

MINUTES
of the
51st Session of
**THE GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**



With revised

Constitution and Bylaws

51st GENERAL COUNCIL

Denver, Colorado

August 2-5, 2005

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Convened in Denver, Colorado

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Revised Constitution and Bylaws

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

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THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

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 AG World Missions
L. Alton Garrison, Executive Director of AG U.S. Missions

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY

Thomas E. Trask, Chairman

C. Dan Betzer	L. Alton Garrison
James K. Bridges	J. Don George
L. John Bueno	Nam Soo Kim
Warren D. Bullock	Jesse Miranda, Jr.
Charles T. Crabtree	John M. Palmer
Charles E. Crank	H. Robert Rhoden
Richard Dresselhaus	Zollie L. Smith, Jr.
Douglas E. Fulenwider	George O. Wood

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FOREWORD

“People of the Spirit” was the theme for our 51st General Council in Denver, Colorado, August 2-5, 2005.

The Council was marked by great unity and anointed worship and ministry. For the first time in our history, the evening services were televised internationally. We are grateful to the Inspirational Network for making these services available to millions of people throughout the world.

Parallel to the General Council, over 13,000 young people participated in the Fine Arts Festival. Their evening services were likewise marked by the Spirit’s presence, with many young people baptized in the Holy Spirit.

We look forward to the next General Council in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 8-11, 2007, should Jesus tarry.

May the Lord richly bless you!

George O. Wood
General Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE 51st GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
CONVENED AT DENVER, COLORADO
AUGUST 2-5, 2005**

TUESDAY EVENING—AUGUST 2

The 51st General Council began with a 7 o'clock service at the Pepsi Center in Denver, Colorado, with Thomas E. Trask, general superintendent, as the keynote speaker.

Prior to the evening service televised by Inspiration Network, 30 minutes of per-service music was provided by a combined choir from Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, Tom Matrone, director, and Northland Cathedral, Kansas City, Missouri, Ron Steen, director, and Kristy Starling, Lakeside Assembly of God, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Assistant General Superintendent Charles T. Crabtree served as chairman for the service.

The service opened with a welcome video, followed by the Presentation of Colors and the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" by Kristy Starling.

The theme for the 51st General Council was "People of the Spirit."

G. Robert Cook, Jr., superintendent of the Rocky Mountain District, read the Scripture and Dennis J. Rivera, superintendent of the Central Latin American District, offered prayer for the General Council. Thomas E. Trask greeted the delegates and recognized special guests including U.S. Representative Marilyn Musgrave, who represents Colorado's Fourth Congressional District. She brought greetings in behalf of the State of Colorado and extended a welcome to the 51st General Council.

James K. Bridges, general treasurer, received the offering. The combined choir from Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, and Northland Cathedral, Kansas City, Missouri, provided the offertory. Power Company Choir, Marlette, Michigan, under the direction of John Gunn, provided music for the service.

The keynote message for the 51st General Council was brought by General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask. He laid out the challenges and opportunities facing the Fellowship. Trask noted how the Assemblies of God has grown from 300 people 91 years ago to more than 53 million worldwide today, indicating that the church faces a daunting task in reaching an increasingly secular society. "It's not a matter of simply inviting the unchurched to services. Those who don't attend church often have no understanding that Jesus was sinless, that Satan is real, that salvation is through grace, and that God is the Creator and present-day ruler of the universe. Stirring worship music won't attract them because worship isn't even on their radar screen. More comfortable pews cannot compete with the easy chair or the bed that already serve the unchurched person. Church events cannot effectively compete with what the world has to offer. But the church does have one thing to offer that can't be found elsewhere: a life-changing, authentic encounter and ongoing relationship with the living God."

He further stated: "The Assemblies of God is uniquely positioned as a Spirit-empowered movement to offer solutions to those searching for meaning. God raised up the Assemblies of God to become a people of Pentecostal power, not to just be another denomination. Pentecostals need to resist Satan's temptation to fade into the religious landscape and be consumed with religious activities. It's not about looks. It's not about a degree. It's not about talents or gifts. It's not about offices or titles. Those who lead others to God must themselves be in tune with the Holy Spirit. A Spirit-led person has a personal relationship with God; prays and fasts; has integrity; is passionate about God's Word and loves those who aren't easy to love."

Trask further admonished the audience to watch their lives and doctrine closely. "In an era of growing moral relativism, it's tempting to preach what is popular rather than what is biblical. Walking in the Spirit also means living victorious, upright, moral, and godly lives. He stressed the importance of not relegating the baptism in the Holy Spirit, with the initial physical evidence of speaking in tongues, to secondary status. If we fail to preach, teach, and provide opportunity for men and women to receive this glorious Baptism, we as leaders will be held responsible. You can make a difference as a man or woman of God. Let it be said, 'There is a man of God in our city.'"

WEDNESDAY MORNING—AUGUST 3

The Wednesday session began at 8 a.m. with an hour of prayer led by Doris P. Johnson, national speaker and missionary to Brazil. Music was led by David Good, associate pastor/music minister at Pueblo Christian Center, Pueblo, Colorado.

Business Session

The first business session of the 51st General Council of the Assemblies of God convened at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, Colorado, Wednesday, August 3, at 9 a.m. General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask welcomed the delegates and called the business session to order at 9:15 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, Jr., 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 introduced were 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 Former Executive Presbyter

Chairman Trask introduced Gene Jackson, former executive presbyter, Gulf Area, and expressed appreciation to him for his years of service on the Executive Presbytery.

Introduction of Headquarters Staff

The chairman expressed appreciation to the Headquarters staff serving many long hours to make this 51st General Council in Denver, Colorado, 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 General Council.

Expression of Appreciation to the City of Denver, Colorado

Appreciation was expressed to the city of Denver, Colorado, for its hospitality and for the kindness it has shown to the General Council delegates.

Expression of Appreciation to Host Districts

Thomas Trask expressed appreciation to the Rocky Mountain District and to Superintendent G. Robert Cook and the Central Latin American District and to Superintendent Dennis J. Rivera for their kind hospitality in hosting this 51st General Council. He also expressed appreciation to the following superintendents of the other districts in the Southwest Area for their kindness to the General Council: Steven L. Harris, Arizona District Council; George K. Nagato, Hawaii District Council; James R. Braddy, Northern California-Nevada District Council; and T. Ray Rachels, Southern District Council.

Introduction of General Council Committees

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

Budget

James K. Bridges, chairperson; L. John Bueno, Charles T. Crabtree, Charles E. Hackett, Thomas E. Trask, George O. Wood

Parliamentary

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

Resolutions

Larry H. Griswold, chairperson; Charles R. Bradley, Wan Ki Choi, Russell W. Eggert, Joseph B. Fuiten, Thomas H. Lindberg, Marcus W. McClain, Samuel P. Molina

Roster

Richard A. Plunk, David L. Wigington, co-chairmen; Mark Christianson, liaison; Jeff Arp, Jay Bailey, James Bobo, David Collins, Ronald Crumpton, Michael Dotson, Edward Fugate, Jeremy Gundling, Mike Hanks, Jeff Jibben, Clyde Johnson, Juan Lopez, Joe Lyons, Dwight L. Miranda, David Montajes, Paul D. Poole, Jose B. Rodriguez

Spiritual Life

Ronald F. McManus, chairperson; Deborah M. Gill, Randy Hurst, Donald G. Meyer, Isaac Canales

Tellers

Rollin J. Carlson, chairperson; Lee Baca, Glenn R. Beaver, Robert J. Carlson, Richard A. Hopping, Randall S. Rogers, captains; Efraim Espinoza, liaison; Terry Abbott, Ron Almberg, Dean Anderson, Sylvia Baker, George Bambara, Dewayne Bardwell, Tim Barker, Bill Bearden, Ronald Blauvelt, Sam Boettcher, Tim Boyd, Mark Bradshaw, Robert Burns, William Button, Jesus Campa, Wayne R. Carvell, Timothy Cauley, Jim Christensen, Les Clark, Angel M. Colon, Brian Corkum, Don Couch, Scott Covey, Joseph Cowell, David Cramer, Gerald Crownover, John Davis, Ivan de la Torre, Manuel A. DeMelo, David Desse, Ruben Delgado, David Delgatty, Brian Donnachie, Manuel Dorado, Johnny Durham, Paul Ellis, Angel Escamilla, Danny Espinosa, Dennis Fite, John Gallegos, Randy Gardner, Ed Gavin, T. D. Gifford, Walt Graffam, Gary Gray, Duane Gryder, Edgar Hanohano, Paul Hanson, Robert Hargrave, Carroll Harrison, Obie Harrup, David Hartgrove, Chad Harvey, Charles Hedges, Ramon Hernandez, Charles Hinckley, L. D. Hinson, Sean Hinton, Roger Hoffpowier, Orvil Holden, Wallace Horton, Gene Huskey, Cleaties Jeffcoat, Kenneth Joe, Darius Johnston, Randall Jones, Jerry D. Jones, Ernest Karjala, Daniel Kaufusi, John Koppel, James Lair, Don Lane, Leland Lewis, Winfred Mack, Richard Martin, David Martin, Charles Mattix, Warren Maxted, Cole McClenithan, Lloyd McCutchen, William McGhghy, Timothy McGinnis, Vance Mitchell, David Murff, Steve Nickel, Danny Olivarez, Eric Pearson, Bruce Pennington, Tom Perez, Jose Perez, Jac D. Perrin, Jr., Kenneth Pippin, Bradley Puckett, Victor Randle, James Reamsma, Richard Ridley, Jim Rivera, Steve Rose, John Rowe, Karen Kydwansky, Jack Sampier, Jack Serr, David Serrano, Rod Smith, Dale Smith, Mark Stockburger, Kevin Sylvestre, Gregory Temke, Eddie Thomas, John Tracy, Terry Turner, Matai Waqavesi, Alan Warneke, Randy Weeks, Gary Wheat, Don Wiehe, Lonnie Williams, Alan Womack, Eric York, Donald K. Yoshida, Jr.

National Operational Committees

Program Committee

Thomas E. Trask, chairperson; Charles T. Crabtree, George O. Wood, James K. Bridges, L. John Bueno, Charles E. Hackett

Program Resource

Harold W. Sallee, chairperson; Hal Donaldson, Jay Mooney, Sharon Lee, Tom McDonald, Juleen Turnage, Janece Carter, resource; Dan Castor, Encourse Productions, production director, Greg Flessing, Fresh Air Media, program director

Convention Coordinating Team

Sharon L. Lee, convention coordinator; Lori K. Lawley, housing coordinator; Sheila R. Mixer, registration coordinator; Paul Griffin, security coordinator

Accounting Committee

Clyde Hawkins, chairperson; Jerry Barton, Joy Brathwaite, Fredrick Gore, Janice Hayes, Shari Klassen

Children's Activities

Carolyn Burwell, Early Childhood coordinator; David Boyd, Kids Council chairperson; Marshall Bruner

Information Technology Support

Tim Strathdee, chairperson; Paula Lamar; Kelly Rhea, Justin Butler, Fine Arts; Ben Ellis, registration; Bill Campbell, Webmaster; Helen Piper, *Council Today*; Chris Hill, GPH Bookstore; Darrin Hull, streaming audio/video; John Ivaska, network/connectivity; Bruce Harp, Roger Richardson, computer support

Equipment

Don Lander, chairperson; Mike Cooper, Eric Goss, Don Goss, on-site trucking

Exhibits

Terry King, coordinator; Ella Mae Teuber

Hospitality

Stephen Graff, chairperson; Jeanne Graff, Pat Hawkins, Helen Wray

Human Resources

Jim Stalnaker, personnel coordinator; Beth Carroll, Steve Graff

National Youth Convention

Jay Mooney, chairperson; David Raley, Rick Lorimer, Rod Whitlock, Jerry Dahlberg, youth outside production; Mike Crane, youth outside AV equipment

Prayer

Madonna Paulson, chairperson

Printed Materials (Pre-Council)

Paul Smith, Julie Horner, Carol Ball, Sonny Carder, Jorge Tobar

Promotions/Press/Communications

Juleen Turnage, chairperson; Hal Donaldson, communications; Bill Campbell, Keith Surface, Dan VanVeen

Registration

Sheila R. Mixer, coordinator; Mark Christianson, roster liaison; Ben Ellis, IT programmer

Tellers Liaison

Efraim Espinoza

Translations

Kevin Babin, deaf coordinator; Efraim Espinoza, Spanish coordinator; Ezequiel Leija, local resource

Transportation

Dan Clopine, chairperson; Erin Buskirk, company pilot; Nadine Buskirk, Sherry Clopine, Bill Conley, Larry Kolsky, Ron Sherman

Ushers/Communion

Clancy Hayes, chairperson; Gary Allen, Communion coordinator; Rhonda Curtis, Larry Thomas, Wade Trivitt

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 an 11-page 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 Departmental/Divisional Reports which were presented to the delegates in the form of a computer disk in the back cover of the *Biennial Report*.

General Superintendent's Medal of Honor

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

Marilyn Musgrave

She is one of only 69 women in the United States Congress and in her first session stood out from her colleagues when *Newsweek* magazine selected her as the "rising star" within the House and the *National Journal* referenced her as one of two freshman congressmen to watch. Our General Superintendent's Medal of Honor recipient, Marilyn Musgrave, represents Colorado's 4th Congressional district, a post she was elected to in 2002 and reelected in 2004.

A longtime Republican Party and pro-life activist, she previously served on the Fort Morgan School Board, in the Colorado House of Representatives and the Colorado State Senate prior to her national election. She became best known for her advocacy of a constitutional amendment that would ban same-sex marriage. Her Federal Marriage Amendment declares marriage is reserved for one man and one woman. Her voting record reflects the agenda of the Christian right and conservatives leading the *National Journal* to describe her as a "tenacious advocate of conservative social causes."

She has received numerous awards and commendations since going to Congress. Yet Marilyn Musgrave doesn't consider her political career to be the pinnacle of her life. "It's wonderful to pursue this stage of my life, but the earlier part of my life was more important," she said. "Then I was shaping four little human beings. It's an awesome responsibility to mold a child's life."

Marilyn and her husband Steve have two sons and two daughters ranging in age from 24 to 34. "The days my children were born were the happiest days of my life," she says. Now her five grandchildren give her opportunities to create precious memories again.

Marilyn and Steve have long been active in their local assembly, the Sanctuary. Pastor Ben Baughman has known Marilyn as a politician, friend, and congregant for over 12 years. He and his wife Brenda have prayed with and for Marilyn since her school board election days. "Marilyn has always sought God on the moves she's made," Pastor Baughman says. "Our church supports her in prayer because she's family." When she is able to return to Fort Morgan during legislative recesses, her pastor doesn't sense that she is consumed with politics. "Mothering and grandmothering are what she loves more than anything," he says. And the most joyful times in her life continue to be at family gatherings.

For a life of service, bringing glory to God and to this Fellowship, it gives me great pleasure to confer upon Marilyn Musgrave the church's highest award for laypersons—The General Superintendent's Medal of Honor.

Wil Balch

When God calls a person to follow Him, He intends that call to be evident in every aspect of one's life, especially in relations with others. Our General Superintendent's Medal of Honor recipient has poured himself into building people. His life testifies to his passion to serve God in the workplace.

As a business owner, Wil Balch would mentor his employees, bringing many to faith in Christ and then instilling in them their responsibility to give back to their church and the community.

An active church leader, Wil has served on many boards and committees for his congregation. But everyone who knows him recognizes his big passion is for missions. He served on local missions committees and also served on the World Missions Board for the Fellowship. He is relentless when it comes to giving to missions. As a layman at Bethel Church in San Jose, Brother Balch directed the missions programs. Under his leadership the church's budget grew to well over \$1 million each year. He has never lost that fervor. Working with a new church plant in Grace Community Church, he has grown the missions budget to \$75,000 annually and seen the church support 50 missionaries.

"His integrity is above reproach when it comes not only to his business, but his life," states Pastor and son-in-law Damon Gilliland. "He is highly respected by the men of our church who are half his age. His way of encouraging the people of our church is one that is admired by many who endeavor to follow his example." Everywhere Wil goes, people always love to be in his presence. Why? Because of his commitment to Jesus Christ and the church that Christ died for.

Wil and his wife of 54 years, Lafonda, have five children, 21 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. They would attest that their greatest accomplishment is that all their children and grandchildren are honoring and serving the Lord. A truly humble man, Wil Balch gives all of the credit for his accomplishments to the Lord Jesus Christ. He is highly esteemed by his family, friends, and associates.

For an exemplary life, bringing glory and honor to God and to this church, it is my privilege to confer upon Wil Balch the General Superintendent's Medal of Honor.

Roster Committee Report

David Wigington, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 9 a.m., Wednesday, August 3, 2005:

Ordained	2,859	
Licensed	595	
Delegates	<u>403</u>	
Voting constituency		3,857
Exhibitor	1,373	
Kids Council	502	
Youth Convention	12,019	
General registration	<u>4,245</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>18,139</u>
Total		21,996

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Election of General Superintendent

The general secretary read Constitution, Article IX, Section 1, paragraph a, and Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph a, pertaining to the election of general superintendent. Everett R. Stenhouse, former assistant general superintendent, led in prayer for God's guidance during the election process. The ballot was cast for the election of general superintendent and the chairman declared the voting closed.

Charles T. Crabtree, assistant general superintendent, assumed the chair.

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	2,134
Needed to elect	1,427
Thomas E. Trask	1,658

Having noted that Thomas E. Trask received more than the required number of votes, the assistant general superintendent declared Thomas E. Trask reelected to the position of general superintendent.

Brother Trask responded and expressed his appreciation to the body for their vote of confidence.

The following is a list of all other nominees: Tommy Barnett 2, Wayne Benson 44, Dan Betzer 10, James Bridges 16, Warren Bullock 4, Doug Clay 12, Bob Cook 19, Robert Cook 4, Charles Crabtree 62, Charles Crank 9, L. Alton Garrison 74, Don George 2, Charles Hackett 2, John Lindell 32, Ron McManus 6, Paul Martin 3, John Palmer 12, Terrell R. Raburn 3, Ray Rachels 7, Robert Rhoden 31, Mark Rutland 6, Les Welk 7, George Wood 135, others 128

The chair was returned to the general superintendent.

Election of General Treasurer

The general secretary read the Bylaws provision for the election of general treasurer, Article II, Section 2, paragraph b, and presented the name of James K. Bridges as the nominee from the General Presbytery. Ballots were cast and the chair declared voting closed. The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report:

Total votes cast	2,376
Needed to elect	1,585
Yes votes	2,169
No votes	207

Having noted that James K. Bridges had received more than the required number of votes, the general superintendent declared that he had been reelected to the position of general treasurer.

Privileged Motion Support for Leadership

A privileged motion was presented from the floor. The motion was second and carried. The motion adopted is as follows:

RESOLVED, That this General Council in session express its support for the general superintendent, the Board of Administration, and the Executive Presbytery for their leadership, their spirit, and their motivation during this process of change and transition; and be it further

RESOLVED, That as a General Council we pledge to pray for God's hand to rest upon their leadership and that He will guide them as this process of transformation continues to move forward.

Election of Executive Director Assemblies of God U.S. Missions

The general secretary read the Bylaws provision for the election of executive director for Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d. The names of Paul E. Drost, L. Alton Garrison, John M. Palmer, and Terrell (Terry) Raburn were presented as the nominees from the General Presbytery for the position of executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions. Ballots were cast and the chair declared voting closed.

Rollin 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 U.S. Missions as follows:

Total votes cast	2,446
Needed to elect	1,632
Paul E. Drost	416
L. Alton Garrison	892
John M. Palmer	653
Terrell R. Raburn	485

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 for the office of the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions:

Total votes cast:	2,575
Needed to elect:	1,718
Paul E. Drost	217
L. Alton Garrison	1,469
John M. Palmer	594
Terrell R. Raburn	295

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 office of executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions:

Total votes cast:	2,340
Needed to elect:	1,561
Paul E. Drost	73
L. Alton Garrison	1,932
John M. Palmer	282
Terrell R. Raburn	53

Having noted that L. Alton Garrison had received more than the required number of votes, the general superintendent declared L. Alton Garrison elected to the position of executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.

Procedural Motion

A motion prevailed that all previously printed resolutions that were distributed by mail not be read when presented to this body for consideration.

Procedural Motion

A motion prevailed that consideration of Resolution 1. Credentialing of Divorce and Remarried Persons be postponed until after lunch, thus allowing delegates an opportunity to read carefully the paper distributed from the Commission on Doctrinal Purity entitled *A Summary and Comparison of Arguments For and Against the Credentialing of Ministers With a Preconversion Divorce*.

Resolution 2. Honorary General Presbyter—Samuel P. Molina

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 2. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 2 as follows:

- WHEREAS, Samuel P. Molina has faithfully served with distinction the Assemblies of God for over 40 years—having served 15 years in pastoral ministry and 25 years as secretary-treasurer of the Gulf Latin American District Council of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, He has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as a general presbyter for 23 years and a member of numerous committees; and
- WHEREAS, He has shown dedication to Assemblies of God institutions of higher learning, serving on the Southwestern Assemblies of God University Board of Regents and the Latin American Bible Institute of San Antonio as a board member, faculty member, interim president, and fundraiser; and
- WHEREAS, His fund-raising efforts on behalf of the Latin American Bible Institute have generated in excess of \$300,000 through stewardship programs such as the *GLAD 700* and *La Ultima Meta*; and
- WHEREAS, He has invested of himself in the development and/or promotion of programs to benefit his district, its ministers, and churches—programs such as *Probadme*, *Yo Oro por Mi Pastor*, *Invasion 2000*, *Marcha Jerico*, and numerous others; and
- WHEREAS, Many children residing in the border towns of Mexico have received New Testaments, new tennis shoes, and the message of the gospel through his ministry *Tio Samuel*; and
- WHEREAS, He has also given of himself in ministry to our PKs, having been instrumental in the establishment of the annual PK Day in the Gulf Latin American District; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 96 of the General Council Constitution makes provision for those having served on the General Presbytery for 20 years or more to be named an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That Samuel P. Molina, with the recommendation of the constituency of the Gulf Latin American District Council of the Assemblies of God, be named an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Resolution 3. Honorary General Presbyter—L. Jack Moore

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 3. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 3 as follows:

- WHEREAS, L. Jack Moore is esteemed as an administrator leading with wisdom and integrity for 20 years as the district secretary/treasurer and superintendent of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, His long and dedicated career includes pastoring for 22 years and serving on the district presbytery for over 26 years; and
- WHEREAS, He has served on numerous boards, including the Board of Directors of Central Bible College, Highlands Child Placement Services, Hillcrest Children's Home, the Chaplaincy Department, Maranatha Village, and The Healthy Family Center; 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 named an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That L. Jack Moore be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Resolution 4. Commitment to World Evangelism

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 4 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 4 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God is a Pentecostal expression of the church of Jesus Christ, embracing the workings, priorities, and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, and
WHEREAS, The giving of the Holy Spirit was primarily to facilitate the spreading of the gospel to the fulfillment of the Great Commission, and
WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God's formation was primarily a commitment to the greatest expression of evangelism the world had ever seen, and
WHEREAS, Evangelism on a local level and worldwide missions are still priorities for our Fellowship, and
WHEREAS, Credentialed ministers within the Assemblies of God pledge themselves to voluntary cooperation within the Fellowship, and
WHEREAS, Credentialed ministers within the Assemblies of God are required to complete an annual renewal form committing themselves to financial support of the General Council and the district council in which he or she ministers, be willing to abide by the Constitution and Bylaws of said organizations, fully subscribe to the Statement of Fundamental Truths, and publicly proclaim the standard of fundamental doctrine, and
WHEREAS, A commitment to the original purpose for formation and the original commissioning of our Lord Jesus Christ for His church would seem to be a critical aspect of a person's voluntary cooperative fellowship; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That a response mechanism indicating a credentialed minister's commitment to and involvement in Assemblies of God world ministries should be added to the minister's credential renewal form, and be it further
RESOLVED, That a study committee be assigned by the general superintendent to present a strategy for implementation. The committee should address the various situations and conditions that might apply to ministers who are not serving as pastors of a local church. The committee would also outline procedures to be taken upon a minister's failure to comply with the expectation of the Fellowship. Said committee would report its findings and recommendations to the next General Presbytery in session, 2006.

Resolution 6. Second Korean District Council

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 6. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 6, as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws makes 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 18, 2005, has approved the establishment of the Second Korean 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 e, (2),
Language Area—Other (page 105) which presently reads:
Language Area—Other: Brazilian, German, Korean, Portuguese
 Be amended to read:
Language Area—Other: Brazilian, German, Korean, Portuguese,
 Second Korean

Resolution 7. Dissolution of Portuguese District Council

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 7. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 7, as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws makes provision for the General Presbytery to dissolve a district; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery on September 23, 2003, by mail referendum, has taken action to dissolve the Portuguese District Council of the Assemblies of God; and

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

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

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

Be amended to read:

Language Area—Other: Brazilian, German, Korean

Recess

The meeting recessed at 11:52 a.m. Douglas E. Fulenwider, superintendent of the Louisiana District Council, closed in prayer.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 3

The Wednesday afternoon session began at 2 with the showing of a video regarding transformational churches. The business session was called to order at 2:20 p.m.

Religious Alliance Against Pornography and the National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Family

The general superintendent introduced Jerry Kirk, founder and chairman of the National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Family. He presented the program of the Religious Alliance Against Pornography and the National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Family.

Roster Committee Report

Richard A. Plunk, co-chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 2 p.m., Wednesday, August 3, 2005:

Ordained	3,021	
Licensed	633	
Delegates	<u>436</u>	
Voting constituency		4,090
Exhibitor	1,373	
Kids Council	518	
Youth Convention	12,136	
General registration	<u>4,817</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>18,844</u>
Total		22,934

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

**Resolution 1. Credentialing of Divorced and Remarried Persons
(Unfinished business from the 2003 General Council)**

Larry Griswold, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 1 as follows and moved its adoption:

The General Council in session in 2003 adopted the following recommendation from the General Presbytery:

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.

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, paragraphs i. and j.)

A motion prevailed that the vote on this resolution be by secret ballot.

A motion was made and seconded raising objection to the consideration of Resolution 1. The motion lost.

A motion was made and seconded to refer the matter of a biblical basis for the approval of a preconversion divorce along with the issue of a biblical basis for ecclesiastical annulment to a committee appointed by the general superintendent and approved by the Executive Presbytery, with a request that this committee bring back a report to the next General Council in session. The motion lost.

A motion prevailed that the word “companion” on page 2, line 14, and page 4, line 4, be amended to read: spouse.

A secret ballot was cast. The chairman of the Tellers Committee reported the results of the secret ballot as follows:

Total votes cast	2,705
Yes votes	713
No votes	1,992

The chairman declared that the motion to adopt Resolution 1 was lost.

**A Summary and Comparison of Arguments For and
Against the Credentialing of Ministers With a Preconversion Divorce
(Prepared by the Commission on Doctrinal Purity)**

The General Council in session on August 1, 2003, responding to a recommendation of the General Presbytery, moved to direct the preparation of a position paper articulating the biblical position of the credentialing of ministers with the [sic] preconversion divorce to be presented alongside the North Texas District Resolution to the 2005 General Council.

The Executive Presbytery directed that such a paper be prepared by the Commission on Doctrinal Purity (CDP) with the understanding that it be a terse summation of key points for and against the credentialing of ministers with a preconversion divorce.

Conscientiously working to fulfill its mandate, the CDP noted that arguments for and against the credentialing of divorced persons have been carefully formulated and thoroughly examined over the years by a number of able committees acting at the direction of the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery and/or the General Council. There is little to be said on the subject not already treated in their reports and resolutions, as well as in other resolutions presented to the General Council. The most important of these appear to be:

1. 1973 Report to the General Council—*Divorce and Remarriage* (GC Minutes, pp.16-58)
Recognized biblical grounds for divorce and remarriage for laity but maintained the historic position of the Fellowship with regard to noncredentialing of divorced and remarried persons (not to exclude ecclesiastical annulments).

2. 1983 Report to the General Council—*Divorce and Remarriage and Qualifications of Ministers and Deacons* (GC Minutes, pp.24-29)

Strongly recommended maintaining the historic position of the Fellowship with regard to noncredentialing of divorced and remarried persons (not to exclude ecclesiastical annulments).

3. 1990 Report to the General Presbytery—*Credentialing of Married Ministers Who Have a Living Former Spouse* (GP Minutes, August 14, 1990, pp.20-37).

Recommended that persons divorced and remarried prior to conversion, or with biblical grounds, be qualified for credentialing. Followed by a “minority report” recommending adherence to the historic AG position, this report, with its resolutions, was tabled.

4. 1991 Report to the General Presbytery—*Credentialing Ministers With Marriage Entanglements* (GP Minutes, August 5, 1991, pp.66-72)

A careful review of the historic position of the AG with attention to the “husband of one wife” passages and credentialing of persons with a preconversion divorce/remarriage, followed by action to reaffirm the historic AG position.

5. 1991 General Council—Resolution 22 *Ministers Who Have Been Divorced and Remarried* (GC Minutes, pp.86-92)

Sought approval for credentialing of persons divorced on biblical grounds and subsequently remarried, as well as those having been divorced and remarried prior to conversion. The resolution failed to win adoption and the historic AG position was sustained.

6. 1997 General Council—Resolution 9 *Credentialing of Divorced and Remarried Individuals* (GC Minutes, pp.29-44)

Sought approval for credentialing of persons with a preconversion divorce. The resolution failed to win adoption and the historic A/G position was sustained.

7. 2001 General Council—Resolution 15 *Credentialing of Divorced and Remarried Persons* (GC Minutes, pp.51-54)

Resolution authorizing the credentialing of qualified persons who were divorced and remarried prior to conversion was adopted.

8. 2003 General Council—*North Texas District Appeal: Credentialing of Divorced and Remarried Persons* (GC Minutes, pp.70-72)

Restated historic arguments against credentialing of divorced and remarried persons and sought to repeal Resolution 15 (2001).

The CDP carefully reviewed these and other relevant documents and, for convenience and clarity, offers the following brief summation and comparison of the arguments *pro* and *con*:

Theses	Arguments AGAINST Credentialing Persons With a Preconversion Divorce and Remarriage	Arguments FOR Credentialing Persons With a Preconversion Divorce and Remarriage
<i>Thesis 1</i> <i>Historic Position of the AG</i>	The historic position of the AG has been to deny ministerial credentials to divorced and remarried persons (unless the first marriage was annulled) regardless of the time at which the divorce/remarriage occurred. Until passage of Resolution 15 in 2001, the General Council periodically reaffirmed this	The historic position of the AG did not adequately weigh the “new creation” work of the Spirit and rested heavily on a faulty hermeneutical argument from 1 Timothy 3:2 and Titus 1:6 (“husband of one wife”) to forbid the credentialing of divorced and remarried persons who felt called to ministry. The historic position is more strict than Scripture itself.

	position believing that a hermeneutical shift on 1 Timothy 3:2 and Titus 1:6 reflects the subtle influence of western divorce culture rather than new light from the New Testament Greek text.	
Thesis 2 <i>Historic Position of the Christian Church</i>	The prevailing position of the Christian church through the centuries has been to deny credentialed ministry to divorced and remarried persons. Modern changes to this prevailing interpretation appear to be an accommodation to moral deterioration in popular culture.	The prevailing positions of the Christian church through the centuries have sometimes embraced nonbiblical church traditions, as is demonstrated, until modern times, by the church's denial of credentialed ministry to women.
Thesis 3 <i>"Husband of One Wife"</i>	<p>Scripture explicitly teaches that the minister is to be the "husband of one wife" (1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6). The AG consistently has interpreted this provision to refer primarily to divorce and remarriage rather than to polygamy. Moreover, it has not been interpreted in the AG to prohibit the ministry of women, single persons, or those widowed and remarried. Standard translations of this crucial phrase from the Greek of the New Testament are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [Greek, <i>mias gynaikos andra</i> (1 Timothy 3:2); literally, "a one woman man"; <i>mias gynaikos anēr</i> (Titus 1:6, phrase is the same as 1 Timothy 3:2 except for change of case with <i>anēr</i>).] • NIV "the husband of but one wife" • KJV, NKJV, NASB "the husband of one wife" • NRSV "married only once" <p>The entire canon of Scripture places great weight on high qualifications for leaders who serve the church.</p>	<p>Paul's concern for sexual fidelity within a monogamous marriage is uppermost in his qualification that the elder/overseer be a "the husband of one wife" ("one woman man," 1 Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:6). Beyond that, the precise meaning of the phrase is somewhat uncertain and, at various times, it has been interpreted by sincere students of Scripture to mean any one, or several, of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A minister cannot be a woman. 2. A minister cannot be remarried after being widowed. 3. A minister cannot be an unmarried person. 4. A minister cannot be a divorced and remarried person. 5. A minister cannot have more than one spouse (polygamy/polyandry). 6. A minister must be sexually faithful to one spouse. <p>Therefore, this phrase must always be interpreted in light of the entire canon of Scripture which places great weight on the Spirit's new creation in the lives of previously sinful human beings.</p>
Thesis 4 <i>Exemplary Role of the Minister</i>	Divorce followed by remarriage to another partner may seriously affect the minister's scriptural mandate, as a model of Christian marriage, to be "blameless" and to "rule his [her] own house well." Therefore, the biblical injunction, "the husband of one	Preconversion sins such as murder, assault, drug dealing, drug and alcohol addictions, robbery, theft, hetero- and homosexual promiscuity, and so forth, are not automatic disqualifications from credentialed ministry for a repentant Spirit-filled person with proven Christian character.

	wife [one woman man],” is generally to be considered a prohibition of ministerial credentialing in such cases.	
<i>Thesis 5</i> <i>Ecclesiastical Annulment</i>	Relief via ecclesiastical annulment is provided in the event of marriages contracted through fraud or deceit so that such persons, upon affirmative adjudication of their circumstances, may be credentialed for ministry.	Eliminates the need for certain ecclesiastical annulments.
<i>Thesis 6</i> <i>New Creation</i>	The new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) effected in believers by the power of the Holy Spirit on the basis of the atoning death of Jesus Christ sets them free from even the vilest sins. However, the new creation deals with spiritual change and there is no thought of canceling all moral and social responsibility covenanted before conversion (1 Timothy 6:2; Philemon 18).	The new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) effected in believers by the power of the Holy Spirit on the basis of the atoning death of Jesus Christ sets them free from even the vilest sins. Therefore, all believers whom the Spirit renews, cleanses, equips, and calls to the ministry, including those with preconversion divorces/remarriages, are to be duly examined, approved, and credentialed by the church.
<i>Thesis 7</i> <i>Work of the Spirit</i>	There is a visible and scriptural work of the Holy Spirit in calling and gifting repentant believers for ministry. But the subjective work of the Spirit is always in harmony with the objective word of Scripture and, therefore, consistent with Scripture, only equips divorced/remarried believers for noncredentialed ministries in the church.	There is a visible and scriptural work of the Holy Spirit in calling and gifting repentant believers for ministry. Therefore, the Spirit’s evident call and gifts in the lives of persons with a preconversion divorce/ remarriage should be respected, tested, and affirmed for credentialing, as are the call and giftings of all other persons.
<i>Thesis 8</i> <i>Ministry of Those Already Credentialed</i>	The ministry of recently credentialed persons with a preconversion divorce/ remarriage will not be adversely affected by repeal of Resolution 15.	There are now nearly 500 persons with a preconversion divorce/remarriage who have been granted ministerial credentials and whose Spirit-anointed service is presently enriching the Church.

The Commission on Doctrinal Purity strongly affirms the biblical call that elders/overseers must be “above reproach” (1 Timothy 3:2) and have “a good reputation with outsiders” (1 Timothy 3:7). This brief summary is intended as an aid to prayerful reflection in pursuit of that goal.

Distinguished Educators Award

Robert H. Spence, commissioner for the Commission on Christian Higher Education, presented the Distinguished Educator Awards. He recognized Lawrence Bach as the first recipient of the Distinguished Educator Award. The following resolution had been adopted by the Executive Presbytery:

Lawrence C. Bach

Whereas, Doctor Lawrence C. Bach 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 Bach has served the Lord as a faculty member at North Central University from 1981 until the present and has been nominated by the North Central University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

Whereas, Doctor Bach, 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 26,27, 2005, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 6-8, 2005, recognizes Doctor Lawrence C. Bach 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 thanksgiving to our Lord Jesus Christ who appointed Doctor Bach among those pastor-teachers given to the Church “for 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 the representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of the General Council Commission on Christian Higher Education Luncheon, August 4, 2005, Denver, Colorado.

Robert Spence recognized William W. Menzies as second recipient of the Distinguished Educators Award. The following resolution had been adopted by the Executive Presbytery:

William W. Menzies

Whereas, Doctor William W. Menzies 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 Menzies has served the Lord as a faculty member at Central Bible College from 1958 to 1970; Evangel University from 1970 to 1980; Assemblies of God Theological Seminary 1980 to 1984; as Interim President of the Far East Advanced School of Theology, Manila, Philippines, from 1984 to 1985; Vice President of Academic Affairs at California Theological Seminary, Fresno, California, from 1986 to 1987; President of Asia Pacific Theological Seminary from 1989 until 1996, 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 Menzies, 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 26,27, 2005, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 6-8, 2005, recognizes Doctor William W. Menzies 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 thanksgiving to our Lord Jesus Christ who appointed Doctor Menzies among those pastor-teachers given to the Church "for 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 the representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of the General Council Commission on Christian Higher Education Luncheon, August 4, 2005, Denver, Colorado.

A third recipient for the Distinguished Educators Award was selected, but was not able to be present to receive the award which was W. Charles Harris. His award will be presented to him at Central Bible College. The following resolution had been adopted by the Executive Presbytery:

W. Charles Harris

Whereas, Doctor W. Charles Harris 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 Harris has served the Lord as a faculty member at Central Bible College from 1967 until 2005 and has been nominated by the Central Bible College Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

Whereas, Doctor Harris, 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 26,27, 2005, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 6-8, 2005, recognizes Doctor W. Charles Harris 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 thanksgiving to our Lord Jesus Christ who appointed Doctor Harris among those pastor-teachers given to the Church "for 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 the representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of the General Council Commission on Christian Higher Education Luncheon, August 4, 2005, Denver, Colorado.

Distinguished Administrator Award

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

Gary Bruegman

Whereas, Reverend Gary Bruegman 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, Reverend Bruegman served the Lord as principal/administrator of Salinas Christian Schools, 1970-71, director of Student Services at Bethany Bible College, 1977-86, vice president for Student Development at Central Bible College, 1986-05; and
- Whereas, Reverend Bruegman, 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 26, 27, 2005, to receive the Omicron Alpha Distinguished Award; therefore, be it
- Resolved, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 6-8, 2005, recognizes Reverend Gary Bruegman 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 Jesus Christ who appointed Reverend Gary Bruegman 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 the representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of the General Council Commission on Christian Higher Education Luncheon, August 4, 2005, Denver, Colorado.

Resolution 8. Ministerial Support

Resolution 8 was presented by the Resolutions Committee. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 8 as follows:

WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws, Article XIII, Section 1, paragraph c. (1) provides that ministers contribute to the work of the General Council at the level of \$15 per month for ordained ministers, \$10 per month for licensed ministers, and \$5 per month for certified ministers; and

WHEREAS, There has been no increase in the specified monthly contributions since 1995; and

WHEREAS, There has been inflationary growth in the economy since 1995; and

WHEREAS, The contribution from ministers is a major source of income for the operating fund of The General Council; and

WHEREAS, The expenses of the General Council have increased regularly since 1995; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article XIII, Section 1, paragraph c, (1), page 145, which now reads:

(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 can are strongly urged to give more than the suggested amount, either personally or through the assemblies they pastor.

[The remainder of the section to remain as it is.]

Be amended to read:

(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 \$20 per month (\$240 per year) from their tithes or as an offering. Licensed ministers should contribute \$15 per month (\$180 per year), and certified ministers should contribute \$7.50 per month (\$90 per year). All who can are strongly urged to give more than the suggested amount, either personally or through the assemblies they pastor.
and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the above action be implemented effective January 1, 2006.

Resolution 9. National Placement Service

Resolution 9 was presented by the Resolutions Committee. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 9 as follows:

WHEREAS, Resolution 21. National Placement Service To Serve Church Leadership, was adopted at the 50th General Council of the Assemblies of God in Washington, D.C., which read as follows:

WHEREAS, 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; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That a national placement service (paid for by the users) be established that 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.
And

WHEREAS The National Placement Service Committee was appointed by the Executive Presbytery to conduct research and bring back recommendations to the Executive Presbytery to implement Resolution 21; and

WHEREAS, The National Placement Service Committee's research has raised a number of concerns that would make the specific implementation of the resolution problematic from a legal exposure standpoint, and implementation could be inconsistent with the current methods of placing ministers in our Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, The spirit and intent behind Resolution 21 was not necessarily to create a structured national placement service, but to provide services to our churches that need assistance and coaching in the area of pastoral search and staff placement; and

WHEREAS, Many churches in our Fellowship are having a difficult time filling ministry positions with qualified candidates; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council repeal Resolution 21, since such a service could create potential legal exposure from a district and national level and could be inconsistent with the current methods of placing ministers in positions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Center for Church Leadership of the General Council be asked to develop materials for leadership training and discover best practices currently employed throughout districts, which materials can be used to train church leaders in the pastoral selection process and assist pastors in finding staff qualified for positions; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the current Web-based information system that has been established for the music and children's ministries departments be expanded to include other areas of ministry and that an enhanced Web-based information system be considered by the Executive Presbytery to assist ministers looking for ministry opportunities and to assist churches looking for qualified candidates.

Resolution 10. Voluntary Cooperative Fellowship

Resolution 10 was presented by the Resolutions Committee. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 10 as follows:

WHEREAS, A statement on voluntary cooperative fellowship has been historically included in the application for ministerial credentials; and

WHEREAS, This statement should also be included in the General Council Bylaws; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, page 118, be amended by the addition of the following paragraph g:

g. Voluntary Cooperation and 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.

By voluntary it is meant that, upon learning the principles, doctrines, and practices of the Assemblies of God, and by seeing the benefits to be derived from being associated with such an organization, persons of their own free choice decide to become members, thus subscribing to all that for which the organization stands.

For the minister, by cooperation, it is meant, to the best of one's ability, complying with all decisions setting forth and defining duties and responsibilities incumbent upon members of the organization. It includes active participation and respect for the will of the majority expressed through constitutional processes.

Hence, for the minister, voluntary cooperation means that when the minister decides to become a cooperating member of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation and participation thereby becomes obligatory and not optional.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That present paragraphs g through l be relettered h through m.

Resolution 11. Mandatory Screening of Ministerial Applications

Resolution 11 was presented by the Resolutions Committee. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 11 as follows:

WHEREAS, A resolution was presented to the 2003 General Council by the Vision for Transformation Committee recommending that ministerial credential applicants be subject to mandatory screening through a designated screening agency; and

WHEREAS, This resolution was adopted as presented by the 2003 General Council in session; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Executive Presbytery that this requirement become a standard for all applicants; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That the General Council Bylaws be amended making this a part of the basic qualifications for credentials; and be it further
RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, by the addition of a new paragraph i. to read as follows:

i. Mandatory Screening. All applicants for ministerial credentials shall be screened through a designated screening agency established by the Executive Presbytery. Said screening shall be done by the district council prior to the submission of the application to the office of the general secretary.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That paragraphs i, j, k, and l be reentered as j, k, l, and m.

Resolution 12. Ministries of Compassion for Human Need

Resolution 12 was presented by the Resolutions Committee. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 12 as follows:

WHEREAS, Acts of compassion were an integral focus of Jesus' ministry; and
WHEREAS, Ministries of compassion serve a vital part in fulfilling the threefold mission of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, A clear statement related to compassion ministries should be included in the list of prerogatives given in the General Council Constitution; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, Article III. PREROGATIVES, page 88, be amended by the addition of a new paragraph e which will read as follows:

e. To respond to human need with ministries of compassion.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That present paragraphs e through g be relettered f through h.

Resolution 15. Honorary General Presbyter—Charles E. Hackett

Resolution 15 was presented by the Resolutions Committee. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 15 as follows:

WHEREAS, Charles E. Hackett has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God with honor and distinction as executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions for 14 years, assuming this position in April 1991; and

WHEREAS, Charles E. Hackett has served the Indiana District Council of the Assemblies of God as its assistant district superintendent for 21 years (1970-91); and

WHEREAS, His pastoral ministry has spanned over 31 years, having served 29 years as pastor of First Assembly of God, Lafayette, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, He has served as an evangelist for 5 years and D-CAP of the Indiana District Council for 2 years; and

WHEREAS, In his duties as executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions he has led the ministries of six departments: Chaplaincy, Chi Alpha, Church Planting, Intercultural Ministries, Mission America Placement Services, and Teen Challenge; and

WHEREAS, The number of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions appointed missionaries has increased substantially since he assumed the position of executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions; and

WHEREAS, The income of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions has increased from \$11,533,697 in 1991 to \$34,651,384 under his leadership; and

WHEREAS, He has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as a general presbyter for 33 years; and

WHEREAS, He has shown dedication to the Assemblies of God by providing leadership on numerous boards and committees of Assemblies of God institutions; and

WHEREAS, Charles E. Hackett, a dedicated and faithful servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, has served with distinction and is esteemed as an outstanding administrator, wise counselor, Christlike 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 Charles E. Hackett be elected by The General Council of the Assemblies of God to the position of honorary general presbyter.

Resolution 16. Honorary General Presbyter—Robert L. Nazarenus

Resolution 16 was presented by the Resolutions Committee. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 16 as follows:

WHEREAS, Robert L. Nazarenus has served the Nebraska District Council of the Assemblies of God with honor and distinction as a presbyter, secretary/treasurer, and as its superintendent for 17 years; and

WHEREAS, His pastoral ministry has spanned over 40 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served on various boards for North Central University and Highlands Child Placement Services; and

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

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

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

Resolution 17. Honorary General Presbyter—Robert D. Ross

Resolution 17 was presented by the Resolutions Committee. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 17 as follows:

WHEREAS, Robert D. Ross has served the Montana District and the Wisconsin-Northern Michigan District with distinction and honor as a pastor; and

WHEREAS, He has served in various capacities including district presbyter, district representative on boards of regional Assemblies of God colleges, and national committees and commissions; and

WHEREAS, He has been a strong advocate for world missions efforts, leading his churches to be missions churches and giving time and service personally to ministering in various parts of the world; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the Montana District as an executive officer and member of the General Presbytery for a total of 18 years; and

WHEREAS, He also served the Wisconsin-Northern Michigan District as an executive officer and member of the General Presbytery for 3 years for a combined total of 21 years; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 96, makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be named an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it

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

Resolution 18. Prayer for Leadership

Resolution 18 was presented by the Resolutions Committee. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 18 as follows:

WHEREAS, Scripture advocates that we pray for our leaders, 1 Timothy 2:1,2; and

WHEREAS, We personally seek the effectual prayers of others for our families, our ministries, and ourselves; and

WHEREAS, Each minister should be already in sustained prayer for our general superintendent; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Presbytery sponsor a resolution to the 2005 General Council advocating that every minister choose an official to pray for daily, in addition to the general superintendent, such as an executive, a director, or an office worker in the national offices; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution also encourage ministers to inform this leader of their commitment to pray for him or her, as well as the leader's ministry and family for 1 year.

Transformational Churches

The general superintendent recognized 14 churches that have been designated as Transformational Churches. Those recognized are as follows:

Cedar Park Assembly of God, Bothell, Washington, Joseph B. Fuiten, pastor
 Jesus Power Assembly of God, Columbus, Ohio, Bismark O. Akomean, pastor
 First Assembly of God, Fort Myers, Florida, C. Dan Betzer, pastor
 Full Gospel New York Church, Flushing, New York, Nam Soo Kim, pastor
 North Church, Edmond, Oklahoma, Rodney G. Fouts, pastor
 James River Assembly of God, Ozark, Missouri, John E. Lindell, pastor
 Hazel River Assembly of God, Rixeyville, Virginia, Stephen D. Dodson, Jr., pastor
 Hope Center Tabernacle, Jersey City, New Jersey, Mario Gonzalez, pastor
 National Community Church, Washington, D.C., Mark A. Batterson, pastor
 Iglesia Evangelica Latina, Los Angeles, California, Moises Sandoval, pastor
 Church of the King, Berkley, Michigan, Brad Leach, pastor
 First Assembly of God, Griffin, Georgia, Randy Valimont, pastor
 River of Life Assembly of God, Cold Spring, Minnesota, Dennis Curran, pastor
 Cornerstone Church of the Assemblies of God, Madison, Tennessee, D. Maury Davis, pastor

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m. J. Don George, executive presbyter from the South Central Area, closed in prayer.

WEDNESDAY EVENING—AUGUST 3

The Wednesday evening service of the 51st General Council began at 7 in the Pepsi Center in Denver, Colorado, following 30 minutes of pre-service music provided by a Colorado mass choir made up of members from the following Colorado churches: Pueblo Christian Center, Pueblo; Praise Assembly of God, Pueblo; Radiant Church, Colorado Springs; Timberline Church, Fort Collins; First Assembly of God, Aurora; Healing Waters Family Center, Wheat Ridge. Also members from James River Assembly of God, Ozark, Missouri, were part of this choir. The choir was directed by Randy Quackenbush, minister of music, at James River Assembly of God, Ozark, Missouri.

Following the showing of a video and recognition of Assemblies of God ethnic leaders, worship was led by Erick Cooper and Nathan LaGrance from Lakeview Christian Temple, Indianapolis, Indiana. Scripture was read by Zollie L. Smith, Jr., executive presbyter from the Ethnic Fellowships and prayer for the service was offered by Nam Soo Kim, executive presbyter from the Language Area—Other. George O. Wood, general secretary, received the offering. The offertory was provided by the Colorado combined choir.

The speaker for the evening, John E. Lindell, pastor of James River Assembly of God, Ozark, Missouri, was introduced by Thomas E. Trask. Lindell recounted how in Acts 17, the apostle Paul wrote a letter repeatedly expressing grave concern to the church he had just visited in Thessalonica. Five times in the chapter Paul mentions the faith of church members. Lindell emphasized that faith is no less important today. "When it comes to ministry, the condition of your faith is critically important. There is a correlation between a person's level of faith and their fullness of the Holy Spirit, their attitude, and their blessing by God." He noted that Hebrews 11:6 says it is impossible for the Christian lacking faith to please God. He called for people to be willing to step out in faith and stated that living a life of faith may require a life of leaving.

THURSDAY MORNING—AUGUST 4

The Thursday session began at 8 a.m. with an hour of prayer led by Doris P. Johnson, San Jose, California.

Business Session

The assistant general superintendent opened the Thursday business session at 9 a.m. Prayer was offered by Richard E. Dresselhaus, executive presbyter from the Southwest Area. Special music was provided by Gloria Elliot, Branson, Missouri. Chairman Trask called the business session to order at 9:17 a.m.

Roster Committee Report

David Wigington, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 9 a.m., Thursday, August 4, 2005:

Ordained	3,039	
Licensed	638	
Delegates	<u>439</u>	
Voting constituency		4,116
Exhibitor	1,373	
Kids Council	518	
Youth Convention	12,198	
General registration	<u>6,507</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>20,596</u>
Total		24,712

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

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—James River Assembly of God, Ozark, Missouri, John E. Lindell, pastor
- 4th place—Calvary Church, Naperville, Illinois, Randall L. Ross, pastor
- 3rd place—Capital Christian Center, Sacramento, California, Rick Cole, pastor
- 2nd place—First Assembly of God, Fort Myers, Florida, C. Dan Betzer, pastor
- 1st place—First Assembly of God, Phoenix, Arizona, Tommy Barnett, pastor

Total Dollar Giving (Districts)

- 3rd place—Southern California District Council, T. Ray Rachels, superintendent
- 2nd place—Northern California-Nevada District Council, James Braddy, superintendent
- 1st place—Oklahoma District Council, Frank Cargill, superintendent

Resolution 19. Interdenominational Relationships

Larry Griswold, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 19 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 19 as follows:

WHEREAS, The 2005 General Presbytery has adopted an amendment to its proposed revision of General Council Bylaws, Article IX, Section 11; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery felt it advisable to add further refinement to its proposal; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the words “or ecumenical” be added to the title and in two places in the second paragraph so that the proposed Section 11 will read:

Section 11. Interdenominational or Ecumenical Relationships

The General Council of the Assemblies of God encourages ministers or churches to fellowship with other Christians of like precious faith who hold to the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the universality of sin, the substitutionary Atonement, the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and His second coming.

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall not belong to any interdenominational or ecumenical organization that denies the evangelical beliefs stated in the above paragraph, and urges its ministers

and churches to avoid entanglement with such interdenominational or ecumenical organizations except as opportunity may arise to support biblical values in the culture or provide opportunity to bear witness to our evangelical and Pentecostal faith and experience.

It was moved and seconded that the following sentence be added as the first paragraph of Section 11: We believe that the combination of many religious organizations into a world superchurch will culminate in the religious Babylon of Revelation 17 and 18. The motion lost.

It was requested that the vote on the motion to adopt Resolution 19 be by secret ballot. A secret ballot was cast. The Tellers Committee reported the following results of the secret ballot for the adoption of Resolution 19:

Votes cast:	1,666
Yes	899
No	767

The chairman declared Resolution 19 adopted.

**Resolution 20. Article XVI. Corporations of
The General Council of the Assemblies of God
(Page 73. Proposed Constitution and Bylaws Amendment Booklet)**

Larry Griswold read Resolution 20 and moved its adoption.

A motion prevailed that Resolution 20 be amended by the addition of the words "in session" at the end of Section 5 so that the last sentence would read: No General Council corporation shall be dissolved, merged, or liquidated without the approval of the General Council in session.

A further motion prevailed that the words, "Assemblies of God," be added to Section 5 (page 2, line 2) before the words "Ministers Benefit Association."

The motion to adopt Resolution 20 as amended was carried. Resolution 20 as amended and adopted follows:

Article XVI. Corporations of The General Council of the Assemblies of God

Section 1. Authorization.

The Executive Presbytery may from time-to-time establish certain Assemblies of God corporations, which entities are separately legally incorporated for governance purposes from The General Council of the Assemblies of God, but whose boards of directors are appointed by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery. All such corporations shall be submitted to the General Council for approval.

Section 2. Board of Directors.

The oversight of policy and administration of each of the corporations shall be delegated to a Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of the corporation's articles and bylaws. The articles and bylaws of each corporation and amendments thereto shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery.

Section 3. Amenability.

Each corporation and its Board of Directors shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Section 4. Fiscal Affairs.

The books of each corporation 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 report to the General Presbytery and the General Council in session.

Section 5. Recognized Corporations.

The following entities shall constitute the recognized corporations of The General Council of the Assemblies of God: Central Bible College, Evangel University, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Global University of the Assemblies of God, Assemblies of God Financial Services Group, Assemblies of God Foundation, Assemblies of God Loan Fund, and Assemblies of God Ministers Benefit Association. No General Council corporation shall be dissolved, merged, or liquidated without the approval of the General Council in session.

Resolution 21. Article XVIII. Affiliated Ministries (Page 80, Proposed Constitution and Bylaws Amendment Booklet)

Larry Griswold, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 21 and moved its adoption.

A motion prevailed that Resolution 21 be amended on line 2 by changing the word "institutions" to the word "corporations."

The motion to adopt Resolution 21 as amended carried. Resolution 21 as amended and adopted follows:

Article XVIII. Affiliated Ministries

Section 1. Authorization.

Ministries that represent a national or global ministry focus working with The General Council of the Assemblies of God or its corporations but whose boards of directors are not controlled or appointed by the Executive Presbytery may be recognized by the Executive Presbytery as affiliated ministries.

Section 2. Board of Directors.

Each affiliated ministry shall have a Board of Directors that will be responsible for governance and administration of the ministry. The Board of Directors shall be selected by the ministry itself in the manner prescribed by its bylaws, except that the Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to appoint one member to the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Governance.

Each affiliated ministry shall select and manage its own employees, maintain accounting records, hold title to property, obtain insurance, file tax returns, prepare financial statements, pay salaries and other expenses, raise funds, create and distribute promotional literature, provide charitable contribution receipts to donors, and in all other respects operate as an autonomous legal ministry except as noted in Sections 4 through 6, below.

Section 4. Relationship.

Affiliated ministries shall enter into a covenant relationship with The General Council of the Assemblies of God under such terms and conditions as are established by the Executive Presbytery and approved by the General Presbytery.

The charter or bylaws of each affiliated ministry shall affirm acceptance of the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, including the Statement of Fundamental Truths. Each affiliated ministry shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery with regard to doctrine and compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. In all other respects an affiliated ministry shall be autonomous and self-governed.

Section 5. Name and logo.

Affiliated ministries may refer to their status as an affiliated ministry with The General Council of the Assemblies of God but may not use the Assemblies of God name or logo or other indications or marks to convey in any way a formal legal relationship with The General Council of the Assemblies of God or its recognized corporations, unless an exception has been granted by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 6. Dissolution.

The charter or bylaws of an affiliated ministry shall specify that in the event of dissolution its assets shall be distributed to The General Council of the Assemblies of God or any Assemblies of God church, district council, or corporation.

Resolution 22. Quorum

Larry Griswold, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 22 and moved its adoption. The motion to adopt Resolution 22 carried. Resolution 22 as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery has been enlarged by action of the General Council in session from 13 members to 17; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Administration has been enlarged from 4 members to 6 members by action of the General Council in session; and

WHEREAS, Present Article XXIX. Quorum in the General Council Bylaws needs to be amended to bring the required quorum in line with these actions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws present Article XXIX. Quorum, Page 167 (page 84. Article XXI, of the proposed amendment booklet) which presently reads:

All members registered and voting in any meeting of the General Presbytery 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.

Be amended to read:

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 nine executive presbyters at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of four members of the Board of Administration shall constitute a quorum.

Spiritual Life Committee Report

Ronald McManus read the report of the Spiritual Life Committee. The members of the committee were: Ronald F. McManus, chairman; Deborah M. Gill, Randy Hurst, Donald G. Meyer, and Isaac Canales. A time of prayer and intercession followed the reading of the report. The report as presented follows:

The committee met to seek God regarding its assignment. Throughout the history of our Fellowship, the Spiritual Life Report has been intended to offer a timely prophetic word to the Fellowship. The Spiritual Life Committee took very seriously the responsibility of seeking to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

When the Lord appeared to John while he was "in the Spirit" on the island of Patmos to prepare the Church for the last days, Christ chose to say two things to the Church of that day and, we believe, to the Church today:

First, the Lord indicated He would continue to speak to His Church, to shape it, and to press His claims upon it. It is His Church; He died for it. And He will not allow it to become less than what He ordained it to be.

Second, He wanted the Church to know that He had won the ultimate victory—the Church should celebrate! Jesus has conquered death, hell, and the grave and is alive forevermore!

In the Lord's appearance to John on the island of Patmos, He spoke to seven churches in Asia Minor (present-day Turkey). To each of those churches, He revealed their spiritual condition, how they should repent, and what God had prepared for them. To each of these churches He declared, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Revelation 2:29, NKJV). May God help us today to press through the myriad of voices that are speaking to us and cause us to hear clearly what the Spirit is saying to our Fellowship.

We believe the Lord desires to do the same to each of us today.

The Spiritual Life Committee's report focuses on three questions:

1. What is the Spirit saying to our Fellowship?
2. What is the Spirit saying to your church/ministry?
3. What is the Spirit saying to you personally?

The committee prayerfully addressed these three questions. The questions were shared with a select group of pastors from across our Fellowship. Their input confirmed and supplemented that of the Spiritual Life Committee and is integrated in this report.

The first-century New Testament Church is our example. This Church changed the world. From an assembly of 3,000 people on the Day of Pentecost, believers moved into their world and, according to history, essentially turned it upside down. By the third century the known world was largely Christian. The principles, practices, and priorities of this New Testament Church must be revived in the Church today.

The principles of this church included humility of spirit. The apostles and early Christians consciously depended upon the Holy Spirit in everything they did. They acknowledged that without the Spirit's help they could not accomplish the work of the Kingdom. Their decisions were based on what they believed the Spirit was saying. Acts 15:28 states, "It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us," acknowledging this reliance on the Spirit.

Servant leadership was a key principle of the Church. Jesus said, "The greatest among you will be your servant" (Matthew 23:11, NIV). Unfortunately many of today's churches are moving toward adopting corporate CEO models of leadership. Servant leadership is essential if the Kingdom is to be advanced in these days. In the New Testament Church, believers preferred one another—rather than competing with one another in ministry.

The practices of the first-century Church are a pattern for us to follow. Early Christians lived together in biblical relationship. They modeled the kingdom of God on earth. Their loving fellowship was a magnet to a spiritually hungry world. The manifestation or practice of *koinonia* must be renewed in the body of Christ if we are to be the Church that Jesus will use in these last days.

The New Testament Church sought the guidance of the Holy Spirit in evangelism. It was a common practice for believers to pray, seeking the Spirit's direction, before people were sent out in ministry. They maintained spiritual disciplines—continuing in the apostles' doctrine and prayer (Acts 2:42).

The priority of the first-century Church was the preaching of the Cross. Their message was Christ-centered. Present-day trends pressure Christians toward unity, but often leave Jesus out of the equation. The message of the first-century Church was focused on the person of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit came to exalt Jesus and to make Him known. The apostle Paul wrote, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18, NIV).

The Spirit is calling the Church back to the basics—to the divinely mandated mission of the Church. The Early Church continued in the apostles' doctrine (discipleship), breaking of bread (fellowship), and the Lord added to the Church daily those that were being saved (evangelism) (Acts 2:42). The Spirit is calling the Church back to its original priorities. So much baggage can be added to church institutions that the Church's message becomes diluted and its priorities become weakened. The Spirit is calling the Church to the priority of living out Christ's gospel in the marketplace—bringing people to the cross of Jesus Christ.

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to our Fellowship?

The Assemblies of God began as a Fellowship in 1914. Brothers and sisters touched by the Holy Spirit met together in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and linked together in a Fellowship. Their objective was to send missionaries around the world, to create a publishing arm that would report on the Pentecostal revival, insure a unity in sound biblical doctrine, and produce Pentecostal curriculum to develop Spirit-filled disciples. Those purposes have been maintained.

God raised up this Fellowship because the traditional denominations of the day would not respond to what the Holy Spirit was saying to the Church. The question for us today is: Will we hear the voice of the Spirit for these last days and be the church that the Lord can use to touch this generation? Or, will He have to raise up others because of our inability or unwillingness to be pliable, flexible, and responsive to the Spirit's voice?

The word to the Church as a whole can be personalized to us today. As we examine the principles, practices, and priorities of the first-century Church, the Spirit will speak to our Fellowship.

Principles

A spirit of true humility must be recaptured among us. It is easy to become dependent upon our resources, programs, and systems to try to fulfill the purposes of God. This is the history of most denominations. May it not be so for the Assemblies of God. We must make a fresh commitment to the fact that it is " 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit' says the Lord Almighty," (Zechariah 4:6, NIV). We are still completely and totally dependent upon the Lord to build His Church. Humility of spirit demands that we acknowledge that all that we are and all we have are a result of what *God* has done.

Leadership is a popular subject today. We are grateful for the training that enables our men and women to be more effective in church leadership. But let us reaffirm that what our churches and communities need from us more than anything else is spiritual leadership. They need to know that those who lead the church are in tune with the Spirit, hear from the Lord, and personally respond to His promptings. The Lord has not called us to be lords over the church, but to serve the church. Jesus said in Matthew 23:11, "But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant" (NKJV). It is impossible for an insecure leader to be a servant leader. The Scriptures record that Jesus, knowing where He had come from and where He was going, took a towel and began to wash the disciples' feet at the Last Supper (John 13:3-5). May every spiritual leader in our Fellowship not seek the accolades and

the approval of man, but be secure in what God has called each of us to be. Only then will we effectively serve the church and be God's instruments to lead the church in these last days.

Rather than trying to change the world, the New Testament Church concentrated on being the living representation of the kingdom of God on Earth. This was a church that loved and served people. The "one another" principle is found throughout the New Testament—believers loved one another, served one another, prayed for one another, ministered to one another, gave life to one another. Paul wrote in Ephesians 4 that, if God-given ministries will function as He ordained, the Body will be thoroughly equipped for ministry—the result being that the Church will be built up as people grow into spiritual maturity.

This Church believed that the gifts of the Spirit and supernatural workings were to be common among them. They refused to water down the Pentecostal message.

Let us understand that we can reach this generation most effectively through the preaching of Jesus and His saving work on the Cross, anointed and empowered by the Holy Spirit, with signs following. The postmodern world is hungry for the supernatural. Let a fresh hunger be created in the hearts of every pastor and spiritual leader to see the Spirit work in supernatural power in every local church and ministry associated with this Fellowship. The greatest revival around the world is a Spirit-filled, Spirit-led, supernatural movement.

Practices

This first-century Church practiced the guidance of the Holy Spirit in evangelism. They trusted the Lord to lead them to those who were spiritually hungry and ready to receive the message. We must help people in our churches to become sensitized to the Holy Spirit's desire to lead them daily to reach and touch people with the life and power of Jesus Christ.

Priorities

The first-century Church maintained priorities that helped them remain sensitive to what the Spirit was saying. The first-century Church did not stray from their mission. Today many local churches function in an identity crisis. Spiritual trends, programs, and methodologies come and go, but the divinely mandated priorities of the Church must be maintained. Acts 2:42 states that the Church continued in the apostles' doctrine, preaching and teaching of the Word—and prayer. They practiced lives of prayer. They lived in spiritual fellowship with one another, and they lived out the Kingdom in the world to such an extent that people were added to the church daily.

Tragically, the church has moved away from these first-century priorities. New Testament believers were not consumers, but producers. They did not just *go to* church; they *were* the church. Evangelism was not a program, but a lifestyle. They were not inward-focused. They were outward-focused.

One of Jesus' parables concerned wineskins (Luke 5:37,38). He taught that if new wine is poured into old wineskins, they will explode. But if all the residue is removed from the old wineskin, it becomes pliable again. Then when new wine is

placed in it, it can stretch and receive the new wine. The Lord is speaking to His Church today to become pliable and responsive to the Holy Spirit's leading. Methods that were effective 20 years ago may not be today. We must evaluate every program and ministry based upon its fruitfulness. We must become flexible and receptive, so we can both hear and obey what the Spirit is saying to the Church. As an outflow of the priorities in Acts 6, the Word of God spread and the numbers of disciples were multiplied.

2. What is the Spirit saying to your church/ministry?

God has a specific plan for every church and ministry.

The local church is the expression of God's redemptive purposes in this world. Every church should be a prophetic voice in its community. Every church should equip and develop God's people for works of service, so that the Kingdom can be built up and the gifts of ministry can be released—not only to affect the church but also its community and the world.

The message of the church should be Christ-centered. Jesus must be exalted. Every ministry of the church should continually evaluate its effectiveness based on whether the Kingdom is being expanded—and the Lord is adding to the church.

When the Lord spoke to the seven churches in Revelation, in each case there was an assessment—an evaluation—of that church's condition. Are we willing to honestly evaluate the effectiveness of our church and ministry? Unless we understand where we are, it is difficult to know where we should go. And so the question for every church/ministry must be: Where are we? What needs to be changed?

We need to ask God to forgive us for our failures. When we recognize any place of ineffectiveness in evangelism, worship, or discipleship, we must be willing to humble ourselves and repent. We must pray, "Lord, forgive our failure to reach the lost in our community. Lord, forgive our failure to worship You in spirit and in truth. Forgive our failure to disciple people to spiritual maturity. Lord, forgive us for allowing our church to be ignored in our community."

The third thing the Spirit spoke to each church in Revelation was a word of direction. No church has a future unless its dreams are bigger than its memories. May God help us to seek Him until we capture a vision that will propel us into the days ahead. God give us pastoral leaders who can clearly articulate to our congregations the unique vision God has given for each church and ministry. A vision cannot be birthed from a book. We can learn much from other people and their ministries, but God has a unique plan for every church and ministry. Our responsibility is to find what God is saying to each of us specifically.

The last thing said to each of the seven churches is, "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Revelation 2:29, NKJV). Each of us will choose whether or not we are willing to hear. The Spiritual Life Committee is convinced that the Spirit is speaking to the leadership of the Church today. The question for each of us personally and specifically is: Are we open to hear what the

Spirit is saying to us? Are we willing to evaluate where we are, repent of where we have failed, and obey the Spirit's marching orders for our future? Each of us must make that choice.

3. What is God saying to you personally?

No church or ministry ever grows or is sustained beyond its leadership. Each of us must decide if we will grow in our character, in our relationships, and in our effectiveness. Does our ministry demonstrate soundness of speech, faith, and doctrine?

Character

No one person can grow beyond his or her personal walk with the Lord. We must each do some soul-searching concerning our relationship with Jesus. We must live what we preach and teach. We must ask ourselves: Am I a person of integrity? Do I maintain spiritual disciplines of prayer and personal devotion in the Word? Am I accountable in my life to others?

Relationships

Am I becoming more effective in my relationship skills? Do I recognize my need for others in ministry? Am I investing in someone else's life and ministry? Do I keep short accounts of hurts and injustices?

Effectiveness

Am I continuing to learn and grow in ministry skills? Am I resourcing my life? Am I reaching toward my potential in Christ? Am I willing to change?

Soundness

In Paul's admonition to Timothy and Titus, he used the Greek word translated "sound," from which the English word "hygiene" is derived, indicating being whole and healthy. He refers to "sound words" (2 Timothy 1:13, KJV), "sound doctrine" (Titus 2:1, KJV), "sound in faith" (Titus 2:2, KJV), and "sound speech" (Titus 2:8, KJV). Paul also said that believers must have a "sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7, KJV), meaning one that is prudent and self-controlled. Does our ministry demonstrate soundness in our preaching and in our communication? Is there consistency in our ministry?

These are questions each of us must prayerfully evaluate. Every leader has a responsibility to mentor a new generation of leaders in this Fellowship. All of us are where we are today because someone believed in us. Someone invested in us and made an impact on our lives. God help us to grasp our responsibility to others.

The revelation of Jesus to John on the island of Patmos was an incredible moment. John was the last living apostle. He had walked with Jesus. He had lived with Jesus. He had served the Lord faithfully. He could have spent the final days of his life regretting all he could or should have done. He could have become angry and bitter over the injustices he had faced or his circumstances on Patmos. But John made a choice.

He said, "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day." He chose to worship and praise God in spite of his past failures and present circumstances. In that atmosphere, Jesus appeared to him.

Our prayer, as we conclude this Spiritual Life Report today, is that we will each respond to God with gratitude for all He has done to bring us to where we are. In spite of our faults, failures, and inadequacies, God has been faithful to us. He is worthy of all praise, honor, and glory. He is worthy to be worshipped. And as we worship Him, may we today catch a fresh glimpse—a fresh revelation—of who He is.

He comes to speak to His Church in these days to reveal where we are, to encourage us, to urge us to repent of our sins, and to give us our marching orders for the future.

We are asking every pastor, every ministry leader, every lay leader in this place to turn to Him today and seek Him "in the Spirit." The risen and glorified Son of God seated at the right hand of the Father has come to reveal himself to us—to prepare us for these last days of harvest. If you can see Jesus today, you will be changed. If you can see Jesus today, you will know that the future is secured. If you can see Jesus today, you will know that He has come to touch you, to change you, and to make you the leader you need to be. "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" (Revelation 2:29, NKJV).

* Scripture quotations marked (KJV) are taken from the King James Version of the Bible.

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Recess

There was no formal dismissal. The general superintendent invited delegates to pray through the lunch hour.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 4

The general superintendent reconvened the business session at 2 p.m. Harold Sallee, administrative assistant to the general superintendent, led in prayer for the afternoon's business session.

Business Session

Chairman Trask called the business session to order at 2:10 p.m.

Assemblies of God New Logo

Randy Hurst, commissioner for the Commission on Evangelism, presented a short video introducing the newly designed Assemblies of God logo. He shared a number of ways that the new logo can be used effectively by the local church.

Roster Committee Report

David Wigington, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the final report of the Roster Committee as of 2 p.m. on Thursday, August 4, 2005:

Ordained	3,048	
Licensed	645	
Delegates	<u>442</u>	
Voting constituency		4,135
Exhibitor	1,374	
Kids Council	518	
Youth Convention	12,281	
General registration	<u>6,733</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>20,906</u>
Total		25,041

A motion prevailed to adopt the final roster report.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Northwest Area

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

Total votes cast	1,612
Needed to elect	1,075
Ted R. Boatsman	123
Warren D. Bullock	676
Doyle A. Fulkes	28
Paul D. Goodman	111
Vernon J. Marks	37
Barry D. Osteen	60
Robert D. Ross	154
Lewis R. Shelton	126
Roy W. Welch, III	38
Leslie E. Welk	93
Jesse C. Ybarra	92
Daniel M. York	74

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	1,632
Needed to elect	1,075
Ted R. Boatsman	84
Warren D. Bullock	1,248
Doyle A. Fulkes	11
Paul D. Goodman	42
Vernon J. Marks	9
Barry D. Osteen	11

Robert D. Ross	76
Lewis R. Shelton	57
Roy W. Welch, III	14
Leslie E. Welk	25
Jesse C. Ybarra	38
Daniel M. York	17

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

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

Total votes cast	1,650
Needed to elect	1,101
Zane E. Anderson	36
James E. Ayers	23
James R. Braddy	101
Glen D. Cole	270
G. Robert Cook, Jr.	174
Richard L. Dresselhaus	682
Stephen L. Harris	92
James D. Marocco	41
George K. Nagato	42
T. Ray Rachels	189

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	1,611
Needed to elect	1,074
Zane E. Anderson	8
James E. Ayers	10
James R. Braddy	44
Glen D. Cole	109
G. Robert Cook, Jr.	63
Richard L. Dresselhaus	1,257
Stephen L. Harris	32
James D. Marocco	12
George K. Nagato	4
T. Ray Rachels	72

Having noted that Richard L. 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	1,660
Needed to elect	1,108
Arden K. Adamson	56
David W. Argue	552
Richard G. Arrowood	44
Gary A. Denbow	36
Leon D. Freitag	27
Ronald G. Held	29
Ronald M. Garner	37
Darrell D. Loring	12
John M. Palmer	661
Clarence St. John	99
Stephen R. Schaible	17
Edmund L. Tedeschi	42
Ronald J. Traub	33
Robert A. Wine	15

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 North Central Area:

Total votes cast	1,600
Needed to elect	1,068
Arden K. Adamson	18
David W. Argue	456
Richard G. Arrowood	11
Gary A. Denbow	0
Leon D. Freitag	5
Ronald G. Held	13
Ronald M. Garner	0
Darrell D. Loring	5
John M. Palmer	1,040
Clarence St. John	25
Stephen R. Schaible	5
Edmund L. Tedeschi	16
Ronald J. Traub	3
Robert A. Wine	3

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

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

Total votes cast	854
Needed to elect	570
Arden K. Adamson	8
David W. Argue	72
Richard G. Arrowood	8
Gary A. Denbow	0
Leon D. Freitag	2
Ronald G. Held	5
Ronald M. Garner	2

Darrell D. Losing	4
John M. Palmer	733
Clarence St. John	9
Stephen R. Schaible	3
Edmund L. Tedeschi	4
Ronald J. Traub	3
Robert A. Wine	1

Having noted that John M. Palmer had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him elected 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	1,619
Needed to elect	1,080
H. Franklin Cargill	147
J. Don George	978
R. Kenneth George	78
Joseph P. Granberry	43
Jonathan M. Hollis	28
Thomas D. Lakey	50
Marcus W. McClain	40
Jim L. McNabb	67
E. Don Nordin, Jr.	125
Victor J. Schober	63
Robert L. Slaton	33
Terry L. Yancey	198

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 South Central Area:

Total votes cast	1,500
Needed to elect	1,001
H. Franklin Cargill	76
J. Don George	1,314
R. Kenneth George	13
Joseph P. Granberry	26
Jonathan M. Hollis	7
Thomas D. Lakey	6
Marcus W. McClain	10
Jim L. McNabb	7
E. Don Nordin, Jr.	23
Victor J. Schober	18
Robert L. Slaton	7
Terry L. Yancey	94

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	1,642
Needed to elect	1,096
James D. Biram	27
Douglas E. Clay	192
Charles E. Crank	632
Ron J. Crum	32
Marvin R. Dennis	45
Donald G. Gifford	56
Joseph S. Girdler	26
Larry H. Griswold	253
William F. Leach	112
Paul R. Martin	180
Clyde C. Miller	35
David R. Williams	52

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 Great Lakes Area:

Total votes cast	1,667
Needed to elect	1,112
James D. Biram	12
Douglas E. Clay	121
Charles E. Crank	1,171
Ron J. Crum	12
Marvin R. Dennis	19
Donald G. Gifford	16
Joseph S. Girdler	10
Larry H. Griswold	178
William F. Leach	35
Paul R. Martin	67
Clyde C. Miller	13
David R. Williams	13

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	1,512
Needed to elect	1,009
Bill R. Baker	212
Walter L. Davis	102
Douglas E. Fulenwider	249
B. Randel McCarty	134
Larry Moore	244
Bill R. Newby	243
Walter L. Rose	67
Robert E. Turner	155
Robert B. Wilburn	106

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	1,540
Needed to elect	1,028
Bill R. Baker	172
Walter L. Davis	68
Douglas E. Fulenwider	409
B. Randel McCarty	70
Larry Moore	342
Bill R. Newby	356
Walter L. Rose	15
Robert E. Turner	78
Robert B. Wilburn	30

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 executive presbyter from the Gulf Area:

Total votes cast	866
Needed to elect	578
Bill R. Baker	49
Walter L. Davis	28
Douglas E. Fulenwider	412
B. Randel McCarty	17
Larry Moore	125
Bill R. Newby	176
Walter L. Rose	3
Robert E. Turner	18
Robert B. Wilburn	38

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

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

Total votes cast	756
Needed to elect	505
Douglas E. Fulenwider	558
Larry Moore	73
Bill R. Newby	125

Having noted that Douglas E. Fulenwider had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him elected as executive presbyter for the Gulf Area.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Northeast Area

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

Total votes cast	1,612
Needed to elect	1,076
Daniel R. Abbatiello	45
Carl J. Colletti	71
D. Wendel Cover	92
Paul E. Grabill	205
William N. Kirk	64
Richard D. Lafferty	61
Dennis W. Marquardt	76
H. Robert Rhoden	701
Edward Spinola	119
Otis D. Stanley	65
Stephen R. Tourville	113

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 Northeast Area:

Total votes cast	1,485
Needed to elect	991
Daniel R. Abbatiello	12
Carl J. Colletti	20
D. Wendel Cover	23
Paul E. Grabill	116
William N. Kirk	12
Richard D. Lafferty	14
Dennis W. Marquardt	19
H. Robert Rhoden	1,206
Edward Spinola	23
Otis D. Stanley	3
Stephen R. Tourville	37

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	1,785
Needed to elect	1,191
C. Dan Betzer	1,071
Steven R. Brown	14
Roger W. Brumbalow	46
Billy J. Glover	26
Charles Kelly	20
John A. Loper, Jr.	26

Glyn Lowery, Jr.	48
Ronald F. McManus	247
Kenneth W. Owen, Sr.	13
Robert S. Thompson	14
Terrell R. Raburn	256
Jim R. Swilley	4

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 Southeast Area:

Total votes cast	1,662
Needed to elect	1,109
C. Dan Betzer	1,407
Steven R. Brown	14
Roger W. Brumbalow	6
Billy J. Glover	6
Charles Kelly	2
John A. Loper, Jr.	5
Glyn Lowery, Jr.	13
Ronald F. McManus	109
Kenneth W. Owen, Sr.	4
Robert S. Thompson	0
Terrell R. Raburn	92
Jim R. Swilley	4

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 Area—Spanish

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	1,498
Needed to elect	1,000
Teofilo J. Aguillon	53
Manuel A. Alvarez	71
Miguel Arroyo	0
Lee Baca	63
Angel M. Colon	27
Luis Z. Enriquez	32
Amos P. Garza	44
Clemente Maldonado, Jr.	48
Ignacio Marrero	29
Edward Martinez	81
Jesse Miranda, Jr.	887
Gilbert D. Olivarez	31
Louis R. Ortiz	58
Rafael Reyes	56
Richard K. Tanon	18

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 Language Area—Spanish:

Total votes cast	1,593
Needed to elect	1,063
Teofilo J. Aguillon	16
Manuel A. Alvarez	8
Miguel Arroyo	9
Lee Baca	6
Angel M. Colon	4
Luis Z. Enriquez	5
Amos P. Garza	9
Clemente Maldonado, Jr.	13
Ignacio Marrero	5
Edward Martinez	26
Jesse Miranda, Jr.	1,470
Gilbert D. Olivarez	7
Louis R. Ortiz	6
Rafael Reyes	5
Richard K. Tanon	4

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

Election of Executive Presbyter—Language Area—Other

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

Total votes cast	1,506
Needed to elect	1,005
Nam Soo Kim	1,130
Daniel J. Miller	227
David D. Rueb	149

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 Area—Other.

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	1,433
Needed to elect	956
Paul Adu-Antoh	58
Allison W. Boyd, Jr.	43
Emory K. Dively	41
Jarman Esperance	41
Taniela Kaufusi	19
Stephen Lim	148
Rudolf A. Lolowang	17
John E. Maracle	164
Armando D. Monzon	67
Nicky Pop	72

Sydney H. Ramphal	71
Alex A. Shevchenko	46
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	511
Wade Southerland	53
Siupapa K. Vaovasa	17
Mataiasi Waqavesi	27
Marvin E. Wilber	38

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 Ethnic Fellowship Area:

Total votes cast	1,596
Needed to elect	1,065
Paul Adu-Antoh	15
Allison W. Boyd, Jr.	6
Emory K. Dively	15
Jarman Esperance	13
Taniela Kaufusi	4
Stephen Lim	62
Rudolf A. Lolowang	3
John E. Maracle	102
Armando D. Monzon	10
Nicky Pop	13
Sydney H. Ramphal	19
Alex A. Shevchenko	8
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	1,304
Wade Southerland	10
Siupapa K. Vaovasa	5
Mataiasi Waqavesi	4
Marvin E. Wilber	3

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.

Proposed Amendments to the General Council Constitution and Bylaws

Larry Griswold, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, called attention to the 84-page booklet that has been mailed to all ministers containing proposed revisions to the General Council Constitution and Bylaws which were a result of recommendations from the Vision for Transformation Committee. These revisions were approved by the General Presbytery in its 2004 session and have been processed for presentation to the General Council by the Resolutions Committee.

He then called attention to a 4-page summary that had been prepared by the Resolutions Committee in an effort to make the presentation of the revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws more understandable and easier to handle by the General Council.

He indicated that the General Presbytery in session this week had taken an action to rescind its approval and recommendation of the following items contained in the summary and in the proposed revisions booklet, and further that body also took an action that consideration on these items be deferred:

- Item #3. Defining Board of Administration
- Item #5. The Executive Presbytery
- Item #7. The General Presbytery—Duties
- Item #13. Doctrines and Practices Disapproved—Legalism
- Item #17. *Policy Manual* becomes *Operations Manual*

He further called attention to the fact that Item 14 on the summary had been dealt with earlier by this body when action was taken on Resolution 19 and that Item 16 had also been dealt with by the adoption of Resolution 20 and Resolution 21.

Summary Item 15. *Organizational Manual*

Larry Griswold presented Item 15 from the summary sheet as follows:

Page 60, lines 40-63—A new Article XII. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* is defined.

Pages 54-60 and 73-77—A new Article XI. National Ministries of the General Council of the Assemblies of God enfold (by deletion from the Bylaws) the details of Spiritual Life, Office of Public Relations, The *Pentecostal Evangel*, *Enrichment*, Commission on Ethnicity, Commission on Evangelism, and the Commission on Discipleship from the General Superintendent's Office (pages 54-60) and the Division of Church Ministries, Division of Christian Education, Commission on Higher Education, Media Ministries, and the Division of Publication (pages 73-77) into the newly defined *Organizational Manual*, prepared by the Executive Presbytery, and approved by the General Presbytery.

A motion prevailed to adopt proposed Article XI. National Ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God (page 54 of the proposed amendment booklet) and Article XII. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* (page 60 of the proposed amendment booklet) as a substitute for present Bylaws, Article XI. General Superintendent's Office, Article XII. Directors, Commissioners, Managers, Leaders, and Other Designations, Article XVI. Division of Church Ministries, Article XVII. Division of Christian Education, Article XVIII. Commission on Christian Higher Education, Article XIX. Media Ministries, Article XX. Division of Publication.

A motion prevailed that in light of the approval just given for the reorganization of the national leadership structure, the new structure include a provision that calls for the Commission on Discipleship to be charged with the producing of a "State of Discipleship" study that reviews the state of discipleship and Christian education in our Fellowship; and that this study should give special emphasis to the reviewing of the potential impact of this reorganizational plan on the role of discipleship and Christian education in our Fellowship and this

committee be requested to report the findings of this study to the 2007 General Council to convene in Indianapolis, Indiana, with possible recommendations as to how this reorganizational plan may need to be modified to give greater priority and emphasis to discipleship and Christian education in our Fellowship.

Resolution 13. Duties of the General Treasurer

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

WHEREAS, The Division of the Treasury has been listed in the proposed *Organizational Manual*; and

WHEREAS, The duties of the general treasurer have been redefined to more clearly articulate the fiduciary responsibilities of said office; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, Section 4. Duties of the General Treasurer, page 108, which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read as follows:

Section 4. Duties of the General Treasurer

Duties of the general treasurer shall include the following:

- a. Serve as custodian of all funds of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements according to generally accepted accounting principles.
- b. Provide budgets and financial reports as periodically requested by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.
- c. Provide oversight of an internal auditor, who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall be directly accountable to the Board of Administration and the Executive Presbytery.
- d. Provide oversight of the preparation of 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.
- e. Give fidelity and such other bonds in amounts periodically determined by the Executive Presbytery.

f. Perform such other functions as are customary for the office of the general treasurer as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

Resolution 14. Division of the Treasury

Larry Griswold presented Resolution 14. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 14 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Division of the Treasury will be included in the proposed *Organizational Manual* being recommended by the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, Since the Division of the Treasury is being included in the *Organizational Manual*, it is no longer necessary that Article XIII. Division of the Treasury, be included in the Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, There are however certain sections of Article XIII that should be retained and that more appropriately belong in other areas of the Bylaws; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article XIII. DIVISION OF THE TREASURY, page 145, be deleted from the General Council Bylaws with the exception of Section 1, paragraphs c and d, and Section 3, paragraph d; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Bylaws, Article XIII. DIVISION OF THE TREASURY, Section 1. Finance Department, paragraph c. Support of Headquarters, subparagraph (1) *From ministers*, page 145, become Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 10. Credential Renewals and Reinstatements, paragraph f, page 125; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Bylaws, Article XIII. DIVISION OF THE TREASURY, Section 1. Finance Department, paragraph c. Support of Headquarters, subparagraph (2) *From assemblies*, page 146, be moved to Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 2. Annual Report From Assemblies, and become a new paragraph a, page 115; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Bylaws, Article XIII. DIVISION OF THE TREASURY, Section 1. Finance Department, paragraph d. Assemblies of God Total Giving, page 146, be moved to Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 2. Annual Report From Assemblies, and become a new paragraph b, page 115; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Bylaws, Article XIII. DIVISION OF THE TREASURY, Section 3. Benevolences Department, paragraph d. Aged Ministers Assistance, page 148, be moved to Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 7. Senior Ministers, page 121, to become paragraph d, and the present paragraph d be relettered as paragraph e; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the present paragraph d. Aged Ministers Assistance, which reads as follows:

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.

Be amended to read:

d. Support of Aged Ministers. It is recommended that all Assemblies of God churches contribute regularly to provide assistance to aged ministers who are in need of financial assistance. Assistance shall be made available to ordained ministers 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.

Summary Item 1. Editorial Uniformity of the Word “Holy Spirit”

Larry Griswold presented editorial changes to the Constitution and Bylaws which would change the word *Holy Ghost* to *Holy Spirit*. A motion prevailed to adopt Summary Item 1 as follows:

Replace all instances in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws where the words *Holy Ghost* appear, with the words *Holy Spirit*.

Page 3, lines 14, 35, 42, 46, 47, 49, 56, and 63

Page 4, lines 10, 53, and 64

Page 5, line 42

Page 6, lines 6, 10, 19, 28, 30, and 45

Summary Item 4. Election of Executive Officers

Larry Griswold presented the proposed changes in Summary Item 4. Election of Executive Officers. A motion prevailed to adopt Summary Item 4 as follows:

Page 15, lines 28, 29—Nominees for the offices of general superintendent and assistant general superintendent must receive at least 15 votes on the nominating ballot to be presented.

Pages 15 and 16—The general secretary is added to those executive officers being presented in nomination by the action of the General Presbytery (now to include general secretary, general treasurer, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, and executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions).

Page 15, lines 25 and 27—insert the word *and*.

Page 15, line 44—paragraph b. General Treasurer becomes b. Other officers.

Page 15, line 52—the word *this* becomes *these*.

Page 15, line 53, 53—insert the words *for each office*.

Who's Who Among Christian School Educators

R. Jay Nelson, Christian schools representative for the Division of Christian Education, presented the Who's Who Among Assemblies of God Educators awards. This is an award to recognize Pentecostal educators who have dedicated themselves to teaching children in either the public or private schools of America. The following persons were named this year to receive the Who's Who Among Assemblies of God Educators Award:

Rosa Ena Edelman, Silverthorne, Colorado

Pamela Sue Jones, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

Kristi Reddin, Jacksonville, Arkansas

Summary Item 6. The General Presbytery

Larry Griswold presented Summary Item 6. The General Presbytery, and moved its adoption. The motion to adopt was carried. Summary Item 6 as adopted follows:

Page 10, lines 23-31—the departmental directors of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions will be members of the General Presbytery by virtue of office.

Page 10, line 36—to accommodate all presidents of postsecondary schools being placed on the General Presbytery *three* is replaced by *their*.

Page 18, line 16-19—the departmental directors of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions will be members of the General Presbytery by virtue of office.

Page 18, lines 23, 24—the endorsed postsecondary school representatives will be members of the General Presbytery.

Page 18, lines 30-34—the evangelists representative language is reworded.

Page 18, lines 56, 57—add new paragraph. The Executive Presbytery may appoint auditors to the General Presbytery.

Summary Item 8. Resolutions

Larry Griswold presented Summary Item 8. Resolutions Committee, and moved its adoption.

It was moved and seconded that page 25, lines 5, 6, and 7 be amended by removing the words *when in the judgment of the Resolutions Committee such an action is needful*. The motion lost.

The motion to adopt Summary Item 8 was carried. Summary Item 8 as adopted follows:

Page 25, lines 1-3—resolutions submitted by the Executive Presbytery are exempted from referral to the Commission on Doctrinal Purity.

Page 25, lines 5-7—forwarding of any resolution to the Commission on Doctrinal Purity is at the discretion of the Resolutions Committee.

Page 25, lines 16-19—language regarding resolutions rejected as inappropriate is reworded.

Page 20, 21—any resolution passed by the district council in session cannot be deemed inappropriate by the Resolutions Committee.

Summary Item 9. Local Church Credential

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented Summary Item 9. Local Church Credential. A motion prevailed that Summary Item 9. Local Church Credential be adopted. Summary Item 9. Local Church Credential as adopted follows:

Page 30, lines 49-51—insert the words *unless the credential is solely required for active and ongoing local ministry in a prison, hospital, or institution*.

Summary Item 10. Ecclesiastical Annulments

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented Summary Item 10. Ecclesiastical Annulments. A motion prevailed that Summary Item 10. Ecclesiastical Annulments be adopted. Summary Item 10. Ecclesiastical Annulments as adopted follows:

Page 32, lines 1-20—language is reworded.

Summary Item 11. Ministers with Disabilities

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented Summary Item 11. Ministers with Disabilities. A motion prevailed that Summary Item 11. Ministers with Disabilities be adopted. Summary Item 11. Ministers with Disabilities as adopted follows:

Page 35, lines 45-51—paragraph (4) *Ministers with disabilities* is reworded.

Summary Item 12. Transfers from Assemblies of God World Fellowship

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented Summary Item 12. Transfers from Assemblies of God World Fellowship. A motion prevailed that Summary Item 12. Transfers from Assemblies of God World Fellowship be adopted. Summary Item 12. Transfers from Assemblies of God World Fellowship as adopted follows:

Page 38, lines 51-57—edits to the requirements for such transfers reflects policy action of the General Presbytery on such credentials.

Spiritual Life Committee

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee called attention to page 25, lines 36-44, which indicated that Section 5. Spiritual Life Committee was to be eliminated from the General Council Bylaws.

A motion unanimously prevailed that Section 5. Spiritual Life Committee be retained as part of the Bylaws of the General Council.

Summary Item 2. Miscellaneous Editorial Adjustments

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented Summary Item 2. Miscellaneous Editorial Adjustments and moved its adoption. The motion to adopt Summary Item 2. Miscellaneous Editorial Adjustments carried. Summary Item 2. Miscellaneous Editorial Adjustments as adopted follows:

Page 9, lines 18, 19—the title *Article IX. Officers* becomes *Article IX. Officers and Presbyteries of the General Council*.

Page 9, lines 59, 60—a *Board of Directors* becomes *the Board of Directors of The General Council of the Assemblies of God*.

Page 10, line 10—*General Council* becomes *Assemblies of God*.

Page 10, line 43—*representative* becomes *representation*.

Page 14, lines 13-43—the Table of Contents for the Bylaws is edited with new names and numbering.

Page 15, line 10—the title *Article II. Election of Officers* becomes *Article II. Election of Officers, Presbyters*.

Page 17, line 62, page 18, line 2, page 21, line 43—*World Missions* becomes *Assemblies of God World Missions*.

Page 20, line 14—the title *Article III. Duties of Officers* becomes *Article III. Duties of Officers, Presbyters, Board of Administration*.

Page 21, line 67 and page 22, line 255—the words *the General Council* is inserted in the assignments for both executive director of World Missions and executive director of U.S. Missions.

Page 22, line 2—*U.S. Missions* becomes *Assemblies of God U.S. Missions*.

Page 22, line 32—Executive Presbytery defined as *trustees* becomes *the Board of Directors* of the Assemblies of God.

Page 27, line 36—Section 6. Dissolution of District the words *be reduced to* becomes *have*.

Page 30, line 52—Section 1. Ministry Described the words *2-year term* becomes *2 years*.

Page 31, line 40—the word *exam* becomes *examination*.

Page 31, lines 67, 68—paragraph i. Marriage Status, the words *or district councils granting credentials to such* are deleted, in that only the General Council or the local church now issues credentials.

Page 37, line 6—under paragraph b. Affiliation with district of residence, add the words *or serve on the staff*.

Page 64, lines 20, 21—under paragraph d. Aged Ministers Assistance the parenthetical words (*the term includes ordained missionaries*) is deleted.

Entire Document—where paragraphs are either deleted or inserted, appropriate renumbering of the subsequent paragraphs occurs.

Resolution 5. Humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ

Larry Griswold presented Resolution 5 and moved its adoption. The motion to adopt was lost. Resolution 5 as presented follows:

WHEREAS, Many ministers in proclaiming the deity and sinlessness of our Lord Jesus Christ have been teaching that He has no genetic link to any other human, not even his own mother; and

WHEREAS, This assertion that the Holy Spirit created the human body of our Lord in the womb of the Virgin Mary without using one of her ovary eggs denies that He has human ancestry; and

WHEREAS, This would mean that Jesus would not have been a literal, physical descendant of Abraham and therefore not an actual Jew; and

WHEREAS, This would make Mary a surrogate mother and Jesus a surrogate son; and

WHEREAS, To be a legitimate son means to be a genetic descendant; and

WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of Man and therefore is literally descended from man; and

WHEREAS, Numerous Old Testament prophecies plainly state that Messiah was to genetically descend from definite, named, human forebears according to the flesh; and

WHEREAS, The New Testament plainly teaches that the Lord Jesus Christ has a literal, genetic human lineage through His mother, all the way back to Adam; and

WHEREAS, Doubt is being cast on all this Scripture because of tradition and private interpretations of biblical passages pertaining to human sinfulness; and

WHEREAS, Church doctrine should rest solidly on Scripture because the very atonement of the Cross depends upon biblical inerrancy; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Statement of Fundamental Truths in the constitution be amended by the addition of a section to be titled *The Humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ*, to read as follows:

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of Man. The Scriptures declare:

- a. His own statements that He is the Son of Man (John 8:28; John 9:35-38; Matthew 16:15-18).
- b. His human genealogy back to Adam (Luke 3:23-37).
- c. His promise that He would be the woman's seed (Genesis 3:15).
- d. His being conceived by the virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35).
- e. His being made of a woman, made under the law (Galatians 4:4).
- f. His being the one seed of Abraham that would bless all nations (Galatians 3:16).
- g. His being made of the seed of David according to the flesh (Romans 1:3).
- h. His being the fruit of David's loins (Acts 2:30).
- i. His being the root and the offspring of David (Revelation 22:16).
- j. His coming from Israel concerning the flesh (Romans 9:4,5).
- k. His having sprung from the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14).
- l. His identifying himself as a Jew (John 4:22).
- m. His being the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5).
- n. His being the one mediator, the man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5).
- o. His imminent return as the Son of Man (Matthew 26:64).
- p. His future millennial reign upon the throne of His father David (Luke 1:32).

The Son of God is the Son of Man, precisely and only, because He is the actual, physical, biological descendant of human forebears, according to the flesh. It is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that the Messiah was born without a real genetic connection to this scriptural human ancestry. Therefore, to say that the human body of Jesus was formed in the womb without using an ovary egg of his virgin mother is a denial that the Lord Jesus Christ is the seed of the woman, the seed of Abraham, the fruit of David's loins, or the Son of Man; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh.

At the moment man fell, the Lord Jesus Christ took upon himself the guilt of Adam's legal succession and the death penalty of sin for all humanity to come: "...and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin..." (2 Corinthians 5:21); for He is "...the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8).

When the fullness of the time was come, the eternal Son of God came forth to become the Son of Man, made of Mary's ovary egg, the virgin woman's seed, thus becoming a direct, literal, genetic descendant of King David and of Abraham, according to the flesh and fulfilling messianic prophecy (Galatians 4:4; Genesis 3:15; Romans 1:3; Matthew 1:1).

Every child conceived comes under the positional guilt of Adam's transgression, for "...by one man's disobedience many were made sinners" (Romans 5:19); and as David said, "...in sin did my mother conceive me" (Psalm 51:5). However, each one's guilt is covered by the blood of the Lamb of God until he reaches accountability and "...is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed" (James 1:14). Some temptations, like fear and selfishness, begin in the womb and we are "...shapen in iniquity..." (Psalm 51:5).

However, as God is love, and as Christ is God in the flesh, fully God and fully man, He is love personified; and as perfect love casts out all fear and is the fulfillment of the law, He alone fully kept the whole law and lived a sinless life, though tempted in all points as we are. At His substitutionary death on the cross, He was judged righteous and was accepted by the Father as the all-sufficient propitiation for the sins of the whole world; and He was declared to be the Son of God by His resurrection from the dead; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this amendment be numbered as *General Council Constitution, Article V, paragraph 4*, and entitled: 4. The Humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the remaining paragraph be renumbered accordingly.

THE HUMANITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST **Recommendation from Commission on Doctrinal Purity**

The Commission on Doctrinal Purity has examined the proposed resolution entitled *The Humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ* submitted by Robert W. Lyle of Wellsboro, Pennsylvania.

The commission is very appreciative of the fact that Brother Lyle has done extensive study on the humanity of Jesus Christ, has manifested a genuine interest in and concern for the doctrines of the Assemblies of God, and has made the fruit of his research available to the Commission on Doctrinal Purity. The commission concurs with Brother Lyle that the full humanity of our Lord must be safeguarded.

However, the commission noted that the Statement of Fundamental Truths affirms the humanity of our Lord in Statement 2, "The One True God," and specifically affirms the virgin birth in Statement 3, "The Deity of the Lord Jesus

Christ.” These affirmations, while not extensive, are nonetheless consistent with the historic creeds of the Christian church and appear to be adequate for present needs.

Therefore, the Commission on Doctrinal Purity respectfully recommends that no change be made at this time in Statements 2 and 3.

Introduction of Executive Presbyters

General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask introduced the members of the Executive Presbytery. He extended a welcome to the two new executive presbyters: Douglas E. Fulenwider and John M. Palmer.

He expressed appreciation and gratitude to David W. Argue and L. Alton Garrison for their years of serve on the Executive Presbytery.

Courtesy Resolution

Larry Griswold read a courtesy resolution and moved it adoption. The motion carried. The resolution was as follows:

WHEREAS, The 51st General Council of the Assemblies of God has been afforded gracious hospitality and accommodation by the officials and agencies of the city of Denver, Colorado, and our host districts, the Rocky Mountain District Council and the Central Latin American District Council; 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 51st General Council; and

WHEREAS, The 51st 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; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That sincere appreciation be expressed to: Mayor John Hickenlooper of the City of Denver; The Colorado Convention Center, the Pepsi Center, the Denver Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the many hotel and restaurant personnel, for their accommodation and hospitality, 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 51st General Council in the Spiritual Life Report and the ever-present call and challenge to expand His kingdom at home and abroad by every means possible, be affirmed and sustained by our ongoing commitment to fulfill the assignments that our Lord Jesus, the Head of this Church, has given us, and be it further

RESOLVED, That on this historic occasion of our 51st General Council of the Assemblies of God that we rededicate ourselves, the Holy Spirit being our helper, to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ and that we leave this council in the bonds of Christian unity, determined to serve His wishes with all the resources, passion, and energy of our lives.

Adjournment

A motion prevailed to adjourn the business meeting of the 51st General Council at 4:10 p.m., Thursday, August 4, 2005.

THURSDAY EVENING—AUGUST 4

The Thursday evening service of the 51st General Council began at 7 in the Pepsi Center in Denver, Colorado, with a missionary parade led by L. John Bueno, riding in a rickshaw, followed by missionaries marching into the auditorium, bearing flags and attire from the nations in which they serve. During the parade, J. Daniel Smith directed the choir and orchestra from Bethesda Community Church, Fort Worth, Texas, which provided music for the missionary parade. Prayer for the service was offered by Loren Triplett, former executive director of Assemblies of God 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 offertory was provided by the Bethesda Community Church, Fort Worth, Texas, choir. Special music for the service was also provided by a 168-person choir made up of men and women preparing to head to 55 countries for missionary service.

The speaker for the service was Lazarus M. Chakwera, president of the Malawi Assemblies of God. He expressed thanks to America for sending full-gospel missionaries to Africa. Even though the continent now receives missionaries from the rest of the world, the greatest partners remain U.S. Assemblies of God missionaries. "The church's exponential growth in Africa is in many ways a reflection of the tireless efforts and seed-sowing ministries of missionaries of yesteryear." He stated that there is a realization that the African church, too, has a role to play in God's worldwide missions. "The new reality is that missions has become from all nations to all nations."

Following the evening message a first-ever missionary commissioning service was held with General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask commissioning new candidates heading to the mission field.

FRIDAY MORNING—AUGUST 5

Memorial and Communion Service

The Friday service began at 9:30 a.m., at the Colorado Convention Center, following 15 minutes of pre-service music provided by the Peacemakers Quartet, Carbondale Assembly of God, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Paul and Marjorie Ferrin, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Gina Lugo and Johnny Ferrante, Bethel Church, San Jose, California; and Nicholas Jonas, Assembly of God, Wyckoff, New Jersey. George O. Wood served as chairman for this service.

Scripture for the service was read by Elizabeth (Beth) Grant, Springfield, Missouri. She also offered prayer for the service. Worship was led by John Lawson, Radiant Church, Colorado Springs, Colorado. The offering was received by Charles E. Hackett.

In memory of those ministers who have passed away since the last meeting of the General Council a video scroll was presented containing 803 names. During the playing of the memorial scroll, music was provided by the Peacemakers Quartet, Paul and Marjorie Ferrin, Gina Lugo and Johnny Ferrante, and Nicholas Jonas. Following the presentation of the scroll Thomas E. Trask, general superintendent, introduced C. Dan Betzer, executive presbyter from the Southeast Area and pastor of First Assembly of God, Fort Myers, Florida, the speaker for the 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, 2003, to May 31, 2005, and were included in the video presentation

Abbott, Veldon F., Dewey, Oklahoma
 Ables, Hollis V., Calhoun, Louisiana
 Acker, John W. Sr., Springfield, Missouri
 Atkinson, J. D., Watsonville, California
 Adams, Joe W., Waxahachie, Texas
 Adamson, Earl B., Oshkosh, Wisconsin
 Ade, Paul C., Sarasota, Florida
 Adusei-Poku, Daniel, Gaithersburg, Maryland
 Alford, John G., Goodrich, Texas
 Aldridge, Jesse M., Puyallup, Washington
 Allen, Felicia R., Pomona, California
 Allen, Halbert E., Winnsboro, Texas
 Anderson, James H. (Jim), Lindale, Texas
 Anderson, John M., Lynden, Washington
 Anderson, Margaret, South Africa
 Andrews, Kerry W., York, Nebraska
 Andrews, Lura M., Evans, Georgia
 Anspaugh, Rex M., Yulee, Florida
 Arneson, J. Harold, Lynden, Washington
 Ayala, Samuel, New York, New York
 Bacon, L. Calvin Sr., Deltona, Florida
 Badger, Barbara L., Sullivan, Indiana
 Baez, Frank Jr., Thornton, Indiana
 Baker, David E., Rumney, New Hampshire
 Baker, Denver L., Lake Station, Indiana
 Baker, Mildred, Des Moines, Iowa
 Baldwin, Donald E., Laguna Niguel, California
 Balikowski, Donna M., Lakeland, Florida
 Barber, George L., Paola, Kansas
 Barfield, Curtis A., Liberty, South Carolina
 Barnard, Hoyt E., Okemah, Oklahoma
 Barney, Kenneth D., Boonville, Missouri
 Barton, Jewel E., Monroe, Louisiana
 Bauer, Arthur H., San Diego, California
 Beadle, Charles P., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Bear, Dorothy M., Colorado Springs, Colorado
 Beaver, Donna J., East Liverpool, Ohio
 Bedzyk, John, Elmira, New York
 Benvenuti, Thomas, Huntington Beach, California
 Berkheimer, Melba R., Orange, Texas
 Best, Frank R., Austintown, Ohio
 Bettis, Robert E., Sand Springs, Oklahoma
 Bias, Steven E., Dayton, Ohio
 Bird, Kenneth D., Oroville, California
 Black, Edwin L., Lakeland, Florida
 Black, Earle R. Sr., Canton, Illinois
 Blackman, Woodrow, Wewahitchka, Florida
 Blalock, Addie H., Aberdeen, North Carolina
 Bland, Charles L., Palm Bay, Florida
 Blanton, Donald L., Columbia, South Carolina
 Blanton, Jasper H., Cordelle, Georgia
 Blossom, Pansy D., Springfield, Missouri
 Blue, Dorothea E., Galesburg, Illinois
 Blue, Thurman M., Campbell, Texas
 Bobbitt, Dwayne D., Seminole, Oklahoma
 Bonafoux, Fernando, Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico
 Boulware, Virginia L., Brighton, Colorado
 Bowen, Ronald L., Mission, Texas
 Bowen, Vanessa L., Hartman, Arkansas
 Bowman, Charles, Hardeeville, South Carolina
 Bowser, Dwight, Cottonwood, Arizona
 Boyd, Alfred D., Parkton, Maryland
 Boyd, Wanda M., Fort Worth, Texas
 Boyet, Otto, Sullivan, Missouri
 Bradshaw, W. M., Ferris, Texas
 Brantley, Margie, Tallahassee, Florida
 Brasswell, Stanley, Pelham, Alabama
 Braun, Julius F., Winter Haven, Florida
 Bray, Laura Jasmine, Holiday Island, Arkansas
 Brewer, Adolph H., Litchfield, Illinois
 Brewer, Maxine E., Canton, Ohio
 Brewer, William W., Cherry Valley, California
 Bridge, Palmer R., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Broberg, Michael E., Pillager, Minnesota
 Brodrick, Carl L., Tecumseh, Oklahoma
 Brooks, Susie I., Athens, Texas
 Brooks, William D., Dallas, Texas
 Brown, Eunice M., Van, Texas
 Brown, Harriett E., Anchorage, Alaska
 Brown, Mildred H., Visalia, California
 Bruce, Melton O., Dothan, Alabama
 Bruton, Enos J., Bedford, Indiana
 Bruton, Janie D., Fort Worth, Texas
 Bruton, J. Paul Jr., San Luis Obispo, California
 Burdine, A. Wilber, San Jose, California
 Burgund, F. Maurice, Brighton, Illinois
 Burns, A. Everett, McAllen, Texas
 Burnside, Charles G., Greenfield, Indiana
 Burnside, Clifford L., Tuckerman, Arkansas
 Bush, Darrel R., Springfield, Missouri
 Bushnell, Willyla, Huntington Beach, California
 Buwalda, Robert, Chesterfield, Virginia
 Byrum, H. B., Gladewater, Texas
 Caddell, Robert G. Jr., Seguin, Texas
 Cairns, Grace, Ellis, Kansas
 Calhoun, Grover T., Napavine, Washington

Gaither, Ralph W., Fresno, California
 Galitello, John L., Columbus, Georgia
 Garrison, David J., Vancouver, Washington
 Garza, Ruben B., Abilene, Texas
 Gates, John T., Harrisburg, Arkansas
 Genco, Irene, Princeton Junction, New Jersey
 Georgianni, Frank, Corona, California
 German, Manuel S., Glendale, Arizona
 Geyer, Willis W., Milten Freewater, Oregon
 Gilbert, Ruth M., Auburn, California
 Gilder, Richard D., Whitney, Texas
 Gillespie, Woodrow W., Heflin, Alabama
 Giordano, Rita O., Medford, New Jersey
 Glaze, Alton, Umatilla, Oregon
 Gomez, Rachel, San Jose, California
 Gonzalez, Alberto, Florida, Puerto Rico
 Gonzalez, Benito T., Moca, Puerto Rico
 Gonzalez, Luz M., Carolina, Puerto Rico
 Goomas, George, Duncanville, Texas
 Gordon, Leonard E., Medina, Ohio
 Gordon, Loton, Brooklyn, New York
 Gower, Huey E., Ashland City, Tennessee
 Grady, Audie R., Dumas, Arkansas
 Gray, Thomas G., Cibola, Texas
 Green, David, Billings, Montana
 Greene, Mildred R., Bossier City, Louisiana
 Greer, Howard E., Baytown, Texas
 Greer, Lucy I., Mount Pleasant, Texas
 Griffin, Esther M., Placentia, California
 Griffin, James B., Waco, Texas
 Griggs, Grace L., Springfield, Missouri
 Griggs, James E., Springfield, Missouri
 Guilliot, Fredric, Kent, Washington
 Hageman, William F., El Paso, Texas
 Haima, Brian A. Sr., Baldwinville, New York
 Hale, Myrtle G., Hayden, Idaho
 Hall, Hannah J., Tyler, Texas
 Hall, Nell F., Springfield, Missouri
 Hall, Trella Belle, Baxter Springs, Kansas
 Hall, Wayne A., Bentonville, Arkansas
 Hamelink, J. Peter, Vesper, Wisconsin
 Hamilton, V. R., Kimberling City, Missouri
 Hammond, James T. Jr., Dunn, North Carolina
 Han, Yeung Ja, Roosevelt Island, New York
 Hand, Ruth E., Rogers, Arkansas
 Haney, Betty S., Apple Valley, California
 Hann, Charles L., Bath, New York
 Hansche, David W., Texarkana, Arkansas
 Hansen, Wesley D., Warden, Washington
 Hanson, Alfred J., Longview, Washington
 Hardcastle, G. W., Rancho Cordova, California
 Harding, Winford C., Conroe, Texas
 Hardy, Erno J., Panama City Beach, Florida
 Harp, Willie M., Trinity, Texas
 Harrington, Ethel E., Lady Lake, Florida
 Harrington, Mamie L., Tucson, Arizona
 Harris, Almer G., Durant, Florida
 Harris, D. Winston, Buckatunna, Mississippi
 Harris, Derrel D., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Harris, Ralph W., Springfield, Missouri
 Harris, Roy B., Lake Jackson, Texas
 Harrup, Esther L., Springfield, Missouri
 Hart, Lucine E., Moss Point, Mississippi
 Hartman, Richard W., Penn Valley, California
 Hatch, Francis M., Yates Center, Kansas
 Hatch, Lila M., Little Rock, Arkansas
 Havner, Richard B., Dallas, Texas
 Hawkins, Comer L., McMinnville, Tennessee
 Hawkins, Robert W., Valparaiso, Indiana
 Hayes, Wayne L., O'Brien, Florida
 Heath, Clifford R., Guildford, Vermont
 Heath, Dewey L., Erick, Oklahoma
 Helton, Dibrell, Longview, Texas
 Hemminger, Helga F., Easton, Pennsylvania
 Hemphill, Wayne H., Owensboro, Kentucky
 Henderson, Michael J., Phenix City, Alabama
 Henson, Archie B., Bridgeport, Texas
 Herman, Harvey A., Hastings, Nebraska
 Hetherington, James E., Hiram, Ohio
 Hickman, Edith I., Rogers, Arkansas
 Hinecker, W. G., Charlestown, Indiana
 Hines, Michael J., Honduras
 Hines, Rudolph C., Shreveport, Louisiana
 Hixenbaugh, Velma, Buena Vista, Colorado
 Hodge, Larry D., Sugar Grove, Illinois
 Hodges, Frances M., Bartow, Florida
 Holcomb, Robbie C., Jayton, Texas
 Holder, Everett W., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Holdiness, Eugene W., Baltimore, Maryland
 Holland, Cameron C., Washougal, Washington
 Hollingsworth, Thomas, Fort Worth, Texas
 Holmes, James, Kings Mt, North Carolina
 Holtzclaw, Ara Vay, Cotton Valley, Louisiana
 Homer, Ruth B., Huntington Beach, California
 Hopkins, James H., Marysville, Washington
 Horst, M. Louise, Mabank, Texas
 Horwege, Raymond H. Jr., Antioch, California
 Howard, Thomas R., Bothel, Washington
 Hubbard, Dee, Roswell, New Mexico
 Human, John L., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Hundsdoerfer, Dale, Laguna Woods, California
 Hunsberger, Carrie B., Portland, Indiana
 Hunt, Elsie E., Fresno, California
 Hunt, Fern O., Yale, Oklahoma
 Hunt, Oscar W., Springfield, Missouri
 Hunter, J. Renton, Temple Hills, Maryland
 Hutson, Fay M., Dallas, Texas
 Impson, David W., Wright City, Oklahoma
 Ingles, Cleo O., Enid, Oklahoma
 Ingram, John R., Palmer, Texas
 Ingram, Leonard A., Konawa, Oklahoma
 Irish, Henry D., Newton, Iowa
 Isherwood, Janice F., Mesa, Arizona
 Israel, Byron D., Auburn, Washington
 Ivie, James H., Caldwell, Idaho
 Jackson, Billy R., Alford, Florida
 Jackson, Bobby G., Lakeland, Florida
 James, Claudia B., Saratoga, Texas
 Janzen, Brett L., Irvine, California
 Jarvis, Murl R., Windsor, North Carolina
 Jeter, Hugh P., Waxahachie, Texas
 Johnson, Floyd B., Fort Smith, Arkansas
 Johnson, M. Earl, Redding, California
 Johnson, Orley O., Pe Ell, Washington
 Jollay, Helen O., Levittown, New York
 Jones, Frank M., Ada, Oklahoma
 Jones, Leonard J., Vancouver, Washington
 Jones, Margaret B., Springfield, Missouri
 Jones, Oda, Carlinville, Illinois
 Jones, Richard C., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Jumper, Christine G., Palestine, Arkansas
 Justus, Clara B., Belton, Texas
 Kaap, James R., Hampton, Virginia
 Kahalechili, Henry K., Hilo, Hawaii
 Kang, Dae Yun, La Verne, California
 Keen, J. D., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Keene, Philip A., Louisville, Ohio
 Keeter, Donald P., Sun City, Arizona
 Keil, F. Allen, Atwater, California
 Kelley, Frank V., The Villages, Florida
 Kennedy, Mrs. H.R. (Alice), Casper, Wyoming
 Kennedy, Sylvia H., Tehachapi, California

Padilla, David, Denver, Colorado
 Page, Leonard E., Birmingham, Alabama
 Palmer, Evelyn L., Frederick, Maryland
 Pardue, Mrs. Earl (Marie), Butler, Alabama
 Park, Henry P., San Angelo, Texas
 Parker, Brunette H., Riverside, California
 Parrish, Paul C., Newport, Pennsylvania
 Pascual, Marciano, San Juan, Puerto Rico
 Patton, Virgil, Sherman, Texas
 Paul, Tommie G., Bald Knob, Arkansas
 Peak, Charles E., Springfield, Missouri
 Percy, Cecil R., Hydro, Oklahoma
 Peck, Christine A., Jacksonville, Florida
 Penney, Herbert G., Tolleson, Arizona
 Penton, Elwood D., Robertsdale, Alabama
 Perera, Lloyd M., Citrus Heights, California
 Perez, Espismenio, Sanford, Florida
 Perez, Francisco, Bridgeport, Connecticut
 Perez, Pedro Acosta, Humacao, New Mexico
 Perez, Pedro L., Santa Cruz, New Mexico
 Perkins, E. B., Artesia, New Mexico
 Perry, Ramona H., Fairbanks, Alaska
 Peterson, Einar G., Tacoma, Washington
 Philip, Richard H., Tacoma, Washington
 Phillips, Dorothy M., Nixa, Missouri
 Pierce, Madison I., Mooreland, Oklahoma
 Pike, Lemy L., Childress, Texas
 Pillow, David J., Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin
 Pine, Warren V., Riverdale, California
 Piper, Stephen E., Lake Katrine, New York
 Pitts, John P., Saint Louis, Missouri
 Pitts, Ruel N., Bonifay, Florida
 Placeres, Pedro, Banning, California
 Poe, Evelyn M. (Nick), Bald Knob, Arkansas
 Points, Ina L., Sparkman, Arkansas
 Poland, Paul, Oakland, Maryland
 Pollard, Grover G., Modesto, California
 Polson, Clifford F. Sr., Loveland, California
 Poteat, Paul E. Sr., Markleysburg, Pennsylvania
 Powell, Jennie L., Phoenix, Arizona
 Pratt, Palmerine, La Mesa, California
 Prentiss, Darrell, Lk Junaluska, North Carolina
 Presley, William T., Panama City, Florida
 Preston, Ray S., Lufkin, Texas
 Price, Solomon N., Columbus, Georgia
 Rabe, Bonetta C., Norwalk, California
 Radawski, Walter A., Lakeside, California
 Raduano, George, Baltimore, Maryland
 Raley, James D., Ormond Beach, Florida
 Ramos, Noe T., Selma, California
 Rausin, Jerry E., Springfield, Missouri
 Ray, Lawrence E., Warrenton, Oregon
 Reagan, Dalles L., Murray, Kentucky
 Reaves, Samuel H., Seymour, Iowa
 Reddick, Jack E., Salem, Oregon
 Redman, Dolores Z., San Carlos, California
 Reed, Charles E., Monroe, Louisiana
 Reed, Joe C., Foley, Alabama
 Reese, Clyde A., Palestine, Texas
 Reeves, Ben A., La Marque, Texas
 Reiber, Jennifer K., Moody, Alabama
 Reine, Ruby L., Robbinsdale, Minnesota
 Rentschler, Loren E., Portage, Indiana
 Rex, Margaret F., Lamoni, Iowa
 Rey, Edmond L., Woodland, Washington
 Reynolds, James B., Joshua, Texas
 Rhodes, Harold E., Santa Rosa, California
 Rice, Cecil R., Dickens, Texas
 Richardson, Lester F., Lakeland, Florida
 Richmond, Walter, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Ridings, Bernard B., Kansas City, Missouri
 Riniti, Vincent A., Alhambra, California
 Risk, J. Deering, Binford, North Dakota
 Rivera, Carlos, San German, Puerto Rico
 Roberson, Georganna, Albion, New York
 Roberts, Odell, Harker Heights, Texas
 Robinson, Roslouse K., Willard, Missouri
 Roderman, Dolman E., Oak Grove, Missouri
 Rodli, Agnes S., Sultan, Washington
 Rodriguez, Carmen R., Lubbock, Texas
 Rodriguez, Delfin, Cleveland, Ohio
 Roeber, Alfred H., Fort Worth, Texas
 Rogers, Amos C., Mount Ayr, Iowa
 Rogers, Burl J., San Angelo, Texas
 Roman, Jennie, Tangerine, Florida
 Ronsisvalle, Daniel, Leeds, Alabama
 Rosa, Eva, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
 Rosado, Rosalina, Vega Alta, Puerto Rico
 Rose, Helen S., Orrick, Missouri
 Rose, Richard R., Port Angeles, Washington
 Rosenberg, James O., Saint John, Kansas
 Ross, Melba M., San Francisco, California
 Rothwell, Daniel D., Fargo, North Dakota
 Rowley, Albert, Ukiah, California
 Royer, Elmer L., Logan, Utah
 Ruiz, Prudencio H., Santa Maria, California
 Salazar, Maria, Weehawken, New Jersey
 Sanchez, Hector, Munday, Texas
 Sandefer, Alma L., Clovis, California
 Santana, Hilda, Maywood, Illinois
 Sapp, Roy G., Aiea, Hawaii
 Savage, Paul W., Albuquerque, New Mexico
 Savusa, Malaia M., East Palo Alto, California
 Scantlin, Sylvia M., Kimberly, Idaho
 Schaeffer, J. Floyd, Las Cruces, New Mexico
 Schaumburg, Harry W., Humble, Texas
 Schmitt, Harold D., Miami Beach, Florida
 Schneider, Arthur V., Coupeville, Washington
 Schott, Ruth E., Hot Springs, South Dakota
 Schultz, Laura H., Hattiesburg, Mississippi
 Scroggins, Coy J., Locust Grove, Oklahoma
 Self, Noial, Jonesboro, Arkansas
 Sellers, Lowell D., Graceville, Florida
 Sellers, Leamon D., Palestine, Texas
 Sellers, James M. Sr., Orange, Texas
 Shaffer, Ervillene, Saginaw, Texas
 Sharpe, J. Paul, Woodward, Oklahoma
 Shaw, J. Gordon, University Place, Washington
 Shaw, Marguerite, Show Low, Arizona
 Shaw, William W., Winona, Minnesota
 Shehane, Mary J., Newville, Alabama
 Shell, Arthur L. Jr., Cape Coral, Florida
 Shin, Kyo Hyun, Lyndhurst, New Jersey
 Shipman, James W., Leakey, Texas
 Shockley, Don R. Sr., Van Nuys, California
 Shoemaker, Herschel W., Mtn Grove, Missouri
 Shores, V. Ernest, Glendale, Arizona
 Short, James F. Sr., Hagerstown, Maryland
 Shows, Wallace B., Rosenberg, Texas
 Shroyer, Francis, Victorville, California
 Silva, Alfred D., Chula Vista, California
 Singleton, James B., Fort Worth, Texas
 Sinner, Daniel, Vancouver, Washington
 Sisco, William J., Sheridan, Arkansas
 Sizemore, Harlan B., Cleveland, Tennessee
 Sjoborg, David E., Stillwater, Minnesota
 Skinner, Dorothy V., Springfield, Missouri
 Skoog, Thomas G., Adrian, Michigan
 Slack, Andrew, Henderson, Nevada
 Smith, Dewel Howard, Heber Springs, Arkansas
 Smith, Fred H., Parker, Arizona
 Smith, Janelra R., Evanston, Illinois

George O. Wood, general secretary, read the names of the following ministers who were deceased after June 1, 2005, and were reported to the general secretary's office by August 4, 2005:

Anthony, Warren C., Palm Harbor, Florida
Barnett, Hurshel L., Walnut Ridge, Arkansas
Bell, Billy P., Clinton, Illinois
Bird, Theresa M., Woodward, Oklahoma
Branson, Cecil O., Porterville, California
Council, Delbert G., Kaufman, Texas
Davis, Myrtle I., Vacaville, California
De Prenger, Leo D., Sun City, Arizona
Deshotel, L. J., Welsh, Louisiana
Dieter, Joseph M., Springfield, Missouri
Dobson, Alfred A., Bremerton, Washington
Enloe, Ernest M., Gig Harbor, Washington
Erola, Walter E., Naselle, Washington
Gilbert Vardell, Lexington, Mississippi
Gonzalez, Jose L., San Benito, Texas
Gregg, Mattie M., Streator, Illinois
Hulzebos, Abel H., Lakeland, Florida
Johnston, Artie E., Waxahachie, Texas
Knight, George E., Howardwick, Texas
Lambertson, William J., Minneapolis, Kansas
Lawson, W. Junior, Edmonton, Kentucky
Lee, Nolan D., Crestview, Florida
Marinacci, Anthony A., Maple Shade, New Jersey
Mayfield, Robert C., Tulsa, Oklahoma
Miller, Willie S., Chandler, Oklahoma
Moroco, Fernando, Chandler, Arizona
Mort, Beulah, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania
Munger, Erma M., Westminster, Colorado
Ong, John C. H., Castro, California
Oxner, Woodrow, Mobile, Alabama
Parker, Floyd M., Casa Grande, Arizona
Rogne, Donald R., Tacoma, Washington
Rubio, Augustine III, Litchfield Park, Arizona
Sanchez, Ramon, New York, New York
Sewell, Raymond D., Minden, Louisiana
Smith, Leslie W., Springfield, Missouri
Shields, Ernest F., Columbia, Missouri
Smith, Sharon, Hickory, North Carolina
Walker, De Lois M., Lawton, Oklahoma
Ware, R. Kenneth, Courbevoie, France
Warriner, Clayton L., Vero Beach, Florida
Weaver, Paul L., Walnut Bottom, Pennsylvania
Weiszbrod, E. E., Collinsville, Oklahoma
Weldon, Michael D., Dayton, Ohio
Williams, S. Worth, Grand Prairie, Texas
Wilson, Willis F., Canton, Illinois
Young, Kenneth J. Monroe, Louisiana
Zottneck, Sharon M., Milford, Ohio

FRIDAY EVENING—AUGUST 5

Celebration of Ethnicity

Friday afternoon the General Council honored the ethnic diversity within the Fellowship with a Celebration of Ethnicity service in two locations from 2 to 4:30 p.m. A multilingual celebration was held in the Colorado Convention Center and at the same time a bilingual Hispanic celebration was held at the Adam's Mark Plaza Ballroom. The Celebration of Ethnicity was organized by the Commission on Ethnicity and U.S. Intercultural Ministries. The services featured video clips from a number of ethnic/language districts and fellowships, full-dress Native Americans, parades of different language/ethnic groups, skits by the Deaf Culture Fellowship, singing and dancing by the Filipino, Fijian, and Tongan Fellowships, Russian singers, Chinese quartet and dancers, and a number of other presentations.

FRIDAY EVENING—AUGUST 5

The concluding service of the 2005 General Council began at 7 with a joint rally of adults and youth in the Pepsi Center. Prior to the service 30 minutes of preservice music was provided by Fine Arts participants. Worship for the service was led by Jeff Deyo and his band consisting of Charlie Goddard on guitar, Jeremy McCoy on bass, Fred Williams on keyboard, and Nate Winters on drums. Additional music for the service was provided by a Fine Arts choir directed by Tom Matrone, minister of music at Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, and a Fine Arts orchestra, directed by Michael Kolstad, professor at Evangel University, Springfield, Missouri. General Superintendent Thomas Trask served as chairman for the service and introduced the guest speaker. The offering was received by Charles T. Crabtree, assistant general superintendent.

The speaker for the evening was Bryan Jarrett, pastor of First Assembly of God, Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Following his challenging message, thousands of young people streamed forward for an extended time of commitment to Jesus Christ.

CONSTITUTION

OF

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

OF THE

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

REVISED AUGUST 5, 2005

DENVER, COLORADO

Constitution

<u>Article</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
I.	Name	80
II.	Nature	80
III.	Prerogatives	80
IV.	Principles for Fellowship	80
V.	Statement of Fundamental Truths	80
VI.	Relationships	86
VII.	Membership	86
VIII.	Meetings	86
IX.	Officers and Presbyteries of the General Council	87
X.	District Councils	88
XI.	Local Assemblies	89
XII.	Dissolution	90
XIII.	Amendments	91

**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 respond to human need with ministries of compassion.
- f. 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.
- g. 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.
- h. 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 Spirit (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 Spirit, 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 Spirit

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 Spirit which constitutes Him **the Holy Spirit** and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore, the Father is the Begetter; the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Spirit 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 Spirit 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 Spirit 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 Spirit. 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 Spirit 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 Spirit 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 Spirit, 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 Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit 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 enduement 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 Spirit 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 Spirit

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit 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 Spirit 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 AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

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 the Board of Directors of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, 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 Assemblies of God 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 and U.S. 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. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (2)] The stateside missions work shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the departmental directors of the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (3)]

CONSTITUTION

d. Endorsed postsecondary schools representation. The duly endorsed postsecondary schools of the Assemblies of God shall be represented on the General Presbytery by their presidents.[See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (4)]

e. Evangelists representation. The Assemblies of God evangelists shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the national evangelists representative. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (5)]

f. Ethnic fellowship representation. 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. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (6)]

g. Auditors. Duly qualified auditors may attend the sessions of the General Presbytery. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (7)]

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. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (8)]

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 Bylaws, Article V, Section 5.)

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

ARTICLE XI

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

CONSTITUTION

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).

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 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 Ministers Letter* 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 5, 2005

DENVER, COLORADO

Bylaws

<u>Article</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
I.	Parliamentary Order	95
II.	Election of Officers and Presbyters	95
III.	Duties of Officers, Presbyters, Board of Administration	99
IV.	Committees	102
V.	District Councils	104
VI.	Assemblies	106
VII.	Ministry	109
VIII.	Christian Marriage and Family	120
IX.	Doctrines and Practices Disapproved	120
X.	Discipline	126
XI.	National Ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God	133
XII.	The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual	133
XIII.	Assemblies of God World Missions	133
XIV.	Assemblies of God U.S. Missions	138
XV.	Corporations of The General Council of the Assemblies of God	141
XVI.	Affiliated Ministries	142
XVII.	Military Service	143
XVIII.	General Council Policy Manual	143
XIX.	Order of Business	144
XX.	Quorum	144
XXI.	Amendments	144

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 AND PRESBYTERS

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 and assistant general superintendent. All candidates for the offices of general superintendent and assistant general superintendent shall be nominated by receiving 15 votes or more 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. Other officers. The general secretary, general treasurer, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, and Assemblies of God 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 these offices and shall select by secret ballot one or more names to be presented for each office 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. 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 Constitution, Article IX, Section 2.

(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, Second Korean

(b) *By ethnic fellowship.* For the purpose of electing an ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter, only those ethnic fellowships duly recognized (Bylaws, Article V, Section 7) shall be represented.

d. 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) *Assemblies of God 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 Assemblies of God 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) *Assemblies of God U.S. Missions representatives.* Departmental directors of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be members of the General Presbytery by virtue of their office.

(4) *Endorsed postsecondary school representatives.* Endorsed postsecondary school representatives, as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d, shall be members of the General Presbytery.

(5) *Evangelists representative.* The national evangelists representative as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e, shall be a member of the General Presbytery.

(6) *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.

(7) 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 may be added as approved by the Executive Presbytery.

(e) 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.

(8) *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.

BYLAWS

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) to submit two nominees for the office. The General Presbytery shall, at its next meeting, elect one minister from among the nominees submitted to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the General Council. (See Bylaws, Article II, Section 1, for qualifications.)

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

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

(d) In the event a nonresident executive presbyter moves to a location outside of the boundaries of the area, the Executive Presbytery shall declare a vacancy in that office.

(2) *By ethnic fellowship.*

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

Section 1. Duties of the General Superintendent

The duties of the general superintendent shall include the following:

- a. Emphasize and implement the threefold mission of the church: the evangelization of the world, the worship of God, and the building of a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son; and promote and coordinate efforts directed toward the fulfilling of that mission.
- b. Superintend all work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- c. Act as president of the corporation in all legal matters, and be an ex officio member of all committees and boards.
- d. Preside at the sessions of the General Presbytery and the General Council.
- e. Preside at all meetings of the General Council Credentials Committee and sign all credentials.
- f. Preside at all sessions of the Executive Presbytery and the Board of Administration and receive all communications directed to these bodies.
- g. Administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the General Council Credentials Committee.
- h. Sign all official and legal documents (see Section 7 of this Article).
- i. Perform any other functions usual and customary as presiding officer or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 2. Duties of the Assistant General Superintendent

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

- a. Assist the general superintendent.
- b. Serve as vice-president of the corporation and preside at meetings of the Executive Presbytery and the Board of Administration in the absence of the general superintendent.
- c. Perform any other functions under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

Section 3. Duties of the General Secretary

The duties of the general secretary shall include the following:

- a. Make and keep true records of the proceedings of the General Council and shall publish the same as approved and directed by the Executive Presbytery.
- b. Serve as the custodian of the official seal and issue credentials under the direction of the General Council Credentials Committee and shall keep a record of all ordained, licensed, and certified ministers, and assemblies of the Fellowship.
- c. Sign all official and legal documents (see Section 7 of this Article).
- d. Serve as secretary of the General Presbytery, Executive Presbytery, the General Council Credentials Committee, and the Board of Administration and keep accurate minutes of the deliberations of these bodies.
- e. Edit and prepare for distribution the minutes of the meeting of the General Presbytery after examination and approval thereof by the Executive Presbytery.

BYLAWS

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 custodian of all funds of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements according to generally accepted accounting principles.

b. Provide budgets and financial reports as periodically requested by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

c. Provide oversight of an internal auditor, who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall be directly accountable to the Board of Administration and the Executive Presbytery.

d. Provide oversight of the preparation of 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.

e. Give fidelity and such other bonds in amounts periodically determined by the Executive Presbytery.

f. Perform such other functions as are customary for the office of the general treasurer as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

Section 5. Duties of the Executive Director of Assemblies of God World Missions

The executive director of Assemblies of God 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 General Council, the General Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery.

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

The executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery, shall perform the following duties and render the following services:

ARTICLE III

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 General Council, the General Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery.

Section 7. Duties of the Executive Presbytery

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

a. Serve as the Board of Directors of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. They shall be empowered to supervise and have general oversight of all departments. They shall be authorized to act for the corporation in all matters that affect its interests while the General Council is not in session, subject to the provisions of paragraphs h and k of Section 7 and paragraph a of Section 9 of this Article.

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

c. Buy, take, lease, or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of real property, personal and mixed, tangible and intangible of whatsoever kind; to borrow monies as deemed necessary and to issue bonds of whatsoever kind, trust deeds, mortgages, debentures, and notes; and to enter into contracts; all as may seem expedient and proper in the furtherance of the work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

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

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

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

g. Arrange for and announce the meetings of the General Council, with consideration for the interests of the Fellowship as a whole. The decision of time and place for such meetings shall rest in their hands.

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

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

j. All properties of the corporation shall be bought, taken, held, sold, transferred, mortgaged, leased, assigned, or conveyed in the corporate name upon authorization by the Executive Presbytery, as trustees thereof, and the president and the general secretary shall be authorized and they hereby are authorized to execute all documents pertaining to such transactions.

BYLAWS

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.

c. Determine the salaries and allowances of all elected officers of the General Council. A committee of five general presbyters shall be appointed annually by the Executive Presbytery for the purpose of making a review of such salaries and allowances. It shall report its recommendations to the General Presbytery for final action.

d. Ten percent or more of the members of the General Presbytery shall have the prerogative of calling a special session of the General Presbytery by presenting a signed request to the general superintendent who shall determine the time of such meeting in consultation with the Executive Presbytery.

e. Any district council by the action of its district presbytery or any three or more general presbyters may have a matter added to the General Presbytery agenda at any time during any duly called General Presbytery meeting.

ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Standing Committees

Standing committees shall be appointed as necessary. They shall serve for the designated time or until their purpose is accomplished. In the event a vacancy shall occur in a standing committee, the Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to fill such vacancy.

Section 2. Credentials Committee

The Executive Presbytery shall constitute the credentials committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and said credentials committee shall be referred to in these Bylaws as the General Council Credentials Committee. It shall have the authority to issue certificates of ordination, licenses to preach, specialized ministries licenses, and certified ministers certificates, and to issue annual fellowship cards to those persons whose renewal questionnaires have received district endorsement. It may delegate the routine work of the credentials committee to the Board of Administration.

Section 3. Roster Committee

A Roster Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery prior to each meeting of the General Council. This committee shall be expected to open the roster on the morning of the day preceding the convening of the General Council. It shall be entrusted with the responsibility of examining credentials of all ministers and delegates. Ordained ministers shall identify themselves by fellowship cards of the current year; delegates from assemblies shall obtain letters from their church secretary or pastor certifying to their appointment by the assembly to represent it in the General Council. Badges shall be issued by the committee to all qualified delegates and ministers, and any other relevant status.

Section 4. Resolutions Committee

a. Procedure for presentation of resolutions. A Resolutions Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. All resolutions for presentation to the General Council, except emergency measures, shall be presented to the general secretary's office at least 100 days prior to a General Council session. The Resolutions Committee shall prepare the resolutions in printed form and mail them to the General Council ministers and churches at least 30 days prior to the General Council, with the understanding that this does not apply to business growing out of Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery meetings just prior to the General Council, and that resolutions of an emergency nature shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of the General Council.

b. Sponsorship policy. All resolutions presented to the Resolutions Committee shall be signed by the author or sponsor. When a resolution is presented for the consideration of the General Council in session the author, sponsor, or a spokesperson appointed by the author or sponsor shall be expected to be the first speaker on behalf of the resolution.

c. Scriptural Interpretation. Except for resolutions submitted by the Executive Presbytery, the General Presbytery, or a district council, resolutions that involve scriptural interpretation shall be forwarded to the Commission on Doctrinal Purity when in the judgment of the Resolutions Committee such an action is needful.

d. Appropriateness of resolutions. The Resolutions Committee shall, by a two-thirds vote, determine the appropriateness of proposed resolutions. Inappropriate resolutions may include those that, if adopted, would conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws; or whose substance is not in keeping with appropriateness for discussion by the General Council. A resolution passed by a district council in session shall always be deemed appropriate.

BYLAWS

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.
- (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.

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.

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 have 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.

ARTICLE VI

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

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

Section 2. Annual Report and offerings From Assemblies

a. **Annual Church Ministries Report.** 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.

b. **Fellowship Partners Offering.** 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.

c. 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.

BYLAWS

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 Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph d.)

b. **Relationships.** Cooperative fellowship describes both the relationship that exists between local churches and their relationships with the district councils and the General Council.

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

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

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

If a General Council affiliated church is unable to meet any of the criteria for affiliation as set forth in the Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, it shall seek the assistance of the district officers for help in maintaining the minimal requirement for General Council affiliation. The district may use any means prescribed by its bylaws to assist the church in returning to a position of strength. If 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.

BYLAWS

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, unless the credential is solely required for active and ongoing local ministry in a prison, hospital, or institution (renewable by the local church for an additional 2 years). 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 (Constitution, Article V, paragraph 10).

c. Evidence of call. Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.

d. Christian character. A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without (Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:7).

e. Doctrinal position. A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

f. Assemblies of God polity. A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices, and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the General Council and district council Constitution and Bylaws

g. Voluntary cooperation and 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.

By voluntary it is meant that, upon learning the principles, doctrines, and practices of the Assemblies of God, and by seeing the benefits to be derived from being associated with such an organization, persons of their own free choice decide to become members, thus subscribing to all that for which the organization stands.

For the minister, by cooperation, it is meant, to the best of one's ability, complying with all decisions setting forth and defining duties and responsibilities incumbent upon members of the organization. It includes active participation and respect for the will of the majority expressed through constitutional processes.

Hence, for the minister, voluntary cooperation means that when the minister decides to become a cooperating member of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation and participation thereby becomes obligatory and not optional.

h. 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.

ARTICLE VII

i. 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.

j. Mandatory screening. All applicants for ministerial credentials shall be screened through a designated screening agency established by the Executive Presbytery. Said screening shall be done by the district council prior to the submission of the application to the office of the general secretary.

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

l. Ecclesiastical annulments and marriage dissolutions. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies for an ecclesiastical annulment. In such cases there must be clear and satisfactory evidence of deception, fraud, or other conditions which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a valid marriage union, unknown at the time of marriage by the applicant. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies regarding a former marriage when the termination of that marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or if a former marriage ended prior to conversion. In those cases involving preconversion divorce they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with ecclesiastical annulments. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.

m. 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.

n. Ministers from other organizations. If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the credentials committees of

BYLAWS

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

ARTICLE VII

requirements but who is deemed by the district credentials committee to be essential to the continuity of a church or a ministry. The reason for such a provisional issuance must be ministry driven, and the justification for its use is terminated when the minister ceases to be involved in the ministry for which it was initially granted unless the minister accepts another qualifying assignment. Other limitations are:

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

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

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.

BYLAWS

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 or disabled 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) *Ministers with disabilities.* Ministers with permanent disability or illness which prevents them from engaging in active ministry, shall be indicated as disabled.

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

Section 7. Senior Ministers

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

a. Terminology

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

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

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

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

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. Aged Ministers Assistance. It is recommended that all Assemblies of God churches contribute regularly to provide assistance to aged ministers who are in need of financial assistance. Assistance shall be made available to ordained ministers 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 basis:

(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.

BYLAWS

e. 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. (See Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1.)

b. Affiliation with district of residence. All credential holders shall be expected to affiliate with the district council within the boundaries of which they reside and work in cooperation with the same.

(1) *Exception.* Ministers who reside in one district but pastor or serve on the staff of 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 Bylaws, Article V, Section 5.)

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 Bylaws, 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.

ARTICLE VII

(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.
- (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) A course on history and polity of U.S. church.
- (3) A completed ministerial application.

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.

BYLAWS

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.

f. Support of Headquarters. 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 \$20 per month (\$240 per year) from their tithes, or as an offering. Licensed ministers should contribute \$15 per month (\$180 per year), and certified ministers should contribute \$7.50 per month (\$90 per year). All who can are strongly urged to give more than the suggested amount, either personally or through the assemblies they pastor.

ARTICLE VII

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.

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 Ministers Letter*, 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.

ARTICLE IX

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

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 Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph b.

(2) *Violation of conscience not required.* We realize that the remarrying of such persons included in the exceptive circumstances in Bylaws, 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 Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs k and l.)

Section 6. Worldliness

In view of the alarming erosion of national moral standards, we reaffirm our intention of holding up Bible standards against all forms of worldliness. We urge all believers to "love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.... For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:15,16).

In its teaching regarding worldliness, the Scriptures warn against participation in activity that defiles the body, or corrupts the mind and spirit; the inordinate love of or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions, which lead to their misuse; manifestation of extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance; any fascination or association which lessens one's affection for spiritual things (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8; 12:1,2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10; 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12).

BYLAWS

Section 7. Abuses of Stewardship

a. Tithing

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

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

b. Solicitation of funds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 8. Violations of Ministerial Courtesy

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

Any minister who so offends shall be subject to discipline.

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

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

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

We recommend therefore that our ministers confer with district council officials before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings. If the minister does not have district approval, he or she shall be expected to refrain from conducting services for the church. Ministers who violate this principle shall be subject to discipline.

Section 10. An Improper Attitude Toward Those Removed From the Fellowship

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our assemblies, all who hold credentials, and local churches holding certificates of affiliation, shall refrain from taking an attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of those entrusted with this responsibility. Those who fail to support said verdict shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.

Section 11. Interdenominational or ecumenical relationships

The General Council of the Assemblies of God encourages ministers or churches to fellowship with other Christians of like precious faith who hold to the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the universality of sin, the substitutionary Atonement, the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and His second coming.

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall not belong to any interdenominational or ecumenical organization that denies the evangelical beliefs stated in the above paragraph, and urges its ministers and churches to avoid entanglement with such interdenominational or ecumenical organizations except as opportunity may arise to support biblical values in the culture or provide opportunity to bear witness to our evangelical and Pentecostal faith and experience.

BYLAWS

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. (Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraphs d and e.)
- l. Violations of ministerial courtesy. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 8.)
- m. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies of God church. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 9.)
- n. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 10.)

ARTICLE X

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 (Bylaws, Article X, Section 3) or confessions of such by a minister shall be investigated. The superintendent of the district in which the alleged offense is reported to have occurred, or an appointed representative, shall conduct the investigation to determine their source and validity. It is the responsibility of the district superintendent to safeguard the church, the minister, the district, and the Fellowship. In the event such reports or complaints against a minister are filed with the General Council Credentials Committee, they shall be referred to the district in which the offense occurred for investigation. A copy shall be sent to the district with which the minister is affiliated.

(1) *Interview with complainants.* The persons involved shall be interviewed to ascertain the facts in the case and the reasons underlying the persistence of the reports or complaints.

(2) *Interview with accused minister.* The accused minister shall be given an opportunity to be interviewed to discuss the complaints received in the hope that the matter can be resolved.

BYLAWS

(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 Bylaws, Article X, Section 3.

Section 7. District Hearing and Discipline

a. District hearing. In the event the reports or complaints cannot be dealt with privately to the satisfaction of all concerned, the superintendent of the district in which the alleged offense is said to have occurred, or the superintendent of the district with which the minister is affiliated, shall arrange for a hearing by the district credentials committee for the accused minister. The minister shall be required to appear at the hearing in the hope the matter can be resolved.

b. Forfeiture of rights of accused. A hearing shall not be considered as final disposition of the case until the accused be present and be allowed all rights and privileges granted herein. However, an accused member may be found guilty of charges and disciplined for failure to appear at the hearing, or if proof is found of willful neglect to take advantage of rights and privileges provided in these Bylaws.

c. Discipline

(1) *Cause for discipline.* A minister who has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles set forth in Bylaws, 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 (Bylaws, 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.

(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 Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, paragraph a, in which case it shall continue for not less than 2 years.

BYLAWS

(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 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 Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, and it is determined that rehabilitation is not feasible or fails, a minister's credentials are to be terminated by dismissal. The district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and its recommendation for dismissal. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

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

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

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

Section 10. Right of Appeal

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

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

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

BYLAWS

(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 Bylaws, 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

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.

ARTICLE XI

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. NATIONAL MINISTRIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

In addition to the divisions provided for in Article XIII, Assemblies of God World Missions; and Article XIV, Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, the Board of Directors of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall establish such national ministries, including commissions, divisions, and departments as may from time-to-time be needed to carry out the threefold mission of the church.

The organization and establishment of these ministries shall be provided for in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* (See Bylaws, Article XII. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*.)

ARTICLE XII. THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD ORGANIZATIONAL MANUAL

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall develop and maintain a set of documents referred to as *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*. This document shall set forth in detail the organization of commissions, divisions, departments, and ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God as from time-to-time may be established to carry out the threefold mission of the church.

The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual shall be administered by the Board of Administration as approved by the Executive Presbytery. The Executive Presbytery shall submit annually to the General Presbytery for approval all proposed additions, deletions, and modifications to *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* shall be available to all General Council affiliated churches and ordained or licensed ministers.

ARTICLE XIII. 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.

BYLAWS

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 Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph .

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.

ARTICLE XIII

(4) *Authority and amenability.* The responsibilities of the World Missions Board shall be to establish and evaluate policies, to offer guidance and counsel in the areas of its supervision, to establish and uphold standards for appointed world missionaries and world missions candidates for world missions appointment. The decisions of the board shall be subject to review by the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

(5) *Board of Appeals.* Those members of the World Missions Board who are not members of the World Missions Committee shall sit as a Board of Appeals to act upon any appeal from decisions of the division. In such an appeal, members of the World Missions Committee may present the case for the Assemblies of God World Missions' decision to the Board of Appeals, but shall not be present at the time of deliberation or voting. The missionary or World Missions Committee may appeal to the Executive Presbytery or General Presbytery from the decision of the Board of Appeals.

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

f. Regional directors. There shall be regional directors who shall direct the missions activities in their assigned geographical regions. They shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery on the basis of nominations by the missionaries in the respective areas, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery.

g. 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 Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (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.

BYLAWS

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.

ARTICLE XIII

c. Undesignated and general emergency funds. Undesignated funds and general emergency funds may be used to meet the emergency needs of missionaries who raise their prescribed pledge and cash support and submit required financial reports to the division.

d. District support. It is recommended that districts endorsing candidates for missionary appointment assume responsibility for their support as far as practicable.

Section 6. Ordination of Missionaries

The ordination of persons for or under appointment of the Assemblies of God World Missions shall be determined on the basis of their qualifications for ordination rather than on the basis of their appointment.

Section 7. Field Organizations

a. National church organization. Missionaries shall make every effort to establish indigenous Assemblies of God national church organizations in the countries they serve. Organizational patterns shall conform to practical, cultural forms acceptable to the body of believers. Close fraternal relationships with Assemblies of God organizations in other countries shall be encouraged without infringement affecting the autonomy of each national organization.

b. Missionary fellowships. Missionary fellowships, composed of all appointed missionaries assigned permanently to a region of the Assemblies of God World Missions, may be formed in each political or geographical area as circumstances may indicate. These missionary fellowships are to be considered as the direct creation of and amenable to the Assemblies of God World Missions since missionary appointment automatically confers membership in the missionary fellowship. The missionary fellowships shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Assemblies of God World Missions in matters of policy and missionary personnel relative to their respective fields.

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

Section 8. Property

a. Investment principles. All possible precautions shall be taken to safeguard funds invested in foreign properties so that they shall continue to advance the cause of the Assemblies of God in those countries. No funds shall be made available for the purchase of property until arrangements have been made to comply with the laws of the respective countries concerning the legal holding of the title, and in order to maintain a proper relationship between these missions projects and the Assemblies of God World Missions, these principles shall be followed:

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

BYLAWS

(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

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 XIV. 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 b.

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.

ARTICLE XIV

Departments shall operate within the parameters and guidelines of the *General Council Policy Manual*. These departments shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

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

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

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

e. 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.

BYLAWS

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.

ARTICLE XV

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. 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 XV. CORPORATIONS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Section 1. Authorization

The Executive Presbytery may from time-to-time establish certain Assemblies of God corporations, which entities are separately legally incorporated for governance purposes from The General Council of the Assemblies of God, but whose boards of directors are appointed by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery. All such corporations shall be submitted to the General Council for approval.

Section 2. Board of Directors

The oversight of policy and administration of each of the corporations shall be delegated to a Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of the corporation's articles and bylaws. The articles and bylaws of each corporation and amendments thereto shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery.

BYLAWS

Section 3. Amenability

Each corporation and its Board of Directors shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Section 4. Fiscal Affairs

The books of each corporation 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 report to the General Presbytery and the General Council in session.

Section 5. Recognized Corporations

The following entities shall constitute the recognized corporations of The General Council of the Assemblies of God: Central Bible College, Evangel University, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Global University of the Assemblies of God, Assemblies of God Financial Services Group, Assemblies of God Foundation, Assemblies of God Loan Fund, and Assemblies of God Ministers Benefit Association. No General Council corporation shall be dissolved, merged, or liquidated without the approval of the General Council in session.

ARTICLE XVI. AFFILIATED MINISTRIES

Section 1. Authorization

Ministries that represent a national or global ministry focus working with The General Council of the Assemblies of God or its corporations but whose boards of directors are not controlled or appointed by the Executive Presbytery may be recognized by the Executive Presbytery as affiliated ministries.

Section 2. Board of Directors

Each affiliated ministry shall have a Board of Directors that will be responsible for governance and administration of the ministry. The Board of Directors shall be selected by the ministry itself in the manner prescribed by its bylaws, except that the Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to appoint one member of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Governance

Each affiliated ministry shall select and manage its own employees, maintain accounting records, hold title to property, obtain insurance, file tax returns, prepare financial statements, pay salaries and other expenses, raise funds, create and distribute promotional literature, provide charitable contribution receipts to donors, and in all other respects operate as an autonomous legal ministry except as noted in Section 4 through 6, below.

Section 4. Relationship

Affiliated ministries shall enter into a covenant relationship with The General Council of the Assemblies of God under such terms and conditions as are established by the Executive Presbytery and approved by the General Presbytery.

The charter or bylaws of each affiliated ministry shall affirm acceptance of the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, including the Statement of Fundamental Truths. Each affiliated ministry shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery with regard to doctrine and compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. In all other respects an affiliated ministry shall be autonomous and self-governed.

Section 5. Name and logo

Affiliated ministries may refer to their status as an affiliated ministry with The General Council of the Assemblies of God but may not use the Assemblies of God name or logo or other indications or marks to convey in any way a formal legal relationship with The General Council of the Assemblies of God or its recognized corporations, unless an exception has been granted by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 6. Dissolution

The charter or bylaws of an affiliated ministry shall specify that in the event of dissolution its assets shall be distributed to The General Council of the Assemblies of God or any Assemblies of God church, district council, or corporation.

XVII. 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 XVIII. 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 XIX. 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 XX. 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 nine executive presbyters at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of four members at any meeting of the Board of Administration shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XXI. 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)
August 2-5, 2005—Denver, Colorado

AFFILIATED MINISTRIES.....	38
AGENDA, adopted.....	12
APPRECIATION AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	
City of Denver, Colorado.....	9
Courtesy Resolution.....	66
Executive Presbytery.....	8
Fraternal Delegates.....	7
General Council Committees.....	9
Budget.....	9
Parliamentary.....	10
Resolutions.....	10
Roster.....	10
Spiritual Life.....	10
Tellers.....	10
Headquarters Staff.....	9
Host Districts.....	9
National Operational Committees.....	11
Accounting.....	11
Children's Activities.....	11
Convention Coordinator's Team.....	11
Equipment.....	11
Exhibits.....	11
Hospitality.....	11
Human Resources.....	11
Informational Technology Support.....	11
National Youth Convention.....	11
Prayer.....	12
Printed Materials.....	12
Program.....	1
Program Resource.....	11
Promotions/Press/Communications.....	12
Registration.....	12
Tellers Liaison.....	12
Translations.....	12
Transportation.....	12
Ushers/Communion.....	12
Retired Executive Presbyters.....	8
AMENDMENTS, CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS	
Summary Item 1. Editorial Uniformity of the word "Holy Spirit".....	60
Summary Item 2. Miscellaneous Editorial Adjustment.....	63
Summary Item 3. Withdrawn by General Presbytery.....	57
Summary Item 4. Election of Executive Officers.....	60
Summary Item 5. Withdrawn by General Presbytery.....	57
Summary Item 6. The General Presbytery.....	61

MINUTES

Summary Item 7. Withdrawn by General Presbytery	57
Summary Item 8. Resolutions	61
Summary Item 9. Local Church Credential	62
Summary Item 10. Ecclesiastical Annulment	62
Summary Item 11. Ministers with Disabilities	62
Summary Item 12. Transfers from AG World Fellowship	62
Summary Item 13. Withdrawn by General Presbytery	57
Summary Item 14. Replaced by Resolution 19	36
Summary Item 15. Organizational Manual	57
Summary Item 16. Replaced by Resolutions 20 and 21	37,38
Summary Item 17. Withdrawn by General Presbytery	57
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD LOGO	47
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD U.S. MISSIONS	
Executive Director, election of	16
ASSISTANT GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT	
Report of	12
AUDIT REPORT	13
BACH, LAWRENCE C.	27
BALCH, WIL	
Medal of Honor	14
BETZER, C. DAN	67
Reelection Southeast Area Executive Presbyter	54
Speaker	67
BRIDGES, JAMES	
Reelected General Treasurer	16
BRUEGMAN, GARY	28
BULLOCK, WARREN D.	
Reelected Northwest Area Executive Presbyter	48
CELEBRATION OF ETHNICITY	75
CHAKWERA, LAZARUS M.	67
COMMUNION SERVICE	67
CORPORATIONS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE AG	37
CRANK, CHARLES E.	
Reelected Great Lakes Area Executive Presbyter	51
COURTESY RESOLUTION	66
DEPARTMENTAL/DIVISIONAL REPORTS	13
DISTINGUISHED ADMINISTRATOR AWARD	
Bruegman, Gary	28
DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR AWARD	
Bach, Lawrence C.	7
Harris, W. Charles	28
Menzies, William W.	27
DIVORCED AND REMARRIED PERSONS	21-26
Comparison For and Against	23
Resolution 1. Credentialing of	21
North Texas District Resolution	21
DRESSELHAUS, RICHARD L.	
Reelected Southwest Area Executive Presbyter	48
ECCLESIASTICAL ANNULMENTS	62
ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS	36

MINUTES

EDITORIAL ADJUSTMENTS TO

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS	63
-------------------------------	----

EDUCATION AWARDS

Distinguished Educators	
Bach, Lawrence C.....	27
Harris, W. Charles	28
Menzies, Williams W.	27
Distinguished Administrator	
Bruegman, Gary	28
Who's Who Among Christian Educators	
Edelmon, Rosa Ena.....	61
Jones, Pamela Sue.....	61
Reddin, Kristi.....	61

ELECTIONS

General Superintendent.....	12
Ethnic Fellowship Area.....	56
Executive Director, Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.....	16
Executive Officers.....	60
Executive Presbyters	47-56
General Superintendent.....	15
General Treasurer	16
Great Lakes Area.....	51
Gulf Area.....	53
Language-Other Area.....	55
Language-Spanish Area	55
North Central Area.....	50
Northeast Area.....	53
Northwest Area.....	48
South Central Area.....	51
Southeast Area.....	54
Southwest Area.....	48

ETHNICITY, CELEBRATION OF	75
---------------------------------	----

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS, ELECTION OF	47-56
---------------------------------------	-------

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS

Betzer, C. Dan, Southeast Area.....	54
Bullock, Warren D., Northwest Area.....	48
Crank, Charles E., Great Lakes Area.....	51
Dresselhaus, Richard, Southwest Area	48
Ethnic Fellowship Area.....	56
Fulenwider, Douglas E., Gulf Area.....	53
George, J. Don, South Central Area.....	51
Great Lakes Area.....	51
Gulf Area	53
Kim, Nam Soo, Language-Other Area	55
Language-Other Area	55
Language-Spanish Area	55
Miranda, Jesse, Language-Spanish Area	55
North Central Area	50
Northeast Area.....	53
Northwest Area.....	48
Palmer, John M., Great Lakes Area	50
Rhoden, H. Robert, Northeast Area	53
Smith, Zollie, Ethnic Fellowship Area.....	56

MINUTES

South Central Area	51
Southeast Area	51
Southwest Area	48
EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS, INTRODUCTION OF	66
FULENWIDER, DOUGLAS E. Elected Gulf Area Executive Presbyter	53
GARRISON, L. ALTON Elected Executive Director AG U.S. Missions	16
GENERAL PRESBYTERY	61
GENERAL SECRETARY Report of	13
GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT Election of	15
Medal of Honor Balch, Wil	14
Musgrave, Marilyn	13
Report of	12
GENERAL TREASURER, Duties of	58
Election of	13
General Council Audit Report	13
Report of	13
Total Giving Awards	36
GEORGE, J. DON Reelection South Central Area Executive Presbyter	51
HACKETT, CHARLES E. Honorary General Presbyter	32
HARRIS, W. CHARLES	28
HOLY SPIRIT, EDITORIAL UNIFORMITY	60
GENERAL PRESBYTERS, HONORARY Hackett, Charles E.	32
Molina, Samuel P.	18
Moore, L. Jack.	18
Nazarenus, Robert L.	33
Ross, Robert D.	33
HUMAN NEED, MINISTRIES OF COMPASSION	32
HUMANITY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST	64
INTERDENOMINATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS	36
INTRODUCTIONS Executive Presbytery	9
Former Executive Presbyter	9
Fraternal Delegates	9
General Council Committees	9
Headquarters Staff	9
Newly Elected Executive Presbyters	66
Retired Executive Presbyters	8
JARRETT, BRYAN	75
JOHNSON, DORIS P.	35
KEYNOTE SERVICE	7
KIM, NAM SOO Reelected Language Area--Other Executive Presbyter	55
LINDELL, JOHN E.	35

MINUTES

LOCAL CHURCH CREDENTIAL	62
LOGO, ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	47
MANDATORY SCREENING OF MINISTERIAL APPLICANTS	31
MEDAL OF HONOR, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT'S Balch, Wil.....	14
Musgrave, Marilyn.....	13
MEMORIAL SERVICE	67
MEMORIAM LISTING	68
MENZIES, WILLIAM W.	27
MINISTERIAL APPLICATIONS, Mandatory Screening	31
MINISTERIAL SUPPORT	29
MINISTERS WITH DISABILITIES	62
MINISTRIES OF COMPASSION FOR HUMAN NEED	32
MIRANDA, JESSE, JR. Reelected Language Area--Spanish Executive Presbyter.....	55
MOLINA, SAMUEL P. Honorary General Presbyter.....	18
MOORE, L. JACK Honorary General Presbyter.....	18
MUSGRAVE, MARILYN Medal of Honor, General Superintendent's.....	13
NATIONAL PLACEMENT SERVICE	30
NAZARENS, ROBERT L. Honorary General Presbyter.....	33
OPERATIONAL COMMITTEES	11
ORGANIZATIONAL MANUAL	57
PALMER, JOHN M. Elected North Central Area Executive Presbyter.....	50
PORTUGUESE DISTRICT, DISSOLUTION OF	20
PORNOGRAPHY, RELIGIOUS ALLIANCE AGAINST	20
PRAYER FOR LEADERSHIP	34
PRIVILEGED MOTIONS.....	16
PROCEDURAL MOTION.....	17
QUORUM.....	39
REPORTS Assistant General Superintendent	12
Audit	13
Departmental/Divisional	13
General Secretary	13
General Superintendent.....	12
General Treasurer.....	13
Spiritual Life Committee.....	40
RESOLUTIONS 1. Credentialing of Divorced and Remarried Persons	21
2. Honorary General Presbyter, Samuel P. Molina.....	18
3. Honorary General Presbyter, L. Jack Moore	8
4. Commitment to World Evangelism	19
5. Humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ	64
6. Second Korean District Council	19
7. Dissolution of Portuguese District	20
8. Ministerial Support.....	29
9. National Placement Service	30

10. Voluntary Cooperative Fellowship	31
11. Mandatory Screening of Ministerial Applications.....	31
12. Ministries of Compassion for Human Need	32
13. Duties of the General Treasurer	58
14. Division of the Treasury.....	59
15. Honorary General Presbyter, Charles E. Hackett	32
16. Honorary General Presbyter, Robert L. Nazareus	33
17. Honorary General Presbyter, Robert D. Ross.....	33
18. Prayer for Leadership	34
19. Interdenominational Relationships	36
20. Article XVI. Corporations of the General Council of the AG.....	37
21. Article XVIII. Affiliated Ministries	38
22. Quorum.....	39
Courtesy Resolution	66
Support of Leadership	16
RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE	61
RHODEN, H. ROBERT	
Reelected Northeast Area Executive Presbyter	53
ROSS, ROBERT D.	
Honorary General Presbyter.....	33
ROSTER COMMITTEE REPORT	15,20,35,47
SECOND KOREAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.....	19
SMITH, ZOLLIE L., JR.	
Reelected Ethnic Fellowship Area Executive Presbyter.....	56
SPEAKERS	
Betzer, C. Dan	67
Chakwera, Lazarus M.	67
Jarrett, Bryan	75
Lindell, John E.	35
Trask, Thomas E.....	7
SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE.....	63
SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMITTEE REPORT	40
SUPPORT OF LEADERSHIP	16
SUPPORT, MINISTERIAL	9
TITHES, MINISTERIAL	29
TOTAL GIVING, ASSEMBLIES OF GOD	
Total Giving Awards.....	36
TRANSFERS FROM AG WORLD FELLOWSHIP.....	62
TRANSFORMATIONAL CHURCHES.....	34
TRASK, THOMAS E.	
Reelected General Superintendent	15
Speaker, Keynote.....	7
TREASURY, DIVISION OF	59
VOLUNTARY COOPERATIVE FELLOWSHIP	31
WHO'S WHO AMONG CHRISTIAN SCHOOL EDUCATORS	61
WORLD EVANGELISM, COMMITMENT TO	19
WOOD, GEORGE O.	
Report of general secretary	13
YOUTH	
Joint youth/adult rally.....	75

INDEX FOR CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Abuses of Stewardship.....	124
Administration, Board of.....	87
Duties	102
Adorable Godhead, The.....	81, 82
Affiliated ministries	142
Authorization.....	142
Board of Directors	142
Dissolution.....	143
Governance.....	142
Name and logo.....	143
Relationship	143
Aged Ministers Assistance	115
Amendments	91, 144
Amillennialism.....	122
Annual Church Ministries Report.....	107
Annulments and marriage dissolutions	111
Appeals	
Boards of	
District.....	90
Executive Presbytery	90,106
General Presbytery.....	90,102,132
World Missions	135
Churches	90,108
Ministers	131,132
Area divisions	96
Assemblies (Bylaws)	
Affiliation.....	107,108,109
Preservation of	108
Procedure for.....	106
Annual Report.....	107
Membership guidelines.....	108
New assemblies from a division.....	109
Organizational assistance.....	108
Relationships.....	108
Safeguarding	108
Transfer of Local Church Membership	109
Assemblies of God	
Dissolution	90
Membership	86
Name	80
Nature.....	80
Prerogatives.....	80
Principles for fellowship.....	80
Relationships.....	86
Assemblies, local (Constitution)	
Cooperating assemvlies	90
District Council affiliated	90
General Council affiliated Assemblies.....	89

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Credentials

Ministerial Status Changes	120
Nondisciplinary Credential Terminations	119
Renewals and Reinstatements	118,119
Restoration of	
Authorization of	132
Option to refer to General Presbytery	132
Rehabilitation obligatory	132
Reinstatement of lapsed minister	118
Reinstatement of other than dismissed minister	118
Time-lapse for dismissed ministers	132
Termination	
Affiliation with another church organization	119
Initiative of district	119
Initiative of minister	119
Referral to General Council Credentials Committee	131
Right of appeal	131
Transfer	117
Credentials Committee	103
Actions	113,114
Referral for action	131
Relationship between district	126
Date-setting for the Lord's return	121
Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ	82,83
Disabilities, ministers with	114
Discipline	126-133
Appeal	
Churches	90,108
Ministers	131,132
Attitude toward those disciplined	125
Causes of	126,127,129
Charges, preparation and filing	128
Hearings	128
Initiative in	
General Council responsibility	127
Home District responsibility	127
Prior right	127
Investigation of reports	127,128
Nature and Purposes	126
Notice	133
Publication of dismissal	132
Referral to Credentials Committee	131
Rehabilitation	129,130,131
Reinstatement	132,133
Application	132
Fee	133
Option to refer to General Presbytery	132
Rehabilitation obligatory	132
Time-lapse for	132
Relationship between district and General Council	126
Right of Appeal	131,132
Right of Initiative	127

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Requirements for affiliation.....	89
Right of appeal.....	90
Sovereign rights	89,90
Subordinate in matters of doctrine and conduct.....	90
Support of General Council and district council	89
Total Giving Participation	90
Assistant General Superintendent	
Duties	99
Election of	95
Baptism	
Holy Spirit.....	83,84
Water	83
Blessed Hope, The	85
Board of Administration	87
Duties	102
Certificates	
Church	86,107
Local Assembly	89
Minister.....	86,113,114
Transfer	117
Chaplains, Commission on.....	140
Charges, preparation and filing.....	128
Chi Alpha	139,141
Children.....	120
Christian Marriage and Family.....	120
Church and its Mission, The.....	84,85
Church Credential, Local.....	110,112
College representation on General Presbytery	88,97
Commissions	
Chaplaincy	140
Doctrinal Purity.....	120,121
Committees	
Credentials	103
Other.....	104
Resolutions.....	103
Roster	103
Spiritual Life	104
Standing	102
Communion, Holy	83
Conference status	104
Conscientious objector.....	143
Constitutional Declaration	79
Reason for being	79
Cooperative fellowship.....	80,105,110
Cooperation, voluntary	110
Corporations of the General Council.....	141
Amenability	142
Authorization.....	141
Board of Directors.....	141
Fiscal Affairs	142
Recognized Corporations	142

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Dismissal	131
Dissolution	90
Dissolution of marriage	111
District Councils	88,89,104,105,106
Amenability to General Council.....	89
Area of supervision	88
Areas of authority	89
Boundaries	104
Conference Status	104
Cooperative relationship	105
Credentialing authority	88
Dissolution of district.....	106
Ethnic/Language	105
Formation of new districts	104-106
Guidelines	104
Language.....	88, 105, 106
Membership	96
New districts, formation of.....	104-106
Officers.....	104
Voting constituency	105
District membership	
Church-planting ministries	116
Church staff members	116
Ministers.....	116,117
Pastors	116
U.S. missionaries	116
World missionaries	116
Divine healing.....	85,126
Divorce and Remarriage	122,123
Church leadership	123
Church membership	122
Ministerial credentials.....	123
Performing ceremony for divorced.....	123
Doctrinal Purity, Commission on	120
Doctrines	
Approved.....	80-85
Disapproved	120-126
Duties of	
Assistant general superintendent	99
Board of Administration	102
Executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.....	100,101
Executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions.....	100
Executive Presbytery	101,102
General Presbytery	102
General secretary	99,100
General superintendent	99
General treasurer	100
Ecclesiastical annulments	111
Ecumenical movement.....	125

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Elections.....	95
Nominations and Elections	95
Officers.....	95,96
Vacancies	
Executive officers	98
General presbyters	98
Nonresident executive presbyters	98
Eschatological errors.....	121
Ethnic fellowships.....	98,106
Ethnic/Language Districts	
Church transfer procedure.....	106
Cooperative relationship	105
Equality with geographical district	105
Recognition qualifications	105
Sponsorship and affiliation	105
Executive Officers	87
Election of.....	95
Vacancies	98
Executive presbyters, nonresident	
Election of.....	96
Vacancies	98
Executive Presbytery	87
Duties	101
Fall of man	83
Fellowship Partners offering.....	107
Final Judgment, The	85
Financial responsibility	
Chaplains.....	117,141
Headquarters	
Churches.....	107
Ministers.....	118
U.S. missionaries	117,141
World missionaries	116,136
Foreign missionaries	See World Missionaries
Foreign Missions, Division of	See World Missions
Fundamental Truths, Statement of.....	80-85
General Council	
Meetings.....	86
Order of business	144
Quorum	144
Regular sessions.....	86
Special sessions.....	86
Membership	86
Voting constituency	86
General Council Policy Manual.....	143
General Presbyters/General Presbytery	
Alternate.....	98
Auditors.....	88,97
College representation	88,97
Duties	102

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Election of.....	97
Ethnic fellowship representation	88,97
Evangelists representation	88,97
Honorary	88,97
Representation	87,88
U.S. Missions representation	87,97
Vacancies	98
World Missions representation	87,97
General Secretary	
Duties	99
Election of.....	95
General Superintendent	
Duties	99
Election of.....	95
General Treasurer	
Duties	100
Election of.....	95
Godhead, The Adorable.....	81,82
Headquarters, support of.....	107,118
Churches	107
Ministers	118
Retired ministers	115
Healing, Divine	85
Holy Spirit	
Baptism in	83
Initial Physical Evidence	84
Home Missionaries	See U.S. Missionaries
Home Missions	See U.S. Missions
Honorary general presbyters.....	88
Voting privileges.....	97
Inactive ministers.....	114
Interdenominational relationships	125
Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit	84
Language districts	88,96,105,106
Church transfer procedure	106
Equality	105
Recognition qualifications.....	105
Relationship to geographical districts.....	88,105
Language groups.....	88,96,105,106
Lapse of credentials	118
Late fee.....	118
Legalism.....	121
License to preach	109,113
Local assemblies	
See Assemblies, local	89,106
Local Church Credential.....	110,112
Mandatory screening.....	111
Marriage	
Christian marriage and family	120
Marriage, common-law.....	122

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Meetings.....	86
Membership.....	86
Military service.....	143
Millennial Reign, The.....	85
Ministers.....	<i>See also: Credentials, Discipline, and Ministry</i>
Courtesy violations by.....	125
Discipline of.....	126-133
District membership.....	116,117
Preaching requirements of.....	114
Relationships.....	116
Resigned.....	119
Status changes.....	120
Transfer.....	117
Ministers from other organizations.....	111,112,117
Ministry.....	85,109-120
Categories of.....	112-114
Active.....	114
Certificates.....	114
Certified.....	109,112
Disabled.....	114
Inactive.....	114
Licensed.....	109,113
Local Church Credential.....	110,112
Ordained.....	109,113
Renewal of.....	118
Senior.....	114,115
Categories of.....	114,115
Support of Headquarters.....	115
Terminology.....	114,115
Specialized (nonpreaching).....	113
Transfer.....	
From A/G World Fellowship Groups.....	117
From district.....	117
From other organizations.....	111,112
Described.....	109
Educational requirements.....	111
In non-Assemblies of God church.....	125
Mandatory screening.....	111
Marriage.....	
Annulment of.....	111
Dissolution.....	111
Status.....	111
Ministerial relations.....	116
Nondisciplinary Credential Terminations.....	119
Official list.....	114
Privileged communications.....	120
Qualifications.....	
Basic.....	110,111,112
Specific.....	112,113
Women, eligibility of.....	111

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Mission, The Church and its	84,85
Missionary, World	
Candidates	136
Fellowships	137
Support of	136
Name	80
National ministries of AG	133
Nature	80
New Heavens and the New Earth, The	85
Nominations and elections	95-97
Non-Assemblies church, Ministry in a	125
Not renewed	119
Offering, Fellowship Partners	107
Officers	
Duties	92-102
Elections	95,96
Executive officers	87
Vacancies	98
One True God	81
Order of business	144
Ordinances of the church	83
Holy Communion	83
Water baptism	83
Ordination	109,113
Organizational Manual	133
Parliamentary order	95
Policy manual	143
Post-Tribulation rapture	121
Practices disapproved	120-126
Preaching requirements	
Certified minister	112,114
Licensed	113,114
Ordained	113,114
Preconversion divorces	111
Prerogatives	80
Principles for Fellowship	80
Private ownership of religious institutions	124
Privileged communications	120
Quorum	144
Rapture	
Date-setting	121
Post-Tribulation	121
Reason for being	79
Rehabilitation	129-132
Basis	129
Eligibility	130
Period of time	129
Previous dismissal	130,131
Procedure and requirements	129
Transfer of information	130

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Reinstatement	
Application for	118,132
Definition of.....	118
Fee	133
Lapsed minister.....	118
Other than dismissed minister.....	118
Required after January 15	118
Terminology.....	118
Relationships.....	86
Remarriage.....	111,122
Residency requirements.....	112
Resolutions Committee.....	103
Appropriateness of resolution	
Determined by	103
Right of sponsor.....	104
Presentation	
Format	104
Procedure for presentation	103
Scriptural Interpretation.....	103
Sponsorship policy.....	103
Restitution of all things.....	121
Right of appeal.....	90,132
Right of initiative	86,127
Roster Committee	103
Safeguarding the Assemblies.....	108
Salaries, elected officers	102
Salvation of man	83
Sanctification	84
Scriptures Inspired	81
Secret orders.....	122
Senior ministers	114,115
Setting a date of the Lord's return.....	121
Solicitation of funds.....	124
Sovereign rights	89
Special sessions.....	86
Right of initiative	86
Specialized License.....	113
Spiritual Life Committee	104
Standing committees.....	102
Statement of Fundamental Truths.....	80
Stewardship	
Abuses of	124
Support of headquarters	107,118
Assemblies	107
Ministers	118
Teen Challenge	139,141
Tithing	116,117,124
Support of headquarters.....	107,118
Total giving.....	90,107

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Transfer of credentials	117
U.S. Missions	153-156
Administrator	138
Board	139
Chaplains, Commission on	140
Chi Alpha	139,141
Committee	139
Executive director	95,138
Duties	100
Election procedure	95
Missionaries	140
Organization and Governance	138
Support	140,141
Teen Challenge	139,141
Unconditional security	121
Universalism	121
Vacancies	
Executive officers	98
General presbyters	98
Nonresident executive presbyter	98
Violations of ministerial courtesy	125
Voting constituency	86
Water baptism	83
Women, Credentialing of	111
World Missionaries	
Appointment	136
Candidates	136
Ordination	137
Property	137
Specialized	136
Support of	136
World Missions, Assemblies of God	133-138
Administrator	134
Area directors	135
Board	134,135
Selection of members	134,135
Committee	135
Executive director	95,100,134
Duties	100
Election procedure	95
Field organizations	137
General Presbytery representatives	87,97
Missionary candidates	136
Ordination	137
Policies	135
Property of	137,138
Regional directors	135
Support of	136,137
Worldliness	123

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