

MINUTES

of the

53rd Session of

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

Convened in Orlando, Florida

August 4-7, 2009

**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
James T. Bradford, General Secretary
Douglas E. Clay, General Treasurer
L. John Bueno, Executive Director of AG World Missions
Zollie L. Smith, Jr., Executive Director of AG U.S. Missions

EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY

George O. Wood, Chairman

C. Dan Betzer	A. Elizabeth Grant
James T. Bradford	Larry H. Griswold
L. John Bueno	R. Bryan Jarrett
Warren D. Bullock	Nam Soo Kim
Douglas E. Clay	John E. Maracle
Richard Dresselhaus	Jesse Miranda, Jr.
Douglas E. Fulenwider	H. Robert Rhoden
L. Alton Garrison	Clarence W. St. John
J. Don George	Zollie L. Smith, Jr.
Saturnino Gonzalez	

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FOREWORD

The 53rd General Council convened in Orlando, Florida, August 4-7, 2009.

Nearly 30,000 people attended from around the nation. The General Council gatherings were marked with a tangible sense of God's presence and the prophetic impact of the ministry of God's Word. Over the past 2 years the Assemblies of God family is one of only a very few religious bodies in the United States that has been growing. We thank God for this and yet seek to find the Lord's enabling power and creative wisdom for even greater spiritual impact on our culture in the years just ahead.

It is a personal privilege to serve on the Executive Leadership Team. Leading that team is George O. Wood who, with an overwhelming mandate on the nominating ballot, was elected to a 4-year term as general superintendent. Also elected was Doug Clay as general treasurer, Zollie L. Smith, Jr., as executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions and myself as general secretary. Although not up for election, L. Alton Garrison continues as assistant general superintendent and L. John Bueno continues as executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions.

As a leadership team we are seeking to focus and strengthen our Fellowship around the five core values articulated by George O. Wood.

1. Passionately proclaim, at home and abroad, by word and deed 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 our Fellowship
5. Fervently pray for God's favor and help as we serve Him with pure hearts and noble purpose

We look forward to the next General Council in Phoenix, Arizona, August 2-5, 2011.

May the Lord bless you as we work together to build Christ's kingdom!

James T. Bradford
General Secretary

**MINUTES OF THE 53rd GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
CONVENED IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA
AUGUST 4-7, 2009**

TUESDAY EVENING—AUGUST 4

The 53rd General Council began with a 7 p.m. service at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, with George O. Wood, general superintendent, as the keynote speaker.

The service opened with a call to worship led by Travis Cottrell and his worship band and the choir from First Assembly of God, Fort Myers, Florida, under the direction of Michael W. Justice. James T. Bradford, general secretary, offered prayer for the General Council and Doug Clay, general treasurer, welcomed attendees and recognized various guests.

L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent, received the offering following the general superintendent's "State of the Church" video report and an appeal from Parker Loy, a student from First Assembly of God, North Little Rock, Arkansas, who gave a challenge for all to become charter members of the Assemblies of God Trust. Chresten and Bridgette Tomlin, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the choir from First Assembly of God, Fort Myers, Florida, under the direction of Tom Matrone, music director at Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, provided the offertory.

The keynote message for the 53rd General Council was brought by General Superintendent George O. Wood entitled *Your Life and Legacy*. He unfolded the story of Leah, the unloved wife of Jacob, to demonstrate life and ministry cannot be measured by your time span on earth.

He opened his message by showing the current *General Council Directory*, with the listing of all Assemblies of God ministers and missionaries, and two volumes of the *Book of Remembrance* that contain the handwritten names of credentialed ministers since 1914 and who are now deceased. He referred to them as "the book of the living on earth" and "the books of the living in heaven," and pointed out that most present would not know many on either list. He emphasized how the overwhelming majority of the Lord's workers labor anonymously in His vineyard—often in lonely places.

Wood referred to Leah as one of the most obscure persons in the Bible. Her legacy plays out beyond the 10 chapters of her story in Genesis all the way to the Book of Revelation. Leah had purity of faith both to encourage and to challenge. Despite the double indignity of being traded by her father and rejected by her husband, and despite a life of circumstances beyond her control, she trusted God. He declared that without Leah there is no Levi, no Moses, no first five books of the Bible, no Ten Commandments, no prototype high priest to model Jesus' intercessory ministry for us. Summarizing Leah's lineage through Judah and David to Jesus, Wood stated the people of the Christmas story are mainly Leah's kids.

Wood recounted the sacrifices of his missionary parents in an unyielding field for a church plant. Though they left the community in seeming failure, today a flourishing congregation of 3,000 worship there, and the church has planted over 2000 churches around the world. His parents pounded on and weakened the wall but others saw the breakthrough. He encouraged those in current battle to keep knocking.

The evening concluded with an extended time of prayer.

WEDNESDAY MORNING—AUGUST 5

Business Session

The first business session of the 53rd General Council of the Assemblies of God convened at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, Wednesday, August 5, at 8:50 a.m. L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent, introduced Sarah Krage, pastor of King of Love University Church and Chi Alpha director for Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan, who appealed to everyone to pray in the Spirit and intercede for the Fellowship. She led in a season of intercessory prayer.

The assistant general superintendent introduced General Superintendent George O. Wood, chairman, who welcomed the delegates and called the business session to order at 9:10 a.m.

Introduction of Executive Leadership Team and Executive Presbytery

Chairman Wood introduced the Executive Leadership Team and asked them to stand: L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent; James T. Bradford, general secretary; Doug Clay, general treasurer; L. John Bueno, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions; Zollie L. Smith, Jr., executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions. He then recognized and introduced the executive presbyters: C. Dan Betzer, Southeast Area; Warren D. Bullock, Northwest Area; Richard Dresselhaus, Southwest Area; Douglas E. Fulenwider, Gulf Area; J. Don George, South Central Area; Larry H. Griswold, Great Lakes Area; Nam Soo Kim, Language Area—Other; John E. Maracle, Ethnic Fellowships; Jesse Miranda, Jr., Language Area—Spanish; Clarence W. St. John, North Central Area; H. Robert Rhoden, Northeast Area. Appreciation was expressed to the Executive Presbytery.

Introduction of Retired Executive Presbyters and General Presbyters

Chairman Wood expressed appreciation to the retired executive officers and presbyters: Almon M. Bartholomew, former executive presbyter, Northeast Area; James K. Bridges, former general treasurer; Charles T. Crabtree, former assistant general superintendent; 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; Armon Newburn, former executive presbyter, South Central Area; Everett R. Stenhouse, former assistant general superintendent; Thomas E. Trask, former general superintendent; and Loren Triplett, former executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions.

Introduction of Headquarters Personnel

The chairman expressed appreciation to all Headquarters personnel who are serving superbly in Orlando, Florida, and in Springfield, Missouri.

Fraternal Delegates

The chairman recognized the fraternal delegates from both the World Assemblies of God Fellowship and those from other Pentecostal denominations who will be in attendance at this General Council.

Expression of Appreciation to the City of Orlando, Florida

Appreciation was expressed to the city of Orlando, Florida, and Mayor Buddy Dyer, and the Convention Services for their hospitality and superb treatment shown to the General Council delegates.

Expression of Appreciation to Governor of the State of Florida

The chairman expressed appreciation to Governor Charlie Crist and the State of Florida.

Expression of Appreciation to Host Districts

George O. Wood expressed appreciation to the Peninsular Florida District and Superintendent Terrell R. Raburn; to the Brazilian District and Superintendent Joel F. Costa; to the Southeastern Spanish District and Superintendent Saturnino Gonzalez; and to the West Florida District and Superintendent Robert S. Thompson, for hosting this 53rd General Council. He also expressed appreciation to the other Southeast Area district councils: the Alabama District and Superintendent Kenneth W. Draughon; the Georgia District and Superintendent Roger W. Brumbalow; the North Carolina District and Superintendent Charles O. Kelly; and the South Carolina District and Superintendent Steven R. Brown.

Expression of Appreciation to Recording Secretaries

The chairman expressed appreciation to those assisting with the minutes: Esther Wood, executive administrative assistant to the general secretary, and Jewell Woodward, executive administrative assistant to the general superintendent.

Introduction of General Council Committees

George O. Wood 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

Doug Clay, chairperson; James T. Bradford, Joel F. Costa, L. Alton Garrison, Saturnino Gonzalez, Terrell R. Raburn, Zollie L. Smith, Jr., Robert S. Thompson, George O. Wood

Parliamentary

Richard R. Hammar, chairperson; Jay A. Herndon, Charles F. Hefton

Resolutions

John R. Wootton, chairperson; Donna L. Barrett, Gary J. Blanchard, Malcolm Burleigh, Gary Jones, Glenn S. Reynolds, Jr., George Paul Wood

Roster

Richard A. Plunk, David L. Wigington, co-chairmen; Mark Christianson, *liaison*, Jeffrey L. Anderson, St. Aubyn Barnaby, Christopher N. Beard, Jerry L. Beers, Robert Bruzelius, George D. Fessler, Paul L. Feuerstein, Trenton W. Gabbard, Jr., Jesse L. Galindo, Eneedo Garza, Jr., Miguel Giron, Thomas Gross, Peter J. Inman, Raul A. Sanchez

Spiritual Life

J. Don George, chairperson; David B. Crabtree, Duane P. Durst, Timothy N. Enloe, Walter R. Harvey, Jr., Young Gil Kim, Maria E. Khaleel, Sarah E. Krage, E. Scott Martin, E. Wayne Murray, Slavik Radchuk. The chairman explained the Spiritual Life Committee report was folded into the State of the Church report given in Tuesday night's service by video.

Tellers

Rollin J. Carlson, chairperson; Micheal E. Dickenson, Mark E. Jakelsky, Boyd S. Powers, Randall S. Rogers, John L. Weidman, Edward Wilson, captains; Efraim Espinoza, *liaison*; Michael B. Bacchus, Thomas B. Baldwin, Marion C. Barnes, O. Dale Bean, William C. Blair, Jr., John M. Blunt, Rosemarie Brown, Jimmy O. Burnett, Jose Camal, Henry Carnley, Edward De La Rosa, Toyie Jo Dix, Mark A. Dolphens, Sr., Freddie Espinoza, Bernardino P. Espinoza, Jr., Gerald M. Fielder, Maria C. Garcia, Amos P. Garza, L.D. Hinson, Gary B. Howell, David N. Isabelli, Clyde Johnson, Nelson R. Johnson, Matthew Jones, Klayton Ko, Michael D. LeBuhn, R. Glenn Lee, James Markham, James D. Marocco, Jesse R. (Jack) Miranda, III, Troy A. O'Quin, Brenton B. Page, Sr., Damaris C. Perez, Michael W. Poston, David M. Quigley, Miguel A. Rodriguez, Scott Shemeth, Randal E. Smith, David A. Stephens, Randy Williamson

National Operational Committees

Program Committee

George O. Wood, chairperson; L. Alton Garrison, James T. Bradford, Doug Clay, L. John Bueno, Zollie L. Smith, Jr.

Program Resource Committee

John Jay Wilson, chairperson; Sharon Lee, Tom Matrone, Jay Mooney, Juleen Turnage, Dan Castor, Encore Productions, Angela Dense, Kathi Divine, Lori Lawley, resource

Accounting

Kenneth R. Tripp, chairperson; Roland Dimos, Fredrick Gore, Janice Hayes, Shari Klassen, Aron Vad

Children's Activities/Kids Council

Jason Noble, chairperson; Brandon Diehl, Service and Kids Council coordinator

Convention Coordinating Team

Sharon L. Lee, convention director; Paul Griffin, security; Lori K. Lawley, housing manager; Sheila R. Mixer, registration; Trina A. Russell, events; Paula S. Smallwood, exhibits

Equipment

Don Lander, chairperson; Terry Chapman, Mike Cooper, Eric Goss, Todd Trask

Hospitality

Beth Carroll, chairperson; Ruth Donadio, Jeanne Estebo, Helen Wray

Human Resources

Jim Stalnaker, personnel director; Beth Carroll, Mari Bull

Technology Support

Tim Strathee, chairperson; Paula Lamar, Telecommunications; Kelly Rhea, Justin Butler, Fine Arts; Ben Ellis, General Council registration; Helen Piper, *Council Today*; Chris Hill, GPH Bookstore; Lucas Cornwell, Youth/Content Management/RSS Feeds; Darrin Hull, streaming audio/video; John Ivaska, network/connectivity; Bruce Harp, Roger Richardson, computer support; Larry Quackenbush, Brandon Cranor, Fred Behling, Media Support

Prayer

John Maempa, chairperson; James Meredith

Printed Materials (Pre-Council only)

Paul Smith, chairperson; Carol Getty, Esther Wood, resource; Jorge Tobar, design

Promotions/Press/Communications

Juleen Turnage, chairperson; Tim Laffoon, Keith Surface, Dan VanVeen

Registration

Sheila R. Mixer, chairperson; Mark Christianson, roster liaison

Tellers

Rollin Carlson, chairperson; Efraim Espinoza, liaison

Translations

Kevin Babin, deaf coordinator; Efraim Espinoza, Spanish coordinator

Transportation

Dan Clopine, chairperson; Erin Buskirk, company pilot; Nadine Buskirk, Sherry Clopine, Roland Dimos, Larry Kolsky, Tami Lambertson, Tyson Lambertson, Ron Sherman

National Youth Convention

Jay Mooney, chairperson; Rod Whitlock, Fine Arts director; Jack Trewern, Jerry Dahlberg, DC Productions

Ushers/Communion

Wade Trivitt, chairperson; Gary Allen, Communion coordinator; Debbie Collins, Paul Curtis, Rhonda Curtis, Kathy Wrinkle

Adoption of Agenda

The chairman called attention to the agenda. A motion prevailed to adopt the agenda as a guide for this meeting.

General Superintendent's Report

The general superintendent expressed his gratefulness for the privilege of serving this Fellowship. The General Superintendent's Report on the State of the Church address with an overview of the Fellowship was given by video during Tuesday night's service. The general superintendent indicated the report, along with the message, will be posted on the www.ag.org Web site.

L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent, assumed the role of the chairman during the report of the general superintendent. A motion prevailed to receive last evening's video report and message and today's report of the general superintendent and express appreciation to George O. Wood.

The chair was returned to the general superintendent.

Assistant General Superintendent's Report

L. Alton Garrison presented the report of the assistant general superintendent with an emphasis on the role of discipleship. He presented a video about the *Spiritual Health Planner*.

A motion prevailed to receive the report of the assistant general superintendent and express appreciation to L. Alton Garrison.

Assemblies of God Trust Offering

The general superintendent gave the results of last evening's offering for Assemblies of God Trust. The cash offering received was \$64,964.28 and monthly pledges are \$12,004, for which he is grateful.

General Secretary's Report

James T. Bradford presented the general secretary's report sharing various statistics for the year of 2008. He explained the process of the general secretary's office in maintaining the official records of ministers and churches.

A motion prevailed to receive the report of the general secretary and express appreciation to James T. Bradford.

General Treasurer's Report and General Council Audit Report

Doug Clay presented the general treasurer's report and Financial Report outlining the General Council affiliated entities, the General Council as a single entity, and the discretionary fund. The audit process was explained, and it was reported that the audit firm, BKD, has given the General Council a clean and unqualified opinion; as well, all General Council affiliates have received a clean and unqualified opinion.

A motion prevailed to receive the report of the general treasurer and express appreciation to Doug Clay.

Report of the Executive Director of Assemblies of God World Missions

L. John Bueno, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, presented a report on Assemblies of God World Missions including a statistical report and telling of various accomplishments that have occurred over the past decade.

A motion prevailed to receive the report on Assemblies of God World Missions and express appreciation to L. John Bueno.

Report of the Executive Director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions

Zollie L. Smith, Jr., executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, presented a report on Assemblies of God U.S. Missions sharing the spiritual state of America. He expressed his thanks to the constituency for supporting Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.

A motion prevailed to receive the report on Assemblies of God U.S. Missions and express appreciation to Zollie L. Smith.

Departmental/Divisional Reports and General Council Exhibits

It was noted that the Departmental/Divisional Reports have not been printed but can be found on the General Council Web site at: www.ag.org. All delegates are urged to review these reports.

The general superintendent also asked everyone to check out the fabulous exhibits as they will be a blessing to individuals and churches.

Roster Committee Report

David L. Wigington, co-chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 9:10 a.m., Wednesday, August 5, 2009:

VOTING:

Ordained	2,373	
Licensed	586	
Delegates	338	
Executive Presbyters	17	
General Presbyters	<u>237</u>	
Voting constituency		3,551

NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	1,179	
Auxiliary Staff	559	
Certified	200	
Fine Arts/AIM	7,856	
General Attendees	12,281	
Kids Council	541	
Other	61	
Staff	<u>102</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>22,779</u>
Total		26,330

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Electronic Voting Instructions

The General Council used an electronic voting system. Mark Christianson, General Council Systems Development, presented the electronic voting instructions, both orally and by video. A practice vote was taken to help familiarize the delegates with the electronic voting 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. L. Alton Garrison assumed the chair for the election of the general superintendent. Ben E. Leonard, Surprise, Arizona, 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, gave the following report of the nominating ballot for the office of general superintendent:

Total votes cast	2,038
Needed to elect	1,345
George O. Wood	1,687

Having noted that George O. Wood received well in excess of the two-thirds vote required, the chairman declared George O. Wood reelected to the position of general superintendent for a 4-year term to expire in 2013.

George O. Wood introduced his family. He was moved by the support and prayers he received as well as the tremendous love shown to him and his family. He stated that to the best of his ability, he will serve with all his heart. He believes God has great plans for the future. He also expressed gratefulness to his wife, Jewel.

The following is a list of all other nominees: Charles D. Arsenault 1, Ron Barefield 2, Tommy J. Barnett 6, Mark A. Batterson 1, Christopher N. Beard 1, David A. Bennett 1, M. Wayne Benson 3, C. Dan Betzer 1, David R. Betzer 1, Gary J. Blanchard 1, John Bosman 2, James R. Braddy 1, James T. Bradford 5, James H. Bradley 1, Jeffery L. Brawner 1, M. Ray Brewer 1, Kermit S. Bridges 2, L. John Bueno 2, Warren D. Bullock 1, H. Franklin Cargill 5, Mark D. Christianson 1, Doug Clay 54, B.H. Clendennen 1, Carl J. Colletti 1, Charles T. Crabtree 2, Charles E. Crank 2, Christopher T. Decker 1, Richard W. DuBose 4, Dennis R. Duron 1, Larry D. Emerson 1, Kenneth J. Ferguson 1, Brenton S. Fessler 1, Leon D. Freitag 1, John A. Gallegos, II 1, L. Alton Garrison 66, J. Don George 2, Joseph S. Girdler 1, Saturnino Gonzalez 3, Joseph P. Granberry 2, A. Elizabeth Grant 1, Thomas W. Greene, 1, Gary W. Grogan 1, Richard L. Hardy 1, Stephen L. Harris 1, Philip L. Hastie 1, Randy Hurst 1, R. Bryan Jarrett 1, Gary Jones 1, Perry L. Kallevig 2, Charles O. Kelly 2, James J. Kelly 1, Russell A. Kinney 2, Dennis B. Lacy 1, Arnold L. Lastinger 1, Thomas H. Lindberg 2, John E. Lindell 4, James M. Lloyd, II 1, Rodney K. Loy 1, Mitchell P. Martinez 1, David Mazzella 1, Jesse Miranda, Jr. 6, Larry Moore 1, E. Don Nordin, Jr. 1, Dary R. Northrop 1, Edward J. Paine 1, Yong So Pak 1, John M. Palmer 3, Jason L. Parnell 1, Jerry L. Parsley 1, Darin F. Poli 1, Nicholas S. Poole 1, Brent C. Powell 1, Dennis E. Rabineau 1, Terrell R. Raburn 2, H. Robert Rhoden 2, Samuel Rodriguez, Jr. 2, Mark Rutland 1, Frank J. Seminerio 1, David E. Siriano 1, Victor E. Smith 1, Zollie L. Smith, Jr. 4, Thomas E. Snavelly 1, Ralph E. Snook 1, Dennis L. Snyder 1, Clarence W. St. John 2, Donald H. Steiger 1, Ronald E. Stevens 1, Robert D. Stiem 1, Calvin D. Swenson 1, Raymond J. Tate 1, Robert S. Thompson 1, Bradley T. Trask 3, Thomas E. Trask 2, Charles W. Turnage 1, Randy L. Valimont 1, W. Randy Visconti 1, Leslie E. Welk 1, Donald F. Williams 3, James W. Wolf 1, Alan Womack 1, George P. Wood 8, George C. Woods 48, Richard L. York 1, Thomas M. Zillman 1, Invalid votes 21.

George O. Wood assumed the chair.

Election of General Secretary

The general superintendent called for the vote of the general secretary and presented the name of James T. Bradford as the nominee from the General Presbytery for the position of general secretary. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the elective ballot for the office of general secretary:

Total votes cast	1,582
Needed to elect	1,055
Yes votes	1,483
No votes	99

Having noted that James T. Bradford received a number of votes in excess of the two-thirds required, the chairman declared James T. Bradford elected to the position of general secretary to fill an unexpired term ending in 2011.

James T. Bradford called his family to the platform, and he introduced his wife, Sandi, and daughters Meredith and Angeline. He accepts this as God's will for his life and pledged to serve this office effectively, to the best of his ability and looks forward to getting to know many in this Fellowship. He expressed his thankfulness to Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, for releasing him for this ministry.

Election of General Treasurer

The general superintendent called for the vote of the general treasurer and presented the name of Doug Clay as the nominee from the General Presbytery for the position of general treasurer. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the elective ballot for the office of general treasurer:

Total votes cast	1,810
Needed to elect	1,207
Yes votes	1,743
No votes	67

Having noted that Doug Clay received a number of votes in excess of the two-thirds required, the chairman declared Doug Clay elected to the position of general treasurer for a 4-year term to expire 2013.

Doug Clay called his wife, Gail, to the platform and introduced her. He expressed his thankfulness and accepts this as confirmation of the will of God for their lives. He told that he is a product of the church, he loves the church and pledges with God's help to serve the Lord and the Fellowship to the best of his ability, as this is a privilege and opportunity.

Election of Executive Director of 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.

The general superintendent called for the vote of the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions and presented the name of Zollie L. Smith, Jr., as the nominee from the General Presbytery for the position of executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report for the elective ballot for the office of executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions:

Total votes cast	1,698
Needed to elect	1,132
Yes votes	1,512
No votes	186

Having noted that Zollie L. Smith, Jr., received a number of votes in excess of the two-thirds required, the chairman declared Zollie L. Smith, Jr., elected to the position of executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions for a 4-year term to expire in 2013.

Zollie L. Smith, Jr., introduced his wife, Phyllis, and expressed that he is humbled and encouraged by this vote of affirmation. He asked the body to pray for them.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Northwest Area

The general superintendent called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Northwest Area. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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	1,222
Needed to elect	810
Invalid votes	8
Warren D. Bullock	552
Doyle A. Fulkles	27
Paul D. Goodman	52
Gary L. Morton	37
Barry D. Osteen	37
Stanley E. Russell	67
Alan E. Warneke	41
Roy W. (Bill) Welch, III	42
Leslie E. Welk	122
William E. (Bill) Wilson	118
Jesse C. Ybarra	70
Daniel M. York	49

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

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

Total votes cast	1,263
Needed to elect	841
Invalid votes	2
Warren D. Bullock	992
Doyle A. Fulkles	10
Paul D. Goodman	17
Gary L. Morton	11
Barry D. Osteen	4
Stanley E. Russell	24
Alan E. Warneke	3
Roy W. (Bill) Welch, III	22
Leslie E. Welk	70
William E. (Bill) Wilson	71
Jesse C. Ybarra	30
Daniel M. York	7

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

Warren D. Bullock greeted the body and thanked everyone for their prayers. He is looking forward to continued service.

Resolution 22. Honorary General Presbyter—Arden K. Adamson

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

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

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

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

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

- WHEREAS, James K. Bridges has served this Fellowship with great distinction as a minister of the gospel for 54 years; and
- WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the North Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God in pastoral ministry in Dallas, Greenville, and Waxahachie, as well as pastorates in Houston, Texas; and Wichita, Kansas; and
- WHEREAS, He has served as vice president of academic affairs at Southwestern Assemblies of God University, and served as chairman of the school's Board of Regents from 1985-93; and
- WHEREAS, He has served the North Texas District Council as sectional presbyter, executive presbyter, general presbyter, assistant superintendent, and then as superintendent from 1981 until 1993; and
- WHEREAS, He has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as general treasurer from 1993 until 2008; and
- WHEREAS, This Fellowship has been blessed by his spiritual leadership, practical wisdom, and faithfulness to Pentecostal doctrine; and
- WHEREAS, It is proper and fitting to honor those who have served among us with distinction, integrity, and a desire to enrich the lives of others; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 91, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons who have reached at least 60 years of age and have served on the General Presbytery for 20 years or more, or have served on the General Presbytery as a General Council executive officer for 8 years or more, to be chosen as honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That James K. Bridges be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

The general treasurer expressed his thankfulness to James K. Bridges and offered the entire body an opportunity to express its love and appreciation to James K. Bridges for his years of service, along with his wife, Joyce. There was an expression of appreciation by applause.

Resolution 25. Honorary General Presbyter—Charles E. Crank

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

- WHEREAS, Charles E. Crank has faithfully served the Indiana District Council with distinction for 53 years as an evangelist, pastor, district, and national leader; and
- WHEREAS, He has served the Indiana District Council for 2 years as youth director; 4 years as secretary-treasurer; and 29 years as superintendent; and
- WHEREAS, He has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as a member of the General Presbytery for 37 years and has chaired and served on many other boards and committees; and
- WHEREAS, He has served as the Great Lakes Area executive presbyter for 6 years; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 91, 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 E. Crank 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—Pettus T. Palmer

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

- WHEREAS, Pettus T. Palmer has served the Mississippi District Council of the Assemblies of God for 34 years as secretary-treasurer; and
- WHEREAS, He served as pastor of various churches in the Mississippi District as well as sectional presbyter for many years prior to serving in the district office; and
- WHEREAS, He has served as a general presbyter of the General Council for the past 34 years; and
- WHEREAS, Pettus T. Palmer meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 91, 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 Pettus T. Palmer be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Privileged Motion From 2007 General Council— Electronic Voting for 2009 General Council

The general treasurer presented a report from the Committee To Study Electronic Voting for the 2009 General Council with the recommendation that Internet voting not be considered, at this time, as the General Council Constitution and Bylaws currently prohibits this option from being immediately implemented, and there is uncertainty as to what the ramifications would have on attendance at General Council, although we have the technological capabilities to accomplish the function.

Assemblies of God Trust—Faith Case Video

A video was presented that introduced the Faith Case, a new program to teach kids ages 5-12 about Assemblies of God Bible doctrines, is now available to churches.

Resolution 7. Arizona Latin District

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 7. A motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution 7.

A motion was made and seconded to amend Resolution 7 by changing the name from Arizona Latin District Council of The General Council of the Assemblies of God to Southwest District Council of the Assemblies of God and amend the last resolved accordingly. The motion carried.

The motion to adopt Resolution 7 carried. Resolution 7 as amended and adopted follows:

- WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws makes provision for the Executive Presbytery to establish new district councils in cooperative agreement with the districts involved; and
- WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery in session on June 2-4, 2008, approved the establishment of the Arizona Latin District Council of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, The name of this new district needs to be included in the General Council Bylaws; therefore, be it

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

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

Be amended to read:

Language Area—Spanish: Central Latin American, Gulf Latin American, Midwest Latin American, Northern Pacific Latin American, Southern Pacific Latin American, Puerto Rico, Southeastern Spanish, Southwest, Spanish Eastern

Resolution 8. Southern Pacific Latin American District Name Change

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 8. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 8 as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

Be amended to read:

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

Resolution 9. National Slavic District Council

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph c, (2), *Language Area—Other*, page 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 Korean

Recess

The meeting recessed at 11:45 a.m. The chairman announced the afternoon meeting will begin at 2 p.m. and continue until 6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 5

The Wednesday session began at 2 p.m. Zollie L. Smith, Jr., opened in prayer. The chairman called the business meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Roster Committee Report

Richard A. Plunk, co-chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 2 p.m. on Wednesday, August 5, 2009:

VOTING:

Ordained	2,472	
Licensed	598	
Delegates	350	
Executive Presbyters	17	
General Presbyters	<u>241</u>	
Voting constituency		3,678

NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	1,188	
Auxiliary Staff	571	
Certified	205	
Fine Arts/AIM	7,856	
General Attendees	12,765	
Kids Council	552	
Other	61	
Staff	<u>102</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>23,300</u>
Total		26,978

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

Recognition of Stanley M. Horton

The chairman introduced Stanley M. Horton and his recent book about his life and ministry entitled, *Stanley M. Horton: Shaper of Pentecostal Theology*. The general superintendent presented Dr. Horton with a copy of the new book that was signed by the members of the Executive Leadership Team. Dr. Horton gave greetings and expressed his thanks to others who encouraged him to seek higher degrees in Bible and theology, and to those who encouraged him to teach.

Introduction of William (Billy) Wilson—Awakening America Alliance

The chairman introduced Billy Wilson with Awakening America Alliance. He introduced a video showing the Awakening America program that takes place on September 11 of every year. He encouraged every person to gather together on 9/11 at county courthouses across the nation and cry out to God to have mercy on America and to send a new awakening to America.

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:

Norma Champion

Norma Champion has filled many distinguished roles in her years of public service including: State Congressman, State Senator, professor, writer, producer, television host, as well as that of wife, mother, and grandmother.

After graduating from Central Bible College, Norma became the writer, producer and host of *Children's Hour*, a top-rated television program in Southwest Missouri that ran for 29 years. During this time, she became affectionately known to young and old as "Aunt Norma."

In 1987, Norma launched a political career by successfully running for a city council position in Springfield, Missouri. After serving in this capacity for 5 years, Norma was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives where she would serve for the next 10 years.

In 2003, Norma was elected to the Missouri State Senate and continues in this role today. She currently serves as the chairperson for the committees on Aging, Families, and Mental and Public Health. She has distinguished herself as a leader and as someone who models the Christian faith in the public arena.

Norma has served on the faculty of Evangel University since 1978, teaching courses in the areas of communications, broadcasting, and political science. She has served this church through several boards and committees, including chairing the board of Berean College and serving on the Global and Higher Education boards. She holds a master's degree from Missouri State University and a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma. She was recently named as one of the 20 most influential women in Springfield.

Norma is the widow of the late Richard Champion who was editor of the *Pentecostal Evangel* at the time of his death in 1994. She has a son and a daughter and two grandchildren.

Her interim pastor, Don Tucker, states, "In a world in dire need of those who would model godliness, integrity, sincerity, and clarity of values, Norma Champion embodies all of these qualities. Her stand for Christ is solid and unshakeable, whether standing in the sanctuary of her church or in the halls of the state legislature."

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

Don W. Jacques

For nearly 40 years, Don Jacques has been actively involved in the ministry of Light for the Lost. His creativity and dedication have been instrumental in raising millions of dollars for missions.

Don became a Light for the Lost councilman in 1973 and has served as Light for the Lost director for the Southern Missouri District since 1977. He served 16 years on the Light for the Lost executive committee, including 12 as president. Don served 4 years as the Southern Missouri District Men's Director. He has led MAPS construction teams and has ministered in 37 districts and 30 countries.

Don has been a participant and passionate promoter of cook teams who travel to various Light for the Lost commitment banquets and cook steaks for the events. He has also been instrumental in developing more than a dozen cook wagons, delivering them to districts where he also provided training in their use.

A real estate broker since 1976, Don is the founder and owner of the Jacques Company. He is known for his integrity as a realtor and commitment to excellence. Don has been a faithful member of Central Assembly of God since 1982 and served 12 years on its deacon board.

His district superintendent, Bill Baker states, “Don Jacques is an outstanding layperson and a man of integrity. He has promoted Light for the Lost in the Southern Missouri District for nearly 40 years generating over \$6 million dollars. He has promoted Light for the Lost across America and initiated men’s ministries in several foreign nations.”

Don married Jan Lawson in 1968. They have two sons and a daughter and four grandchildren.

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

Electronic Voting Instructions

Mark Christianson reviewed the instructions for electronic voting and gave the steps to validate the voting system.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Southwest Area

The general superintendent called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Southwest Area. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,527
Needed to elect	1,010
Invalid votes	13
James E. Ayers	46
James R. Braddy	149
Glen Cole	223
Richard L. Dresselhaus	525
Stephen L. Harris	117
George K. Nagato	56
Jeffrey T. Peterson	87
T. Ray Rachels	208
Donald H. Steiger	39
Terry Wong	64

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,600
Needed to elect	1,062
Invalid votes	7
James E. Ayers	22
James R. Braddy	74
Glen Cole	155
Richard L. Dresselhaus	1,081
Stephen L. Harris	56
George K. Nagato	13
Jeffrey T. Peterson	25
T. Ray Rachels	135
Donald H. Steiger	10
Terry Wong	22

Having noted that Richard L. Dresselhaus received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Southwest Area.

Richard Dresselhaus greeted the body and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve.

Election of Executive Presbyter—North Central Area

The general superintendent called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the North Central Area. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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	1,463
Needed to elect	974
Invalid votes	2
Gordon L. Anderson	379
M. Ray Brewer	82
Leon D. Freitag	33
J. Lowell Harrup	102
Gary L. Hoyt	92
Thomas M. Jacobs	72
Larry A. Liebe	68
Darrell D. Losing	13
Gary I. Pilcher	62
Daniel J. Remus	30
Clarence W. St. John	424
Dwight A. Sandoz	37
Stephen R. Schaible	21
Ronald J. Traub	46

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,518
Needed to elect	1,012
Invalid votes	1
Gordon L. Anderson	440
M. Ray Brewer	18
Leon D. Freitag	4
J. Lowell Harrup	47
Gary L. Hoyt	28
Thomas M. Jacobs	14
Larry A. Liebe	4
Darrell D. Losing	4
Gary I. Pilcher	12
Daniel J. Remus	2
Clarence W. St. John	928
Dwight A. Sandoz	8
Stephen R. Schaible	2
Ronald J. Traub	6

Since there was no election, a third elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,554
Needed to elect	1,036
Invalid votes	0
Gordon L. Anderson	208
M. Ray Brewer	6
Leon D. Freitag	3
J. Lowell Harrup	14
Gary L. Hoyt	10
Thomas M. Jacobs	5
Larry A. Liebe	3
Darrell D. Losing	5
Gary I. Pilcher	5
Daniel J. Remus	2
Clarence W. St. John	1,287
Dwight A. Sandoz	1
Stephen R. Schaible	3
Ronald J. Traub	2

Having noted that Clarence W. St. John received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the North Central Area.

Clarence St. John thanked the body and declared that he would do all he can to serve the Lord in this position.

Election of Executive Presbyter—South Central Area

The general superintendent called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the South Central Area. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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	1,542
Needed to elect	1,026
Invalid votes	3
H. Franklin Cargill	158
T. Craig Dacus	44
Micheal E. Dickenson	40
Richard W. DuBose	180
J. Don George	711
Joseph P. Granberry	55
Jonathan M. Hollis	40
Thomas D. Lakey	26
E. Don Nordin, Jr.	47
Robert G. Slaton	29
David C. Vistine	14
Terry L. Yancey	195

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot for executive presbyter from the South Central Area:

Total votes cast	1,570
Needed to elect	1,046
Invalid votes	2
H. Franklin Cargill	74
T. Craig Dacus	13
Micheal E. Dickenson	9
Richard W. DuBose	92
Thomas D. Lakey	8
J. Don George	1,190
Joseph P. Granberry	7
Jonathan M. Hollis	6
E. Don Nordin, Jr.	12
Robert G. Slaton	3
David C. Vistine	3
Terry L. Yancey	151

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

J. Don George expressed his thanks and appreciation to the body and is sincerely grateful to work in this ministry.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Great Lakes Area

The general superintendent called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Great Lakes Area. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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	1,481
Needed to elect	987
Invalid votes	1
M. Wayne Benson	367
Terry L. Crigger	16
Marvin R. Dennis	37
Donald G. Gifford	76
Joseph S. Girdler	41
Larry H. Griswold	402
Ron L. Hawkins	29
John K. Jordan	49
William F. Leach	74
Douglas N. Lowery	23
Bradley T. Trask	232
John R. Wootton	134

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,542
Needed to elect	1,028
Invalid votes	1
M. Wayne Benson	462
Terry L. Crigger	8
Marvin R. Dennis	7
Donald G. Gifford	16
Joseph S. Girdler	18
Larry H. Griswold	773
Ron L. Hawkins	4
John K. Jordan	8
William F. Leach	7
Douglas N. Lowery	2
Bradley T. Trask	179
John R. Wootton	57

Since there was no election, a third elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,532
Needed to elect	1,020
Invalid votes	2
M. Wayne Benson	355
Terry L. Crigger	5
Marvin R. Dennis	4
Donald G. Gifford	10
Joseph S. Girdler	10
Larry H. Griswold	1,042
Ron L. Hawkins	2
John K. Jordan	2
William F. Leach	4
Douglas N. Lowery	6
Bradley T. Trask	67
John R. Wootton	23

Having noted that Larry H. Griswold received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area.

Larry H. Griswold greeted the body and expressed his thanks for the privilege to serve.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Gulf Area

The general superintendent called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Gulf Area. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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	1,349
Needed to elect	898
Invalid votes	3
Bill R. Baker	123
Walter L. Davis	60

Douglas E. Fulenwider	498
Charles Gould, Jr.	112
B. Randel McCarty	109
Larry Moore	181
Ronnie Morris	49
Billy R. Newby	116
Walter L. Rose	40
Robert B. Wilburn	58

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,482
Needed to elect	986
Invalid votes	3
Bill R. Baker	38
Walter L. Davis	8
Douglas E. Fulenwider	1,150
Charles Gould, Jr.	32
B. Randel McCarty	41
Larry Moore	134
Billy R. Newby	50
Walter L. Rose	10
Ronnie Morris	9
Robert B. Wilburn	7

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

Doug Fulenwider greeted the body and expressed his privilege to serve the Lord.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Northeast Area

The general superintendent called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Northeast Area. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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	1,406
Needed to elect	936
Invalid votes	3
Carl J. Colletti	117
Duane P. Durst	84
Larry F. Hickey	50
Donald A. James	87
Bryan D. Koch	64
Richard D. Lafferty	32
Ronald A. Ludlam	13
Dennis W. Marquardt	75
H. Robert Rhoden	654
Jerry W. Terry	64
Stephen R. Tourville	80
Robert Wise, Jr.	83

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,399
Needed to elect	932
Invalid votes	1
Carl J. Colletti	86
Duane P. Durst	16
Donald A. James	26
Larry F. Hickey	16
Bryan D. Koch	19
Richard D. Lafferty	13
Ronald A. Ludlam	9
Dennis W. Marquardt	13
H. Robert Rhoden	1,160
Jerry W. Terry	9
Stephen R. Tourville	15
Robert Wise, Jr.	16

Having noted that H. Robert Rhoden received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Northeast Area.

H. Robert Rhoden expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve this Fellowship. He extended his support to the general superintendent and Executive Presbytery.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Southeast Area

The general superintendent called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Southeast Area. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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	1,389
Needed to elect	925
Invalid votes	2
C. Dan Betzer	705
Larry S. Burgbacher	27
Kenneth W. Draughon	32
Phil F. Edwards	11
Charles O. Kelly	25
Thomas G. Lawrence	22
John A. Loper, Jr.	25
Ronald F. McManus	162
Terrell R. Raburn	135
Victor E. Smith	10
Robert S. Thompson	12
Randy L. Valimont	221

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot for executive presbyter from the Southeast Area:

Total votes cast	1,390
Needed to elect	926
Invalid votes	2
C. Dan Betzer	1,072
Larry S. Burgbacher	5
Kenneth W. Draughon	8
Phil F. Edwards	1

John A. Loper, Jr.	7
Charles O. Kelly	3
Ronald F. McManus	63
Terrell R. Raburn	27
Victor E. Smith	6
Robert S. Thompson	3
Randy L. Valimont	193

Having noted that C. Dan Betzer received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Southeast Area.

C. Dan Betzer thanked the body for the honor to serve. He also expressed his thanks and gave honor to his wife, Darlene.

Resolution 4. Additional Hispanic Representation

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 4. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 4 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery constitutes 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; and

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

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

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

Therefore, be it

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

- One Hispanic executive representative would represent the West Spanish Area, comprised of the following five districts: Arizona Latin American; Central Latin American; Gulf Latin American; Northern Pacific Latin American, and Southern Pacific Latin American,
- One Hispanic executive representative would represent the East Spanish Area, comprised of the following four districts: Midwest Latin American, Puerto Rico, Southeastern Spanish, and Spanish Eastern

And, be it further

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

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

Be amended to read:

a. Composition and terms of office. The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, together with 14 other persons to bring the number to 20. 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.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council 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 (a) By area, page 98, which reads:

(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
Be amended to read:

(a) *By area.* For the purpose of electing nonresident executive presbyters, The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be divided into 11 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—West Spanish: Arizona Latin American, Central Latin American, Gulf Latin American, Northern Pacific Latin American, Southern Pacific Latin American

Language Area—East Spanish: Midwest Latin American, Puerto Rico, Southeastern Spanish, Spanish Eastern

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

Election of Executive Presbyter—Language Area—East Spanish

The general superintendent called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the newly established position of Language Area—East Spanish. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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

Total votes cast	981
Needed to elect	654
Invalid votes	1
Todd W. Clair	127
Iván De la Torre	55
Saturnino Gonzalez	236
Clemente Maldonado, Jr.	175
Edward Martinez	113
Rafael Reyes	152
Juan H. Suarez	47
Domingo Valdes	75

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot for executive presbyter from the Language Area—East Spanish:

Total votes cast	1,179
Needed to elect	785
Invalid votes	2
Todd W. Clair	34
Iván De la Torre	12
Saturnino Gonzalez	937
Clemente Maldonado, Jr.	110
Edward Martinez	20
Rafael Reyes	42
Juan H. Suarez	11
Domingo Valdes	11

Having noted that Saturnino Gonzalez received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him elected as the first nonresident executive presbyter from the Language Area—East Spanish.

Saturnino Gonzalez thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve. He expressed his love and appreciation to his wife, Carmen Abigail, and thanked his church, Iglesia El Calvario Assembly of God of Orlando, and his district, Southeastern Spanish. He pledges his loyalty to the Lord, the general superintendent, and to this Fellowship.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Language Area—West Spanish

The general superintendent called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the newly established position of Language Area—West Spanish. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,089
Needed to elect	725
Invalid votes	2
Gustavo Arce	29
Lee Baca	37
Daniel DeLeon	106
Saul D. Gonzalez	24
Ruben A. Guajardo, Jr.	27
Gary Jones	125
Jesse Miranda, Jr.	603
Burke J. Montoya	19
Dennis J. Rivera	69
Alfred Vargas	48

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot for executive presbyter from the Language Area—West Spanish:

Total votes cast	1,164
Needed to elect	776
Invalid votes	1

Gustavo Arce	5
Lee Baca	3
Daniel DeLeon	22
Saul D. Gonzalez	7
Ruben A. Guajardo, Jr.	2
Gary Jones	49
Jesse Miranda, Jr.	1,045
Burke J. Montoya	6
Dennis J. Rivera	15
Alfred Vargas	9

Having noted that Jesse Miranda, Jr., received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected to the Executive Presbytery. He is the first nonresident executive presbyter from the Language Area—West Spanish.

Jesse Miranda expressed his thankfulness for this vote of confidence. He pledges his loyalty to this Fellowship.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Language Area—Other

The general superintendent called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—Other. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,009
Needed to elect	671
Invalid votes	3
Wan Ki Choi	60
George Davidiuk	37
Myung Nam Kim	637
Nam Soo Kim	72
Daniel J. Miller	94
Petr Novik	45
Lawrence G. Olson	61

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,118
Needed to elect	743
Invalid votes	4
Wan Ki Choi	15
George Davidiuk	6
Myung Nam Kim	887
Nam Soo Kim	178
Daniel J. Miller	23
Petr Novik	1
Lawrence G. Olson	4

Recess

The chairman called a brief recess at 4:35 p.m. to meet with the Executive Presbytery.

The meeting reconvened at 4:36 p.m.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Language Area—Other [con't.]

The chairman declared the second elective vote for executive presbyter from the Language Area—Other to be invalid. The Parliamentary Committee informed him that he failed to introduce the incumbent. The chairman introduced incumbent Nam Soo Kim. The chair asked for Myung Nam Kim to stand. Myung Nam Kim was not present.

It was discovered that the electronic equipment is malfunctioning for the tally of the election. There is a failure in reporting the correct identification numbers. Although Nam Soo Kim was assigned the number 4, his tally identification number was number 3. Myung Nam Kim was assigned the number 3; however, his tally identification number was number 4. The error was corrected.

Since the second elective ballot was declared invalid, a new second elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,145
Needed to elect	762
Invalid votes	2
Wan Ki Choi	10
George Davidiuk	4
Myung Nam Kim	61
Nam Soo Kim	1,033
Daniel J. Miller	27
Petr Novik	3
Lawrence G. Olson	5

Having noted that Nam Soo Kim received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Language Area—Other.

Nam Soo Kim was introduced and greeted the body. He expressed the privilege to serve this body and fellow workers.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Ethnic Fellowship Area

The general superintendent called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Ethnic Fellowship Area. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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	997
Needed to elect	664
Invalid votes	1
Samuel K. Asiedu	31
Michel Beaudouin	6
Malcolm P. Burleigh	89
Moses Cao	53
Yan Sang "Robert" Chai	14
Joel A. Cornelius	19
Felix Halpern	15

Cregg Jones	13
Victor Joseph	20
Nilo (Jaren) Lapasaran, Jr.	22
Rudolf A. Lolowang	9
John E. Maracle	480
Filimone Mau	8
Michael Nelson	29
Nicky Pop	35
George A. Rafidi	33
Jimmy G. Schwyhart	30
Wade Southerland	32
K.P. Titus	28
Isikeli V. Tuirabe	9
Talosaga Vanilau	21

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot for executive presbyter from the Ethnic Fellowship Area:

Total votes cast	1,082
Needed to elect	721
Invalid votes	1
Samuel K. Asiedu	10
Michel Beaudouin	3
Malcolm P. Burleigh	28
Moses Cao	11
Yan Sang "Robert" Chai	1
Joel A. Cornelius	3
Felix Halpern	4
Cregg Jones	2
Victor Joseph	2
Nilo (Jaren) Lapasaran, Jr.	6
Rudolf A. Lolowang	1
John E. Maracle	970
Filimone Mau	4
Michael Nelson	4
Nicky Pop	8
George A. Rafidi	8
Jimmy G. Schwyhart	2
Wade Southerland	4
K. P. Titus	3
Isikeli V. Tuirabe	2
Talosaga Vanilau	5

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

John E. Maracle expressed his thanks for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Additional Representation— Ordained Female

The general superintendent called for the vote of the historical first-time election of the nonresident executive presbyter for additional representation for the ordained female. The chairman announced the following nominees as selected by the General Presbytery:

Deborah M. Gill
A. Elizabeth Grant
Linda Stamps-Dissmore
Jane L. Wead

The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the additional representative executive presbyter for ordained female:

Total votes cast	1,139
Needed to elect	759
Invalid votes	1
Deborah M. Gill	308
A. Elizabeth Grant	476
Linda Stamps-Dissmore	210
Jane L. Wead	144

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the second elective ballot for the additional representative executive presbyter for ordained female:

Total votes cast	1,154
Needed to elect	769
Invalid votes	1
Deborah M. Gill	279
A. Elizabeth Grant	743
Linda Stamps-Dissmore	95
Jane L. Wead	36

Since there was no election, a third elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the third elective ballot for the additional representative executive presbyter for ordained female:

Total votes cast	1,119
Needed to elect	745
Invalid votes	2
Deborah M. Gill	133
A. Elizabeth Grant	940
Linda Stamps-Dissmore	31
Jane L. Wead	13

Having noted that A. Elizabeth Grant received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared her elected as the nonresident additional representative executive presbyter for ordained female for a 2-year term to expire in 2011.

Beth Grant expressed her thanks to God, and noted that at this moment we have 100 years of courageous women who went to the ends of the earth with only the call of God. She asked for the prayers of the body for herself and her husband, as the word *wife* is taking on new meaning.

Election of Executive Presbyter—Additional Representation— Ordained Pastor Under 40 Years of Age

The general superintendent called for the vote of the historical first-time election of the nonresident executive presbyter for additional representation for the ordained pastor under 40 years of age. The chairman announced the following nominees as selected by the General Presbytery:

Paul Espinoza
R. Bryan Jarrett
Brad (W. Bradley) Leach
Darryl E. Wootton

The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first elective ballot for the additional representative executive presbyter for ordained pastor under 40 years of age:

Total votes cast	1,105
Needed to elect	736
Invalid votes	1
Paul Espinoza	97
R. Bryan Jarrett	509
Brad (W. Bradley) Leach	284
Darryl E. Wootton	214

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the second elective ballot for the additional representative executive presbyter for ordained pastor under 40 years of age:

Total votes cast	1,095
Needed to elect	730
Invalid votes	1
Paul Espinoza	18
R. Bryan Jarrett	862
Brad (W. Bradley) Leach	149
Darryl E. Wootton	65

Having noted that R. Bryan Jarrett received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him elected as the nonresident additional representative executive presbyter for ordained pastor under 40 years of age for a 2-year term to expire in 2011.

Bryan Jarrett expressed his appreciation to the North Texas District Council for being selected as its nominee, to past and present Assemblies of God leadership who prepared him for this assignment, to his wife, Haley, and his church, Northplace Church of the Assemblies of God, Sachse, Texas. He is indebted to the church and to this body and is honored to be a part of history.

Expression of Appreciation to the Tellers Committee

Roland J. Carlson, chairman of the Tellers Committee, expressed his thanks to the chairman and the body. He also expressed his thanks to the national office personnel who assist him in this assignment.

The chairman expressed his appreciation to Roland Carlson for having served in this capacity for the past 10 General Councils.

Resolution 34. Honorary General Presbyter—Walter L. Davis

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 34. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 34 as follows:

- WHEREAS, Walter L. Davis has served the Mississippi District Council Assemblies of God for 22 years as superintendent; and
- WHEREAS, He served at the district level 34 years of the 45 years he has ministered in the Mississippi District; and
- WHEREAS, He served as pastor of various churches in the Mississippi District; and
- WHEREAS, He served for 30 years as a member of the General Presbytery; and
- WHEREAS, Walter L. Davis meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 91, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such a distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That Walter L. Davis be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Resolution 35. Honorary General Presbyter—R. Kenneth George

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 35. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 35 as follows:

- WHEREAS, R. Kenneth George has served the New Mexico District Council with honor and distinction as assistant superintendent for 12 years and as its district superintendent for 16 years; and
- WHEREAS, He has made significant contributions not only to the New Mexico District, but also to the ongoing ministry of The General Council of the Assemblies of God through his service on the General Presbytery for 28 years and on various boards, committees, and special assignments; and
- WHEREAS, His years of service include serving with distinction on the Board of Regents of Southwestern Assemblies of God University and on the Board of American Indian College; and
- WHEREAS, He has been a faithful and dedicated servant leader to the churches and ministries of the New Mexico District and has demonstrated a life of integrity, wisdom, and compassion; and
- WHEREAS, R. Kenneth George meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 91, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such a distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That R. Kenneth George be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Resolution 33. Central Latin American District Name Change

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 33. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 33 as follows:

- WHEREAS, A district council has the prerogative of determining the proper name of the district council; and
- WHEREAS, The Central Latin American District Council was given its current name when the Latin American District divided; and

WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Central Latin American District to change its name to Central District Council; therefore be it
RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph c, (2), *Language Area—Spanish*, page 98, which presently reads:

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

Be amended to read:

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

Resolution 17. General Treasurer's Semiannual Report

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Be amended to read:

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.~~

Resolution 16. Assemblies of God Total Giving Credit for Support of Satellite Churches

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 16. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 16 as follows:

- WHEREAS, Church planting is a high priority in the Assemblies of God; and
WHEREAS, Strong sovereign churches need to be encouraged to parent new churches, including satellite churches; and
WHEREAS, Other church-planting methods receive Total Giving Credit, and a need exists to provide Total Giving Credit for the support of satellite churches; and
WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery appointed a committee to study and review the granting of Total Giving Credit to parent churches of satellite churches; and
WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery adopted a resolution recommending that Assemblies of God Total Giving Credit be given to parent churches for satellite startup costs, up to 6 months, including property (facilities and equipment), promotion, and personnel (pastoral selection and moving expenses); therefore, be it
RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 2. c. Assemblies of God Total Giving (3) *Credit*, page 108, which reads:

(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

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.

Be amended to read:

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

Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Awards

G. Robert Cook, Jr., executive vice president of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education, presented the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Awards. The following resolution was presented:

Steven M. Fettke

- WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor Steven M. Fettke 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 Fettke has served the Lord as a Faculty Member at Southeastern University from 1979 to the present, seventeen years as Chair of the Bible Department, and two years as Chair of the Religion Department, and has been nominated by the Southeastern University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, Doctor Fettke, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Teaching, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session May 21, 2009, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 2-3, 2009, recognizes Doctor Steven M. Fettke 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 Fettke 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 5, 2009, Orlando, Florida.

Robert Cook recognized Rebecca Huechteman as second recipient of the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educators Award. The following resolution was presented:

Rebecca Huechteman

WHEREAS, The Doctor Rebecca Huechteman 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 Huechteman has served the Lord as a Faculty Member at Evangel University from 1978 to the present; Education Department Chair from 1995-2008, holds lifetime Teacher Certification with the State of Missouri, and has been nominated by the Evangel University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Huechteman, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Teaching, and Character, was elected by the Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session May 21, 2009, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 2-3, 2009, recognizes Doctor Rebecca Huechteman 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 Huechteman 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 5, 2009, Orlando, Florida.

A third recipient for the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educators Award was Glen W. Menzies. The following resolution was presented:

Glen W. Menzies

WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor Glen Menzies has distinguished himself in our Fellowship by consistent excellence in teaching and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian Higher Education in the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Menzies has served the Lord as a Faculty Member at North Central University from 1982 to the present, Chair of the Pastoral Ministries Department from 2002-2005, and Chair of the Department of Bible and Theology from 2005-Present, and has been nominated by North Central University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Menzies, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Teaching, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session May 21, 2009, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 2-3, 2009, recognizes Doctor Glen Menzies as a distinguished educator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for his faithful and excellent service to the Church; and, be it further

- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery express thanks to our Lord who appointed Doctor Menzies 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 5, 2009, Orlando, Florida.

Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Awards

G. Robert Cook, Jr., executive vice president of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education, presented the Distinguished Administrator Award. He recognized Byron D. Klaus and Donald G. Meyer as recipients of the Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Award. The following resolutions were presented:

Byron D. Klaus

- WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor Byron D. Klaus 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 Klaus served the Lord as a Faculty Member at Vanguard University from 1980-1999, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies of Vanguard University from 1985-1990, President of The Assemblies of God Theological Seminary from 1999-Present, and has been nominated by the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, Doctor Klaus, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Administration, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session May 21, 2009, to receive the Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Award; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 2-3, 2009, recognizes Doctor Byron D. Klaus 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 Klaus 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 5, 2009, Orlando, Florida.

Donald G. Meyer

- WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor Donald G. Meyer 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 Meyer served the Lord as a Faculty Member at North Central Bible College from 1976-1979, Vice President of Academic Affairs at North Central Bible College from 1979-1996, Interim Academic Dean at Continental Theological Seminary Fall 1996, President of Valley Forge Christian College from 1997-Present, and has been nominated by the Valley Forge Christian College Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, Doctor Meyer, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Administration, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session May 21, 2009, to receive the Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Award; therefore, be it

- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 2-3, 2009, recognizes Doctor Donald Meyer 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 Meyer 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 5, 2009, Orlando, Florida.

Resolution 20. Human Trafficking

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 20 and moved its adoption.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 20 be amended by removing the reference NIV from the resolution. The motion lost.

A motion to adopt Resolution 20 carried. Resolution 20 as adopted follows:

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

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

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

And, be it further

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

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

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

Resolution 14. Amending Bylaws at General Council

A motion was made to bring Resolution 14 to the floor. A second was not entertained.

The chairman reported that the General Presbytery has withdrawn sponsorship of Resolution 14 and referred the matter to a study committee to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery.

Resolution 11. Dual Credentials

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

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

WHEREAS, An exception to hold dual credentials is provided 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; and

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

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

m. Ministers from other organizations. (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.

Be amended to read:

m. Ministers from other organizations. (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, or in special and/or unique cases as determined by the General Council Credentials Committee.

Resolution 29. Late and Reinstatement Fees

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 29 and moved its adoption.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 29 be amended by a substitute motion to strike the words “as determined by the General Presbytery” and inserting the amount of “\$50” in place of \$25 and inserting the amount of “\$100” in place of \$50 where indicated. The motion carried.

A motion to adopt Resolution 29 carried. Resolution 29 as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, Increasing costs are being incurred by district councils and the General Council for the processing of delinquent and lapsed credential renewals; and

WHEREAS, There have been no increases in the late fee (\$25) and the reinstatement fee (\$50) since 1981; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 10. Credential Renewals and Reinstatements, paragraph c. Grace Period until January 15, page 117, which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 ~~\$50~~ \$25 up until January 15, to be divided equally between the district and General Council.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 10. Credential Renewals and Reinstatements, paragraph d. Reinstatement of lapsed minister, page 117, which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 ~~\$100~~ \$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.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 10. Credential Renewals and Reinstatements, paragraph e. Reinstatement of other than dismissed minister, page 118, which presently reads:

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.)

Be amended to read:

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 ~~\$100~~ \$50 to be divided between the district and the General Council. (See Bylaws, Article X, Section 12, paragraph b, for reinstatement of dismissed minister.)

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article X. DISCIPLINE, Section 12. Reinstatement of Credentials, paragraph e. Reinstatement fee, page 131, which presently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

e. Reinstatement fee. When applying for reinstatement the minister must include a ~~\$100~~ \$50 reinstatement fee with the application to be divided equally between the district council and the General Council.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 5:33 p.m. Prayer: Glen D. Cole.

WEDNESDAY EVENING—AUGUST 5

The Wednesday service of the 53rd General Council began at 7 p.m. in the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. The event was designed as a high-energy youth rally, and the adults had a free evening for fellowship and were invited to attend the Eurasia Experience—A Journey Around the World—giving a view of the sights, sounds, and people of Eurasia, sponsored by Assemblies of God World Missions.

Jeff Deyo and Band, Franklin, Tennessee, opened the service by leading an extended time of worship. Tony Dundy, the 2007 Super Bowl winning coach and author of the book, *Uncommon*, shared accounts of high school students who dared to be different. He encouraged students to follow Christ and not the crowd.

The speaker for the evening was Jay Mooney, national Youth Ministries director. His message was titled “Uncommon Cause,” with a focus on more than youth ministry. He called for students to be “youth IN ministry for the cause of Jesus Christ.” He challenged the youth and adults in attendance by offering the four “nevers” for leading students. Never do for a student what a student can do for herself or himself—let them be disciplined learners. Never make a student believe he or she is too young for the cause and never make adults feel they are too old. Never short-sell to any generation what the Bible declares for every generation, specifically, Pentecost. And, never delete a Bible mandate from a generation because a person of another generation doesn’t believe he or she will get it. He also challenged students from 1 Corinthians 4:2, “Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.” He called students to step up and step out to be disciples of Jesus Christ above all other things.

The meeting closed with the students accepting Mooney’s challenge to get serious about being a disciplined learner of Jesus Christ and committing whatever they do to the glory and cause of Jesus. The students committed to being ready and willing to be “youth IN ministry.”

THURSDAY MORNING—AUGUST 6

Memorial Breakfast and Service

The Memorial Breakfast and Service was held at the Peabody Hotel for family members of those who have lost a loved one during this past biennium. General Superintendent George O. Wood opened the service by giving greetings and offering prayer for the family members and spouses of those who have lost a loved one. He introduced the Memorial Scroll, a video scroll listing the names of 796 ministers who have passed away since the last meeting of the General Council. Guest pianist, Dr. William DeSanto, professor at Valley Forge Christian College, provided music for the breakfast.

Speaker James T. Bradford, general secretary, encouraged surviving family members to embrace their loved ones’ legacies—and to pass on those legacies to future generations. He expressed that the Assemblies of God would look dramatically different if these leaders had not remained steadfast and faithful to God’s call on their lives. Their sacrifices, risks, prayers, and labor were not in vain—it was labor that lasts. He shared that the names on the Memorial Scroll represent about 40,000 accumulated years of ministry.

The names of those honored on the Memorial Scroll appear at the end of the minutes of the General Council on page 79.

Communion Service

The Communion Service was held at the Orange County Convention Center. L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent, opened the service with prayer and introduced Tom Matrone, music director at Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, who led in worship, along with Bridgett and Chresten Tomlin, Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the worship band from First Assembly of God, Fort Myers, Florida.

The Memorial Scroll was shown in memory of 796 credentialed ministers who have passed away during the past 2 years. During the playing of the Memorial Scroll, music was provided by the Burchfield Brothers from Nashville, Tennessee. Following the playing of the scroll, a moment of silence was observed, and James T. Bradford, general secretary, led in prayer.

General Superintendent George O. Wood presided during the Communion service. He was assisted by members of the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery.

L. John Bueno, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, introduced the speaker, an unnamed pastor of a church in the Middle East, who has spent time in prison for his ministry, and who daily faces risks and threats. He offered words of encouragement to fellow believers. He shared that God wants to give each one a dream and a vision of what He can do in us and through us. He offered four thoughts on responding to the dreams God places in our lives. Believe in the dream, even when you don't see it. Obey the Lord, even when you don't understand His orders. Persist, even when you feel like giving up. And trust God, even if you don't receive your promise. Drawing on the list of the faithful in Hebrews 11, he reminded all that not all will see God's promises fulfilled in their lifetime, but that isn't a reason to give up and quit.

Following the message, the general superintendent received a special offering for the speaker's ministry in the Middle East. The offertory was provided by Bridgett and Chresten Tomlin, and the worship band from First Assembly of God, Fort Myers, Florida, under the direction of Tom Matrone. Thomas E. Trask, former general superintendent, offered a special prayer for the Executive Leadership Team and the newly elected executive presbyters.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 6

Business Session

James T. Bradford, general secretary, opened the meeting with greetings and prayer. The general superintendent called the business session to order at 2 p.m. The chair called for the report of the Roster Committee. Since it was not ready, the chairman declared the meeting will operate from Wednesday's roster until the new report is ready.

Resolution 1. Fourth Reason For Being

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 1 and moved its adoption.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 1 be amended by adding the NIV reference. The motion lost.

The motion to adopt Resolution 1 lost. Resolution 1 as presented follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Be amended to read:

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, and (4) to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world.

And, be it further

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

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.

Be amended to read:

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, and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

And, be it further

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

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.

Be amended to read:

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, and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

And, be it further

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

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

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

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

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

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

Be amended to read:

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, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

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

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 and care for the poor and needy of the world (Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 25:37-40; Galatians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

And, be it further

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

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).

Be amended to read:

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold 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), and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

And, be it further

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

Roster Committee Report

John Jay Wilson, administrator to the general superintendent, gave the following report as of 2 p.m., Thursday, August 6, 2009:

VOTING:

Ordained	2,509	
Licensed	610	
Delegates	356	
Executive Presbyters	17	
General Presbyters	<u>241</u>	
Voting constituency		3,733

NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	1,199	
Auxiliary Staff	571	
Certified	211	
Fine Arts/AIM	7,857	
General Attendees	13,582	
Kids Council	571	
Other	61	
Staff	<u>102</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		24,154
Total		<u>27,887</u>

A motion prevailed to receive the report and hold it open until the conclusion of the General Council.

The chairman expressed his appreciation to the administrator to the general superintendent and his team who has made this event run efficiently.

Resolution 2. Prioritization of Prerogatives

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 2 and moved its adoption. The motion to adopt Resolution 2 lost. Resolution 2 as presented follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Be amended to read:

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

a. To encourage and promote the worship of God.

b. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.

And, be it further

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

Total Giving Awards

Doug Clay, general treasurer, presented the Assemblies of God Total Giving awards for giving during the past biennium, as follows:

Churches—Total Dollar Giving

1st place—First Assembly of God, Phoenix, Arizona; Tommy J. Barnett, pastor; \$12,231,489

2nd place—First Assembly of God, Fort Myers, Florida; C. Dan Betzer, pastor; \$4,198,090

3rd place—Calvary Church, Naperville, Illinois; Randal L. Ross, pastor; \$3,859,558

4th place—Word of Life Assembly of God, Springfield, Virginia; D. Wendel Cover, pastor; \$3,496,227

5th place—Victory Church, Lakeland, Florida; M. Wayne Blackburn, pastor; \$3,215,243

Districts—Total Dollar Giving

1st place—North Texas District Council, Richard W. DuBose, superintendent; \$37,855,978

2nd place—Northwest District Council, Leslie E. Welk, superintendent; \$34,874,115

3rd place—Peninsular Florida District Council, Terrell R. Raburn, superintendent; \$34,288,796

Israel Study Center

The general superintendent gave information regarding the Holy Land Study Center recently acquired by Southeastern University; and, on behalf of the Executive Presbytery, he encourages students to study in Israel.

Church Multiplication Network—Church Planters

The chairman introduced Steven M. Pike, director of Church Multiplication Network, who expressed his appreciation to the Assemblies of God Trust for providing matching funds grants to church planters. Steve Pike introduced Todd R. Bishop who planted a church in Westbury, New York, and Dennis F. Curran, pastor of a parent church in Cold Spring, Minnesota, that has assisted in planting five churches, and presented each of them with an Award of Excellence. A video was shown that told the story of the church in Cold Spring, Minnesota.

Resolution 3. Parent Affiliated Churches

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 3. Parent Affiliated Churches. Provision shall be made by district councils for parent affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting church's constitution and bylaws.

And, be it further

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

Resolution 5. Composition of General Presbytery

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 5 and moved its adoption.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution 5 be amended by a substitute motion that would replace the proposed paragraph g with the following: "Each district shall be represented by four general presbyters. One shall be an ordained female or an ordained male or female under 40 years of age. This shall be determined by the electorate of the district council in accordance with its bylaws." The chair ruled the motion is not in order as it is outside the scope of the resolution under consideration.

A motion was made and seconded to overturn the ruling of the chair. The motion carried to overturn the decision of the chair making the previous amendment by substitution in order.

A motion was made to amend the substitute motion by deleting the proposed paragraph g in Article IX, Section 3, and amend Article IX, Section 3, paragraph a, by inserting the words "four members, of which one is to be an ordained woman pastor and one an ordained pastor under 40 years of age" in place of the words "three members."

A motion was made to amend the amendment by the addition of the words: “Each district shall send the name of a qualified layperson to the General Council for consideration to be a member of the General Presbytery, and one layperson should be sent to represent each of the regions or language fellowships, and the election shall be for 2 years.” The chair ruled the amendment to be out of order, as it does not pertain to the matter under consideration.

A motion was made and seconded to defer this matter until tomorrow after the maker of the motion, the assistant general superintendent, and others of his choosing can establish the appropriate language for this amendment. The motion carried.

(See page 59 for final action taken on this matter.)

Privileged Motion

In light of the number of resolutions still to be considered, a motion prevailed that debate be limited to 4 minutes per speaker.

Resolution 10. Right of Appeal for Affiliation

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 10 and moved its adoption. A standing vote was taken with the following results: Yes 755; No 533

The motion carried to adopt Resolution 10 as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Be amended to read:

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. In the event an application for affiliation is declined by a district presbytery, appeal may be made by the church to the General Council Executive Presbytery whose decision shall be final.

Resolution 12. Organizational Assistance

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 12 and moved its adoption.

It was moved and seconded to refer Resolution 12 to a study committee. The motion lost.

A motion to adopt Resolution 12 carried by a standing vote. Resolution 12 as adopted follows:

- WHEREAS, Despite the best efforts of pastors, leaders, and members in a local General Council church to follow principles of conflict resolution such as those found in Matthew 18:15-17, irreconcilable differences sometimes continue to disrupt the necessary harmony and health of the assembly; and
- WHEREAS, The history of many General Council churches includes hurt and confusion in the wake of unhealthy actions by parishioners, board members, and/or ministers which can result in the departure from the local church and from the Fellowship at large by stable pastors, members, and family units who wonder why there was no decisive outside intervention by spiritual authority; and
- WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 4, paragraph c, page 109, refers to “organizational assistance” made available by a district council in dealing with church problems via an invitation from the pastor, a majority of the official church board, or a petition signed by 20 percent of the voting members; and
- WHEREAS, The term “organizational assistance” can be interpreted in a variety of ways with a variety of implications, especially in times of heightened conflict, distress, and pressure; and
- WHEREAS, Healthy intervention by the district in response to an invitation from the local church may only be achieved, in many cases, if the district leadership has been empowered to make decisions with authority; and
- WHEREAS, Temporarily reverting a General Council assembly to district affiliated status allows the leadership of the district to act with clarity and authority; and
- WHEREAS, Our Fellowship recognizes the scriptural mandate for and historical blessing of acknowledging and partnering with proper spiritual authority at all levels of church leadership; and
- WHEREAS, The practice of reverting a General Council assembly to district affiliated status is well established since scenarios for reverting a church from General Council status to district affiliated status already exist whenever a General Council church fails to maintain the criteria for General Council affiliation, as per General Council Bylaws Article VI, Section 5; and
- WHEREAS, Parameters already exist to guide a district in giving effective aid to a local assembly in a situation where a pastor is causing a major offense (see the description of disciplinable offenses in General Council Bylaws Article X), but parameters are not given in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws providing a clear avenue of strength from which the district can aid a local pastor when non-credentialed church members and leaders are causing the major offense; and
- WHEREAS, General Council Constitution Article XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES, Section 1, paragraph e, provides safeguards to a General Council affiliated church from any possible abuse of this prerogative by a district through an appeal to the Executive Presbytery, and ultimately, the General Presbytery when there is a question whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the district; therefore, be it

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

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.

Be amended to read:

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. When district officers receive such requests, they shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary, recommending remedial actions to the responsible district governing entity, (e.g., district presbytery or district executive presbytery). At its discretion, that governing entity may act to bring the church under district supervision and, when necessary, revert it from General Council status to district affiliated status until the governing entity considers the problem resolved.

Resolution 13 (13-A). Disaffiliation Percentage

John R. Wootton presented Resolution 13 and moved its adoption.

As chairman of the Resolutions Committee, John Wootton presented Resolution 13-A as a substitute amendment to Resolution 13, said resolution being sponsored as an amendment to the General Council by the General Presbytery.

It was moved and seconded to adopt Resolution 13-A as an amendment by substitution to Resolution 13. The motion carried.

A motion to adopt Resolution 13-A carried. Resolution 13-A as adopted follows:

- WHEREAS, The present General Council Bylaws do not specify a percentage of a vote when an Assemblies of God church votes to leave The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws Article VI, Section 4, d. Preservation of Affiliation, page 109, presently states the following in the last sentence: “Final disposition of the matter may then proceed in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the local church”; and
- WHEREAS, Many local church constitution and bylaws make no provision for a particular percentage; therefore, *Robert’s Rules of Order* dictate the percentage in such cases to be a “simple majority”; and
- WHEREAS, A simple majority for such a serious matter as severing a relationship with the Fellowship seems inappropriate for such an important decision; and
- WHEREAS, In many such cases some of the faithful Assemblies of God people have already left these difficult chaotic situations; and
- WHEREAS, It would be less disruptive to a local church to have a two-thirds vote to make such a request, therefore demonstrating a greater unity of decision; and

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

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

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.

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 where such matters will be discussed and voted upon for the express purpose of giving the district officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. A decision to disaffiliate shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership, or a more restrictive rule prescribed by the governing documents of the church or district. ~~Final disposition of the matter may then proceed in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the local church.~~

Resolution 15. Integrity In Educational Attribution

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 15. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 15 as follows:

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

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

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; and

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

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

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

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

Resolution 5. Composition of General Presbytery [con't.]

The chairman asked Ansley Orfila, the maker of the deferred previous substitute motion, to offer the revised language for a substitute motion to amend Resolution 5. The chairman explained the parliamentary process that adopting a substitute amendment requires a majority vote, however, the main motion to amend the Constitution will require a two-thirds vote to pass.

A motion was made and seconded to amend Resolution 5 by deleting the proposed paragraph g in Article IX, Section 3, and amend Article IX, Section 3, paragraph a as follows:

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 four ~~three~~ members—the district superintendent together with three ~~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, one of whom shall be an ordained female minister (no age requirement), or an ordained minister under the age of 40. They shall take office immediately.

A motion was made by Thomas E. Trask, and seconded, to refer this matter to the Executive Presbytery to appoint a study committee to bring back a recommendation to the 2011 General Council. A standing vote was taken and the motion carried by the following vote: Yes 495, No 494. The motion carried. Resolution 5 as presented follows:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

And, be it further

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

(See page 54 for previous action taken on this matter.)

Resolution 6. Election of General Presbytery

The chairman noted that in light of Resolution 5 being referred to a study committee, it negates the need to consider Resolution 6.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY EVENING—AUGUST 6

The Thursday service of the 53rd General Council began at 7 p.m. in the Orange County Convention Center, Orlando, Florida, with a combined youth and adult congregation.

Jeff Deyo and Band, Franklin, Tennessee, led in worship. Marissa Flannery, a 16-year old from Northwest Family Church of the Assemblies of God, Auburn, Washington, gave a powerful prayer. George O. Wood, general superintendent, received the offering, calling on the worshipers to invest in the Fellowship by giving an offering to Assemblies of God Trust scholarships. He announced the five students who are Riggs Scholarship winners. Shane & Shane, a musical group from Dallas, Texas, provided the offertory.

The speaker for the evening, Herbert L. Cooper, Jr., pastor of People's Church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, was introduced by George O. Wood. The message delivered by Herbert Cooper was a challenge to search and keep on searching for one more lost person. He used the parables of "the Lost Sheep" and "the Lost Coin" and stressed the importance of reaching one more until Jesus comes back. Cooper outlined characteristics of searchers and things which distract from finding. He explained that searchers care, searchers find, and searchers celebrate when one person comes to Christ.

FRIDAY MORNING—AUGUST 7

The Friday session began at 8:45 a.m. at the Orange County Convention Center. L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent, introduced Jacqueline Toro, pastor of Bethesda Pentecostal Tabernacle, Brooklyn, New York, who brought a devotion from Zechariah 4:6, encouraging Assemblies of God people to be people of the Spirit in order to powerfully fulfill the four core values.

George Wood, general superintendent, gave greetings and introduced Rick Warren, author and pastor of Saddleback Church, Orange County, California, who brought a message for leadership and believers telling them, “Don’t let fear hold you back.” He offered a challenging word to the group, based on Exodus 4:2, when God asked Moses a simple but profound question: “What is in your hand?” The answer: A shepherd’s staff that represented Moses’ identity, income, and influence. He shared that God issues the same challenge today, to lay down our identity, influence, and income, and give them to God so He can do great things with it. He shared about his life priorities since publishing his book *The Purpose-Driven Life* and receiving his wife Kay’s diagnosis with cancer. He doesn’t see life as times of all good or all bad; life is a railroad track and one rail is good and one rail is bad. Regardless of where one is at there is always something to be working on or to thank God for.

Rick Warren spoke on God’s desire for faithfulness. He stressed that unless one is taking risks in ministry there is no need for faith, and that is being unfaithful. He said, “You are never a failure until you quit, and it is always too soon to quit.” A leader’s character is revealed by what it takes to create discouragement. Pastors need to face down problems rather than leave.

Rick Warren spoke on how best to grow a healthy church. First, it is a body, not a business; therefore it is alive. All living things grow. Health can be achieved by pursuing a balanced approach to the biblical purposes of worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism. These are principles rooted in the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. He went on to say that churches must be committed to loving God, loving others, and sharing the message of salvation. He encouraged pastors and leaders to develop systematic plans for helping people grow spiritually.

Following his message there was an extended time given for Rick Warren to answer questions from the body. Doug Clay, general treasurer, moderated the session.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 7

Business Session

L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent, opened the meeting at 2 p.m. with prayer. The general superintendent convened the final session of business and called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Roster Committee Report

David L. Wigington, co-chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 1:20 p.m., Friday, August 7, 2009:

VOTING:

Ordained	2,515
Licensed	611
Delegates	357
Executive Presbyters	17
General Presbyters	<u>241</u>
Voting constituency	3,741

NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	1,201	
Auxiliary Staff	571	
Certified	214	
Fine Arts/AIM	7,857	
General Attendees	13,980	
Kids Council	576	
Other	61	
Staff	<u>102</u>	
Nonvoting constituency		<u>24,562</u>
Total		28,303

A motion prevailed to receive the final report of the Roster Committee.

Reconsideration of Resolution 1. Fourth Reason For Being

The general superintendent turned the chair to the assistant general superintendent.

The general superintendent spoke from the floor and shared his heart regarding his previous handling of Resolution 1. He spoke passionately about being troubled that he did not personally speak to the matter when it was debated as he was attempting to remain neutral as the chairman. He believes Resolution 1 goes to the heart of his first core value, "to passionately proclaim Christ at home and abroad by word and deed," and the Church has always provided for compassion ministries. He expressed his desire for Resolution 1 to be reconsidered and explained the parliamentary process needed for it to be reconsidered.

Andy C. Harris made a motion to reconsider Resolution 1 as he previously voted on the prevailing side, and he desired to change his vote. The motion was seconded and carried, by the majority, to reconsider Resolution 1. Fourth Reason for Being and bring the original resolution before the body.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt Resolution 1 as previously presented.

A motion was made and seconded to amend to keep three reasons by striking the addition of a fourth reason for being and expand the first reason, "evangelizing the world," by adding the words, "through meeting human needs with ministries of love and compassion." The motion lost.

A standing vote was taken to adopt Resolution 1:

Total votes cast	808
Needed to pass	539
Yes	586
No	222

The motion to adopt Resolution 1 carried by a two-thirds vote. Resolution 1 as adopted follows:

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

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

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

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

- WHEREAS, The fourth reason for being is presently absent from our governance documents; and
- WHEREAS, The function of the body of Christ is to follow the will of its Head; and
- WHEREAS, Adding a fourth reason for being in our governance documents will align our mission more exactly to that of our Lord while also accurately reflecting what the Assemblies of God is presently engaged in; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION, WE BELIEVE, paragraph 1, page 83, which reads:
 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.
- Be amended to read:
 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, and (4) to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world.
- And, be it further
- RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION, WE BELIEVE, paragraph 5, page 83, which reads:
 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.
- Be amended to read:
 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, and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.
- And, be it further
- RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, Article IV. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP, paragraph 1, page 84, which reads:
 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.
- Be amended to read:
 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, and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.
- And, be it further

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

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

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

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

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

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

Be amended to read:

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, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

- a. To be an agency of God for evangelizing the world (Acts 1:8; Matthew 28:19,20; Mark 16:15,16).
- b. To be a corporate body in which man may worship God (1 Corinthians 12:13).

c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).

d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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 and care for the poor and needy of the world (Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 25:37-40; Galatians 6:10; 1 Corinthians 14:12; Ephesians 4:11,12; 1 Corinthians 12:28; Colossians 1:29).

And, be it further

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

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).

Be amended to read:

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold 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), and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

And, be it further

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

Point of Order—Resolution 5. Composition of General Presbytery

A motion was made to appeal yesterday's ruling of the chair that proceeded with deliberation of Resolution 5 after it was to have been referred for today's consideration. It was moved to strike the previous action taken and rule it out of order. The motion was denied.

Resolution 19. Transgeographical District

The chairman explained that the Executive Presbytery sponsorship of Resolution 19 has been withdrawn by the General Presbytery, therefore it is not being considered.

Gary L. Brothers, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, made a motion to sponsor the adoption of Resolution 19 from the floor. The motion was seconded, followed by discussion.

A motion was made and seconded to move the question. The motion lost. Additional discussion followed.

A motion was moved and seconded to call for the question. The motion carried.

The chairman called for the vote to be taken by secret ballot. A secret ballot was cast for the adoption of Resolution 19 and the chairman declared the voting closed. The chairman of the Tellers Committee reported the results of the secret ballot as follows:

Total votes cast	1,313
Needed to pass	657
Invalid votes	2
Yes	522
No	789

The chairman declared that the motion to adopt Resolution 19 lost. Resolution 19 as presented follows:

- WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God desires to remain open to creative and innovative ways that the Holy Spirit may use in expanding the Church; and
- WHEREAS, Many Pentecostal churches informally or formally network together and would become Assemblies of God if opportunity was given them to become part of the Fellowship within a framework different than our current district structure that is based on language or geography; and
- WHEREAS, A small group of Assemblies of God churches has volunteered to form a bridge to these Pentecostal churches by bringing them into our Fellowship; and
- WHEREAS, Approximately 30 of these Pentecostal churches have indicated a desire to join the Assemblies of God if approval is given for a pilot project that creates a district without geographical borders; and
- WHEREAS, Potential exists for a substantial number of individual churches and networks of churches who are not Assemblies of God, but affirm our doctrine and mission, to join the Fellowship if we provide a structure that grows on the basis of their natural spiritual and affinity ties to one another; and
- WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery supports ascertaining whether such an effort could bring growth and blessing to the Assemblies of God and the churches involved; and
- WHEREAS, The formation of geographical and language districts existing in the same area of parallel fields of endeavor historically has brought great growth and blessing to the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, A number of districts already identify themselves as ministry networks; and
- WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws empower the Executive Presbytery to form new geographical and foreign language districts; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery be empowered to undertake a 4-year pilot program that creates a district, transgeographical in nature, utilizing the ministry network concept; this district shall consist of no more than 40 General Council affiliated churches as approved by the Executive Presbytery to launch this pilot district, along with other non-Assemblies of God churches who complete the procedure for affiliation as specified in the Assemblies of God Constitution, Article XI, Section 1. a. Requirements of affiliation; that the Executive Presbytery approve the constitution and bylaws of the pilot district; that any subsequent churches who join the pilot district come exclusively from non-Assemblies of God churches; and that the Executive Presbytery bring a report and recommendation to the 2013 General Council to either make the district permanent or disband it.

Electronic Voting During General Council

The chairman announced that the Executive Presbytery will look into using electronic voting for all portions of General Council business, as well as consideration will be given to the possibility of allowing qualified voters in attendance at General Council but involved in Fine Arts to vote electronically without being physically present in the business hall.

Resolution 21. Reaffirmation of Pentecostal Distinctive The Initial Physical Evidence of Holy Spirit Baptism

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 21 and moved its adoption. The chair reported additional information and read the following report from the Parliamentary Committee:

Resolution 21, submitted by the South Texas District, asks the General Council in session “to simply reaffirm our stand behind all of our 16 Fundamental Truths and in particular the doctrine of the initial physical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which is speaking in other tongues”

The propriety of Resolution 21

Article IV, Section 4, of the General Council Bylaws specifies, in relevant part:

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* (emphasis added).

This provision would appear to make Resolution 21 appropriate, despite the fact that it would be out of order under *Robert’s Rules of Order* for several reasons, including the following:

First, *Robert’s Rules of Order* states that “motions that conflict with the corporate charter, constitution or bylaws of a society . . . are out of order, and if any motion of this kind is adopted, it is null and void.” Since Resolution 21, if voted down, would directly conflict with the Statement of Fundamental Truths set forth in the General Council Constitution, it is out of order as a matter of parliamentary law.

Second, Resolution 21 is calling for a “straw poll.” *Robert’s Rules of Order* states that motions in the form of straw polls are *never in order*:

A motion to take an informal straw poll to “test the water” is not in order because it neither adopts nor rejects a measure and hence is meaningless and dilatory.

Third, Resolution 21 is an inappropriate “dilatory” motion, since it would accomplish nothing and only serve to delay the orderly conduct of business. The General Council Constitution clearly sets forth the Statement of Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God. No resolutions are being offered at this General Council to amend the Statement of Fundamental Truths. Therefore, a motion to reaffirm our adherence to doctrines that are not being challenged would be an inappropriate dilatory motion.

Handling Resolution 21

Resolution 21 would be out of order for the reasons summarized above, except for the fact that Article IV, Section 4, of the General Council Bylaws specifies that “a resolution passed by a district council in session shall always be deemed appropriate.”

The Parliamentary Committee offered the option of four choices as to how best to handle Resolution 21. The chairman chose to take the first option to proceed to vote without debate. The general superintendent addressed the resolution and spoke strongly of the need for the Fellowship to uphold the entire Statement of Fundamental Truths including The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. A vote was taken of those in favor to say, aye, and those opposed to say, no. The motion carried followed by a response of applause. Resolution 21 as presented follows:

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

Resolution 18. Unethical Financial Management

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

- WHEREAS, There is an increased scrutiny of the financial practices in our society's institutions, including churches and religious nonprofit organizations; and
- WHEREAS, Ministers of the gospel are called to be accountable in their personal, church, and ministry finances; and
- WHEREAS, The current Bylaws are somewhat limited in ways of dealing with financial misdeeds by ministers other than Article X, Section 3, c., "Any moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct" and j. "A habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the gospel"; and
- WHEREAS, While Article X, Section 3, c. and j. are good, they do not provide the clarity needed to address the complex issues of handling finances in today's atmosphere; and
- WHEREAS, An amendment to the General Council Bylaws that addresses the financial practices and misdeeds of our ministers is needed; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article X. DISCIPLINE, Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action, j., page 126, 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, unethical, or illegal practices related to personal, church, or ministry finances.

Point of Order—Resolution 1. Fourth Reason For Being

A motion was made and seconded to appeal the ruling of the chair as it related to Resolution 1, indicating a request was made to call for a secret ballot, and it was not acted upon. The motion to appeal the ruling of the chair lost.

Resolution 27. Preaching Requirements for Credentialed Ministers

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 27 and moved its adoption.

A motion was made and seconded to amend Resolution 27, Article VII, Section 3, paragraph c, (1) *General Requirements*, by inserting the word “shall” in place of the word “may;” strike the words “or a ministry coach or mentor;” and add the words “an Assemblies of God pastor” in place of “a pastor,” so that the paragraph will read: “They shall show promise of usefulness in the gospel work. They shall devote full or part time to Christian ministry and, at the discretion of the district credentials committee, shall remain under the supervision of an Assemblies of God pastor.” The motion to amend Resolution 27 lost.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 27 as follows:

- WHEREAS, Preaching has always played a vital role in Pentecostal ministry since the inception of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, We affirm the value of preaching as proclaiming the gospel in any context at any time as a vital component of ministry; and
- WHEREAS, A broader definition of the term, “ministry” can be found by taking at face value the Statement of Fundamental Truths 11. The Ministry, which defines the parameters of threefold purpose in ministry without specifically using the term, “preaching”; and
- WHEREAS, Our Fellowship could be well served by eliminating the distinctions made in our current Bylaws regarding ministry between “preaching” and “non-preaching” or “specialized” ministry; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 3. Specific Qualifications, c. Certified minister, page 112, which reads:

(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.

Be amended to read:

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

And, be it further

- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 3. Specific Qualifications, d. Licensed minister, page 113, which currently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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

~~(1) *Preaching Ministry*— clear evidence of a divine call, a practical experience in preaching, together with character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's time to preaching life in service to the proclamation of 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.~~

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 3. Specific Qualifications, e. Ordained minister, (3), page 113, which currently reads:

~~(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.~~

Be amended to read:

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

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 3. Specific Qualifications, e. Ordained minister, (6), page 113, which currently reads:

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

Be amended to read:

~~(6) In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers must preach at least 15 times each year shall be engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel except for cases of disability, retirement, or other valid circumstances as determined by the general secretary.~~

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 6. Official List, b. Inactive or disabled ministers, (1) *Definition*, page 114, which currently reads:

~~(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.~~

Be amended to read:

~~(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 All ministers who have not been actively engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel over 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.~~

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article IV. COMMITTEES, Section 2. Credentials Committee, page 104, which currently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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, ministry 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.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 3. Specific Qualifications, c. Certified Minister, (2) *Pastoral requirements*, Page 112, which currently reads:

(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.

Be amended to read:

(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 the ministry license level ~~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.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 3. Specific Qualifications, e. Ordained minister, (5) *Exceptions to requirements*, page 113, which currently reads:

(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.

Be amended to read:

(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 ministry 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.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 5. Certificates, page 113, which currently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 11. Nondisciplinary Credential Terminations, d. Surrender of credentials, page 119, which currently reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

In all cases the minister shall be requested to surrender his or her credential (Certificate of Ordination, Ministry 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.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That any other references to “specialized license” be removed from the General Council Bylaws and edited accordingly, and all references to “license to preach” be replaced with “ministry license” or simply, “license” as appropriate and edited accordingly.

Resolution 28. Credential Status Change

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

WHEREAS, There are occasions when ministers lapse or resign their credentials, after which information about a prior infraction comes to light that would have warranted discipline; and

WHEREAS, There are no guidelines in the General Council Bylaws for changing a minister's status from lapsed or resigned to dismissed should such action be deemed advisable; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article X. DISCIPLINE, Section 9. Referral for Action to the General Council Credentials Committee, paragraph a. District recommendation, page 129, be amended by the addition of a new paragraph (3) to read as follows:

(3) *Subsequent dismissal.* Should evidence come to light following a minister's resignation, or the lapse of his or her credentials, of conduct occurring prior to his or her resignation or lapse of credentials that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under Article X, Section 3, of these Bylaws, the district at its discretion may request the General Council Credentials Committee to change that minister's status from lapsed or resigned to dismissed. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation. All rights of appeal will apply.

Resolution 30. Removal of Executive Officers and Directors For Cause

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 30 and moved its adoption.

A motion was made and seconded to amend Resolution 30 by striking the words, "or other grounds." The motion lost.

A motion was made and seconded to take the vote by secret ballot. The motion lost.

A motion to adopt Resolution 30 carried. Resolution 30 as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, page 97, of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God provides for the nomination and election of officers; and

WHEREAS, Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 1. Executive Officers, page 90, of the Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God specifies that officers shall serve for a 4-year term; and

WHEREAS, Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 3. Vacancies, page 99, of the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God provides for the selection of executive officers when an executive office has become vacant through "death or other cause"; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God do not provide for the removal of an officer prior to the end of a term unless an officer's credential has been revoked as a result of disciplinary action pursuant to the Bylaws; and

WHEREAS, The Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God do not provide for the removal of an officer from office prior to the end of a term for reasons not constituting grounds for disciplinary action, including but not limited to incapacity, inefficiency, or incompetence; and

WHEREAS, The mission of the Assemblies of God may be directly and adversely affected by the inability to remove an officer prior to the end of a term of office for reasons not constituting grounds for disciplinary action; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, pages 97-100, be amended by the addition of a new Section 4. Removal for Cause which shall read as follows:

Section 4. Removal for Cause

The Executive Presbytery by two-thirds vote may remove an officer from office prior to the end of a term if, in its judgment, there is clear and convincing evidence of incapacity, inefficiency, incompetence, or other grounds, not constituting a basis for formal discipline pursuant to Article X of the Bylaws, that renders the officer unfit for office and compromises the mission of the Assemblies of God. Such a decision by the Executive Presbytery shall not be effective unless and until it is ratified by the General Presbytery by two-thirds vote.

**Resolution 31. Assemblies of God U.S. Missions
Church Planting and Development Name Change**

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

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery has acted to rename the Church Planting and Development Department within Assemblies of God U.S. Missions to Missionary Church Planters and Developers; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has acted to revise *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* bringing it into conformity with this name change; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XIV. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD U.S. MISSIONS, Section 2. Organization and Governance, paragraph c. Departments, subparagraph (3), page 136, which currently reads:

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

Be amended to read:

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

Resolution 32. Amenability to General Superintendent

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

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws, Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM, Section 1. Duties of the General Superintendent, calls upon the general superintendent to give leadership to all the work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws, Article III, Section 1, paragraph n, also specifically calls upon the general superintendent to lead “Tier I leadership, executive officers and the Executive Presbytery”; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws, Article III, Section 2. Duties of the Assistant General Superintendent, paragraph c, assigns the assistant general superintendent to “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,” as well as listing other leadership bodies of this Fellowship”; and

- WHEREAS, This same language is absent from the descriptions and assignments of other members of the Executive Leadership team; and
- WHEREAS, Clarity of assignment, amenability, and internal authority is always to be desired; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM, Section 3. Duties of the General Secretary, paragraph f, page 101, which reads:
Perform such other functions as are customary or as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.
- Be amended to read:
Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.
- And, be it further
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM, Section 4. Duties of the General Treasurer, paragraph f, page 101, which reads:
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.
- Be amended to read:
Perform such other functions as are customary ~~for the office of the general treasurer~~ under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.
- And, be it further
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM, Section 5. Duties of the Executive Director of Assemblies of God World Missions, paragraph h, page 102, which reads:
Perform such other functions as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.
- Be amended to read:
Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.
- And, be it further
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM, Section 6. Duties of the Executive Director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, paragraph g, page 102, which reads:
Perform such other functions as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.
- Be amended to read:
Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.
- And, be it further

RESOLVED, that General Council Article XIII. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WORLD MISSIONS, Section 2. Organization and Governance, paragraph d. Amenability, page 132, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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

And, be it further

RESOLVED, that General Council Article XIV. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD U.S. MISSIONS, Section 2. Organization and Governance, paragraph d. Amenability, page 136, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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

Presentation to General Superintendent

John E. Maracle, executive presbyter of the Ethnic Fellowships, presented an American Indian headdress to the general superintendent making him an official "Chief."

Expression of Appreciation

The chairman expressed his appreciation and thanks to the Resolutions Committee, the Parliamentary Committee, John Jay Wilson, administrator to the general superintendent; and all the technical people involved in producing this great event.

Resolution 36. Courtesy Resolution

The Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 36. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 36 as follows:

WHEREAS, The 53rd General Council of the Assemblies of God has been afforded gracious hospitality and accommodation by the officials and agencies of the city of Orlando, Florida, and our host districts, the Peninsular Florida District Council, the West Florida District Council, the Brazilian District Council, and the Southeastern Spanish 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 53rd General Council; and

WHEREAS, The 53rd 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: City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer, The Orange County Convention Center, the Orlando/Orange County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Inc., and the many hotel and restaurant personnel, for their accommodation and hospitality; and, be it further

- RESOLVED, That we give thanks to God for the gifted and visionary leadership he has raised up among us in the persons of our general superintendent, George O. Wood, the Executive Leadership Team, and the Executive Presbytery; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the ministers and churches of this Fellowship determine that the clarion call issued by our Lord at this 53rd General Council in the State of the Fellowship/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 53rd 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.

Point of Order—Resolution re: Initiating Position Papers

Robert W. Lyle, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, made a motion to consider a resolution, Initiating Position Papers, which was deemed inappropriate for publication by the Resolutions Committee.

The chairman, hearing no second to the motion, noted the motion is not recognized.

The general superintendent reported that the Executive Leadership Team has approved a process to study the policy to establish position papers.

Adjournment

A motion prevailed to adjourn the business meeting of the 53rd General Council at 4:25 p.m., Friday, August 7, 2009.

FRIDAY EVENING—AUGUST 7

The Friday service of the 53rd General Council began at 6:30 p.m. in the Orange County Convention Center, with a powerful time of worship led by Jeff Deyo and Band, Franklin, Tennessee. Prayer was offered by Zollie L. Smith, Jr., executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.

The worship service led into a focus on the ministry of Unison Television, an award-winning television station based in Ecuador. Chester D. (Chet) Caudill, Student Ministries director, introduced Bill and Connie McDonald who established Unison Television. Bill McDonald expressed his appreciation for Speed the Light and its support. Chet Caudill received the offering designated for Speed the Light to assist the McDonalds with needed equipment for Unison Television. The offertory was provided by James River Assembly of God Youth Band, Ozark, Missouri.

L. John Bueno, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, introduced the evening speaker, Richard F. (Dick) Brogden, Jr., a missionary to the Sudan. Brogden's call was to bear God's glory to the neglected places and peoples of the earth. Speaking to a combined youth and adult worship rally, he took his message from the Numbers 14 account of Israel's failure to enter the Promised Land. The Israelites refused to hear, but God declared that all the earth still would be filled with His glory. God still intends that all His earth be filled with glory, he said.

It is up to everyone to be the Glory Generation. Brogden pulled no punches. He identified the giant of our generation saying, "This generation now, and in the decades to come, must stand eyeball to eyeball with the giant of Islam." Brogden's message outlined what it will take to be a glory bearer. It will mean Passion, Pioneering, Perseverance, and Power.

Hundreds of young people moved to the altars at Brogden's invitation to come and pray, "If you feel the drawing of the Spirit to spend your life doing something of significance for the kingdom to engage unreached Muslim peoples." He asked everyone to kneel and pray, and said, "When we rise, we become the generation that takes the glory of God to every people of the earth." Jeff Deyo and Band provided music for the altar service. George O. Wood, general superintendent, gave the benediction.

Following the evening message the National Fine Arts Festival Celebration Service began at 8:30 p.m. in the Orange County Convention Center. The service spotlighted the top Fine Arts/Kappa Tau participants from across the nation. Members of the national Youth Ministries team recognized award recipients in 52 categories. Thousands of teens and attendees enjoyed the performances by various Award of Merit recipients.

James T. Bradford
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, 2007, to May 31, 2009, and were included in the video presentation.

Abbott, Elizabeth A., Branson, Missouri
Abraham, Keith N., San Jacinto, California
Acevedo, Santiago G., Red Oak, Texas
Adams, Juanita, Eufula, Alabama
Addis, John T., West Paducah, Kentucky
Adkins, James R., Cupertino, California
Agnello, Margaret, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Aguilar, Sally S., Speedway, Indiana
Akers, Laurell L., Tomball, Texas
Akers, Nolan, Tomball, Texas
Akridge, Helen A., Carlinville, Illinois
Alber, Richard D., Village Mills, Texas
Alcantara, Rosendo, Kahului, Hawaii
Alexander, William V., Rocky Mount, Missouri
Alford, Jay, Youngstown, Ohio
Allen, Elwyn C., Little Rock, Arkansas
Allen, James E., Bastrop, Louisiana
Allen, Ronald G., Afton, Oklahoma
Amagli, A. Edison, Jamaica, New York
Amaya, Zoila J., Brownsville, Texas
Ambrose, Chester S., Meriden, Connecticut
Anderson, Eldon T., Collinsville, Illinois
Anderson, Rebecca, Ironton, Missouri
Anderson, Troy G., Kearney, Nebraska
Andrade, Leandro, Waco, Texas
Andrews, Lillian, Shreveport, Louisiana
Ard, Wesley W., Defuniak Springs, Florida
Armstrong, William C., Rainier, Oregon
Arnesen, Norman H., Santa Rosa, California
Arredondo, Jesus D., Des Moines, Iowa
Asimakopoulos, Edwin, Wenatchee, Washington
Authement, Walter J., Sour Lake, Texas
Baca, Edward D., Stockton, California
Back, William C., River Oaks, Texas
Bair, Homer E., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Baird, Etta L., Ebony, Virginia
Baird, J. R. Jr., Toccoa, Georgia
Baird, Lula M., Patterson, California
Baker, Doris A., Chandler, Oklahoma
Baker, J. E., Ironton, Missouri
Baldwin, Floy V., Stockton, California
Barker, Clifford V., Marion, Louisiana
Barnes, Joe Bailey, Huntsville, Texas
Barnes, Wenonah M., Ontario, Canada
Barnett, Joy O., Overland Park, Kansas
Baroncelli, Vincent, Bay City, Texas
Barrett, Phillip R., Forsyth, Missouri
Bass, James E., Alvarado, Texas
Baxter, J. Ruel, Stillwater, Oklahoma
Beamer, John H., Lebanon, Pennsylvania
Beavers, Richard L., Enterprise, Alabama
Beavers, Troy A., Columbia Falls, Montana
Beckstrand, Floyd W., Finley, North Dakota
Bedzyk, Peter, Springfield, Missouri
Behr, William J., Kunkletown, Pennsylvania
Beke, Paul S., Mauston, Wisconsin
Benham, Cecil P., Elvins, Missouri
Benham, Robert B., Willimantic, Connecticut
Benney, James A., Prescott, Arizona
Benson, Margaret B., Marshallberg, North Carolina
Berg, R. Stanley, Springfield, Missouri
Bernard, Robert P. Sr., Blaine, Minnesota
Berry, Henry A., West Monroe, Louisiana
Blakely, Woodrow W., La Porte, Texas
Blakkolb, Harry J., Streetsboro, Ohio
Blatchley, Michael D., Coldwater, Kansas
Bloodworth, W. D., Livingston, Texas
Bogardus, King J., Springfield, Missouri
Bole, Ronald C., Polk, Pennsylvania
Bonilla, Jose, Bridgeport, Connecticut
Boshell, Charles G., Conway Springs, Kansas
Boswell, Leon W., Winter Haven, Florida
Boyd, Gerald, Peachtree City, Georgia
Boyd, James T., Camdenton, Missouri
Boyd, Robert L., Branson, Missouri
Boyd, Wayne Sr., Poplar, Montana
Boyer, Allen W., Purgitsville, West Virginia
Boyer, Ronald D., Horseshoe Bend, Arkansas
Bradley, Robert L., Grayling, Michigan
Bradshaw, Finis E., Victorville, California
Brandt, R. L., Billings, Montana
Branson, Edgar L., Porterville, California
Breden, Robert W. Jr., Rialto, California
Bressman, Richard G., Omaha, Nebraska
Brewer, Paul V., Las Vegas, Nevada
Brister, Frank N., Bentley, Louisiana
Broberg, David L., Sparta, Wisconsin
Brodrick, Robert R., Ozark, Missouri
Brosey, Dorothy R., Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Brown, Bonnie P., San Jose, California
Brown, Paul E., Redlands, California
Browning, Ernest, Palmetto, Florida
Brubaker, Thomas R. Jr., Springfield, Missouri
Bruce, Flora M., Dothan, Alabama
Brusven, Mathias, Big Lake, Minnesota
Bryant, Harriet, Springfield, Missouri
Burgos, Roberto, Vernon Rockville, Connecticut
Burks, J. C., Meridian, Mississippi
Burnett, Ronald E., Buffalo, New York
Burns, Syble D. & Darl, Zavalla, Texas
Burr, Vivian, Little Elm, Texas
Butterfield, Charles W., Salem, Oregon
Butts, Frank C., Cullman, Alabama
Cabra, Teddy R., Hornbeck, Louisiana
Caldwell, J. R. Jr., Whitewright, Texas
Callaway, Marshall L., Indianapolis, Indiana
Callihan, Carl E., Springfield, Missouri
Campbell, Clarence A., Springfield, Illinois
Campbell, Grady L. Jr., Laurel, Mississippi
Campbell, Leonard M., Chandler, Arizona
Campion, Marjorie M., Sun City, Arizona
Canon, Clifford O., Macks Creek, Missouri
Canterbury, Robert A., Lake George, New York
Carathers, Cecil F., Vancouver, Washington
Carlbom, Jean M., Fond Du Lac, Wisconsin
Carlsen, Florence L., Spirit Lake, Iowa
Carlsen, Warren A., Lake Oswego, Oregon
Carlton, Alvin J., Visalia, California
Carmichael, Helen L., Pell City, Alabama
Carrier, Mary L., Junction City, Arkansas
Carriker, Carrol S., Macon, Missouri
Carrington, Robert, Modesto, California
Carroll, Johnnie B., Citrus Springs, Florida
Carter, Charles L., Loudon, New Hampshire

Case, Bertha M., Edgar Springs, Missouri
 Cass, Charles H., Albany, Oregon
 Cates, William T., Ellenville, New York
 Catlett, Florence E., Concord, California
 Cave, David, Ackerly, Texas
 Cave, Troy H., Daleville, Virginia
 Caves, James H., Clara, Mississippi
 Chapman, D. Sterling, Pope, Mississippi
 Chapman, Leon, Parsons, Tennessee
 Chapman, Terry W., Nashville, Tennessee
 Cherry, Ethel H., Bakersfield, California
 Chesnut, Arthur B., Tracy, California
 Chesnut, R. Juanita, Tracy, California
 Chockley, Marvin W., Rushville, Illinois
 Christian, Dorothy M., Las Cruces, New Mexico
 Chung, Tae Sup, Lake In The Hills, Illinois
 Clair, Douglas R., Carlinville, Illinois
 Clark, Charles G., Conway, Arkansas
 Clark, Hubert L. Sr., Delbarton, West Virginia
 Clark, Orville L., Lamont, California
 Cleeton, Jack R., Pittsford, New York
 Clemmons, Roy L. Sr., Winstonsboro, Texas
 Cleveland, Harry L., Sandy Spring, Maryland
 Cobb, Naomi L., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Coleman, Elmer L., Fort Gibson, Oklahoma
 Cole-Rous, Eulalie G., Springfield, Missouri
 Collins, Ann H., Brewton, Alabama
 Collins, Clarence T., New Boston, Texas
 Collins, Larkin P., Hattiesburg, Mississippi
 Compton, Altus F., Lakeside, California
 Comstock, William C., Calera, Oklahoma
 Connally, Ronald E., Phenix City, Alabama
 Contreras, Maria O., Fresno, California
 Conway, T. Bluford, Saint James, Missouri
 Cook, Troilus B., Lakeland, Florida
 Cooke, Robert L., Jackson, Tennessee
 Cooper, E. Roger, Sylacauga, Alabama
 Cooper, Paul M., Fleming, Colorado
 Cosper, Gracie V., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Cotton, Cherie R., Plant City, Florida
 Cotton, Seth B. Jr., Phenix City, Alabama
 Cottriel, Fred, Bakersfield, California
 Cover, Chester D., Madison, Ohio
 Cover, Ishmel E., McCrory, Arkansas
 Cover, Mary F., Alton, Missouri
 Cowan, Paul H., Wyandotte, Michigan
 Cox, Gerald C., Harrison, Arkansas
 Craig, James, Spiro, Oklahoma
 Crawford, H. Wayne, Gridley, California
 Crespo, Gloria, Miami, Florida
 Crosby, Carl E., Big Sandy, Tennessee
 Cross, Thomas V., Cape Coral, Florida
 Crosson, Elsie A., Sacramento, California
 Crozier, Richard J., Renfrew, Pennsylvania
 Cullum, W. R. Jr., Ripley, Tennessee
 Cumbee, Calvin, Moncks Corner, South Carolina
 Cummings, Crest R., Broomfield, Colorado
 Curry, George, Fort Collins, Colorado
 Curtin, William T., Wichita, Kansas
 Curtis, Richard D., Galesburg, Illinois
 Dane, Mary M., Harrison, Arkansas
 Davidson, Louis R., North Port, Florida
 Davis, Dorothy M., Desoto, Texas
 Davis, George H., Springfield, Missouri
 Davis, Ramon H., Madisonville, Kentucky
 Davis, Remigia F., Welsh, Louisiana
 Davis, William A., Tunnelton, West Virginia
 Davis, Willie R., Denison, Texas
 Dawes, Franklin R., Chicota, Texas
 Dean, Earl O., Fresno, California
 Dean, Mary E., Memphis, Tennessee
 Declue, E. Wayne, Barnhart, Missouri
 Deeds, Manuel R., Sunnyside, Washington
 Deegan, John, Monroe Township, New Jersey
 De Leon, Jose D., Harlingen, Texas
 Delgatty, G. Verdun, Springfield, Missouri
 Dement, Joyce E., Springfield, Missouri
 Demetrus, Paul, Springfield, Missouri
 Denicola, John, Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania
 Dennison, James G., Switzer, West Virginia
 DeRosso, Frank, Wallowa, Oregon
 Derouen, Beverly J., Hayes, Louisiana
 DeWeber, William D., Albuquerque, New Mexico
 Diaz, Angel, Manor, Texas
 Dittfurth, Roy E. Sr., Stephenville, Texas
 Dixon, Walter G., Greenville, South Carolina
 Dobbs, Lupe M., Springfield, Oregon
 Dockray, Omar H., Waco, Texas
 Dodd, James C., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Doepke, Harry C., Florence, Kentucky
 Dormier, Martin, Reno, Nevada
 Douglass, Leonard E., Oxnard, California
 Duke, Leroy A., Nixa, Missouri
 Duncan, Jesse, Tilden, Illinois
 Duncan, John O., Taylors, South Carolina
 Duncan, Shelby L., Sanger, California
 Dunets, Joseph, Portland, Oregon
 Dunning, William L., Sperry, Oklahoma
 Dykes, Winton S., McMinnville, Tennessee
 Eatherly, Leonard M., Miami, Oklahoma
 Echols, Eural T., Alamo, Tennessee
 Eckart, Estel O., Amboy, Indiana
 Ecklund, Minnie L., Torrance, California
 Eddlemon, Randall L., Wilmot, Arkansas
 Edson, Donald M., Coon Rapids, Minnesota
 Edwards, Hubert L., Bristol, Florida
 Eldon, Charles W., Pembroke Pines, Florida
 Elliott, Floyd V., Grand Junction, Colorado
 Ellis, Fred V., Hickory, North Carolina
 Emmons, Thomas W., Buna, Texas
 Enriquez, Luis Z., West Valley City, Utah
 Estebo, Vernon R., Raytown, Missouri
 Estrella, Ignacio, Bronx, New York
 Etter, Opal O., Chariton, Iowa
 Evans, Jack D., Maplewood, Missouri
 Everitt, William C., Cache, Oklahoma
 Eytzen, Norma E., Adams, Wisconsin
 Fain, Laird L., Saint Albans, West Virginia
 Fannin, Grady L., Meeteetse, Wyoming
 Farmer, Donald I., Delta, Colorado
 Farrell, William J., York, Pennsylvania
 Farrior, Elizabeth, Festus, Missouri
 Featherton, Bertie L., Frankston, Texas
 Fercho, Donnie, Bozeman, Montana
 Fick, Clinton G., Springfield, Missouri
 Finch, Earl G., Decatur, Texas
 Finch, O. Dennis, Seattle, Washington
 Finney, Lonnie H., Lewisville, Texas
 Fisher, Thomas E., Tonopah, Arizona
 Fjordbak, Everitt M., Dallas, Texas
 Flattery, George W., Springfield, Missouri
 Flecha, Diego, Lorain, Ohio
 Fleener, Fred III, Lubbock, Texas
 Fletchall, Clyde F., Hutchinson, Kansas

Flynn, Dorothy S., Alpena, Michigan
 Fogelman, Gerald E., Council Bluffs, Iowa
 Forame, Evelyn N., Struthers, Ohio
 Foreydey, Marvin E., Bridgeport, Washington
 Foreman, Jim, Bakersfield, California
 Forkey, David A., Ranson, West Virginia
 Fowler, Walter J., McCrory, Arkansas
 Fox, Ruth L., Fresno, California
 Frady, John E., Norman, Oklahoma
 Fraley, Albert D. Jr., Vidalia, Louisiana
 Fraley, Coralie B., Vidalia, Louisiana
 Franklin, Wallace M., Albuquerque, New Mexico
 Franks, Lawrence J., Monmouth, Oregon
 Frederick, Charles E., Rapid City, South Dakota
 Freeman, Earnest L., Henderson, Texas
 Freiheit, Kenneth M., Bloomington, Minnesota
 French, Earl, Brunswick, Maine
 Fry, Herman W., Rehoboth Beach, Delaware
 Fulks, Marvin L., Nixa, Missouri
 Fulmer, Richard C., Mission Viejo, California
 Gaither, Silas L., Springfield, Missouri
 Galdamez, Pablo M., Los Angeles, California
 Gallegos, Leandro R., Wichita Falls, Texas
 Gamblin, Donald E., Brunswick, Georgia
 Garcia, Rosario P., Bronx, New York
 Gatlin, Robert J., Brandon, Mississippi
 Geesey, Ada B., Anchorage, Alaska
 Geil, James R., Morton, Illinois
 Geno, S. Joseph, Hope, Arkansas
 George, Roy F., Plano, Texas
 Gibby, Donald G., Morrilton, Arkansas
 Gibson, Zack E., Gonzales, Louisiana
 Gilbert, James U., Marianna, Florida
 Gilbert, Milford C., Stevens Point, Wisconsin
 Gilchrest, Claudie L., Las Cruces, New Mexico
 Gillatt, Appy M., Nampa, Idaho
 Gilpin, Alvin L. Jr., Mabelvale, Arkansas
 Girkin, James C., Edmond, Oklahoma
 Glass, A. J. III, Blakely, Georgia
 Glidden, Dale E., Norway, Maine
 Godwin, Gorman G., Lawton, Oklahoma
 Goff, Ron G., Delbarton, West Virginia
 Goff, William C., Conway, Arkansas
 Goleman, Webb P., Grayson, Louisiana
 Gonzalez, Isabelita, Cidra, Puerto Rico
 Gonzalez, Israel, York, Pennsylvania
 Gonzalez, Kerry F., San Antonio, Texas
 Goodman, Letitia, Lewisville, Texas
 Goodwin, Kenneth E., Washington, Iowa
 Goodwin, Thelma L., Manor, Texas
 Gould, Charles G. Sr., Porter, Texas
 Grace, Orville L., Duncan, Oklahoma
 Gray, Glen R., Las Cruces, New Mexico
 Gray, Harry R., Clovis, New Mexico
 Green, Charles E., Springfield, Missouri
 Green, Montez, Tampa, Florida
 Greenawalt, Swain III, Salem, West Virginia
 Gregg, Marian V., La Mesa, California
 Grider, James M., Saraland, Alabama
 Griffin, Anna Mae, Wyandotte, Oklahoma
 Grigsby, Hermon J., El Dorado, Arkansas
 Grimes, Jack L., Porterville, California
 Grimes, Roscoe W., Whitesboro, Texas
 Grimsley, George L., Exeter, California
 Grissom, G. Ellwood, Yakima, Washington
 Guess, Lonnie J., Russellville, Arkansas
 Guillory, Daniel J., Temple, Texas
 Guthrie, Billy G., Claremore, Oklahoma
 Guthrie, Vernon L., Galena Park, Texas
 Haines, Elvera L., Colorado Springs, Colorado
 Hall, Janice, Clovis, New Mexico
 Hamar, Mary V., Canby, Oregon
 Hamby, Freddie J., Dora, Missouri
 Hamercheck, Esther, Penns Grove, New Jersey
 Hamercheck, John R., Penns Grove, New Jersey
 Hammerbacker, Phyllis, Issaquah, Washington
 Hampton, Richard D., Waco, Texas
 Hancock, Carl E., Springfield, Missouri
 Hanohano, Joyce K., Makawao, Hawaii
 Hardy, Donna M., Springfield, Missouri
 Harpel, Michael A., Pinehurst, Idaho
 Harper, C. Adrian, Bosque Farms, New Mexico
 Harper, Raymond J., Lodi, California
 Harris, Vivian L., Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania
 Harryman, Reva M., Weiser, Idaho
 Hart, Earl E., Cincinnati, Ohio
 Hartshorn, Paul R., Lexington, Kentucky
 Hatley, Hubert L., Greer, South Carolina
 Havner, La Vera S., Dallas, Texas
 Haydus, Walter H., Miami, Florida
 Hayman, Harvey V., Pasadena, Texas
 Haynes, John D., Talladega, Alabama
 Headrick, Merle E., Lamar, Colorado
 Headrick, Helen L., La Pine, Oregon
 Heinrich, Violette V., McGregor, Minnesota
 Heitman, Ruth G., Dexter, Missouri
 Hemmler, Helen M., Waymart, Pennsylvania
 Henegar, John W., Colleyville, Texas
 Henning, Earl F., Beaverton, Oregon
 Hensley, Edwin L., Conroe, Texas
 Hernandez, Felix, Milford, Connecticut
 Hernandez, Isabel, Rochester, New York
 Hernandez, Maria C., Carolina, Puerto Rico
 Herron, Bobby G., Columbus, Georgia
 Hess, Ellis L., Martinsburg, West Virginia
 Hickman, John H., Palestine, Texas
 Higgs, Paula S., Bellevue, Nebraska
 Hill, Richard D., Jal, New Mexico
 Hinds, J. C., Mulvane, Kansas
 Hines, Jannie Karen, La Ceiba, Honduras
 Hinson, Jimmie L., Carthage, Missouri
 Hoard, William M., Prince George, Virginia
 Hodge, Jean, West Bend, Wisconsin
 Holmes, Don W., Waldorf, Maryland
 Honsalek, Werner K., Duncanville, Texas
 Hook, J. C., Urbandale, Iowa
 Hopkins, John W., Honey Grove, Texas
 Hopkins, Paul P., Mabelvale, Arkansas
 Horst, Floyd H., Schertz, Texas
 Howard, Leslie H., Versailles, Missouri
 Howard, Richard W., Parsons, Kansas
 Huffey, Vinton E., Monrovia, California
 Hughes, Bobby D., Brownsville, Texas
 Hughes, Edward L., Palmer, Alaska
 Hunnicutt, James C., Wagener, South Carolina
 Hurley, Milton E. Sr., Ennis, Texas
 Hurst, Charles R., Franklin, Tennessee
 Hussey, Daryle F., Epworth, Georgia
 Husted, Charles A., Pella, Iowa
 Hutson, Royce D., Wyandotte, Oklahoma
 Hyatt, Douglas W., Bakersfield, California
 Iannone, Louis A., Port Jervis, New York
 Ireton, Robert L., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Isaak, Alvin E., Yakima, Washington

Jackson, Benny E., Winston Salem, North Carolina
 Jackson, James W., Lake City, Michigan
 Jackson, Thomas L., Springfield, Missouri
 James, Melvin R., Sherman, Texas
 Jay, Ferdie Charles, Shoreline, Washington
 Jenkins, Dorman M., Dothan, Alabama
 Jett, Scott M., Morrisville, Missouri
 Jimerson, Haden S. II, Gilbertown, Alabama
 Johnson, Christine V., Bixby, Oklahoma
 Johnson, M. Aline, Lakeland, Florida
 Johnson, Margaret M., York, South Carolina
 Johnson, Mitchell Jr., Springfield, Illinois
 Johnson, Paul J., Roseville, California
 Johnson, Vumbi K., Boston, Massachusetts
 Jones, A. J. Jr., Springfield, Missouri
 Jones, Charles H., Haltom City, Texas
 Jones, Robert F. Jr., Cordova, Tennessee
 Jones, Robert M., Winters, Texas
 Jones, Rosa M., San Antonio, Texas
 Jordan, Mickey S., Cobb, Georgia
 Joyner, David G., Bakersfield, California
 Kappen, Robert B., Eureka Springs, Arkansas
 Kazaryan, Rubik, Rancho Cordova, California
 Keck, Chester L., Judsonia, Arkansas
 Keck, Ray C., Caldwell, Idaho
 Keeney, William W., Indianapolis, Indiana
 Keller, Cleveland, Weiner, Arkansas
 Kelly, Larry W., Nezperce, Idaho
 Kemp, Doris E., Spring, Texas
 Kennedy, Harold R., Casper, Wyoming
 King, Marshall A., Dallas, Texas
 King, Robert L., Quemado, Texas
 Kipp, Lloyd E., Mims, Florida
 Kirkland, Dorothy F., Thomasville, Georgia
 Kirkwood, Fred E., Longview, Washington
 Kittrell, Benjamin F., Ormond Beach, Florida
 Klob, Rose, Englewood, Florida
 Knowles, Mabel L., Salinas, California
 Koller, I. V., Portageville, Missouri
 Kubryn, Kenneth J., British Columbia, Canada
 Laird, Donald R., Caldwell, Texas
 Lancaster, B. Nolan, Gray Court, South Carolina
 Landry, Donald E., Bath, New York
 Lane, William E., Phoenix, Arizona
 Lange, Wesley J., Garland, Texas
 Langston, O. W., Phoenix, Arizona
 Larson, Levi A., Woodinville, Washington
 Laugen, Theodore A., Hungry Horse, Montana
 Laughlin, David R., Canton, South Dakota
 Lawrence, David H., Springfield, Missouri
 Leatherwood, Gerald P., Sugar Land, Texas
 Lee, Charles O., McMinnville, Tennessee
 Lee, Everett M., Independence, Missouri
 Leland, John H., Maysville, Kentucky
 Lemmert, Walter W., Warfordsburg, Pennsylvania
 Lenn, Winfred B., Harpersville, Alabama
 Levang, Norma B., Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Lewis, David A., Springfield, Missouri
 Lewis, Mary A., Leeds, Alabama
 Lincoln, Leo L., Colville, Washington
 Linton, Franklin R., Claysville, Pennsylvania
 Little, Teresa J., Benton, Louisiana
 Livers, Roberta, Portland, Oregon
 Lloyd, Reggie L., Beaumont, Texas
 Lobbs, Billy G., Clio, Michigan
 Long, Harriet, Phoenix, Arizona
 Lopez, Solomon G., Greeley, Colorado
 Louthan, Ruth M. D., Chester, Oklahoma
 Lowenberg, Paul E., Springfield, Missouri
 Loy, Floyd L., Blue Rock, Ohio
 Lucas, John O., Greeneville, Tennessee
 Luke, Olin, Lake Alfred, Florida
 Luker, Bobby L., Mexia, Alabama
 Luna, Maria G., Atascosa, Texas
 Lundblad, Emmanuel A., Loveland, Colorado
 Lundquist, Bengt, Springfield, Missouri
 Macchia, Sam, Merrillville, Indiana
 Mack, Arnold C., Sun City West, Arizona
 Mackinney, Verne B., Joplin, Missouri
 Mandrell, Wilbur L. Sr., Sulphur Springs, Texas
 Manriquez, Sara L., Cathedral City, California
 Mariotti, Esther D., Cheswick, Pennsylvania
 Martin, Galen D., Longmont, Colorado
 Martinez, David, New Haven, Connecticut
 Martinez, Lorenzo Sr., Mesilla, New Mexico
 Maser, Daniel, Seattle, Washington
 Mathan, Vernon H., Costa Mesa, California
 Mather, Lawrence R., Springfield, Missouri
 Maxted, Edna P., Sheridan, Wyoming
 Maxwell, L. D., Bloomington, Indiana
 Mayfield, Leon L., Nixa, Missouri
 Maysonet, Carmen, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
 Mazurek, Albert J., North Charleston, South Carolina
 McAnulty, Robert T. Sr., Poplar Bluff, Missouri
 McCabe, O. Evelyn, Springfield, Missouri
 McCallum, Donald H., Crestview, Florida
 McClure, Jerome H., Carthage, Missouri
 McCollister, Glen E., Dundee, Oregon
 McCoy, Vilbert V., Jackson, Tennessee
 McGee, Gary B., Springfield, Missouri
 McGinnis, Kenneth L., Bonanza, Oregon
 McIntosh, Wilma C., Wausaugal, Washington
 McKeel, Ursula E., Powell, Tennessee
 McKenzie, Monica E., Stone Mountain, Georgia
 McKnight, Ludie, Eufaula, Alabama
 McLane, Richard L., Alma, Michigan
 McLellan, Cyril A., Springfield, Missouri
 McPherson, Vanessa L., Leon, Iowa
 Mead, Larry J., Olalia, Washington
 Medina, Celeste Q., Orlando, Florida
 Meek, Harvey C., Smyrna, Tennessee
 Menchaca, Severiano M., Galveston, Texas
 Meppelink, J. Herbert, Springfield, Missouri
 Merritt, John T., Canton, Georgia
 Michael, Rhonda J., Baltimore, Maryland
 Mickelsen, Armond J., Sun City, Arizona
 Miles, Harry C., Graceville, Florida
 Miller, Allen E., Homestead, Florida
 Miller, Bernalda I., Tucson, Arizona
 Mills, Mary E., Newton, Texas
 Milton, Marshall L., Denton, Texas
 Miniard, Charles, Summerdale, Alabama
 Mitchell, Leon P., Springfield, Missouri
 Mizelle, William G., Ringold, Virginia
 Moen, Ernest J., Sun City West, Arizona
 Montgomery, Allen S., Portola, California
 Moore, Euel T., Franklin, Virginia
 Moore, John F., Augusta, Georgia
 Moore, Omer A., Meridian, Texas
 Moore, Violet R., Russellville, Arkansas
 Mora, Arsenio, Garden Grove, California
 Morales, Carlos E., Merced, California
 Morales, Ruben, Valrico, Florida
 Morgan, Ruby L., Austin, Texas

Morris, Curtis E., Waynesboro, Mississippi
 Morris, Virginia M., Fredericictown, Missouri
 Morton, Arden N., Spartanburg, South Carolina
 Mueller, Clarence C., Santa Ana, California
 Mulligan, David M., Spokane, Washington
 Munoz, Manuela D., Sacramento, California
 Murphy, William J., Easley, South Carolina
 Myers, Russell L., Harrison, Ohio
 Nash, Joseph W., Humble, Texas
 Navejas, Daniel, Eagle Pass, Texas
 Nelson, Joe Jr., Birmingham, Alabama
 Nelson, Richard A., Gravette, Arkansas
 Nelson, Richard D., Tacoma, Washington
 Nevers, Donald W., Lake City, Florida
 Nicholson, Robert E., London, Kentucky
 Nicodemus, E. Katharyn, Anacortes, Washington
 Nollsch, Harry E., Rapid City, South Dakota
 Norcross, Freda M., Algonac, Michigan
 Norvell, Virgie M., Vivian, Louisiana
 Norwood, Leona P., Miami, Oklahoma
 Novak, Blanche M., Pueblo, Colorado
 Novarro, Stewart B., West Covina, California
 Nuno, Andres, Del Rio, Texas
 Nyien, Alice A., Houston, Texas
 Ochoa, Francisco, Lafayette, Louisiana
 Ochoa, Maria J., Rialto, California
 Ogg, E. Jerald, Maryville, Tennessee
 Oldenburg, Charles C., Sugar Land, Texas
 Olin, Clinton H., Cohasset, Minnesota
 Oliver, Clyde C., Falling Waters, West Virginia
 Oliver, James T., Anchor Point, Alaska
 Olsen, Eric G., Miami, Florida
 Olson, Ernest R., Tucson, Arizona
 Olson, Melford A., Brainerd, Minnesota
 Olson, Myrtle C., Shoreline, Washington
 Opperman, Joseph N., Fresno, California
 O'Shields, Ruth, Lodi, California
 Oya, Alvin, Kingston, Washington
 Palmer, L. Marie, Bedford, Texas
 Palser, Paul H., Magnolia, Arkansas
 Paramore, Connie M., Tyler, Texas
 Paramore, Paul J., Tyler, Texas
 Parker, Lewis I., Little Rock, Arkansas
 Parker, Robert D., Laurens, South Carolina
 Parnell, Lahoma V., Snyder, Oklahoma
 Pascuzzi, Elizabeth, Kansas City, Missouri
 Paulson, Carl A., Duluth, Minnesota
 Pense, Joseph W., Lava Hot Springs, Idaho
 Pentz, Croft M., Waynesboro, Pennsylvania
 Peppiatt, Carl, Quincy, Michigan
 Peppiatt, Opal, Quincy, Michigan
 Pereira, Anthony L., Boca Raton, Florida
 Perez, Bobby L., Pascagoula, Mississippi
 Perna, E. Joseph, Brentwood, California
 Perry, Carl E., Dothan, Alabama
 Personous, C. Byron, Port Orchard, Washington
 Persons, Lillian A., Collinsville, Illinois
 Peters, Ray, Camp Point, Illinois
 Pfitzer, Arthur E., Spokane, Washington
 Phagan, Esther R., Van Buren, Arkansas
 Phelps, Theo R., Palestine, Texas
 Phillips, Herschel R., Durham, North Carolina
 Phillips, W. C., Livingston, Texas
 Pier, Stewart V., Lakeland, Florida
 Pierce, James S., Fort Lauderdale, Florida
 Pillow, Paul L., Orem, Utah
 Pina, Epifania, Oakland, California
 Pino, Nicolas, El Paso, Texas
 Pirtle, Billy D., Bogata, Texas
 Plants, Donald L., Centre, Alabama
 Popejoy, Joan Reynolds, Tucson, Arizona
 Posos, Felix R., Hanford, California
 Potter, Richard L. Sr., Cape Coral, Florida
 Powell, Harold W., Springdale, Arkansas
 Price, Grace, Cumberland, Maryland
 Prock, Louis D., Port Charlotte, Florida
 Proudfoot, Elsie M., Midway, Texas
 Puente, Guadalupe, Laredo, Texas
 Puente, Petra, Laredo, Texas
 Qereqeretabua, Sekon, Citrus Heights, California
 Qualls, Claude R., Glen Allen, Virginia
 Raburn, Robert L., Fort Pierce, Florida
 Ramon, Barbarita, Lubbock, Texas
 Ramos, Carlos R., Fort Worth, Texas
 Ramos, Carmen, Raleigh, North Carolina
 Ramos, Ted C., Pomona, California
 Rarick, Samuel O., Catawissa, Pennsylvania
 Rawls, W. Ralph Sr., Aulander, North Carolina
 Reece, Bernard H., Bellevue, Nebraska
 Reed, Larry V., Bremerton, Washington
 Reid, Donald G., Citrus Heights, California
 Reneau, Kermit, Houston, Texas
 Renfro, Floyd K., Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
 Reyes, Carlos, Tamarac, Florida
 Reyes, Florida H., Houston, Texas
 Reyes, Pablo, Lorain, Ohio
 Reyes, Pablo M., San Benito, Texas
 Rhoades, Arthur K., Gaylord, Michigan
 Richards, Cary, Milton, Florida
 Rios, Juan, Toa Baja, Puerto Rico
 Rios, Maximino, Newark, New Jersey
 Risner, Waldo E., Raleigh, North Carolina
 Rivera, Carmen M., Wappingers Falls, New York
 Rivera, Jose R., Rio Grande, Puerto Rico
 Rix, Jeanne Suter, Lilburn, Georgia
 Roberts, Hubert L., Rison, Arkansas
 Roberts, Mary E., Macomb, Illinois
 Robertson, Edith M., Bethany, Oklahoma
 Robertson, Robert S., Modesto, California
 Robeson, Winnifred A., Lincoln, Nebraska
 Robinson, Dorothy E., Tacoma, Washington
 Robinson, Rosslyn A., Mayfield, Kentucky
 Roblez, Isaac, Union City, California
 Rodriguez, Eusebio, Stockton, California
 Rogers, Earl, Bolivar, Missouri
 Rohde, Clarence E., Brea, California
 Rohde, George E., Bishop, California
 Rook, Robert W., Seneca Falls, New York
 Rose, Harry K., Dallas, Texas
 Rose, John P., Fort Smith, Arkansas
 Roset, Wilfred L., Powers Lake, North Dakota
 Rowand, Lillian M., Howard, Ohio
 Rudd, Willie P., Fontana, California
 Rude, Veta M., Grand Rapids, Michigan
 Sakwitz, William H., Houston, Texas
 Salinas, Don G., Everett, Washington
 Sanders, Billy L., Corsicana, Texas
 Sanders, Vina L., Pharr, Texas
 Sandoval, Melba T., Hempstead, New York
 Santiago, Justino, Kissimmee, Florida
 Savage, Betty L., Springfield, Missouri
 Schoch, Paul C., Citrus Heights, California
 Schreiner, Daniel, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
 Schuh, August W., Stafford, Virginia

Scott, Gerald D. Sr., Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania
 Scott, Harold E., Springfield, Missouri
 Selover, Howard Jr., Moorestown, New Jersey
 Shaffer, Ervin E. Sr., Bedford, Texas
 Sheneman, Ida R., Bellingham, Washington
 Sherman, Paul D., Springfield, Missouri
 Shipman, Jerry H., Lindale, Texas
 Shorter, Freddie L., Weatherford, Oklahoma
 Shumate, Thomas E., Wadsworth, Ohio
 Siewing, Roger L., Havre, Montana
 Sifuentes, Isabel, Zapata, Texas
 Silva, Minerva, Elgin, Texas
 Silvertooth, R. V., Lampasas, Texas
 Skaggs, Donald L., Bakersfield, California
 Smith, Dale E., Bremerton, Washington
 Smith, Dorothy F., Pueblo, Colorado
 Smith, Laura L., McGehee, Arkansas
 Smolchuck, Fred, Springfield, Missouri
 Snavely, Joe D., Springfield, Missouri
 Snider, Jess S., Carl Junction, Missouri
 Snow, William, Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Snyder, Mabel H., Springfield, Missouri
 Solberg, Daniel A., Mulberry, Florida
 Somerville, Arnold D., Gurley, Alabama
 Sorensen, Ralph L., Santa Barbara, California
 Spence, G. Wilton, Bonifay, Florida
 Spencer, Evelyn R., Managua, Nicaragua
 Sperry, Steven R., Moreno Valley, California
 Spina, Beth, Neenah, Wisconsin
 Spina, Daniel B., Waupaca, Wisconsin
 Spinola, Gloria J., Trenton, New Jersey
 Sprouse, Mammie L., Huntsville, Texas
 Stebeck, Thor W., Mill Creek, Washington
 Stewart, Beryl, Rancho Santa Margarita, California
 Stewart, Delcie M., Bergholz, Ohio
 Stewart, Lawrence W., Lake Stevens, Washington
 Stivala, Albert, Marysville, Washington
 Stovall, Joyce M., Long Beach, California
 Stubbs, C. Earl, Springfield, Missouri
 Sullivan, James C., Okmulgee, Oklahoma
 Summerfield, Edward C., Murphysboro, Illinois
 Surface, Mary L., Hillsboro, Texas
 Sutton, Luther W., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
 Swaim, Crauford C., Pasadena, Texas
 Swaim, Walter Q., Arkoma, Oklahoma
 Sword, Clarence E., Ben Wheeler, Texas
 Syler, Clair W., Strafford, Missouri
 Tamura, Alvin A., San Jose, California
 Tangmo, Harold N., Orange, California
 Tanon, Richard K., Elk Grove, California
 Tatem, Frank L., Virginia Beach, Virginia
 Taylor, Kenneth H. Jr., Griffin, Georgia
 Taylor, Milton, Eureka, Kansas
 Taylor, Paul C., Kennewick, Washington
 Teeter, Robert J., Peabody, Massachusetts
 Tennant, Chester, Brave, Pennsylvania
 Tesluk, Marie S., Williamsburg, Virginia
 Thomas, Christdoss D., Bellevue, Washington
 Thomas, Kenneth M., Duncanville, Texas
 Thomas, Orville K., Bastrop, Louisiana
 Thomas, Shirley A., Hope, Arkansas
 Thompson, Harold P., Easley, South Carolina
 Thompson, John W., Springfield, Missouri
 Thompson, Lavern, Apple Valley, Minnesota
 Tipton, Colleen D., Norman, Oklahoma
 Tolbird, Charles F., West Monroe, Louisiana
 Toothman, Donald G., Midland, Texas
 Torres, Joel B., La Puente, California
 Torres, Luis A., San Francisco, California
 Travis, Luther E., West Branch, Michigan
 Trinh, Hanh, Clackamas, Oregon
 True, Willard A., La Grande, Oregon
 Tuamasaga, Teloma A., Palo Alto, California
 Tufte, Richard O., Rapid City, South Dakota
 Turner, Cecil E., Milford, Iowa
 Turner, Leroy E., Bethel, Ohio
 Upchurch, Charley J., Farmington, Missouri
 Vail, Harley W., Bend, Oregon
 Valdez, Gerald V., Wellsville, Utah
 Vaughan, Lavona N., Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Vaughan, Pat, Enid, Oklahoma
 Veater, Anna J., Toms River, New Jersey
 Ventling, Bernice, Billings, Montana
 Ventling, Walter W., Billings, Montana
 Verble, Mary L., Paducah, Kentucky
 Vi, Tomasi, Palo Alto, California
 Wagley, Kevin S., Duncannon, Pennsylvania
 Waldon, Mary L., Alexandria, Louisiana
 Walker, Doris E., Williston, North Dakota
 Walker, Ivors L., Bangs, Texas
 Walkup, Elnora R., Muskogee, Oklahoma
 Wallace, Howard F., Lakeland, Florida
 Wallace, Nina M., Chandler, Texas
 Waller, James S., Maypearl, Texas
 Wannemacher, John I., Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 Warner, Anna M., Columbus, Indiana
 Warren, Alden L., Olympia, Washington
 Washington, Edward R., San Diego, California
 Watkins, James L., Clio, Michigan
 Waugh, Earl E., Austin, Texas
 Wayman, John M., Kalamazoo, Michigan
 Weaver, Warren C., Redding, California
 Webb, Rachel G., Kingwood, Texas
 Weddle, Spencer A., Battle Ground, Washington
 Weeks, Roy R., Kinston, Alabama
 Weese, Marie B., Stockbridge, Georgia
 Weitkamp, Ruth B., Springfield, Missouri
 Welch, Elizabeth A., Dallas, Georgia
 Wells, William E., Panama City, Florida
 Weslander, Glenn A., Santa Barbara, California
 Whetstone, Harold E., Modesto, California
 Wibley, Mildred V., Gladwin, Michigan
 Wiggins, Maxine, Angleton, Texas
 Wilcox, Ray F., Atascadero, California
 Wiles, Warren A., Modesto, California
 Wilkinson, James R., Mableton, Georgia
 Williams, F. R., Snyder, Texas
 Williams, Milton R., Livingston, Texas
 Williamson, Ronald E., Phoenix, Arizona
 Willis, Bob R., Crossett, Arkansas
 Wilson, Roy F., Seneca, Illinois
 Wimberly, Larry D., Corning, Arkansas
 Winters, Gail P., Boise, Idaho
 Wisenbaker, Frances, Goodrich, Texas
 Womack, David A., Atwater, California
 Wood, Roy L., Oakridge, Oregon
 Woods, Ava Lee, Silsbee, Texas
 Woods, Jenkins R., Baytown, Texas
 Wright, Melvyn, Sand Springs, Oklahoma
 Yeats, Evelyn B., Beaumont, Texas
 Yeatts, Henry J. O., Roanoke, Texas
 Yi, Wusoon, San Bruno, California
 York, Archie C., Pottsville, Arkansas
 Young, Paul J., Springfield, Missouri
 Zachariou, D. Jimmy, Athens, Greece
 Zickafoose, Joe M., Springfield, Missouri

The following ministers have deceased after June 1, 2009, and were reported to the general secretary's office by August 6, 2009:

Anders, Carl E., Jonesboro, Arkansas
Baker, Kenneth D., Greenville, South Carolina
Baldwin, Duard, Springfield, Missouri
Beard, Irvin T., Wood River, Illinois
Bonafoux, Maria, Trujillo Alto, Puerto Rico
Brown, Rudolph, Panama City, FL
Carlton, James K., Manteca, California
Cherry, Charles E., Locust Grove, Georgia
Costas, Randolph, Bayamon, Puerto Rico
Dederick, Donald K., Phoenix, Arizona
Dunlap, Hershel D., McMinnville, Oregon
Ford, James S., Santa Anna, Texas
Garcia, Ruben, Hialeah, Florida
Handley, William R., Houston, Texas
Jackson, Jesse D., Independence, Missouri
Janes, Naomi C., Rome, Georgia
Jones, Douglas R., Riverbank, California
Kimball, Roland C., New Market, New Hampshire
King, Eldon L., Pottsville, Arkansas
Lunsford, D. A., Palm Harbor, Florida
McCormack, Ida M., Indianapolis, Indiana
Messick, J. Edward, Winchester, Virginia
Moore, Billy R., Trumann, Arkansas
Morelock, Raymond D., Brownsville, Texas
Ortiz, Alexander, Royersford, Pennsylvania
Pansler, C. Eugene Sr., Lakeland Florida
Partridge, Jesse M., Leola, Arkansas
Personeus, Marjory B., Port Orchard, Washington
Pilot, Pearl E., Palm City, Florida
Pryor, James A., Phoenix, Arkansas
Reckley, Kent M., Norfolk, Virginia
Rivera, Ismael, Cayey, Puerto Rico
Robison, B. V., Kerrville, Texas
Romero, Luis F., Fresno, California
Roys, Dwight L., Salem, Oregon
Santiago, Luis, Sabana Grande, Puerto Rico
Sawyer, Herbert H., Robertsdale, Alabama
Sawyer, Mixon, Houston, Texas
Smith, James E., Sweet Springs, Missouri
Stanley, Gladys C., Massillon, Ohio
Trimmer, Victor D., Santa Rosa, California
Turnbull, Robert B. Jr., Virginia Beach, Virginia
Williford, Ira, North Little Rock, Arkansas
Wright, Daniel H., Millville, New Jersey
Wright, Posey J., Rocky Mount, Virginia

CONSTITUTION

OF

THE GENERAL COUNCIL

OF THE

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

REVISED AUGUST 4-7, 2009

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

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, (3) to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and (4) to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world.

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, to be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

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, as a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world.

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).

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(g) The Title, Son of God

Since the name *Immanuel* embraces both God and man, in the one person, our Lord Jesus Christ, it follows that the title *Son of God* describes His proper deity, and the title *Son of Man*, His proper humanity. Therefore, the title *Son of God* belongs to the order of eternity, and the title *Son of Man* to the **order of time** (Matthew 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Hebrews 7:3; 1:1-13).

(h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title *Son of God* solely from the fact of the Incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; 1 John 2:22,23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).

(i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

The Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, having by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high, angels and principalities and powers having been made subject unto Him. And having been made both Lord and Christ, He sent the Holy Spirit that we, in the name of Jesus, might bow our knees and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father until the end, when the Son shall become subject to the Father that God may be all in all (Hebrews 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Romans 14:11; 1 Corinthians 15:24-28).

(j) Equal Honor to the Father and to the Son

Wherefore, since the Father has delivered all judgment unto the Son, it is not only the **express duty** of all in heaven and on earth to bow the knee, but it is an **unspeakable** joy in the Holy Spirit to ascribe unto the Son all the attributes of deity, and to give Him all the honor and the glory contained in all the names and titles of the godhead except those which express relationship (see paragraphs b, c, and d), and thus honor the Son even as we honor the Father (John 5:22,23; 1 Peter 1:8; Revelation 5:6-14; Philippians 2:8,9; Revelation 7:9,10; 4:8-11).

3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

- a. His virgin birth (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:31,35).
- b. His sinless life (Hebrews 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22).
- c. His miracles (Acts 2:22; 10:38).
- d. His substitutionary work on the cross (1 Corinthians 15:3; 2 Corinthians 5:21).
- e. His bodily resurrection from the dead (Matthew 28:6; Luke 24:39; 1 Corinthians 15:4).
- f. His exaltation to the right hand of God (Acts 1:9,11; 2:33; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 1:3).

4. The Fall of Man

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." However, man by voluntary transgression fell and thereby incurred not only physical death but also spiritual death, which is separation from God (Genesis 1:26,27; 2:17; 3:6; Romans 5:12-19).

5. The Salvation of Man

Man's only hope of redemption is through the shed blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

a. Conditions to Salvation. Salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. By the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, being justified by grace through faith, man becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life (Luke 24:47; John 3:3; Romans 10:13-15; Ephesians 2:8; Titus 2:11; 3:5-7).

b. The Evidences of Salvation. The inward evidence of salvation is the direct witness of the Spirit (Romans 8:16). The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24; Titus 2:12).

6. The Ordinances of the Church

a. Baptism in Water. The ordinance of baptism by immersion is commanded in the Scriptures. All who repent and believe on Christ as Savior and Lord are to be baptized. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Christ and that they also have been raised with Him to walk in newness of life (Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:47,48; Romans 6:4).

b. Holy Communion. The Lord's Supper, consisting of the elements—bread and the fruit of the vine—is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:4); a memorial of His suffering and death (1 Corinthians 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Corinthians 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come!"

7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent 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).

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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; Philipians 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, to build a body of believers in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world, the priority reason for being of the Assemblies of God as part of the Church is:

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

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 and care for the poor and needy of the world (Galatians 5:22-26; Matthew 25:37-40; Galatians 6:10; 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 fourfold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23,24), (3) building a Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16), and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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.

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ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular Sessions

Regular sessions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be held biennially, pursuant to a call by the Executive Presbytery.

Section 2. Special Sessions

Special sessions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be called by the Executive Presbytery if agreed to by a majority of the general presbyters.

Section 3. Right of Initiative

Special sessions of The General Council of the Assemblies of God may be called by the Executive Presbytery when presented with a written statement signed by at least 15 ordained Assemblies of God ministers setting forth the reasons for a special session, but only if the Executive Presbytery determines that such a special session is advisable.

ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Section 1. Executive Officers

a. 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 14 other persons to bring the number to 20. 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)]

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.

CONSTITUTION

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.

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.

ARTICLE XI

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. Parent Affiliated Churches

Provision shall be made by district councils for parent affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of a parenting church, in accordance with the parenting church's constitution and bylaws.

Section 4. 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 5. 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.

CONSTITUTION

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 4-7, 2009

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

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 11 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—East Spanish: Midwest Latin American, Puerto Rico, Southeastern Spanish, Spanish Eastern

Language Area—West Spanish: Central, Gulf Latin American, Northern Pacific Latin American, Southern Pacific, Southwest

Language Area—Other: Brazilian, German, Korean, National Slavic, 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.

Section 4. Removal for Cause

The Executive Presbytery by two-thirds vote may remove an officer from office prior to the end of a term if, in its judgment, there is clear and convincing evidence of incapacity, inefficiency, incompetence, or other grounds, not constituting a basis for formal discipline pursuant to Article X of the Bylaws, that renders the officer unfit for office and compromises the mission of the Assemblies of God. Such a decision by the Executive Presbytery shall not be effective unless and until it is ratified by the General Presbytery by two-thirds vote.

**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 fourfold mission of the church: the evangelization of the world, the worship of God, the building of a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world; 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.
- 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 under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

BYLAWS

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 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 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 are customary 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 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.

ARTICLE III

g. Perform such other functions as are customary 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 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.

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.

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- 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.

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, ministry 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.

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.

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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.

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.

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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.

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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. In the event an application for affiliation is declined by a district presbytery, appeal may be made by the church to the General Council Executive Presbytery whose decision shall be final.

Section 2. Annual Report and Offerings From Assemblies

a. Annual Church Ministries Report. Each church of the Assemblies of God is requested to keep a current record of its membership and to report this information annually, on forms provided, to the office of the district secretary and the General Council secretary.

b. Fellowship Partners Offering. It is recommended that each church send to the General Council at least one offering for each calendar year toward the support of the administrative offices of the General Council. This offering shall be called Fellowship Partners offering, and shall be included with the Annual Church Ministries Report. It is suggested that each church's minimal offering be based upon its average Sunday morning attendance. A church averaging less than 50 is asked to send \$25 for the year; less than 100 but more than 50, \$50; less than 250 but more than 100, \$100; less than 500 but more than 250, \$250; less than 1,000 but more than 500, \$500; less than 2,000 but more than 1,000, \$1,000; over 2,000, \$2,000.

c. Assemblies of God Total Giving

(1) *Participation.* In order to support and develop the work and ministries of the Assemblies of God at home and abroad, all its churches are encouraged to send offerings at regular intervals.

(2) *Combined report.* A combined report of all offerings that are designated for departments shall be given under the caption of Assemblies of God Total Giving. The intent is to provide recognition for contributions to all ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, to place each appeal and ministry on an equal basis, and to lend encouragement to churches and individual contributors to determine the appeal to which they will respond under the leading of the Spirit.

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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.

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. When district officers receive such requests, they shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary, recommending remedial actions to the responsible district governing entity, (e.g., district presbytery or district executive presbytery). At its discretion, that governing entity may act to bring the church under district supervision and, when necessary, revert it from General Council status to district affiliated status until the governing entity considers the problem resolved.

BYLAWS

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 where such matters will be discussed and voted upon for the express purpose of giving the district officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. A decision to disaffiliate shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership, or a more restrictive rule prescribed by the governing documents of the church or district.

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 fourfold 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.

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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, 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, or in special and/or unique cases as determined by the General Council Credentials Committee.

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 full or part time to Christian ministry and, at the discretion of the district credentials committees, may remain under the supervision of a pastor or a ministry coach or mentor. They shall show evidence of a divine call and be actively engaged in some aspect of ministry and proclamation of the gospel, 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 the ministry license level 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 include clear evidence of a divine call, character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's life in service to the proclamation of the gospel.

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 shown evidence of a divine call and has held a ministry license and has been actively engaged in ministry and proclamation of the gospel 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 ministry license 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 shall be engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel except for cases of disability, retirement, or other valid circumstances as determined by the general secretary.

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, ministry licenses, and certified ministers certificates, together with the accompanying annual fellowship card, to all properly qualified and approved candidates.

Section 6. Official List

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

ARTICLE VII

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 ministers who have not been actively engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel over a period of 1 year 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.

BYLAWS

(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.)

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.

ARTICLE VII

(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 6.)

Church planters holding credentials may obtain affiliation with the district they intend to serve and retain honorary membership in their home district, be listed in the home district's yearbook, and be extended voice and vote in their home district for such time as they serve in another district. The financial responsibilities shall be the same as those of a nationally appointed U.S. missionary. [See 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.
- (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.

BYLAWS

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 postmarked on or before December 31 shall be considered delinquent. They shall be required to pay a late fee of \$50 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 \$100, to be divided equally between the district and the General Council. These ministers shall not be subject to the minimal time lapse required of those whose credentials have been terminated for other causes.

e. Reinstatement of other than dismissed minister. When a minister who is a member of our Fellowship is removed from our rolls for any cause, except failure to renew and dismissal, and shall apply for reinstatement, he or she shall not be eligible for reinstatement until at least 6 months have elapsed after his or her name has been stricken from our list of ministers. The application must be made in the district where the minister resides and be accompanied with a nonrefundable fee of \$100 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.

ARTICLE VII

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.

Section 11. Nondisciplinary Credential Terminations

a. On the initiative of the minister.

(1) *Lapsed.* Ministers who do not renew their credentials shall be listed as lapsed, provided there is no cause for disciplinary action. Their names shall be published as lapsed in the *Assemblies of God Ministers Letter*, hereinafter referred to as the ministers letter.

(2) *Resigned.* Ministers who elect to remove themselves from the Fellowship shall submit a letter of resignation to the district with which they are affiliated. If there is no cause for disciplinary action, their resignation shall become effective after having been approved by both the district council and General Council credentials committees. Their termination shall be listed in the ministers letter as resigned.

b. On the initiative of the district. (See Article X, Section 4.)

(1) *Inactive.* When a minister becomes inactive for 2 consecutive years, according to the stipulations set forth in Bylaws, Article VII, Section 6, paragraph b, his or her name shall be published as inactive in the ministers letter.

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

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

d. Surrender of credentials. In all cases the minister shall be requested to surrender his or her credential (Certificate of Ordination, Ministry 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.

BYLAWS

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).

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.

BYLAWS

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

Section 4. Membership in Secret Orders

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

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

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

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

Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage

a. Membership

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

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

b. Remarriage. Low standards on marriage and divorce are very hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore, we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We positively disapprove of Christians getting divorces for any cause except fornication and adultery (Matthew 19:9). Where these exceptional circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved by the believer in the light of God's Word (1 Corinthians 7:15,27,28).

c. Local church leadership

(1) *Standard for offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon.* Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:12), except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17) 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.

BYLAWS

b. Solicitation of funds

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Section 8. Violations of Ministerial Courtesies

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).

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

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.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE

Section 1. The Nature and Purposes of Discipline

Discipline is an exercise of scriptural authority for which the church is responsible. The aims of discipline are that God may be honored, that the purity and welfare of the ministry may be maintained, and that those under discipline may be brought to repentance and restoration.

Discipline is to be administered for the restoration of the minister, while fully providing for the protection of the spiritual welfare of our local assemblies. It is to be redemptive in nature as well as corrective, and is to be exercised as under a dispensation of mercy.

Section 2. The Relationship Between the District and General Council Credentials Committees

The Executive Presbytery of the General Council is the Credentials Committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God (Constitution, Article X, Sections 4 and 6). It shall have the final authority in matters of doctrine and the personal conduct of all certified, licensed, and ordained ministers. District actions related to the termination of credentials or the remedial discipline of rehabilitation are to be in the form of recommendations to the General Council Credentials Committee. All references to the discipline of ministers within this article of the Bylaws relate solely to certified, licensed, and ordained ministers.

Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action

Violations of Assemblies of God principles as stated in these Constitution and Bylaws may give cause for disciplinary action by the credentials committees. Among such causes for action shall be:

- a. Moral failure involving sexual misconduct.
- b. Moral failure involving pornography.
- c. Any moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct.
- d. General inefficiency in the ministry.
- e. A failure to represent our Pentecostal testimony correctly.
- f. A contentious or noncooperative spirit.
- g. An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.
- h. An arbitrary rejection of district counsel.
- i. A declared open change in doctrinal views.
- j. Immoral, unethical, or illegal practices related to personal, church, or ministry finances.
- 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.

ARTICLE X

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.

BYLAWS

(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.

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.

(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.

BYLAWS

(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.

(3) *Subsequent dismissal.* Should evidence come to light following a minister's resignation, or the lapse of his or her credentials, of conduct occurring prior to his or her resignation or lapse of credentials that would constitute grounds for disciplinary action under Article X, Section 3, of these Bylaws, the district at its discretion may request the General Council Credentials Committee to change that minister's status from lapsed or resigned to dismissed. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation. All rights of appeal will apply.

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.

BYLAWS

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 \$100 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 fourfold 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 fourfold mission of the church.

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.

ARTICLE XIII

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 fourfold 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 general superintendent, 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.

(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.

BYLAWS

(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.

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.

BYLAWS

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.

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.

ARTICLE XIV

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) *Missionary Church Planters and Developers* 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 general superintendent, 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

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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.

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.

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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*.

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 4-7, 2009—Orlando, Florida

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