

MINUTES
of the
60th Session of
THE GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

GREATER COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER
COLUMBUS, OHIO

AUGUST 2–AUGUST 4, 2023



THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
1445 N. BOONVILLE AVENUE
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI 65802

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

2023 GENERAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Columbus, Ohio

August 2–August 4, 2023

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2023

On August 2, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay opened the 60th General Council of the Assemblies of God. General Secretary Donna L. Barrett was present.

2023 GENERAL COUNCIL COMMITTEES

By general consent, a motion was adopted to express appreciation for the following individuals serving on the 2023 General Council Committees:

Budget

Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesús (Chairperson), Donna L. Barrett, Malcolm P. Burleigh, Douglas E. Clay, Richard W. DuBose, Shari Klassen, Gregory M. Mundis, Gary D. Rhoades

Parliamentary

Sarah E. Merkle (Chairperson), William F. Leach, Andrew W. Smith

Resolutions

Darryl E. Wootton (Chairperson), Paul R. Alexander, Angelo V. Austria, Larry H. Griswold, Janelle Marocco, Jason L. McClafflin, Nathan L. Sheridan, William H. Rodriguez

Roster

Steven L. Powell (Cochairperson), Ramon J. Rojas (Cochairperson), Mark D. Christianson (Liaison)

Tellers

Micheal E. Dickenson (Chairperson), Rhonda C. Amer, Terry L. Brown, Brenton S. Fessler, Mark Jakelsky, Sergio F. Marroquin, Doris Quiros, John Jay Wilson (Liaison)

INTRODUCTION OF LEGAL COUNSEL AND PARLIAMENTARIAN

By general consent, a motion was adopted to allow Kristen Waggoner, Assemblies of God general counsel, and Sarah E. Merkle, parliamentarian, to address the body as may be called for by the chair or at the request of the body.

Jerehmy Owen moved that the voting for the AGWM executive director be suspended until the completion of an externally led investigation into AGWM organizational leadership at every level, and into AGWM policies, practices, and finances, and that the investigation be completed with transparency to the General Council. The chair ruled the motion out of order because the General Council’s governing documents require the AGWM election to be conducted at the General Council session. The general secretary noted that an investigation could be requested after the General Council session through the proper process.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By general consent, the agenda was adopted as presented to be used as a guide.

DISCUSSION TIME LIMITS

By general consent, a motion was adopted to allow each member of the General Council to speak twice on each motion, for up to two minutes each time.

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay presented the General Superintendent’s Report. By general consent, a motion was adopted to accept the report with appreciation.

ASSISTANT GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT ELECTION

Having received at least two-thirds of the votes cast on the nominating ballot, Assistant General Superintendent Richard W. DuBose was reelected.

Tellers’ Report for Nominating Ballot 1:

Number of Votes Cast	2,396	
Necessary for Election	1,598	
Richard W. DuBose	1,631	68.07%
Douglas E. Clay	51	2.13%
Rodney K. Loy	48	2.00%
Wilfredo (Choco) De Jesús	30	1.25%
Donna L. Barrett	23	0.96%
Rick D. Ross	22	0.92%
Mark A. Lehmann	19	0.79%
Bradley T. Trask	17	0.71%
Robert Ketterling II	15	0.63%
Invalid Votes	14	

ASSISTANT GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Assistant General Superintendent Richard W. DuBose presented the Assistant General Superintendent's Report. By general consent, a motion was adopted to accept the report with appreciation.

GENERAL SECRETARY ELECTION

Following one electoral ballot vote, General Secretary Donna L. Barrett, the only nominee from the General Presbytery for General Secretary, was reelected.

Tellers' Report for Ballot 1:

Number of Votes Cast	2,755	
Necessary for Election	1,837	
Yes	2,556	92.78%
No	194	7.04%
Invalid Votes	5	

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WORLD MISSIONS ELECTION

Having received at least two-thirds of the votes cast following three electoral ballot votes, the General Council elected John L. Easter, to Executive Director of Assemblies of God World Missions.

Tellers' Report for Ballot 1:

Number of Votes Cast	2,751	
Necessary for Election	1,834	
Gregory L. Beggs	415	15.09%
Richard F. (Dick) Brogden Jr.	755	27.44%
John L. Easter	964	21.56%
Jeffrey Hartensveld	593	21.56%
Invalid Votes	24	

Tellers' Report for Ballot 2:

Number of Votes Cast	2,795	
Necessary for Election	1,864	
Gregory L. Beggs	158	5.65%
Richard F. (Dick) Brogden Jr.	767	27.44%
John L. Easter	1,407	50.34%
Jeffrey Hartensveld	451	16.14%
Invalid Votes	12	

Tellers' Report for Ballot 3:

Number of Votes Cast	2,807	
Necessary for Election	1,872	
Gregory L. Beggs	86	3.06%
Richard F. (Dick) Brogden Jr.	591	21.05%
John L. Easter	1,888	67.26%
Jeffrey Hartensveld	232	8.27%
Invalid Votes	10	

ROSTER REPORT

By general consent, the following roster report was adopted:

Voting Registration	Ordained	2,511
	Licensed	604
	Delegates	194
	Executive Presbyters	22
	General Presbyters	264
	<i>Voting Subtotal</i>	3,595
Nonvoting Registration	Exhibitors	1,207
	Auxiliary Staff	111
	Certified	177
	General Attendees	1,475
	Guests	18
	Other	3
	Camp GC23	63
	National Youth Conference	8,363
	<i>Nonvoting Subtotal</i>	11,565
Total Registration		15,160

GENERAL TREASURER'S REPORT

General Treasurer Wilfred (Choco) De Jesús presented the General Treasurer's Report. By general consent, a motion was adopted to accept the report with appreciation.

NONRESIDENT EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER ELECTION
GULF AREA

Following two electoral ballot votes, the General Council elected Rodney K. Loy as a Nonresident Executive Presbyter for the Gulf Area.

Tellers' Report for Ballot 1:

Number of Votes Cast	1,844	
Necessary for Election	1,230	
Damon J. (Jeff) Ables	58	3.15%
Jeremy R. Austill	73	3.96%
Terry G. Bailey	76	4.12%
Scott A. Davis	45	2.44%
Rodney K. Loy	813	44.09%
J. Scott Holmes	80	4.34%
Don E. Miller	325	17.62%
Ronnie S. Morris	86	4.66%
George Westlake III	243	13.18%
Robert B. Wilburn	35	1.90%
Invalid Votes	10	

Tellers' Report for Ballot 2:

Number of Votes Cast	1,912	
Necessary for Election	1,275	
Damon J. (Jeff) Ables	19	0.99%
Jeremy R. Austill	23	1.20%
Terry G. Bailey	21	1.10%
Scott A. Davis	5	0.26%
J. Scott Holmes	16	0.84%
Rodney K. Loy	1,329	69.51%
Don E. Miller	314	16.42%
Ronnie S. Morris	27	1.41%
George Westlake III	145	7.58%
Robert B. Wilburn	9	0.47%
Invalid Votes	4	

**NONRESIDENT EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER ELECTION
LANGUAGE AREA—OTHER**

Following two electoral ballot votes, the General Council elected Ben Yeonhaeng Hur as a Nonresident Executive Presbyter for the Language Area—Other.

Tellers' Report for Ballot 1:

Number of Votes Cast	1,617	
Necessary for Election	1,078	
George R. Davidiuk	372	23.01%
Ben Yeonhaeng Hur	607	37.54%
Joshua I. Kang	402	24.86%
Alex Pekun	232	14.35%
Invalid Votes	4	

Tellers' Report for Ballot 2:

Number of Votes Cast	1,769	
Necessary for Election	1,180	
George R. Davidiuk	105	5.94%
Ben Yeonhaeng Hur	1,356	76.65%
Joshua I. Kang	264	14.92%
Alex Pekun	43	2.43%
Invalid Votes	1	

REPORT FROM GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT OF GHANA

The General Council heard a report from Stephen Y. Wengam, the recently elected General Superintendent of Ghana.

**NONRESIDENT EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER ELECTION
ORDAINED FEMALE MINISTER**

Following two electoral ballot votes, the General Council elected Melissa J. Alfaro as a Nonresident Executive Presbyter to fill the position for Additional Representation—Ordained Female Minister.

Tellers' Report for Ballot 1:

Number of Votes Cast	1,826	
Necessary for Election	1,218	
Melissa J. Alfaro	981	53.72%
Carol A. Alexander	238	13.03%
Bethlehem Backes	188	10.30%
Crystal M. Martin	417	22.84%
Invalid Votes	2	

Tellers' Report for Ballot 2:

Number of Votes Cast	1,842	
Necessary for Election	1,228	
Melissa J. Alfaro	1,415	76.82%
Crystal M. Martin	298	16.18%
Carol A. Alexander	76	4.13%
Bethlehem Backes	53	2.88%

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2—ORDINATION REQUIREMENT FOR GENERAL PRESBYTERS

On behalf of the General Presbytery, Nathan L. Sheridan a member of the Resolutions Committee, moved adoption of the motion that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, There is mounting value in our Fellowship being placed on the role of ordination; and

WHEREAS, Most presbytery roles at the district level require the minister to be ordained; and

WHEREAS, It has become the growing practice and expectation over time that all general presbyters are ordained ministers; and

WHEREAS, It would seem contrary to our culture and values to bypass an ordained minister to place a nonordained candidate on the General Presbytery; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That all general presbyters shall be ministers ordained with the Assemblies of God; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 3. General Presbytery, paragraph a. Representation, qualifications, and responsibilities, page 17, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

Section 3. General Presbytery

a. Representation, qualifications, and responsibilities. The General Presbytery shall be composed of ordained ministers ~~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 ordained ministers 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.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 3. General Presbytery, paragraph c. World and U.S. Missions representation, page 18, which reads:

c. World and U.S. Missions representation. The foreign fields shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the regional directors and the International Ministries director of Assemblies of God World Missions and by two others from each of the overall areas which the regional directors and the International Ministries director 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)]

Be amended to read:

c. World and U.S. Missions representation. The foreign fields shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the regional directors and the International Ministries director of Assemblies of God World Missions and by two others ordained missionaries from each of the overall areas which the regional directors and the International Ministries director represent. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (2)] The stateside missions work shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the ordained departmental directors of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (3)]

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph d. General presbyters, subparagraph (2), page 27, which reads:

(2) *Assemblies of God World Missions representatives.* Regional directors and the International Ministries director 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 region and International Ministries shall be chosen in the following manner: The Assemblies of God World Missions Board shall nominate four missionaries from each general area and International Ministries represented by the regional directors and the International Ministries director. 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. 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.

Be amended to read:

(2) *Assemblies of God World Missions representatives.* Regional directors and the International Ministries director 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 region and International Ministries shall be chosen in the following

manner: The Assemblies of God World Missions Board shall nominate four ordained missionaries from each general area and International Ministries represented by the regional directors and the International Ministries director. 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. 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.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph d. General presbyters, subparagraph (3), page 27, which reads:

(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.

Be amended to read:

(3) *Assemblies of God U.S. Missions representatives.* Ordained departmental directors of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be members of the General Presbytery by virtue of their office.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 3. Vacancies, paragraph c. General presbyters, subparagraph (1), page 30, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 ordained minister to serve as general presbyter until that office is regularly filled at the next meeting of the district council.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE XIII. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WORLD MISSIONS, Section 2. Organization and Governance, paragraph j. General Presbytery representatives, page 74, which reads:

j. General Presbytery representatives. Each of the regions shall be represented on the General Presbytery by its regional director and two others. International Ministries shall be represented on the General Presbytery by its director and two others. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (2).]

Be amended to read:

j. General Presbytery representatives. Each of the regions shall be represented on the General Presbytery by its regional director and two others ordained missionaries. International Ministries shall be represented on the General Presbytery by its director and two others ordained missionaries. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (2).]

Mario M. Duque moved to amend the resolution by inserting “missionary” before “departmental” in ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph d. General Presbyters, subparagraph (3). The chair ruled the motion out of order because this change would create an inconsistency in other governance documents where a department director is not required to be a missionary and would conflict with other places in the Bylaws where even the Assemblies of God U.S. Missions Executive Director is not required to be a missionary.

RESOLUTION 1—DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES ON GENERAL PRESBYTERY

On behalf of the General Presbytery, Larry H. Griswold, a member of the Resolutions Committee, moved adoption of the motion that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

- WHEREAS, The three general presbyters each district is permitted to send to the General Presbytery are required to meet specific qualifications that are intended to include both district officer involvement and local field ministry involvement; and
- WHEREAS, While the present requirement for field representation by a district's third general presbyter has been restricted to a lead pastor only, over time it has been observed that spiritual eldership and proven ministry can also reside in an ordained minister serving in other roles; and
- WHEREAS, The input and involvement of a variety of leaders is valuable, and having individuals serving in active local Assemblies of God ministries is extremely valuable; and
- WHEREAS, Each district in session may choose from among them a spiritually mature minister known to the district to carry the necessary biblical qualifications for spiritual eldership; and
- WHEREAS, We see value in whatever standards are adopted to be a consistent standard across all districts rather than varying from one district to the next; and
- WHEREAS, The proposed change does not preclude a lead pastor from being chosen but simply opens the options to candidates serving in other ministry roles as well; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 3. General Presbytery, paragraph a. Representation, qualifications, and responsibilities, page 17, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

Section 3. General Presbytery

a. Representation, qualifications, and responsibilities. The General Presbytery shall be composed of Assemblies of God ordained ministers ~~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 ordained ministers who shall be elected by their district council, one of whom shall be an ~~ordained lead pastor of an~~ Assemblies of God church or an ordained minister serving in an Assemblies of God ministry located in the district. They shall take office immediately.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph d. General presbyters, subparagraph (1) *District representatives*, page 27, which reads:

(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 or a person involved in other ministry located in the district. They shall take office immediately upon election.

Be amended to read:

(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 lead pastor of an Assemblies of God church or ~~a person involved in other ministry~~ an ordained minister serving in an Assemblies of God ministry located in the district. They shall take office immediately upon election.

RECESS

By general consent, a motion was adopted at 4:46 p.m. to recess until 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 3, 2023.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2023

On August 3, 2023, at 1:31 p.m., General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay reconvened the 60th General Council of the Assemblies of God. General Secretary Donna L. Barrett was present.

By general consent, the following roster report was adopted:

Voting Registration	Ordained	2,725
	Licensed	657
	Delegates	200
	Executive Presbyters	28
	General Presbyters	278
	<i>Voting Subtotal</i>	3,888
Nonvoting Registration	Exhibitors	1,207
	Auxiliary Staff	112
	Certified	192
	General Attendees	1,521
	Guests	19
	Other	3
	Camp GC23	64
	National Youth Conference	8,365
	<i>Nonvoting Subtotal</i>	11,632
Total Registration		15,520

RESOLUTION 3—RESTORATION REPORTS

On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, William H. Rodriguez, a member of the Resolutions Committee, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the General Presbytery to establish policies, guidelines, and requirements for the restoration of ministers; and

WHEREAS, During the 2021 General Presbytery meeting, newly revised restoration manuals and addendums were adopted for the purpose of using said materials in the restoration process for ministers; and

WHEREAS, It is not desirable or necessary for the General Council Constitution and Bylaws document to stipulate a specific

timeline for the submission of required reports for ministers in a restoration program since the frequency varies and policies and requirements may change; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE, Section 8. Restoration, paragraph b. Procedures and requirements, subparagraph (1), h, page 68, which reads:

Section 8. Restoration

b. Procedure and requirements.

(1) *Restoration requirements.*

(h) *Reports.* The minister must submit reports quarterly to the district superintendent.

Be amended to read:

Section 8. Restoration

b. Procedure and requirements.

(1) *Restoration requirements.*

(h) *Reports.* The minister must submit reports quarterly to the district superintendent.

RESOLUTION 4—RECOGNITION OF DIVORCE/ANNULMENT

On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, Paul R. Alexander, a member of the Resolutions Committee, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, The various categories of divorce recognition have been approved at various times in history, thus, making the reading of the General Council Bylaws fragmented concerning the five categories; and

WHEREAS, It would be beneficial to bring clarity and consolidation when referencing the five various categories of divorce recognition; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery requested the general secretary to review and consider recommending a revision of the General Council Bylaws provision, addressing ecclesiastical annulment (Article VII, Section 2, paragraph k); and

WHEREAS, It was determined that a clearer definition of ecclesiastical annulment would be helpful; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY, Section 2. Basic Qualifications, paragraphs j. Marriage

status and k. Ecclesiastical annulments and marriage dissolutions, pages 46–47, which reads:

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), or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5–9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians 5), 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.

Be amended to read:

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 is recognized under one of the following biblical categories:

(1) Recognition of preconversion divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17); or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse’s marital unfaithfulness, or the

(2) Recognition of abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10–15);

~~(3) Recognition of spousal infidelity (Matthew 19:9); or in the case of~~

~~(4) Recognition of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5–9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians 5; Matthew 18:6, Ephesians 5:28–33, Colossians 3:19); except as hereinafter provided.~~

~~(5) Recognition of ecclesiastical annulment—a pronouncement declaring a marriage invalid as hereinafter provided (Proverbs 12:22; Matthew 19:6; 1 Corinthians 7:5);~~

~~**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, or fraud, or other conditions which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a valid marriage union, unknown to the applicant at the time of marriage, by the applicant. Additionally, the lack of consummation or other conditions which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a valid marriage union can constitute an ecclesiastical annulment. 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.~~

~~Each in these cases requiring a recognition of involving preconversion divorce or ecclesiastical annulment they shall be decided by the Executive Presbytery on an individual basis just as those that deal with ecclesiastical annulments, as to whether the termination of that marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials. Appeals of from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.~~

RESOLUTION 17—ALIGNING DIVORCE PROVISIONS THROUGHOUT THE BYLAWS

On behalf of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery, Paul R. Alexander, a member of the Resolutions Committee, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted.

WHEREAS, For ministerial credentialing purposes, The General Council will recognize a divorce when the former spouse is still living in one of the following circumstances as supported by Scripture: (1) the divorce occurred prior to the applicant's conversion; (2) the former spouse's infidelity; (3) abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever; (4) domestic violence by a spouse to the applicant or child; or (5) ecclesiastical annulment; and

WHEREAS, Portions of The General Council Bylaws have not been updated to align with the above named positions; and

WHEREAS, This incongruity seems to hold parishioners and church board members to a different standard than credentialed ministers with regard to remarriage; and

WHEREAS, The provision for recognition of a divorce for a credential applicant or spouse is supported by Scripture and should also apply to congregants and lay people; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage, paragraph b. Remarriage, page 59, which reads:

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).

Be amended to read:

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), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10–15), or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Matthew 18:6; Ephesians 5:28-33; Colossians 3:19). 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 (Matthew 19:3-12; 1 Corinthians 7:10-28 45, 27–28).

And, be it therefore further

RESOLVED, That The General Council Bylaws Article IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Section 5 Divorce and Remarriage, paragraph e. Ministerial credentials, page 60 which reads:

e. Ministerial credentials. We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former spouse living unless the divorce occurred prior to conversion (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) or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5–9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians 5). (See also Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs j and k.)

Be amended to read:

e. Ministerial credentials. We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former spouse living unless the divorce occurred prior to conversion (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) or in the case of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (~~Psalms 11:5; 146:5–9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians 5~~ Matthew 18:6; Ephesians 5:28-33; Colossians 3:19), or an ecclesiastical annulment. (See also Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs j ~~and k.~~)

RESOLUTION 18—SUBSEQUENT DISMISSAL CLARIFIED

On behalf of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery, Jason L. McClafin, a member of the Resolutions Committee, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted.

WHEREAS, The provision for a subsequent dismissal is provided for and sought when a minister’s previous credential status was either resigned, lapsed, or not renewed; and

WHEREAS, The wording in The General Council Bylaws does not specifically name the “not renewed” status to be included although it is implied; and

WHEREAS, Legal counsel for The General Council has advised that it would be prudent to revise the wording to match the intention and practice of the provision to specifically include the “not renewed” option; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE, Section 9. Referral for Action to the General Council Credentials Committee, paragraph a. District recommendation, subparagraph (3), page 69 which reads:

(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.

Be amended to read:

(3) Subsequent dismissal. Should evidence come to light, following a minister’s ~~resignation, or the lapse of his or her~~ termination of credentials, (whether by lapse, resignation, or not renewed), of conduct occurring prior to said change of credential status ~~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 credential status from

~~lapsed or resigned~~ to dismissed. The district shall inform the former minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister’s district of affiliation. All rights of appeal will apply.

NONRESIDENT EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER ELECTION
SOUTHEAST AREA

Following two electoral ballot votes, the General Council elected D. Rick Ross as a Non-Resident Executive Presbyter for the Southeast Area.

Tellers’ Report for Ballot 1:

Number of Votes Cast	1,455	
Necessary for Election	970	
Larry S. Burgbacher	101	6.94%
John D. Dougherty	113	7.77%
Kenneth W. Draughon	55	3.78%
Phil F. Edwards	40	2.75%
Michael C. Holt	87	5.98%
John A. Loper Jr.	53	3.64%
Lawrence K. Perry	36	2.47%
D. Rick Ross	754	51.82%
Robert W. Sandler	38	2.61%
Michael L. Spivey	86	5.91%
Carl Stephens	88	6.05%
Invalid Votes	4	

Tellers’ Report for Ballot 2:

Number of Votes Cast	1,564	
Necessary for Election	1,043	
Larry S. Burgbacher	55	3.52%
John D. Dougherty	106	6.78%
Kenneth W. Draughon	8	0.51%
Phil F. Edwards	6	0.38%
Michael C. Holt	20	1.28%
John A. Loper Jr.	11	0.70%
Lawrence K. Perry	5	0.32%
D. Rick Ross	1,284	82.10%
Robert W. Sandler	4	0.26%
Michael L. Spivey	34	2.17%
Carl Stephens	29	1.85%
Invalid Votes	2	

NONRESIDENT EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER ELECTION
GREAT LAKES AREA

Following nine electoral ballot votes, the General Council elected Bradley T. Trask as a Nonresident Executive Presbyter for the Great Lakes Area.

Tellers' Report for Ballot 1:

Number of Votes Cast	1,577	
Necessary for Election	1,052	
Gary J. Blanchard	83	5.26%
Robert A. Bradford	75	4.76%
Terry L. Crigger	15	0.95%
David W. Dillon	26	1.65%
Chad S. Gilligan	103	6.53%
Joseph S. Girdler	79	5.01%
Aaron M. Hlavin	58	3.68%
John K. Jordan	27	1.71%
Chad F. McAtee	122	7.74%
Phillip B. Schneider	70	4.44%
Bradley T. Trask	593	37.60%
John R. Wootton	323	20.48%
Invalid Votes	3	

Tellers' Report for Ballot 2:

Number of Votes Cast	1,630	
Necessary for Election	1,087	
Gary J. Blanchard	20	1.23%
Robert A. Bradford	10	0.61%
Terry L. Crigger	4	0.25%
David W. Dillon	1	0.03%
Chad S. Gilligan	39	2.39%
Joseph S. Girdler	25	1.53%
Aaron M. Hlavin	7	0.43%
John K. Jordan	3	0.18%
Chad F. McAtee	85	5.21%
Phillip B. Schneider	10	0.61%
Bradley T. Trask	933	57.24%
John R. Wootton	489	30.00%
Invalid Votes	4	

Tellers' Report for Ballot 3:

Number of Votes Cast	1,628	
Necessary for Election	1,086	
Gary J. Blanchard	12	0.74%
Robert A. Bradford	3	0.18%
Terry L. Crigger	2	0.12%
David W. Dillon	19	1.17%
Chad S. Gilligan	14	0.86%
Joseph S. Girdler	12	0.74%
Aaron M. Hlavin	1	0.06%
John K. Jordan	2	0.12%
Chad F. McAtee	31	1.90%
Phillip B. Schneider	6	0.37%
Bradley T. Trask	1,024	62.90%
John R. Wootton	498	30.59%
Invalid Votes	4	

Tellers' Report for Ballot 4:

Number of Votes Cast	1,663	
Necessary for Election	1,109	
Chad F. McAtee	111	6.67%
Bradley T. Trask	1,024	61.58%
John R. Wootton	521	31.33%
Invalid Votes	7	

Tellers' Report for Ballot 5:

Number of Votes Cast	1,667	
Necessary for Election	1,112	
Chad F. McAtee	80	4.80%
Bradley T. Trask	1,035	62.09%
John R. Wootton	546	32.75%
Invalid Votes	6	

Tellers' Report for Ballot 6:

Number of Votes Cast	1,683	
Necessary for Election	1,122	
Chad F. McAtee	55	3.27%
Bradley T. Trask	1,055	62.69%
John R. Wootton	567	3.27%
Invalid Votes	6	

Tellers' Report for Ballot 7:

Number of Votes Cast	1,694	
Necessary for Election	1,130	
Chad F. McAtee	46	2.72%
Bradley T. Trask	1,075	63.46%
John R. Wootton	571	33.71%
Invalid Votes	2	

Tellers' Report for Ballot 8:

Number of Votes Cast	1,695	
Necessary for Election	1,130	
Chad F. McAtee	39	2.30%
Bradley T. Trask	1,096	64.66%
John R. Wootton	559	32.98%
Invalid Votes	1	

Tellers' Report for Ballot 9:

Number of Votes Cast	1,706	
Necessary for Election	1,138	
Chad F. McAtee	37	2.17%
Bradley T. Trask	1,138	66.71%
John R. Wootton	530	31.07%
Invalid Votes	1	

**NONRESIDENT EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER ELECTION
 NORTHEAST AREA**

Following five electoral ballot votes, the General Council elected Duane P. Durst as a Nonresident Executive Presbyter for the Northeast Area.

Tellers' Report for Ballot 1:

Number of Votes Cast	1,569	
Necessary for Election	1,046	
Daniel R. Abbatiello	52	3.31%
Scott M. Batchelder	50	3.19%
Steven R. DeFrain	68	4.33%
Duane P. Durst	493	31.42%
Nicholas W. Fatato	113	7.20%
Donald A. James	122	7.78%
Kurt H. Kinney	27	1.72%
Donald J. Immel	82	5.23%
Mark A. Lehmann	349	22.24%
Franklin H. Potter	93	5.93%

Jerry W. Terry	72	4.59%
Louis P. Zinnanti	47	3.00%
Invalid Votes	1	

Tellers' Report for Ballot 2:

Number of Votes Cast	1,665	
Necessary for Election	1,110	
Daniel R. Abbatiello	7	0.42%
Scott M. Batchelder	7	0.42%
Steven R. DeFrain	7	0.42%
Duane P. Durst	838	50.33%
Nicholas W. Fatato	63	3.78%
Donald A. James	74	4.44%
Kurt H. Kinney	7	0.42%
Donald J. Immel	15	0.90%
Mark A. Lehmann	608	36.52%
Franklin H. Potter	20	1.20%
Jerry W. Terry	11	0.66%
Louis P. Zinnanti	6	0.36%
Invalid Votes	2	

Tellers' Report for Ballot 3:

Number of Votes Cast	1,658	
Necessary for Election	1,106	
Daniel R. Abbatiello	8	0.48%
Steven R. DeFrain	1	0.06%
Duane P. Durst	934	56.33%
Nicholas W. Fatato	35	2.11%
Donald A. James	33	1.99%
Kurt H. Kinney	1	0.06%
Donald J. Immel	7	0.42%
Mark A. Lehmann	620	37.39%
Franklin H. Potter	6	0.36%
Jerry W. Terry	8	0.48%
Louis P. Zinnanti	5	0.30%

Tellers' Report for Ballot 4:

Number of Votes Cast	1,676	
Necessary for Election	1,118	
Duane P. Durst	1,017	60.68%
Nicholas W. Fatato	73	4.36%
Mark A. Lehmann	581	34.67%
Invalid Votes	5	

Tellers' Report for Ballot 5:

Number of Votes Cast	1,657	
Necessary for Election	1,105	
Duane P. Durst	1,287	77.67%
Nicholas W. Fatato	39	2.35%
Mark A. Lehmann	323	19.49%
Invalid Votes	8	

NONRESIDENT EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER ELECTION
LANGUAGE AREA—EAST SPANISH

Following two electoral ballot votes, the General Council elected Manuel A. Alvarez as a Nonresident Executive Presbyter for the Language Area—East Spanish.

Tellers' Report for Ballot 1:

Number of Votes Cast	1,416	
Necessary for Election	944	
Manuel A. Alvarez	642	45.34%
Abner Adorno	311	21.96%
Gilbert G. (Jerry) Flores	160	11.30%
Clemente Maldonado Jr.	199	14.05%
David E. Zayas	104	7.34%

Tellers' Report for Ballot 2:

Number of Votes Cast	1,581	
Necessary for Election	1,054	
Manuel A. Alvarez	1,275	80.65%
Abner Adorno	209	13.22%
Gilbert G. (Jerry) Flores	25	1.58%
Clemente Maldonado Jr.	48	3.04%
David E. Zayas	22	1.39%

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF WORLD MISSIONS REPORT

Executive Director of World Missions Gregory M. Mundis presented a report. By general consent, a motion was adopted to accept the report with deep appreciation.

RESOLUTION 5—PUBLICATION OF DISMISSAL

On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, Jason L. McClafin, a member of the Resolutions Committee, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, The right of appeal, complete with details is mentioned in its appropriate place at General Council Bylaws Article X. Discipline, Section 10. Right of Appeal; and

WHEREAS, When it is mentioned a second time under Publication of Dismissal in Section 11, yet without all the details, it can be misleading; and

WHEREAS, The intention of the statement in Section 11 is to clarify that the dismissal should not be publicized until the thirty-day window is completed after notification, giving the credential holder the right to appeal without public announcement; and

WHEREAS, By stating “An additional thirty days” suggests confusion that there is possibly a time frame beyond the first thirty days of the time limit within which an appeal may be communicated, which is not the case; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE, Section 11. Publication of Dismissal, page 70, which reads:

No publication of a dismissed minister’s name, in print or electronically, 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 thirty (30) days from the date of the notification shall be given the dismissed minister to exercise the right of appeal.

Be amended to read:

No publication of a dismissed minister’s name, in print or electronically, shall be made until (1) the district has been advised by the office of the general secretary that such has been authorized by the General Council Credentials Committee and (2) the thirty (30) day right of appeal has passed. ~~An additional thirty (30) days from the date of the notification shall be given the dismissed minister to exercise the right of appeal.~~

RESOLUTION 6—RIGHT OF APPEAL

On behalf of the Resolutions Committee, Janelle Marocco, a member of the Resolutions Committee, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, Some confusion has arisen concerning the General Council Bylaws Article X requirements for disciplined ministers in the filing of formal ministerial appeals to the General Council Credentials Committee and the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws Article X. Discipline, Section 10, paragraph a, page 69, reads that an appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee “should include any new or exculpatory information not previously considered”; and

WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws Article X. Discipline, Section 10, paragraph c, page 70, reads that an appeal to the General Presbytery “must include new exculpatory information”; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has reviewed said policy and determined the present language in the General Council Bylaws Article X should be revised to bring into agreement the language regarding “new exculpatory information” for both the appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee and the appeal to the General Council; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE, Section 10. Right of Appeal, paragraph a, page 69, which reads:

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 thirty (30) days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee’s 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.

Be amended to read:

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 thirty (30) days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee's 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 must ~~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.

**RESOLUTION 11—COMMISSION ON DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES
ORDAINED MEMBERS**

On behalf of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery, Nathan L. Sheridan, a member of the Resolutions Committee, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, Members appointed to the Commission on Doctrines and Practices have traditionally been ordained with the Assemblies of God even though the General Council Constitution and Bylaws does not state that as a requirement; and

WHEREAS, It is beneficial for a variety of reasons to clarify and require that members appointed to the Commission on Doctrines and Practices be ordained with the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, additional auditors have been appointed from time to time to assist the Commission on Doctrines and Practices as needed and this continues to be an option; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, A. Commission on Doctrines and Practices, paragraph b. Appointments and terms of office, page 57, which reads:

b. Appointments and terms of office. The commission shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall consist of ten (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 four (4) years.

Be amended to read:

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

RESOLUTION 12—GENERAL PRESBYTERY DISTRICT AUDITORS

On behalf of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery, William H. Rodriguez, a Member of the Resolutions Committee, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, The requirement that a district’s auditor to the General Presbytery be a “full-time executive presbyter or officer” is difficult to follow; and

WHEREAS, This requirement is unable to be verified by the national office when the request is submitted; and

WHEREAS, This requirement is unfair to districts whose officers are bi-vocational; and

WHEREAS, This requirement seems irrelevant to today’s culture in which most leaders are filling multiple roles, some in the district office and some in other district ministries; and

WHEREAS, Some might narrowly define “full-time” as a 40-hour work week, while many in ministry serve multiple positions or a combination and variety of roles; and

WHEREAS, It is uncommon for any district to have a full-time district executive presbyter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE II. ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph d. General presbyters, subparagraph (8), *Auditors*, (c) page 28, which reads:

(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.

Be amended to read:

(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.

THE ALLIANCE FOR AG HIGHER EDUCATION AWARDS

Paul R. Alexander, President of The Alliance of Assemblies of God Higher Education presented Outstanding Educator and Administrator Awards to the following individuals:

Administrator Awards

Dr. Dave Bennet – Shared Governance/Board Mentor, Trinity Bible College

Dr. Paul Brooks – VP, Academic Affairs, Southwestern Assembly of God University

Dr. Michael Kolstad – Chief of Staff, Evangel University

Educator Awards

Dr. Samuel Hemby – Leadership and Practical Theology, Southeastern University

Professor Diane Lewis – English Chair, Southwestern Assembly of God University

Dr. Tricia Shaw – School of Education: Pathway, Southeastern University

Professor Aaron Thurber – Bible/Theology Chair, Trinity

Student Awards

Taylor Alvare – Southeastern University

Mayo Sowell – Southeastern University

RESOLUTION 7—ANNUAL TRAINING FOR MINISTERS

On behalf of the Ohio Ministry Network, Central Pacific Ministry Network Board and District Presbytery, Florida Multicultural Executive Presbytery, New Mexico Ministry Network Presbytery, Pennsylvania-Delaware Ministry Network, South Dakota Presbytery, Southern New England Ministry Network Executive Presbytery, and Wisconsin-Northern Michigan Ministry Network Presbytery, Janelle Marocco, a Member of the Resolutions Committee, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows.

WHEREAS, Ministry is becoming more complex in light of a changing landscape culturally, legally, ethically, and financially; and

WHEREAS, Understanding of the most current information and best practices in various areas of ministry more readily equips ministers to competently navigate rising challenges; and

WHEREAS, When ministers are uninformed, they may put the ministry they lead, their district, the General Council, and themselves at greater risk for harm legally, relationally, and in their public witness; and

WHEREAS, Ongoing training related to theology, biblical studies, and ministry practice including ethics, risk management, and financial stewardship are beneficial for every minister in both their personal growth life and in their service as a minister; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 10. Credential Renewals and Reinstatements, pages 53-54, be amended by inserting a new subparagraph g, page 54, to read:

g. A minimum cumulative total of one (1) hour of online training must be completed annually in the renewal process. Completion of the continuing education requirement shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That these changes would not go into effect until September 1, 2024, to allow for the general secretary's office to properly prepare for any adjustment required in the renewal process.

John Wootten moved to amend the resolution by substituting the resolution that follows:

WHEREAS, Ministry is becoming more complex in light of a changing landscape culturally, legally, ethically, and financially; and

WHEREAS, Understanding of the most current information and best practices in various areas of ministry more readily equips ministers to competently navigate rising challenges; and

WHEREAS, When ministers are uninformed, they may put the ministry they lead, their district, the General Council, and themselves at greater risk for harm legally, relationally, and in their public witness; and

WHEREAS, Ongoing training related to theology, biblical studies, and ministry practice including ethics, risk management, and financial stewardship are beneficial for every minister in both their personal growth life and in their service as a minister; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 10. Credential Renewals and Reinstatements, pages 53-54, be amended by inserting a new subparagraph g, page 54, to read:

- f. A minimum cumulative total of one (1) hour of online training must be completed annually in the renewal process by the renewal deadline. Completion of the continuing education requirement, as approved by the Executive Presbytery, shall be a prerequisite for renewal of credentials of all active ministers, with exception given for extenuating circumstances such as, but not limited to, issues of internet access and connectivity to be approved by the minister's district;

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That these changes would not go into effect until September 1, 2024, to allow for the general secretary's office to properly prepare for any adjustment required in the renewal process.

Don E. Miller moved to refer the Resolution, with the pending substitute amendment, to a committee to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery to consider this resolution in conjunction with the substitute resolution and report back to the General Presbytery in 2024. The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION 19—COMMISSION ON CHAPLAINS

On behalf of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery, Janelle Marocco moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, Prior to 1973, Chaplaincy was in two separate departments in the National Office; and

WHEREAS, In 1973, the two Chaplaincy ministries were joined together into one department under U.S. Missions, but continued to function under two different cost centers for recordkeeping; and

WHEREAS, The Commission on Chaplains voted to unify the department in November 2019; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws needs to be refreshed in order to align with current practice; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council Bylaws Article XIV. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD U.S. MISSIONS, Section 2. Organization and Governance, paragraph g, pages 77–78, which reads:

g. Commission on Chaplains

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

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

relating to its area of supervision. It shall be amenable to and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

Be amended to read:

g. Commission on Chaplains

(1) *Composition.* The Commission on Chaplains shall consist of the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, the national representatives of ~~the Military/Veterans Affairs and Institutional/ Occupational Chaplaincies,~~ the Chaplaincy Department, one of whom shall be the ~~department~~ senior director of Chaplaincy Ministries, two executive presbyters, ~~two Military/ Veterans Affairs chaplains,~~ ~~two Institutional/Occupational chaplains,~~ four chaplains from the various areas of Chaplaincy Ministries, two members at large, ~~legal counsel,~~ and others at the discretion of the Executive Leadership Team, to include representatives from the Military, Health Care and Correctional ministries. 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,~~ Chaplaincy Ministries, 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.

RESOLUTION 20—NOMINEES FOR ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATION ON THE EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY

On behalf of the General Presbytery and superintendents from the Alabama, Arizona, Central, Central Pacific, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Texas, Northern California-Nevada, Peninsular Florida, Ohio, Potomac, Rocky Mountain, South Carolina, Southern California, Southern Missouri, Southern New England, Spanish Eastern, Tennessee, and Texas Gulf Hispanic

districts, Nathan L. Sheridan, a member of the Resolutions Committee, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph c. Nonresident executive presbyters, subparagraph (2)(c) *Additional representation*, page 27, provides for three additional members of the Executive Presbytery selected by the General Council from a list of nominees provided by the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery must select and submit four nominees for each position to the General Council and the list from which those nominees are selected is provided by more than sixty districts who may each submit their own nominee; and

WHEREAS, Numerous districts have been challenged with the requirement to submit a nominee selected at their district council in time for General Council because their district councils are held in the summer; and

WHEREAS, It is reasonable that names and photos of nominees be received by the general secretary's office in a timely fashion; and

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery only convenes once each year, typically during the week of General Council, and are thus disadvantaged by needing to quickly select names from large lists of nominees based on relatively little familiarity with each of the candidates; and

WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery meets multiple times per year and has the time for more extensive review and consideration of nominees; and

WHEREAS, The General Council delegates would be well-served to have a list of nominees benefitting from the wisdom and perspective of the larger General Presbytery preceded by an initial review conducted by the Executive Presbytery; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph c. Nonresident executive presbyters, subparagraph (2)(c) *Additional representation*, page 27, which reads:

(c) *Additional representation.* The nomination process for three additional nonresident executive presbyters shall be made as follows: Each district council, at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session, may nominate three individuals from its district to the Executive Presbytery, one who is an ordained minister under forty (40) years of age at the time of election, one ordained female minister (no age requirement), and one ordained African-American minister (no age requirement). The members of the Executive Board of the National Black Fellowship shall also be considered nominees for the ordained African-American minister. From the nominees the General Presbytery shall select and submit to the General Council four names of ordained ministers under forty (40) years of age at the time of election, four names of ordained female ministers (no age requirement), and four names of ordained African-American ministers (no age requirement).

Be amended to read:

(c) Additional representation. ~~The nomination process~~ Nominations for three additional nonresident executive presbyters shall be made as follows: As determined by its district council, each district council shall assign a designated body (such as, but not limited to, their district presbytery or their district council) at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session, may to nominate three individuals from its district to the Executive Presbytery, one who is an ordained minister under forty (40) years of age at the time of election, one ordained female minister (no age requirement), and one ordained African-American minister (no age requirement). The members of the Executive Board of the National Black Fellowship shall also be considered nominees for the ordained African-American minister. From the nominees, the Executive Presbytery shall select and submit to the General Presbytery a minimum of eight nominees for each office. From the list of those presented by the Executive Presbytery, the General Presbytery shall select and submit to the General Council four names of ordained ministers under forty (40) years of age at the time of election, four names of ordained female ministers (no age requirement), and four names of ordained African-American ministers (no age requirement).

RESOLUTION 8—HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER—VANCE A. CAUTHON

On behalf of the General Presbytery, Terry L. Yancey, superintendent of the Assemblies of God Kansas Ministry Network, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, Vance A. Cauthon has served the Assemblies of God Kansas Ministry Network with stellar distinction as a pastor, sectional presbyter, and for twenty-nine consecutive years as an executive officer—first as secretary-treasurer and then as secretary; and

WHEREAS, He also served all of those twenty-nine years as a member of the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, He has consistently lived a life of godly integrity and a healthy example before his family, the churches he led, the Kansas Ministry Network, and the General Council; and

WHEREAS, The 104th Council of the Assemblies of God Kansas Ministry Network nominated Vance A. Cauthon to The General Council of the Assemblies of God for election by the General Presbytery to the status of honorary general presbyter; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph j, page 18, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Vance A. Cauthon meets all the General Council Constitution and Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Vance A. Cauthon be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

RESOLUTION 9—HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER—DANIEL DE LEON

On behalf of the General Presbytery, William H. Rodriguez, district superintendent of the Southern Pacific District Council, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, Daniel de Leon has served our Lord Jesus Christ and the Southern Pacific District with great faithfulness and distinction as a minister of the gospel for fifty-five years, having been licensed to preach on June 15, 1966, and ordained on August 3, 1971; and

WHEREAS, He has served as the senior pastor of Templo Calvario in Santa Ana, California, for more than forty-five years; and

WHEREAS, He served with great distinction and integrity for thirty-eight years as a district executive presbyter; and

WHEREAS, He served successfully as a general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for forty years and highly represented the Pacific Latin American District and the Southern Pacific District; and

WHEREAS, He served as a nonresident executive presbyter for The General Council of the Assemblies of God for four years; and

WHEREAS, The Southern Pacific District affirms his service among us represents the highest standards of integrity, ethics, loyalty, and hard work; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph j, page 18, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Daniel de Leon meets all the General Council Constitution and Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Daniel de Leon be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

RESOLUTION 10—HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER—DENNIS W. MARQUARDT

On behalf of the General Presbytery, Daniel R. Abbatiello, district superintendent of the Northern New England District, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, Dennis W. Marquardt has served our Lord Jesus Christ and the Assemblies of God with great distinction as a minister of the gospel for forty-eight years; and

- WHEREAS, He served as a youth pastor, pastor, and church planting pastor in various districts and locations; and
- WHEREAS, He served the Northern New England District with great distinction as a presbyter, assistant superintendent, and for the past twenty years as district superintendent; and
- WHEREAS, He served on various boards and committees of the district and the General Council; and
- WHEREAS, He served on the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for twenty-five years; and
- WHEREAS, It is proper and fitting to honor those whose service among us has represented the highest standards of integrity, ethics, loyalty, diligence, and hard work; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph j, page 18, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, Dennis W. Marquardt meets all the General Council Constitution and Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That Dennis W. Marquardt be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

RECESS

By general consent, a motion was adopted at 4:00 p.m. to recess until 1:30 p.m. on Friday, August 4, 2023.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2023

On August 4, 2023, at 1:30 p.m., General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay reconvened the 60th General Council of the Assemblies of God. General Secretary Donna L. Barrett was present.

By general consent, the following roster report was adopted:

Voting Registration	Ordained	2,684
	Licensed	648
	Delegates	353
	Executive Presbyters	21
	General Presbyters	279
	<i>Voting Subtotal</i>	3,985
Nonvoting Registration	Exhibitors	1,207
	Auxiliary Staff	235
	Certified	194
	General Attendees	1,704
	Guests	142
	Other	171
	Camp GC23	418
	National Youth Conference	9,204
	<i>Nonvoting Subtotal</i>	13,440
Total Registration		17,425

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF U.S. MISSIONS REPORT

Executive Director of U.S. Missions Malcolm Burleigh presented a report. By general consent, a motion was adopted to accept the report with appreciation.

GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT’S MEDAL OF HONOR

General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay presented the General Superintendent’s Medal of Honor to Bonnie Zimmerman.

LEGAL UPDATE

General Counsel Kristin Waggoner presented a legal update.

RESOLUTION 13—ESCHATOLOGICAL ERROR—UNIVERSALISM

On behalf of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery, Larry H. Griswold, a member of the Resolutions Committee, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted.

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws Article IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Section 3. Eschatological Errors, paragraph a, page 57, was created in 1925 due to a teaching of universalism based on Acts 3:21 and it is now no longer an issue; and

WHEREAS, The title “The restitution of all things” was based on this teaching from Acts 3:21; and

WHEREAS, The second sentence, “We are opposed to all forms of universalism (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10)” turned the paragraph into a statement prohibiting universalism in general; and

WHEREAS, The title naming the eschatological error can be confusing; and

WHEREAS, Renaming the paragraph “Universalism” clearly states what is in error; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council Bylaws Article IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Section 3. Eschatological Errors, paragraph a, page 57, which reads:

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).

Be amended to read:

a. Universalism. ~~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).

RESOLUTION 14—ESCHATOLOGICAL ERROR—DENIAL OF IMMINENT RETURN OF JESUS

On behalf of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery, Larry H. Griswold, a member of the Resolutions Committee, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted.

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws Article IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Section 3. Eschatological Errors, paragraph c., page 58, was written in light of only one eschatological error, namely post-tribulation rapture, which denies the imminent return of Christ; and

WHEREAS, The primary reason for paragraph c was to preserve the teaching of Christ's imminent return to gather the resurrected Church; and

WHEREAS, There are other teachings which also deny Christ's imminent return; and

WHEREAS, Naming as an error any teaching, whether or not it revolves around the Tribulation, which denies Christ's imminent return will strengthen the reason for paragraph c; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council Bylaws Article IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Section 3. Eschatological Errors, paragraph c., page 58, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

b. Denial of the Imminent Return of Jesus. 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 credentialed ministers should 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.

RESOLUTION 15—ESCHATOLOGICAL ERROR—DENIAL OF BODILY REIGN OF CHRIST

On behalf of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery, Larry H. Griswold, a member of the Resolutions Committee, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as amended.

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws Article IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Section 3. Eschatological Errors, paragraph d, page 58, was written in response to only one eschatological error, namely amillennialism, which denies the reign of Christ on the earth after His bodily return; and

WHEREAS, The primary reason for paragraph d was to preserve the premillennial teaching of Christ's bodily return and subsequent reign; and

WHEREAS, There are other teachings which also deny the bodily return and subsequent reign of Christ; and

WHEREAS, Naming as an error any teaching which denies Christ's reign on earth following His bodily return will strengthen the reason for paragraph d; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council Bylaws Article IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Section 3. Eschatological Errors, paragraph d., page 58, which reads:

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 one thousand-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.

Be amended to read:

d. Amillennialism and the Denial of the bodily reign of Christ. The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of ~~the amillennial amillennialism and any teaching and its attendant erroneous philosophy~~ which denies the ~~fact of a literal one thousand-year reign of Christ on the earth; following His bodily return,~~ and substitutes for it the theory that this present age is the spiritual millennium. ~~Christian or Church dispensation is the spiritual Millennium of which, its proponents say, the Bible writers prophesied.~~

RESOLUTION 16—ESCHATOLOGICAL ERROR—INTENT TO LEAD OTHERS ASTRAY

On behalf of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery, Larry H. Griswold, a member of the Resolutions Committee, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws Article IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Section 3. Eschatological Errors, paragraph e, page 58, recommends that ministers refrain from preaching or teaching any of the foregoing eschatological errors at the risk of their standing in the Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Explaining the errors may be necessary in explaining or defending the truths which those errors deny; and

WHEREAS, Some may take “preaching or teaching” to mean any in-depth discussion of said eschatological errors regardless of intent; and

WHEREAS, Teachers and preachers within the Fellowship should be encouraged to freely discuss eschatological views in passing on the faith; and

WHEREAS, The intent of paragraph e is to prohibit the teaching or preaching of those errors in order to lead others to believe them; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council Bylaws Article IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Section 3. Eschatological Errors, paragraph e, page 58, which reads:

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).

Be amended to read:

e. Credentials jeopardized if made an issue. Intent to lead others astray. ~~We recommend that those A credentialed ministers minister who embrace embraces any of the foregoing eschatological errors these teachings must refrain from preaching or teaching them intentionally leading other people to adopt the positions.~~ 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).

RESOLUTION 21—RESCIND RESOLUTION 26 OF THE 1995 GENERAL COUNCIL—USE OF KING JAMES VERSION

On behalf of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery, William H. Rodriguez, a member of the Resolutions Committee, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, The 46th General Council in session in Saint. Louis, Missouri, on August 11, 1995, adopted Resolution 26 which stated that Gospel Publishing House and Radiant Life curriculum will not discontinue the use of the King James Version text in our printed Sunday school curriculum without prior approval by the General Council in session; and

WHEREAS, Said provision required publications to use only King James Version or print both the other version and the King James Version beside each Scripture entry, which practice has continued to today; and

WHEREAS, To change said guideline as it presently exists requires the action of the General Council in session because said requirement was built into said original resolution; and therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council of the Assemblies of God rescind Resolution 26 from the 1995 General Council.

RESOLUTION 24—HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER—A. ELIZABETH GRANT

On behalf of the Peninsular Florida District Executives and Presbytery, and the General Presbytery, Terrell R. Raburn moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, Alice Elizabeth (Beth) Grant has served for fourteen years on the Executive Presbytery having been elected in 2009 as the first woman to serve in this position; and

WHEREAS, Alice Elizabeth (Beth) Grant has served for fourteen years as a general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, She was credentialed by the Assemblies of God as a specialized licensed minister in 1976 and as an ordained minister in 1990; and

WHEREAS, She has served as an appointed missionary for forty-six years with Assemblies of God World Missions, having been appointed in 1976; and

WHEREAS, She cofounded Project Rescue ministries in 1997 and codirected the ministry until 2022; and

WHEREAS, She served for ten years as chair for the first National Task Force for Women in Ministry; and

WHEREAS, Article IX. Section 3, paragraph j, page 18 of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such a distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Alice Elizabeth (Beth) Grant meets all the General Council constitutional qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God recommends that Alice Elizabeth (Beth) Grant be elected to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

RESOLUTION 22—HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER—M. WAYNE BLACKBURN

On behalf of the Peninsular Florida District Council and the General Presbytery, Terrel R. Raburn moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, M. Wayne Blackburn has served for twenty-eight years as a general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, M. Wayne Blackburn has served the Peninsular Florida District Council as executive treasurer, executive presbyter, and sectional presbyter; and

WHEREAS, M. Wayne Blackburn founded what is now known as the League of Christian Schools providing accreditation for church affiliated daycares, grammar/elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in the United States and abroad; and

WHEREAS, M. Wayne Blackburn has successfully served as senior pastor of local assemblies in Bradenton, Florida; Arcadia, Florida; Mulberry, Florida; and Lakeland, Florida; bringing advancement and growth to every church he has pastored; and

WHEREAS, The most notable local church being Victory Church in Lakeland, Florida which has an average attendance of five-thousand, is a leading missions giving congregation, serves the poor and hurting of greater Polk County, and is the home of Victory Christian Academy, a school which leads with excellence in academics, arts and sciences, and athletics; and

WHEREAS, M. Wayne Blackburn has served as a trustee of Southeastern University, Lakeland, Florida, and as vice chairman of the Executive Committee, and holds a doctorate of divinity from Southeastern University, Lakeland, Florida; and

WHEREAS, M. Wayne Blackburn serves as a board member of the Assemblies of God Financial Solutions, and vice chairman of the Board of Emerge Counseling Ministries, Akron, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, M. Wayne Blackburn meets all the General Council Constitution qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph j, page 18 of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons who have served the General Council and district councils with such distinction to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Peninsular Florida District Council of the Assemblies of God recommends that M. Wayne Blackburn be elected to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

RESOLUTION 23—HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER—DONALD G. GIFFORD

On behalf of the Indiana District Council and the General Presbytery, Chad F. McAtee moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, Donald G. Gifford has served our Lord Jesus Christ with great faithfulness and integrity as an Assemblies of God minister since 1975, having been ordained to gospel ministry in 1978; and

WHEREAS, He has served in Assemblies of God churches as a youth pastor and as a senior pastor for more than thirty years; and

WHEREAS, He has served with distinction in numerous leadership roles in the Indiana District Assemblies of God: sectional youth representative, sectional presbyter, ministry group presbyter, district executive presbyter, assistant district superintendent, and district superintendent; and

WHEREAS, He has served our Assemblies of God institutions, as a member of the Board of Regents of North Central University in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and as a member of the Board of Directors of Church Extension Plan; and

WHEREAS, He has served our national Assemblies of God Fellowship as a general presbyter for more than thirty years; and

WHEREAS, Our Fellowship continues to benefit greatly from the wisdom, friendship, and Spirit-filled leadership of Donald G. Gifford; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph j, page 18 of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons who have served the General Council and district councils with such

distinction to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Donald G. Gifford meets all the qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

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

RESOLUTION 25—HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER—WILLIAM N. KIRK

On behalf of the New York Ministry Network Presbytery and the General Presbytery, Duane P. Durst moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, William N. Kirk has served the Assemblies of God Fellowship with distinction for forty years as an ordained minister; and

WHEREAS, He faithfully served as a church planter and lead pastor in Cooperstown, New York, lead pastor in Niagara Falls, New York, and lead pastor in Binghamton, New York, totaling twenty-four years of lead pastoral ministry from 1981 to 2005; and

WHEREAS, He fulfilled the responsibility as the sectional presbyter of the Western Section from 1994 to 1997; and

WHEREAS, He served as general presbyter of the New York Ministry Network from 1998 to 2005; and

WHEREAS, He served as assistant superintendent of the New York Ministry Network from 2005 to 2023; and

WHEREAS, He served on the General Presbytery for twenty-five consecutive years; and

WHEREAS, His consistent record of resourcing churches and leaders through his sermons, teachings, publications, and most recently, his book *Enjoy the Journey*, has provided immeasurable support to the New York Ministry Network family and many more across the national Assemblies of God Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph j, page 18 of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such a distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general

presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God;
and

WHEREAS, William N. Kirk meets all the General Council constitutional qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the New York Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God recommends that William N. Kirk be elected to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

RESOLUTION 26—HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER—MARCUS W. MCCLAIN

On behalf of the New Mexico Ministry Network and the General Presbytery, Michael E. Dickenson moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, Marcus W. McClain has served the New Mexico Ministry Network with distinction for thirty-two years, having been ordained as an Assemblies of God minister in 1989; and

WHEREAS, He has served in a variety of leadership roles over these years including Network Men's director for six years, presbyter for six years, assistant superintendent for six years, and secretary treasurer/assistant Network pastor for the past fourteen years; and

WHEREAS, He served as senior pastor of Christian Life Fellowship in Santa Fe, New Mexico, for twenty-three years, and under his leadership, the church grew to become one of the leading Assemblies of God churches in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, He has served as general presbyter since 2003, representing the New Mexico Ministry Network; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully and consistently led and served in a fashion that exhibits a lifestyle of integrity and strong godly leadership; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph j, page 18 of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter of the General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Marcus W. McClain meets all of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Marcus W. McClain to be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

RESOLUTION 27—HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER—GREGORY M. MUNDIS

On behalf of the Ohio Ministry Network and the General Presbytery, John R. Wootton moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, Gregory M. Mundis has served our Lord Jesus Christ and the Assemblies of God with great faithfulness and integrity as a minister of the gospel for fifty years, having been licensed to preach on February 26, 1973, and ordained on April 22, 1976; and

WHEREAS, He has served as a youth pastor, missionary, and an international church planter, and

WHEREAS, He has demonstrated gifts of leadership for over twenty years while serving as the area director for Central Europe, and then regional director for the entire Europe Region; with the area implementing new strategies for ministries during a swell of immigration; and

WHEREAS, Our entire Fellowship saw fit to request Gregory M. Mundis to serve as the Assemblies of God World Missions executive director since 2011; and

WHEREAS, The Ohio Ministry Network has great appreciation for Gregory M. Mundis's entire breadth of ministry because of his integrity, ethics, skill, and he is one who is fit to be honored; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution Article IX, Section 3, paragraph j, page 18 makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Gregory M. Mundis meets all the General Council Constitution and Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Gregory M. Mundis be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

RESOLUTION 28—HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER—SERGIO NAVARRETE

On behalf of the Southern Pacific District Council Presbytery and the General Presbytery, William H. Rodriguez moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, Sergio Navarrete has served our Lord Jesus Christ and the Southern Pacific District with great faithfulness and distinction as a pastor, district presbyter, and for twenty consecutive years as superintendent; and

WHEREAS, He also served all of those twenty years as a member of the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, Sergio Navarrete was credentialed by the Assemblies of God as a licensed minister in 1985 and as an ordained minister in 1994; and

WHEREAS, He serves the Hispanic World Fraternity of Assemblies of God (FRAHMAD) from 2016 as treasurer and since 2018 to the present as vice president representing all the Hispanic Fellowships around the globe; and

WHEREAS, He serves the World Assemblies of God Fellowship as an executive board member since 2019 and on various boards and committees at the General Council; and

WHEREAS, The Southern Pacific District affirms his service among us represents the highest standards of integrity, ethics, loyalty, hard work, and a healthy example before his family, the churches, the Southern Pacific District, and the General Council; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph j, page 18, of the General Council Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be chosen as an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Sergio Navarrete meets all the General Council Constitution and Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; therefore, be it

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

RESOLUTION 29—COURTESY

On behalf of the General Presbytery, Larry H. Griswold, a member of the Resolutions Committee, moved the adoption of the resolution that follows. The motion was adopted as presented.

WHEREAS, The 60th General Council of the Assemblies of God has been afforded gracious hospitality and accommodation by the officials and agencies of the city of Columbus, Ohio, and our host district, the Ohio Ministry Network; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That sincere appreciation be expressed to: The State of Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Franklin County Commissioners John O’Grady, Kevin L. Boyce, and Erica C. Crawley, City of Columbus Mayor Andrew J. Ginther, the Greater Columbus Convention Center, Greater Columbus Convention and Visitors Bureau, and the many hotel and restaurant personnel, for their accommodation and hospitality; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we express our gratitude for the many events this week to celebrate our wins and focus on our future, for the emphasis on equipping at the Influence Conference, the spirit of grace and unity during the business sessions, and for the opportunity to renew acquaintances and relationships with people from across our sixty-six districts/networks afforded by this week; 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 person of our General Superintendent Douglas E. Clay, who brought us a clarion call for continued focus on spiritual renewal and outreach, for the Executive Leadership Team, and for the Executive Presbytery; with appreciation for our outgoing officers and a commitment to prayer and support for our newly elected leaders by this council; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the ministers and churches of this Fellowship, unified by our love for our Lord and one another, make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace (Ephesians 4:3); and be it further

RESOLVED, On this historic occasion of our 60th General Council of the Assemblies of God that we rededicate Our Church, Our Family “to do the greatest work of evangelism the world has ever seen.”

ADJOURN

By general consent, a motion was adopted at 4:20 p.m. to adjourn the 60th General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Donna L. Barrett
General Secretary