

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 _____