

MINUTES
of the
52nd Session of
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD



With revised

Constitution and Bylaws

52nd GENERAL COUNCIL
Indianapolis, Indiana

MINUTES

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52nd Session of

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Convened in Indianapolis, Indiana

August 8-11, 2007

**with
Revised Constitution and Bylaws**

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

Printed in U.S.A.

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

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

George O. Wood, General Superintendent
L. Alton Garrison, Assistant General Superintendent
John M. Palmer, General Secretary
James K. Bridges, General Treasurer
L. John Bueno, Executive Director of AG World Missions
Zollie L. Smith, Jr., Executive Director of AG U.S. Missions

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George O. Wood, Chairman

C. Dan Betzer	J. Don George
James K. Bridges	Nam Soo Kim
L. John Bueno	John E. Maracle
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Douglas E. Fulenwider	Clarence W. St. John
L. Alton Garrison	Zollie L. Smith, Jr.

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FOREWORD

“IMPACT!” was the theme of our 52nd General Council in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 8-11, 2007.

For the first time, both the business sessions and the evening services were streamed live on the Internet, and subsequently archived for accessibility. Reports have been received from all over the world indicating this use of technology was a great blessing.

For the past 14 years, the four executive officers of the General Council have served together—the longest-serving team in Assemblies of God history. Before the General Council, General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask announced his resignation midterm. I am humbled at the grace extended by the General Council in electing me as the 12th general superintendent. L. Alton Garrison was elected as assistant general superintendent, John M. Palmer as general secretary, and Zollie Smith as executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions. L. John Bueno was reelected as the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, and James K. Bridges, who was not up for election, continues as general treasurer.

I invite you to participate with me as we pursue these five enduring core values over the next few years, if the Lord does not come first.

1. Passionately proclaim Jesus as Savior, Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Soon Coming King.
2. Strategically invest in the next generation.
3. Vigorously plant new churches.
4. Skillfully resource the Fellowship.
5. Fervently pray for the Lord’s blessing and favor as we serve Him with pure hearts and noble purpose.

We look forward to the next General Council in Orlando, Florida, August 4-8, 2009.

The Lord richly bless you!

George O. Wood
General Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE 52nd GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
CONVENED IN INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
AUGUST 8-11, 2007**

WEDNESDAY EVENING—AUGUST 8

The 52nd General Council began with a 7 p.m. service at the Conseco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, Indiana, with Thomas E. Trask, general superintendent, as the keynote speaker.

Prelude music to the evening service was performed by The Burchfield Brothers. Assistant General Superintendent Charles T. Crabtree served as chairman for the service.

The service opened with the Presentation of Colors by the Indiana Army National Guard followed by the singing of the National Anthem by Ray A. Berryhill, Sr., senior pastor of Evangel World Outreach Center, Chicago, Illinois.

The theme for the 52nd General Council was “IMPACT!”

The worship service was led by Travis Cottrell and a worship team consisting of members from Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, and the Indiana District Choir consisting of choir members from across the Indiana District. Donald G. Gifford, superintendent of the Indiana District, read Scripture from John 1 and Clemente Maldonado, Jr., superintendent of the Midwest Latin American District, offered prayer for the General Council.

James K. Bridges, general treasurer, received the offering. Regi Stone, Memphis, Tennessee, and Christ Church Singers, from Christ Church Assembly of God, Nashville, Tennessee, provided the offertory.

The keynote message for the 52nd General Council was brought by General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask. In his farewell message to the Assemblies of God he stated that the Assemblies of God is in a unique position to present the authentic gospel that will stem the tide of the nation’s moral collapse. The church is God’s earthly institution to make a spiritual impact. Unless pulpits become a steady voice against evil, the church will be anemic and powerless.

Trask contended that the Assemblies of God could have a truly great future—if pastors and congregants seek righteousness and reject sin. “It’s going to take being a church full of the power of the Holy Spirit and His anointing that is Spirit-led, Spirit-dependent.” He stated, “A church that is prayed up and fed up with the status quo is a church that will stand against the gates of hell.”

Superintendent Trask warned of five dangers threatening the effectiveness of churches:

- Situational ethics in which biblical absolutes are rejected.
- Falling prey to cultural seduction.
- Cultural accommodation, in which churches are distorting Scriptures on issues ranging from abortion to social drinking.
- Inclusive salvation—a view that everybody goes to heaven and no one goes to hell.
- Passionless pulpits—preachers that make sure no one in the pew is upset at the sermon material.

“What many churches are offering America is a new religion that guarantees no hell and requires no holiness,” Trask said. “It’s a limp, spineless Christianity that does not confront sin for fear of being judgmental. It is an impotent gospel that tells people everything is OK.” The basic plan of salvation must not be overlooked because it determines the destiny of souls, Trask said. Churches that are preoccupied with making sure that everybody is entertained and that no

one is frightened by the reality of sin's eternal destruction are only playing into Satan's hand. Trask exhorted those gathered in the arena to strive for authentic Baptism as outlined in Acts 1:8. A genuine Pentecostal church is distinct for only one reason: being full of people of the Holy Spirit.

Citing Revelation 3:2, Trask made a passionate plea with the assembled to remain steadfast in scriptural beliefs and to repent of nonbiblical attitudes and behavior that have found their way into our lives. "Let us be people of conviction, not convenience," he said. "let us be people of revival, not regression. Let us be people of passion, not passiveness."

THURSDAY MORNING—AUGUST 9

Body Life Session

The Thursday morning session began at 9 a.m. Charles T. Crabtree, assistant general superintendent, served as chairman for this meeting. Prelude music was provided by The Burchfield Brothers. Tom Matrone, commissioner for the Commission on Worship, and the praise and worship team from Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, led in worship.

Memorial Service

General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask expressed appreciation to those ministers who have during the past 2 years passed away. He stated that, in memory of those ministers who have passed away since the last meeting of the General Council, a video scroll is being presented containing 722 names. During the playing of the memorial scroll, music was provided by The Burchfield Brothers. J. Don George, executive presbyter from the South Central Area, prayed for the family members and spouses of those who have lost a loved one during this past biennium.

The names of those honored on the Memorial Scroll appear at the end of the minutes of the General Council on page 73.

Spiritual Life Committee Report

Ronald McManus read the report of the Spiritual Life Committee. The members of the committee were: Ronald F. McManus, chairman; Lee Baca, Sherri R. Benvenuti, Alicia B. Chole, David B. Crabtree, John T. Maempa, Donald G. Meyer, Rodrick J. Vincent, Marshall M. Windsor. Following the reading of the report the general superintendent urged those in the crowd to take the report to heart and make changes in their lives as a first step to changing the Fellowship. The report as presented follows:

We live in a broken world; a world that cannot be fixed with cash or medicine; a world fractured by sin and alienated from the Creator. Genesis affords us only two brief chapters in history before the relationship between God and man is severed by sin. After six millennia, we are still living in the toxic fallout of that tragic relational meltdown. The history of man is a history of broken relationship. Although we have clear hindsight and carefully recorded histories to reference, we have failed to solve the relational puzzle. For all of our learning and inventive genius, the world is increasingly violent, our lot is increasingly lonely, the family is increasingly endangered, and hope suffers unceasing violence. This is the landscape of our mission field. Are we equipped to labor there? Are we ready to lead there, or are we like classroom lifeguards who have not yet learned to swim?

Sobering studies of the Church leave us with more questions than answers. In many cases, the Church is just as fragmented as the world it is commissioned to save. We rally around our points of contention and downplay our points of agreement. We bicker and squabble over methodologies and style. We are often conflicted in deciding whether we will be a community that preserves the comfort of a status quo or a redemptive force that invades the culture to rescue the perishing.

Our culture is changing, and the pace of change is accelerating. The emerging culture has the same old problems, but speaks a new language, has a new dance, and sings new songs. Contemporary preachers find themselves preaching to a foreign culture right here at home. We are in essence foreign missionaries in America. Can we learn new languages, bridge new gaps, try new methods, and do so without compromising the integrity of the gospel?

Differing opinions as to how we might confront our changing culture create tension and conflict within the family of God in general and within the tent of our Fellowship in particular. An emerging generation questions all things and is quick to embrace new ways and means of Kingdom expansion. Youthful zeal often is misread as disrespect and disloyalty. Passion must be wed to wisdom.

A midlife generation struggles to maintain a grasp of heritage without losing the ability to communicate in a new age with effective relevance. Pastors lament the loss of the "twenty-somethings" in our churches, yet fear that significant changes directed at reaching them might be considered compromise. We live in a state of tension between the straight and narrow view of a traditional generation and the wild-eyed enthusiasm of an emerging generation. Amidst the din of controversy we must take note that we are a static movement with an aging clergy.

Our Fellowship is never more than a generation removed from extinction. A retiring generation laments the loss of tradition, often without sober judgment as to the waning effectiveness of a traditional approach in the current age. The emerging generation, unencumbered by long-term loyalties to programs, schedules, and methods, is quick to change horses. They search to find an effective voice and a listening ear amidst an aging leadership. If they are not heard and valued, they quietly leave the Fellowship, and that to our great loss.

Our relationship to God has been forged in the fire of the Holy Spirit. Our theology rightly recognizes that God empowers His Church to fulfill His purposes. Yet, the distinctive doctrine that once united us has, in some circles, become a point of contention. We lament the increasing rarity of the gifts of the Spirit in our worship setting. We wonder where, in our busy church schedules, will people have the opportunity to tarry at the altars for a transforming Pentecostal experience? Some of our elders fear that we have lost something most precious, and their cry must be heard. The emerging generation longs for the fullness of the Spirit's power in a fresh demonstration that enables them to reach their changing generation. Their strategies should not be dismissed. In our early days we were a movement unafraid of the unconventional. Is the fabric of our tent tearing because we have stretched it to the breaking point in trying to embrace new ideas, or is our tent torn because of dry rot, an inability to adapt?

In light of these challenges, we are being called back to a fresh understanding that life and ministry are about relationship—with the world we are called to reach, with one another, and, ultimately, with our Lord.

RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

Ultimately, the effectiveness of all earthly relationships with the world and one another rests upon a vital, living relationship with God. Weakness here will result in weakness at all other levels of relationship. God desires a dynamic, intimate relationship with His followers more than anything else. This relationship is forged through prayer and devotion to God's Word. "Come near to God and he will come near to you," wrote James (4:8). "Pray continually," Paul urged in 1 Thessalonians 5:17. Jesus emphasized to His disciples, "They should always pray and not give up" (Luke 18:1). Jeremiah 29:12-14 conveys this wonderful promise of God, "You will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you" (*emphasis added*).

Also, the Holy Spirit who empowers us to witness also guides us into all truth, the truth of God's Word (John 16:13). We are instructed, blessed, and helped by the power of the Word. Thus, Paul admonished, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God" (Colossians 3:16).

Jesus summarized the entirety of the Law and the Prophets in His twofold declaration, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' . . . And . . . 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (Matthew 22:37–39, emphasis added). If our love and devotion on the vertical plane are as they should be, they will be as they should be on the horizontal plane as well. This is the "main thing" in Christian life and service; and when we keep the main thing the main thing, all other things will fall into place.

Paul wrote, "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection." (Philippians 3:10). And the Psalmist declared, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God" (Psalm 42:1). In order to establish a right relationship with God, all sin must be addressed at the altar, for the altar is the only perpetual mender of our covenant relationship with God. To maintain a right relationship with God, we must:

- Maintain a consistent devotional life.
- Commit to prayer and fasting.
- Cultivate the spiritual disciplines of meditation, study, solitude, and simplicity.
- Be full of the Holy Spirit and yield to Him for the full expression of His gifts and fruit.
- Grow as students of the Word of God.
- Demonstrate a holy life in all dimensions of private and public behavior.

When the Lord commissioned Moses after his failure, He appeared in a burning bush. Though the bush was on fire, it was not being consumed. What was the message to Moses and to us?

Ministry must be done in the power of the Holy Spirit. The fuel for the fire was not the bush, it was God's Spirit. If we operate in the energy of the flesh, we will burn out. The arm of flesh will fail us. But if we operate in the power and strength of the Spirit, though we may get weary, we will not burn out. There is a limited supply of our own strength and ability, but an unlimited supply of the Holy Spirit's. However, His power can be accessed only as we spend time in His presence.

Acts 4:13 states, "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus" (*emphasis added*). The richness and depth of Peter and John's lives and ministry were the outflow of being with Jesus, walking with Him, talking with Him, and observing Him in various settings and circumstances.

Here again is the power of with. It arises ultimately out of our relationship with God. If this relationship is not intact, our connections with one another and with the world are moot points. They will never have life-changing, life-transforming impact. However, when our relationship with the triune God is as it should be, we will eagerly come alongside—be with—our fellow laborers in ministry, the people we serve in our churches, and those in the marketplace who desperately need to experience the power of with demonstrated by a loving, caring community of believers. This being true, the pattern of growth seen in the Early Church again will be evident in this day. May it be so, O Lord, we pray!

RELATIONSHIP WITH ONE ANOTHER

Our ability as a Church to engage effectively with the world is no greater than the strength of our relationships within the body of Christ. Jesus declared in John 13:35, “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” Christian love within the community of faith powerfully demonstrates to the world godly care and compassion. This hallmark of Christianity must be evident at all levels: in our relationships with our spouses, families, friends, and all we come in contact with in the world around us.

Members of the Early Church were fully invested in caring for one another. They broke bread together, learned from God’s Word together, prayed for one another, even sold their possessions to assure the welfare of those in need. So compelling was the love and fellowship they demonstrated to the world around them that, “The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47).

This godly love must also be found among co-laborers in ministry as well, resulting in partnering, resourcing, and mentoring. “With” is a key in Mark 3:13-15. Mark wrote, “Jesus . . . appointed twelve—designating them as apostles—that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and have authority to drive out demons” (*emphasis added*). “With” preceded “send,” indicating that Jesus knew the importance of personally instructing His followers before sending them out in ministry. “With” also denotes proximity and relationship. Jesus took every opportunity to teach His followers, guide them, and model before them principles of spiritual life and leadership.

Competition must cease in our Fellowship. The day has come for us to recognize that there is one Kingdom being built and “we are laborers together for the Lord.” We must commit to help each other succeed. We must function as a team in our cities and districts to reach the harvest.

While Jesus knows that our connection to God is of foremost necessity (like that of a branch to a vine), He also is aware that connections between humans are vital as well. However, many young people not only do not know how to connect with older people, they have little motivation to do so. While older adults have mistaken the silence of youth as indifference, and a lack of automatic loyalty to structured institutions as rebellion, in reality, many of the younger generation strongly desire a connection. Yet, many of the younger generation do not trust the older generation feeling that their elders, and their institutions, have lied to them, abandoned them, or have shown a general lack of interest in them and in what they have to offer. Regrettably, they may have good reason to feel this way.

Almost one-half of our population born since 1970 is from broken homes; many in that population do not even know their fathers. Suicide is the third highest cause of death among this group. Technological advances have allowed this generation to text message, e-mail, and live in another reality through interactive gaming, yet these advances are poor substitutes for stable, close relationships, a sense of community, and security. More than four times as many young Americans describe themselves as lonely now than in 1957. As David Myers argues in his book, *The American Paradox*, the United States has become a place where we have more, but feel worse. We must understand that feelings of loneliness and isolation characterize the general condition of young believers who sit in our pews and stand behind our pulpits. They desperately need meaningful connection with others.

Connection with these young people will take place only when the older generation actively takes the initiative to establish a relationship with them on their level. This means that church leaders must learn to order an “Iced Decaf Triple Grande Vanilla Non-fat with Whip Latte” at the local Starbucks, take time to sit with these young women and men, and become a part of their lives. Because they are the most educated and informed generation in human history, they generally are not interested in instructional one-way relationships, but in one-with-one connections.

People of the new generation are not indifferent or rebellious. They are not slackers. They are future leaders who long for exactly the kind of intimate connection with the older generations that Jesus prayed for, “That they may be one” (John 17:11,22).

How important is it for this kind of connection to occur? The future of our Fellowship rests on it.

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORLD

Jesus’ mandate to “go into all the world” (Mark 16:15) rings with increasing urgency as we move swiftly along the Great Commission timeline. Events unfolding in our world clearly point to our Lord’s soon return. Yet, there is a massive harvest still to be reaped; and a great part of the harvest field lies not only in regions beyond, but in our own nation. Without question, the field within our borders presents some of the greatest challenge to us as a Fellowship.

As believers and carriers of Christ’s presence, we are change agents in society only to the extent that we proactively engage in the marketplace. Fulfilling Jesus’ mandate requires that we both understand and connect with our world—abroad and at home.

While some in the church have mastered the admonition, “Come out from among them, and be ye separate” (2 Corinthians 6:17, KJV), Jesus declared in the Parable of the Sower, “The field is the world” (Matthew 13:38); it is the soil that must be sown with the gospel. Although we are not of the world (John 17:16), we are, nonetheless, in the world and are sent into the world (verse 18). In short, the world is to be the end recipient of all that we believe and possess as individual believers and as a Church.

In the world and marketplace, we are to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13–16). A stew’s flavor will not be influenced by salt that remains in the shaker; and light limited to the walls of our churches, institutions, and homes will not illuminate dark streets (see Luke 11:33). Seasoning the marketplace with godly savor and beaming light into the darkness are essential to fulfilling our mission as a Church. We must both share with and display before a lost world what we possess as a result of our relationship with Christ. A hurting, lost world desperately needs to hear that message; but it will happen only as we rub shoulders with real people in a real world and share a real faith with them in compelling ways.

We must again be an outward-focused church. What are we spending on those that are not here yet? Ninety percent of every dollar we spend is on those who are already in the church.

We cannot be a New Testament church without a passion for the lost. We will not reach this generation until we are willing to go to the marketplace with the gospel. They will not come to us; we must go to them.

We must ask the Lord to forgive us for allowing months to go by in many of our churches without a convert. We must reaffirm our belief in the Scripture, “Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses” (Acts 1:8, KJV). A church cannot be a Pentecostal New Testament church without seeing people coming to Christ.

Surely the same Spirit that once drew us out of conventional dryness and traditional myopia to be a vibrant, life-giving, Spirit-filled church can once again draw us back to the front lines of evangelism in the power of that same Spirit. Surely the same Spirit that has kept us from doctrinal disaster and bizarre extremes can once again guide us in and through the changes that will revive the Church to reach a new generation. We once made room for unconventional ministries. Ours was a movement of brush arbors, tent revivals, storefront missions, curbside preaching, and music that was soundly criticized by the traditional churches from which we emerged. Surely we can find room under the tent of Pentecost for a vibrant diversity of Spirit-led ministry.

To bridge the relational gap to this generation; to bridge the relational gap within our Fellowship, we must, in humility and tears, run to the Cross. We need a unifying revival that will move us forward to seize upon new missionary opportunities at home and abroad. A healthy relationship with our mission field and to our Fellowship is sustainable only when we are growing together in our individual and collective relationship with God.

Following the presentation of the Spiritual Life Report 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.

Business Session

The first business session of the 52nd General Council of the Assemblies of God convened at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis, Indiana, Wednesday, August 8, at 11 a.m. General Superintendent Thomas E. Trask welcomed the delegates and called the business session to order at 11 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; L. Alton Garrison, executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions; C. Dan Betzer, Southeast Area; Warren D. Bullock, Northwest Area; Charles E. Crank, Great Lakes Area; Richard Dresselhaus, Southwest Area; Douglas E. Fulenwider, Gulf Area; J. Don George, South Central Area; Nam Soo Kim, Language Area—Other; Jesse Miranda, Jr., Language Area—Spanish; John M. Palmer, North Central Area; 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; Charles E. Hackett, former executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions;

Raymond H. Hudson, former general treasurer; J. Foy Johnson, former executive presbyter, Southeast Area; Paul E. Lowenberg, former executive presbyter, South Central Area; Armon Newburn, former executive presbyter, South Central Area; Everett R. Stenhouse, former assistant general superintendent; and Loren Triplett, former executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions.

Introduction of Headquarters Staff

The chairman expressed appreciation to the Headquarters staff serving many long hours to make this 52nd General Council in Indianapolis, Indiana, operate efficiently, calling attention to those listed in the program booklet. Special recognition was given to Harold Sallee, administrative assistant to the general superintendent; Arlyn Pember, general manager of the Gospel Publishing House who will be retiring after 43 years of service to Headquarters; 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 Indianapolis, Indiana

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

Greetings from Governor of the State of Indiana

The general superintendent read a letter of greeting from Mitch Daniels, governor of the State of Indiana. He extended in behalf of the state of Indiana a welcome to the capital city.

Expression of Appreciation to Host Districts

Thomas Trask expressed appreciation to the Indiana District and to Superintendent Donald G. Gifford and the Midwest Latin American District and to Superintendent Clemente Maldonado, Jr., for their kind hospitality in hosting this 52nd General Council. He also expressed appreciation to the following superintendents of the other districts in the Great Lakes Area for their kindness to the General Council: Marvin R. Dennis, Appalachian District; Larry H. Griswold, Illinois District; Joseph S. Girdler, Kentucky District; William F. Leach, Michigan District; and Douglas E. Clay, Ohio District.

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, L. Alton Garrison, Donald G. Gifford, Clemente Maldonado, Jr., Thomas E. Trask, George O. Wood

Parliamentary

Gene M. Roncone II, chairperson; Jay A. Herndon, Charles F. Hefton

Resolutions

Larry H. Griswold, chairperson; Arden K. Adamson, Joel F. Costa, Joseph B. Fuiten, James R. Jackson, Young Gil Kim, Edgar R. Lee, Zollie L. Smith, Jr.

Roster

Richard A. Plunk, David L. Wigington, co-chairmen; Mark Christianson, liaison; Randal H. Aekland, Todd A. Alexander, Dean W. Anderson, D. Christopher Annas, Jeffrey A. Arp, L. Eric Baca, Exie E. Barber, Tim R. Barker, Ronald L. Blauvelt, Jimmy O. Burnett, Robert E. Burns, Jonathan J. Busch, Roy E. Carryl, Gaylan D. Claunch, Enedeo Garza, David J. Goerzen, Donald R. Granberry, Joe E. Hancock, Larry E. Hatfield, Clyde A. Johnson, David Lara, Richard G. Malvaney, Kenneth H. Wilcox

Spiritual Life

Ronald F. McManus, chairperson; Lee Baca, Sherri R. Benvenuti, Alicia B. Chole, David B. Crabtree, John T. Maempa, Donald G. Meyer, Rodrick J. Vincent, Marshall M. Windsor

Tellers

Rollin J. Carlson, chairperson; Glenn R. Beaver, Micheal E. Dickenson, Mark E. Jakelsky, Randall S. Rogers, Mearle Grossglass, Jr., captains; Garry L. Wiggins, alternate; Efraim Espinoza, liaison; Jack Aiken, Samuel Bailey, Russell Blann, Ted Brancheau, Carol Brown, Jesus Campa, Dennis Chasteen, Kenneth Cosentino, John Cummings, Jose Espinosa, B.P. Espinoza, Jimiro Feliciano, Ronald Ferrell, George Fessler, Tad Finch, Amos Garza, Gary Geesey, John Gibson, Douglas Gilford, Angel Gonzalez, Mario Gonzalez, Nino Gonzalez, Craig Gore, John Gregg, Thomas Gross, Duane Gryder, Tim Hazen, John Heckathorn, Eugene Hewitt, Raymond Hodgerney, Steve Hunt, Larry Kettle, Dennis Land, Leland Lewis, Jeffery McDonell, Tony Mageo, Jack Manley, Simon Melendres, Guy Miller, Jack Miranda, Marla Moore, Kenneth Moren, Gary Morton, David Moseley, Wayne Murray, Michael Neff, Don Nordin, Robert Novak, Robert Null, Don Owen, Larry Peak, Lemuel Perry, David Phillips, Joe Phillips, Isai Quinonez, Earl Quirk, David Reese, Ray Reynolds, Timothy Rice, Kevin Roach, Ramon Rojas, Jack Sampier, Charles Snaderfur, Alan Schaberg, Wayne Schaffer, Scott Shemeth, Mitchell Smith, Ernest Spears, Keith Stagge, Baxter Stanley, Steven Tremblay, Thomas Twigg, Alfred Vargas, Mark Vega, Brian Vickers, Kevin Wehrli, Darryl Wootton

National Operational Committees

Program Committee

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

Program Resource Committee

Harold W. Sallee, chairperson; Hal Donaldson, Jay Mooney, Sharon Lee, Tom Matrone, Juleen Turnage, Angela Dense, resource; Kathi Divine, resource; Lori Lawley, 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 manager; Sheila R. Mixer, registration; Paul Griffin, security

Accounting Committee

Kenneth R. Tripp, chairperson; Jerry Barton, Fredrick Gore, Janice Hayes, Shari Klassen, Aron Vad

Children's Activities

David Boyd, Kids Council chairperson and early childhood coordinator; chairperson; Jason Noble, Kids Council logistics; Aldin Tinsley, Kids Council homeroom coordinator

Information Technology Support

Tim Strathdee, chairperson; Paula Lamar, Telecommunications; Kelly Rhea, Justin Butler, Fine Arts; Ben Ellis, General Council 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

Paula Blankenship, Randall Howard, co-coordinators

Hospitality

Beth Carroll, chairperson; Jeanne Estebo, Pat Hawkins, Helen Wray

Human Resources

Jim Stalnaker, personnel coordinator; Beth Carroll, Mari Bull

National Youth Convention

Jay Mooney, chairperson; David Raley, Rick Lorimer, Rod Whitlock, Fine Arts director; Ken Peckett, Jack Trewern; Jerry Dahlberg, youth outside production

Prayer

John Maempa, chairperson

Printed Materials (Pre-Council only)

Paul Smith, chairperson; Julie Horner, J.T. Wray, Jewell Woodward, resource

Promotions/Press/Communications

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

Registration

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

Tellers Liaison

Efraim Espinoza, liaison

Translations

Kevin Babin, deaf coordinator; Efraim Espinoza, Spanish coordinator; Jonathan Cabrera, local resource

Transportation

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

Ushers/Communion

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

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 and General Council Audit 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.

Departmental/Divisional Reports

The general superintendent called attention to the fact that the Departmental/Divisional Reports were no longer included in the *Biennial Report* but can be found on the General Council Web site at: www.ag.org/biennialreport. He urged the delegates to take time to review these reports.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 12:04 p.m. Young Gil Kim, superintendent of the Korean District Council, closed in prayer.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 9

The Thursday afternoon session began at 2. Zollie L. Smith, Jr., executive presbyter from the Ethnic Fellowship Area, opened in prayer. The business session was called to order at 2:15 p.m.

Roster Committee Report

David Wigington, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 1:45 p.m., Thursday, August 8, 2007:

VOTING:

Ordained	2,771	
Licensed	734	
Delegates	518	
Executive Presbyters	17	
General Presbyters	<u>229</u>	
Voting constituency		4,269

NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	955
Kids Council	437
Youth Convention	12,316
General registration	<u>7,153</u>
Nonvoting constituency	20,861
Total	25,130

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

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.

Resolution 5. Credential Requirement for Elected Officers of the General Council

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 5 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 5 as follows:

WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws, Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 1. Officers, page 95, calls for officers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God to "be chosen from the membership of the General Council..."; and

WHEREAS, General Council Constitution, Article VII. MEMBERSHIP, Section 1. The General Council of the Assemblies of God, page 86, defines the membership of The General Council of the Assemblies of God as consisting "of all ordained and licensed ministers"; and

WHEREAS, Historically officers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God have been ordained ministers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 1. Officers, page 95, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 ordained ministers 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.

Electronic Voting Instructions

The General Council for the first time used an electronic voting system. Instructions were given both orally and by video. A test vote was done to help familiarize the delegates with the new procedure.

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.

Rollin J. Carlson, chairman of the Tellers Committee, report that no person received a sufficient number of votes on the nominating ballot to be elected. According to Constitution, Article II, all persons receiving 15 or more votes shall be nominees for the office of general superintendent.

The following persons received 15 or more votes: Gordon L. Anderson, Tommy J. Barnett, M. Wayne Benson, C. Dan Betzer, James T. Bradford, James K. Bridges, L. John Bueno, H. Franklin Cargill, Douglas E. Clay, G. Robert Cook, Jr., Charles T. Crabtree, Charles E. Crank, L. Alton Garrison, J. Don George, Thomas W. Greene, Larry H. Griswold, Byron D. Klaus, John E. Lindell, Ronald F. McManus, Dary R. Northrop, John M. Palmer, Terrell R. Raburn, H. Robert Rhoden, Randal L. Ross, Mark Rutland, Zollie L. Smith, Jr., Randy L. Valimont, George O. Wood.

The following persons requested that their names be removed from the ballot: Gordon L. Anderson, Tommy J. Barnett, James K. Bridges, J. Don George, Ronald F. McManus, Dary R. Northrop, Mark Rutland.

Since there was no election on the nominating ballot, the first elective ballot was cast:

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

Total votes cast	3,687
Needed to elect	2,448
Invalid votes	15
M. Wayne Benson	95
C. Dan Betzer	144
James T. Bradford	33
L. John Bueno	106
H. Franklin Cargill	42
Douglas E. Clay	236
G. Robert Cook, Jr.	35
Charles T. Crabtree	391
Charles E. Crank	32
L. Alton Garrison	733
Thomas W. Greene	70
Larry H. Griswold	21
Byron D. Klaus	37
John E. Lindell	412
John M. Palmer	120
Terrell R. Raburn	78
H. Robert Rhoden	64
Randal L. Ross	34
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	51
Randy L. Valimont	54
George O. Wood	884

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	3,650
Needed to elect	2,423
Invalid votes	16
M. Wayne Benson	19
C. Dan Betzer	58
James T. Bradford	4
L. John Bueno	32
H. Franklin Cargill	5
Douglas E. Clay	216
G. Robert Cook, Jr.	6
Charles T. Crabtree	250
Charles E. Crank	2
L. Alton Garrison	1,001
Thomas W. Greene	11
Larry H. Griswold	4
Byron D. Klaus	7
John E. Lindell	543
John M. Palmer	46
Terrell R. Raburn	6
H. Robert Rhoden	8
Randal L. Ross	5
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	17
Randy L. Valimont	18
George O. Wood	1,366

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

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

Total votes cast	3,504
Needed to elect	2,328
Invalid votes	13
M. Wayne Benson	15
C. Dan Betzer	18
James T. Bradford	4
L. John Bueno	12
H. Franklin Cargill	5
Douglas E. Clay	192
G. Robert Cook, Jr.	5
Charles T. Crabtree	76
Charles E. Crank	2
L. Alton Garrison	1,302
Thomas W. Greene	5
Larry H. Griswold	4
Byron D. Klaus	4
John E. Lindell	38

John M. Palmer	13
Terrell R. Raburn	2
H. Robert Rhoden	3
Randal L. Ross	5
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	5
Randy L. Valimont	13
George O. Wood	1,788

Since there was no election, a fourth elective ballot was cast. The chairman indicated that according to Bylaws, all names will be eliminated except for the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes, which were: Douglas E. Clay, L. Alton Garrison, and George O. Wood.

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

Total votes cast	2,643
Needed to elect	1,760
Invalid votes	3
Douglas E. Clay	163
L. Alton Garrison	914
George O. Wood	1,563

Since there was no election, a fifth elective ballot was cast on Friday morning, August 10.

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

Total votes cast	2,565
Needed to elect	1,706
Invalid votes	6
Douglas E. Clay	151
L. Alton Garrison	785
George O. Wood	1,623

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

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

Total votes cast	2,996
Needed to elect	1,990
Invalid votes	12
Douglas E. Clay	148
L. Alton Garrison	713
George O. Wood	2,123

The chairman, noting that George O. Wood received well in excess of the two-thirds vote required, declared him elected as general superintendent.

Brother Trask called on George O. Wood to make any comments he wished. Sister Wood was asked to join him on the platform. Brother Wood responded by expressing his humbleness at the vote of the body and that he approaches this office with fear and trembling. He states that we are one in Spirit, one in the faith, and one in Christ. Anyone who serves in this position must serve the entire body, stating, "If we want to go fast—walk alone; if we want to go far—walk together.

Resolution 1. Constitution Article II. Nature

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 1 and moved its adoption.

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee offered Resolution 1-A as an amendment to Resolution 1 which would amend the last sentence to read: and shall be known as a fellowship of churches and credentialed ministers.

A motion prevailed to adopt the proposed amendment as presented by the Resolutions Committee.

The motion to adopt Resolution 1 as amended carried.

Resolution 1 (1-A) as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God was established as a fellowship of churches; and
WHEREAS, The founding fathers sought to establish a fellowship, not a denomination; and

WHEREAS, It is our desire to reaffirm our true identity; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, Article II. NATURE, page 80, which reads:

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

Be amended by addition so that it will read:

The General Council of the Assemblies of God is a cooperative fellowship based on mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its membership, and shall be known as a fellowship of churches and credentialed ministers.

Resolution 2. Executive Officers

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

WHEREAS, The 2005 General Presbytery in session referred to the Executive Presbytery the defining of the Board of Administration, the Executive Presbytery, and the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 1. Executive Officers, paragraph a. Officers and terms of office, page 87, does not clearly define the officers to be the officers of the General Council; and

WHEREAS, Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 1. Executive Officers, paragraph b. Board of Administration, page 87, does not reflect the action taken by the General Council in Washington, D.C., when it adopted Resolution XIX, which added the executive directors of Assemblies of God World Missions and Assemblies of God U.S. Missions to the Board of Administration; and

WHEREAS, One of the functions of the Board of Administration is to serve as the vision-casting entity of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 1. Executive Officers, page 87, which reads:

a. Officers and terms of office. The officers shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, and the general treasurer, together with such other officers as may be authorized in the future. Their terms of office shall begin 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.
Be amended to read:

a. **Corporate Officers and terms of office.** The General Council corporate officers shall consist of the general superintendent, assistant general superintendent, general secretary, and general treasurer. They shall serve as the officers of the corporation. 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. **Executive Leadership Team.** The General Council officers along with the executive directors of Assemblies of God World Missions and Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall constitute an Executive Leadership Team. Members of the Executive Leadership Team shall be amenable to the actions of the Executive Presbytery within duties prescribed in the Bylaws.

Resolution 18. Role of the Executive Leadership Team

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 18. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 18, as follows:

WHEREAS, The executive officers serve as the vision-casting entity of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, They provide spiritual leadership for all Headquarters personnel; and

WHEREAS, There is a need to correctly identify the role of the executive officers beyond administration; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article III, DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION, Section 8. Duties of the Board of Administration, page 102, which reads:

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

Be amended to read as follows:

Section 8. Duties of the Executive Leadership Team

The executive officers shall constitute an Executive Leadership Team. Members of the Executive Leadership Team shall be amenable to the actions of the Executive Presbytery and perform the following functions and duties:

- a. Serve as the executive arm of the Executive Presbytery.
- b. Provide for general services as required by the various operations at Headquarters.
- c. Execute those matters delegated to it by the Executive Presbytery.
- d. Give administrative oversight to all General Council offices.
- e. Support the spiritual thrust and vision of the Fellowship.
- f. Lead assigned ministries.
- g. Manage internal operations of Headquarters as indicated in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*.

Privileged Motion

A motion prevailed that the general secretary be given editorial privilege that in the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Council any place the term "Board of Administration" appears it be changed to "Executive Leadership Team."

Nothing's Too Hard For God Media Campaign

A video was presented introducing the new media campaign "Nothing's Too Hard For God," and the materials that are now available to churches.

Resolution 16. Role of General Superintendent

Arden K. Adamson, member of the Resolutions Committee, read Resolution 16 and moved its adoption.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 16 be amended by the addition of a paragraph o. to read: He is not required to serve full-time or resign his pastorate. The motion lost.

The motion to adopt Resolution 16 carried. Resolution 16 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The role of the general superintendent is strategic to the Fellowship; and
WHEREAS, There is the need to clarify additional responsibilities of the office; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION, Section 1. Duties of the General Superintendent, page 99, be amended by the rewording of paragraph f, which reads:

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

To read as follows:

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

And by the addition of five new paragraphs to be known as j, k, l, m, and n, which read as follows:

j. Cast primary vision for the Fellowship along with the other executive officers.

k. Provide spiritual oversight to leadership and Headquarters personnel.

l. Strategically network with other fellowships.

m. Give consultation in hiring staff at departmental level of leadership or above.

n. Lead Tier I leadership, executive officers, and the Executive Presbytery.

Resolution 19. Role of the General Presbytery

Larry H. Griswold read Resolution 19 and moved its adoption.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 19 be amended by rewording paragraph 2, line 18, so that it will read: e. Act as a body of appeal to actions taken by the Executive Presbytery. The motion lost.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 19 be tabled until tomorrow. The motion lost.

It was moved and seconded that the word “the” in paragraph b, line 11, be changed to “a.”
The motion lost.

The motion to adopt Resolution 19 carried. Resolution 19 as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, There is a need to clarify the role of the General Presbytery; and
WHEREAS, The General Presbytery serves as a policy-making body; therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article III, DUTIES OF OFFICERS,
PRESBYTERS, BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION, Section 9, Duties of the
General Presbytery, page 102, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read as follows:

Section 9. Duties of the General Presbytery

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

- a. Advance the mission of the Assemblies of God by promoting effective ministry and harmonious relationships among all churches, credentialed ministers, ministries, institutions, and entities of the Fellowship.
- b. Be the policy-making body.
- c. Act as a court of final appeal for a disciplined minister.
- d. 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.

- e. Act as a body of appeal to actions taken by the Executive Presbytery whenever 10 percent or more of the members of the General Presbytery so requests.
- f. 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.

Recognition of Fory and Cynthia VandenEinde

The general superintendent presented a plaque of appreciation to Fory and Cynthia VandenEinde for their work with Disaster Relief. District Superintendent Douglas E. Fulenwider shared his thanks not only to the VandenEindes for their work during and since the Katrina Hurricane disaster, but the entire Assemblies of God for their gifts and support. He indicated that he not only expressed appreciation from the Louisiana District, but he also expressed appreciation from the South Texas and Mississippi districts as well.

Following this presentation the Convoy of Hope disaster relief video was shown.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5 p.m. Prayer: Armon Newburn, former executive presbyter, South Central Area.

THURSDAY EVENING—AUGUST 9

The Thursday evening service of the 52nd General Council began at 7 in the Consecro Field House in Indianapolis, Indiana, following pre-service music provided by the North Central University Chorale under the direction of Larry Bach.

Tom Matrone led worship assisted by the house band. Floodgate from Central Bible College, Springfield, Missouri, consisting of: Matt Adams, Ammi-El Suliman, Jamal Fletcher, and David Womelsdorf, under the direction of Glenda Mohr, performed a dramatic Scripture reading taken from Matthew and the writings of Paul. George O. Wood, general secretary, received the offering. Special music was provided by Ramona Crabtree, Springfield, Missouri.

The speaker for the evening, Charles T. Crabtree, assistant general superintendent was introduced by Thomas E. Trask. The message delivered by Charles Crabtree stressed the importance of discipleship. He issued a discipleship challenge to those in attendance. He emphasized that discipleship must be taken more seriously if the Assemblies of God is going to be viable in the future. Crabtree stressed that pastors and lay leaders must explain to individuals making salvation decisions that this is a life-changing event. Those who fail to be integrated into the life of the body will perish spiritually. Too often Christianity in American culture results in no-cost discipleship, a deceptive faith and lip service to a God of convenience. Established Christians should want to train Christlike, Spirit-empowered disciples who are not ashamed of the gospel and love God more than the world or anything in it.

Crabtree pointed out that the New Testament church is a cutting-edge prototype for the church today. The New Testament church model resolves ethnic problems, meets social needs with compassion ministries, solves high budget costs, provides for Holy Spirit-anointed ministries, and equips the church with every kind of gift needed to make up for human inability. He stressed that Sunday school remains one of the best discipleship forums in the Assemblies of God. The service closed with Crabtree leading the assembled who came forward for an altar call. He asked God through the Holy Spirit to truly make Jesus the Lord of the Fellowship.

FRIDAY MORNING—AUGUST 10

The Friday session began at 9 a.m. at the Indiana Convention Center.

Business Session

The assistant general superintendent opened the Friday business session by asking the original Couriers (Dave Kyllonen, Duane Nicholson, and Neil Enloe) to sing a couple of songs. Prayer was offered by Jesse Miranda, executive presbyter, Language Area—Spanish. Chairman Trask called the business session to order at 9:15 a.m.

Roster Committee Report

Richard A. Plunk, co-chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 8:49 a.m., Friday, August 10, 2007:

VOTING:

Ordained	2,817	
Licensed	750	
Delegates	526	
Executive Presbyters	17	
General Presbyters	<u>230</u>	
Voting constituency		4,340

NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	956	
Kids Council	447	
Youth Convention	12,324	
General registration	<u>7,833</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		21,560
Total		25,900

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Resolution 4 (4-A). Composition of General Presbytery

Larry Griswold presented Resolution 4 and moved its adoption.

As chairman of the Resolutions Committee, Larry Griswold presented Resolution 4-A as an amendment to Resolution 4, said resolution being sponsored as an amendment to the General Council by the General Presbytery.

It was moved and seconded that amendment Resolution 4-A be adopted.

It was moved and seconded that the word “ministers” on line 25 be amended to read “pastors.” The motion lost.

A motion prevailed that the vote on the main motion be taken by secret ballot.

Following considerable discussion, the motion to adopt Resolution 4-A as an amendment to Resolution 4 was carried.

A secret ballot vote was taken on the main motion to adopt Resolution 4 as amended (Resolution 4-A). The Tellers Committee reported the following:

Total votes cast:	2,917
Need to carry:	1,945
Yes	1,816 (62.3 percent)
No	1,101 (37.7 percent)

The chairman noting that the issue did not receive the necessary two-thirds vote required, declared the motion to adopt Resolution 4, as amended, lost:

Resolution 4-A is as follows:

WHEREAS, The 2005 General Presbytery in session referred to the Executive Presbytery the defining of the Board of Administration, the Executive Presbytery, and the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The composition of the General Presbytery was a point of conversation in each of the Young Pastors Listening Forums; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God has over 6,000 female credential holders; and

WHEREAS, It is believed that the Assemblies of God would be well-served to expand the General Presbytery to reflect our constituency and increase the representation of pastors under 40 years of age and female credential holders who are ordained; and

WHEREAS, The leadership team of the national office, per *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* approved by the 2005 General Council, identifies a Tier I leadership team made up of 6 elected officers and 4 appointed positions; and

WHEREAS, Those appointed positions give strategic direction under the supervision of the general superintendent; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 3. General Presbytery, page 87 and page 88, be amended by the addition of two new paragraphs to be known as g. Tier I Leadership and h. Additional Representation, which shall read:

g. **Tier I Leadership.** The Tier I Leadership of the national office shall be ex officio members of the General Presbytery.

h. **Additional Representation.** ~~The Executive Presbytery shall select~~
There shall be an additional 30 members to serve a 2-year term based on ratios of approximately 25 percent ordained females and 75 percent ordained males the balance ordained ministers under the age of 40 at the time of election.

And be it further

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

Election of Assistant General Superintendent

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

Rollin J. Carlson, chairman of the Tellers Committee, reported that no person received a sufficient number of votes on the nominating ballot to be elected. According to Constitution, Article II, all persons receiving 15 or more votes shall be nominees for the office of assistant general superintendent. The following persons received 15 or more votes: M. Wayne Benson, C. Dan Betzer, James K. Bridges, L. John Bueno, H. Franklin Cargill, Douglas E. Clay, G. Robert Cook, Jr., Charles T. Crabtree, L. Alton Garrison, A. Elizabeth Grant, Thomas W. Greene, Larry H. Griswold, Byron D. Klause, John E. Lindell, Ronald F. McManus, John M. Palmer, Terrell R. Raburn, H. Robert Rhoden, Zollie L. Smith, Jr., Randy L. Valimont.

The following persons requested that their names be removed from the nominating ballot: James K. Bridges, Charles T. Crabtree, John E. Lindell, L. John Bueno, Ronald F. McManus, H. Robert Rhoden.

Since there was no election on the nominating ballot, the first elective ballot was cast:

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

Total votes cast	2,927
Needed to elect	1,948
Invalid votes	5
M. Wayne Benson	86
C. Dan Betzer	141
H. Franklin Cargill	40
Douglas E. Clay	686
G. Robert Cook, Jr.	44
L. Alton Garrison	1,188
A. Elizabeth Grant	226
Thomas W. Greene	62
Larry H. Griswold	30
Byron D. Klaus	41
John M. Palmer	173
Terrell R. Raburn	77
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	77
Randy L. Valimont	51

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

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

Total votes cast	2,816
Needed to elect	1,865
Invalid votes	19
M. Wayne Benson	13
C. Dan Betzer	41
H. Franklin Cargill	2
Douglas E. Clay	811
G. Robert Cook, Jr.	5
L. Alton Garrison	1,583
A. Elizabeth Grant	233
Thomas W. Greene	7
Larry H. Griswold	5
Byron D. Klaus	5
John M. Palmer	45
Terrell R. Raburn	15
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	20
Randy L. Valimont	12

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

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

Total votes cast	2,626
Needed to elect	1,743
Invalid votes	12
M. Wayne Benson	2
C. Dan Betzer	8
H. Franklin Cargill	2
Douglas E. Clay	743
G. Robert Cook, Jr.	3
L. Alton Garrison	1,624
A. Elizabeth Grant	195
Thomas W. Greene	3
Larry H. Griswold	1
Byron D. Klaus	0
John M. Palmer	13
Terrell R. Raburn	7
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	10
Randy L. Valimont	3

Since there was no election, a fourth elective ballot was cast. The chairman indicated that according to Bylaws, all names will be eliminated except for the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes, which would be Douglas E. Clay, L. Alton Garrison, A. Elizabeth Grant.

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

Total votes cast	2,169
Needed to elect	1,444
Invalid votes	4
Douglas E. Clay	558
L. Alton Garrison	1,436
A. Elizabeth Grant	171

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

Total votes cast	2,032
Needed to elect	1,350
Invalid votes	8
Douglas E. Clay	473
L. Alton Garrison	1,448
A. Elizabeth Grant	103

The chairman, noting that L. Alton Garrison received well in excess of the two-thirds vote required, declared him elected as assistant general superintendent.

Brother Trask called on L. Alton Garrison to make any comments he wished. Sister Garrison was asked to join him on the platform. Brother Garrison expressed his appreciation for the confidence placed in him.

Reconsideration of Resolution 4

It was moved and seconded that the action taken on Resolution 4 be rescinded and that the resolution be reconsidered. The motion to reconsider lost.

Resolution 15. Election of the General Presidency

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee withdrew Resolution 15 in light of the fact that Resolution 4 was defeated.

Election of General Secretary

The general secretary read the Bylaws provision for the election of general secretary, Article II, Section 2, paragraph b, and indicated that the General Presidency is presenting the names of Larry H. Griswold, John M. Palmer, and Zollie L. Smith, Jr. as nominees for the position of general secretary. Ballots were cast and the chair declared voting closed.

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

Total votes cast	2,448
Needed to elect	1,622
Invalid votes	16
Larry H. Griswold	630
John M. Palmer	1,023
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	779

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

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

Total votes cast	2,523
Needed to elect	1,666
Invalid votes	24
Larry H. Griswold	284
John M. Palmer	1,434
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	781

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

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

Total votes cast	2,576
Needed to elect	1,706
Invalid votes	18
Larry H. Griswold	111
John M. Palmer	1,862
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	585

Having noted that John M. Palmer had received more than the required number of votes, the general superintendent declared that he had been elected to the position of general secretary.

The chairman asked Debbie to join her husband on the platform. John and Debbie Palmer expressed their deep appreciation to the Fellowship for the confidence that has been placed in them.

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:

The Couriers

Dwight D. Eisenhower was president and gas was 20 cents a gallon when God placed His call upon three young men students at Central Bible Institute who formed a music ministry team. Some five decades ago, they chose the name "The Couriers" and the rest is history.

Dave Kyllonen, Duane Nicholson, and Neil Enloe have spent these years singing the good news of Jesus Christ in churches, concerts, prisons, and hospital rooms, and countless other places. They have recorded over 40 albums of music, traveled to every state in the Union as well as 80 nations in missionary evangelism.

The Couriers have received three prestigious Dove Awards from the Gospel Music Association. Two of the awards, "Song of the Year" and "Associate Members Award," were bestowed on Neil Enloe for his original music composition, "Statute of Liberty."

In 1980, the group decided to launch out into individual ministries with their families which they did for several years. A few years later, they reorganized and resumed the Couriers. However, in 2000 the three stepped out of the Couriers—but not the music ministry—for the last time. So today they are simple Dave, Duane, and Neil. And they take life at a little slower pace so they aren't on the road day in and day out as has been the case for so many years.

Their former pastor, Paul Wislocky, says, "I have been friends with Dave, Duane, and Neil since our years together as students at Central Bible Institute (now college). I can tell you first hand they always operate within the bounds of ministerial ethics and Christian courtesy. They are men of integrity, heart, and vision. They have a tremendous desire to introduce people to the saving grace and power of Jesus Christ. Their focus has always been on ministry. They have exhibited a great love for people, been a consistent example of faithfulness to our Lord, and represented our Fellowship well.

For exemplary lives, bringing glory and honor to God and to this church, it is my privilege to confer upon Dave Kyllonen, Duane Nicholson, and Neil Enloe the General Superintendent's Medal of Honor.

Richard R. Hammar

For almost 29 years, Richard Hammar has served this church as its first and only legal counsel. Richard had only been a Christian 2 years when he graduated from Harvard Law School in 1976. He was heavily courted by elite law firms but he had decided to seek God's will for his life. Little did he know that surrendering to God would lead him in 2 short years to the Assemblies of God Headquarters in Springfield, Missouri. When General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman and the Executive Presbytery offered him the newly created post of legal counsel, Rich accepted the job, rented a U-haul, and with his wife and young daughter moved to Springfield.

Although he was hired without a job description, he decided as legal counsel his duty was to provide advice on legal matters and to defend the national office against lawsuits.

He soon determined through voracious reading and self-education to become an authority on church law. Today he is recognized across the nation in that capacity. He writes three professional church law newsletters and has written more than 100 books on church law (averaging 10 books a year). His books are cited by courts and the IRS relies on them—he's literally written more on church law than anyone, anywhere.

Richard says he approaches the job through St. Augustine's credo: Work as if the results depend entirely upon your efforts and pray as if the results depend entirely upon God. He views his position as a ministry and a sacred trust.

In addition to his vital role at Headquarters, Rich teaches astronomy at Evangel University and is actively engaged in his hobby. He teaches church law at Central Bible College. And he teaches a fourth-grade Sunday school class at Central Assembly, his home church where he also serves as a deacon. He has been honored as Teacher of the Year by the Southern Missouri District Council. Rich plays the cello, is a frequent speaker in and out of the Assemblies of God, and exercises enough to be categorized in the "superior" level of fitness at a national health institute. He loves to sail and even became a certified diesel mechanic in order to fix his boat's engine.

Richard was recently named one of the 50 most influential Christians in America by *Christianity Today* magazine.

His pastor, James Bradford, stated, "I am impressed with Richard's commitment to the local church. He prays with people at the altar every Sunday and stays actively interested and involved in the weekly ministries of the church. I have witnessed the considerable influence of his life on the generations of fourth graders who have had him as a Sunday school teacher. He starts every class with the words, "Students, you are awesome and you are going to change the world."

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

Resolution 3. Composition of Executive Presbytery

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

- WHEREAS, The 2005 General Presbytery in session referred to the Executive Presbytery the defining of the Board of Administration, the Executive Presbytery, and the General Presbytery; and
- WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery in approving the final report of its study committee noted the wisdom of the changes in the composition of the Executive Presbytery by General Council action of 1995 and 1997, adding representation from non-Hispanic foreign language districts and ethnic fellowships; and
- WHEREAS, This action has been more than justified in the intervening years as the foreign language districts and ethnic fellowships have continued to expand and make immense contributions to the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery, after reviewing the Young Pastors Listening Forum report, approved the recommendation of adding members to the Executive Presbytery through the inclusion of a nonresident executive

presbyter who is an ordained pastor under 40 years of age, and a nonresident executive presbyter who is an ordained female credential holder; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 2. Executive Presbytery, page 87, be amended by changing the number 11 to 13 and the number 17 to 19 to allow for the inclusion of such persons so the amended paragraph will read:

- a. **Composition and terms of office.** The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of ~~the~~ Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of ~~the~~ Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, together with ~~44~~ 13 other persons to bring the number to ~~47~~ 19. 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.

Resolution 14. Election of the Executive Presbytery

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 14. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 14, as follows:

- WHEREAS, The 2005 General Presbytery in session referred to the Executive Presbytery the defining of the Board of Administration, the Executive Presbytery, and the General Presbytery; and
- WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery in approving the final report of its study committee noted the wisdom of the changes in the composition of the Executive Presbytery of the General Council action of 1995 and 1997, adding representation from non-Hispanic foreign language districts; and
- WHEREAS, This action has been more than justified in the intervening years as the foreign language districts and ethnic fellowships have continued to expand and make immense contributions to the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery has been expanded over the years to effectively represent our growing constituency; and
- WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery after reviewing the Young Ministers Listening Forums report, approved the recommendation of adding members to the Executive Presbytery through the inclusion of a nonresident executive presbyter who is an ordained pastor under 40 years of age, and a nonresident executive presbyter who is an ordained female credential holder; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph c. Nonresident executive presbyters, subparagraph (2). *Division for electing nonresident executive presbyters*, page 96, be amended by the addition of a new paragraph (c), to read as follows:

(c) Additional representation. The nomination process for two additional nonresident executive presbyters shall be made as follows: Each district council, at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session, may nominate two individuals from its district to the Executive Presbytery, one who is an ordained pastor under 40 years of age at the time of election and one ordained female (no age requirement). From the nominees the General Presbytery shall select and submit to the General Council four names of ordained pastors under 40 years of age at the time of election and four names of ordained females (no age requirement). The candidates shall be presented to the General Council in session and voted on by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 12 noon, to reconvene at 2 p.m.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 10

The Friday afternoon session began at 2. H. Robert Rhoden, nonresident executive presbyter from the Northeast Area, opened the session with prayer: The general superintendent called the business session to order at 2:05 p.m.

Roster Committee Report

David Wigington, chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 1:43 p.m., Friday, August 10, 2007:

VOTING:

Ordained	2,826
Licensed	750
Delegates	527
Executive Presbyters	17
General Presbyters	<u>230</u>
Voting constituency	4,350

NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	960
Kids Council	449
Youth Convention	12,330
General registration	<u>8,220</u>
Nonvoting constituency	<u>21,959</u>
Total	26,309

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Election of Executive Director Assemblies of God World Missions

The general secretary read the Bylaws provision for the election of the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, Article II, Section 2, paragraph b. and presented the name of L. John Bueno 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	1,962
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Needed to elect	1,308
Yes votes	1,861
No votes	101

Having noted that L. John Bueno had received more than the required number of votes, the general superintendent declared that he had been reelected to the position of executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions. John and Lois Bueno expressed appreciation to the Fellowship for its continued confidence and support.

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

The general secretary read the Bylaws provision for the election of the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, Article II, Section 2, paragraph b. and presented the names of Thomas W. Greene and Zollie L. Smith, Jr., 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 chairman declared voting closed.

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

Total votes cast	2,548
Needed to elect	1,684
Invalid votes	22
Thomas W. Greene	1,031
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	1,495

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

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

Total votes cast	2,546
Needed to elect	1,691
Invalid votes	10
Thomas E. Greene	594
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	1,942

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

Phyllis Smith joined her husband on the platform. Zollie and Phyllis were presented to the body and both expressed to the Council their appreciation for the confidence placed in them.

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	1,979
Needed to elect	1,308
Invalid votes	17
Ted R. Boatsman	158
Warren D. Bullock	866
Robert J. Fox	25
Doyle A. Fulkles	37
Paul D. Goodman	112

Barry D. Osteen	63
Lewis R. Shelton	64
Roy W. Welch, III	37
William E. (Bill) Wilson	173
Leslie E. Welk	182
Jesse C. Ybarra	165
Daniel M. York	80

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

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

Total votes cast	2,131
Needed to elect	1,412
Invalid votes	13
Ted R. Boatsman	51
Warren D. Bullock	1,851
Robert J. Fox	2
Doyle A. Fulkens	5
Paul D. Goodman	10
Barry D. Osteen	7
Lewis R. Shelton	6
Roy W. Welch, III	7
William E. (Bill) Wilson	61
Leslie E. Welk	69
Jesse C. Ybarra	40
Daniel M. York	9

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	1,832
Needed to elect	1,212
Invalid votes	15
James E. Ayers	38
James R. Braddy	178
Craig W. Carter	27
Rick Cole	251
G. Robert Cook, Jr.	151
Richard L. Dresselhaus	754
Stephen L. Harris	95
James D. Marocco	55
George K. Nagato	55
T. Ray Rachels	250

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	1,816
Needed to elect	1,206
Invalid votes	8
James E. Ayers	21
James R. Braddy	73
Craig W. Carter	9
Rick Cole	151
G. Robert Cook, Jr.	62
Richard L. Dresselhaus	1,255
Stephen L. Harris	38
James D. Marocco	25
George K. Nagato	17
T. Ray Rachels	157

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	1,637
Needed to elect	1,088
Invalid votes	6
Arden K. Adamson	203
M. Ray Brewer	207
Leon D. Freitag	61
Ronald M. Garner	39
Edwin R. Homer	31
Thomas M. Jacobs	141
Darrell D. Losing	34
John M. Palmer	13
Clarence St. John	422
Dwight A. Sandoz	97
Stephen R. Schaible	55
Edmund L. Tedeschi	162
Ronald J. Traub	122
Robert A. Wine	44

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	1,756
Needed to elect	1,167
Invalid votes	6
Arden K. Adamson	101
M. Ray Brewer	167
Leon D. Freitag	4
Ronald M. Garner	10

Edwin R. Homer	1
Thomas M. Jacobs	43
Darrell D. Losing	6
John M. Palmer	8
Clarence St. John	1,323
Dwight A. Sandoz	7
Stephen R. Schaible	12
Edmund L. Tedeschi	40
Ronald J. Traub	25
Robert A. Wine	3

Having noted that Clarence W. St. John 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	1,717
Needed to elect	1,141
Invalid votes	6
H. Franklin Cargill	182
T. Craig Dacus	35
Richard W. DuBose	142
J. Don George	928
R. Kenneth George	46
Joseph P. Granberry	45
Jonathan M. Hollis	24
Thomas D. Lakey	17
Marcus W. McClain	17
E. Don Nordin, Jr.	42
Robert L. Slaton	32
Terry L. Yancey	201

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	1,848
Needed to elect	1,228
Invalid votes	6
H. Franklin Cargill	71
T. Craig Dacus	9
Richard W. DuBose	38
J. Don George	1,567
R. Kenneth George	10
Joseph P. Granberry	8
Jonathan M. Hollis	1
Thomas D. Lakey	2
Marcus W. McClain	3
E. Don Nordin, Jr.	5
Robert L. Slaton	5
Terry L. Yancey	123

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	1,742
Needed to elect	1,160
Invalid votes	3
Isaac Troy Boggs	18
Ray A. Berryhill, Sr.	151
Douglas E. Clay	698
Charles E. Crank	368
Marvin R. Dennis	22
Donald G. Gifford	48
Joseph S. Girdler	36
Larry H. Griswold	221
David L. Gross	23
John K. Jordan	19
William F. Leach	90
David R. Williams	45

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	1,742
Needed to elect	1,160
Invalid votes	3
Isaac Troy Boggs	6
Ray A. Berryhill, Sr.	47
Douglas E. Clay	1,461
Charles E. Crank	186
Marvin R. Dennis	11
Donald G. Gifford	10
Joseph S. Girdler	4
Larry H. Griswold	60
David L. Gross	2
John K. Jordan	3
William F. Leach	19
David R. Williams	8

Having noted that Douglas E. Clay 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	1,571
Needed to elect	1,042
Invalid votes	8
Bill R. Baker	127

D. Maury Davis	283
Walter L. Davis	37
Douglas E. Fulenwider	631
Larry Moore	162
Ronnie Morris	39
Bill R. Newby	129
Walter L. Rose	13
R. Eddie Turner	95
Robert B. Wilburn	47

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	1,645
Needed to elect	1,094
Invalid votes	4
Bill R. Baker	25
D. Maury Davis	199
Walter L. Davis	3
Douglas E. Fulenwider	1,309
Larry Moore	53
Ronnie Morris	3
Bill R. Newby	30
Walter L. Rose	0
R. Eddie Turner	13
Robert B. Wilburn	6

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	1,429
Needed to elect	951
Invalid votes	3
Daniel R. Abbatiello	41
Carl J. Colletti	85
Duane P. Durst	48
Clayton B. Glickert	10
Larry F. Hickey	42
Donald A. James	57
Byran D. Koch	79
Dennis W. Marquardt	77
H. Robert Rhoden	829
Otis D. Stanley	33
Stephen R. Tourville	68
Robert Wise, Jr.	57

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	1,545
Needed to elect	1,028

Invalid votes	4
Daniel R. Abbatiello	15
Carl J. Colletti	36
Duane P. Durst	7
Clayton B. Glickert	5
Larry F. Hickey	4
Donald A. James	10
Byran D. Koch	22
Dennis W. Marquardt	17
H. Robert Rhoden	1,401
Otis D. Stanley	2
Stephen R. Tourville	12
Robert Wise, Jr.	7

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	1,188
Needed to elect	790
Invalid votes	3
C. Dan Betzer	626
Roger W. Brumbalow	29
Phil F. Edwards	7
Billy J. Glover	17
Charles Kelly	9
John A. Loper, Jr.	19
Ronald F. McManus	260
G. Edward Nelson	2
Terrell R. Raburn	92
Victory E. Smith	4
Robert S. Thompson	10
Randy L. Valimont	110

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	1,053
Needed to elect	700
Invalid votes	3
C. Dan Betzer	857
Roger W. Brumbalow	9
Phil F. Edwards	5
Billy J. Glover	2
Charles Kelly	0
John A. Loper, Jr.	4
Ronald F. McManus	102
G. Edward Nelson	0
Terrell R. Raburn	25
Victory E. Smith	1
Robert S. Thompson	1
Randy L. Valimont	44

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	807
Needed to elect	536
Invalid votes	3
Lee Baca	34
Isaac J. Canales	59
Jesse L. Galindo	10
Nicanor Gonzalez	15
Gary Jones	38
Rigoberto Nagana	4
Clemente Maldonado, Jr.	33
Edward Martinez	41
Jesse Miranda, Jr.	500
Daniel Negron	1
Rafael Reyes	15
Dennis J. Rivera	25
Arturo N. Santana	2
Juan H. Suarez	4
Alfred Vargas	23

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	687
Needed to elect	457
Invalid votes	2
Lee Baca	5
Isaac J. Canales	12
Jesse L. Galindo	2
Nicanor Gonzalez	4
Gary Jones	2
Rigoberto Nagana	0
Clemente Maldonado, Jr.	4
Edward Martinez	5
Jesse Miranda, Jr.	644
Daniel Negron	0
Rafael Reyes	0
Dennis J. Rivera	4
Arturo N. Santana	0
Juan H. Suarez	1
Alfred Vargas	2

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	605
Needed to elect	402
Invalid votes	3

Nam Soo Kim	550
Daniel J. Miller	30
Lawrence G. Olson	22

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	515
Needed to elect	340
Invalid votes	6
Paul Adu-Antoh	33
Michel Beaudouin	1
Rodger A. Cree	17
Yan Sang "Robert" Chai	9
Emory K. Dively	24
Dennis E. Hodges	14
Nilo Jaren M. Lapasaran, Jr.	15
Rudolf A. Lolowang	4
John E. Maracle	142
Nicky Pop	26
George A. Rafidi	35
Sydney H. Ramphal	55
Alex A. Shevchenko	22
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	4
Wade Southerland	87
Teloma A. Tuamasaga	11
Eremasi Vabasi	2
Tomasi Vi	8

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	522
Needed to elect	346
Invalid votes	3
Paul Adu-Antoh	4
Michel Beaudouin	0
Rodger A. Cree	2
Yan Sang "Robert" Chai	0
Emory K. Dively	4
Dennis E. Hodges	2
Nilo Jaren M. Lapasaran, Jr.	6
Rudolf A. Lolowang	1
John E. Maracle	443
Nicky Pop	2
George A. Rafidi	5
Sydney H. Ramphal	13
Alex A. Shevchenko	3
Zollie L. Smith, Jr.	0
Wade Southerland	32

Teloma A. Tuamasaga	0
Eremasi Vabasi	0
Tomasí Vi	1

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

Privileged Motion

In light of the number of resolutions still to be considered, a motion prevailed that debate be limited to 3 minutes per speaker.

Resolution 17. Role of the Executive Presbytery

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 17. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 17 as follows:

WHEREAS, There is a need to clarify the role of the Executive Presbytery; and
 WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery serves in a managerial role, as well as providing spiritual leadership; therefore, be it
 RESOLVED, The General Council Bylaws Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION, Section 7. Duties of the Executive Presbytery, page 101, be amended by the rewording of paragraph k which reads:

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.

To read as follows:

k. Be amenable to the General Presbytery in all matters under the functions and duties of the General Presbytery.

And the addition of two new paragraphs to be lettered l and m, which will read as follows:

l. Protect and enhance the vision of the executive officers.

m. Provide oversight of internal operations of Headquarters as indicated in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*.

Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Awards

Robert H. Spence, acting president of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education, presented the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Awards. The following resolution had been adopted by the Executive Presbytery:

Carolyn Tennant

WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor Carolyn J. Tennant has distinguished herself 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 Tennant has served the Lord as a professor at North Central University from 1983 to the present; and in addition has held several administrative positions during that time, and has been nominated by the North Central University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

- WHEREAS, Doctor Tennant, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Teaching, and Character, was elected by the Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session May 24, 2007, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; be it therefore
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 5-6, 2007, recognizes Doctor Carolyn J. Tennant as a distinguished educator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for her faithful and excellent service to the Church; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery express thanks to our Lord who appointed Doctor Tennant among those teachers given to the Church "for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry," (Ephesians 4:12); and be it further
- RESOLVED, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of the Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education Luncheon, August 9, 2007, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Robert Spence recognized James H. Railey as second recipient of the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educators Award. The following resolution had been adopted by the Executive Presbytery:

James H. Railey

- WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor James H. Railey 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 Railey has served the Lord as a professor at Assemblies of God Theological Seminary from 1991 to the present and professor at Southeastern University from 1979-90; and has been nominated by Assemblies of God Theological Seminary Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, Doctor Railey, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Teaching, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session May 24, 2007, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; be it therefore
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 5,6, 2007, recognizes Doctor James H. Railey as a distinguished educator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for his faithful and excellent service to the Church; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery express thanks to our Lord who appointed Doctor Railey among those teachers given to the Church "for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry" (Ephesians 4:12); and be it further
- RESOLVED, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of the Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education Luncheon, August 9, 2007, Indianapolis, Indiana.

A third recipient for the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educators Award was the late Donald Baldwin. His granddaughter, Abigail Noble, received the award in behalf of her grandfather. The following resolution had been adopted by the Executive Presbytery:

Donald E. Baldwin (posthumously)

- WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor Donald E. Baldwin (deceased) 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 Baldwin has served the Lord as a faculty member at Vanguard University of Southern California from 1977 to 2005; and has been nominated by the Vanguard University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, Doctor Baldwin, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Teaching, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session May 24, 2007, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; be it therefore
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 5,6, 2007, recognizes Doctor Donald E. Baldwin as having been a distinguished educator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for his faithful and excellent service to the Church; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery express thanks to our Lord who appointed Doctor Baldwin among those teachers given to the Church “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12); and be it further
- RESOLVED, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of the Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education Luncheon, August 9, 2007, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Awards

Robert H. Spence, acting president of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education, presented the Distinguished Administrator Award. He recognized Delmer Guynes and Wayne Kraiss as recipients of the Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Award. The following resolution had been adopted by the Executive Presbytery:

Delmer Guynes

- WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor Delmer R. Guynes has distinguished himself in our Fellowship as an excellent college administrator and faculty member, and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian Higher Education in the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, Doctor Guynes served the Lord as chaplain for Southwestern Assemblies of God University from 2000-07, president of Southwestern Assemblies of God University from 1982-84 and 1990-2000, and executive vice president of Assemblies of God Theological Seminary from 1975-79, and has been nominated by the Southwestern Assemblies of God University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, Doctor Guynes, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Administration, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session May 24, 2007, to receive the Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Award; be it therefore
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 5,6, 2007, recognizes Doctor Delmer R. Guynes 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 this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of the Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education Luncheon, August 9, 2007, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Wayne Kraiss

- WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor Wayne E. Kraiss has distinguished himself in our Fellowship as an excellent college administrator and faculty member, and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian Higher Education in the Assemblies of God; and

- WHEREAS, Doctor Kraiss served the Lord as an instructor at Vanguard University 1994-99, president of Vanguard University 1975-2000, chancellor of Vanguard University 2000-03 and was also commissioner of Christian Higher Education for the Assemblies of God 1995-2000, and has been nominated by the Vanguard University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, Doctor Kraiss, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Administration, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session May 24, 2007, to receive the Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Award; be it therefore
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 5, 6, 2007, recognizes Doctor Wayne E. Kraiss as having been a distinguished administrator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for his faithful and excellent service to the Church; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery express thanksgiving to our Lord who appointed Doctor Kraiss among those with gifts of administration and leadership (1 Corinthians 12:28; Romans 12:8); and be it further
- RESOLVED, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of the Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education Luncheon, August 9, 2007, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Resolution 20. Role of the District Council

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 20. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 20, as follows:

- WHEREAS, It is important to define each level of organization; and
- WHEREAS, The district council functions in a specific role of relationship and training, therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, page 104, be amended by the addition of a new Section 2. The Role of the District, to read as follows:

Section 2. The Role of the District

The district is primarily relationship based. The district should facilitate a network for resources and relationships and provide training for credentialed ministers and local churches. The district provides ministry events to the local church, such as camps, conferences, and retreats, and relates to General Council affiliated churches in accordance with provisions of the Constitutional Declaration, Constitution Article XI, and Bylaws Article VI, and the constitution and bylaws of the respective district council. The district oversees district-affiliated churches in accordance with its own bylaws, and processes and recommends ministerial credentialing and discipline for its constituents.

And, be it further

- RESOLVED, That present Sections 2 through 7 be renumbered as Sections 3 through 8.

Resolution 21. Local Church Credential

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 21. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 21, as follows:

- WHEREAS, The General Presbytery requested a committee to review and give recommendations regarding the local church credential; and
- WHEREAS, This committee has reported to the General Presbytery and the General Presbytery has approved its recommended changes to the Bylaws that clarify the intent for the local church credential; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 1. Ministry Described, fourth paragraph, page 110, which currently reads:

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 by 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.

Be amended to read:

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 by 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.

Resolution 22. Assemblies of God U.S. Missions

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 22. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 22, as follows:

WHEREAS, The Vision for Transformation Committee recommended to the General Presbytery that General Council Bylaws, ARTICLE XIV. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD U.S. MISSIONS, page 138, be referred to Assemblies of God U.S. Missions requesting review of the present Bylaws in light of current operations and structure and that it bring back proposed amendments to the Bylaws to the Board of Administration and the Executive Presbytery for recommendations to the General Presbytery prior to the 2005 General Council in Denver; and

WHEREAS, A new executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions was to be elected at the 2005 Denver General Council, a decision was made to postpone General Council action on proposed changes to Article XIV. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD U.S. MISSIONS, until the 2007 General Council; and

WHEREAS, *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual* outlines procedures, guidelines, and parameters relating to the operation of the divisions, departments, and commissions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article XIV. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD U.S. MISSIONS, page 138, be amended as follows:

PRESENT	PROPOSED
<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE XIV. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD U.S. MISSIONS</p> <p>Section 1. Authorization and Purpose</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Section 2. Organization and Governance</p> <p>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.</p> <p>b. Administrator. The Executive Presbytery shall elect an administrator who shall serve under the executive director in the administration of the division.</p> <p>c. Departments. The General</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ARTICLE XIV. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD U.S. MISSIONS</p> <p>Section 1. Authorization and Purpose</p> <p>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.</p> <p>b. Purpose. The primary responsibility of this division shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its mission. The essential functions are promoting the establishing of indigenous churches and facilitating the evangelization and discipleship of individuals within the scope of U.S. Missions. 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.</p> <p>Section 2. Organization and Governance</p> <p>a. Executive director. There shall be an executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions who shall be elected in the manner described in Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph b.</p> <p>b. Administrator. There shall be an administrator who shall serve under the executive director in the administration of the division.</p> <p>c. Departments. The General</p>

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

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

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

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

e. U.S. Missions Board. The work of the Assemblies of God U.S.

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 of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* and *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*. These departments shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) *Chaplaincy Ministries* endorses professionally trained clergy to provide pastoral care to people in specialized settings.
- (2) *Chi Alpha Campus Ministries* provides campus ministry to evangelize and disciple American and international college and university students.
- (3) *Church Planting and Development* provides ministry to facilitate and support the development, planting, and multiplication of missional churches.
- (4) *Intercultural Ministries* provides ministry to distinct people groups in the United States who require specialized understanding.
- (5) *Mission America Placement Service* provides ministry to enlist, facilitate, and place volunteers in distinct areas of Christian service.
- (6) *Teen Challenge International, U.S.A.* provides ministry to people of all ages with addictive behaviors.

d. Amenability. The division and all 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 Assemblies of God U.S. Missions

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.~~

shall be under the advisement of a U.S. Missions Board.

Missions Board to evaluate policies of the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions and to offer guidance and counsel in the areas of its supervision, including the approval of policies and procedures governing the operation of the various ministries of the division. The U.S. Missions Board shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

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

f. U.S. Missions Committee. The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a U.S. Missions Committee consisting of the executive director as chairperson, the administrator as vice-chairperson, the leaders of the major departments of the division, and other personnel as determined by the Executive Presbytery. The responsibilities of the U.S. Missions Committee shall be the general supervision and direction of the work of the division and its missionaries in conformity with the established policies and principles of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the U.S. Missions Board.

g. Commission on Chaplains

(1) *Composition.* The Commission on Chaplains shall consist of the executive director of the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, representatives of the Military/Veterans Affairs and Industrial/Occupational

f. U.S. Missions Executive Committee. The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a U.S. Missions Executive Committee consisting of the executive director as chairperson, the administrator as vice-chairperson, the directors of the major departments of the division, and other resource persons as determined by the executive director and approved by the Board of Administration. The responsibilities of the U.S. Missions Executive Committee shall be the general supervision and direction of the work of the division and its missionaries.

g. Commission on Chaplains

(1) *Composition.* The Commission on Chaplains shall consist of the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, representatives of the Military/Veterans Affairs and Institutional/Occupational

Chaplaincies, one of whom shall be the ~~leader of the~~ Chaplaincy ~~Department~~, and eight others. They shall consist of two executive presbyters, two military/VA chaplains, two ~~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.

NOTE: Reverse order of "h"

Chaplaincies, one of whom shall be the department director of Chaplaincy Ministries, two executive presbyters, two Military/Veterans Affairs chaplains, two ~~Institutional/Occupational~~ chaplains, two members at large, legal counsel, and others at the discretion of the Board of Administration. The commission shall serve as the endorsing agency for The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Members of the commission and its chairperson shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) Authority and amenability. The government and work of Chaplaincy ~~Ministries~~ shall be vested in and committed to the Commission on Chaplains. The commission shall operate within guidelines adopted by the Executive Presbytery. It shall have the responsibility to evaluate policies, to offer guidance and counsel in the area of its supervision, to establish criteria for the appointment of workers in the Military/Veterans Affairs, ~~Institutional/Occupational~~ Chaplaincies, and to sit as a Board of Appeal in all matters relating to its area of supervision. It shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

and “i”

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

NOTE: New order

h. National U.S. missionaries. National U.S. missionaries shall be appointed by action of the U.S. Missions **Executive** Committee with the approval of their home districts and the district in which the missionaries will be working. All missionary appointments and renewals shall be made according to administrative criteria established by Assemblies of God U.S. Missions upon the approval of the work district.

i. Liaison with districts. The division and its departments shall maintain a constant liaison with the various districts so proven programs and innovations in each area may be refined and offered to districts. **The work of the departments within U.S. Missions is transdistrict.** U.S. missionaries work in cooperation with both U.S. Missions and their assigned district(s) to fulfill the mission and purpose of the Assemblies of God. U.S. missionaries shall conduct their ministry under the blessing and support of the respective district(s). The evaluation of the missionary's effectiveness, pastoral care, and fellowship opportunities shall be shared by the district(s) and U.S. Missions.

Section 3. Support

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

a. Offerings.

b. Five percent of all funds contributed through national Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.

for nationally appointed and/or approved Assemblies of God U.S. missions workers.

e. An appropriation of 10 percent of undesignated contributions.

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

e. One-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment.

f. All endorsed and/or approved Assemblies of God chaplains actively serving full- or part-time, reserve chaplains, chaplain trainees, military trainees, and military seminarians shall contribute one-half of their tithe from their income earned from chaplaincy services to the Chaplaincy Department. 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.

c. One-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment designated to their respective departments.

d. 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 tithes from their income earned from chaplaincy services to Chaplaincy Ministries.

e. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries

All Chi Alpha groups are required to contribute five percent of all group revenue to national Chi Alpha Campus Ministries.

<p>h. Teen Challenge International, U.S.A.</p> <p>All Teen Challenge centers shall contribute monthly in support of Teen Challenge International, U.S.A.</p>	<p>f. Teen Challenge International, U.S.A.</p> <p>All Teen Challenge centers shall contribute a monthly accreditation fee determined by the Teen Challenge U.S.A. board of directors.</p>
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Resolution 11. Assemblies of God World Missions Regional Directors Term of Service

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 11. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 11, as follows:

WHEREAS, The term of service for Assemblies of God World Missions regional directors is 4 years; and

WHEREAS, The term of service needs to be included in the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article XIII. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WORLD MISSIONS, Section 2. Organization and Governance, paragraph f. Regional directors, page 135, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 for a 4-year term on the basis of nominations by the missionaries in the respective areas, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery.

Resolution 12. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*

The Resolution Committee presented Resolution 12. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 12, as follows:

WHEREAS, The Vision for Transformation's recommendation to the 2005 General Presbytery/General Council revising Article XVIII of the General Council Bylaws was withdrawn at the request of the general superintendent and referred back to a committee appointed by the Executive Presbytery with the understanding that said committee would report to the 2006 General Presbytery and 2007 General Council; and

WHEREAS, The 2005 General Council in Denver, Colorado, adopted Bylaws, Article XII. *THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD ORGANIZATIONAL MANUAL*, page 133, which authorized the establishment of *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* to be administered by the Board of Administration as approved by the Executive Presbytery, subject to the approval of the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The duties of the general superintendent as outlined in Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION, Section 1. Duties of the General Superintendent, page 99, of the Bylaws state that the general superintendent shall superintend all work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, The proposed *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual* will be a supporting document to *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article XVIII. *GENERAL COUNCIL POLICY MANUAL*, page 143, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read as follows:

ARTICLE XVIII. THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD OPERATIONS MANUAL

The office of the general superintendent shall develop and maintain a set of documents referred to as *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*. These documents shall set forth the procedures, guidelines, and parameters relating to the operation of divisions, departments, commissions, and ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God as outlined in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual* shall be administered by the Board of Administration and shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery. An updated copy will be made available to the General Presbytery at its annual meeting. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual* shall be available upon request to all General Council affiliated churches and licensed or ordained ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Resolution 7. Commitment to the Fellowship

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

WHEREAS, At the 2005 General Council, Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 2. Basic Qualifications, page 110, was amended by the addition of a new paragraph g entitled Voluntary Cooperation and Commitment to the Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Present paragraph h. Commitment to the Fellowship, page 110, is a duplication of language contained in paragraph g; and

WHEREAS, Present paragraph h. Commitment to the Fellowship, page 110, should have been deleted at the time of the addition of the new paragraph g; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 2. Basic Qualifications, paragraph h. Commitment to the Fellowship, page 110, which reads as follows, be deleted:

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.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That the remaining paragraphs i through n in Section 2 be relettered h through m.

Resolution 6. Relational Districts

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 6, and moved its adoption. The motion to adopt Resolution 6 lost. Resolution 6 as presented follows:

WHEREAS, The intent of the Assemblies of God is to see God's church grow through the developing of local congregations; and

WHEREAS, Current media and transportation developments have broken down previous limitations in time and space; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God currently has ethnic/language districts that are based on a common cultural identity rather than geography; and

WHEREAS, A growing trend in the church today is multisite campuses; and

WHEREAS, The philosophy of ministry of a local church and its pastor causes it to associate with other like-minded churches and pastors across geographical boundaries; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, pages 104-106, be amended by the addition of a new Section 6. Relational Districts, page 106, to read as follows:

Section 6. Relational Districts

a. Recognition qualifications:

(1) A relational district consists of 40 churches or more who choose, regardless of where they are located in the United States, to associate together to form a district.

(2) The name of the relational district and the names of the charter churches shall be submitted to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for its approval.

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

c. Church transfer procedures. When a church desires to transfer from one district to another, 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 district the congregation is leaving as well as the district it is joining. If either district has objection, 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).

d. Cooperative relationships in all districts. Geographical, ethnic/language, and relational districts shall seek to promote a spirit of fellowship and cooperation. The relational district must inform the geographical district of relational district churches that are located within the geographical district's area.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That current Bylaws, Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 6. Dissolution of Districts, page 106, be renumbered to become Section 7 and current Section 7. Ethnic and Language Fellowships, be renumbered to become Section 8; and be it further

RESOLVED, That in order to allow relational districts to be represented on the Executive Presbytery that Bylaws, Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph c. Nonresident executive presbyters, subparagraph (2) Divisions for electing nonresident executive presbyters, page 96, be amended by adding a new paragraph (c) to be entitled, By relational districts, which will read as follows:

(c) By relational districts. When a relational district is formed the Executive Presbytery shall add each of these to one of the 10 existing areas for the purpose of the relational district being represented in the election of a nonresident executive presbyter.

Resolution 8. Divorce and Remarriage: Conditions for Credentialing

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 8, and moved its adoption.

A motion prevailed that Resolution 8 be amended by the deletion of the reference to NIV throughout the resolution.

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

WHEREAS, The 2001 General Council in session determined that a married person with a former spouse living could be granted ministerial credentials with The General Council of the Assemblies of God provided that his or her divorce occurred prior to conversion; and

WHEREAS, While the Scriptures surely denounce divorce and uphold the intended permanence of marriage, they nonetheless provide that in the cases of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15), a divorce can be granted without attaching the designation of adultery; and

WHEREAS, It is the Scriptures that serve as our source for determining the offices of ministry and the requirements associated with each for the purpose of credentialing and/or local church leadership; and

WHEREAS, The current Bylaws fail to account for the circumstances of those who have experienced divorce for either of these two causes permitted by Scripture; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Bylaws, Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 2. Basic Qualifications, paragraph k. Marriage status, page 111, which currently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15), except as hereinafter provided.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That Bylaws, Article IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage, paragraph e. Ministerial credentials, page 123, which currently 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.

Be amended to read:

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 or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15).

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That Bylaws, Article IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage, paragraph c. Local Church Leadership, sub-paragraph (1) Standard for offices of bishop, or elder and deacon, page 123, which currently reads:

(1) *Standard for offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon.* Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried persons 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:

(1) *Standard for offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon.* Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried persons 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) or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15).

Who's Who Among Assemblies of God Educators

General Superintendent Thomas Trask presented the Who's Who Among Assemblies of God Educators award to Glenna Carter, Washington, Pennsylvania. This annual award recognizes

Pentecostal educators who have dedicated themselves to teaching children. To be selected each nominee must demonstrate classroom excellence, exemplary Christian character, and the ability to influence others in spiritual growth and personal development. Those selected for 2006 and 2007 are as follows:

2006

Glenna Carter, Washington, Pennsylvania
Beth Feest, Union Grove, Wisconsin
Marian Griffin, Ama, Louisiana
Susan Kelley-Brown, Statesville, North Carolina
Bettie McNay, Pasadena, Texas
Tobi Reed, Crowley, Louisiana
Ray Scalf, Austin, Arkansas
Myra Stewart, Fort Myers, Florida
Ashley Watkiss, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania

2007

Kyle Fowler, Muldrow, Oklahoma
Brandy Hebert, Pasadena, Texas
Kevin Jennings, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Michelle Johnson, Lakeland, Florida
Chris Madlena, Lakewood, Washington
Linda Parker, Boyd, Texas
Sharon Robbins, Atlantic Beach, Florida
Steve Vigil, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Resolution 13. Honorary General Presbyter—D. Wendel Cover

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 13. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 13 as follows:

- WHEREAS, D. Wendel Cover has faithfully served the Assemblies of God with distinction for 49 years as an evangelist, pastor, district, and national leader; and
- WHEREAS, He has served for nearly 30 years as pastor of Word of Life Assembly of God, Springfield, Virginia, leading the church to rank as the second largest contributor to World Missions among U.S. Assemblies of God churches (2006); and
- WHEREAS, He has served the Potomac District Council for 14 years as Youth director leading the district to rank third in the nation in Speed the Light giving (1977), 14 years as the World Missions director leading the district to rank fourth in the nation in World Missions giving (2006), 5 years as an executive presbyter, and 22 years as assistant district superintendent; and
- WHEREAS, He has served on the Board of Trustees for Valley Forge Christian College for 22 years; and
- WHEREAS, He has served the General Council as a member of the Assemblies of God World Missions Board for 3 years, as a general presbyter for 22 years, and on many other boards and committees; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 88, 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 D. Wendel Cover be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Resolution 23. Honorary General Presbyter—Thomas E. Trask

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 23. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 23 as follows:

WHEREAS, Thomas E. Trask has faithfully served this Fellowship with distinction as a pastor, district leader, and national leader for over 50 years; and

WHEREAS, He admirably served the Michigan District as superintendent, assistant superintendent, district youth director, district Sunday School director, and pastor; and

WHEREAS, He served Brightmoor Christian Church for 12 years, leading the church to growth, ministry impact, and outstanding world missions giving; and

WHEREAS, He served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as general treasurer for 5 years and as general superintendent since 1993 as well as serving on many other national boards and committees; and

WHEREAS, Under his leadership the Assemblies of God has grown from about 25 million to over 57 million worldwide; and

WHEREAS, He initiated a number of new ministries for the church, including the National Prayer Center, AG Financial Solutions, ministries for senior and singles, and a children's ministries agency; and

WHEREAS, His stewardship in office has been characterized by a forceful focus on Pentecostal doctrine and experience; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully represented the General Council in leadership positions of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship, the Pentecostal World Fellowship, the National Association of Evangelicals, the Pentecostal Charismatic Churches of North America, and the National Religious Broadcasters; and

WHEREAS, He has served as a member of the General Presbytery for 35 years; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 88 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 Thomas E. Trask be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Resolution 24. Honorary General Presbyter—Charles T. Crabtree

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 24. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 24 as follows:

WHEREAS, Charles T. Crabtree has faithfully served the Assemblies of God as an evangelist, pastor, district, and national leader; and

WHEREAS, He served Bethel Church of San Jose, California, for 14 years, leading the church to growth, ministry impact, and outstanding world missions giving; and

WHEREAS, He served the Northern California and Nevada District Council as executive presbyter and as General Council presbyter/pastor; and

WHEREAS, He served the national office for 5 years as Decade of Harvest director in which time 2,940 churches were planted nationwide; and

WHEREAS, He has served the General Council as assistant general superintendent since 1993, as well as serving on many other national boards and committees; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 88, 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 Charles T. Crabtree be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Resolution 25. Honorary General Presbyter—Paul D. Goodman

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 25. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 25 as follows:

WHEREAS, Paul D. Goodman has served the Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God with faithfulness, integrity, and distinction without interruption for the past 31 years, first in the office of district secretary (1976-83), subsequently as assistant superintendent (1983-89), and superintendent (1989-present); and

WHEREAS, Paul D. Goodman has made significant contributions not only to the Montana District, but also to the ongoing ministry of The General Council of the Assemblies of God through his service on the General Presbytery for 31 years, and on various college boards, committees, and special assignments; and

WHEREAS, Paul D. Goodman has announced his intention to submit his resignation from the office of Montana District superintendent, effective August 31, 2007; and

WHEREAS, Paul D. Goodman meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 88, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such a distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

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

Resolution 26. Honorary General Presbyter—Donald C. MacPherson

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 26. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 26 as follows:

WHEREAS, Donald C. MacPherson has served the Wyoming District Council of the Assemblies of God for nearly 21 years as secretary-treasurer; and

WHEREAS, He served as a general presbyter for the entire period he served as district secretary-treasurer; and

WHEREAS, He has pastored churches in Saskatchewan, North Dakota, and Wyoming for approximately 43 years, all but 10 years of which have been in his current pastorate in Powell, Wyoming; and

WHEREAS, He has served in departmental offices within the districts where he has pastored, always supporting and cooperating with their ministries; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 88, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such a distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Donald C. MacPherson be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Resolution 27. Honorary General Presbyter—Vernon J. Marks

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 27. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 27 as follows:

WHEREAS, Vernon J. Marks has faithfully served the Oregon Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God, 17 years as pastor, 27 years as a district, executive, or general presbyter, 12 years as assistant superintendent, and 5 years as district superintendent; and

WHEREAS, He has been a faithful and dedicated servant leader to the churches and ministries in Oregon, and has demonstrated a life of integrity and wisdom; and

WHEREAS, His years of service include serving on the Northwest University Board of Directors, Church Extension Plan Board of Directors, and Assemblies of God U.S. Missions Board, and numerous district committees; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 88, 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 Vernon J. Marks be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Resolution 28. Honorary General Presbyter—Jerry L. Parsley

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 28. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 28 as follows:

WHEREAS, Jerry L. Parsley has been a member of the Minnesota District since 1963, pastoring churches in Warren and Mahanomen, Minnesota, before leaving for the foreign mission field in June 1970; and

WHEREAS, He served as an Assemblies of God missionary in East Pakistan/Bangladesh from 1970 to 1979, working with relief and development, handling the funds for the World Relief Commission, helping to establish the national Christian Review Society through which national Christians could meet the physical needs of their own people; and

WHEREAS, He directed the International Correspondence Institute (ICI) ministry for Bangladesh; and

WHEREAS, In 1979 Jerry L. Parsley became the area representative for the Assemblies of God in Southern Asia, planning missions strategy for the area, ministering to fellow missionaries, relating to the national churches, and serving on numerous boards and committees in various countries; and

WHEREAS, He became the Eurasia field director in 1983 (Eurasia consisted of all Europe, Southern Asia, and the Middle East/North Africa, until Europe became a separate region in 1998, having the Parsleys in charge of missionaries and associates serving in 44 countries); and

WHEREAS, During Jerry L. Parsley's tenure as Eurasia field and regional director 38 new fields/countries in the strategic 10/40 window have been opened; and

- WHEREAS, He has served on the General Presbytery of the Assemblies of God for 24 years; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 88, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such a distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That Jerry L. Parsley be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Resolution 29. Honorary General Presbyter—David D. Rueb

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 29. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 29 as follows:

- WHEREAS, David D. Rueb has served the German District Council of the Assemblies of God with honor and distinction as secretary/treasurer and as its superintendent for 23 years; and
- WHEREAS, His pastoral ministry has spanned over 42 years; and
- WHEREAS, He has served on various boards and committees for the General Council and for the German District Council; and
- WHEREAS, He has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as a general presbyter for 23 years; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 88, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such a distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That David D. Rueb be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Resolution 9. Integrity in Educational Credentials

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 9. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 9 as follows:

- WHEREAS, There is a growing proliferation of unaccredited independent organizations, including fraudulent diploma mills, offering inadequate unreliable education supposedly qualifying people as ministers of the church, all the while marketing their education and degrees as equivalent to those offered by fully accredited reputable institutions; and
- WHEREAS, The independent Pentecostal/charismatic movement in particular is increasingly permeated by these dubious educational entities with their deficient degrees, unbiblical teachings, and deceptive practices, all of which are freely marketed to our own ministers and churches; and
- WHEREAS, Anyone who makes use of such organizations is either being defrauded or is guilty of seeking to avoid the rigors of proper preparation for ministry, and may become guilty of perpetrating a fraud, and of exposing themselves and their employers to legal liability; and
- WHEREAS, Government agencies, fully accredited educational institutions, and professional organizations are taking ever greater care to ensure that the people they accept, employ, license, or promote are properly prepared and not guilty of fraudulently claiming a title, degree, or expertise they have not legitimately earned, and to warn potential students against spurious institutions; and

- WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God has always worked hard to achieve the highest standards in training and educational accreditation that we have been able to attain at any given time, and to ensure that our ministers have actually acquired the spiritual formation, education, and preparation which they claim; and
- WHEREAS, One primary reason for our Movement's founding was to provide our ministers with a solid evangelical, Pentecostal education that would keep us firmly embedded in orthodox Christianity, and prevent our being drawn into error by the false doctrines, spiritualities, and practices of the sectarian fringe, as had happened with all previous Pentecostal/charismatic revivals; and
- WHEREAS, Even our smallest specialized, unaccredited but fully endorsed Assemblies of God institutes and colleges must meet strict standards for course content and quality to maintain their endorsement, and cannot at all be compared to spurious independent schools; and
- WHEREAS, There is now available through in-class residential, or Internet, or other distance education, an abundance of fully accredited institute, university, or graduate level educational opportunities, whether through the Assemblies of God or other sound evangelical and orthodox Christian institutions, enabling anyone desiring a genuinely excellent education to obtain it; and
- WHEREAS, The simplest way to protect our ministers and churches against educational deceptions and frauds, and to maintain our integrity, good name, and credibility in these matters with the broader Church and with the world, is to keep our educational ethics and standards clearly linked to those the General Council and our nationally and regionally accredited Assemblies of God schools will certainly be careful to maintain; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That Bylaws, Article VII. MINISTRY, pages 109-120, be amended by the addition of a new Section 14 on page 120, to read:

Section 14. Integrity in Educational Credentials

a. Continuing education encouraged. Our ministers and churches are encouraged to seek continuing education, discipleship, spiritual formation, and training opportunities of all kinds, of all degrees of difficulty, of their own initiative or in cooperation with the district council and the General Council, but with great care always taken to properly understand and honestly describe all such training, certifications, degrees, and titles.

b. Using adequately accredited institutions. Because of the many questionable institutions offering unaccredited or deficient training and education, and since the General Council, our General Council schools, and our regional Assemblies of God universities are committed to achieving and maintaining the highest standards of accreditation in education, we strongly encourage our ministers to meet their continuing education needs either through endorsed Assemblies of God institutions or through other reputable institutions having accreditation status at least equivalent to that held by our own regionally and nationally accredited schools, and to consult the district council or General Council offices if they have questions in these matters.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That Bylaws, Article IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, B. List of Doctrines and Practices Disapproved, pages 121-126, be amended by the addition of a new Section 13, page 126, to read:
Section 13. Accountability in Educational Attribution

a. Attribution. In order to maintain our testimony of quality and integrity in educational credentials before the Church and the world, and to minimize the possibility of our ministers and churches being victimized by, or supporting, or perpetrating frauds in education or credentialing, we maintain certain standards for the attribution of degrees, certifications, and titles.

(1) *Attribution by ministers.* Our ministers shall refrain from listing, promoting, or attributing to themselves or others any degrees or titles conferred by institutions or organizations having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditation status less than that of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God institutions (whether institute, regional university, or seminary).

(2) *Attribution by the General Council.* No media, ministry, department, arm, or employee of the General Council shall list, attribute, or promote for any person, any degree or title conferred by an institution or organization having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditation status less than that of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God institutions (whether institute, regional university, or seminary).

(3) *Attribution by local churches.* We strongly encourage our ministers, boards, and churches to take great care to ensure that all ministers and church employees have actually earned the legitimately accredited education, training, and certification, as defined above, which they claim by their titles or degrees (such as counselor, therapist, doctor, and so on).

b. Intentional failure to comply. Intentional refusal to comply with this ethical standard for educational credentials constitutes perpetrating a fraud upon the church and the world, personally and in the good name of the Assemblies of God, and the General Council disapproves of such practices.

Resolution 10. Legalism

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 10, and moved its adoption.

A motion prevailed that the word "toward" on page 2, line 3 be changed to "in," so that the sentence will read: The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8,9).

The motion to adopt Resolution 10 as amended was carried. Resolution 10 as amended and adopted follows:

WHEREAS, The Commission on Doctrinal Purity was requested by the Executive Presbytery to review General Council Bylaws, Article IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, B. List of Doctrines and Practices Disapproved, Section 2. Legalism, page 121; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Doctrinal Purity was asked to draft substitute language for this section of the Bylaws so as to reflect a positive orientation to the matter of maintaining purity of life; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has concurred with the recommendation of the Commission on Doctrinal Purity; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, B. List of Doctrines and Practices Disapproved, Section 2. Legalism, page 121, which reads:

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.

Be amended by substitution to read:

Section 2. Legalism

a. Matters of conscience. The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that the Scriptures teach a life of "holiness without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). However, since sincere commitment to holy living sometimes results in sharp differences of opinion among believers on debatable matters of personal conscience, the Assemblies of God disapproves the practice of pressing these debatable matters of personal conscience upon others (Romans 14:1-4).

b. Adding conditions to salvation. The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8,9). Therefore, the Assemblies of God disapproves any teaching or practice that seems to add conditions to salvation (Galatians 3:1-5).

Resolution 30. Appreciation for Thomas E. Trask

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 30. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 30 as follows:

WHEREAS, Thomas E. Trask, a dedicated servant of the Lord, has given his life unselfishly for over 50 years in faithful ministry to the Lord and this church; and

WHEREAS, He has been an ordained minister of the Assemblies of God for 49 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served with distinction and honor on all levels of our Fellowship—pastor, superintendent of the Michigan District, district youth director, district Sunday school director, general treasurer, and since 1993 as general superintendent; and

WHEREAS, In this office he has provided direction for ministries and outreach of the Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Under his leadership the church has grown from about 25 million to over 57 million worldwide; and

WHEREAS, He initiated a number of new ministries for the church, including the National Prayer Center, Assemblies of God Financial Services Group, ministries for seniors and singles, and a children's ministries agency; and

WHEREAS, His stewardship in office has been characterized by a forceful focus on Pentecostal doctrine and experience; and

- WHEREAS, He has faithfully represented the General Council in leadership positions of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship, the Pentecostal World Fellowship, the National Association of Evangelicals, the Pentecostal Charismatic Churches of North America, and the National Religious Broadcasters; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That we express glory and praise to God for raising up this choice servant/leader, Thomas E. Trask; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That we express grateful appreciation to his wife, Shirley, for the wonderful grace of her character, her example as a woman of God, her loyal and untiring support of her husband's ministry as he gave himself, his time, and his talents to this Fellowship; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That this 52nd General Council go on record as proclaiming its highest thanks and deepest gratitude to our esteemed Brother Thomas E. Trask for his exemplary life, his faithful leadership, and his Christlike spirit as our general superintendent; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery present an appropriate gift from the General Council to Brother and Sister Trask as a symbol of our deepest love and appreciation.

Resolution 31. Appreciation for Charles T. Crabtree

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 31. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 31 as follows:

- WHEREAS, Charles T. Crabtree, a faithful servant of God, has given over 47 years in full-time ministry to God and this Fellowship; and
- WHEREAS, His life and ministry have exemplified servant leadership, powerful preaching, and committed obedience to God; and
- WHEREAS, His ministry has included service as an evangelist, pastor, director of the Decade of Harvest, and since 1993 assistant general superintendent of the Fellowship; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That we express thanks and praise to God for giving to the Assemblies of God this gifted leader; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That we offer appreciation and thanks to his wife, Ramona, for her exemplary Christian commitment and her talented musical ministry; and for her faithful and loyal support of his ministry as he has given himself, his time, and his talents to our Fellowship; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That this 52nd General Council go on record as expressing its deepest love and appreciation to our esteemed Brother Crabtree for his faithful commitment to his Lord, and this church in service as our assistant general superintendent for the past 14 years; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery present an appropriate gift from the General Council to Brother and Sister Crabtree as a symbol of our deepest love and appreciation.

Privileged Motion

A motion prevailed that the matter of expanding the General Council through electronic systems to allow ministers to participate in the 2009 General Council via the Internet, be referred to a study committee.

Resolution 32. Courtesy Resolution

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 32. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 32 as follows:

- WHEREAS, The 52nd General Council of the Assemblies of God has been afforded gracious hospitality and accommodation by the officials and agencies of the City of Indianapolis, Indiana, and our host districts, the Indiana District Council and the Midwest 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 52nd General Council; and
- WHEREAS, The 52nd 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 Bart Peterson of the City of Indianapolis; the Indiana Convention Center & RCA Dome, the Conseco Fieldhouse, the Indiana Convention & Visitors Association, and the many hotel and restaurant personnel, for their accommodation and hospitality, and be it further
- RESOLVED, That we express our thanksgiving to God of His gifts to our church in the persons of outgoing leaders Thomas E. Trask and Charles T. Crabtree as evidenced in their exemplary lives and service; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That we commit ourselves to consistent prayer and a cooperative spirit as our newly elected leaders assume responsibility—Superintendent-elect George O. Wood, Assistant Superintendent-elect L. Alton Garrison, General Secretary-elect John M. Palmer, and Executive Director-elect Zollie L. Smith, Jr., for Assemblies of God U.S. Missions; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the ministers and churches of this Fellowship determine that the clarion call issued by our Lord at this 52nd 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 52nd 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 52nd General Council at 6 p.m., Friday, August 10, 2007.

FRIDAY EVENING—AUGUST 10

The Friday evening service of the 52nd General Council began at 7 in the Conseco Fieldhouse, with a Parade of Nations by Assemblies of God world missionaries, U.S. missionaries, and youth missionaries who are missionaries to the high school campuses of more than 700. 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.

The offering taken at the service was designated for the Senders Fund offering. This fund is to help missionary candidates by cutting the itineration time. The offertory was provided by the Bethesda Community Church, Fort Worth, Texas, choir. Special music for the service was also provided by a choir made up of 123 men and women preparing to head to 51 countries for missionary service plus 95 candidates who have been approved for service with Chi Alpha,

Intercultural Ministries, chaplaincy, MAPS, Teen Challenge, Youth Alive, and church planting, directed by Cindy Sites, missionary to Northern Asia.

The speaker for the service was L. John Bueno, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions. Bueno reminded the crowd that God's plan of redemption is a divine plan, not a human plan or even a denominational plan. Some Christians may question what has happened to God's purpose when looking at the chaotic state of the world, Bueno said, but God's covenant shouldn't be forgotten. The state of the stock market or the violence in Iraq doesn't change God's design, he said. "God is still the desire of the nations, We dare not be caught up in any substitute plan."

Church leaders can't change the world in their own ingenuity or strategy, Bueno said. Christians must rely completely on God, even when the news of the world seems as though God isn't listening, he indicated. "God's power is still evident in the hour in which we live as much as it ever was," Bueno told the missions service audience. "We have a supernatural God who works in every country of the world. His intention is to reach everyone everywhere because this is His supernatural power." God will fulfill His eternal plan and be exalted among the heathen, Bueno proclaimed.

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

SATURDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 11

The concluding service of the 2007 General Council began at 3:30 p.m. with a joint rally of adults and youth in the RCA Dome. The service began with the National Fine Arts Festival Celebration. Jay Mooney, along with other youth representatives, presented Fine Arts Festival awards. Worship for the service was led by Planetshakers Band, consisting of: Henry Seeley, Sam Evans, Rudy Nikkerud, Matt Garner, Mike Webber, and Jonathon Hunt.

The speaker for the evening was Jeanne Mayo, president of Youth Source Ministries and director of Oxygen Youth and Youth Adult Outreach. Currently, she is youth pastor at the Assembly of God Tabernacle in Atlanta, Georgia. Following her challenging message, thousands of young people streamed forward for an extended time of commitment to Jesus Christ.

George O. Wood
General Secretary

IN MEMORIAM

The following list includes the names of all who had been reported to the general secretary's office from June 1, 2005, to May 31, 2007, and were included in the video presentation

Acevedo, Vicente A., Hormigueros, Puerto Rico
 Adams, Delores L., Sartell, Minnesota
 Adams, Herbert L., Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Adcock, Douglas C., Heflin, Alabama
 Albers, Berniece, Ellisville, Missouri
 Alberti, Jose A., Bayamon, Puerto Rico
 Allen, James P., Sugar Land, Texas
 Alvarado, Mariano, Ridgewood, New York
 Ammons, Leon L., Springfield, Missouri
 Amundson, William J., Phoenix, Arizona
 Anderson, Loris H., Joplin, Missouri
 Anderson, Vance A., Butte, Nebraska
 Anderson, Wheeler W., Overland Park, Kansas
 Andrews, Lillian, Shreveport, Louisiana
 Anthony, Warren C., Palm Harbor, Florida
 Archer, Lee, Corpus Christi, Texas
 Ashley, Earl, Mena, Arkansas
 Atchison, Gerald D., Bonner Springs, Kansas
 Austin, Charles W., Des Moines, Iowa
 Baez, Wilfredo Sr., Reading, Pennsylvania
 Bagwell, Wilma L., Fort Smith, Arkansas
 Bailey, Floyd A., Coquille, Oregon
 Baker, Comer, Waxahachie, Texas
 Baldwin, Virgil W., Springfield, Missouri
 Barnes, Charles M., Arlington, Texas
 Barnett, Hurshel L., Walnut Ridge, Arkansas
 Barr, Charles E., Fultondale, Alabama
 Barrios, Julia, Tulare, California
 Barron, Frances L., Bethany, Missouri
 Bates, Lloyd, Spring, Texas
 Bayliss, Daniel, Medford, Oregon
 Becerra, Santos A., San Angelo, Texas
 Begley, Gerald E. Jr., Hannibal, Missouri
 Bell, Billy P., Clinton, Illinois
 Bell, Ernest C., Germantown, Tennessee
 Beltran, Julio R., Sarasota, Florida
 Benitez, Emilio, Naguabo, Puerto Rico
 Berkey, Rodger D., Chambersburg, Pennsylvania
 Berry, Brenda K., Athens, Texas
 Berthume, Genevieve G., Durand, Michigan
 Bethard, Bruce D., Everett, Washington
 Billingsley, Mary K., Prescott, Arizona
 Bing, William A., McDonough, Georgia
 Bingham, George M., Topeka, Kansas
 Bird, Theresa M., Woodward, Oklahoma
 Birkeland, B.P., Mercer Island, Washington
 Birmingham, Murray, Kalama, Washington
 Blase, Delmar C., Hannibal, Missouri
 Bono, Joseph P., New Hartford, New York
 Bontrager, T.M., Indianapolis, Indiana
 Booth, June R., Trenton, Missouri
 Booth, Thomas H., Sacramento, California
 Borges, Jorge, Vega Baja, Puerto Rico
 Bostick, Walter E., Sacramento, California
 Bowman, Donald V., Gardner, Kansas
 Brankel, James D., El Cajon, California
 Branson, Cecil O., Porterville, California
 Brewer, Melvin M. Jr., Sammamish, Washington
 Bridges, Clara B., Valliant, Oklahoma
 Bridgforth, Hartwell, Rocky Mount, Missouri
 Briggs, Ernest C., Canton, Texas
 Broadhead, Larry G., Muscle Shoals, Alabama
 Brooks, Homer, Palatka, Florida
 Brown, Betty J., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Brown, Don M., Laurinburg, North Carolina
 Brown, J.O., Casa Grande, Arizona
 Brown, Kenneth J., Conway, Arkansas
 Brown, Phosa A., Cushing, Oklahoma
 Brumfield, Marion R., Albuquerque, New Mexico
 Bruner, Ima J., Hendrix, Oklahoma
 Bryant, James P., Nixa, Missouri
 Bucher, Elbert R., Springfield, Missouri
 Buena, Gabriel, Newark, Ohio
 Bullock, Pauline E., Longview, Texas
 Burke, Robert A., Mustang, Oklahoma
 Burnside, Shirley A., Greenfield, Indiana
 Burwell, Geneva G., Humble, Texas
 Bush, Georgia A., Checotah, Oklahoma
 Caceres, Maria E., Stamford, Connecticut
 Calhoun, Henry C. III, Coffeyville, Kansas
 Call, Eula M., Fort Collins, Colorado
 Callahan, Marvin L., Cuba, Missouri
 Camarillo, Esteban, Daly City, California
 Campbell, Angela J., Greenwood Village, Colorado
 Campbell, David L., Ankeny, Iowa
 Campbell, John K. Sr., Salem, Indiana
 Campbell, Lester L., Livingston, Texas
 Cantelon, Paul D., Bellingham, Washington
 Cantwell, Mack A., Point, Texas
 Capehart, Jimmie D., Corsicana, Texas
 Cargnel, Daena, Lakeland, Florida
 Carlow, Margaret E., Weiser, Idaho
 Carroll, J. Luther, Cleveland, Tennessee
 Carter, John J. Jr., Millry, Alabama
 Carter, Pauline V., Duncan, Oklahoma
 Carter, Violette M., Lake City, South Carolina
 Cass, Faith E., Oceanside, California
 Caughman, Edith L., Wynona, Oklahoma
 Cavaness, R.B., Springfield, Missouri
 Cayton, Nina E., Dale, Texas
 Chapman, Terry D., Loris, South Carolina
 Cheshier, James E., Fort Smith, Arkansas
 Chesterfield, Rhydonia, Las Vegas, Nevada
 Christian, Virgil E., Orangevale, California
 Chymiak, Elias, Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Clark, A. Lucille, Windham, Connecticut
 Clark, Heber L., Enterprise, Alabama
 Clark, Joel W., Jonesboro, Arkansas
 Clark, Ray C., Las Vegas, Nevada
 Clark, Walter A., Greenville, South Carolina
 Classen, Joy V., Barnwell, South Carolina
 Clayton, Robert V. Sr., Bushnell, Florida
 Clevenger, Duane H., Mobile, Alabama
 Clutter, Beulah R., Lakeland, Florida
 Cockrell, Evelyn, Lindale, Texas
 Colbaugh, F. Wildon, Garibaldi, Oregon
 Collarile, Anthony I., Dover, New Jersey
 Collazo, Jose, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
 Collins, Lonnie, Phoenix, Arizona
 Collins, Mable C., Indianapolis, Indiana
 Combs, Garland, Cottage Grove, Oregon
 Comer, Joseph L. Sr., Vidalia, Georgia
 Comstock, Wallace E., Houston, Texas
 Cookman, Charles H., Dunn, North Carolina

Cooley, Everett D., Rogersville, Missouri
 Cooley, J. Haskell, Vista, California
 Coons, Lavanah A., West Burlington, Iowa
 Coots, Louis W., Leesburg, Florida
 Corley, I. Mildred, Conyers, Georgia
 Cornelius, Orville, Ashland City, Tennessee
 Costephens, Elvis B., Holcomb, Missouri
 Couch, Leonard L., Payson, Arizona
 Council, D.G., Kaufman, Texas
 Cox, M.C., Odessa, Texas
 Crampton, Mabel C., West Linn, Oregon
 Crane, Irene E., Shoreline, Washington
 Cranor, Leonard G., Strafford, Missouri
 Creek, Thomas D., Belleville, Illinois
 Creider, Macie F., Corpus Christi, Texas
 Crissman, Harold E., Bakersfield, California
 Crompton, Arline L., Bradenton, Florida
 Crouch, Phyllis, Rio Rancho, New Mexico
 Crowe, Ethel, Roselle, New Jersey
 Crowe, Kenneth R., Alexandria, Kentucky
 Cruz, Luis, Hacienda Heights, California
 Cucinotta, John, Williamstown, New Jersey
 Culbertson, Melvin E., Ellendale, Minnesota
 Culbreth, Wanda L., Sherwood, Arkansas
 Cull, Beulah K., Santa Rosa, California
 Cunningham, Paul G., Bulverde, Texas
 Curtis, Paul D., Stone Mountain, Georgia
 Daily, Lloyd T., Waco, Texas
 Dale, Charles M., Springfield, Missouri
 Dalton, Adele F., Springfield, Missouri
 Darneal, Edmond M., Houston, Texas
 Daugherty, Fred C., Nazareth, Pennsylvania
 Daugherty, Thomas E., Italy, Texas
 Davidson, Roy H., Bluefield, West Virginia
 Davis, Claud H., Lawton, Oklahoma
 Davis, John P., Bakersfield, California
 Davis, Myrtle I., Vacaville, California
 Deal, Randall S., Newton, Alabama
 Dean, Helen L., Fresno, California
 De Jesus, Carmen M., Carolina, Puerto Rico
 Delgatty, Violet J., Springfield, Missouri
 Delozier, Darrel J., Lakeland, Florida
 Denney, Thelma L., Ardmore, Oklahoma
 De Pasquale, Joseph R., Livingston, New Jersey
 De Prenger, Leo D., Sun City, Arizona
 Deshotel, L.J., Welsh, Louisiana
 Dewey, Leroy Jr., Chelsea, Oklahoma
 Dial, Robert M., Bloomington, Texas
 Dieter, Joseph M., Springfield, Missouri
 Doan, Pearl G., Tampa, Florida
 Dobson, Alfred A., Bremerton, Washington
 Dohm, David R., Greenwood, Indiana
 Don Carlos, Thomas B., Prairie Home, Missouri
 Dooley, Avery D., Lodi, California
 Doss, E. Ward, Lanett, Alabama
 Doviak, Joseph D., Lancaster, Pennsylvania
 Driggers, James A., Portola, California
 Dunbar, Helen S., Canyonville, Oregon
 Duncan, Burl E., Kimberly, Idaho
 Duncan, Harmon S., Gilbertown, Alabama
 Duncan, Katherine C., Kenner, Louisiana
 Dutton, J.L., Hartsville, South Carolina
 Earley, Helen M., Pittsfield, Illinois
 Edwards, Basil, Sheridan, Arkansas
 Eldridge, Vera L., New Brighton, Minnesota
 Enloe, Ernest M., Gig Harbor, Washington
 Enoch, Andrew J., Saint Peters, Missouri
 Erola, Walter E., Naselle, Washington
 Espinoza, Ernest, Lake Elsinore, California
 Esquivel, Luz, Falfurrias, Texas
 Farmer, John C. Sr., Princeton, West Virginia
 Farrell, James L., Wilcox, Arizona
 Farris, Ronald R., Joplin, Missouri
 Ferrante, Joseph A., Monrovia, California
 Flaherty, Helen L., Hobson, Langhorne, Pennsylvania
 Florence, Beatrice J., Fort Worth, Texas
 Ford, Earl H., Shippensburg, Pennsylvania
 Ford, Percy R., Billings, Montana
 Fosner, Lloyd F., Salem, Oregon
 Foster, Hoyt A., Caldwell, Idaho
 Fowler, Jack C., Mobile, Alabama
 French, Leroy B., Russellville, Arkansas
 Freno, Samuel, Laguna Woods Village, California
 Friend, John J., Hermiston, Oregon
 Friend, Junior P., Crossville, Tennessee
 Friesen, John J., Springfield, Missouri
 Frye, Ronald E., Ripley, Tennessee
 Gandy, Howard K., Waltham, Oregon
 Garcia, Teodoro M., Andrews, Texas
 Garner, Gary R., Roby, Missouri
 Garrett, David A., Mayflower, Arkansas
 Geesey, L. Gene, Chandler, Arizona
 George, Jimalee S., Plano, Texas
 Gerard, Wanda C., Grinnell, Iowa
 Gilbert, Vardell, Lexington, Mississippi
 Givens, Benny C., Milton, Florida
 Glandon, Arvin W., Fairbanks, Alaska
 Glassburn, Verle G., Nehalem, Oregon
 Goad, Joe W. Jr., Kingsport, Tennessee
 Golden, Geneva, Hot Springs, Arkansas
 Gonzalez, Jose L., San Benito, Texas
 Goodwin, Homer T., Austin, Texas
 Gothard, Ralph, Stockton, Missouri
 Graetz, Edna, Sahuarita, Arizona
 Graner, Lydia H., Placentia, California
 Grappe, John L., Midland, Texas
 Grauberger, Ella R., Las Vegas, Nevada
 Gray, Willard W., Fort Mohave, Arizona
 Green, Audrey F., Eufula, Oklahoma
 Green, Boyce L., Texarkana, Texas
 Green, Clinton J., Anson, Texas
 Green, James R., Montgomery, Alabama
 Green, Lucille D., Springfield, Missouri
 Greer, Bessie F., Neches, Texas
 Greer, Hubert C., Plainfield, Indiana
 Gregg, Mattie M., Sioux Falls, South Dakota
 Grindstaff, Aubrey Jr., Columbia, Missouri
 Gross, Rosamond L., Lakeville, Indiana
 Grossnickle, Libia, Durant, Florida
 Guidrey, Mary E., Iowa, Louisiana
 Guttormson, Marvel H., Portland, North Dakota
 Hagar, I. Vernon, Lubbock, Texas
 Hale, Dennis G., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Hall, Hazel Lorene, Bentonville, Arkansas
 Halvorsen, Carl B., York, Pennsylvania
 Hansen, Harold J., Spokane, Washington
 Hansen, James B., Springfield, Missouri
 Hartshorn, Thomas E., Lakeland, Florida
 Harvill, Autrey M., Saraland, Alabama
 Hayes, E. Gerald, Russellville, Arkansas
 Hays, Lucille M., Grand Terrace, California
 Heath, Gladys, Kannapolis, North Carolina
 Heavin, Wilma M., Baxter Springs, Kansas
 Heavner, J. Douglas, Fayetteville, Arkansas

Heflon, A. Grant, Wichita, Kansas
 Helms, Walter L., Haynesville, Louisiana
 Henley, Ernest E., Olathe, Kansas
 Hernandez, Gregorio, Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
 Higgins, Joseph A., Lawrenceville, Georgia
 Higgins, Malachi C., Sun City, Florida
 Hill, E. O'Neal, Beebe, Arkansas
 Hill, George, Essex, Missouri
 Hill, Tom E., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Hinds, Lee E., Andover, Kansas
 Hinojosa, Amado S., Dallas, Texas
 Hixenbaugh, Kathryn, Cheyenne, Wyoming
 Hoak, Wilbur W., Jeannette, Pennsylvania
 Hocker, John W. Jr., Burkburnett, Texas
 Hodges, Eddie G., Higden, Arkansas
 Hogan, Mildred L., Springfield, Missouri
 Holden, David T., Greeley, Colorado
 Hollis, William A. Sr., Vandalia, Missouri
 Holmes, Millard H. Sr., Cullman, Alabama
 Holtzclaw, James R., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Holtzclaw, Mozell J., Temple, Texas
 Hood, C.V., Lindale, Texas
 Howard, Harold G., Sherman, Texas
 Howe, Fred C., Garden Valley, Idaho
 Hubbard, W. Earl, Oakley, California
 Huber, Kathleen, Manahawkin, New Jersey
 Hufley, Lillian B., Monrovia, California
 Hufley, Vernon L., Storm Lake, Iowa
 Hugh, Doris M., Fallbrook, California
 Hughes, James M., Star City, Arkansas
 Hukill, Ervin M., Mineral Wells, West Virginia
 Hulzebos, Abel H., Lakeland, Florida
 Hunter, Arlene M., Spokane, Washington
 Hyllberg, James E., Kenosha, Wisconsin
 Jackson, Bobby E., Jacksonville, Florida
 Jackson, Boyd D., Columbia, California
 Jackson, Gene, Hendersonville, Tennessee
 Jennings, Kathleen, Wahoo, Nebraska
 Johnson, Charles D. Sr., Montgomery, Texas
 Johnson, Marie, Burleson, Texas
 Johnson, Mildred A., Nogal, New Mexico
 Johnson, Robert K., Prineville, Oregon
 Johnston, Artie E., Waxahachie, Texas
 Jolliff, R. Austin, Ada, Oklahoma
 Jones, Clyde R., Phoenix, Arizona
 Jones, Fenton L. Jr., Mount Pleasant, North Carolina
 Jones, Gladys M., Winters, Texas
 Jones, H. Fulton Jr., Sarepta, Louisiana
 Jones, James C., Kirbyville, Texas
 Jones, Robert A., Jonesville, Michigan
 Jordan, Helen E., Lefors, Texas
 Jordan, J.W., McMinnville, Tennessee
 Judah, William H., Waycross, Georgia
 Jun, Jeong Soon, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
 Kachic, Denise K., Hartford, Wisconsin
 Kalapathy, Ernest F., Springfield, Missouri
 Kang, Tae Hi, Marietta, Georgia
 Karmarkovic, Alex, Clovis, California
 Keefauver, David S., Carlisle, Pennsylvania
 Kelly, Ruby L., Port Charlotte, Florida
 Kent, Clarence E., Remington, Indiana
 Kent, James E., Birmingham, Alabama
 Ketcham, Gladys R., Corpus Christi, Texas
 Killion, Vida J., Round Top, Texas
 Kim, Joel J., Las Vegas, Nevada
 Kimball, Margaret O., Poolsbo, Washington
 King, Jerry A., Surprise, Arizona
 Klemm, Vernon L., Salem, Oregon
 Knight, George E., Howardwick, Texas
 Kolenda, Daniel P., Port Charlotte, Florida
 Kraike, Clara N., Santa Cruz, California
 Kramer, Ivan R., Weeki Wachee, Florida
 Lackey, Cecil K., Malden, Missouri
 Lake, Lillie M., Houston, Texas
 Lambert, Carl B. Jr., Krum, Texas
 Lambert, Joanne, Alexandria, Louisiana
 Lambertson, William J., Minneapolis, Kansas
 Lancaster, Alma L., Bristow, Oklahoma
 Landrus, Ella Mae, Modesto, California
 Lane, John H., Banning, California
 Langston, William J., Mountain Home, Arkansas
 La Salle, Isha, Brooklyn, New York
 Lawson, W. Junior, Edmonton, Kentucky
 Lazaro, Quintin O., Placentia, California
 Leach, Glen E., Bismarck, Missouri
 Lecher, Howard C., Germantown, Wisconsin
 Lee, Nolan D., Crestview, Florida
 Lindahl, Robert C., Cedar Rapids, Iowa
 Lindseth, Oscar M., Renton, Washington
 Linney, Jack B., Fort Worth, Texas
 Lloyd, John B., Cuba, Missouri
 Lofdahl, Alyce C., Snoqualmie, Washington
 Lofton, Edwin M., Blanchard, Louisiana
 Lofton, Ernest J., West Monroe, Louisiana
 Long, Marvin M., Yuba City, California
 Lopez, Zoila D., Simi Valley, California
 Lord, Everett L., Manawa, Wisconsin
 Lovett, Merritt L., Bay Minette, Alabama
 Lowery, Billy R., Jonesboro, Louisiana
 Lowry, Waymon L., Denver, Colorado
 Luciano, Altigracia, New Haven, Connecticut
 Lummer, Frank R., Medford, Oregon
 Lund, Merlin L., Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Lyon, Ruth A., Springfield, Missouri
 Lytle, Fred J., Atoka, Oklahoma
 Malm, Paul M., Springfield, Oregon
 Mandel, G. Edward Jr., Carlinville, Illinois
 Manning, Cornelia M., Lake Jackson, Texas
 Marinacci, Anthony A., Maple Shade, New Jersey
 Marker, Gordon A., Seattle, Washington
 Markley, Patrick D., San Diego, California
 Marocco, Esther G., Kahului, Hawaii
 Marshall, Jackie R., Boise, Idaho
 Martin, Avis F., Lee's Summit, Missouri
 Martin, Donnal J., Adel, Georgia
 Martin, James O., New Blaine, Arkansas
 Martin, L.G., Maud, Oklahoma
 Martinez, Ezequiel F., Westminster, Colorado
 Martinez, Gihvaldo, Clovis, New Mexico
 Mason, Charles R., Bryan, Texas
 Mason, Elbert J., Irondale, Missouri
 Mathison, Orville L., Volcano, Hawaii
 Mattea, Louis, Carlinville, Illinois
 Mayfield, Robert C., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Mayfield, Ruth, Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Mazurek, John A., McCook, Nebraska
 McAllister, Ronnie L., Booneville, Arkansas
 McAnulty, Roy A., Sikeston, Missouri
 McCall, Mavis D., Jacksonville, Florida
 McCormack, Fred W., Dora, Alabama
 McCormick, Michael V., Fruitport, Michigan
 McCrory, Irene J. Y., Coushatta, Louisiana
 McDaniel, Ralph E., Minco, Oklahoma
 McDowell, Ora A., Las Vegas, Nevada

McElhannon, Marvin, Okmulgee, Oklahoma
 McGrew, Alfred F., Reedsport, Oregon
 McIntosh, Jack L., Indianapolis, Indiana
 McIntyre, Martha E., Hardy, Arkansas
 McKenzie, Chesley B., Humboldt, Tennessee
 McKenzie, Warren G., Oviedo, Florida
 McNatt, William K., Petersburg, Tennessee
 Mears, Betty Ann, Dothan, Alabama
 Medina, Tomasa L., Avondale, Arizona
 Meherg, Clarence S., Hollins, Alabama
 Meng, Vona B., San Jose, California
 Mercado, Camelia, Bronx, New York
 Mercedes, Alejo Leonardo, Trenton, New Jersey
 Mickelsen, Ruth M., Sun City, Arizona
 Millard, Amos D., Kirkland, Washington
 Millen, Herbert E., Port Orchard, Washington
 Miller, Bobby M., Columbus, Georgia
 Miller, Charles H., Fontana, California
 Miller, Gary L., Modesto, California
 Miller, Leo, Apple Valley, Minnesota
 Miller, Loyal A., Gladstone, Oregon
 Miller, Willie S., Chandler, Oklahoma
 Minton, Gerald W., Salem, Oregon
 Mitchell, Clemens C., Phoenix, Arizona
 Montgomery, Glenn, Fairfield, Texas
 Moore, Luther E., Springfield, Missouri
 Moore, Philip J., Dade City, Florida
 Moore, Thadellua J., Rowlett, Texas
 Moores, Evelyn L., Rockledge, Florida
 Morales, Jose, Barceloneta, Puerto Rico
 Moreland, Edna L., Muskogee, Oklahoma
 Morgan, David G., Moundville, Alabama
 Moroco, Fernando, Chandler, Arizona
 Morris, Clarence J., Pensacola, Florida
 Morris, Stanley E., Marblemount, Washington
 Morrison, Charles B., Sapulpa, Oklahoma
 Mort, Bernice, Wasilla, Alaska
 Mort, Beulah, Waynesboro, Pennsylvania
 Morton, George W., Washington, New Jersey
 Moss, Cynthia L., Heavener, Oklahoma
 Moulder, James M., Columbia, Missouri
 Munger, Erma M., Westminster, Colorado
 Munns, Odis J., Athens, Texas
 Munoz, Blas, Sun City, California
 Murray, Forrest A., Hot Springs Village, Arkansas
 Myers, Ray F.G., Russells Point, Ohio
 Neciuk, John M., Avondale, Arizona
 Neese, John D., Radcliff, Kentucky
 Ness, Theodore E., Turlock, California
 Nichols, Sir R., Springhill, Louisiana
 Nivens, Buford O., Allons, Tennessee
 Nixon, Robert L. Sr., Devine, Texas
 Noa, Taotasi A., San Jose, California
 Nowlin, Ollie W., Andalusia, Alabama
 Nylin, Doris E., Springfield, Missouri
 Oliver, Raymond C., Forest Ranch, California
 Olsen, Alfred M., Gig Harbor, Washington
 Ong, John C.H., Castro Valley, California
 Orlando, Carl, Harpersfield, New York
 Ortiz, Vicente, Tampa, Florida
 Osborne, James G., Albany, Georgia
 Owen, David B., Lakeville, Minnesota
 Oxner, Woodrow, Chicago, Illinois
 Palmer, Curtis E., Gerrardstown, West Virginia
 Palmer, Richard W., Frederick, Maryland
 Pannell, Josie J., Canton, Oklahoma
 Paredes, Ricardo A., Desoto, Texas
 Park, Nelson, La Pine, Oregon
 Parker, Charles A., Columbia, Missouri
 Parker, Floyd M., Casa Grande, Arizona
 Parrish, Rolland E., Caldwell, Idaho
 Patillo, Mattie E., Fitzgerald, Georgia
 Pearce, Mary K., Fort Worth, Texas
 Pearman, David C., Terre Haute, Indiana
 Peck, Donald E., Haines, Alaska
 Peck, Evelyn N., Bothell, Washington
 Pedro, Nathanael, Spring Hill, Florida
 Pena, Anastacio Jr., San Antonio, Texas
 Perez, Alejandro, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico
 Perkins, Freddie A., Wheatland, Missouri
 Perna, Alfred J. Sr., Vestal, New York
 Peschke, Marion A., Alvin, Texas
 Peterson, David L., Westminster, California
 Peterson, Rachel L., Miami, Florida
 Pfoutz, Howard E., Manheim, Pennsylvania
 Phelps, Edna F., Attica, Indiana
 Phelps, Edward F. Jr., Hartford, Arkansas
 Phillips, William A., Hewitt, Texas
 Pierce, Burton W., Springfield, Missouri
 Pipkin, Paul H., Fresno, California
 Plata, James, San Antonio, Texas
 Plegler, Robert O., Sun City West, Arizona
 Plymel, Carl Jr., Thomasville, Georgia
 Pool, Archie A., Lakeview, Oregon
 Preiser, Gordon F., Eustis, Florida
 Prinzing-Stroup, Wanda, Grass Valley, California
 Pritchard, Thelma V., Cottonwood, Arizona
 Pugh, Elizabeth A., Citrus Heights, California
 Purdy, Vernon L., Springfield, Missouri
 Quinn, A.J., Springfield, Oregon
 Ragsdale, Albert A., Memphis, Tennessee
 Ragsdale, Vernon H., Salem, Oregon
 Randall, Lawrence D., Spokane, Washington
 Ratliff, Hubert R., Houston, Texas
 Reddin, Opal S., Springfield, Missouri
 Reece, Edward J., Rancho Cordova, California
 Renfroe, Robert J., Scottsdale, Arizona
 Rexroat, Russell W., Edmond, Oklahoma
 Reyes, Roman L., Phoenix, Arizona
 Reyes, Tony T., Paso Robles, California
 Rhinehart, Jerome J., Greer, South Carolina
 Richards, Anna S., Chula Vista, California
 Richardson, Alton L., Springfield, Missouri
 Rigby, Cary L., Northport, Alabama
 Rios, Pedro, Wesley Chapel, Florida
 Rivera, Miguel A., Hormigueros, Puerto Rico
 Rivero, Eulogio B., Hialeah, Florida
 Roberson, Agnes W., Honolulu, Hawaii
 Roberts, Carl L., Rolla, Missouri
 Roberts, Reba M., Humboldt, Tennessee
 Roberts, Thomas M., Ashdown, Arkansas
 Rodgers, Fern L., Louisville, Kentucky
 Rogers, Alta J., Bixby, Oklahoma
 Rogers, Arnie D. Sr., Clovis, California
 Rogers, Dennis P. Jr., Danville, Illinois
 Rogers, Haskell H., Bixby, Oklahoma
 Rogne, Donald R., Tacoma, Washington
 Roman, Andres B., Surfside, Florida
 Romine, B. Alan, Doniphan, Missouri
 Rosario, Luis, Astoria, New York
 Rosin, Robert W., Rice Lake, Wisconsin
 Rosser, E. Ruth, Wentzville, Missouri
 Rosser, Henry H., Highlands, Texas
 Rubio, Augustine III, Litchfield Park, Arizona

Rubio, Joe, Victoria, Texas
 Rudnik, Wilbur H., Marysville, Washington
 Rudolph, Donald W., Sparks, Nevada
 Rueb, George H., Ashley, North Dakota
 Runyan, James H., San Bernardino, California
 Rutkowski, Roman L., Oroville, California
 Rye, A. C., Russellville, Arkansas
 Sachs, William N., Springfield, Missouri
 Sample, John T., Livingston, Texas
 Sanchez, Delfino E., San Antonio, Texas
 Sanchez, Eliza T., Albuquerque, New Mexico
 Sanchez, Ramon, New York, New York
 Sanchez, Tony, Bloomington, California
 Sander, Ralph J. Jr., Seattle, Washington
 Sanders, Samuel L., Madera, California
 Savchenko, L. Elma, Mesa, Arizona
 Schaumburg, Elizabeth, Humble, Texas
 Schenbeck, Arlie D., Scottsbluff, Nebraska
 Schenk, William F., Hemet, California
 Schneider, Franklin R., Woodinville, Washington
 Scott, Edward H., Crowder, Oklahoma
 Scott, H. David, Visalia, California
 Scrabeck, Steven P., Edgerton, Ohio
 Scritchfield, A.J., Tyler, Texas
 Scroggs, Roberta M., Hiawatha, Kansas
 Seda, Aniano R., Levittown, Puerto Rico
 Serrano, Carmen, Salinas, Puerto Rico
 Serrano, Pedro, New Britain, Connecticut
 Sewell, Raymond D., Waxahachie, Texas
 Shaneyfelt, S. Wayne, Honolulu, Hawaii
 Shelby, James K., Caseyville, Illinois
 Shell, B.G., Virginia Beach, Virginia
 Shell, Howard L., Ohatchee, Alabama
 Shelton, Lucelia B., New Athens, Illinois
 Shields, Ernest F., Columbia, Missouri
 Shipley, Odis O., Little Elm, Texas
 Shotwell, David C., Hilo, Hawaii
 Shoup, Dale E., Carl Junction, Missouri
 Shultz, Louie E., Manila, Arkansas
 Signoriello, Orlando, Palm Coast, Florida
 Silva, Priscila, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico
 Singh, Jaipaul, Ozone Park, New York
 Skaggs, Donald K., Pewaukee, Wisconsin
 Skinner, Albert E. Jr., Phoenix, Arizona
 Skipper, Louis A. Jr., Newton, Alabama
 Skipper, B. Russell, Tallahassee, Florida
 Skymmer, Marie A., Palm Harbor, Florida
 Slagley, Johnnie W., Swifton, Arkansas
 Slocum, Mary E., Stanfield, Arizona
 Sloyer, Roscoe J., New Oxford, Pennsylvania
 Smelser, Louise, Winchester, Virginia
 Smith, Donald J., Palmer, Alaska
 Smith, Edwin C., Chickamauga, Georgia
 Smith, Eva J., Mishawaka, Indiana
 Smith, Floyd, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Smith, Homer L., Desloge, Missouri
 Smith, Jason L., Camden, Arkansas
 Smith, Jeffrey H., Kokomo, Indiana
 Smith, Jimmy A., Escatawpa, Mississippi
 Smith, Joseph L., Winchester, Virginia
 Smith, Leslie W., Springfield, Missouri
 Smith, Nellie A., Aurora, Colorado
 Smith, Sharon, Hickory, North Carolina
 Smith, W. L. (Stella), Russellville, Arkansas
 Snearly, Olen A., Hardy, Arkansas
 Snook, E. Glenn, Kirkland, Washington
 Solomon, Virginia, Carmichael, California
 Sotelo, Alejandro P., Stockton, California
 Sowell, John W., Seminole, Alabama
 Spence, Lucille E., Springfield, Missouri
 Spurlock, Clarence R., Chipley, Florida
 Stafford, Glenn D., Springfield, Missouri
 Stanton, Cameron S., Savannah, Georgia
 Staples, W. G., Palmdale, California
 Starmer, Edna L., Cabool, Missouri
 Starr, Troy P., Lockhart, Texas
 Stavros, John, Olympia, Washington
 Steinberg, Charles E., Paoima, Colorado
 Stephenson, Royce E., Franklin, North Carolina
 Stetz, Peter, Springfield, Missouri
 Stevens, Richard C., Vero Beach, Florida
 Stewart, Alvin D., Duncan, Oklahoma
 Stewart, Edward A., San Francisco, California
 St. Marie, Earl J. Jr., Fruitland Park, Florida
 Stone, Henry D., Meridian, Mississippi
 Strayer, Roy, Boise, Idaho
 Strength, Carl R., Brooksville, Florida
 Strickland, Glenn E., Ladson, South Carolina
 Strong, Howard E., Beech Grove, Indiana
 Strong, Opal T., Dona Ana, New Mexico
 Stroud, Danewood E., Many, Louisiana
 Stuart, Vernon O., Broken Bow, Oklahoma
 Sturgeon, Violet M., West Tawakoni, Texas
 Surface, George L. Jr., Friendswood, Texas
 Swaim, Alpha D., Pasadena, Texas
 Swank, John D., Ebensburg, Pennsylvania
 Swanson, Obed E., Altoona, Wisconsin
 Tabb, William H., Bloomington, Illinois
 Tackett, Edward O., Farmington, Arkansas
 Tanner, Mary E., Moreno Valley, California
 Tarver, James L., Newberry, South Carolina
 Tate, William, Matewan, West Virginia
 Tatum, Eural W., Bixby, Oklahoma
 Tavani, Nicholas J., Altadena, California
 Taylor, William P., Weott, California
 Thodeson, Thode B., Manchester, Michigan
 Thomassen, Arne T., New Richmond, Wisconsin
 Thompson, Truman M., Wapato, Washington
 Thompson, William O., Carter, Oklahoma
 Thorn, Ray H., Saint Charles, Missouri
 Tidwell, Faye, Springfield, Missouri
 Titsworth, Joseph L., Dover, Arkansas
 Tittle, Lawrence, Troy, Tennessee
 Tollett, Debbie R., Sherwood, Arkansas
 Tomlin, Leslie, Fayetteville, Tennessee
 Torres, Esmeralda D. J., Hercules, California
 Trammell, Jerry W., Dumas, Texas
 Treeby, Mary A., Denton, Texas
 Tribble, Robert L., Locust Grove, Georgia
 Troutman, Olen, Baytown, Texas
 Troxler, Lacy C. Jr., Burlington, North Carolina
 Turner, Kenneth L., Fort Smith, Arkansas
 Turner, Walter H., Batesville, Mississippi
 Tye, Thomas N., Albany, Georgia
 Tynes, James D., Davis, Oklahoma
 Tyson, Mary M., Tollhouse, California
 Ulibarri, Bernie, Wheat Ridge, Colorado
 Ulloa, Victor M., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
 Underwood, D. Dean, Kansas City, Kansas
 Underwood, Lowell J., Victoria, Kansas
 Underwood, Martha A., Waterford, Pennsylvania
 Valdez, Angela, San Antonio, Texas
 Valentine, Julia M., Union City, California
 Vargas, Victor, Bronx, New York

Vargo, Jerry C., Jacksonville, Florida
 Vass, Robert L., Burleson, Texas
 Vazquez, Ramon, Brooklyn, New York
 Villa, Joe, Fritch, Texas
 Vollrath, Christopher, Round Rock, Texas
 Waldron, Rita H., Sanborn, New York
 Waldron, Thomas M., Punta Gorda, Florida
 Walker, De Lois M., Lawton, Oklahoma
 Walker, Gary D., Bakersfield, California
 Walker, Victor C., Jones, Oklahoma
 Wall, Aaron M., Macon, Georgia
 Ward, Clifford, Sand Springs, Oklahoma
 Ward, Leona, Holcomb, Missouri
 Ware, R. Kenneth, Courbevoie, France
 Warnock, Louis W., Sand Springs, Oklahoma
 Warnock, Maxine T., Sapulpa, Oklahoma
 Warren, George D., Fort Worth, Texas
 Warren, Lester L., Twin Falls, Idaho
 Warriner, Clayton L., Vero Beach, Florida
 Wasdin, Roy E., Plymouth, Michigan
 Watson, Aubrey W., Stanton, Tennessee
 Watson, Naomi P., Irving, Texas
 Watts, Jack R., Silsbee, Texas
 Weaver, Chadwick A., Westfield, New York
 Weaver, Paul L., Walnut Bottom, Pennsylvania
 Weden, Bernice E., Bellingham, Washington
 Weiszbrod, E. E., Collinsville, Oklahoma
 Weldon, Michael D., Dayton, Ohio
 Westerfield, David R., Queen Creek, Arizona
 Whatley, Lacy, Sylvester, Georgia
 Whatley, Michael E., Bethany, Louisiana
 White, Reuben, Decatur, Georgia
 Whitlock, R. Tyler, Buckeye, Arizona
 Whitton, J. Dale, Buna, Texas
 Wilburn, Norman H., Shell Knob, Missouri
 Wilder, Hubert M., Jacksonville, Florida
 Wilhelm, Walter R., Hartly, Delaware
 Wilkinson, Elbert R., Azle, Texas
 Williams, Fred A., Lakeland, Florida
 Williams, James C., Colerain, North Carolina
 Williams, M.D., Odessa, Texas
 Williams, Opal F., Marbleton, Wyoming
 Williams, S. Worth, Spring, Texas
 Williams, Ward R., Lakeland, Florida
 Willis, Joseph, Indianapolis, Indiana
 Wilson, Charles E., Springfield, Missouri
 Wilson, Raymond L., Flushing, Michigan
 Wilson, Willis F., Paris, Arkansas
 Winscott, Jewell D., Kimball, Nebraska
 Winters, Carolyn M., Springfield, Missouri
 Worley, Ervin E., West Plains, Missouri
 Wray, Burton J., Virginia Beach, Virginia
 Wright, John L., Kingsport, Tennessee
 York, John V., Springfield, Missouri
 Young, Audie Mae, Rhome, Texas
 Young, Erston R., Cedar Bluff, Virginia
 Young, Kenneth J., Monroe, Louisiana
 Young, Lester C., Keizer, Oregon
 Zottneck, Sharon M., Milford, Ohio

The following ministers have deceased after June 1, 2007, and were reported to the general secretary's office by August 8, 2007:

Adams, Juanita, Eufaula, Alabama
 Aguilar, Sally S., Indianapolis, Indiana
 Beavers, Troy A., Columbia Falls, Montana
 Bogardus, King J., Springfield, Missouri
 Boyd, Gerald, Peachtree City, Georgia
 Boyer, Ronald D., Horseshoe Bend, Arkansas
 Cass, Charles H., Albany, Oregon
 Cave, Troy H., Daleville, Virginia
 Chapman, Leon, Parsons, Tennessee
 Chockley, Marvin W., Rushville, Illinois
 Clemmons, Roy L., Winnsboro, Texas
 Cobb, Naomi L., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Contreras, Maria O., Fresno, California
 Cover, Ishmel E., McCrory, Arkansas
 Cowan, Paul H., Riverview, Michigan
 Davis, Ramon H., Madisonville, Kentucky
 Joyce E. DeMent, Springfield, Missouri
 Dittfurth, Roy E. Sr., Stephenville, Texas
 Duke, LeRoy A., Nixa, Missouri
 Forkey, David A., Ranson, West Virginia
 Freiheit, Kenneth M., Bloomington, Minnesota
 Gaither, Silas L., Springfield, Missouri
 Geil, James R., Morton, Illinois
 Glass, A.J. III, Blakely, Georgia

Hart, Earl E., Cincinnati, Ohio
 Hernandez, Maria C., Carolina, Puerto Rico
 Honsalek, Werner K., Duncanville, Texas
 Iannone, Louis A., Mahopac, New York
 Keck, Chester L., Judsonia, Arkansas
 King, Robert L., Quemado, Texas
 Klob, Rose, Englewood, Florida
 Lemmert, Walter W., Warfordsburg, Pennsylvania
 Lenn, Winfred B., Harpersville, Alabama
 Lewis, David A., Springfield, Missouri
 Louthan, Ruth M.D., Chester, Oklahoma
 Lundblad, Emmanuel A., Loveland, Colorado
 Mack, Arnold C., Phoenix, Arizona
 McCollister, Glen E., Dundee, Oregon
 Moore, Euel T., Franklin, Kansas
 Mora, Arsenio, Garden Grove, California
 Morales, Ruben, Valrico, Florida
 Norcross, Freda M., Algonac, Michigan
 Olin, Clinton O., Cohasset, Minnesota
 Palser, Paul H., Magnolia, Arkansas
 Plants, Donald L., Centre, Alabama
 Prock, Louis D., Port Charlotte, Florida
 Qualls, Claude R., Glen Allen, Virginia
 Rarick, Samuel O., Catawissa, Pennsylvania
 Reynolds-Popejoy, Joan, Tucson, Arizona
 Rivera, Jose R., East Greenbush, New York
 Robertson, Edith M., Bethany, Oklahoma
 Roblez, Isaac, Union City, California
 Rohde, George E., Bishop, California
 Sanders, Billy L., Corsicana, Texas
 Santiago, Justino, Kissimmee, Florida
 Scott, Harold E., Springfield, Missouri
 Shorter, Freddie L., Weatherford, Oklahoma
 Sutton, Luther W., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Sword, Clarence E., Ben Wheeler, Texas
 Taylor, Milton, Eureka, Kansas
 Thomas, Kenneth M., Duncanville, Texas
 Toothman, Donald G., Midland, Texas
 Warner, Anna M., Columbus, Indiana
 Wiles, Warren A., Modesto, California
 Winters, Gail P., Boise, Idaho
 Yi, Wusoon, San Bruno, California

CONSTITUTION

OF

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

OF THE

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

REVISED AUGUST 8-11, 2007

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Constitution

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

CONSTITUTION

Constitutional Declaration

WE BELIEVE:

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

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

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

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

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

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

That we are a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal assemblies of like precious faith throughout the United States to be known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local 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).

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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, and shall be known as a fellowship of churches and credentialed ministers.

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).

(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).

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(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 endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy 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:

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- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).
- c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).

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

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

11. The Ministry

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the threefold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23,24), and (3) building a Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16).

12. Divine Healing

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the Atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17; James 5:14-16).

13. The Blessed Hope

The resurrection of those who have fallen asleep in Christ and their translation together with those who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord is the imminent and blessed hope of the Church (1 Thessalonians 4:16,17; Romans 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Corinthians 15:51,52).

14. The Millennial Reign of Christ

The second coming of Christ includes the rapture of the saints, which is our blessed hope, followed by the visible return of Christ with His saints to reign on the earth for one thousand years (Zechariah 14:5; Matthew 24:27,30; Revelation 1:7; 19:11-14; 20:1-6). This millennial reign will bring the salvation of national Israel (Ezekiel 37:21,22; Zephaniah 3:19,20; Romans 11:26,27) and the establishment of universal peace (Isaiah 11:6-9; Psalm 72:3-8; Micah 4:3,4).

15. The Final Judgment

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

16. The New Heavens and the New Earth

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

ARTICLE VI. RELATIONSHIPS

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

ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP**Section 1. The General Council of the Assemblies of God**

The membership of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall consist of all ordained 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.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Section 1. Executive Officers

a. **Corporate officers and terms of office.** The General Council corporate officers shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, and the general treasurer. They shall serve as the officers of the corporation. 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. **Executive Leadership Team.** The General Council officers along with the executive directors of Assemblies of God World Missions and Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall constitute an Executive Leadership Team. Members of the Executive Leadership Team shall be amenable to the actions of the Executive Presbytery within duties prescribed in the Bylaws.

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 Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, together with 13 other persons to bring the number to 19. The terms of office for the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions and the executive director of 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 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 Assemblies of God U.S. Missions. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (3)]

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)]

ARTICLE X

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 6.)

Section 4. Credentialing Authority

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

Section 5. Areas of Authority

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

CONSTITUTION

Section 6. Relationship With the General Council

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

ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

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

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

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

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

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

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 VI, Section 4, 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 8-11, 2007

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

Bylaws

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BYLAWS

OF

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

The work of the General Council shall be governed by parliamentary procedure as set forth in the current edition of *Roberts' Rules of Order Newly Revised*, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS 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 ordained ministers 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 executive director of 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 8) shall be represented.

(c) *Additional representation.* The nomination process for two additional nonresident executive presbyters shall be made as follows: Each district council, at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session, may nominate two individuals from its district to the Executive Presbytery, one who is an ordained pastor under 40 years of age at the time of election and one ordained female (no age requirement). From the nominees the General Presbytery shall select and submit to the General Council four names of ordained pastors under 40 years of age at the time of election and four names of ordained females (no age requirement). The candidates shall be presented to the General Council in session and voted on by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect.

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 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.

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.

BYLAWS

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 c) 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 8.) 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, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

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 Executive Leadership Team and receive all communications directed to these bodies.

ARTICLE III

- 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.
- j. Cast primary vision for the Fellowship along with the other executive officers.
- k. Provide spiritual oversight to leadership and Headquarters personnel.
- l. Strategically network with other fellowships.
- m. Give consultation in hiring staff at departmental level of leadership or above.
- n. Lead Tier I leadership, executive officers, and 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 Executive Leadership Team 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 Executive Leadership Team and keep accurate minutes of the deliberations of these bodies.
- e. Edit and prepare for distribution the minutes of the meeting of the General Presbytery after examination and approval thereof by the Executive Presbytery.
- f. Perform such other functions as are customary or as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

Section 4. Duties of the General Treasurer

The duties of the general treasurer shall include the following:

- a. Serve as 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 Executive Leadership Team 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.

BYLAWS

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 Executive Leadership Team.
- 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:

- a. Direct the U.S. 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 U.S. 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 Executive Leadership Team.
- 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 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.

ARTICLE III

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

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

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

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

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

k. Be amenable to the General Presbytery in all matters under the functions and duties of the General Presbytery.

l. Protect and enhance the vision of the executive officers.

m. Provide oversight of internal operations of Headquarters as indicated in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*.

Section 8. Duties of the Executive Leadership Team

The executive officers shall constitute an Executive Leadership Team. Members of the Executive Leadership Team shall be amenable to the actions of the Executive Presbytery and 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.

d. Give administrative oversight to all General Council offices.

e. Support the spiritual thrust and vision of the Fellowship.

f. Lead assigned ministries.

g. Manage internal operations of Headquarters as indicated in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*.

Section 9. Duties of the General Presbytery

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

a. Advance the mission of the Assemblies of God by promoting effective ministry and harmonious relationships among all churches, credentialed ministers, ministries, institutions, and entities of the Fellowship.

b. Be the policy-making body.

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

d. 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.

e. Act as a body of appeal to actions taken by the Executive Presbytery whenever 10 percent or more of the members of the General Presbytery so requests.

f. 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.

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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 Executive Leadership Team.

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 and licensed 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. The commission shall evaluate and draft a brief assessment of the scriptural interpretation embodied in the resolution. The assessment, stating their agreement or disagreement with the scriptural interpretation, shall accompany the resolution when presented to the General Council for consideration.

d. Appropriateness of resolutions. The Resolutions Committee shall, by a two-thirds vote, determine the appropriateness of 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.

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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. The Role of the District

The district is primarily relationship based. The district should facilitate a network for resources and relationships and provide training for credentialed ministers and local churches. The district provides ministry events to the local church, such as camps, conferences, and retreats: And relates to the General Council affiliated churches in accordance with provisions of the Constitutional Declaration, Constitution Article XI, Bylaws Article VI, and the constitution and bylaws of the respective district council. The district oversees district affiliated churches in accordance with its own bylaws, and processes and recommends ministerial credentialing and discipline for its constituents.

Section 3. 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.

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Section 4. 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 5. Presbyters

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

Section 6. Ethnic/Language Districts

a. Recognition qualifications. In order to become a district of the Assemblies of God, an ethnic/language group must have a minimum number of 40 churches. Any ethnic/language group consisting of less than 40 Assemblies of God churches may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery to form a fellowship of churches. The fellowship shall exist for the purpose of exchanging information facilitating evangelism and establishing churches. Until such time as it is qualified to form a district, it shall be part of the geographic or 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.

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 7. 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 8. Ethnic and Language Fellowships

Ethnic or language groups may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery to form a fellowship of churches. The fellowship shall exist for the purpose of exchanging information, facilitating evangelism, and establishing churches. Although functioning as a fellowship, the ethnic churches shall remain affiliated with the appropriate district. When an ethnic or language group recognized by the Executive Presbytery functions as a fellowship and represents a specific number of churches determined by and within a district, a presbyter shall be appointed or elected from the ethnic or language fellowship to represent the ethnic or language fellowship within a district.

ARTICLE VI. ASSEMBLIES

Section 1. Procedure for Affiliation

It shall be the responsibility of the district presbytery to determine when an assembly has reached a state of growth, stability, and maturity qualifying it for affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Qualifications shall include a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons. The assembly shall have matured to a point where a sufficient number of qualified persons are available for the offices called for in its constitution and bylaws.

The procedure for affiliation shall be:

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

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

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

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

Section 2. Annual Report 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

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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; 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 national Headquarters. It is expected that the national division or department related to a given project will be notified of approved projects. It is also understood that no district or region may receive Assemblies of God Total Giving credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.

Section 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.

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

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

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

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

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

i. 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.

j. 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 or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15), except as hereinafter provided.

k. 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.

l. 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.

m. Ministers from other organizations. If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the credentials committees of both the General Council and the district councils are under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status,

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but will judge each candidate on his or her own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted. Such applicants shall be required to:

- (1) Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.
- (2) Complete an application for ministerial recognition.
- (3) Submit a letter of recommendation from a neighboring Assemblies of God minister or the sectional presbyter for the applicant's area.
- (4) Submit a recommendation from the body with which the minister was formerly affiliated. If such is not available, letters of recommendation should be sought from three reputable ordained ministers who are familiar with the applicant's ministry, two of whom should be with the applicant's former credentialing body.
- (5) Take the credential examination.
- (6) Complete such courses as may be prescribed by the General Presbytery for ministers transferring from other credentialing bodies.
- (7) Meet with the district credentials committee for an oral interview.
- (8) Be recommended by the district credentials committee for action by the General Council Credentials Committee.
- (9) All previously ordained ministers so approved shall receive recognition as ordained Assemblies of God ministers with the laying on of hands by the district presbytery. All other applicants so approved shall receive the appropriate level of credential recognition.
- (10) Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition shall relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee upon recommendation of a district council credentials committee for a minister serving as a missionary in this country who holds a credential with a member body of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship.

Section 3. Specific Qualifications

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

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

c. Certified minister.

(1) *General requirements.* They shall show promise of usefulness in the gospel work. They shall devote a part of their time to Christian ministry and, at the discretion of the district credentials committees, remain under the supervision of a pastor or a designated supervisor. They shall preach at least 12 times a year or be actively engaged in some other aspect of ministry except in case of ill health or advanced age.

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

(3) *Exception for provisional issuance.* A Certificate of Ministry may be issued on a provisional basis to a person who has not met all the credentialing requirements but who is deemed by the district credentials committee to be essential to the continuity of a church or a ministry. The reason for such a provisional issuance must be ministry driven, and the justification for its use is terminated when the minister ceases to be involved in the ministry for which it 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.

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

d. Licensed minister. Qualifications for license shall be in two categories:

(1) *Preaching ministry.* Clear evidence of a divine call, a practical experience in preaching, together with an evident purpose to devote one's time to preaching the gospel. Licensed ministers shall preach at least 15 times a year, except in case of ill health or infirmity.

(2) *Specialized ministry.* An evident purpose to devote one's time to a specialized ministry such as Christian education, music, church-related ministry by a minister's spouse, or other full-time ministries. The same qualifications as outlined in Section 2 of this article shall apply.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 4. Action of Credentials Committee

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

Section 5. Certificates

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

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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. The credential status of the minister shall remain unchanged. The annual renewal of his or her credentials shall take place in the regular manner. Ministers with disabilities thus approved by their district shall not have further obligation of financial support to the General Council.

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

Section 7. Senior Ministers

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

a. Terminology

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

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

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

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

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 VII, Section 10, paragraph f. 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.

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.)

BYLAWS

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.

(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.

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(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.

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.

BYLAWS

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.

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.

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(2) *Not renewed.* If in the opinion of the credentials committees a minister's credentials should not be renewed short of disciplinary action, the minister's name shall be published as not renewed in the ministers letter.

c. As a result of affiliation with another church organization. In the event a minister shall identify with another organization granting ministerial credentials, and shall have received such credentials, his or her credentials with The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be terminated. An investigation shall be made to determine the proper category of termination.

d. Surrender of credentials. In all cases the minister shall be requested to surrender his or her credential (Certificate of Ordination, License to Preach, Specialized Ministries License, Certificate of Ministry) and current fellowship card to the district office. The district shall forward these to the office of the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Refusal to surrender his or her credential and current fellowship card shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister.

Section 12. Ministerial Status Changes

All changes in a minister's status are to be reported immediately to his or her district office, which in turn is to report this information to the office of the general secretary of the General Council, on the Ministerial Status Report form provided by that office.

Section 13. Privileged Communications

Assemblies of God ministers are encouraged to respect as sacred and confidential information confided to them while they are functioning in their ministerial capacities as spiritual counselors and are encouraged not to disclose such confidential information except with the permission of the confidant, to prevent the commission of a crime, or if required by law.

Section 14. Integrity in Educational Credentials

a. Continuing education encouraged. Our ministers and churches are encouraged to seek continuing education, discipleship, spiritual formation, and training opportunities of all kinds, of all degrees of difficulty, of their own initiative or in cooperation with the district council and the General Council, but with great care always taken to properly understand and honestly describe all such training, certifications, degrees, and titles.

b. Using adequately accredited institutions. Because of the many questionable institutions offering unaccredited or deficient training and education, and since the General Council, our General Council schools, and our regional Assemblies of God universities are committed to achieving and maintaining the highest standards of accreditation in education, we strongly encourage our ministers to meet their continuing education needs either through endorsed Assemblies of God institutions or through other reputable institutions having accreditation status at least equivalent to that held by our own regionally and nationally accredited schools, and to consult the district council or General Council offices if they have questions in these matters.

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).

BYLAWS

Even though some marriages may fall short of the biblical ideal (see Article IX, B, Section 5), husbands and wives who devote themselves to God (Ephesians 5:21) and find nurture and instruction in the body of Christ (Hebrews 10:25) can realize the strength and blessing of God in their relationship.

Section 2. Children

Children “are a heritage from the Lord”; therefore, rearing them is to be treated as a sacred trust. God’s strength and wisdom are available on a daily basis in order to bring up children to love and obey God (Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4).

ARTICLE IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

A. COMMISSION ON DOCTRINAL PURITY

a. Authorization and purpose. A Commission on Doctrinal Purity shall be established for the purpose of giving careful attention to preventing deviations from the Statement of Fundamental Truths and proliferation of unscriptural teachings. The commission shall receive its assignments from and make its reports to the Executive Presbytery.

b. Appointments and terms of office. The commission shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall consist of 10 members representing, insofar as possible, the area divisions of the Assemblies of God. Members shall be recognized authorities in biblical knowledge. Their terms of office shall be for 4 years.

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

B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

In accord with its constitutional prerogatives, The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself pertaining to disapproval of certain matters as follows:

Section 1. Unconditional Security

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

Section 2. Legalism

a. Matters of conscience. The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that the Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). However, since sincere commitment to holy living sometimes results in sharp differences of opinion among believers on debatable matters of personal conscience, the Assemblies of God disapproves the practice of pressing these debatable matters of personal conscience upon others (Romans 14:1-4).

b. Adding conditions to salvation. The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8,9). Therefore, the Assemblies of God disapproves any teaching or practice that seems to add conditions to salvation (Galatians 3:1-5).

Section 3. Eschatological Errors

a. The restitution of all things. The Assemblies of God understands the teaching of Acts 3:21 to limit the restoration to that of which the prophets have spoken, thus denying the universal redemption theory. We are opposed to all forms of universalism (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10).

b. Setting a date for the Lord's return. It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing (Mark 13:32,33; Luke 12:37-40; 1 Thessalonians 5:2). It is also unwise to give out from the platform, or publish, visions of numbers and dates fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.

c. Post-Tribulation Rapture. The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself in the Statement of Fundamental Truths that it holds to the belief in the imminent coming of the Lord as the blessed hope of the Church; and since the teaching that the Church must go through the Tribulation tends to bring confusion and division among the saints, it is recommended that all our ministers teach the imminent coming of Christ, warning all to be prepared for that coming, which may occur at any time, and not lull their minds into complacency by any teaching that would cause them to feel that specific Tribulation events must occur before the rapture of the saints.

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

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

Section 4. Membership in Secret Orders

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

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

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

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

BYLAWS

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) or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15).

(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 or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15). (See also Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs j and k.)

Section 6. Worldliness

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

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

Section 7. Abuses of Stewardship

a. Tithing

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

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

b. Solicitation of funds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BYLAWS

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.

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.

Section 13. Accountability in Educational Attribution

a. Attribution. In order to maintain our testimony of quality and integrity in educational credentials before the Church and the world, and to minimize the possibility of our ministers and churches being victimized by, or supporting, or perpetrating frauds in education or credentialing, we maintain certain standards for the attribution of degrees, certifications, and titles.

(1) *Attribution by ministers.* Our ministers shall refrain from listing, promoting, or attributing to themselves or others any degrees or titles conferred by institutions or organizations having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditation status less than that of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God institutions (whether our institute, regional university, or seminary levels).

(2) *Attribution by the General Council.* No media, ministry, department, arm, or employee of the General Council shall list, attribute, or promote for any person, any degree or title conferred by an institution or organization having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditations status less than that of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God institutions (whether our institute, regional university, or seminary levels).

(3) *Attribution by local churches.* We strongly encourage our ministers, boards, and churches to take great care to ensure that all ministers and church employees have actually earned the legitimately accredited education, training, and certification, as defined above, which they claim by their titles or degrees (such as counselor, therapist, doctor, and so on).

b. Intentional failure to comply. Intentional refusal to comply with this ethical standard for educational credentials constitutes perpetrating a fraud upon the church and the world, personally and in the good name of the Assemblies of God, and the General Council disapproves of such practices.

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.

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

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.

(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 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. 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 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 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.

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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.

(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.

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(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.

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

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

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

Section 10. Right of Appeal

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

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

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

(2) *Denial of appeal.*

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

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

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

Section 11. Publication of Dismissal

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

Section 12. Reinstatement of Credentials

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

b. Minimal time-lapse for dismissed ministers. The minimal time-lapse required before a minister who has been dismissed is eligible for reinstatement shall be 1 year, except it shall be 2 years for a minister who has been dismissed because of charges as stated in 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.

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.

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The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual shall be administered by the Executive Leadership Team 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.

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 Assemblies of God World 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. Departments shall operate within the parameters and guidelines of *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations 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 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.

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

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

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

(5) *Board of Appeals.* Those members of the World Missions Board who are not members of the World Missions Committee shall sit as a Board of Appeals to act upon any appeal from decisions of the division. In such an appeal, members of the World Missions Committee may present the case for 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 for a 4-year term 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 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 Assemblies of God World Missions.

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

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

Section 6. Ordination of Missionaries

The ordination of persons for or under appointment of 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 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 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, Assemblies of God World Missions may appoint a representative(s) to act for the missionaries and 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 Assemblies of God World Missions, these principles shall be followed:

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

(2) *Title to institutional properties.*

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

(b) *Exceptions.* 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 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 Assemblies of God World Missions for filing.

BYLAWS

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 mission. The essential functions are promoting the establishing of indigenous churches and facilitating the evangelization and discipleship of individuals within the scope of U.S. Missions. 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 Assemblies of God U.S. Missions who shall be elected in the manner described in Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph b.

b. Administrator. There shall be 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 of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* and *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*. These departments shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

(1) *Chaplaincy Ministries* endorses professionally trained clergy to provide pastoral care to people in specialized settings.

(2) *Chi Alpha Campus Ministries* provides campus ministry to evangelize and disciple American and international college and university students.

(3) *Church Planting and Development* provides ministry to facilitate and support the development, planting, and multiplication of missional churches.

(4) *Intercultural Ministries* provides ministry to distinct people groups in the United States who require specialized understanding.

(5) *Mission America Placement Service* provides ministry to enlist, facilitate, and place volunteers in distinct areas of Christian service.

(6) *Teen Challenge International, U.S.A.* provides ministry to people of all ages with addictive behaviors.

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 Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be under the advisement of a U.S. Missions Board.

f. U.S. Missions Executive Committee. The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a U.S. Missions Executive Committee consisting of the executive director as chairperson, the administrator as vice-chairperson, the directors of the major departments of the division, and other resource persons as determined by the executive director and approved by the Executive Leadership Team. The responsibilities of the U.S. Missions Executive Committee shall be the general supervision and direction of the work of the division and its missionaries.

g. Commission on Chaplains

(1) *Composition.* The Commission on Chaplains shall consist of the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, representatives of the Military/Veterans Affairs and Institutional/Occupational Chaplaincies, one of whom shall be the department director of Chaplaincy Ministries, two executive presbyters, two Military/Veterans Affairs chaplains, two Institutional/Occupational chaplains, two members at large, legal counsel, and others at the discretion of the Executive Leadership Team. The commission shall serve as the endorsing agency for The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Members of the commission and its chairperson shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

(2) *Authority and amenability.* The government and work of Chaplaincy Ministries shall be vested in and committed to the Commission on Chaplains. The commission shall operate within guidelines adopted by the Executive Presbytery. It shall have the responsibility to evaluate policies, to offer guidance and counsel in the area of its supervision, to establish criteria for the appointment of workers in the Military/Veterans Affairs, Institutional/Occupational Chaplaincies, and to sit as a Board of Appeal in all matters relating to its area of supervision. It shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

h. National U.S. missionaries. National U.S. missionaries shall be appointed by action of the U.S. Missions Executive 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 Assemblies of God U.S. Missions upon the approval of the work district.

i. 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. The work of the departments within U.S. Missions is transdistrict. U.S. missionaries work in cooperation with both U.S. Missions and their assigned district(s) to fulfill the mission and purpose of the Assemblies of God. U.S. missionaries shall conduct their ministry under the blessing and support of the respective district(s). The evaluation of the missionary's effectiveness, pastoral care, and fellowship opportunities shall be shared by the district(s) and U.S. Missions.

Section 3. Support

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

- a. Offerings.
- b. Five percent of all funds contributed through the national Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.
- c. One-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment designated to their respective departments.
- d. 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 Chaplaincy Ministries.

BYLAWS

e. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries

All Chi Alpha groups are required to contribute five percent of all group revenue to national Chi Alpha Campus Ministries.

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

All Teen Challenge centers shall contribute a monthly accreditation fee determined by the Teen Challenge U.S.A. board of directors.

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.

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.

ARTICLE 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. THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD OPERATIONS MANUAL

The office of the general superintendent shall develop and maintain a set of documents referred to as *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*. These documents shall set forth the procedures, guidelines, and parameters relating to the operation of divisions, departments, commissions, and ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God as outlined in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*.

BYLAWS

The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual shall be administered by the Executive Leadership Team and shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery. An updated copy will be made available to the General Presbytery at its annual meeting. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual* shall be available upon request to all General Council affiliated churches and licensed or ordained ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

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 Executive Leadership Team 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.

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 (With revised Constitution and Bylaws)
 August 8-11, 2007—Indianapolis, Indiana

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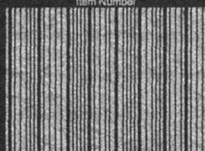
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