30

Crider, Tommy G..... 30

Jackson, Gene 30

McManness, J. Donald 31

Savage, Larry M. 31, 32

GENERAL SECRETARY

Reelection of George O. Wood 21

Report of George O. Wood..... 11

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

Keynote address..... 33

Medal of Honor..... 55-57

David Green 56

Augie Lopez..... 55

Report of Thomas E. Trask.....	10
GENERAL TREASURER	
General Council Audit Report.....	11
Report of James K. Bridges.....	11
Total Giving Awards	37
GEORGE, J. DON	
Reelected South Central Area executive presbyter	42
GREEN, DAVID, Medal of Honor.....	56
HOME MISSIONS, ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	
Appointment of Home Missionaries [Resolution 12]	26
Support of AGUSM by Missionaries	27
Name Change.....	64
JACKSON, GENE	
Elected honorary general presbyter	30, 31
JOHANSSON, CALVIN M.	20
KENDRICK, KLAUDE	18
KIM, NAM SOO	
Reelected Language-Other Area executive presbyter.....	47
LICENSED MINISTERS	
Right to Vote at General Council	48, 49
LOCAL CHURCH CREDENTIAL [VFT Resolution 7]	53-55
LOGAN, DON R.	
Elected honorary general presbyter	29
LOTTER, DOROTHEA J.	48
LOPEZ, AUGIE, Medal of Honor.....	55
MCMANNESS, J. DONALD	
Elected honorary general pesbytery	31
MEDAL OF HONOR	
David Green.....	56
Augie Lopez.....	55
MEMORIAL LISTING	76-81, 82
MARRIAGE CEREMONIES [Resolution 8].....	21, 22
MINIMAL MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES FOR G.C. AFFILIATION.....	16
MIRANDA JESSE	
Reelected Language-Spanish Area executive presbyter	46, 47
NATIONAL PLACEMENT SERVICE [VFT Resolution 21].....	67
NONRESIDENT EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS, Term of Office	13, 14
NORTH TEXAS, Appeal Divorce and Remarriage	7-72
PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY	12, 13
REALIGNMENT [VFT Resolution 17].....	64
RECIPROCITY WITH OTHER A/G INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS	49
REPORTS	
Assistant General Superintendent's	11
Audit.....	11
Departmental/Divisional.....	11
General Secretary's	11
General Superintendent's	10
General Treasurer's.....	11
Roster Committee	11, 20, 33-34, 50, 73
Vision for Transformation	34

MINUTES

RESOLUTIONS

1. Terms of Office, Nonresident Executive Presbyters/Executive Officers	13, 14
2. Honorary General Presbyter--Philip Bongiorno	28, 29
3. Honorary General Presbyter--Don R. Logan	29
4. Brazilian District Council of the Assemblies of God	15
5. Scriptural Interpretation	15
6. Minimal Membership Guidelines for GC Affiliated Assemblies	16
7. Eligibility of Women	17
8. Marriage Ceremonies	21, 22
9. Committee on Finance	22, 23
10. Fellowship Partnership Offering	23-25
11. AGWM Creation of New Region	25, 26
12. Appointment of Home Missionaries	26, 27
13. Home Missionaries Support of AGHM	27
14. District Evangelists Representative	27-28
15. Prayer for Our Country	12, 13
1. (VFT) Flexible Local Church Governance Models	34
2. (VFT) Reinforcing Sovereign Rights of GC Affiliated Churches	35
3. (VFT) Restoring Cooperating Assembly Status	36
4. (VFT) Church Planting Emphasis	36, 37
5. (VFT) Providing Licensed Ministers Right to Vote at GC	48, 49
6. (VFT) Reciprocity With Other A/G International Fellowships	49
7. (VFT) Establishing a Local Church Credential	53-55
9. (VFT) Technical Changes to Facilitate a Local Church Credential	57
10. (VFT) Mandatory Screening of All Credential Holders	58
11. (VFT) Flexibility for District Leadership Models	58, 59
12. (VFT) Encouraging New District Governance Models Through Presbyters	59
13. (VFT) District Presbytery Representatives From Ethnic/Language Fellowships	59
14. (VFT) Strengthening the Cooperative Relationship Between Ethnic/Language and Geographical Districts	60-63
15. (VFT) Electing Executive Presbyters by Region Rather Than At-Large Voting	63
16. (VFT) Participation of Women in Governance at the General Presbytery Level	63, 64
17. (VFT) Internal Realignment To Avoid Duplication and Proliferation Between Divisions, Departments, Commissions, and Committees	64
19. (VFT) Expansion of the Board of Administration To Include All Elected Executives	64-66
20. (VFT) Expansion of Commission on Christian Higher Education	66, 67
21. (VFT) National Placement Service To Serve Church Leadership	67
22. (VFT) Commission on Ethnicity	67-69
23. Honorary General Presbyter--Robert Dee Crabtree	29
24. Honorary General Presbyter--Tommy G. Crider	30
25. Honorary General Presbyter--Gene Jackson	30, 31
26. Honorary General Presbyter--J. Donald McManness	31
27. Honorary General Presbyter--Larry M. Savage	31
Courtesy Resolution	63, 64

RHODEN, H. ROBERT	
Reelected Northeast Area executive presbyter	44, 45
ROSTER COMMITTEE	
Reports of	11, 20, 33-34, 50, 73
SAVAGE, LARRY M.	
Elected honorary general presbyter	31
SCRIPTURAL INTERPRETATION [VFT Resolution 5]	15
SMITH, ZOLLIE	
Elected Ethnic Fellowship Area executive presbyter	47, 48
SOVEREIGN RIGHT OF GC AFFILIATED CHURCHES	35
SPEAKERS	
Ashcroft, John, Compassion Banquet	32
Bridges, Kendall S.	75
Bueno, L. John	74
Bullock, Warren D.	75
Gill, Deborah M.	74
Johnson, Ronald	75
Lindell, John	75
Mitchell, St. Clair	75
Trask, Thomas E.	33
SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE	
Report of	50-53
SUPPORT OF AGUSM BY MISSIONARIES	27
TERMS OF OFFICE, Nonresident Executive Presbyters/Executive Officers ..	13, 14
TOTAL GIVING ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	
Total Giving Awards	37, 38
TRANSFORMATION, VISION FOR, Committee Report	28, 34
TRASK, THOMAS E.	
Keynote address	33
Presided over communion service	75
Report of general superintendent	10
Superintendent's Medal of Honor presentations	55, 56
VISION FOR TRANSFORMATION	
Information Regarding Committee	28
Introduction of	34
VOTING, LICENSED MINISTERS AT GENERAL COUNCIL	48, 49
WOMEN, ELIGIBILITY OF [Resolution 7]	17
WOMEN IN GOVERNANCE ON GENERAL PRESBYTERY	63, 64
WOOD, GEORGE O.	
Report of general secretary	11
Reelected general secretary	21
Presided over Memorial Service	75
WORLD MISSIONS, ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	
Creation of New Regions [Resolution 11]	25, 26
Offering	74
Reelection of L. John Bueno	32
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	128
Annulments and marriage dissolutions	118
Appeals	
Boards of	
District	98
Executive Presbytery	98, 114
General Presbytery	98, 110, 138
World Missions	149
Churches	98
Ministers	137
Area divisions	104
Assemblies (Bylaws)	
Affiliation	114, 115, 116
Preservation of	116
Procedure for	115
Annual Report	115
Membership guidelines	116
New assemblies from a division	116
Organizational assistance	116
Relationships	115, 116
Safeguarding	115
Transfer of Local Church Membership	117
Assemblies of God	
Dissolution	98
Membership	94
Name	88
Nature	88
Prerogatives	88
Principles for fellowship	88
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
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

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

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	147
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, 167
Central Bible College	161
Certificates	
Church	94
Local Assembly	97
Minister	94, 120
Transfer	123, 124
Chaplains, Commission on	154, 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	126
Church and its Mission, The	92, 93
Church Ministries, Division of	156, 157
College representation on General Presbytery	95
Commissions	
Chaplaincy	154
Christian Higher Education	158, 159, 160
Discipleship	143, 144
Doctrinal Purity	126, 127
Ethnicity	141, 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, 115
Credentials	
Ministerial Status Changes	126
Nondisciplinary Credential Terminations	125
Renewals and Reinstatements	124, 125
Restoration of	
Authorization of.....	138
Option to refer to General Presbytery.....	139
Rehabilitation obligatory	138
Reinstatement of lapsed minister.....	125
Reinstatement of other than dismissed minister.....	125
Time-lapse for dismissed ministers	138
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, 121
Referral for action.....	137
Relationship between district.....	132
Date-setting for the Lord's return	127
Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ	90, 91
Disabled ministers.....	121
Discipleship, Commission on	143, 144
Discipline	132-139
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

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

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	138
Time-lapse for	138
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, 114
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
Language	96, 113, 114
Membership	96
New districts, formation of	112
Officers	113
Voting constituency	113
District membership	
Church-planting ministries	123
Ministers	122, 123, 124
Pastors	122
U.S. missionaries	122, 123
World missionaries	123
Divine healing	93, 132
Divorce and Remarriage	128, 129
Church leadership	129
Church membership	128
Ministerial credentials	129
Performing ceremony for divorced	129
Doctrinal Purity, Commission on	126, 127
Doctrines	
Approved	89-93

Disapproved	126-132
Duties of	
Assistant general superintendent	108
Board of Administration	110
Executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions	109
Executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions	108, 109
Executive Presbytery	109, 110
General Presbytery	110, 111
General secretary	108
General superintendent	107
General treasurer	108
Ecumenical movement	131, 132
Education, Board of Christian	
Selection of members	157, 158
Education, Commission on Christian Higher	
Selection of members	159
Elections	103-107
Nominations and Elections	103-107
Officers	103, 104
Vacancies	
Executive officers	106
General presbyters	107
Nonresident executive presbyters	106, 107
<i>Enrichment—A Journal for Pentecostal Ministry</i>	141
Eschatological errors	127, 128
Ethnic fellowships	104, 114
Ethnicity, Commission on	141, 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
Finance, Committee on	145
Financial responsibility	
Chaplains	123
Headquarters	
Churches	146
Ministers	145, 146
U.S. 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

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

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	95
Duties	110, 111
Election of.....	105, 106
Ethnic fellowship representation	96
Evangelists representation	96
Honorary	96
Representation	95, 96
Vacancies	107
World Missions representation.....	95, 150
General Secretary	
Duties	108
Election of.....	103
General Superintendent	
Duties	108
Election of.....	103
Office of	139-144
General Treasurer	
Duties	108
Election of.....	103
Global University.....	162, 163
Godhead, The Adorable	89, 90
Gospel Publishing House.....	161
Headquarters, support of.....	145, 146
Churches	146
Ministers	145, 146
Retired ministers	122
Healing, Divine	93
Holy Ghost	
Baptism in	91, 92
Initial Physical Evidence	92
Home Missionaries	See U.S. Missionaries
Home Missions	See U.S. Missions
Homes	
Aged	148
Children.....	148
Missionary.....	161
Honorary general presbyters.....	96
Voting privileges.....	106

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Inactive ministers	121
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	144
Legalism.....	127
License to preach	117, 120
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.....	132-139
District membership.....	122, 123
Preaching requirements of	121
Relationships.....	122, 123
Resigned.....	125
Status changes.....	126
Transfer	123, 124
Ministers Benefit Association.....	166, 167
Ministers from other organizations.....	118, 119
Ministry.....	93, 116-126
Categories of	119-122
Active	121
Certificates	121
Certified.....	119
Disabled.....	121

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Inactive	121
Licensed	120
Ordained	120
Renewal of	124
Senior	121, 122
Categories of	122
Support of Headquarters	122
Terminology	122
Specialized (nonpreaching)	120
Transfer	
From A/G World Fellowship Groups	124
From district	123, 124
From other organizations	118, 119
Described	117
Educational requirements	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	121
Privileged communications	126
Qualifications	
Basic	117, 118, 119
Specific	119, 120
Women, eligibility of	118
Mission, The Church and its	92, 93
Missionary, World	
Candidates	151
Fellowships	152
Homes	161
Schools on mission fields	161
Support of	151
Name	88
Nature	88
New heavens and the new earth, The	93
Nominations and elections	103-107
Non-Assemblies church, Ministry in a	131
Not renewed	125
Officers	
Duties	107-111
Elections	103, 104, 105
Executive officers	95
Vacancies	106, 107
One True God	89
Order of business	167
Ordinances of the church	91

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Holy Communion	91
Water baptism	91
Ordination	120
Parliamentary order.....	103
<i>Pentecostal Evangel</i>	140, 141
Post-Tribulation rapture.....	127
Practices disapproved	127-132
Preaching requirements	
Certified minister	119, 121
Licensed	120, 121
Ordained.....	120, 121
Prerogatives.....	88
Principles for Fellowship.....	88
Private ownership of religious institutions	130
Privileged communications	126
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	136, 137
Period of time.....	136
Previous dismissal.....	136, 137
Procedure and requirements	135, 136
Transfer of information.....	136
Reinstatement	
Application for	124, 125
Definition of.....	124
Fee	124
Lapsed minister	125
Other than dismissed minister.....	125
Required after January 15	125
Terminology	124
Relationships.....	94
Remarriage	128, 129
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

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

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
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	145, 146
Assemblies	146
Ministers	145, 146
Teen Challenge	153, 156
Tithing.....	130
Support of headquarters	145, 146
Total giving	98, 146
Transfer of credentials	123, 124
Treasury, Division of	145-148
Audit Department	147
Benevolences Department	147, 148
Executive director	145
Finance Department	145, 146
Finance, Committee on.....	145
Support of headquarters.....	146
Total giving	98, 146
U.S. Missions	153-156
Administrator	153
Board.....	154
Chaplains, Commission on	154, 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
Unconditional security	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	151
Property	152
Specialized	151
Support of	151
World Missions, Assemblies of God	148-153
Administrator	149
Area directors	150
Board	149, 150
Selection of members	149, 150
Committee	150
Executive director	104, 149
Duties	108, 109
Election procedure	104
Field organizations	152
General Presbytery representatives	150
Missionary candidates	151
Ordination	151
Policies	150
Property of	152, 153
Regional directors	150
Support of	151, 152
Worldliness	129, 130

NOTES

NOTES

NOTES

Statements Adopted by the General Council

†* AIDS, 5 or more, 10¢ each

†* Charismatic Study Report, 5 or more, 10¢ each

†* Church Division, Manual for Districts and Ministers, 5 or more, 10¢ each

†* Pornography, 5 or more, 10¢ each

Statement of Fundamental Truths, #34-4136, 25 for \$4.50; 100 for \$15.50; 500 for \$72.50; 1,000 for \$110.00

Statements Adopted by the General Presbytery

Abstinence, #34-4187, 79¢ each; 12 for \$9.00; 100 for \$69.00

Apostles and Prophets, #34-4195, \$1.99 each; 12 for \$21.48; 100 for \$159.00

Assisted Suicide, A Biblical Perspective on, #34-4193, 79¢ each; 12 for \$9.00; 100 for \$69.00

Baptism in the Holy Spirit: The Initial Experience and Continuing Evidences of the Spirit-Filled Life, #34-4185, 99¢ each; 12 for \$11.40; 100 for \$89.00

† Bylaws for Local Assemblies, Recommended #02-0819, \$1.25 each

Can Born-Again Believers Be Demon Possessed?, #34-4176, 79¢ each; 12 for \$9.00; 100 for \$69.00

Creation, The Doctrine of, #34-4177, 59¢ each; 12 for \$6.48; 100 for \$49.00

Deacons and Trustees, Qualifications and Responsibilities of, #34-4171, 59¢ each; 12 for \$6.48; 100 for \$49.00

Discipleship and Submission Movement, The, #34-4174, 79¢ each; 12 for \$9.00; 100 for \$69.00

Divine Healing, An Integral Part of the Gospel, #34-4184, 79¢ each; 12 for \$9.00; 100 for \$69.00

Divorce and Remarriage, #34-4189, 79¢ each; 12 for \$9.00; 100 for \$69.00

†* Endtime Revival-Spirit-Led and Spirit-Controlled, white paper, 35¢ each; 12 for \$3.96; 100 for \$3.00

Eternal Punishment, #34-4172, 59¢ each; 12 for \$6.48; 100 for \$49.00

Gambling, A Biblical Perspective on, #34-4186, 59¢ each; 12 for \$6.48; 100 for \$49.00

Homosexuality and the Bible, #34-4181, 59¢ each; 12 for \$6.48; 100 for \$49.00

Inerrancy of Scripture, The, #34-4175, 59¢ each; 12 for \$6.48; 100 for \$49.00

Kingdom of God as Described in Holy Scriptures, The, #34-4190, 79¢ each; 12 for \$9.00; 100 for \$69.00

†* Kingdom Now, white paper, 35¢ each; 12 for \$3.96 each; 100 for \$3.00

Ministry to People with Disabilities: A Biblical Perspective, #34-4194, 79¢ each; 12 for \$9.00; 100 for \$69.00

† Ordination, #02-0821, \$2.95 each

Positive Confession, The Believer and, #34-4183, 79¢ each; 12 for \$9.00; 100 for \$69.00

Rapture of the Church, #34-4182, 59¢ each; 12 for \$6.48; 100 for \$49.00

Role of Women in Ministry, The, #34-4191, 79¢ each; 12 for \$9.00; 100 for \$69.00

Sanctity of Human Life, #34-4196, 79¢ each; 12 for \$9.00; 100 for \$69.00

Security of the Believer, #34-4178, 59¢ each; 12 for \$6.48; 100 for \$49.00

Theology of Ministry, The, #34-4192, 99¢ each; 12 for \$11.40; 100 for \$89.00

Transcendental Meditation, #34-4173, 79¢ each; 12 for \$9.00; 100 for \$69.00

Position Paper Packet, #34-4180, \$9.95 each

Where We Stand (*Book of position papers*) Paperback, #02-0670, \$5.50; Loose-leaf, #02-0674, \$5.50

*May be obtained by writing the General Secretary's Office. All others should be ordered through Gospel Publishing House at gph@ag.org or call toll free at 1-800-641-4310.

† Not included in position paper packet or book.

Prices subject to change without notice.

