

RESOLUTIONS

PROCESSED FOR PRESENTATION

TO THE

53RD GENERAL COUNCIL

AUGUST 4-7, 2009

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

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AMENDMENTS
TO THE
CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS
(Page 93)

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.

Resolution 1

FOURTH REASON FOR BEING

1 WHEREAS, The General Council at its August 2005 meeting in Denver, Colorado, amended the
2 Constitution, Article III. PREROGATIVES, by the addition of line e:

3 e. To respond to human need with ministries of compassion; and

4 WHEREAS, At its meeting on January 27,28, 2009, the Executive Presbytery adopted the report
5 from the Commission on Doctrinal Purity recommending an amendment of the
6 Constitution to include a fourth reason for being; and

7 WHEREAS, The purpose of Jesus' ministry may be summarized that He came to: (1) glorify God,
8 (2) seek and save the lost, (3) make disciples, and (4) demonstrate His love and
9 compassion for the world; and

10 WHEREAS, The fourth reason for being is presently absent from our governance documents; and

11 WHEREAS, The function of the body of Christ is to follow the will of its Head; and

12 WHEREAS, Adding a fourth reason for being in our governance documents will align our mission
13 more exactly to that of our Lord while also accurately reflecting what the Assemblies
14 of God is presently engaged in; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION, WE
16 BELIEVE, paragraph 1, page 83, which reads:

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

20 Be amended to read:

21 That God's purpose concerning man is (1) to seek and to save that which is lost,
22 (2) to be worshiped by man, ~~and~~ (3) to build a body of believers in the image of
23 His Son, and (4) to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world.

24 And, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION, WE
26 BELIEVE, paragraph 5, page 83, which reads:

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

1 Be amended to read:

2 That the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God is to be an agency of
3 God for evangelizing the world, to be a corporate body in which man may
4 worship God, ~~and~~ to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints
5 being perfected in the image of His Son, and to be a people who demonstrate
6 God's love and compassion for all the world.

7 And, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, Article IV. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP,
9 paragraph 1, page 84, which reads:

10 The Assemblies of God shall represent, as nearly as possible, the body of Christ
11 as described in the New Testament. It shall recognize the principles inherent in
12 the Body as also inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity,
13 cooperation, and equality. It recognizes that these principles will enable it to
14 achieve its priority reason-for-being as an agency of God for evangelizing the
15 world, as a corporate body in which man may worship God, and as a channel of
16 God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son.

17 Be amended to read:

18 The Assemblies of God shall represent, as nearly as possible, the body of Christ
19 as described in the New Testament. It shall recognize the principles inherent in
20 the Body as also inherent in this Fellowship, particularly the principles of unity,
21 cooperation, and equality. It recognizes that these principles will enable it to
22 achieve its priority reason for being as an agency of God for evangelizing the
23 world, as a corporate body in which man may worship God, ~~and~~ as a channel of
24 God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son,
25 and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

26 And, be it further

27 RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, Article V. STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL
28 TRUTHS, Section 10. The Church and Its Mission, pages 87-88, which reads:

29 The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit,
30 with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her Great Commission. Each
31 believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church
32 of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:22; Hebrews
33 12:23).

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

- 5 a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew
6 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- 7 b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians
8 12:13).
- 9 c. To be a channel of God’s purpose to build a body of saints being
10 perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians
11 12:28; 14:12).

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

- 15 a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with
16 accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31;
17 Hebrews 2:3,4).
- 18 b. Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1
19 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).
- 20 c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in
21 expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times
22 for the edifying of the body of Christ (Galatians 5:22-26; 1 Corinthians
23 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

24 Be amended to read:

25 The Church is the body of Christ, the habitation of God through the Spirit,
26 with divine appointments for the fulfillment of her Great Commission. Each
27 believer, born of the Spirit, is an integral part of the general assembly and church
28 of the firstborn, which are written in heaven (Ephesians 1:22,23; 2:22; Hebrews
29 12:23).

30 Since God’s purpose concerning man is to seek and to save that which is lost,
31 to be worshiped by man, ~~and~~ to build a body of believers in the image of His
32 Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority
33 reason for being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

- 1 a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew
2 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- 3 b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians
4 12:13).
- 5 c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being
6 perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians
7 12:28; 14:12).
- 8 d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the
9 world (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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

- 13 a. Enables them to evangelize in the power of the Spirit with
14 accompanying supernatural signs (Mark 16:15-20; Acts 4:29-31;
15 Hebrews 2:3,4).
- 16 b. Adds a necessary dimension to a worshipful relationship with God (1
17 Corinthians 2:10-16; 1 Corinthians 12-14).
- 18 c. Enables them to respond to the full working of the Holy Spirit in
19 expression of fruit and gifts and ministries as in New Testament times
20 for the edifying of the body of Christ and care for the poor and needy of
21 the world (Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 25:37-40; Galatians 6:10; 1
22 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians
23 1:29).

24 And, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, Article V. STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL
26 TRUTHS, Section 11. The Ministry, page 88, which reads:

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

31 Be amended to read:

32 A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our
33 Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the

1 world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23,24), ~~and~~ (3) building a
2 Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16), and
3 (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9;
4 Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

5 And, be it further

6 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws be amended by replacing the word *threefold* with the
7 word *fourfold* and adding the statement, and to demonstrate His love and compassion
8 for all the world, where needed.

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 2

PRIORITIZATION OF PREROGATIVES

1 WHEREAS, The wording of our Constitution, Article III. PREROGATIVES, places evangelization
2 of the world as letter “a” and the worship of God as letter “b”; and

3 WHEREAS, This sequence gives place to something other than the worship of God as our first
4 priority; and

5 WHEREAS, Passion for the lost is the byproduct of passion for God who is worthy of the worship
6 of the nations; and

7 WHEREAS, It is this passion for God that causes us to align ourselves, without reservation, to His
8 purposes; and

9 WHEREAS, We have the Early Church example in Acts 13 whose priority of worship positioned
10 them to hear the Holy Spirit’s voice and respond, giving birth to the evangelization of
11 the then-known world; and

12 WHEREAS, the reordering of the encouragement and promotion of the worship of God as letter “a”
13 and the encouragement and promotion of world evangelization as letter “b” would
14 place emphasis on our corporate priority of the worship of God; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, Article III. PREROGATIVES, paragraphs a and b,
16 page 84, which reads:

The prerogatives of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be:

- 18 a. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.
- 19 b. To encourage and promote the worship of God.

20 Be amended to read:

21 The prerogatives of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be:

- 22 a. To encourage and promote the worship of God.
- 23 b. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.

24 And, be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the General Council Constitution and Bylaws be amended throughout to reflect
26 this prioritization.

Sponsor: Ohio District Council

Presented _____
 Amended _____
 Referred _____
 Adopted _____
 Lost _____

Resolution 3

PARENT AFFILIATED CHURCHES

1 WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution, Article XI, Section 2, Page 93, makes provision
2 for district council affiliated churches; and

3 WHEREAS, An increasing number of churches are dependent upon the parent church rather than
4 upon the district; and

5 WHEREAS, Having an officially designated category to recognize the missional value of Parent
6 Affiliated Assemblies will assist districts and parent churches in measuring their
7 progress; and

8 WHEREAS, Parent Affiliated Assemblies have a long history in World Missions; and

9 WHEREAS, It would be advantageous to create a new category in the General Council
10 Constitution that would provide for churches which are Parent Affiliated Assemblies;
11 and

12 WHEREAS, Having such a category would be beneficial to the district to reduce liability risk for
13 these churches by assigning that risk to the parenting church; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, Article XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES, page 93, be
15 amended by the addition of a new Section 3, to read as follows:

16 **Section 3. Parent Affiliated Churches.** Provision shall be made by district
17 councils for Parent Affiliated Assemblies which shall be under the supervision of
18 a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting church’s constitution and
19 bylaws.

20 And, be it further

21 RESOLVED, That present Sections 3 and 4 be renumbered 4 and 5.

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 4

ADDITIONAL HISPANIC REPRESENTATION

1 WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery constitutes the Board of Directors of The General Council
2 of the Assemblies of God, performing such functions as are usual and customary for
3 a board of directors; and

4 WHEREAS, The members of the Executive Presbytery are representatives for geographic areas,
5 language areas (Spanish and other), and ethnic fellowships; and

6 WHEREAS, The Language—Spanish Area, comprised of nine districts, has experienced
7 substantial growth as indicated in the statements below, which points to
8 consideration of increased representation on the Executive Presbytery:

- 9 • ACMR data shows that over 5,600 of 12,300+ Assemblies of God churches
10 now have Hispanics as adherents in their local congregations.
- 11 • Net growth of Assemblies of God congregations from 1991 to 2007 has been
12 775, of which 691 were Hispanic congregations.
- 13 • Net growth of Assemblies of God churches from 1997 to 2007 has been 442,
14 of which 289 (or 65 percent) were in the Hispanic districts.
- 15 • Sunday a.m. worship attendance in the Assemblies of God from 1995 to 2005
16 has grown by 221,790 (14.5 percent) and the growth among the Hispanic
17 districts during the same period has been 105,096 (65.1 percent), thus
18 providing 47.4 percent of the total growth, not counting the Hispanic growth
19 in churches in geographic districts;

20 Therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That the Language—Spanish Area be divided into two areas, each represented by an
22 executive presbyter. The division shall be as follows:

- 23 • One Hispanic executive representative would represent the West Spanish
24 Area, comprised of the following five districts: Arizona Latin American;
25 Central Latin American; Gulf Latin American; Northern Pacific Latin
26 American, and Southern Pacific Latin American,
- 27 • One Hispanic executive representative would represent the Eastern Spanish
28 Area, comprised of the following four districts: Midwest Latin American,
29 Puerto Rico, Southeastern Spanish, and Spanish Eastern

30 And be it further

1 RESOLVED, That Constitution Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE
2 GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 2. Executive Presbytery, paragraph a. Composition
3 and Terms of office, page 90, which currently reads:

4 **a. Composition and terms of office.** The Executive Presbytery shall consist of
5 the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general
6 secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of Assemblies of God
7 World Missions, the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions,
8 together with 13 other persons to bring the number to 19. The terms of office for
9 the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions and the executive
10 director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall continue for 4 years or until
11 their successors qualify. The terms of office for all members of the Executive
12 Presbytery, except as stated in this section and Section 1, shall begin 60 days
13 after date of election and shall continue for 2 years or until their successors
14 qualify.

15 Be amended to read:

16 **a. Composition and terms of office.** The Executive Presbytery shall consist of
17 the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general
18 secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of Assemblies of God
19 World Missions, the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions,
20 together with 14 other persons to bring the number to 20. The terms of office for
21 the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions and the executive
22 director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall continue for 4 years or until
23 their successors qualify. The terms of office for all members of the Executive
24 Presbytery, except as stated in this section and Section 1, shall begin 60 days
25 after date of election and shall continue for 2 years or until their successors
26 qualify.

27 And be it further

28 RESOLVED, That Bylaws Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section
29 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph c. Nonresident executive presbyters,
30 subparagraph (2) Divisions for electing nonresident executive presbyters (a) By area,
31 page 98, which reads:

1 (a) *By area.* For the purpose of electing nonresident executive presbyters, The
2 General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be divided into 10 areas,
3 according to district boundary lines in the following manner:

4 *Northwest Area:* Alaska, Montana, Northwest, Oregon, Southern Idaho,
5 Wyoming

6 *Southwest Area:* Arizona, Hawaii, Northern California-Nevada, Rocky
7 Mountain, Southern California

8 *North Central Area:* Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Northern
9 Missouri, South Dakota, Wisconsin-Northern Michigan

10 *South Central Area:* Kansas, New Mexico, North Texas, Oklahoma, South
11 Texas, West Texas

12 *Great Lakes Area:* Appalachian, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio

13 *Gulf Area:* Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Southern Missouri, Tennessee

14 *Northeast Area:* New Jersey, New York, Northern New England,
15 Pennsylvania-Delaware, Potomac, Southern New England

16 *Southeast Area:* Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Peninsular Florida, South
17 Carolina, West Florida

18 *Language Area—Spanish:* Central Latin American, Gulf Latin American,
19 Midwest Latin American, Northern Pacific Latin American, Southern Pacific
20 Latin American, Puerto Rico, Southeastern Spanish, Spanish Eastern

21 *Language Area—Other:* Brazilian, German, Korean, Second Korean

22 Be amended to read:

23 (a) *By area.* For the purpose of electing nonresident executive presbyters, The
24 General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be divided into 11 areas,
25 according to district boundary lines in the following manner:

26 *Northwest Area:* Alaska, Montana, Northwest, Oregon, Southern Idaho,
27 Wyoming

28 *Southwest Area:* Arizona, Hawaii, Northern California-Nevada, Rocky
29 Mountain, Southern California

30 *North Central Area:* Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Northern
31 Missouri, South Dakota, Wisconsin-Northern Michigan

32 *South Central Area:* Kansas, New Mexico, North Texas, Oklahoma, South
33 Texas, West Texas

1 *Great Lakes Area:* Appalachian, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio
2 *Gulf Area:* Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Southern Missouri, Tennessee
3 *Northeast Area:* New Jersey, New York, Northern New England,
4 Pennsylvania-Delaware, Potomac, Southern New England
5 *Southeast Area:* Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Peninsular Florida, South
6 Carolina, West Florida
7 *Language Area—West Spanish:* Arizona Latin, Central Latin American, Gulf
8 Latin American, Northern Pacific Latin American, Southern Pacific Latin
9 American
10 *Language Area—East Spanish:* Midwest Latin American, Puerto Rico,
11 Southeastern Spanish, Spanish Eastern
12 *Language Area—Other:* Brazilian, German, Korean, Second Korean

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 5

COMPOSITION OF GENERAL PRESBYTERY

1 WHEREAS, The 1916 General Council established the General Presbytery as a representative
2 body to serve the General Council in all phases of its work and interests; and

3 WHEREAS, Over the years, the General Council has expanded the composition of the General
4 Presbytery to more effectively represent our growing constituency; and

5 WHEREAS, The 6,502 female credentialed ministers (2007) are under-represented on the General
6 Presbytery; and

7 WHEREAS, The 7,987 credentialed ministers under 40 years of age (2007) are under-represented
8 on the General Presbytery; and

9 WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God would be well-served to expand the composition of the
10 General Presbytery to reflect our growing constituency by increasing the
11 representation of female credentialed ministers and credentialed ministers under 40
12 years of age; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES
14 OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 3. General Presbytery, pages 90 and 91, be
15 amended by the addition of one new paragraph to be known as g. Additional
16 Representation, which shall read:

17 **g. Additional Representation.** There shall be an additional 30 members based
18 on ratios of approximately 25 percent ordained females and the balance ordained
19 ministers under the age of 40 at the time of election. All these additional
20 members shall serve a 2-year term and may be elected for an additional 2-year
21 term (if they continue to qualify in the case of the under 40 years-of-age
22 members).

23 And be it further

24 RESOLVED, That present paragraphs g. and h. be re-lettered as h. and i.

Sponsor: General Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

AMENDMENTS

TO THE

BYLAWS

ARTICLE XXI. AMENDMENTS

(Page 140)

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.

Resolution 6

ELECTION OF GENERAL PRESBYTERY

1 WHEREAS, The 1916 General Council established the General Presbytery as a representative
2 body to serve the General Council in all phases of its work and interests; and

3 WHEREAS, Over the years, the General Council has expanded the composition of the General
4 Presbytery to more effectively represent our growing constituency; and

5 WHEREAS, The 6,502 female credentialed ministers (2007) are under-represented on the General
6 Presbytery; and

7 WHEREAS, The 7,987 credentialed ministers under 40 years of age (2007) are under-represented
8 on the General Presbytery; and

9 WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God would be well-served to expand the composition of the
10 General Presbytery to reflect our growing constituency by increasing the
11 representation of female credentialed ministers and credentialed ministers under 40
12 years of age; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND
14 PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph d. General
15 presbyters, page 99, be amended by the addition of a new paragraph (9) *Additional*
16 *representation*, to read as follows:

(9) *Additional representation.* Each district may submit the names of two
qualified nominees selected by the district presbytery, one ordained minister
under 40 years of age at the time of election active in full-time ministry, one
ordained female active in full-time ministry (no age requirement) to the
Executive Presbytery. The Executive Presbytery shall nominate 30 members
to serve a 2-year term based on ratios of approximately 25 percent female
and the balance ordained ministers under the age of 40 at the time of election.
The 30 nominees shall be submitted to the General Presbytery for ratification.
These nominees shall be submitted to the General Presbytery, by electronic
or regular mail, 3 months before the General Presbytery meeting so that they
may be ratified for seating at the upcoming General Presbytery.

Sponsor: General Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 7

ARIZONA LATIN DISTRICT

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

4 WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery in session on June 2-4, 2008, approved the establishment
5 of the Arizona Latin District Council of The General Council of the Assemblies of
6 God; and

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

9 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph c, (2), *Language*
10 *Area—Spanish*, page 98, which presently reads:

11 *Language Area—Spanish:* Central Latin American, Gulf Latin American,
12 Midwest Latin American, Northern Pacific Latin American, Southern Pacific
13 Latin American, Puerto Rico, Southeastern Spanish, Spanish Eastern

14 Be amended to read:

15 *Language Area—Spanish:* Arizona Latin, Central Latin American, Gulf Latin
16 American, Midwest Latin American, Northern Pacific Latin American, Southern
17 Pacific Latin American, Puerto Rico, Southeastern Spanish, Spanish Eastern

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 8

SOUTHERN PACIFIC LATIN AMERICAN DISTRICT NAME CHANGE

1 WHEREAS, A district council has the prerogative of determining the proper name of the district
2 council; and

3 WHEREAS, The Southern Pacific Latin American District Council was given its current name
4 when the Pacific Latin American District was divided; and

5 WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Southern Pacific Latin American District to change its name to
6 Southern Pacific District Council; therefore it be

7 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph c, (2), *Language*
8 *Area—Spanish*, page 98, which presently reads:

9 *Language Area—Spanish:* Central Latin American, Gulf Latin American,
10 Midwest Latin American, Northern Pacific Latin American, Southern Pacific
11 Latin American, Puerto Rico, Southeastern Spanish, Spanish Eastern

12 Be amended to read:

13 *Language Area—Spanish:* Central Latin American, Gulf Latin American,
14 Midwest Latin American, Northern Pacific Latin American, Southern Pacific
15 ~~Latin American~~, Puerto Rico, Southeastern Spanish, Spanish Eastern

Sponsor: Southern Pacific Latin American District Council

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 9

NATIONAL SLAVIC DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

4 WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery in session on June 2-4, 2008, approved the establishment
5 of the National Slavic District Council, Inc., of The General Council of the
6 Assemblies of God; and

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

9 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph c, (2), *Language*
10 *Area—Other*, page 98, which presently reads:

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

Be amended to read:

*Language Area—Other: Brazilian, German, Korean, National Slavic, Second
14 Korean*

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 10

RIGHT OF APPEAL FOR AFFILIATION

1 WHEREAS, The 2003 General Council recognized the need for more flexibility in church
2 governance structure that would free pastors desiring to lead congregations
3 with a more nontraditional approach to governance; and

4 WHEREAS, In November 2007, the Executive Presbytery appointed a Task Force
5 specifically to study eldership models of church governance; and

6 WHEREAS, The Task Force concluded that it could not present a comprehensive set of
7 documents, including recommended constitutions and bylaws to cover all
8 eventualities; and

9 WHEREAS, The Task Force further recommended flexibility and accountability as key
10 principles guiding decisions concerning church governance, and

11 WHEREAS, There is provision included in the General Council Bylaws requiring any
12 church, whatever its governance structure, to apply for affiliation through the
13 district council; and

14 WHEREAS, There is not presently a provision for an appeal process of a district presbytery
15 church affiliation decision; therefore, be it

16 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 1.
17 Procedure for Affiliation, letter d, page 107, which currently reads:

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

23 Be amended to read:

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

1 Affiliation issued by the general secretary. In the event an
2 application for affiliation is declined by a district presbytery, appeal
3 may be made by the church to the General Council Executive
4 Presbytery whose decision shall be final.

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 11

DUAL CREDENTIALS

1 WHEREAS, It is required that an individual who applies for ministry credentials with The General
2 Council of the Assemblies of God relinquish his/her ministerial credentials with any
3 other organization; and

4 WHEREAS, An exception to hold dual credentials is provided for a minister serving as a
5 missionary in this country, who holds a credential with a member body of the World
6 Assemblies of God Fellowship; and

7 WHEREAS, There are unique cases in which it would be advantageous for an individual to hold
8 credentials with The General Council of the Assemblies of God and another
9 ministerial credentialing body; therefore, be it

10 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 2. Basic
11 Qualifications, m. Ministers from other organizations (10), page 112, which currently
12 reads:

13 **m. Ministers from other organizations. (10).** Ministers who receive Assemblies
14 of God recognition shall relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other
15 organization, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials
16 Committee upon recommendation of a district council credentials committee for
17 a minister serving as a missionary in this country who holds a credential with a
18 member body of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship.

19 Be amended to read:

20 **m. Ministers from other organizations. (10).** Ministers who receive Assemblies
21 of God recognition shall relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other
22 organization, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials
23 Committee upon recommendation of a district council credentials committee for
24 a minister serving as a missionary in this country who holds a credential with a
25 member body of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship, or in special and/or
26 unique cases as determined by the General Council Credentials Committee.

Sponsor: General Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 12

ORGANIZATIONAL ASSISTANCE

- 1 WHEREAS, Despite the best efforts of pastors, leaders, and members in a local General
2 Council church to follow principles of conflict resolution such as those found in
3 Matthew 18:15-17, irreconcilable differences sometimes continue to disrupt the
4 necessary harmony and health of the assembly; and
- 5 WHEREAS, The history of many General Council churches includes hurt and confusion in the
6 wake of unhealthy actions by parishioners, board members, and/or ministers
7 which can result in the departure from the local church and from the Fellowship
8 at large by stable pastors, members, and family units who wonder why there was
9 no decisive outside intervention by spiritual authority; and
- 10 WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 4, paragraph c, page
11 109, refers to “organizational assistance” made available by a district council in
12 dealing with church problems via an invitation from the pastor, a majority of the
13 official church board, or a petition signed by 20 percent of the voting members;
14 and
- 15 WHEREAS, The term “organizational assistance” can be interpreted in a variety of ways with
16 a variety of implications, especially in times of heightened conflict, distress, and
17 pressure; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Healthy intervention by the district in response to an invitation from the local
19 church may only be achieved, in many cases, if the district leadership has been
20 empowered to make decisions with authority; and
- 21 WHEREAS, Temporarily reverting a General Council assembly to district affiliated status
22 allows the leadership of the district to act with clarity and authority; and
- 23 WHEREAS, Our Fellowship recognizes the scriptural mandate for and historical blessing of
24 acknowledging and partnering with proper spiritual authority at all levels of
25 church leadership; and
- 26 WHEREAS, The practice of reverting a General Council assembly to district affiliated status
27 is well established since scenarios for reverting a church from General Council
28 status to district affiliated status already exist whenever a General Council church
29 fails to maintain the criteria for General Council affiliation, as per General
30 Council Bylaws Article VI, Section 5; and

1 WHEREAS, Parameters already exist to guide a district in giving effective aid to a local
2 assembly in a situation where a pastor is causing a major offense (see the
3 description of disciplinable offenses in General Council Bylaws Article X), but
4 parameters are not given in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws
5 providing a clear avenue of strength from which the district can aid a local pastor
6 when non-credentialed church members and leaders are causing the major
7 offense; and

8 WHEREAS, General Council Constitution Article XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES, Section 1,
9 paragraph e, provides safeguards to a General Council affiliated church from any
10 possible abuse of this prerogative by a district through an appeal to the Executive
11 Presbytery, and ultimately, the General Presbytery when there is a question
12 whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the district; therefore,
13 be it

14 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 4.
15 Relationships Between Churches, District Councils, and the General Council,
16 paragraph c. Organizational assistance, page 109, which reads:

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

23 Be amended to read:

24 **c. Organizational assistance.** The services of both the General
25 Council and district council are available to assist the General
26 Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either
27 internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the
28 official board of the church or a petition signed by 20 percent of the
29 voting members. When district officers receive such requests, they
30 shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary,
31 recommending remedial actions to the responsible district governing
32 entity, (e.g., district presbytery or district executive presbytery). At

1 its discretion, that governing entity may act to bring the church under
2 district supervision, and, when necessary, revert it from General
3 Council status to district affiliated status until the governing entity
4 considers the problem resolved.

Sponsors: Ohio District Council
Appalachian District Presbytery
Indiana Executive Presbytery
Michigan District Presbytery
Northwest District Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 13

DISAFFILIATION PERCENTAGE

1 WHEREAS, The present General Council Bylaws do not specify a percentage of a vote when an
2 Assemblies of God church votes to leave The General Council of the Assemblies of
3 God; and

4 WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws Article VI, Section 4, d. Preservation of Affiliation,
5 page 109, presently states the following in the last sentence: *Final disposition of the*
6 *matter may then proceed in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the local*
7 *church*; and

8 WHEREAS, Many local church constitution and bylaws make no provision for a particular
9 percentage; therefore, *Robert’s Rules of Order* dictate the percentage in such cases to
10 be a “simple majority”; and

11 WHEREAS, A simple majority for such a serious matter as severing a relationship with the
12 Fellowship seems inappropriate for such an important decision; and

13 WHEREAS, In many such cases some of the faithful Assemblies of God people have already left
14 these difficult chaotic situations; and

15 WHEREAS, It would be less disruptive to a local church to have a two-thirds vote to make such a
16 request, therefore demonstrating a greater unity of decision; and

17 WHEREAS, It would be beneficial for all our churches and districts to have the same rule to guide
18 us and not permit unfair practices by having some churches’ constitutions and bylaws
19 to have one percentage and possibly other churches’ constitutions and bylaws
20 another; therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 4. Relationships
22 Between Churches, District Councils, and the General Council, d. Preservation of
23 affiliation, page 109, which presently reads:

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

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Be amended to read:

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 a two-thirds vote of the congregation. ~~the constitution and bylaws of the local church.~~

Sponsor: Northern New England District Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 14

AMENDING BYLAWS AT GENERAL COUNCIL

- 1 WHEREAS, Many have expressed a desire for the biennial General Councils to be less centered
2 on business and legislative matters, and more focused on inspiration, motivation,
3 information, training, and spiritual direction; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The present structure of the General Council normally requires 3 full days to be set
5 aside for business, thereby precluding a sustained focus on anything else; and
- 6 WHEREAS, A greater priority for the forward thrust of the Assemblies of God is enhanced by
7 reducing time given to legislative matters and increasing time allotted for that which
8 would better promote the health and growth of Assemblies of God ministers, laity,
9 and churches; and
- 10 WHEREAS, The present parallel Fine Arts Festival militates against sustained involvement of
11 younger ministers because of the need for their presence with their youth groups or
12 their children; and
- 13 WHEREAS, The cost to divide the Fine Arts Festival from General Council is prohibitive, and
14 even if divided younger ministers could not afford to attend both; and
- 15 WHEREAS, If time given to legislative matters was severely reduced, it would permit a more
16 creative approach to adjusting the schedule of the Fine Arts Festival to the
17 inspirational and instructive elements of a General Council and thereby permit a
18 greater number of young ministers to attend both events; and
- 19 WHEREAS, By and large, the younger generation of ministers is less concerned with dealing with
20 operational issues of the General Council, and far more concerned about advancing
21 the work of the Lord through strategic planning and training; and
- 22 WHEREAS, Many of our district councils have already significantly reduced the time allotted to
23 business sessions and made their district councils a learning and resource event; and
- 24 WHEREAS, Essential matters should be retained by the General Council in session such as the
25 Constitution; and
- 26 WHEREAS, All other matters could be better handled by the nearly 300-member General
27 Presbytery that widely represents the entire Fellowship; therefore, be it
- 28 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XXI. AMENDMENTS, page 140, which now
29 reads:

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

4 Be amended to read:

5 Article XXI. Amendments. Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any
6 ~~regular meeting of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Amendments~~
7 ~~to be adopted shall require a majority of all votes cast~~ duly called meeting of the
8 General Presbytery, provided such amendment receives a majority of all votes
9 cast. Individual general presbyters or district councils may submit suggested
10 amendments to the Bylaws to the General Presbytery. In the event a district
11 council is not satisfied with the response of the General Presbytery, it may appeal
12 the decision of the General Presbytery to the General Council and the decision of
13 the General Council, by majority vote, shall be final. Further, a resolution to
14 amend the General Council Bylaws may be proposed to the General Council, if
15 appropriate notice is given, and if sponsored by a minimum of 500 qualified
16 delegates. Amendments to be adopted by the General Council shall require a
17 majority of all votes cast. The General Presbytery shall provide, as a report, a
18 biennial update of the Bylaws to the General Council in session.

Sponsor: General Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 15

INTEGRITY IN EDUCATIONAL ATTRIBUTION

1 WHEREAS, At the 2007 General Council, the Integrity in Educational Credentials Resolution 9
2 was adopted; and

3 WHEREAS, That resolution entered the following statement as contained in Bylaws Article IX, B,
4 Section 13. Accountability in Educational Attribution, page 125, which reads:

Section 13. Accountability in Educational Attribution

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

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

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

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

28 **b. Intentional failure to comply.** Intentional refusal to comply with this
29 ethical standard for educational credentials constitutes perpetrating a fraud upon

1 the church and the world, personally and in the good name of the Assemblies of
2 God, and the General Council disapproves of such practices;

3 And

4 WHEREAS, The sponsor stated, at that time, the resolution did not address any degrees earned or
5 conferred in the past from any institution whatsoever, and that all such degrees from
6 the past would be fully accepted and grandfathered in. And that the resolution if
7 adopted would be from the time of adoption forward; and

8 WHEREAS, To ensure that the degrees received by the multitude of ministers in our Fellowship
9 are accepted and grandfathered in, in the years to come; prior to the adoption of
10 Resolution 9 in 2007, a statement should be added to the bylaws to affirm the vocal
11 statement given by the sponsor and understood by the voting body in attendance in
12 2007; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES
14 DISAPPROVED, B. List of Doctrines and Practices Disapproved, Section 13.
15 Accountability in Educational Attribution, paragraph a. Attribution, page 125, be
16 amended by the addition of a new paragraph (4) to read as follows:

17 (4) Attribution accepted. All previously earned or conferred degrees prior to
18 August 2007, from any institution whatsoever shall be fully accepted and
19 grandfathered in.

Sponsor: Robert L. Downen
Perry M. Fruscella
Wallace C. Phillips
Joseph N. Roberts

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 16

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD TOTAL GIVING CREDIT
FOR SUPPORT OF SATELLITE CHURCHES**

1 WHEREAS, Church planting is a high priority in the Assemblies of God; and
2 WHEREAS, Strong sovereign churches need to be encouraged to parent new churches, including
3 satellite churches; and
4 WHEREAS, Other church planting methods receive Total Giving Credit, and a need exists to
5 provide Total Giving Credit for the support of satellite churches; and
6 WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery appointed a committee to study and review the granting of
7 Total Giving Credit to parent churches of satellite churches; and
8 WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery adopted a resolution recommending that Assemblies of
9 God Total Giving Credit be given to parent churches for satellite startup costs, up to
10 6 months, including property (facilities and equipment), promotion, and personnel
11 (pastoral selection and moving expenses); therefore, be it
12 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 2. c. Assemblies
13 of God Total Giving (3) *Credit*, page 108, which reads:
14 (3) *Credit*. Assemblies of God Total Giving recognition shall provide credit
15 to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to the Fellowship Partners plan
16 for support of the General Council; Assemblies of God World Missions,
17 Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, Benevolences Ministries, Christian Higher
18 Education (including educational institutions), Church Ministries (including
19 men’s, women’s, music, youth, and senior adults), General Administration
20 (including executive and Spiritual Life offices), other General Council, regional,
21 and district-sponsored or approved projects. Contributions from districts other
22 than where a district-approved project is located can be granted Assemblies of
23 God Total Giving credit only if the district where the contribution originates
24 gives its approval and if the contribution is channeled through that district or
25 national Headquarters. It is expected that the national division or department
26 related to a given project will be notified of approved projects. It is also
27 understood that no district or region may receive Assemblies of God Total
28 Giving credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.
29 Be amended to read:

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(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, and parent churches for satellite startup costs, up to 6 months, including property (facilities and equipment), promotion, personnel (pastoral selection and moving expenses). 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.

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 17

GENERAL TREASURER’S SEMIANNUAL REPORT

1 WHEREAS, Historically, the general treasurer’s office provided semiannual reports of ministers’
2 contributions for the support of Headquarters to district offices for review; and

3 WHEREAS, The Division of the Treasury no longer submits semiannual reports of ministers’
4 contributions for the support of Headquarters to district offices; and

5 WHEREAS, Notification of ministers’ contributions for the support of Headquarters is now
6 provided to ministers and districts at the end of the year by means of the credential
7 renewal process; therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 10. Credential
9 Renewals and Reinstatements, f. Support of Headquarters, page 118, which reads:

10 f. Support of Headquarters. The work of The General Council of the
11 Assemblies of God, in its program of developing the spirit of cooperation and
12 fellowship in U.S. and world missions fields, incurs considerable expense,
13 including the financial support of the executive officers and offices.

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

20 Compliance with the above requirements shall be a prerequisite for renewal
21 of credentials of all active ministers. If their contributions are in arrears, they
22 shall be given opportunity to meet this deficit with their renewal.

23 The general treasurer’s office shall submit to the respective district offices a
24 semiannual report of ministers’ contributions for the support of Headquarters.
25 Each district shall make this information available to its ministers by any of the
26 following methods:

- 27 (a) Collectively, through district publications.
- 28 (b) Individually, through personal letters.
- 29 (c) Through any other media selected by the district.

1 The districts shall carefully analyze the annual report of each minister and, in
2 their knowledge of local situations, determine if he or she has been voluntarily
3 cooperating with the General Council financial program.

4 Be amended to read:

5 f. Support of Headquarters. The work of The General Council of the
6 Assemblies of God, in its program of developing the spirit of cooperation and
7 fellowship in U.S. and world missions fields, incurs considerable expense,
8 including the financial support of the executive officers and offices.

9 Ordained ministers should recognize their obligation to contribute \$20 per
10 month (\$240 per year) from their tithes, or as an offering. Licensed ministers
11 should contribute \$15 per month (\$180 per year), and certified ministers should
12 contribute \$7.50 per month (\$90 per year). All who can are strongly urged to give
13 more than the suggested amount, either personally or through the assemblies they
14 pastor.

15 Compliance with the above requirements shall be a prerequisite for renewal
16 of credentials of all active ministers. If their contributions are in arrears, they
17 shall be given opportunity to meet this deficit with their renewal.

18 ~~The general treasurer's office shall submit to the respective district offices a~~
19 ~~semiannual report of ministers' contributions for the support of Headquarters.~~
20 ~~Each district shall make this information available to its ministers by any of the~~
21 ~~following methods:~~

- 22 (a) ~~Collectively, through district publications.~~
- 23 (b) ~~Individually, through personal letters.~~
- 24 (c) ~~Through any other media selected by the district.~~

25 ~~The districts shall carefully analyze the annual report of each minister and, in~~
26 ~~their knowledge of local situations, determine if he or she has been voluntarily~~
27 ~~cooperating with the General Council financial program.~~

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 18

UNETHICAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

1 WHEREAS, There is an increased scrutiny of the financial practices in our society’s institutions,
2 including churches and religious nonprofit organizations; and

3 WHEREAS, Ministers of the gospel are called to be accountable in their personal, church, and
4 ministry finances; and

5 WHEREAS, The current Bylaws are somewhat limited in ways of dealing with financial misdeeds
6 by ministers other than Article X, Section 3, c., “Any moral or ethical failure other
7 than sexual misconduct” and j. “A habit of running into debt which brings reproach
8 upon the gospel”; and

9 WHEREAS, While Article X, Section 3, c. and j. are good, they do not provide the clarity needed
10 to address the complex issues of handling finances in today’s atmosphere; and

11 WHEREAS, An amendment to the General Council Bylaws that addresses the financial practices
12 and misdeeds of our ministers is needed; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That Article X. DISCIPLINE, Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action, j., page 126,
14 which currently reads:

j. A habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the gospel.

Be amended to read:

j. ~~A habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the gospel~~ Immoral,
18 unethical, or illegal practices related to personal, church, or ministry finances.

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 19

TRANSGEOGRAPHICAL DISTRICT

- 1 WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God desires to remain open to creative and innovative ways
2 that the Holy Spirit may use in expanding the Church; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Many Pentecostal churches informally or formally network together and would
4 become Assemblies of God if opportunity was given them to become part of the
5 Fellowship within a framework different than our current district structure that is
6 based on language or geography; and
- 7 WHEREAS, A small group of Assemblies of God churches has volunteered to form a bridge
8 to these Pentecostal churches by bringing them into our Fellowship; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Approximately 30 of these Pentecostal churches have indicated a desire to join
10 the Assemblies of God if approval is given for a pilot project that creates a
11 district without geographical borders; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Potential exists for a substantial number of individual churches and networks of
13 churches who are not Assemblies of God, but affirm our doctrine and mission, to
14 join the Fellowship if we provide a structure that grows on the basis of their
15 natural spiritual and affinity ties to one another; and
- 16 WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery supports ascertaining whether such an effort could
17 bring growth and blessing to the Assemblies of God and the churches involved;
18 and
- 19 WHEREAS, The formation of geographical and language districts existing in the same area of
20 parallel fields of endeavor historically has brought great growth and blessing to
21 the Assemblies of God; and
- 22 WHEREAS, A number of districts already identify themselves as ministry networks; and
- 23 WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws empower the Executive Presbytery to form new
24 geographical and foreign language districts; therefore, be it
- 25 RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery be empowered to undertake a 4-year pilot program
26 that creates a district, transgeographical in nature, utilizing the ministry network
27 concept; this district shall consist of no more than 40 General Council affiliated
28 churches as approved by the Executive Presbytery to launch this pilot district,
29 along with other non-Assemblies of God churches who complete the procedure
30 for affiliation as specified in the Assemblies of God Constitution, Article XI,

1 Section 1. a. Requirements of affiliation; that the Executive Presbytery approve
2 the constitution and bylaws of the pilot district; that any subsequent churches
3 who join the pilot district come exclusively from non-Assemblies of God
4 churches; and that the Executive Presbytery bring a report and recommendation
5 to the 2013 General Council to either make the district permanent or disband it.

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 20

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

- 1 WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God recognizes biblical guidelines that support human rights for
2 all people regardless of their race, sex, creed, nationality, economic status, born or
3 unborn; and
- 4 WHEREAS, The Bible teaches that all people are created by God and in His image (Genesis
5 1:26,27), therefore demonstrating the sanctity and value of life (Psalm 8:4,5); and
- 6 WHEREAS, Sins against our fellowman that demean, abuse, devalue, destroy, and enslave in any
7 form are unjust; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Sins against our fellowman are sins against God (Matthew 25:40), who created
9 humankind in His image; and
- 10 WHEREAS, Human trafficking is an issue that is confronting the Church and American society
11 today; and
- 12 WHEREAS, Human trafficking continues to confront people in other countries, as human
13 trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery, using force, fraud, and coercion to
14 achieve the exploitation of victims, especially for purposes of sexual exploitation;
15 and
- 16 WHEREAS, Evidence of 27 million people (80 percent women, 50 percent children) are victims
17 of human trafficking; and
- 18 WHEREAS, 14,500–17,500 such victims are trafficked into the United States each year, with an
19 estimate of 800,000 trafficked annually across international borders worldwide; and
- 20 WHEREAS, The average age of a girl in the United States forced into the sex trade is 14, and can
21 be as young as 8 internationally; and
- 22 WHEREAS, Human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation is a multibillion dollar
23 industry, and linked to criminal activity and pornography; and
- 24 WHEREAS, Without Jesus Christ, these women and children remain lost and without hope of
25 spiritual freedom; and
- 26 WHEREAS, No current position paper or perspectives statement in the Constitution or Bylaws of
27 The General Council of the Assemblies of God exists to reflect our common biblical
28 understanding regarding human trafficking; and
- 29 WHEREAS, THE GENERAL COUNCIL CONSTITUTION, Article III. PREROGATIVES, e,
30 page 84, states we are “to respond to human need with ministries of compassion”;

1 and our position and perspectives statement address abortion; poor; abuse; suffering;
2 pornography; HIV/AIDS; euthanasia; and racism; (all of which are exacerbated by
3 human trafficking), but is presently silent on the historic and pressing issue of human
4 trafficking; therefore, be it

5 RESOLVED, That the following statement be adopted by this General Council in session in
6 Orlando, Florida, August 4-7, 2009:

7 The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that an essential part of the gospel
8 ministry is to “proclaim freedom for the prisoners” and to “release the oppressed”
9 both spiritually and physically (Luke 4:18,19, NIV). We are to be imitators of the
10 Lord in His concern for the afflicted and oppressed (Psalm 10:14-18) and are
11 commanded to “speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves” (Proverbs
12 31:8,9). We therefore strongly condemn the sin of human trafficking in all forms
13 and among all people, especially those which oppress the most vulnerable among
14 us (women and children) for the purposes of sexual exploitation;

15 And, be it further

16 RESOLVED, That The General Council of the Assemblies of God calls for an abolition of slavery
17 in every form. We will partner with the work of the Holy Spirit, asking Christ to
18 empower us and give us courage to actively confront the sin of human trafficking and
19 we call for repentance and the application of justice and opposition to the people and
20 organizations responsible for human trafficking; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That we call on our churches, both corporately and individually, to pray about and
22 seek ways to minister to the enslaved and lead them into the fullness of life and
23 freedom in Christ; and, be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery take action by tasking the Commission on Doctrinal
25 Purity to study and develop a position paper and perspectives statement for adoption
26 and distribution to our districts and churches that can be used as a resource and
27 teaching document.

Sponsor: Montana District Council
Northern Missouri District Executive Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 21

**REAFFIRMATION OF PENTECOSTAL DISTINCTIVE
THE INITIAL PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM**

1 WHEREAS, Our great Fellowship was founded just under a century ago on like Pentecostal
2 principles that were shared by churches across our nation where the wind of the Holy
3 Spirit had brought a fresh Book of Acts experience; and
4 WHEREAS, This Fellowship was formed upon several biblical Pentecostal distinctives, not the
5 least of which is the belief that the initial physical evidence of the baptism in the
6 Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues; and
7 WHEREAS, In recent years the validity of the distinctive doctrine of tongues as the initial
8 physical evidence of Holy Spirit baptism has come under certain scrutiny; therefore,
9 be it
10 RESOLVED, That this 53rd General Council of The General Council of the Assemblies of God go
11 on record to simply reaffirm our stand behind all of our 16 Fundamental Truths and
12 in particular the doctrine of the initial physical evidence of the baptism in the Holy
13 Spirit, which is speaking in other tongues; and be it further
14 RESOLVED, That we as a Movement continue to require our credentialed ministers to not only
15 have the aforementioned Pentecostal experience in their own lives, but actively
16 preach and teach this doctrine as well.

Sponsor: South Texas District Council

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTERS
RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 22

HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER—ARDEN K. ADAMSON

1 WHEREAS, Arden K. Adamson has served the Wisconsin-Northern Michigan District with honor
2 and distinction as secretary-treasurer for 16 years and as its superintendent for 8
3 years; and
4 WHEREAS, He has made significant contributions not only to the Wisconsin-Northern Michigan
5 District, but also to the ongoing ministry of The General Council of the Assemblies
6 of God through his service on the General Presbytery for 24 years and on various
7 boards, committees, and special assignments; and
8 WHEREAS, His years of service include serving with distinction on the Board of Regents of
9 North Central University for the past 8 years; and
10 WHEREAS, He has been a faithful and dedicated servant leader to the churches and ministries of
11 the Wisconsin-Northern Michigan District and has demonstrated a life of integrity,
12 wisdom, and compassion; and
13 WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 91, of the General Council Constitution
14 makes provision for persons with such a distinctive history to be chosen as an
15 honorary presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it
16 RESOLVED, That Arden K. Adamson be elected by this General Council to the position of
17 honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Sponsor: Wisconsin-Northern Michigan District Council
General Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 23

HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER—JOHN W. BEARDSLEY

1 WHEREAS, John W. Beardsley has served the Hawaii Assemblies of God with faithfulness,
2 integrity, and fervency for the past 49 years as a pastor in our district (1959-present)
3 and 42 years as a district secretary (1966-2008); and
4 WHEREAS, John W. Beardsley has made significant contributions not only to the Hawaii District,
5 but also to the ongoing ministry of The General Council of the Assemblies of God
6 through his service on the General Presbytery for 42 years; and
7 WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 91, of the General Council Constitution
8 makes provision for persons with such a distinctive history to be chosen as an
9 honorary presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it
10 RESOLVED, That John W. Beardsley be elected by this General Council to the position of
11 honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Sponsor: Hawaii District Council
General Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 24

HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER—JAMES K. BRIDGES

1 WHEREAS, James K. Bridges has served this Fellowship with great distinction as a minister of
 2 the gospel for 54 years; and

3 WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God
 4 in pastoral ministry in Dallas, Greenville, and Waxahachie, as well as pastorates in
 5 Houston, Texas, and Wichita, Kansas; and

6 WHEREAS, He has served as vice president of academic affairs at Southwestern Assemblies of
 7 God University, and served as chairman of the school’s Board of Regents from 1985-
 8 93; and

9 WHEREAS, He has served the North Texas District Council as sectional presbyter, executive
 10 presbyter, general presbyter, assistant superintendent, and then as superintendent
 11 from 1981 until 1993; and

12 WHEREAS, He has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as general treasurer
 13 from 1993 until 2008; and

14 WHEREAS, This Fellowship has been blessed by his spiritual leadership, practical wisdom, and
 15 faithfulness to Pentecostal doctrine; and

16 WHEREAS, It is proper and fitting to honor those who have served among us with distinction,
 17 integrity, and a desire to enrich the lives of others; and

18 WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 91, of the General Council Constitution
 19 makes provision for persons who have reached at least 60 years of age and have
 20 served on the General Presbytery for 20 years or more, or have served on the General
 21 Presbytery as a General Council executive officer for 8 years or more, to be chosen
 22 as honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That James K. Bridges be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary
 24 general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Sponsor: North Texas District Council
General Presbytery

Presented _____
 Amended _____
 Referred _____
 Adopted _____
 Lost _____

Resolution 25

HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER—CHARLES E. CRANK

1 WHEREAS, Charles E. Crank has faithfully served the Indiana District Assemblies of God with
2 distinction for 53 years as an evangelist, pastor, district, and national leader; and
3 WHEREAS, He has served the Indiana District Council for 2 years as youth director, 4 years as
4 secretary-treasurer, and 29 years as superintendent; and
5 WHEREAS, He has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as a member of the
6 General Presbytery for 37 years, and has chaired and served on many other boards
7 and committees; and
8 WHEREAS, He has served as the Great Lakes Area executive presbyter for 6 years; and
9 WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 91, of the General Council Constitution
10 makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be named an honorary
11 general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it
12 RESOLVED, That Charles E. Crank be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary
13 general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Sponsor: Indiana District Council
General Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

Resolution 26

HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER—PETTUS T. PALMER

1 WHEREAS, Pettus T. Palmer has served the Mississippi District Council of the Assemblies of
2 God for 34 years as secretary-treasurer; and
3 WHEREAS, He served as pastor of various churches in the Mississippi District as well as
4 sectional presbyter for many years prior to serving in the district office; and
5 WHEREAS, He has served as a general presbyter of the General Council for the past 34 years; and
6 WHEREAS, Pettus T. Palmer meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition
7 as an honorary general presbyter; and
8 WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 91, of the General Council Constitution
9 makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be named an honorary
10 general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it
11 RESOLVED, That Pettus T. Palmer be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary
12 general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Sponsor: Mississippi District Council
General Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____

NOTES

