

# **MINUTES**

**of the**

**54th Session of**

## **THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**Convened in Phoenix, Arizona**

**August 1–5, 2011**

**with**

**Revised Constitution and Bylaws**

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

**Printed in U.S.A.**



# **THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

## **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

**George O. Wood, General Superintendent**  
**L. Alton Garrison, Assistant General Superintendent**  
**James T. Bradford, General Secretary**  
**Douglas E. Clay, General Treasurer**  
**Gregory M. Mundis, Executive Director of AG World Missions**  
**Zollie L. Smith, Jr., Executive Director of AG U.S. Missions**

## **EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY**

**George O. Wood, Chairman**

<b>C. Dan Betzer</b>	<b>Nam Soo Kim</b>
<b>James T. Bradford</b>	<b>Rodney K. Loy</b>
<b>Warren D. Bullock</b>	<b>John E. Maracle</b>
<b>Douglas E. Clay</b>	<b>Jesse Miranda, Jr.</b>
<b>L. Alton Garrison</b>	<b>Gregory M. Mundis</b>
<b>J. Don George</b>	<b>T. Ray Rachels</b>
<b>Saturnino Gonzalez</b>	<b>H. Robert Rhoden</b>
<b>A. Elizabeth Grant</b>	<b>Clarence W. St. John</b>
<b>Larry H. Griswold</b>	<b>Zollie L. Smith, Jr.</b>
<b>R. Bryan Jarrett</b>	

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## **FOREWORD**

The 54th General Council convened in Phoenix, Arizona, August 1–5, 2011, with over 21,000 children, youth, and adults attending from around the nation.

God’s grace and blessing were with us in a very evident way. The General Council began with the Influence Conference, bringing together outstanding speakers and a record-breaking number of attendees. This was also the first General Council in which every service following the Influence Conference featured the ministry of one of our executive leaders.

L. Alton Garrison and James T. Bradford were reelected as assistant general superintendent and general secretary, respectively. Gregory M. Mundis was elected to the role of executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions. Wednesday evening featured a retirement banquet for L. John Bueno who has so capably served Assemblies of God World Missions as executive director for the past 14 years.

Several important decisions were made in the business sessions, including approval for the consolidation of the three Springfield General Council schools—Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Central Bible College, and Evangel University. The national offices were also renamed the “National Leadership and Resource Center” to replace the word “headquarters” in our governing documents.

Several new resource and publishing initiatives were also launched at this General Council, including Influence Resources and AG Healthy Church.

It was also reported that in 2010 the United States Assemblies of God grew by 4 percent (4%) to over 3,000,000 adherents, our fastest growth in nearly 30 years. Meanwhile our Fellowship worldwide has grown to nearly 65,000,000 people. We thank God for His blessings and depend on Him for our future.

Our next General Council will be in Orlando, Florida, August 5–9, 2013.

May the Lord bless you as we continue working together to build Christ’s Kingdom!

James T. Bradford  
General Secretary



**MINUTES OF THE 54th GENERAL COUNCIL  
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD  
CONVENED IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA  
AUGUST 1-5, 2011**

The General Council Influence Conference convened on Monday and Tuesday, August 1-2.

**TUESDAY EVENING—AUGUST 2**

The 54th General Council began with a 7 p.m. service at the U.S. Airways Center in Phoenix, Arizona, with George O. Wood, general superintendent, as the keynote speaker.

The service opened with a theme video bridging the past to the future of the Assemblies of God with the question and challenge, “How Will You Make Your Mark on Our Fellowship?” Dove Award winner Ricardo Sanchez led a time of praise and worship. Zollie L. Smith, Jr., executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, opened the service with prayer following worship.

Assistant General Superintendent L. Alton Garrison welcomed attendees and recognized Assemblies of God leadership including the Executive Presbytery, retired executives and spouses, fraternal delegates, and representatives from the World Assemblies of God Fellowship. He also introduced the Acts 2 Initiative, a new emphasis to resource and equip churches through the Healthy Church Network, following which he received an offering for the Acts 2 Initiative. Missionary David Stewart, Jr., ministered the offertory song, “His Eye Is on the Sparrow.”

Prior to the message, the State of the Fellowship video was presented featuring the general superintendent sharing recent news and the latest statistics for the Fellowship. In the video, he addressed the Council from Central Assembly of God in Springfield, Missouri, and shared his ministry perspective as a pastor. He reported Assemblies of God constituency last year topped three million in the United States for the first time. Ethnic churches comprise one-third of our Fellowship and are the fastest growing.

The keynote message for the 54th General Council was brought by General Superintendent George O. Wood and was entitled *The Mark of a Messenger—Haggai* using the Book of Haggai as the text. Building from the four sermons of the prophet Haggai, Wood addressed what he called the “three big Ds—Delay, Discouragement, and Defilement that keep us from accomplishing the fourth big D, Destiny.” He noted the important reasons for being, the Acts 2 healthy church model, and core values of strategy. He declared, “This is God’s hour! The Spirit has put something deep into your heart. Now is not the time to draw back. Don’t delay in responding. Don’t let discouragement pick you off. From this day on, God is here to bless you. The destiny He has for you is to lead you from victory to victory.”

**WEDNESDAY MORNING—AUGUST 3**

**Business Session**

The first business session of the 54th General Council of the Assemblies of God convened at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Arizona, Wednesday, August 3, at 8:30 a.m. Douglas E. Clay, general treasurer, opened the session with prayer.

The general treasurer introduced General Superintendent George O. Wood, chairman, who welcomed the delegates and called the business session to order at 8:35 a.m.

## **Introduction of Executive Leadership Team And Executive Presbytery**

Chairman Wood introduced the Executive Leadership Team and asked them to stand: L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent; James T. Bradford, general secretary; Doug Clay, general treasurer; L. John Bueno, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions; Zollie L. Smith, Jr., executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.

He then recognized and introduced the executive presbyters: C. Dan Betzer, Southeast Area; Warren D. Bullock, Northwest Area; Richard Dresselhaus, Southwest Area; Douglas E. Fulenwider, Gulf Area; J. Don George, South Central Area; Saturnino Gonzalez, Language Area—East Spanish; A. Elizabeth Grant, additional representative—ordained female; Larry H. Griswold, Great Lakes Area; R. Bryan Jarrett, additional representative—ordained pastor under 40 years of age; Nam Soo Kim, Language Area—Other; John E. Maracle, Ethnic Fellowships; Jesse Miranda, Jr., Language Area—West Spanish; H. Robert Rhoden, Northeast Area; Clarence W. St. John, North Central Area. Appreciation was expressed to the Executive Presbytery.

## **Introduction of Retired Executive Presbyters and Officers**

Chairman Wood expressed appreciation to the retired executive officers and presbyters: Almon M. Bartholomew, former executive presbyter, Northwest Area; Charles T. Crabtree, former assistant general superintendent; Charles E. Hackett, former executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions; J. Foy Johnson, former executive presbyter, Southeast Area; Everett R. Stenhouse, former assistant general superintendent; Thomas E. Trask, former general superintendent; Loren Triplett, former executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions.

## **Introduction of National Leadership and Resource Center Personnel**

The chairman expressed appreciation to all National Leadership and Resource Center personnel who are serving superbly in Phoenix, Arizona, and in Springfield, Missouri.

## **Fraternal Delegates**

The chairman recognized the fraternal delegates and expressed appreciation to those from other Pentecostal denominations who will be in attendance at this General Council.

## **Expression of Appreciation to the City of Phoenix, Arizona**

Appreciation was expressed to the city of Phoenix, Arizona, and Mayor Phil Gordon, and the Phoenix Convention Services for their warm hospitality and superb treatment shown to the General Council delegates.

## **Expression of Appreciation to Governor of the State of Arizona**

The chairman expressed appreciation to Governor Jan Brewer and to the State of Arizona.

## **Expression of Appreciation to Host Districts**

The chairman expressed appreciation to the Arizona District Council and Superintendent Stephen L. Harris and the Southwest District Council and Superintendent Tony Martinez, for hosting this 54th General Council.

## **Expression of Appreciation to General Council Committees**

The chairman highlighted the list of committee members, expressing appreciation for their work in the various areas of this General Council. Those who served as members in the respective capacities are as follows:

### *Budget*

Doug Clay, chairperson; Dan Clopine, Frederic Gore, Janice Hayes, Kenneth R. Tripp

### *Parliamentary*

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

### *Resolutions*

John R. Wootton, chairperson; Nicolas W. Fatato, Jennifer D. Gale, Douglas M. Graham, Gordon W. Huston, Dennis J. Rivera, Randal L. Ross, Daniel M. York

### *Roster*

Richard A. Plunk, co-chairperson; David L. Wigington, co-chairperson; Mark Christianson, liaison; Rick Barnes, John Battaglia, Diane Bobko, Joel Brackett, Michael Dillinger, Adam Kjerstad, Lance Nelson, Marta Rivera, Matt Schmidly, Felicia Schmidly, Jacqueline Toto

### *Spiritual Life*

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

### *Tellers*

Rollin J. Carlson, chairperson; Glenn R. Beaver, Michael E. Dickenson, Mark E. Jakelsky, John L. Weidman, captains; Efraim Espinoza, liaison

## **National Operational Committees**

### *Program Committee*

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

### *Program Resource Committee*

John Jay Wilson, chairperson; Doug Clay, Sharon L. Lee, Thomas Matrone, Jay Mooney, Tim Strathdee, Juleen Turnage; resource: Angela Dense, Lori K. Lawley, Matt Polites

### *Finance/Accounting*

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

### *Children's Activities/Kids Council*

Mark Entzminger, Kids Council co-chairperson; Scott Berkey, co-chairperson; Patti Chapman, Jon Stem

### *Event Planning Team*

Doug Clay, chairperson; Sol Arledge, Wini Arledge, Fred Gore, Lori K. Lawley, Sharon Lee, Juleen Turnage, John Jay Wilson

### *Event Management Team*

Sharon Lee, chairperson; Paul Griffin, Dan Bull, Lori K. Lawley, Sheila Mixer, Trina Russell, Paula Smallwood

### *Equipment*

Don Lander, chairperson; Greg Brown, Terry Chapman, Mike Cooper, Eric Goss, Jon Harrell, Drew Lawley

### *Hospitality*

Beth Carroll, chairperson; Mari Bull, Susan Putnam, Heather Scranton, Joy Sorbo, Helen Wray

### *Human Resources*

Beth Carroll, assistant director; Mari Bull

### *Prayer*

John Maempa, chairperson; James Meredith

### *Promotions/Press/Communications*

Juleen Turnage, chairperson; Sonny Carder, Ken Peckett, Tim Laffoon, Keith Surface, Dan VanVeen, John Jay Wilson

### *Promotions Branding Team Grand & Weller*

Scott Wiskus, Nathan Mallonee, Angela Moody, Ashley Earwood, Ian VanHover, Griffin McGrath

### *Printed Materials*

Paul Smith, chairperson; Esther Wood

### *Registration*

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

### *Technology Support*

Tim Strathdee, chairperson; Fred Behling, Justin Butler, Lucas Cornwell, Brandon Cranor, Justin Dalton, Ben Ellis, Chris Hill, Darrin Hull, John Ivaska, Kevin Jenkins, Paula Lamar, Helen Piper, Larry Quackenbush, Kelly Rhea, Sid Stafford, Todd Trask, Matt Williams, Stephanie Williams

### *Tellers Liaison*

Rollin Carlson, chairperson; Efraim Espinoza, liaison

### *Translations*

Kevin Babin, deaf coordinator; Efraim Espinoza, Spanish coordinator

### *Transportation*

Dan Clopine, chairperson; Erin Buskirk, company pilot; Joel Dense, Larry Kolsky, Ron Sherman, Tyson Lambertson

### *National Youth Ministries*

Jay Mooney, chairperson; Chet Caudill, Steve Pulis, Jack Trewern, Rod Whitlock

### *Ushers/Communion*

Wade Trivitt, chairperson; Fred Gore, communion coordinator; Debbie Collins, Paul Curtis, Rhonda Curtis, Pete Tarka, Kathy Wrinkle

## **Adoption of Agenda**

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

## **General Superintendent's Report**

The general superintendent expressed his gratefulness for the privilege of serving this Fellowship. The general superintendent's report is the State of the Fellowship address which gives a general overview of the Fellowship and was presented in video form during Tuesday night's service. This address serves as the Spiritual Life report to the Fellowship.

L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent, assumed the role of the chairman during the report of the general superintendent.

A motion prevailed to receive last evening's video report and today's report of the general superintendent and express appreciation to George O. Wood.

The chair was returned to the general superintendent.

## **State of the Fellowship/Spiritual Life Report**

The State of the Fellowship address as presented by video on Tuesday evening is as follows:

*Welcome from Central Assembly, where so many formative moments of my life have been shaped. I really have to admit that I love this church because what happened here to me has shaped my life and my ministry. And although the facilities have changed over the years, the spirit of the church remains the same.*

*As a teenager, I vividly remember going to Sunday School and church "here." I also remember being baptized in the Spirit in the old sanctuary and many seasons at the altar in dedicating and rededicating my life to the Lord through my high school and college years. I would stand where I thought the pulpit would be one day and for a few moments I would come out of my shy self and pretend to be Billy Graham or C. M. Ward. Then I would get back on my bike and return to being the quiet kid that was too shy to make a book report in high school. It was in this church that my romance with my wife started. In the early days of our marriage, our two children were in the nursery and early childhood department. It was "here" that I also made many lifelong friends, served as associate pastor in my 20s, and later served a time as interim pastor. And it is "here" where I still worship when I am not traveling in ministry.*

*Life has come full circle. Our daughter and son and their two spouses are now members of Central. Our 13-year old grandson, Jacob, was on the Bible Quiz team this last school year and memorized the first 8 chapters of the Gospel of John. Our 2-year old grandson, Reese, is in the same early childhood center where our children were. Including my parents, this local church has ministered to 4 generations of our family for 55 years. Simply put, this local church and your local assembly make a difference for time and eternity.*

*The reason I selected this location to talk with you is because "church" is where my heart is. Though you may look at me today and see a general superintendent . . . I am first and foremost a pastor. It is still my heart. Even though my duties have changed, my focus is still with the church.*

*Four years ago, when I was first elected to lead our Fellowship, I felt the Lord gave me this word: "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." I sensed the Lord say to me from this Scripture that I had enjoyed everything else I had done in ministry and I was to enjoy this as well.*

*Over these past four years, my joy has been full . . . but so have been the responsibilities. Burdens and blessings seem to have a way of alternating as we have all found out in our service to the Lord. With our 100th anniversary rapidly approaching, this administration has had the privilege of addressing some of the most pressing issues facing our Fellowship. And yet, it has been abundantly evident along the way that God is helping us. He is the One that holds our future, and He has entrusted us with the work of extending the reach of His kingdom.*

*The agenda for these years was laid out in my little book, Core Values. I felt these values were really the longtime DNA of the Assemblies of God and represented a template by which this administration would function.*

*Let me talk a little about each of the five core values.*

***First, passionately proclaim by word and deed, at home and abroad, Jesus as Savior, Baptizer in the Spirit, Healer, and Soon-Coming King.***

*As the apostolic age closed, the concern of the Lord for His Church at Ephesus was that it had lost its passion—forsaking its first love. May that never be His concern for us.*

*There are so many examples of passion at work in our Fellowship. Let me just cite one.*

*Three years ago we launched the Church Multiplication Network along with a funding mechanism called AG Trust. Many of you have given generously, regularly, and even sacrificially to AG Trust and I am grateful to you. Over 160 churches have now been planted with matching funds of \$30,000 from AG Trust and these churches have already seen more than 9,500 persons come to Christ; over 2,600 baptized in water; and more than 1,200 baptized in the Spirit. They have also given over \$1.4 million to missions, and have replenished over \$800,000 to the Matching Fund pool, which helps AG Trust and the Church Multiplication Network launch more church plants. These plants are averaging 75 in attendance, and some are opening with as many as 400 or more in attendance on launch Sunday.*

*We have a whole new generation of passionate church planters who are reaching the lost in the communities of America. One of the first church planter couples who received assistance from Church Multiplication Network and AG Trust Matching Funds were John and Stephanie Van Pay. Their story was told in a video introducing AG Trust. Located in Helotes, Texas—in the northwest corner of San Antonio—their church, Gateway Fellowship, opened in February of 2008 with 283 people their first Sunday. Today, a little over three years later, they are averaging 638 and have seen over 650 people accept Christ. They have since launched a Spanish parent affiliated church called Camino Victorioso. It launched in May of 2011 with 123 people.*

*John and Stephanie are examples of passion in our Fellowship. May we all share their passion in reaching the lost.*

*I saw that passion also demonstrated for our worldwide missions at the 6th Triennial World AG Congress in Chennai, India, this last February. General superintendents, pastors, and leaders from all over the world came and for four days heaven kissed earth. In just the past 17 years, the Assemblies*

*of God has seen worldwide growth from 25 million to nearly 65 million believers. And in Chennai, the World Assemblies of God Congress declared that with the Lord's help our prayer goal was that by 2020, if the Lord tarries, the World Assemblies of God will consist of at least 100 million redeemed in 500,000 churches! There is a passion to do this. The India Assemblies of God, as an example, plans to plant at least 25,000 churches in this decade.*

*At our General Presbytery meeting in August 2010, our district superintendents and ethnic fellowship presidents set goals that cumulatively by 2020 would see the U.S. Assemblies of God at 16,500 churches and 4.5 million adherents. To accomplish this goal we will need the powerful help of the Holy Spirit and a vast army of church planters—of churches and leaders with a vision to reach the lost in America.*

*We rejoice that today the U.S. Assemblies of God is very much multiethnic. We have 15 Ethnic/Language districts and 21 ethnic fellowships. Some 33 percent of our churches are now ethnic—the fastest growing part of our Fellowship.*

*In the U.S. the Assemblies of God has enjoyed 21 straight years of growth, and for the first time we now number over 3 million adherents. The Assemblies of God is one of only two major Protestant bodies witnessing growth. That happened because of the Lord's blessing, the Spirit's enablement, and our passion for the lost.*

*The basis of all that we do involves proclamation of Jesus. The Executive Leadership Team recognized our need to passionately teach and emphasize our four core doctrines of salvation, Spirit baptism, healing, and Christ's return; therefore, we developed the iValue series sent free to every church. In addition, special focus has been given to the person and work of the Holy Spirit with print and video curriculum. Living in the Spirit is now available for children, youth, and adults.*

***The second core value is to strategically invest in the next generation.***

*More than one-third of the U.S. Assemblies of God is under the age of 25. We must do everything in our power to make sure that when these youth leave home they are grounded in their faith.*

*In the Assemblies of God, we have a great heart for compassion and being moved by the emotion of the moment. If we send out an appeal when a natural disaster occurs, the response is immediate and generous. May that always be so. But, I appeal also that we teach our people to give strategically and cognitively. We must invest in our young people if we are to see the church flourish in the next decade.*

*Less than 3,000 of our high school graduates annually enter one of our 19 endorsed post-secondary schools. That picture could change overnight if even half of our churches would take up an offering and help scholarship at least one of their young persons who could not otherwise afford to go to an Assemblies of God school. It is not acceptable that over 85 percent of our churches give nothing to the support of any of our schools.*

*Sample one of our district youth conventions, camps, national Fine Arts Festival, AIM trips, or Bible Quiz events and you will find a passionate and*

*talented generation of teenagers. We must not fail them as they move beyond high school.*

*While we are increasing our support for our schools, we also must be mindful of the secular campuses—and that we need to more than double in the next few years the outreach of Chi Alpha on the colleges and universities of America. Every church should be supporting at least one Chi Alpha worker.*

*Part of strategically investing in the next generation has come through several scholarship funds given to AG Trust. As of May, \$634,000 has been given to 205 students. One of those, the AG Next Generation Fund, helps graduating students who are entering vocational ministry pay off their student loans. One of the first couples helped was Steve and Rachel Campbell, graduates of Central Bible College. Their story was told when we first launched AG Trust in 2008. They would have had to delay their entry into the missions field by several years to pay off college debts, but with your help, they have now been commissioned as missionaries to Northern Asia and are currently itinerating for their support. You've made it possible for them and scores of other students to attend one of our schools.*

*Another aspect of strategically investing in the next generation has been to ensure that our ministerial students are getting the very best possible preparation. That's one of the reasons we began the AG Center for Holy Lands Studies. Already several of our schools have incorporated a study experience in the Bible lands into their required curriculum for ministry majors. I would encourage all of our schools to take this step. The Center also serves the ministers and laity of our Fellowship by providing tours and study trips that are affordable and enriching. Pre-trip curriculum enriches these tours and the understanding of the Bible.*

### ***The third core value is to vigorously plant new churches.***

*Last year we witnessed a distinct rise in the number of new churches begun—325. The addition of a new category of churches, parent affiliated, has proven to be a great boost to church planting. Our goal this year is to see 365 new churches begun—and ultimately, to see 500 churches begun each year until Jesus comes. We are seeing a tremendous response on our college campuses and in Chi Alpha chapters from young people who are willing to commit themselves to become part of a church planting team! The early days of the Assemblies of God were filled with young church planters—and we are returning to our roots as an increasing army of young people are willing to storm the gates of hell and plant churches in the unreached communities of America.*

*If I were writing Core Values today, I would have added a phrase. In addition to “vigorously planting new churches,” we must vigorously revitalize existing ones.*

*A little over half of U.S. Assemblies of God churches have not grown in worship attendance in the past 5 years. The General Council and district councils are increasingly becoming a resource to these pastors and churches. For this reason, the General Council has established a parallel resource to the Church Multiplication Network—the Church Transformation Network. This resource is now available to districts and churches.*

*Northside Assembly in Biloxi, Mississippi, is just one story of what the Lord is already doing through the recently launched Church Transformation Network and the Acts 2 process. Northside had plateaued at 85 in their Sunday morning worship attendance and were concerned that they were no longer growing. After meeting with a Church Transformation Network facilitator, Pastor Jeff Fillmore and his vision team, which included board members, ministry leaders, and influencers, began working through an evaluation process using the Acts 2 model. As Northside discovered their future vision path, core values, and ministry strengths, they were able to develop a strategic plan that better fit their ministry. After a 1-year, prayer-filled process, Northside then took action, and 18 months later is now running 145 in worship, with another 40 in various Sunday morning ministries. So each Sunday now Northside is ministering to approximately 185 people a week. More important, the church is still seeing steady intervals of growth.*

***The fourth core value is that we, the General Council, skillfully resource the Fellowship.***

*If you walk through our Assemblies of God resource area in the Exhibit Hall, you will see the most incredible Pentecostal resources to help in all areas of your church. In fact, the entire Assemblies of God resources exhibit experience has been designed to help you as a leader to assess the health of your church, and to customize a resource strategy that meets the needs of your specific situation. This is all based on the Acts 2 model from Acts 2:4 and Acts 2:42–47, which provides a template for the healthy church. All our resource material is grouped around the categories that describe the Acts 2 church: worship, connect, grow, serve, and go. You can learn more by visiting [www.myhealthychurch.com](http://www.myhealthychurch.com).*

*As an example of our phenomenal resource for children—the Faith Case series. Faith Case 1 provides young people grounding in our doctrine. Faith Case 2 teaches the fruit of the Spirit, and at this General Council we introduce Faith Case 3—the Beatitudes. The Children’s Fire Bible is also new off the press and joins our Student Fire Bible as a great discipleship resource.*

*I am excited about partnering with other Pentecostal organizations through shared resources. For example, the Church of God of Cleveland, Tennessee, is now utilizing our resources and making them available to their churches. Likewise, we are benefitting from some of their resources. And we are in dialogue with other Pentecostal denominations in an effort to provide the best Pentecostal resources there are. If your church has been using other curriculum and helps, I encourage you to revisit the resources we are now publishing. The new Healthy Church catalogs assist our congregations with resources that relate to each of the five aspects of a healthy church.*

*At this year’s General Council, we are launching an exciting new imprint—a publishing label designed for the 21st century. From books to apps and more, Influence Resources will publish inspiring messages and innovative media that move people. Influence will resource individuals and leaders, both in the Assemblies of God and across the broader evangelical community. This new imprint will resource our churches in a new way, while giving relevant leaders a voice of influence within the broader stream of God’s kingdom. Road Trip Leadership, my new book about doing our best for Jesus, has just been published as one of the new Influence resources.*

*For 98 years the weekly Pentecostal Evangel has proven to be the communication cement of our Fellowship. The Evangel is filled with powerful inspiring articles, reports of what God is doing around the nation and world, and testimonies of God's miracles and provision. My heartfelt desire is that every Assemblies of God family have in their home each week this outstanding periodical. I realize church budgets have tightened with the recession and that some churches have felt they needed to cut back on providing this great resource. However, I encourage you to place this publication in the hands of your people and promote it from the pulpit. I know it will bless all who read it.*

*Let me just touch on our digital resources. We are now providing free Web sites to over 4,600 Assemblies of God churches and will do so for your church if you need or want our assistance. We've launched AGTV—which carries an incredible wealth of video resources and news for you and the local church.*

***The final core value is to fervently pray for God's favor and blessing as we serve Him with pure hearts and noble purpose.***

*We must continue to be a praying people! An evangelical leader was recently talking with one of our pastors. He said, "The reason you have grown is your dependence on the Spirit. You know the wind is blowing when you see the rustling of the leaves in the trees, and feel the branches bending with the wind. You Pentecostals must not think that, since you are now more mature and experienced, you can go up to the tree, put your arms around the trunk, and shake it. You will not create much motion in the tree. Don't become spiritual tree huggers. Continue to let the wind of the Spirit blow."*

*How true that is—and only a praying church will experience the wind of God's Spirit. Our National Prayer Center has resources to strengthen the prayer ministry of your local church. Let's be people of fervent prayer!*

*Let me take a moment to look ahead to our forthcoming Centennial in 2014. With this General Council we launch the themes that will dominate the next four years through our emphasis on our four reasons for being: 2011—discipleship; 2012—compassion; 2013—worship; and 2014—evangelism. As part of this focus, the theme of this Council is Make Your Mark on Our Movement. Over these next few years, we are challenging the leaders in our Fellowship with one simple question: What will God do through you to shape our next 100 years? These years will culminate in August 2014 when we host the World Assemblies of God Fellowship in a great World Congress held in Springfield, Missouri. You will be hearing more about that in the coming days.*

*Over these past two years, three of our former officers have gone to be with the Lord: Joseph R. Flower, Raymond H. Hudson, and James K. Bridges. One former executive presbyter, Armon Newburn, has also joined them in heaven. Another outstanding leader who blessed the Kingdom and our church, David Wilkerson has been called home for eternity. We are grateful for these leaders and the indelible mark they made on our Movement. Like them . . . we are all called to a life of sacrifice and service to the Kingdom.*

*I also want to acknowledge and thank the team that serves with me. I am so grateful for my brothers in leadership—Alton Garrison, Jim Bradford, Doug Clay, John Bueno, and Zollie Smith. You have blessed the kingdom of God with your selection of these outstanding men.*

*I'm grateful too for the hundreds of employees of the General Council who serve this Fellowship with such great distinction and talent. Their ministry and service is noted and felt every day.*

*But last, I want you to know that I'm grateful to you—our pastors, ministers, teachers in our colleges and Bible colleges preparing the next generation for vocational and lay ministry, our evangelists, and missionaries—all of our ministers and laity and your families for the great faithful work you do each day winning others to Christ, building them in their faith, and encouraging them in their walk with the Lord. You and your work is what the kingdom of God is all about. Thank you—heartfelt—thank you for all you do for both your commitment to Christ and life of ministry.*

*As I close here . . . I am reminded about the faithfulness of God and how He works through people. When Pentecost came to Springfield in 1907, the Assemblies of God did not exist yet, and wouldn't for another 7 years. It was birthed in the hearts of just a few people in the Corum's home on Division Street as Sister Rachael Sizelove brought the message from Azusa.*

*As the Holy Spirit was poured out and touched believers here, lives were forever invigorated and changed. They committed themselves to sharing this full gospel message with everyone they knew. Yet it took time for the church to be established. Much groundwork and great sacrifices were made. One such example is Amanda Benedict who fasted and prayed for a year over the location of this church, living only on bread and water.*

*These pioneers would never know or see all that God had in store for the future. Yet the Lord would use them to establish not only a great church, but also a Bible school for training ministers. And later to prayerfully secure two blocks of land that would eventually be home to our national offices and ministries. From these properties the gospel would be distributed by the ton and missionaries would be sent out across the world by the thousands. And years later a college of arts and sciences for equipping laity and a seminary would be established. In time, other assemblies would spring up to reach countless thousands for Christ in this area.*

*But just think, it all started with Holy Spirit moving in the lives of one . . . and then a few . . . and eventually many.*

*Fellow co-workers in the gospel, I want you to hear this . . . you and I have no way of knowing the end result of the work God has called us to do. It may be little now, it may be difficult, it may be discouraging at times, it may even seem "stuck" to you . . . but be assured of this . . . when we are faithful—God is at work, and when the Holy Spirit is welcome and is driving your church . . . your future . . . the church's future is in great hands. With Him at the wheel . . . people will be touched, lives will be saved, the sick will find healing, and weary hearts will be rekindled and consumed with passion. And still, the best is yet to come . . . soon Christ will return for His church.*

*Friends, through the power of the Holy Spirit . . . this is our destiny. On our own, the mark we leave will only be insignificant and temporal. But with Him, the mark He leaves is always deep and eternal. When the Holy Spirit is in it . . . our human contribution becomes enormous.*

*Will you stay the course and join me? Let's be the generation to see a great awakening in America and throughout the world. Through Him, may we be the ones to facilitate and see His Spirit poured out on all flesh! Together, working through Him . . . we can do it!*

### **Assistant General Superintendent's Report**

L. Alton Garrison presented the report of the assistant general superintendent with an emphasis on evangelism resources available through Church Ministries and the Healthy Church Network and debuting the new *Faith Case: The Beatitudes*.

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

### **General Secretary's Report**

James T. Bradford presented the general secretary's report sharing various statistics for the past biennium. He indicated that the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center is the world's largest resource for evangelical and Pentecostal historical materials, and scholars from all over the world access the information provided by the center.

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

### **General Treasurer's Report and General Council Audit Report**

Doug Clay presented the general treasurer's report which included the financial report of the General Council and its affiliates as well as the Audit Report. He pointed out that once again the General Council, as well as all of the affiliates, has received a clean and unqualified opinion from the audit firm BKD.

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

### **Executive Director of Assemblies of God World Missions Report**

L. John Bueno presented the Assemblies of God World Missions report. He was given a standing ovation before presenting his report from Assemblies of God World Missions which included statistical reports as well as various accomplishments that have occurred over the past decade.

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

### **Executive Director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions Report**

Zollie L. Smith, Jr., presented the report from Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, preceded by a video highlighting the spiritual state of America.

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

### **Roster Report**

David L. Wigington, co-chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of Wednesday morning, August 3, 2011:

<b>VOTING:</b>		
Ordained	2,178	
Licensed	536	
Delegates	257	
Executive Presbyters	20	
General Presbyters	229	
	Voting Constituency	3,220
<b>NONVOTING:</b>		
Exhibitors	1,328	
Auxiliary Staff	83	
Certified	249	
Fine Arts/AIM	6,093	
General Attendees	8,270	
Kids Council	356	
Guests	82	
Other	318	
Staff	200	
	Nonvoting Constituency	<u>16,979</u>
	<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION</b>	<b>20,199</b>

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

### **Electronic Voting Instructions**

The General Council used an electronic voting system. Mark Christianson, General Council Systems Development, presented the electronic voting instructions, both orally and by video. A practice vote was taken to help familiarize the delegates with the electronic voting procedure.

### **Election of Assistant General Superintendent**

The general secretary read Constitution Article IX, Section 1, paragraph a, and Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph a, pertaining to the election of the assistant general superintendent. J. Don George, executive presbyter from the South Central Area, led in prayer for God's guidance during the election process. The ballot was cast for the election of assistant general superintendent and the chairman declared the voting closed.

Rollin J. Carlson, chairman of the Tellers Committee, gave the following report of the nominating ballot for the office of assistant general superintendent:

Total votes cast	1,905
Invalid votes	8
Votes needed to elect	1,265
L. Alton Garrison	1,302

Having noted that L. Alton Garrison received well in excess of the two-thirds vote required, the chairman declared L. Alton Garrison reelected to the position of assistant general superintendent for a 4-year term to expire in 2015.

The chairman introduced L. Alton Garrison and asked Johanna Garrison to join him on the platform. He expressed his deep appreciation for the confidence placed in him.

The following is a list of all other nominees: Charles J. Aaron 2, Vernon G. Ables 1, Loyd E. Adams, Jr., 1, Thomas Adams 1, Ricardo C. Allen 1, Gordon L. Anderson 1, Clarence Andrews, Jr., 1, James D. Arnett 2, James R. Arnold 1, Mario Aviles 2, Corey M. Baker 1, Timothy R. Baker 1, Tommy J. Barnett 3, Jill S. Barker 1, Tim R. Barker 1, W. Donald Barnes 1, Almon M. Bartholomew 1, Gregory L. Beggs 4, Omar J. Beiler 1, Forrest G. Beiser, Jr., 1, M. Wayne Benson 1, C. Dan Betzer 10, M. Wayne Blackburn 1, Gary J.

Blanchard 1, Stephen L. Bland 2, James R. Braddy 4, James A. Bradford III, 1, James T. Bradford 49, C. Edwin Bradford 1, Debra S. Bradley 1, M. Ray Brewer 2, Stephen E. Brimmer 1, Joseph Bruno 1, Alex L. Bryant, Jr., 2, L. John Bueno 2, Robert J. Bueno 1, Warren D. Bullock 4, Michael R. Burnette, Jr., 1, Ima G. Butler 1, Joann E. Butrin 1, Refugio Cancino 1, H. Franklin Cargill 13, Ted L. Cederblom 1, Anthony J. Cervero 3, Steven D. Chandler 1, Daniel R. Chanowski 1, Douglas F. Clark 1, Douglas E. Clay 61, Robert L. Clay 2, Donald C. Clayborn 1, Aaron A. Cole 1, Curtis L. Cole 1, Glen D. Cole 6, Carl J. Colletti 5, Richard D. Collins 1, G. Robert Cook, Jr., 5, Roman A. Cordero 1, Abe M. Daniel 1, Arthur J. Dawson 1, Gary A. Denbow 1, Daniel DeLeon 2, Marvin R. Dennis 1, Donald H. Detrick 1, Michael E. Dickenson 2, David W. Dillon 1, Richard Dresselhaus 3, Richard W. DuBose 14, Duane P. Durst 1, Milton E. Dykes 1, C. Dale Edwards 1, W. Mark Elliott 1, Gene Emswiler 1, Edward L. Ferguson 1, David W. Flower 1, Wayne E. Francis 2, Claude C. Franco 1, Douglas E. Fulenwider 1, Trenton W. Gabbard, Jr., 1, Jacinto C. Garcia 1, Glenn E. Garrison 1, Michael A. Garrison 4, Orville D. Garrison 1, William C. Garrison 3, Antonio Garza 1, Hilario Garza 1, Donald R. George 2, J. Ron George 5, Donald Geraci 1, Donald G. Gifford 4, Deborah M. Gill 2, Joseph S. Girdler 3, Saturnino Gonzalez 6, Saul D. Gonzalez 3, J. Clayton Good 1, Marvin E. Gorman 1, Douglas M. Graham 1, A. Elizabeth Grant 10, David L. Grant 1, Kevin R. Graves 1, Thomas W. Greene 1, Larry H. Griswold 7, David L. Gross 1, Richard M. Guerra 7, Dillon O. K. Ham 1, Thomas E. Hammel 2, Andy C. Harris 3, Stephen L. Harris 15, Ronald L. Hawkins 1, Jay A. Herndon 1, Jason S. Hirsch 1, Aaron M. Hlavin 2, Gary L. Hoyt 1, Lokenauth Hublal 3, Samuel M. Huddleston 1, Randy Hurst 1, Thomas M. Jacobs 3, Donald A. James 2, R. Bryan Jarrett 2, Bobby L. Johnson 1, Gregg T. Johnson 1, John E. Johnson 1, Gary Jones 1, Gary L. Jones 2, Johnny E. Jones 1, Peter A. Joudry 1, Perry L. Kallevig 2, Bruce A. Kallies 1, Charles O. Kelly 1, Nam Soo Kim 1, Byron D. Klaus 1, Bryan D. Koch 1, Wayne E. Kraiss 1, Richard D. Lafferty 2, Thomas D. Lakey 1, Jeffrey S. Leake 1, H. Maurice Lednicky 3, Mark A. Lehmann 1, Ben E. Leonard 1, John E. Lindell 14, Thomas H. Lindberg 1, Rodney K. Loy 16, John C. Martin 1, Rick N. McCullough 1, Lee McFarland 1, Scott A. McGillis 1, Ronald F. McManus 2, William W. Menzies 1, R. Leigh Metcalf 1, Daniel J. Miller 1, Ted A. Miller 1, Jesse Miranda, Jr., 4, Larry Moore 1, Gregory M. Mundis 2, John T. Murdoch, Jr., 1, E. Wayne Murray 1, Sergio Navarrete 2, G. Edward Nelson 1, Billy R. Newby 1, E. Don Nordin, Jr. 6, Daniel T. Norman 1, Rogelio A. Ovalle 2, John M. Palmer 1, Heber A. Paredes 1, Lowell S. Perkins 1, Jeffrey T. Peterson 1, Gary I. Pilcher 1, Daniel J. Pongratz 1, Randall R. Popineau 2, Terrell R. Raburn 1, T. Ray Rachels 15, Michael L. Rakes 1, Kent D. Redfean 1, Edgar L. Reed 1, Rafael Reyes 2, H. Robert Rhoden 3, Gary L. Rice 1, Ronald L. Richardson 1, Dennis J. Rivera 2, Danny L. Robinson 1, Ronald G. Rockwell 1, Edward Rodriguez 3, Gene M. Roncone II, 1, Bradley H. Rosenberg 1, D. Rick Ross 1, Randal L. Ross 6, Neil M. Ruda 1, Clarence W. St. John 5, Walter D. Scott 1, Frank J. Seminerio 1, Larry R. Smith 1, Victor E. Smith 1, Zollie L. Smith, Jr., 14, Ralph E. Snook 1, Christopher Sopke, Sr., 1, Robert H. Spence 2, Donald H. Steiger 2, Jerry A. Strandquist 1, Stephen C. Sullivan 1, Edmund L. Tedeschi 1, Scott R. Temple 1, Stanley J. Tharp 1, Stephen R. Tourville 5, Bradley T. Trask 2, Stephen R. Tripp 1, George J. Valco 1, Randy L. Valimont 10, Dawn Visconti 1, William D. Wampler 1, Alan E. Warneke 1, Robert D. Weis 1, Roy W. Welch, Jr. 1, Stanley L. Welch 1, Leslie E. Welk 8, Charles E. White, Jr., 1, Justin White 1, James A. Williams 1, William E. Wilson 1, Robert Wise, Jr. 3, Martin D. Wixson II, 1, George O. Wood 6, George P. Wood 3, George C. Woods 2, John R. Wootton 1, Terry L. Yancey 2

### Roster Report

David L. Wigington, co-chairman of the Roster Committee, gave a second report as of Wednesday morning, August 3, 2011:

#### VOTING:

Ordained	2,191
Licensed	538
Delegates	262
Executive Presbyters	20

General Presbyters	<u>229</u>	
Voting Constituency		3,240
<b>NONVOTING:</b>		
Exhibitors	1,331	
Auxiliary Staff	83	
Certified	254	
Fine Arts/AIM	6,094	
General Attendees	8,323	
Kids Council	358	
Guests	82	
Other	319	
Staff	<u>200</u>	
Nonvoting Constituency		<u>17,044</u>
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION</b>		<u>20,284</u>

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

### **Election of General Secretary**

Doug Clay, general treasurer, read Constitution Article IX, Section 1, paragraph a, and Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph b, pertaining to the election of general secretary and executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions.

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

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

Total votes cast	2,039
Needed to elect	1,360
James T. Bradford	1,963

Having noted that James T. Bradford received a number of votes in excess of the two-thirds required, the chairman declared James T. Bradford elected to the position of general secretary for a 4-year term to expire in 2015.

The general superintendent introduced James T. Bradford and asked Sandi Bradford to join him on the platform. He expressed his appreciation and the great honor it is for him to serve this Fellowship.

### **Election of Executive Director Assemblies of God World Missions**

The general superintendent called for the vote of the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions and presented the names of Omar J. Beiler, Randy Hurst, H. Ronald Maddux, and Gregory M. Mundis as the nominees from the General Presbytery for the position of executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions. The ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first elective ballot for executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions:

Total votes cast	2,026
Invalid votes	12
Needed to elect	1,343
Omar J. Beiler	336

Randy Hurst	669
H. Ronald Maddux	420
Gregory M. Mundis	589

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

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the second elective ballot for executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions:

Total votes cast	1,911
Invalid votes	4
Needed to elect	1,272
Omar J. Beiler	142
Randy Hurst	811
H. Ronald Maddux	257
Gregory M. Mundis	697

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

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the third elective ballot for executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions:

Total votes cast	1,810
Invalid votes	2
Needed to elect	1,206
Omar J. Beiler	24
Randy Hurst	941
H. Ronald Maddux	57
Gregory M. Mundis	786

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

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the fourth elective ballot for executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions:

Total votes cast	1,742
Invalid votes	14
Needed to elect	1,152
Omar J. Beiler	30
Randy Hurst	772
H. Ronald Maddux	28
Gregory M. Mundis	898

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

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the fifth elective ballot for executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions:

Total votes cast	1,700
Invalid votes	2
Needed to elect	1,132
Omar J. Beiler	22
Randy Hurst	504
H. Ronald Maddux	20
Gregory M. Mundis	1,152

Having noted that Gregory M. Mundis received a number of votes in excess of the two-thirds required, the chairman declared Gregory M. Mundis, elected to the position of executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions for a 4-year term to expire in 2015.

Gregory M. Mundis, joined by his wife Sandra, shared the Scripture verse Mark 10:45. He expressed his thanks to the body for their trust and confidence and expressed his love and affection to his colleagues—Omar J. Beiler, Randy Hurst, and H. Ronald Maddux.

### **Thomas A. Barclay** **United Pentecostal Council of the Assemblies of God**

The general superintendent introduced Reverend Thomas A. Barclay, international presiding elder, of the United Pentecostal Council of the Assemblies of God. Reverend Barclay expressed appreciation to Superintendent George O. Wood for the love and fellowship that has been extended to him. He stated that when he was elected as the leader of the United Pentecostal Council of the Assemblies of God, a fellowship which has existed for over 92 years, he felt the Lord wanted us to come together and the Lord is allowing that to happen.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 10:30 a.m. for a Communion service and a message from L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent, to reconvene at 2:30 p.m.

### **Communion Service**

The Communion service was held at the Phoenix Convention Center. Ricardo Sanchez led in worship.

Assistant General Superintendent L. Alton Garrison brought the message and presided during the Communion service and was assisted by members of the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery.

L. Alton Garrison drew truths about tests and trials from the life of the apostle Peter, highlighting the way his life was transformed by tests throughout the Gospels. The tests that Peter faced were:

#### **1. The Test of Surrender**

Peter's relationship with Jesus began at a place of surrender. In Luke 5, Jesus helped him catch a huge load of fish, which could have been the event and strategy to put Peter's fishing business on the map. But, Jesus has a different partnership in mind and called Peter to follow Him and learn how to fish for people.

#### **2. The Test of Trust**

When Jesus called Peter to walk on water, He was testing how much Peter truly trusted Him. At first, everything worked well—until Peter took his eyes off Jesus and put them on the storm. Moments like this in our own lives will test our trust in Jesus too.

#### **3. The Test of Persecution**

Peter's next test came in Mark 8, when Jesus told His disciples that He would be killed. Peter attempted to argue with Jesus. Persecution may be part of the deal. One of the unfortunate realities of ministry is opposition: from Satan, from the world, and even from people we're trying to lead in our churches.

#### **4. The Test of Self-Assessment**

Peter faced this test in Luke 22 when he declared that he would accompany Jesus to prison or to death, but Jesus said he would deny his Savior three times. Don't be presumptuous, don't be prideful, don't be arrogant. If you think you're not capable of

failure, you put yourself in a dangerous position. A healthy leader must be willing to conduct self-assessments.

### **5. The Test of Crisis**

In Luke 22, Peter faced his crisis moment. He denied Jesus. He wept bitterly after realizing what he had done. Pastors and leaders in churches face times of crisis when their tanks are empty or at least depleted. Prayers feel like they never get past the ceiling.

### **6. The Test of Hope**

Garrison shared the story of the hopelessness his mother faced when his father was hospitalized with Alzheimer's. His father over the years had been miraculously healed numerous times, but this time the miracle didn't come. She didn't lose her faith; what she lost was her hope. If faith is related to miracles, hope is related to morale. Hope is that confident, happy anticipation of something that's about to happen.

### **7. The Test of Surrender—Again**

Jesus gave Peter another chance in John 21, a crossroads in his life. The tests came full circle, and Peter was very clear about where he is, and he knew what it was going to cost him. He understood the price and was willing to pay it.

Garrison encouraged people in the audience to respond to God's call to surrender and to allow the Holy Spirit to work in their lives by transforming them through tests and trials. The service ended with an extended time of prayer.

## **WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 3**

The Wednesday afternoon session begin at 2:30 p.m. The chairman called the meeting to order and asked Thomas J. Barclay to offer prayer for the afternoon session and for the unification that has been experienced.

### **Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Awards**

G. Robert Cook, Jr., executive vice president of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education, presented the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Awards. He introduced the following who had been honored during the Educators Luncheon: Deborah M. Gill, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary; Margo M. Lloyd, North Central University; Robert B. Turnbull, Evangel University; John W. Wyckoff, Southwestern Assemblies of God University. The following citation was given to each one:

### **Deborah M. Gill**

WHEREAS, The Doctor Deborah M. Gill has distinguished herself in our Fellowship by consistent excellence in teaching and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian Higher Education in the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Gill has served the Lord as a Faculty Member at Central Bible College from 1976–1980, North Central University from 1983–1997, as National Director of the Division of Christian Education from 2002–2006, as a Faculty Member at Assemblies of God Theological Seminary from 2006–present, and has been nominated by the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

- WHEREAS, Doctor Gill, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Teaching, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in May 2011, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; be it therefore
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 9–11, 2011, recognizes Doctor Deborah M. Gill as a distinguished educator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for her faithful and excellent service to the Church; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery express thanks to our Lord who appointed Doctor Gill among those teachers given to the Church “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12); and be it further
- RESOLVED, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education Luncheon, August 3, 2011, Phoenix, Arizona.

### **Margo M. Lloyd**

- WHEREAS, The Doctor Margo M. Lloyd has distinguished herself in our Fellowship by consistent excellence in teaching and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian Higher Education in the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, Doctor Lloyd has served the Lord as a Faculty Member at North Central University from 1988 to the present, Education Department Chair from 2002–2007, holds Teacher Certification with the State of Minnesota, and has been nominated by the North Central University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, Doctor Lloyd, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Teaching, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in May 2011, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; be it therefore
- WHEREAS, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 9–11, 2011, recognizes Doctor Margo M. Lloyd as a distinguished educator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for her faithful and excellent service to the Church; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery express thanks to our Lord who appointed Doctor Lloyd among those teachers given to the Church “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12); and be it further
- RESOLVED, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education Luncheon, August 3, 2011, Phoenix, Arizona.

## **Robert B. Turnbull**

- WHEREAS, The Doctor Robert B. Turnbull has distinguished himself in our Fellowship by consistent excellence in teaching and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian Higher Education in the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, Doctor Turnbull has served the Lord as a Faculty Member at Evangel University from 1973–1978 and 1989 to the present, Chair of the Humanities Department from 1977–1978 and 1989–2008, and has been nominated by the Evangel University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, Doctor Turnbull, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Teaching, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in May 2011, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; be it therefore
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 9–11, 2011, recognizes Doctor Robert B. Turnbull as a distinguished educator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for his faithful and excellent service to the Church; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery express thanks to our Lord who appointed Doctor Turnbull among those teachers given to the Church “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12); and be it further
- RESOLVED, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education Luncheon, August 3, 2011, Phoenix, Arizona.

## **John W. Wyckoff**

- WHEREAS, The Doctor John W. Wyckoff has distinguished himself in our Fellowship by consistent excellence in teaching and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian Higher Education in the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, Doctor Wyckoff has served the Lord as a Faculty Member at Southwestern Assemblies of God University from 1966 to the present, Chair of the Bible & Church Ministries Department from 1983–1987, Graduate Chair of the Theological Studies Department from 1996–Present, and has been nominated by the Southwestern Assemblies of God University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, Doctor Wyckoff, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Teaching, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in May 2011, to receive the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Award; be it therefore
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 9–11, 2011, recognizes Doctor John W. Wyckoff as a

distinguished educator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for his faithful and excellent service to the Church; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery express thanks to our Lord who appointed Doctor Wyckoff among those teachers given to the Church “for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12); and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education Luncheon, August 3, 2011, Phoenix, Arizona.

### **Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Award**

G. Robert Cook, Jr., executive vice president of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education, introduced the recipient of the Distinguished Administrator Award—Patrick G. Gallagher, Zion Bible College. The citation issued to him during the Educators Luncheon is as follows:

#### **Patrick G. Gallagher**

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

WHEREAS, Doctor Gallagher served the Lord as Director of Admissions and Records at Zion Bible College from 1987–1990, Assistant to the Dean of Academics from 1987–1991, Dean of Academics from 1991–present, Senior Vice President from 2008–present, and has been nominated by the Zion Bible College Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Gallagher, having met the criteria of Service, Scholarship, Administration, and Character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education to receive the Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Award; be it therefore

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in session June 9–11, 2011, recognizes Doctor Patrick G. Gallagher as having been a distinguished administrator in our Fellowship and expresses sincere appreciation for his faithful and excellent service to the Church; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery express thanksgiving to our Lord who appointed Doctor Gallagher among those with gifts of administration and leadership (Romans 12:8, 1 Corinthians 12:28); and be it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution be read publicly by a representative of the Executive Presbytery on the occasion of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education Luncheon, August 3, 2011, Phoenix, Arizona.

## Roster Report

David L. Wigington, co-chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of 2 p.m., Wednesday, August 3, 2011:

### VOTING:

Ordained	2,213	
Licensed	542	
Delegates	267	
Executive Presbyters	20	
General Presbyters	229	
Voting Constituency		3,271

### NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	1,337	
Auxiliary Staff	83	
Certified	263	
Fine Arts/AIM	6,096	
General Attendees	8,569	
Kids Council	363	
Guests	88	
Other	321	
Staff	200	
Nonvoting Constituency		<u>17,320</u>
TOTAL REGISTRATION		20,591

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

### Introduction of William (Billy) Wilson EMPOWERED21

The chairman introduced Dr. Billy Wilson, president of Awakening America Alliance. He presented information regarding EMPOWERED21. He explained more about the ministry of EMPOWERED21 and distributed a brochure to the delegates.

### Resolution 6. Staggered Terms for Nonresident Executive Presbyters

John R. Wootton, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, introduced the members of the Resolutions Committee and expressed appreciation for their willingness to serve on this committee. He indicated that different members of the committee will be presenting the resolutions. He asked Nicholas W. Fatato to present Resolution 6.

Nicholas W. Fatato presented Resolution 6. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 6 as follows:

- WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution provides for 14 persons other than the Executive Leadership Team to be members of the Executive Presbytery; and
- WHEREAS, The terms of these 14 persons are for 2 years; and
- WHEREAS, The terms of the Executive Leadership Team are 4 years, with staggered terms of three members of the Executive Leadership Team being elected at each General Council; and
- WHEREAS, The total number of elections now at each General Council totals 17 (14 nonresident executive presbyters and 3 members of the Executive Leadership Team); and
- WHEREAS, Almost a full day of business at the General Council is spent on elections; and

- WHEREAS, It would also be wisdom to provide 4-year terms for all members of the Executive Presbytery thereby providing continuity in leadership and efficient use of General Council time; and
- WHEREAS, Constitutional verbiage related to the terms of office for the executive directors of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions and Assemblies of God World Missions should be associated with the Executive Leadership Team instead of the Executive Presbytery; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 2. Executive Presbytery, paragraph a. Composition and terms of office, page 96, which reads:

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

Be amended to read:

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

And be it further:

- RESOLVED, That at this General Council the following nonresident members of the Executive Presbytery be elected to 2-year terms:
- Northwest Area representative
  - Southwest Area representative
  - North Central Area representative
  - South Central Area representative
  - Language Area—West Spanish representative
  - Ethnic Fellowship representative
  - Ordained Pastor under 40 Years of Age representative

And be it further:

- RESOLVED, That at this General Council the following nonresident members of the Executive Presbytery be elected to 4-year terms:
- Great Lakes Area representative
  - Gulf Area representative
  - Northeast Area representative
  - Southeast Area representative

Language Area—East Spanish representative  
Language Area—Other representative  
Ordained Female representative

And be it further:

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 1. Executive Officers, paragraph b. Executive Leadership Team, page 96, which now reads:

**b. Executive Leadership Team.** The General Council officers along with the executive directors of Assemblies of God World Missions and Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall constitute an Executive Leadership Team. Members of the Executive Leadership Team shall be amenable to the actions of the Executive Presbytery within duties prescribed in the Bylaws.

Be amended to read:

**b. Executive Leadership Team.** The General Council officers along with the executive directors of Assemblies of God World Missions and Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall constitute an Executive Leadership Team. The terms of office for the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions and the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall continue for 4 years or until their successors qualify. Members of the Executive Leadership Team shall be amenable to the actions of the Executive Presbytery within duties prescribed in the Bylaws.

#### **Election of Executive Presbyter—Northwest Area**

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

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

Total votes cast	1,541
Needed to elect	1,028
Invalid votes	10
Warren D. Bullock	587
Scott R. Erickson	101
Doyle A. Fulkes	47
Paul D. Goodman	56
Albert (Al) G. Miller	16
Gary L. Morton	86
Terry W. Petty	24
Alan E. Warneke	49
Roy W. (Bill) Welch III	73
Leslie E. Welk	156
William (Bill) E. Wilson	248
Daniel M. York	88

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

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

Total votes cast	1,604
Needed to elect	1,067
Invalid votes	4
Warren D. Bullock	945
Scott R. Erickson	69
Doyle A. Fulkes	23
Paul D. Goodman	25
Albert (Al) G. Miller	6
Gary L. Morton	55
Terry W. Petty	10
Alan E. Warneke	19
Roy W. (Bill) Welch III	39
Leslie E. Welk	113
William (Bill) E. Wilson	250
Daniel M. York	46

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

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

Total votes cast	1,577
Needed to elect	1,050
Invalid votes	2
Warren D. Bullock	1,314
Scott R. Erickson	23
Doyle A. Fulkes	10
Paul D. Goodman	9
Albert (Al) G. Miller	1
Gary L. Morton	20
Terry W. Petty	3
Alan E. Warneke	8
Roy W. (Bill) Welch III	15
Leslie E. Welk	40
William (Bill) E. Wilson	114
Daniel M. York	18

Having noted that Warren D. Bullock received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Northwest Area for a 2-year term to expire in 2013.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter—Southwest Area**

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

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

Total votes cast	1,531
Needed to elect	1,019
Invalid votes	3
James R. Braddy	216
Glen D. Cole	283
Richard M. Guerra	155
Stephen L. Harris	259

Klayton A. Ko	95
George K. Nagato	61
Randall F. (Randy) Popineau	40
T. Ray Rachels	355
Donald H. Steiger	64

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

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

Total votes cast	1,502
Needed to elect	1,000
Invalid votes	2
James R. Braddy	185
Glen D. Cole	239
Richard M. Guerra	104
Stephen L. Harris	235
Klayton A. Ko	50
George K. Nagato	22
Randall F. (Randy) Popineau	9
T. Ray Rachels	631
Donald H. Steiger	25

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

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

Total votes cast	1,514
Needed to elect	1,008
Invalid votes	3
James R. Braddy	73
Glen D. Cole	97
Richard M. Guerra	38
Stephen L. Harris	133
Klayton A. Ko	18
George K. Nagato	8
Randall F. (Randy) Popineau	6
T. Ray Rachels	1,132
Donald H. Steiger	6

Having noted that T. Ray Rachels received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him elected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Southwest Area for a 2-year term to expire in 2013.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter—North Central Area**

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

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

Total votes cast	1,467
Needed to elect	979
Invalid votes	7
M. Ray Brewer	126
Jerry A. Brooks	34
Leon D. Freitag	46
J. Lowell Harrup	102
Gary L. Hoyt	95
Thomas M. Jacobs	80
Larry A. Liebe	86
Darrell D. Losing	11
Gary L. Pilcher	55
Clarence W. St. John	593
Dwight A. Sandoz	64
Stephen R. Schaible	28
Edmund L. Tedeschi	85
Ronald J. Traub	55

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

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

Total votes cast	1,427
Needed to elect	952
Invalid votes	3
M. Ray Brewer	100
Jerry A. Brooks	12
Leon D. Freitag	16
J. Lowell Harrup	61
Gary L. Hoyt	32
Thomas M. Jacobs	37
Larry A. Liebe	19
Darrell D. Losing	2
Gary L. Pilcher	20
Clarence W. St. John	1,071
Dwight A. Sandoz	15
Stephen R. Schaible	9
Edmund L. Tedeschi	15
Ronald J. Traub	15

Having noted that Clarence W. St. John received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the North Central Area for a 2-year term to expire in 2013.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter—South Central Area**

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

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

Total votes cast	1,422
Needed to elect	949
Invalid votes	7

Tim E. Barker	62
Glenn R. Beaver	18
H. Franklin Cargill	109
Vance A. Cauthon	12
T. Craig Dacus	37
Micheal E. Dickenson	59
Richard W. DuBose	244
J. Don George	591
Thomas D. Lakey	36
E. Don Nordin, Jr.	60
David C. Vistine	20
Terry L. Yancey	167

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

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

Total votes cast	1,397
Needed to elect	932
Invalid votes	3
Tim E. Barker	26
Glenn R. Beaver	5
H. Franklin Cargill	42
Vance A. Cauthon	1
T. Craig Dacus	10
Micheal E. Dickenson	15
Richard W. DuBose	262
J. Don George	899
Thomas D. Lakey	9
E. Don Nordin, Jr.	27
David C. Vistine	3
Terry L. Yancey	95

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

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

Total votes cast	1,357
Needed to elect	905
Invalid votes	4
Tim E. Barker	8
Glenn R. Beaver	2
H. Franklin Cargill	18
Vance A. Cauthon	4
T. Craig Dacus	6
Micheal E. Dickenson	3
Richard W. DuBose	172
J. Don George	1,078
Thomas D. Lakey	6
E. Don Nordin, Jr.	12
David C. Vistine	1
Terry L. Yancey	43

Having noted that J. Don George received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the South Central Area for a 2-year term to expire in 2013.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter—Great Lakes Area**

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

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

Total votes cast	1,090
Needed to elect	727
Invalid votes	1
David W. Dillon	37
Donald G. Gifford	61
Joseph S. Girdler	48
Larry H. Griswold	436
David L. Gross	34
Ron L. Hawkins	36
John K. Jordan	67
William F. Leach	71
Douglas N. Lowery	24
Bradley T. Trask	176
John R. Wootton	99

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

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

Total votes cast	1,097
Needed to elect	732
Invalid votes	2
David W. Dillon	13
Donald G. Gifford	30
Joseph S. Girdler	16
Larry H. Griswold	774
David L. Gross	6
Ron L. Hawkins	14
John K. Jordan	23
William F. Leach	24
Douglas N. Lowery	7
Bradley T. Trask	134
John R. Wootton	54

Having noted that Larry H. Griswold received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Great Lakes Area for a 4-year term to expire in 2015.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter—Gulf Area**

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

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

Total votes cast	1,056
Needed to elect	705
Invalid votes	4
Terry G. Bailey	42
Bill R. Baker	41
Glenn H. Burks	9
Gene Emswiler	12
Douglas E. Fulenwider	336
Rodney K. Loy	442
Larry Moore	70
Billy R. Newby	53
Walter L. Rose	21
Robert B. Wilburn	26

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

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

Total votes cast	1,063
Needed to elect	709
Invalid votes	0
Terry G. Bailey	20
Bill R. Baker	11
Glenn H. Burks	2
Gene Emswiler	4
Douglas E. Fulenwider	243
Rodney K. Loy	730
Larry Moore	30
Billy R. Newby	14
Walter L. Rose	4
Robert B. Wilburn	5

Having noted that Rodney K. Loy received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him elected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Gulf Area for a 4-year term to expire in 2015.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter—Northeast Area**

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

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

Total votes cast	991
Needed to elect	661
Invalid votes	1
Carl J. Colletti	71
Duane P. Durst	67
Larry F. Hickey	26
Donald A. James	45
Bryan D. Koch	60

Richard D. Lafferty	29
Ronald A. Ludlam	11
Dennis W. Marquardt	36
H. Robert Rhoden	477
Jerry W. Terry	43
Stephen R. Tourville	72
Robert Wise, Jr.	53

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

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

Total votes cast	972
Needed to elect	648
Invalid votes	0
Carl J. Colletti	42
Duane P. Durst	24
Larry F. Hickey	12
Donald A. James	13
Bryan D. Koch	23
Richard D. Lafferty	7
Ronald A. Ludlam	3
Dennis W. Marquardt	8
H. Robert Rhoden	768
Jerry W. Terry	11
Stephen R. Tourville	38
Robert Wise, Jr.	23

Having noted that H. Robert Rhoden received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Northeast Area for a 4-year term to expire in 2015.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter—Southeast Area**

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

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

Total votes cast	949
Needed to elect	633
Invalid votes	0
C. Dan Betzer	550
Larry S. Burgbacher	28
Kenneth W. Draughon	18
Phil F. Edwards	14
Charles O. Kelly	22
Thomas G. Lawrence	6
John A. Loper, Jr.	19
Ronald F. McManus	121
Victor E. Smith	12
Robert S. Thompson	4
Randy L. Valimont	155

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

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

Total votes cast	933
Needed to elect	623
Invalid votes	1
C. Dan Betzer	768
Larry S. Burgbacher	13
Kenneth W. Draughon	2
Phil F. Edwards	2
Charles O. Kelly	5
Thomas G. Lawrence	2
John A. Loper, Jr.	4
Ronald F. McManus	28
Victor E. Smith	6
Robert S. Thompson	1
Randy L. Valimont	101

Having noted that C. Dan Betzer received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Southeast Area for a 4-year term to expire in 2015.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter Language Area—East Spanish**

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

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

Total votes cast	802
Needed to elect	535
Invalid votes	4
Wilfredo DeJesus	117
Saturnino Gonzalez	441
Clemente Maldonado, Jr.	85
Rafael Reyes	74
Edward Rodriguez	25
Jose R. Ruiz	27
Juan H. Suarez	29

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

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

Total votes cast	829
Needed to elect	553
Invalid votes	5
Wilfredo DeJesus	76
Saturnino Gonzalez	687

Clemente Maldonado, Jr.	20
Rafael Reyes	25
Edward Rodriguez	3
Jose R. Ruiz	9
Juan H. Suarez	4

Having noted that Saturnino Gonzalez had received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Language Area—East Spanish for a 4-year term to expire in 2015.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter Language Area—West Spanish**

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

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

Total votes cast	1,263
Needed to elect	843
Invalid votes	4
Daniel DeLeon	165
Gary Jones	153
Saul Gonzalez	43
Rigoberto Magana	60
Jesse Miranda, Jr.	585
Rogelio Ovalle	18
Dennis J. Rivera	170
Eleazar Rodriguez, Jr.	65

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

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

Total votes cast	1,298
Needed to elect	866
Invalid votes	2
Daniel DeLeon	71
Gary Jones	52
Saul Gonzalez	26
Rigoberto Magana	24
Jesse Miranda, Jr.	1,003
Rogelio Ovalle	7
Dennis J. Rivera	93
Eleazar Rodriguez, Jr.	20

Having noted that Jesse Miranda, Jr., received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Language Area—West Spanish for a 2-year term to expire in 2013.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter Language Area—Other**

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

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

Total votes cast	767
Needed to elect	512
Invalid votes	2
Wan Ki Choi	69
Nam Soo Kim	503
Young Gil Kim	91
Daniel J. Miller	66
Lawrence G. Olson	36

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

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

Total votes cast	782
Needed to elect	522
Invalid votes	1
Wan Ki Choi	28
Nam Soo Kim	692
Young Gil Kim	40
Daniel J. Miller	18
Lawrence G. Olson	3

Having noted that Nam Soo Kim received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Language Area—Other for a 4-year term to expire in 2015.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter Ethnic Fellowships**

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

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

Total votes cast	1,250
Needed to elect	834
Invalid votes	8
Hanfere Aligaz	22
Samuel K. Asiedu	49
Inosi S. Batibasaga	7
Malcolm P. Burleigh	118
Moses Cao	65
Felix Halpern	35

Loyd Johnson	23
Cregg Jones	9
Victor Joseph	13
Etupati M. Lafaele	7
Nilo (Jaren) Lapasaran, Jr.	43
Yen-Sha Lim	115
Rudolf A. Lolowang	13
John E. Maracle	499
Filimone Mau	15
Michael Nelson	58
Nicholas Opuni	9
Nicky Pop	35
George A. Rafidi	41
Jean Rebecca	18
Jimmy G. Schwyhart	15
K. P. Titus	23
Thomas Valtierra, Jr.	10

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

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

Total votes cast	1,205
Needed to elect	804
Invalid votes	3
Hanfere Aligaz	10
Samuel K. Asiedu	12
Inosi S. Batibasaga	3
Malcolm P. Burleigh	77
Moses Cao	19
Felix Halpern	7
Loyd Johnson	14
Cregg Jones	1
Victor Joseph	3
Etupati M. Lafaele	4
Nilo (Jaren) Lapasaran, Jr.	16
Yen-Sha Lim	72
Rudolf A. Lolowang	3
John E. Maracle	897
Filimone Mau	6
Michael Nelson	18
Nicholas Opuni	2
Nicky Pop	7
George A. Rafidi	7
Jean Rebecca	11
Jimmy G. Schwyhart	2
K. P. Titus	7
Thomas Valtierra, Jr.	4

Having noted that John E. Maracle received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Ethnic Fellowships for a 2-year term to expire in 2013.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter—Additional Representation Ordained Pastor under 40 Years of Age**

The general superintendent called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Additional Representation—Ordained Pastor under 40 Years of Age. He announced the following nominees as selected by the General Presbytery:

Aaron A. Cole  
David P. Crosby, Jr.  
R. Bryan Jarrett  
John M. Van Pay

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

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report of the first elective ballot for executive presbyter to serve in the position of Additional Representation—Ordained Pastor under 40 Years of Age:

Total votes cast	1,172
Needed to elect	782
Invalid votes	1
Aaron A. Cole	91
David P. Crosby, Jr.	180
R. Bryan Jarrett	772
John M. Van Pay	128

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

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot for executive presbyter for the Additional Representation—Ordained Pastor Under 40 Years of Age:

Total votes cast	1,185
Needed to elect	791
Invalid votes	1
Aaron A. Cole	30
David P. Crosby, Jr.	90
R. Bryan Jarrett	1,008
John M. Van Pay	56

Having noted that R. Bryan Jarrett received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared him reelected as the additional representative on the Executive Presbytery to represent ordained pastors under 40 years of age for a 2-year term to expire in 2013.

### **Election of Executive Presbyter—Additional Representation Ordained Female**

The general superintendent called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter to represent ordained females. He announced the following nominees as selected by the General Presbytery:

Jodi L. Detrick  
Deborah M. Gill  
A. Elizabeth Grant  
Jane L. Wead

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

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

Total votes cast	779
Needed to elect	520
Invalid votes	0
Jodi L. Detrick	91
Deborah M. Gill	160
A. Elizabeth Grant	456
Jane L. Wead	72

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

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot for ordained female representative on the Executive Presbytery:

Total votes cast	742
Needed to elect	495
Invalid votes	0
Jodi L. Detrick	30
Deborah M. Gill	79
A. Elizabeth Grant	613
Jane L. Wead	20

Having noted that A. Elizabeth Grant received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared her reelected as the additional representative on the Executive Presbytery to represent ordained females for a 4-year term to expire in 2015.

### **Resolution 22. Honorary General Presbyter—T. Ray Rachels**

Gordon W. Houston, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 22. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 22 as follows:

- WHEREAS, T. Ray Rachels has served the Southern California District Council with honor and distinction as the assistant district superintendent for three years and 22 years as district superintendent; and
- WHEREAS, He has made significant contributions not only to the Southern California District Council, but also to the ongoing ministry of The General Council of the Assemblies of God through his service on the General Presbytery for 25 years and on various boards, committees, and special assignments; and
- WHEREAS, His years of service include serving with distinction as chairman of the board of Vanguard University of Southern California, chairman of the board for American Indian College, chairman of the board for Church Extension Plan, chairman of the board for Southern California Teen Challenge; and
- WHEREAS, His leadership in the Southern California District Council has represented the highest standards of integrity, ethics, loyalty, diligence, and hard work; and
- WHEREAS, His wisdom, preaching, and personal ministry have been a resource to the ministers and churches of the Southern California Fellowship and the General Council Fellowship at large; and

- WHEREAS, T. Ray Rachels meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, 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; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That T. Ray Rachels be elected by the General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

**Resolution 28. Honorary General Presbyter—L. John Bueno**

Gordon W. Houston, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 28. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 28 as follows:

- WHEREAS, L. John Bueno has served the Southern California District Council with honor and distinction as a pastor, evangelist, and missionary and as an ordained minister for 50 years; and
- WHEREAS, He has made significant contributions not only to the Southern California District Council, but also to the ongoing ministry of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and especially to the World Missions fellowship; and
- WHEREAS, He began his missionary service in 1961, and founded Latin America Child Care in 1963, and continues to serve as its executive director; and
- WHEREAS, He served as area director of Latin America and the Caribbean from 1975–1990; and
- WHEREAS, He served as regional director of Latin America and the Caribbean from 1990–1997; and
- WHEREAS, He has served with honor and distinction as executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions from 1997–2011; and
- WHEREAS, His leadership in our Assemblies of God Fellowship has represented the highest standards of integrity, loyalty, and hard work; and
- WHEREAS, His preaching, leadership, and personal ministry have been a resource to the ministers and churches of the Southern California fellowship and the General Council both in the United States and around the world; and
- WHEREAS, L. John Bueno meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, 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; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That L. John Bueno be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

**Resolution 29. Honorary General Presbyter—Richard Dresselhaus**

Gordon W. Houston, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 29. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 29 as follows:

- WHEREAS, Richard Dresselhaus has served the Southern California District Council with honor and distinction as both district presbyter for 15 years and executive presbyter for 14 years; and
- WHEREAS, He has made significant contributions not only to the Southern California District Council, but also to the ongoing ministry of The General Council of the Assemblies of God through his service on the

- General Presbytery for 15 years and the Executive Presbytery for 14 years, and on various boards, committees, and special assignments; and
- WHEREAS, His leadership in the Southern California District Council has represented the highest standards of integrity, loyalty, and hard work; and
- WHEREAS, His preaching, writing, and personal ministry have been a resource to the ministers and churches of the Southern California fellowship and the General Council Fellowship at large; and
- WHEREAS, Richard Dresselhaus meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, 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; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That Richard Dresselhaus be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Resolution 30. Honorary General Presbyter—Joseph P. Granberry**

Daniel M. York, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 30. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 30 as follows:

- WHEREAS, Joseph P. Granberry has served this Fellowship with great distinction as a minister of the gospel for 46 years; and
- WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the South Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God in pastoral ministry in Magnolia, Kingsville, and Houston, Texas, for 36 years; and
- WHEREAS, He has served as a general presbyter for 20 years and superintendent of the South Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God for 10 of those years, as well as a partial term as the district youth director; and
- WHEREAS, He has served on the Board of Regents for Southwestern Assemblies of God University from 1991 to the present including the past 10 years as a member of the Executive Board of Regents and the American Indian College Board of Regents; and
- WHEREAS, This Fellowship has been blessed by his spiritual leadership, practical wisdom, and faithfulness to Pentecostal doctrine; and
- WHEREAS, It is proper and fitting to honor those who have served among us with distinction, integrity, and a desire to enrich the lives of others; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, 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; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That Joseph P. Granberry be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Resolution 31. Honorary General Presbyter—Myung Nam Kim**

Douglas M. Graham, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 31. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 31 as follows:

- WHEREAS, Myung Nam Kim has faithfully served the Sung-II Church in Korea for 6 years; and
- WHEREAS, He has served the Assemblies of God in Bonn, Germany, for 2 years; and

- WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the Chicago Assembly of God Church in Mount Prospect, Illinois, from 1978 until present; and
- WHEREAS, He has served as the president of the Chicago Theological Seminary from 1979 until present; and
- WHEREAS, He has served the Barnabas Ministry from 1995 until present; and
- WHEREAS, He has served the Korean District Council for 4 years as district superintendent; and
- WHEREAS, He has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as a member of the General Presbytery for 22 years; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, 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; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That Myung Nam Kim be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Resolution 32. Honorary General Presbyter—Robert G. Slaton**

Randal L. Ross, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 32. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 32 as follows:

- WHEREAS, Robert G. Slaton has served this Fellowship with great distinction as a minister of the gospel for more than 50 years; and
- WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the West Texas District Council of the Assemblies of God in pastoral ministry in Gruver, Cedar Hill, and Amarillo, Texas, as well as a pastorate in New Albany, Mississippi; and
- WHEREAS, He has served on the Board of Regents at Southwestern Assemblies of God University for 34 years; and
- WHEREAS, He has served the West Texas District Council as a sectional presbyter and assistant superintendent for many years, and as superintendent from 1989–2010; and
- WHEREAS, This Fellowship has been blessed by his spiritual leadership, practical wisdom, and faithfulness to the cause of Christ; and
- WHEREAS, It is proper and fitting to honor those who have served among us with distinction, integrity, and a desire to enrich the lives of others; and
- WHEREAS, Robert G. Slaton meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, 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; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That Robert G. Slaton be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Resolution 33. Honorary General Presbyter—Steven R. Brown**

Nicholas W. Fatato, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 33. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 33 as follows:

- WHEREAS, Steven R. Brown, a faithful servant of the Lord Jesus Christ and accomplished pastor and teacher, faithfully served the South Carolina District Council of the Assemblies of God over a lifetime of service, having served in every executive office since 1977, including executive secretary, assistant superintendent, and 16 of those years as district superintendent; and

- WHEREAS, During his tenure the 60-acre district campground facilities were improved with better accommodations, and the debt load erased; and
- WHEREAS, During his tenure as district superintendent he relocated the district council headquarters from its outgrown facilities in downtown Columbia to an accommodating location in West Columbia, South Carolina, its present facilities; and
- WHEREAS, He also served as a member of the Board of Regents of Southeastern University, Lakeland, Florida, entrusted with board oversight of academic affairs commensurate with the time of the school's highest academic enrollment period to date; and
- WHEREAS, Steven R. Brown meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and
- WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, page 97, 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; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That Steven R. Brown be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Resolution 26. New Gulf Latin American Districts**

Dennis J. Rivera, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 26. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 26 as follows:

- WHEREAS, The Gulf Latin American District Council in 2006 adopted a petition that the district be divided into four conferences with the purpose of each conference to develop gradually until each one becomes a district; and
- WHEREAS, In June 2011, the Gulf Latin American District Council in session approved that three new districts—South Central Hispanic District Council, Texas Gulf Spanish District Council, West Texas and Plains District Council—be recognized as new sovereign districts of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws make provision for the Executive Presbytery to establish new district councils in cooperative agreement with the districts involved; and
- WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery in session approved the formation of the South Central Hispanic District Council, the Texas Gulf Spanish District Council, and the West Texas and Plains District Council; and
- WHEREAS, The names of these new districts should be included in the General Council Bylaws; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph c, (2), (a), Language Area—West Spanish, page 104, which presently reads:

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

Be amended to read:

*Language Area—West Spanish:* Central, Gulf—Latin American, Northern Pacific Latin American, South Central Hispanic, Southern Pacific, Southwest, Texas Gulf Spanish, West Texas and Plains

### **Resolution 12. Music Ministries Department Name Change**

Daniel M. York, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 12. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 12 as follows:

- WHEREAS, The Music Ministries department exists to provide for the music needs of the local church and other divisions and departments within the national office; and
- WHEREAS, It is the desire of the Music Ministries department to change its name to Worship Resource and Consulting to be compatible with the changing church music culture; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 2. Annual Report and Offerings From Assemblies, paragraph c, subparagraph (3), page 115, which presently reads:

(3) *Credit.* Assemblies of God Total Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to the Fellowship Partners plan for support of the General Council; Assemblies of God World Missions, Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, Benevolences Ministries, Christian Higher Education (including educational institutions), Church Ministries (including men's, women's, music, youth, and senior adults), General Administration (including executive and Spiritual Life offices), other General Council, regional, and district-sponsored or approved projects, and parent churches for satellite startup costs, up to 6 months, including property (facilities and equipment), promotion, personnel (pastoral selection and moving expenses). Contributions from districts other than where a district-approved project is located can be granted Assemblies of God Total Giving credit only if the district where the contribution originates gives its approval and if the contribution is channeled through that district or national Headquarters. It is expected that the national division or department related to a given project will be notified of approved projects. It is also understood that no district or region may receive Assemblies of God Total Giving credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.

Be amended to read:

(3) *Credit.* Assemblies of God Total Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to the Fellowship Partners plan for support of the General Council; Assemblies of God World Missions, Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, Benevolences Ministries, Christian Higher Education (including educational institutions), Church Ministries (including men's, women's, church music, youth, and senior adults), General Administration (including executive and Spiritual Life offices), other General Council, regional, and district-sponsored or approved projects, and parent churches for satellite startup costs, up to 6 months, including property (facilities and equipment), promotion, personnel (pastoral selection and moving expenses). Contributions from districts other than where a district-approved project is located can be granted Assemblies of God Total Giving credit only if the district where the contribution originates gives its approval and if the contribution is channeled through that district or national Headquarters. It is expected that the national division or department related to a given project will be notified of approved projects. It is also understood that no district or region may receive Assemblies of God Total Giving credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.

### **Resolution 13. Quorum**

Nicholas W. Fatato, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 13. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 13 as follows:

- WHEREAS, During the 2007 General Council, action was taken to amend the General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph c, subparagraph (2), (c). *Additional representation*. making provision for the election of two additional nonresident executive presbyters to serve on the Executive Presbytery (an ordained pastor under 40 years of age at the time of election and one ordained female); and
- WHEREAS, During the 2009 General Council, action was taken to amend Article II, Section 2, paragraph c, subparagraph (a) making provision for the Language Area—Spanish to be divided into two areas (Language Area—East Spanish and Language Area—West Spanish), allowing for the election of one additional Hispanic representative to serve on the Executive Presbytery, and
- WHEREAS, During the 2009 General Council, three elections were held to elect an ordained pastor under 40 years of age, an ordained female, and an additional Hispanic representative to the Executive Presbytery, and
- WHEREAS, The three additional elections increased the number serving on the Executive Presbytery from 17 to 20 members; and
- WHEREAS, This increase in number of Executive Presbytery members requires the present Article XX. QUORUM in the General Council Bylaws to be amended to bring the required quorum in line with these actions; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article XX. QUORUM, page 147, which presently reads:

All members registered and voting in any meeting of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall constitute a quorum, and all general presbyters registered and voting in any meeting of the General Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of nine executive presbyters at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of four members at any meeting of the Executive Leadership Team shall constitute a quorum.

Be amended to read:

All members registered and voting in any meeting of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall constitute a quorum, and all general presbyters registered and voting in any meeting of the General Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of ~~nine~~ eleven executive presbyters at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of four members at any meeting of the Executive Leadership Team shall constitute a quorum.

### **Resolution 15. Texas Louisiana Hispanic District**

Dennis J. Rivera, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 15. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 15 as follows:

- WHEREAS, The Gulf Latin American District Council in 2006 adopted a petition that the district be divided into four Conferences with the purpose of each conference to develop gradually until each one becomes a district; and

- WHEREAS, The Gulf Latin East Conference was selected by the district presbytery to be the pilot conference in the formation to become a new district; and
- WHEREAS, The Gulf Latin East Conference has fulfilled the guidelines recommended for the formation of a new district; and
- WHEREAS, The Gulf Latin East Conference has been functioning as a district under the guidance of the district’s general presbytery; and
- WHEREAS, On April 15, 2010, the Gulf Latin American District Council’s general presbytery approved that the Gulf Latin East Conference be recognized as a new sovereign district of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws makes provision for the Executive Presbytery to establish new district councils in cooperative agreement with the districts involved; and
- WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery in session on September 21–22, 2010, approved the formation of the Texas Louisiana Hispanic District Council of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, The name of this new district should be included in the General Council Bylaws; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph c, (2), (a), *Language Area—West Spanish*, page 104, which presently reads:  
*Language Area—West Spanish*: Central, Gulf Latin American, Northern Pacific Latin American, Southern Pacific, Southwest  
 Be amended to read:  
*Language Area—West Spanish*: Central, Gulf Latin American, Northern Pacific Latin American, Southern Pacific, Southwest, Texas Louisiana Hispanic

**Resolution 17. Central District Name Change**

Dennis J. Rivera, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 17. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 17 as follows:

- WHEREAS, The Central Latin American District Council proposed a resolution for the 2009 General Council to change the name of the district to Distrito Central/Central District Council of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, When the resolution came to the General Council floor, the Resolutions Committee had amended the original resolution by removing the Spanish wording of the name change, so that the resolution read Central District Council of the Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, The purpose of the Central Latin American District Council in changing its name to a bilingual form was to identify the district as a bilingual district that serves Hispanics in both languages; and
- WHEREAS, The official name of the Central District Council was adopted as Central District Council of the Assemblies of God, thus leaving out the words “Distrito Central,” and
- WHEREAS, The Central District Council in session at its 2010 District Council passed a resolution, once again amending the name of the district in order to reflect the bilingual nature and ministry purpose of the district; and
- WHEREAS, For the sake of flowing from English to Spanish and not Spanish to English, the Central District Council in session amended their name to be Central District/Distrito Central Council of the Assemblies of God, in order to be clearly identified as a Hispanic, bilingual serving district; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph c, (2), *Language Area—West Spanish*, page 104, which presently reads:  
*Language Area—West Spanish*: Central, Gulf Latin American, Northern Pacific Latin American, Southern Pacific, Southwest

Be amended to read:

*Language Area—West Spanish*: Central District/Distrito Central, Gulf Latin American, Northern Pacific Latin American, Southern Pacific, Southwest

### **Resolution 23. National Office Name Change**

Douglas M. Graham, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 23. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 23 as follows:

WHEREAS, The national office of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in Springfield, Missouri, exists to skillfully resource ministers, churches, districts, and ministries; and

WHEREAS, Webster’s dictionary defines the word *headquarters* as “a center of operations from which orders are issued;” and

WHEREAS, That designation does not reflect either the function or the intent of the national office; and

WHEREAS, The term *national office* itself does not adequately capture the mission of the General Council to equip leaders and resource churches; and

WHEREAS, Resourcing the Spirit-filled health and missional effectiveness of ministries and their leaders, for the purpose of fulfilling the fourfold reason for being of the Assemblies of God, is the priority of the General Council’s work and organizational direction; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the national office building facilities of The General Council of the Assemblies of God in Springfield, Missouri, be named the National Leadership and Resource Center; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all General Council organizational and operational manuals be edited to reflect this change; and be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM, Section 1. Duties of the General Superintendent, paragraph k, page 107, which reads:

k. Provide spiritual oversight to leadership and Headquarters personnel.

Be amended to read:

k. Provide spiritual oversight to leadership and the National Leadership and Resource Center Headquarters personnel.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM, Section 7. Duties of the Executive Presbytery, paragraph m, page 109, which reads:

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

Be amended to read:

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

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM, Section 8. Duties of the Executive Leadership Team, paragraph b, page 109, which reads:

b. Provide for general services as required for the various operations at general Headquarters.

Be amended to read:

b. Provide for general services as required for the various operations at the National Leadership and Resource Center general Headquarters.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM, Section 8. Duties of the Executive Leadership Team, paragraph g, page 110, which reads:

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

Be amended to read:

g. Manage internal operations of the National Leadership and Resource Center Headquarters as indicated in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 2. Annual Report and Offerings From Assemblies, paragraph c. Assemblies of God Total Giving, subparagraph (3), page 115, which reads:

(3) *Credit*. Assemblies of God Total Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to the Fellowship Partners plan for support of the General Council; Assemblies of God World Missions, Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, Benevolences Ministries, Christian Higher Education (including educational institutions), Church Ministries (including men's, women's, music, youth, and senior adults), General Administration (including executive and Spiritual Life offices), other General Council, regional, and district-sponsored or approved projects, and parent churches for satellite startup costs, up to 6 months, including property (facilities and equipment), promotion, personnel (pastoral selection and moving expenses). Contributions from districts other than where a district-approved project is located can be granted Assemblies of God Total Giving credit only if the district where the contribution originates gives its approval and if the contribution is channeled through that district or national Headquarters. It is expected that the national division or department related to a given project will be notified of approved projects. It is also understood that no district or region may receive Assemblies of God Total Giving credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.

Be amended to read:

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

Christian Higher Education (including educational institutions), Church Ministries (including men's, women's, music, youth, and senior adults), General Administration (including executive and Spiritual Life offices), other General Council, regional, and district-sponsored or approved projects, and parent churches for satellite startup costs, up to 6 months, including property (facilities and equipment), promotion, personnel (pastoral selection and moving expenses). Contributions from districts other than where a district-approved project is located can be granted Assemblies of God Total Giving credit only if the district where the contribution originates gives its approval and if the contribution is channeled through that district or the National Leadership and Resource Center national Headquarters. It is expected that the National Leadership and Resource Center national division or department related to a given project will be notified of approved projects. It is also understood that no district or region may receive Assemblies of God Total Giving credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 6. Official List, paragraph b. Inactive or disabled ministers, subparagraph (3), page 121, which reads:

(3) *Exceptions*. This shall not apply to those whose inactivity has been caused by infirmity; or those engaged in other aspects of full-time ministry such as Headquarters or district workers, educators, ministers of music, ministers of youth, and ministers of Christian education; or those who have reached the age of 60 years; or those ministers who have had 25 years of approved service as credentialed ministers, or those whose spouse is disabled or has retired giving them little opportunity for public ministry.

Be amended to read:

(3) *Exceptions*. This shall not apply to those whose inactivity has been caused by infirmity; or those engaged in other aspects of full-time ministry such as the National Leadership and Resource Center Headquarters or district workers, educators, ministers of music, ministers of youth, and ministers of Christian education; or those who have reached the age of 60 years; or those ministers who have had 25 years of approved service as credentialed ministers, or those whose spouse is disabled or has retired giving them little opportunity for public ministry.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 7. Senior Ministers, paragraph c. Guidelines, subparagraph (4), page 122, which reads:

(4) *Support of General Council Headquarters*. Senior-active and senior-semiretired ministers shall continue to designate the required amount of support to the General Council Headquarters as set forth in Bylaws, Article VII, Section 10, paragraph f. Senior-retired ministers shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes previously paid to the General Council.

Be amended to read:

(4) *Support of General Council National Leadership and Resource Center Headquarters*. Senior-active and senior-

semiretired ministers shall continue to designate the required amount of support to the General Council National Leadership and Resource Center Headquarters as set forth in Bylaws, Article VII, Section 10, paragraph f. Senior-retired ministers shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes previously paid to the General Council.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 9. Transfer of Credentials, paragraph a. Certificate of transfer, subparagraph (1), page 123, which reads:

(1) Ministers moving to serve at the Assemblies of God Headquarters.

Be amended to read:

(1) Ministers moving to serve at the Assemblies of God National Leadership and Resource Center Headquarters.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 10. Credential Renewals and Reinstatements, paragraph f. Support of Headquarters, paragraph 1, page 125, which reads:

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

Be amended to read:

**f. Support of the National Leadership and Resource Center Headquarters.** The work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in its program of developing the spirit of cooperation and fellowship in U.S. and world missions fields, incurs considerable expense, including the financial support of the executive officers and offices.

### **Resolution 16-A. Disclosure of Information**

Gordon Houston, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 16-A. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 16-A as follows:

WHEREAS, Privacy concerns are involved when information in a minister's file is shared by either the Office of the General Secretary, or a district officer, with another district officer; and

WHEREAS, The transfer of information of ministers' files is essential to the smooth function of ministerial transfers between districts, and for the processing of credentials between districts and the general secretary's office; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY be amended by the addition of a new section 13. Transfer of Information, page 125, to read as follows:

#### **Section 13. Transfer of Information**

The general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and any district officer, may share information in a minister's file that pertains to the minister's fitness for ministry with any other district officer. The term "minister's file" includes files maintained for both credentialed ministers and applicants for ministerial credentials. This provision shall also apply to designees of the general secretary or district officer.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That present Sections 13 and 14 be renumbered 14 and 15.

Note: This resolution was a substitute for the Resolution 16 originally mailed by the Resolutions Committee.

### **Resolution 20. Provision for Credential Absolution**

Douglas M. Graham, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 20. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 20 as follows:

WHEREAS, There may be circumstances when a dismissed minister seeks restoration without going through a General Council rehabilitation program; and

WHEREAS, The dismissed minister has received remedial rehabilitation followed by many years of faithful service in ministry; and

WHEREAS, A given minister or district presbytery desires to clear a dismissed minister's name and change his or her status from *dismissed* to *resigned* in order for him or her to be involved in active local ministry, without seeking reinstatement of credentials; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article X. DISCIPLINE, Section 9. Referral for Action to the General Council Credentials Committee, paragraph a. District recommendation, page 136, be amended by the addition of a new paragraph (4) to read as follows:

(4) *Credential absolution.* Should a district where a dismissal occurred determine, after careful investigation, that a dismissed minister has completed remedial rehabilitation followed by faithful service for many years, it may request the General Council Credentials Committee to lift a dismissal and clear the minister's name by changing his or her credential status from dismissed to resigned.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 6:20 p.m. to reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 4, 2011.

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING—AUGUST 3**

The Wednesday service of the 54th General Council began at 7 p.m. in the U.S. Airways Center in Phoenix, Arizona. The event was designed as a high-energy youth rally, and the adults had a free evening for fellowship and were invited to attend the banquet in honor of L. John Bueno, who is retiring as executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions after 14 years of service.

Worship leader Ricardo Sanchez, Assemblies of God National Youth Ministries Director Jay Mooney, and Speed the Light and Ambassadors in Missions Director Chet Caudill wove the call for selfless service throughout the evening. Missionary speaker Joey G opened his sermon asking who is responsible for the lost. He looked to Luke 17:5-10 and the request of Christ's disciples, "Lord, increase our faith." He said Jesus called for a lifestyle that was so out of this world we could not do it on our own. He began his focus with a definition of what faith is not: "Faith is not some magical formula for us to get from God what we want." He said, "Faith is not our ability to change reality to suit our needs." He declared, "Faith is being able to trust God when you don't understand. Faith is being able to stand when everyone around you is falling. Faith is the ability to pick yourself up with courage when you feel like going back. This is the faith we need today."

The Wednesday night "Make Your Mark on Your World" service at the National Youth Convention climaxed with young people crying out in surrender to God.

## THURSDAY MORNING—AUGUST 4

### Memorial Breakfast and Service

The Memorial Breakfast was held at the Phoenix Convention Center for family members of those who have lost a loved one during this past biennium. General Secretary James T. Bradford opened the service by giving greetings and offering prayer for the family members present. On behalf of the Executive Leadership Team, General Superintendent George O. Wood expressed appreciation to those present and acknowledged with gratitude the labors of those loved ones who have now received their eternal reward. He indicated that today we honor 766 ministers who have gone to be with the Lord between the dates of June 1, 2009, and May 31, 2011. Of these ministers, the youngest was only 23 and the oldest was 103. Together, their lives represented more than 61,000 years of service. In tribute to the deceased ministers, a memorial scroll listing each name was played.

Vocalist Gloria Elliot, Branson, Missouri, and former soloist for *Revivaltime* sang “Touched by His Nail Scarred Hand,” a song written by her mother, an Assemblies of God minister who recently passed away. David W. Flower, Springfield, Missouri, was the featured speaker. He shared a message of hope and comfort. “The Lord promises us special grace at this moment when we say good-bye to our earthly acquaintances.” He shared Revelation 4:1 and narrowed in on the phrase “an open door into heaven,” a theme he came back to throughout his time of sharing.

The names of those honored on the Memorial Scroll appear at the end of the minutes of the General Council on page 78.

### Business Session

George O. Wood, general superintendent, opened the meeting by calling on Jeffrey B. Higbie, Iberia, Missouri, to give a testimony regarding God’s healing of his son. Following the testimony, the general superintendent asked those needing healing to stand and had others to lay hands on them, and Pastor Higbie led the body in prayer for their healing.

The general superintendent called the business session to order at 8:56 a.m. and called for a report of the Roster Committee.

### Roster Report

David L. Wigington, co-chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of Thursday morning, August 4, 2011:

#### VOTING:

Ordained	2,220	
Licensed	549	
Delegates	267	
Executive Presbyters	20	
General Presbyters	229	
Voting Constituency		3,285

#### NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	1,339	
Auxiliary Staff	83	
Certified	264	
Fine Arts/AIM	6,096	
General Attendees	8,714	
Kids Council	369	
Guests	91	
Other	321	
Staff	200	
Nonvoting Constituency		<u>17,477</u>

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

### **Privileged Motion**

A motion was made and seconded that Robert's Rules of Order be suspended and those persons serving on the Parliamentary Committee be allowed to speak to an issue if they so desire. The motion carried.

### **Resolution 1. Composition of General Presbytery (2009 General Council Resolution 5. Revised)**

John R. Wootton, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 1 and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded.

A motion was made and seconded to amend Resolution 1 by changing the 2-year term on line 21 to 1-year term and placing a period after the word "term" and deleting the rest of the sentence. The motion carried.

A motion was made and seconded to amend Resolution 1 by changing the word "one" on lines 17 and 18 to the word "two," so the sentence will read: *Two ordained ministers under 40 years of age and two female ordained ministers shall be selected to represent each geographic area.* The motion lost.

The motion to adopt Resolution 1 as amended was carried.

Resolution 1 as amended and adopted follows:

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

WHEREAS, The current composition of the General Presbytery confirms the representative nature of the body; and

WHEREAS, The 7,873 credentialed ministers under 40 years of age (2010) are underrepresented on the General Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The 7,231 female credentialed ministers (2010) are underrepresented on the General Presbytery; and

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

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 3. General Presbytery, page 97, be amended by the addition of one new paragraph to be known as g. Additional Representation, which shall read:

**g. Additional representation. One ordained minister under 40 years of age and one female ordained minister shall be selected to represent each geographic area, the Language Area—East Spanish, the Language Area—West Spanish, the Language Area—Other, and the Ethnic Fellowship area as general presbyters. These members shall serve a 1-year term.**

And be it further

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

## **Resolution 7. Election of General Presbytery (2009 General Council Resolution 6. Revised)**

John R. Wootton presented Resolution 7. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 7 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Presbytery has been expanded over the years to represent our growing constituency effectively; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God has 7,231 (2010) female credentialed ministers (21 percent of total) and 7,873 credentialed ministers under 40 years of age (22 percent of total); and

WHEREAS, It is believed that the Assemblies of God would be well-served to expand the General Presbytery to reflect our constituency and increase the representation of the credentialed ministers under 40 years of age and female credentialed ministers; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph d. General presbyters, page 105, be amended by the addition of a new paragraph (9) Additional representation, to read as follows:

(9) Additional representation. Each district and ethnic fellowship may nominate two qualified ministers—one ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry. The nominations for each area and all ethnic fellowships shall be voted on as follows:

(a) By area. For the purpose of electing one ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry, each district within the eight respective geographical areas and three language areas shall elect on an annual rotational basis qualified members to serve on the General Presbytery for one year, with no more than one ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry serving from an area in any one year. The representation shall be determined on an alphabetical basis of the districts within each area according to an annual schedule set by the Executive Presbytery.

(b) By ethnic fellowships. Each year the Executive Presbytery shall designate by feasibility, on a rotational schedule, which ethnic fellowship shall elect for a 1-year term one ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry.

## **Resolution 2. Ethnic and Hispanic Representation on General Presbytery (Constitution)**

Dennis J. Rivera, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 2. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 2 as follows:

WHEREAS, The director of Ethnic Relations serves the growing number of ethnic credential holders, churches, and fellowships in the U.S. Assemblies of God; and

- WHEREAS, The director of Hispanic Relations serves the growing number of Hispanic credential holders, churches, and fellowships in the U.S. Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph f, provides for ethnic fellowship representatives to serve on the General Presbytery; and
- WHEREAS, The director of Ethnic Relations and the director of Hispanic Relations are on equal status with said representatives; and
- WHEREAS, It would be strategically important to the advancement of ethnic and Hispanic fellowships for the director of Ethnic Relations and the director of Hispanic Relations to be members of the General Presbytery; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That by virtue of office, the director of Ethnic Relations and the director of Hispanic Relations be members of the General Presbytery with full voice and vote; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution Article IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 3. General Presbytery, page 97, be amended by the addition of one new paragraph to be known as g. Ethnic Relations and Hispanic Relations representation, which shall read:

**g. Ethnic Relations and Hispanic Relations representation.** The Assemblies of God Office of Ethnic Relations and the Assemblies of God Office of Hispanic Relations shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the director of Ethnic Relations and the director of Hispanic Relations.

And be it further

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

### **Resolution 8. Ethnic and Hispanic Representation on General Presbytery (Bylaws)**

Dennis J. Rivera, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 8 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 8 as follows:

- WHEREAS, The director of Ethnic Relations serves the growing number of ethnic credential holders, churches, and fellowships in the U.S. Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, The director of Hispanic Relations serves the growing number of Hispanic credential holders, churches, and fellowships in the U.S. Assemblies of God; and
- WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph f, provides for ethnic fellowship representatives to serve on the General Presbytery; and
- WHEREAS, The director of Ethnic Relations and the director of Hispanic Relations are on equal status with said representatives; and
- WHEREAS, It would be strategically important to the advancement of ethnic and Hispanic fellowships for the director of Ethnic Relations and the director of Hispanic Relations to be members of the General Presbytery; and
- WHEREAS, A companion resolution on this issue is being considered by the General Council in session which relates to amendments to the General Council Constitution, and such action would require complementary action to the General Council Bylaws; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That by virtue of office, the director of Ethnic Relations and the director of Hispanic Relations be members of the General Presbytery with full voice and vote; 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, page 105, be amended by the addition of one new paragraph to be known as (7) Ethnic Relations and Hispanic Relations representatives, which shall read:

(7) Ethnic Relations and Hispanic Relations representatives. The director of Ethnic Relations and the director of Hispanic Relations representatives, as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph g, shall be members of the General Presbytery.

And be it further

RESOLVED, That present paragraphs (7) and (8) be renumbered as (8) and (9).

#### **Resolution 4. AGWM International Ministries on General Presbytery (Constitution)**

Randal L. Ross, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 4 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 4 as follows:

WHEREAS, The director of Assemblies of God World Missions International Ministries represents an average of 100 missionaries who work with the International and Specialized ministries of Assemblies of God World Missions; and

WHEREAS, The person occupying this position has not been considered to be a regional director, yet carries out many similar responsibilities including the representation of the above-mentioned missionaries to many various bodies; and

WHEREAS, The director of Assemblies of God World Missions International Ministries is an auditor of the General Presbytery but has no vote or voice and therefore has limited ability to adequately represent the people served by this position; and

WHEREAS, The position of director of International Ministries has grown into a position very similar to an Assemblies of God World Missions regional director, representing as many full-time missionaries as what are served in at least one other region; and

WHEREAS, The missionaries of International Ministries have no representation with voice and vote on the General Presbytery and have often voiced a desire for such; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That, by virtue of office, the director of International Ministries of Assemblies of God World Missions be a member of the General Presbytery with full voice and vote.

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 97, which presently reads:

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

of God U.S. Missions. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (3)]

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 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)]

### **Resolution 10. AGWM International Ministries on General Presbytery (Bylaws)**

Randal L. Ross, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 10 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 10 as follows:

- WHEREAS, The director of Assemblies of God World Missions International Ministries represents an average of 100 missionaries who work with the International and Specialized ministries of Assemblies of God World Missions; and
- WHEREAS, The person occupying this position has not been considered to be a regional director, yet carries out many similar responsibilities including the representation of the above-mentioned missionaries to many various bodies; and
- WHEREAS, The director of Assemblies of God World Missions International Ministries is an auditor of the General Presbytery but has no vote or voice and therefore has limited ability to adequately represent the people served by this position; and
- WHEREAS, The position of director of International Ministries has grown into a position very similar to an Assemblies of God World Missions regional director, representing as many full-time missionaries as what are served in at least one other region; and
- WHEREAS, The missionaries of International Ministries have no representation with voice and vote on the General Presbytery and have often voiced a desire for such; and
- WHEREAS, A companion resolution on this issue is being considered by the General Council in session which relates to amendments to the General Council Constitution, and such action would require complementary action to the General Council Bylaws; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That, by virtue of office, the director of International Ministries of Assemblies of God World Missions be a member of the General Presbytery with full voice and vote.
- 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 105, which presently reads:

(2) *Assemblies of God World Missions representatives.* Regional directors of Assemblies of God World Missions, representing the missionaries from their respective areas, are members of the General Presbytery by virtue of office. Two additional representatives on the General Presbytery from each field fellowship shall be chosen in the following manner: The

Assemblies of God World Missions Board shall nominate four missionaries from each general area represented by the regional directors, including international ministries. Nominees will be selected from missionaries who will be in the United States at the time of the General Presbytery meeting and who preferably have had administrative experience in the field fellowship. Ballots shall be sent to all missionaries in each area who shall by vote select two to represent them on the General Presbytery. These shall be mailed to the general secretary who shall prepare a report to the Executive Presbytery. A simple majority vote shall be required to elect.

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 field fellowship 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, including international ministries. Nominees will be selected from missionaries who will be in the United States at the time of the General Presbytery meeting and who preferably have had administrative experience in the field fellowship. Ballots shall be sent to all missionaries in each area who shall by vote select two to represent them on the General Presbytery. These shall be mailed to the general secretary who shall prepare a report to the Executive Presbytery. A simple majority vote shall be required to elect.

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 140, which presently reads:

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

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

NOTE: John R. Wootton, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, explained that Resolution 3. Additional Representation on General Presbytery (Constitution), Resolution 5. Internet Balloting for Nonresident Executive Presbyters (Constitution), Resolution 9. Additional Representation on General Presbytery (Bylaws); and Resolution 11. Area-Specific Internet Balloting (Bylaws) all sponsored by the Northern California-Nevada District Council have been withdrawn by the sponsor. Jay A. Herndon, secretary-treasurer of the Northern California-Nevada District Council, explained that the district officers felt it to be in the best interest of the 2011 General Council to prioritize other issues.

## **Resolution 14. Transfers between Ethnic/Language and Geographical Districts**

Daniel M. York, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 14 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 14 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 6. Ethnic/Language Districts, paragraph b. Equality with geographical districts, page 113, states the following:

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

WHEREAS, Ethnic/language churches are no longer ministering in one language only; and

WHEREAS, Ethnic/language districts are now opening English-speaking churches in order to minister to second- and third-generation families; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws, Article V, Section 6, paragraph c, calls for cooperative relationships between the ethnic/language districts and the geographical districts; and

WHEREAS, Credential holders from language districts may elect and should be allowed to transfer to geographic districts; and

WHEREAS, According to the General Council Bylaws, Article V, Section 6, e, provision has been made for churches to transfer from ethnic/language districts to geographical districts and vice versa; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 9. Transfer of Credentials, page 123, be amended by the addition of a new paragraph d, to read as follows:

**d. Transfers between ethnic/language districts and geographical districts.** Credential holders from ethnic/language districts may transfer to geographical districts and credential holders from geographical districts may transfer to ethnic/language districts.

### **Rick Warren**

The chairman introduced Rick Warren, pastor of Saddleback Church, in California, and asked him to greet the delegates of the General Council and share with them what was on his heart. He exhorted the delegates to remain Pentecostal, to plant churches, and to move people from “come and see” to “comes and dine.”

### **General Superintendent’s Medal of Honor**

The General Superintendent’s Medal of Honor was presented by the general superintendent to the following four outstanding laypersons (2 for the year of 2010 and 2 for the year of 2011).

#### **Renee Girdler**

Two years ago at General Council we added a fourth reason for being for the Assemblies of God: to show compassion. The person we honor exemplifies that in her life and career. A top-rated medical doctor with more honors and awards than we can name here, Dr. Renee Girdler has a thriving practice, teaches and trains other doctors, is the wife of District Superintendent Joseph S. Girdler, the mother of two, and at the same time goes on missions trips with HealthCare Ministries to minister with teams around the world.

In the midst of this very busy life, her pastor Scott A. Brown of Trinity Chapel in Louisville, states: “She leads a consistent and exemplary Christian walk. Her love for the

Lord is evident in all that she does. She is always looking for ways to share the love of the Lord with those around her, whether it is with her family, friends, or patients.”

Renee has always been an achiever. Whether as high school valedictorian, summa cum laude graduate in pre-med, or highest honors in medical school, she early on exhibited focus and determination to be her best. A former pastor said, “Renee, in those early years, was never rebellious, never exhibited behavior bringing shame on the Savior, but was always faithful to the Lord as a young woman and remains so today.”

A medical colleague says: “Dr. Girdler is an exemplary teacher. She is a leader in her field who does more than most to impart the principles of caring for others, and applying the best and most up-to-date knowledge to the medical care of patients while serving as a role model and leader.”

One doctor mentioned she is the “most requested physician in our practice because of the excellent care she provides.” She has authored numerous articles for medical journals and has twice been named among “Best Doctors in America.” She was awarded the degree of Fellow in Boston in 2009.

Through missions efforts with HealthCare Ministries, Renee’s compassion and professional care have been extended to other countries. JoAnn Butrin, director of HealthCare Ministries, notes “her heart for the hurting and less fortunate has been a part of her practice and her life.” She not only served on the board of directors for HealthCare Ministries, but also on the Assemblies of God World Missions and Central Bible College boards of directors.

For a life of service and compassion, bringing glory to God and to this Fellowship, it gives me great honor to confer upon Renee Girdler the church’s highest award for laypersons, the General Superintendent’s Medal of Honor.

### **Kirk Hanson**

The person we honor today is a winner! He stands as one of only two basketball coaches in Missouri to have led his team to 700 wins. Coach Kirk Hanson has achieved this record with teams of young men called to ministry and playing without athletic scholarship help.

In 1978, at the age of 24, Kirk Hanson assumed the position as head coach for Central Bible College (CBC), a position he continues to hold. Throughout the years he has mentored young men with the goal of producing thoroughly trained people who can successfully lead a ministry. Unlike many colleges, CBC does not offer scholarships, nor does the coaching staff travel the region recruiting players for their teams. For students who play for the CBC team, athletics is a commitment with few perks.

One of his former team members, Mark A. Batterson, states: “When it comes to leadership, I learned as much on the court as I did in the classroom. Because of his example, I view myself as a spiritual coach as much as a pastor. That perspective has helped me lead people more effectively.”

Dan Wood, executive director of the National Christian College Athletic Association, states: “Kirk Hanson has served his Lord, his institution, and his church for over 30 years. He also has served the NCCAA as a regional chairperson, national sport chairperson, and as membership president. His aim has been to insure that mission, not just sport, be the banner of the NCCAA.”

Statistics show that about 90 percent of the players who have played for Coach Hanson and graduated from CBC are in vocational ministry assignments somewhere in the world. He has been a true disciple. His teams conduct 10–15 services in churches and schools

each year. They travel nearly every weekend during the basketball season in services where they sing, preach, and as a bell choir, even play a full set of bells.

At the same time, Kirk has been an exemplary member of Central Assembly of God in Springfield, Missouri. For more than 23 years, he and his wife, Lynn, have taught a kindergarten Sunday School class. They were recently honored by receiving the Billie Davis Award for Excellence in Christian Education by the national Christian Education area. Pastor Jeffrey T. Peterson comments, "I have admired Coach Hanson for the missional focus he has maintained through the years via the sports arena."

Kirk often says, "We don't train basketball players; we train men for ministry who like to play basketball."

His 700th win in January 2011 brought a lot of attention to him and his program. ESPN sent crews to interview Kirk and film the CBC team in two different games. The network even followed the team to a church service they had one weekend. Various media outlets have covered this accomplishment and Missouri Governor Jay Nixon issued a proclamation on the occasion of Coach Hanson being only the second college basketball coach in Missouri to post 700 wins (the other was Norm Stewart, coach at Missouri University).

For a life of service, bringing glory to God and to this Fellowship, it gives me great pleasure to confer upon Kirk Hanson the church's highest award for laypersons, the General Superintendent's Medal of Honor.

### **David Oddo**

The Bible says, "Those who have been given a trust must prove faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2, NIV). The person we honor today has fulfilled that Scripture over and over again.

This outstanding layman is a godly person with great wisdom who faithfully applies his many talents to any task that comes his way. He is a man whose life is marked by the highest levels of integrity and Christian commitment.

Over the years David Oddo has been active in various Assemblies of God churches in the Southern California District Council. He has served on numerous church boards, often as the church treasurer.

He became a member of the Board of Trustees of Vanguard University in 1999 and served until 2004. He was reappointed in 2006 and continues today as the chairman of the board. Vanguard University has persevered through many challenges the past few years, including the possibility of losing its accreditation. The accrediting association required several changes critical to the structure of the Board of Directors and the future of the university's existence. David graciously stepped in with a "can do" attitude and assisted in implementing change at Vanguard. As a result of his efforts and those of an amazing team of people, Vanguard made the required improvements in less than the given time and not only retained its accreditation but also had all sanctions removed. At the time he was faithfully working for Vanguard's survival, he was also managing a major merger and relocation of his own business.

Vanguard President Carol A. Taylor states: "Clearly, no one person can turn around an entire institution and many served sacrificially over the past two years. In no way does David's service diminish the sacrifice and service of others. Rather, David played a key role in the turnaround story of Vanguard. His service and leadership have been and are marked with sacrifice, selflessness, humility, godliness, and integrity. Perhaps most important of all, David's leadership is marked with a quiet confidence, profound faith, and depth of prayer."

Vanguard stands today in no small measure because of David's noble service and acts of valor. He was given a great trust and he has proved faithful!

For a life of faithfulness and service, bringing glory to God and to this Fellowship, it gives me great pleasure to confer upon David Oddo the church's highest award for laypersons, The General Superintendent's Medal of Honor.

### **Charles W. McKinney**

Some people are born to be educators. Today we honor one of those—Dr. Charles W. McKinney. Dr. McKinney earned his bachelor of science and then went on to earn two master's degrees—one in School Administration and the other in Business Administration—and a doctorate in education.

He has served higher learning institutions from Missouri to California and Florida during his years as a college administrator. But he has also served his church. He has been on the board of directors for Continental Theological Seminary in Brussels, Belgium; Vanguard University; and currently serves on the board of directors for the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary (AGTS) since 1996, serving as secretary since 2009.

Byron D. Klaus, president of AGTS, states: "I do believe Dr. McKinney represents the finest of lay leadership in the Assemblies of God. He is a quality professional in his chosen field of higher education and a sterling example of a pastor's friend in churches wherever he has lived. It is rare to find a person whose sterling professional records are coupled with an enduring commitment to local church membership and participation." He and his wife currently are members of First Assembly of God, Fort Myers, Florida.

Pastor C. Dan Betzer says, "Dr. McKinney is one of the most respected men in southwest Florida. He recently retired as vice president of Florida Gulf Coast University, a school of some 10,000 students which he helped begin. Charles has also served on our church council. Our council members can stay in office for only one three-year term at a time, but he is always reelected after the year's absence."

Pastor Betzer recalls the time when he had decided to shut down one of the church's satellites which was not doing well and costing the church a lot of money. "I submitted my proposal to the board and it was received with delight—except for Charles. He very quietly said to us, 'I don't believe this closing is of God. We need to give this satellite more time. Let's give it one more year.' Because of our high esteem for his wisdom, we all acquiesced. In other words, Charles outvoted us 1 to 15. Charles was right. The satellite is doing very well and this past Easter had nearly 1,000 in attendance."

For an exemplary life, bringing glory and honor to God and to this church, it is my privilege to confer upon Charles W. McKinney the church's highest award for laypersons, the General Superintendent's Medal of Honor.

### **Memorial Scroll**

The general superintendent introduced the Memorial Scroll, a video scroll listing the names of 766 ministers who have passed away since the last meeting of the General Council. Following the presentation of the scroll he asked family members of those listed on the Memorial Scroll to stand. General Secretary James T. Bradford closed this session in prayer at 12 noon.

The names of those honored on the Memorial Scroll appear at the end of the minutes of the General Council on page 78.

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 4

The general superintendent reconvened the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

### Expression of Appreciation to Recording Secretaries

The chairman expressed appreciation to those assisting with the minutes: Shelly Mackey, research manager, and Jewell Woodward, executive administrative assistant to the general superintendent.

### Expression of Appreciation to Committees

The chairman expressed appreciation to the following committees for their service during the business sessions: Parliamentary Committee: Richard R. Hammar, chairperson; Jay A. Herndon and Charles F. Hefton; Roster Committee: Richard A. Plunk, co-chairperson; David L. Wigington, co-chairperson; and Mark Christianson, liaison; Resolutions Committee: John R. Wootton, chairperson; Nicholas W. Fatato, Jennifer D. Gale, Douglas M. Graham, Gordon W. Houston, Dennis J. Rivera, Randal L. Ross, Daniel M. York.

### Expression from Southern Missouri District Council

Bill R. Baker, superintendent of the Southern Missouri District Council, expressed appreciation in behalf of the Southern Missouri District Council and especially the people from Joplin, Missouri, for the generous outpouring of love and support following the disastrous tornado that hit Joplin, Missouri, in the spring. He then opened the afternoon business with prayer.

### Church Multiplication Network—Church Planters

The chairman introduced Steven M. Pike, director of Church Multiplication Network, who expressed his appreciation to the Assemblies of God Trust for providing matching funds grants to church planters.

He recognized the Southern Pacific District Council and its superintendent Sergio Navarrete for planting the most churches in the past two years by planting 46 new churches. He then recognized James D. Marocco, pastor First Assembly of God, Kahului, Hawaii, for being the leading church in parent affiliated churches with a total of 31. He introduced Gregory A. Ford and One Church in New Albany, Ohio, as the church planter of the year.

Special recognition was given to Willard E. and Betty Coleman who have given their lives and who have labored for 20 years in a very difficult and hard area of the country to plant a church—Richfield, Utah. After 20 years of very little visible results, the harvest is beginning to come in. They were recognized with the Willard E. Coleman Award for church planters. They were given a standing ovation by the crowd.

### Roster Report

David L. Wigington, co-chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of Thursday afternoon, August 4, 2011:

#### VOTING:

Ordained	2,225	
Licensed	550	
Delegates	269	
Executive Presbyters	20	
General Presbyters	230	
Voting Constituency		3,294

#### NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	1,345	
Auxiliary Staff	83	
Certified	263	

Fine Arts/AIM	6,096	
General Attendees	8,838	
Kids Council	367	
Guests	94	
Other	321	
Staff	200	
Nonvoting Constituency		<u>17,607</u>
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION</b>		<b>20,901</b>

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

### **Resolution 27. Consolidation of Three Springfield Schools**

John R. Wootton, chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 27 and moved its adoption.

A motion prevailed that the vote on this resolution be done by secret ballot. Following discussion, a secret ballot was cast.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee reported the following results of the secret ballot:

Total votes cast	1,764
Needed to carry	883
Yes votes	1,318
No votes	446

Resolution 27 as adopted follows:

- WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery in its November 2010, meeting authorized the Executive Leadership Team and select members of the Executive Presbytery to meet with the presidents and board chairs of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Central Bible College, and Evangel University to initiate action that would lead to the consolidation of these three Higher Learning Commission accredited schools; and
- WHEREAS, The impetus for the Executive Presbytery moving forward resulted from earnest prayer in the general superintendent's office on October 4, 2010, that if an attempt to achieve consolidation was the Lord's will, a way would be found financially to make the consolidation possible; and
- WHEREAS, The day after the earnest prayer for God's will, a completely unexpected and unsolicited gift of \$5,000,000 was pledged and subsequently accepted by the Executive Presbytery for consolidation purposes with the provision the money be returned if the consolidation did not take place; and
- WHEREAS, In good faith the Executive Presbytery has already released \$600,000 in scholarship assistance from the \$5,000,000 to the three schools (\$250,000 each to Central Bible College and Evangel University; \$100,000 to the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary) for the purpose of recruiting or retaining students in this season of transition during the coming school year of 2011-12; and
- WHEREAS, A meeting with select members of the Executive Presbytery, the presidents, and board chairs of the three schools took place December

- 20, 2010, informing them of the gift and the desire of the Executive Presbytery to move forward with consolidation efforts; and
- WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery called a meeting on January 25, 2011, with all three boards of directors in which a plan was put forward to appoint a Task Force to work toward consolidation; and
- WHEREAS, Each board of directors separately took action to approve going forward with consolidation efforts through the appointment of a Task Force that consisted of the general superintendent as chairman, three other members of the Executive Presbytery, and four representatives from each of the schools (the president, board chair, lay donor, and faculty representative selected by secret vote of the faculty); and
- WHEREAS, The Task Force was given the responsibility to provide a mission statement, core values, structure, governance and bylaws for the consolidated university; and
- WHEREAS, The Task Force worked diligently from February through May 2011, to complete its assignment; and
- WHEREAS, The report of the Task Force in late May 2011 was then transmitted to the three boards of directors and the Executive Presbytery; and
- WHEREAS, Each of the three boards of directors, in separate actions, approved the report and recommendations of the Task Force in terms of a statement of mission, core values, structure, governance and bylaws; and
- WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery subsequently received the action of the three boards and approved the Task Force report and recommendations; and
- WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery has directed the general superintendent to communicate to the constituency prior to 2011 General Council the essential elements of the Task Force Report and its recommendations; and
- WHEREAS, It is the firm belief of the Assemblies of God leadership that a consolidated university will continue to be a Christ-centered comprehensive educational institution in arts and sciences, humanities, professions, and ministry vocations, fully committed to the authority of Scripture and to shaping students as Spirit-empowered leaders who are intellectually, culturally, emotionally, and spiritually equipped to impact society and the global church; and
- WHEREAS, Assemblies of God higher education has illustrated over the past five decades the wisdom of single-purpose institutions becoming multipurpose institutions, with the number of students studying for ministry increasing in multipurpose endorsed accredited schools while students studying for ministry in single-purpose endorsed accredited schools has declined over the past decade; and
- WHEREAS, The spiritual climate among faculty and students in Assemblies of God multi-major schools is no less intense and Spirit-saturated than at single-purpose institutions; and
- WHEREAS, It is anticipated that the consolidated university will attract a greater number of students than presently enrolled in the three schools separately; and
- WHEREAS, It is also prudent fiscally to combine the three schools for economic efficiencies and economies of scale; and
- WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws provide for recognized corporations including the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Central Bible College, and Evangel University; and
- WHEREAS, This bylaw provision will need to be amended if consolidation is approved by the General Council in session and by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association; and

- WHEREAS, It would not be appropriate to dissolve any corporation of the three schools until the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) has approved an application for consolidation—a process that will require up to 24 months; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the General Council approve the consolidation of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Central Bible College, and Evangel University as Evangel University; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the General Presbytery be empowered to ratify the board of trustees for the consolidated university upon appointment by the Executive Presbytery; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws of the university be adopted by the consolidated board of trustees, subject to ratification by the General Presbytery upon recommendation by the Executive Presbytery; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the consolidated university's board of trustees, amenable to the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery, take all necessary measures, upon approval by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), to implement the consolidated university; and, be it further
- RESOLVED, That upon approval by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the application by the consolidated university's board of trustees; the board of trustees, with Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery approval, then sponsor to the 2013 General Council any necessary amendment to the General Council Bylaws, Article XV. CORPORATIONS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, Section 5, page 145, regarding recognized corporations.

#### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 4:38 p.m. Prayer was offered by H. Robert Rhoden, executive presbyter from the Northeast Area.

#### **THURSDAY EVENING—AUGUST 4**

The Thursday service of the 54th General Council began at 7 p.m. in the U.S. Airways Center in Phoenix, Arizona. Ricardo Sanchez began the service with a call to worship. Following a time of worship, George O. Wood, general superintendent, recognized L. John Bueno, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, for his service to the Fellowship. L. John Bueno then prayed over the evening service. After prayer, Ann and Elle Steward, Ministry to Muslims, performed a drama. The offering was received by Chester D. (Chet) Caudill, Jr., and was designated for Speed the Light. Bradley R. and Rebekah Bichsel, Springfield, Virginia, who are graduates of North Central University and travel full-time within the U.S. and abroad leading worship and teaching worship workshops, provided the offertory.

The speaker for the evening was James T. Bradford, general secretary. The theme of his message was to seek God's presence, not just His promise. He encouraged the audience not to settle for God's promise without His presence. He recounted the story of the children of Israel and how God told them to go on to the land He had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He would keep His promise and give them the land. He would drive out their enemies, but "I will not go with you." Bradford asked a series of questions: Are we buying into that proposition? Are we settling for God's promise but not His presence? Have we become eager for God's stuff, His blessings and His promises, but lost a passion for His presence? Has our work for God become more intoxicating than our walk with God? He stated that Moses' response captured the heart of the message. He came back to God insisting, "Those are unacceptable terms." "Without God's presence, it was not worth taking another step."

Bradford made an application of this truth for church life today with a chart of typical focuses on one side and things we dare not forget on the other. In our focus on praise, let's not forget prayer. In our focus on leadership, let's not forget love. In our focus on models, let's not forget discernment. Focusing on creativity, we must not forget encounter. Finally, in our focus on serving, we cannot forget evangelism. At the end of his message, he then called those hungry for God to come to the altar. Hundreds responded.

**FRIDAY MORNING—AUGUST 5**

The general superintendent reconvened the business session at 8:45 a.m. and read Psalm 133. Prayer was given by A. Elizabeth (Beth) Grant, executive presbyter.

**Roster Report**

Richard A. Plunk, co-chairman of the Roster Committee, gave the following report as of Friday morning, August 5, 2011:

**VOTING:**

Ordained	2,225	
Licensed	550	
Delegates	269	
Executive Presbyters	20	
General Presbyters	230	
Voting Constituency		3,294

**NONVOTING:**

Exhibitors	1,346	
Auxiliary Staff	84	
Certified	265	
Fine Arts/AIM	6,096	
General Attendees	8,917	
Kids Council	367	
Guests	96	
Other	321	
Staff	200	
Nonvoting Constituency		17,692
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION</b>		<b>20,986</b>

A motion prevailed to receive the report.

**Resolution 18. Nonresident Executive Presbyters Balloted by Area**

Nicholas W. Fatato, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 18 and moved its adoption.

The motion to adopt Resolution 18 was lost. Resolution 18 as presented follows:

- WHEREAS, Our General Council is large both in numbers and geography; and
- WHEREAS, It is difficult for the voters from one area of the country to know the qualifications of the nominees from another area of the country; and
- WHEREAS, It would seem beneficial to the Fellowship to allow the voters from the areas to vote on the nominees from their area; 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 (1), (a) By area, page 104, which reads:

(a) *By area.* The nominations for 11 area nonresident executive presbyters shall be made as follows: Each district council at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session shall nominate two ministers from its district, one of whom is not an elected full-time district official, to be presented to the General Council as nominees from its area. These nominees shall be presented to and be balloted upon by the General Council in session. A two-thirds vote shall be required to nominate and elect. If no election has been declared after the third elective ballot has been cast, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.

Be amended to read:

(a) *By area.* The nominations for 11 area nonresident executive presbyters shall be made as follows: Each district council at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session shall nominate two ministers from its district, one of whom is not an elected full-time district official, to be presented to the General Council as nominees from its area. These nominees shall be presented to ~~the General Council in session~~ and be balloted upon by ~~the General Council in session~~ the voting members of their respective area. (Members of various areas will only vote on nominees from their area.) A two-thirds vote shall be required to nominate and elect. If no election has been declared after the third elective ballot has been cast, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.

### **Resolution 19. Organizational Assistance Percentage and Process**

Randal L. Ross, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 19 and moved its adoption.

It was moved and seconded to amend Resolution 19 by changing the words “30 percent” to “20 percent.” The motion lost.

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

- WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God and the North Texas District Council believe that all churches should function in a scriptural and healthy manner; and
- WHEREAS, Matthew 18:15–17 and 1 Timothy 5:19 specifically address scriptural procedure for addressing church conflict; and
- WHEREAS, Many churches have capable leadership and leadership systems in place; and
- WHEREAS, In most churches the overwhelming majority of members are supportive or accepting of pastoral and lay leadership; and
- WHEREAS, Most churches have more attendees than members; and
- WHEREAS, It seems unwise to empower a small minority to override the balance, health, and leadership of the entire church; and
- WHEREAS, Allowing petition for district or General Council intervention from 20 percent (20%) of the membership seems to directly conflict with the super majority of the remaining members and congregational attendees; and

WHEREAS, Empowering 20 percent (20%) of the members to seek leadership intervention through petition seems unwise and unsettling; and  
WHEREAS, In small churches or churches with less members, 20 percent (20%) of the members could literally comprise one or two families; and  
WHEREAS, The health and unity of the church could be compromised by the misguided use of parliamentary tools; and  
WHEREAS, The tool of petitioning is not being challenged in this resolution but is sought to be redefined through this resolution; therefore, be it  
RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 4. Relationships Between Churches, District Councils, and the General Council, paragraph c. Organizational assistance, page 115, which reads:

**c. Organizational assistance.** The services of both the General Council and district council are available to assist the General Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the official board of the church or a petition signed by 20 percent of the voting members. When district officers receive such requests, they shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary, recommending remedial actions to the responsible district governing entity, (e.g., district presbytery or district executive presbytery). At its discretion, that governing entity may act to bring the church under district supervision and, when necessary, revert it from General Council status to district affiliated status until the governing entity considers the problem resolved.

Be amended to read:

**c. Organizational assistance.** The services of both the General Council and district council are available to assist the General Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the official board of the church or a petition signed by ~~20~~ 30 percent of the voting members, with the petitioning process and delivery to the district council taking no more than 30 days in total to complete. When district officers receive such requests, it is recommended they first verify that scriptural principles of reconciliation, such as those found in Matthew 18:15-17 and 1 Timothy 5:19, have been reasonably attempted by the requesting party in situations involving interpersonal conflict. District officers they shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary, recommending remedial actions to the responsible district governing entity, (e.g., district presbytery or district executive presbytery). At its discretion, that governing entity may act to bring the church under district supervision and, when necessary, revert it from General Council status to district affiliated status until the governing entity considers the problem resolved.

### **Resolution 21. Commitment to Ecclesiastical Integrity**

Randal L. Ross, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 21 and moved its adoption.

It was moved and seconded that a period be added at the end of line 8, page 43, and the last two lines be deleted. The motion lost.

A motion prevailed to add the words *the possibility of* to line 24 of page 42, immediately following the word “that” so the Resolve will read: RESOLVED, That the 54th General Council go on record as recognizing that the possibility of an ecclesiastical inconsistency has come to exist.

The motion to adopt Resolution 21 as amended was lost. Resolution 21 as amended follows:

- WHEREAS, Scripture says that God desires truth in the “inner parts” (Psalm 51:6); and
- WHEREAS, The General Council has constitutionally and historically been committed to a congregational/presbyterian hybrid polity, defined by the founders as a “Voluntary Cooperative Fellowship”; and
- WHEREAS, We corporately continue to celebrate the fruits of our historic “voluntary cooperative fellowship”; and
- WHEREAS, Current General Council publicity materials continue to portray our current identity as being consistent with those founding ecclesiastical principles; and
- WHEREAS, The General Council in session has made decisions in recent years that are inherently in conflict with such stated principles, including (but not limited to) (1) the complete redefinition of the terms “voluntary cooperative fellowship” by the 51st General Council in Denver, Colorado, in such a way as to be consistent with an episcopal form of church government, and (2) the passing of Resolution 12. Organizational Assistance by the 53rd General Council in Orlando, Florida, which, in effect, removes virtually all legal autonomy of local congregations; and
- WHEREAS, Multiple districts have taken brethren to court, going so far as to argue in courts across America that we are a “hierarchical” denomination, like all historically episcopal/presbyterian denominations; and
- WHEREAS, There is little doubt that the actions of all involved over the years have been well-intentioned, to provide leadership, seek justice, and to serve the purposes of our Fellowship; yet God cannot bless us in the way we truly desire when we knowingly or unknowingly contradict ourselves and “bear false witness” to the world; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the 54th General Council go on record as recognizing that the possibility of an ecclesiastical inconsistency has come to exist;  
And, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery revisit all relevant General Council documents regarding this matter, including (but not limited to) our Constitution, Bylaws, publicity materials, etc.;  
And, be it further
- RESOLVED, That the Executive Presbytery make a complete report to the 2012 (and, if necessary, 2013) General Presbytery in session to take as many corrective steps to remove any ecclesiastical inconsistency as can be immediately taken;  
And, be it further
- RESOLVED, That both the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery make a full report to the 55th General Council with recommendations and resolutions (a) to bring all General Council and district council documents in line with a structure, regardless of its nature, that has complete ecclesiastical integrity before God and the world, and (b) as to whether it is proper and necessary to repent and request forgiveness for any past actions so that God’s favor will not be withheld from our Fellowship.

### **Resolution 24. Disaffiliation Percentage**

Daniel M. York, member of the Resolutions Committee presented Resolution 24 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 24 as follows:

- WHEREAS, There are nondenominational churches that join our Fellowship from time to time; and
- WHEREAS, The percentage required to affiliate with our Fellowship may be different than those required to disaffiliate; and
- WHEREAS, Those nondenominational churches that join the Assemblies of God may choose to disaffiliate from the Fellowship at some point in the future; and
- WHEREAS, A stricter requirement to withdraw from the Fellowship unfairly penalizes those churches who voluntarily joined this Fellowship; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 4. Relationships Between Churches, District Councils, and the General Council, paragraph d. Preservation of affiliation, page 116, which presently reads:

**d. Preservation of affiliation.** In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor or board shall invite the district officers to participate in a specially called business meeting where such matters will be discussed and voted upon for the express purpose of giving the district officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. A decision to disaffiliate shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership, or a more restrictive rule prescribed by the governing documents of the church or district.

Be amended to read:

**d. Preservation of affiliation.** In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor or board shall invite the district officers to participate in a specially called business meeting where such matters will be discussed and voted upon for the express purpose of giving the district officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. A decision to disaffiliate shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership, or a more restrictive rule prescribed by the governing documents of the church or district. In the case of a previously existing church which later affiliated with the Fellowship through a vote of its membership, the percentage required to disaffiliate shall not exceed the percentage required when the church voted to affiliate.

### **Resolution 25. Ministerial Relations Appeal Process**

Daniel M. York, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 25 and moved its adoption.

A motion prevailed that Resolution 25 be amended by deleting the word “or” on line 8, page 14.

The motion to adopt Resolution 25 as amended was carried. Resolution 25 as amended and adopted follows:

- WHEREAS, The General Presbytery in session has asked for clarification of the process for making an appeal of a discipline action to the Ministerial Relations Committee; and
- WHEREAS, The present General Council Bylaws Article X. DISCIPLINE, Section 10. Right of Appeal, paragraphs a. and c. do not specifically require that “new or exculpatory information not previously considered” be submitted as the criteria for grounds for an appeal; and
- WHEREAS, The lack of specific required grounds for an appeal to the General Presbytery results in some ambiguity and opportunity for potentially frivolous appeals without substantive evidence of innocence not previously considered; and
- WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution and Bylaws imply the right of a district to appeal a decision of the Executive Presbytery at various points (such as in the General Council Constitution Article XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES, Section 1, paragraph c. Right of self-government), it does not specifically mention the right of a district to appeal a decision of the Executive Presbytery while acting as the General Council Credentials Committee; and
- WHEREAS, Districts have in fact appealed decisions regarding ministerial discipline made by the Executive Presbytery to the General Presbytery; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article X. DISCIPLINE, Section 10. Right of Appeal, paragraph c. Right of appeal to the General Presbytery, page 137, which reads:

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

Be amended to read:

**c. Right of appeal to the General Presbytery.**

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

(2) A district may appeal a decision of the Executive Presbytery to the General Presbytery. The decision of the General Presbytery shall be final.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM, Section 9. Duties of the General Presbytery, paragraph c, page 110, which reads:

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

Be amended to read:

c. Act as a court of final appeal for a disciplined minister or a district appealing a decision of the General Council Credentials Committee.

### **Resolution 34. Courtesy Resolution**

John R. Wootton, chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution 34 and moved it adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 34 as follows:

WHEREAS, The 54th General Council of the Assemblies of God has been afforded gracious hospitality and accommodation by the officials and agencies of the city of Phoenix, Arizona, and our host districts, the Arizona District Council and the Southwest District Council; and

WHEREAS, A wide host of persons, countless agencies, and firms have committed much in order to provide effective service to the members, delegates, and guests of this 54th General Council; and

WHEREAS, The 54th General Council has experienced outstanding attendance by its members, the wide and varied expressions of this church through its effective ministries at home and abroad, and the intentional involvement of compassion ministry to many needy residents of our host city; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That sincere appreciation be expressed to: Mayor Phil Gordon of the City of Phoenix; the Phoenix Convention Center, the U.S Airways Center, the Phoenix Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the many hotel and restaurant personnel, for their accommodation and hospitality; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That we give thanks to God for the gifted and visionary leadership He has raised up among us in the persons of our general superintendent, George O. Wood, the Executive Leadership Team, and the Executive Presbytery; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the ministers and churches of this Fellowship determine that the clarion call issued by our Lord at this 54th General Council and the ever-present call and challenge to expand His kingdom at home and abroad by every means possible, be affirmed and sustained by our ongoing commitment to fulfill the assignments that our Lord Jesus, the Head of this Church, has given us; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That on this historic occasion of our 54th General Council of the Assemblies of God that we rededicate ourselves, the Holy Spirit being our helper, to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ and that we leave this council in the bonds of Christian unity, determined to serve His wishes with all the resources, passion, and energy of our life.

### **Adjournment**

A motion prevailed to adjourn the business meeting of the 54th General Council at 11:15 a.m., Friday, August 5, 2011. A concluding prayer was given by Doug Clay, general treasurer.

## FRIDAY EVENING—AUGUST 5

The Friday service of the 54th General Council began at 6:30 p.m. in the U.S. Airways Center, featuring a worship segment by Christian recording artist Ricardo Sanchez. Following worship, Rebecca E. (Grant) Shults, daughter of Project Rescue founders David L. and A. Elizabeth (Beth) Grant, gave a presentation on human trafficking.

The Friday night message for the 54th General Council, brought by Doug Clay, was entitled “Dreaming in 3D.” The challenge was for students to capture God’s dream for their life and for adults to prayerfully consider being dream releasers. He used the life of Joseph to emphasize the fact that dreams are a valuable commodity for ministry.

Clay referred to Joseph as someone who didn’t give up on his dream even when no one believed it; he didn’t give up on the dream even when things didn’t start out well; and he didn’t give up on the dream even though it took a while for the dream to come true; he didn’t cash in the dream for a few moments of sinful pleasure.

In the middle of the message, Clay reminded the attendees that the Assemblies of God believes that if someone has a call of God on their life, He will make a way possible for them to pursue that call.

A video documentary was shown of a young man who has a calling into full-time ministry, but due to family hardships, attending an Assemblies of God school was not possible. Clay invited the young man on the stage and presented him a full scholarship to Southwestern Assemblies of God University. Clay then gave all in attendance the opportunity to contribute to this scholarship initiative. The response was overwhelming. The altar call was designed for students to say yes to God’s dream.

Following the evening message, the National Fine Arts Festival Celebration Service began at 8:30 p.m. in the U.S. Airways Center. The service spotlighted the top Fine Arts/Kappa Tau participants from across the nation. Members of the national Youth Ministries team recognized award recipients in each category.

James T. Bradford  
General Secretary

## IN MEMORIAM

The following list includes the names of all who had been reported to the general secretary’s office from June 1, 2009, to May 31, 2011, and were included in the Memorial Scroll:

Abeyta, Epimenio, Albuquerque, NM  
Ackerman, Edgar III, San Antonio, TX  
Adams, James R., El Dorado, AR  
Adamson, Lillian C., Oshkosh, WI  
Addleton, Andrew P., Byron, GA  
Ahlf, L. Glen, Port Charlotte, FL  
Aldridge, H. De Lois, Anadarko, OK  
Alford, James T., Jonesboro, AR  
Allen, John O., Connersville, IN  
Allen, Kelso G., Jacksonville, FL  
Allen, Philip E., Stanton, KY  
Allen, Troy L., Flora Vista, NM  
Amitie, Claude J., Wake Forest, NC  
Anders, Carl E., Jonesboro, AR  
Anderson, Edwin P., Springfield, MO

Anderson, Henry T., Vidor, TX  
Anderson, Mardria M., Narrows, VA  
Anderson, Stella R., Waco, TX  
Ariail, Nell M., Brea, CA  
Armstrong, Benjamin F., Bakersfield, CA  
Arnett, Jewel C., Woodburn, OR  
Arnold, Earl R., Andrews, TX  
Arnold, Forest, Springfield, MO  
Ash, Alvie A., Puxico, MO  
Ashbrook, Lowell C., West Monroe, LA  
Asher, Ruby M., Union City, TN  
Atencio, Jerry, Queen Creek, AZ  
Attakai, Ellen, Keams Canyon, AZ  
Atwell, Percy J., Cedarville, AR  
Aycock, Cecil E., Oklahoma City, OK

Backman, Norman G., Ontario, CA  
 Baker, David H., Singapore  
 Baker, Kenneth D., Greenville, SC  
 Baldwin, Duard, Springfield, MO  
 Baldwin, Paul D., Loganville, GA  
 Baldwin, Reta J., Kirksville, MO  
 Ball, Linwood M., Warrenton, VA  
 Ballard, Marion C., Little Rock, AR  
 Banks, Jacqueline J., Des Moines, IA  
 Banks, M. Lee, Ramseur, NC  
 Bankson, Mildred, Rockford, IL  
 Banning, Earl J., Dallas, TX  
 Banning, Joyce D., Dallas, TX  
 Barela, Albert Sr., Pacoima, CA  
 Barfield, Henry U., Devol, OK  
 Barrientez, Francisco, Tulia, TX  
 Bartel, Harry K., Springfield, MO  
 Bartel, Martha E., Springfield, MO  
 Bauer, Martha, Springfield, MO  
 Bazan, Alexander G., Vista, CA  
 Beard, Anna M., Boaz, AL  
 Beard, Irvin T., Wood River, IL  
 Bedell, Leslie E., Vista, CA  
 Beech, Lavoy E., Millry, AL  
 Beem, Mildred F., Fort Myers, FL  
 Bell, Robert J., Jackson, MS  
 Belobraidic, Esther, Redding, CA  
 Bergeron, Douglas J., Marksville, LA  
 Berglund, Arlan J., Sandy, OR  
 Bernal, Maria R., Elsa, TX  
 Berry, Willis E., Springfield, MO  
 Best, James G., Tovey, IL  
 Biffert, Gladys, Waupaca, WI  
 Bihl, Ismael C., Big Spring, TX  
 Bilhimer, Lloyd R., Baldwin City, KS  
 Bird, Charnel A., Hawkins, TX  
 Bishop, Aiken S., North Charleston, SC  
 Bjerken, Randall D., Palmer, AK  
 Blair, Leithal, Marianna, FL  
 Blay, Gordon S., Redding, CA  
 Bloomfield, Loni, Oakland, CA  
 Blythe, Earl E., Mount Juliet, TN  
 Bogue, Donald J., Phoenix, AZ  
 Bolebrukh, Stepan, Antelope, CA  
 Bolt, Jack D., Pasadena, TX  
 Bonafoux, Maria, Trujillo Alto, PR  
 Boone, Oletha M., San Diego, CA  
 Boulware, James L., Shady Cove, OR  
 Boyd, Dudley Q., Ventura, CA  
 Boyd, Marie, Farmington, NM  
 Bradberry, James D., Independence, MO  
 Bradberry, Margie L., Independence, MO  
 Branch, John C. III, Tazewell, VA  
 Brandon, Annie C., Anchorage, AK  
 Brannan, Mildred G., Seligman, MO  
 Brauchler, David R., Euless, TX  
 Bridges, James K., Waxahachie, TX  
 Briggs, Violet C., Desert Shores, CA  
 Briscoe, Damaris, Bronx, NY  
 Brogdon, C. Duane, Broken Arrow, OK  
 Brooks, Evelyn J., Dallas, TX  
 Brothers, Raymond E., Cleveland, TX  
 Brown, Alfred F., Oakville, WA  
 Brown, Dale G., Mustang, OK  
 Brown, Doug, Valdosta, GA  
 Brown, Everett M., Owasso, OK  
 Brown, Frances E., Yakima, WA  
 Brown, Richard L., Manteca, CA  
 Brown, Rudolph, Panama City, FL  
 Brumbalow, Rebecca W., Macon, GA  
 Burcham, Ronald R., Carlinville, IL  
 Burgess, Dillard P., Marshfield, MO  
 Burgess, Woodrow W., McCloud, OK  
 Burns, Nathan D., Jonesville, NC  
 Burriss, Mitchel K., Newberry, SC  
 Busse, Martin J., Reading, PA  
 Butler, Wesley E., Wichita, KS  
 Button, Sherman K., Humble, TX  
 Calderon, Victor, Mayaguez, PR  
 Caldwell, Harold O., Atkins, AR  
 Calloway, Lonnie E., Springfield, MO  
 Campbell, Hugh E., Hebron, NE  
 Campbell, Vernon D., Barling, AR  
 Canfield, Kenneth L., North Olmsted, OH  
 Cantu, Jose C., Houston, TX  
 Carlson, Waymann C., Inverness, FL  
 Carlton, James K., Manteca, CA  
 Carnley, Jack M., Lakeland, FL  
 Carpenter, Charlie W., Eufaula, AL  
 Carter, De Ette J., Rochester, MN  
 Caudle, Jack M., Peoria, AZ  
 Chambers, Charles A., Aurora, CO  
 Champion, Emory E., Fitzgerald, GA  
 Channell, Aaron N., Alabaster, AL  
 Chapman, Darrell M., Centennial, CO  
 Charvoz, Fred A., Liverpool, NY  
 Cheatham, Jimmy O., Bertrاند, MO  
 Cherry, Charles E., Locust Grove, GA  
 Chin, Tao Sum, Modesto, CA  
 Cissna, Sheldon H., Acworth, GA  
 Clark, Dorothy C., Bessemer City, NC  
 Clark, E. M., Springfield, MO  
 Clark, Hubert W., Leitchfield, KY  
 Clark, Linda J., Fort Smith, AR  
 Clayton, John L., West Fork, AR  
 Clendennen, B. H., Beaumont, TX  
 Coborn, Gerald D., Carlinville, IL  
 Collins, John M., Jamestown, CA  
 Combs, Joe, Springfield, MO  
 Conner, Carl G., Elizabeth City, NC  
 Cook, Sybil L., Malakoff, TX  
 Cope, Alfred E. Sr., Granite City, IL

Corral, Rodolfo, Montebello, CA  
 Correa, Frank B., Las Vegas, NV  
 Cosme, Jorge Quinones, Aibonito, PR  
 Costas, Randolph, Bayamón, PR  
 Cottriel, Gladys L., Bakersfield, CA  
 Cowart, H. Seborn, Duncanville, TX  
 Craft, W. Wayne, Valley Grande, AL  
 Crawford, D. Elaine, Hemet, CA  
 Crowder, C. Linfield, American Falls, ID  
 Cruse, Floyd L., Elk City, OK  
 Cruz, Miguel D., Harlingen, TX  
 Culbreth, Ercil J., Little Rock, AR  
 Cuni, Fermin, South Gate, CA  
 Curran, Harry J., Blue Earth, MN  
 Curry, Harold G., Fort Bragg, NC  
 Curtis, Marion J., Bellingham, WA  
 Custock, Thomas J., Sacramento, CA  
 Dalan, Emory J., Springfield, MO  
 Davidson, J. V., Whitt, TX  
 Davis, Donald N., Westbury, NY  
 Davis, Fred F., Oxnard, CA  
 Davis, James C., Waxahachie, TX  
 Davis, Kenneth E., El Paso, TX  
 Dawson, Timothy J., Springfield, MO  
 Deal, J. Richard, Salem, OR  
 Dean, Julia F., Vidor, TX  
 Dearman, Ryan C., Spring, TX  
 Decker, Myrl M., Tumwater, WA  
 Dederick, Donald K., Phoenix, AZ  
 Deegan, Margaret, Monroe Township, NJ  
 Degroat, David E., Rochester, NY  
 Deluca, Titus, Broken Arrow, OK  
 Desipio, Leonard P., Bradenton, FL  
 Devine, Everett E., Sequim, WA  
 Deweber, Hubert L., Ellensburg, WA  
 Diaz, Eduvigen S., Ozona, TX  
 Dick, Herbert L., Russellville, MO  
 Dickson, Trevett, Pageland, SC  
 Dillingham, Helen, Walnut Creek, CA  
 Dixon, Howard A., Paola, KS  
 Dobben, William J., Mansfield, OH  
 Douglas, Edwin R., Bloomfield, NM  
 Downs, Alvin B. Jr., West Monroe, LA  
 Dryden, Levern L., Oklahoma City, OK  
 Duncan, B. Edith, Whitman, MA  
 Duncan, Daniel R., High Point, NC  
 Duncan, George, Twin Falls, ID  
 Dunlap, Hershel D., McMinnville, OR  
 Durasoff, Steve, Springfield, MO  
 Dye, Wilson D., Vicksburg, MI  
 Earl, Louie A., Van Buren, AR  
 Eaves, Mary E., San Bernardino, CA  
 Echols, Helen M., Alamo, TN  
 Edgar, J. L., Troy, AL  
 Eger, Joseph F. Jr., Ovid, MI  
 Eggan, Chauncey L., New Philadelphia, OH  
 Ehrat, G. Kenneth, Gulfport, MS  
 Elliott, Dorothy L., Branson, MO  
 Enterline, Calbert W., Ripon, WI  
 Erickson, Gary T., Elk River, MN  
 Erickson, Wesley E., Oakley, CA  
 Ernst, Walter R., Springfield, MO  
 Erzberger, Cynthia L., Brookfield, WI  
 Espinoza, David P. Sr., San Fernando, CA  
 Estrada, Victor M., Wesley Chapel, FL  
 Evans, Jessica L., Springfield, MO  
 Ewing, Clarence L., Warrenton, OR  
 Fagerstrom, Wayne, Chino, CA  
 Fairbanks, Edward J., East Tawas, MI  
 Faircloth, Jack T., Jasper, AL  
 Fauth, Harry L., Malta, MT  
 Feliciano, Francisco, New York, NY  
 Fields, James E., Williamstown, KY  
 Fields, Melvin B., Houston, TX  
 Figueroa, Jose M., Guayanilla, PR  
 Fischer, Ronald E., Sidney, MT  
 Fish, Ollen W., Eagle, ID  
 Fish, William E., Perry, OK  
 Fitzpatrick, Dan A., Carthage, MO  
 Flascher, James L., Valdez, AK  
 Fleck, Le Roy, Helotes, TX  
 Florence, Robert G., Fort Worth, TX  
 Florez, Frank J., West Coxsackie, NY  
 Flower, Joseph R., Springfield, MO  
 Follis, Roy E., Kerrville, TX  
 Ford, James S., Santa Anna, TX  
 Fowler, John B. Jr., Florence, AZ  
 Franklin, Cecil S., Yamhill, OR  
 Franklin, Lillie Jo, Pensacola, FL  
 Franklin, Vernon D., Strathmore, CA  
 Frick, Ivar A. Jr., Minnetonka, MN  
 Frye, Grant H., Mojave, CA  
 Fuiten, John H., Salem, OR  
 Garcia, Hortencia, Orange, CA  
 Garcia, Ruben, Hialeah, FL  
 Garner, James C., Hurst, TX  
 Garrison, Mary C., Raton, NM  
 Gebhart, Michael J., Conway, AR  
 Gerrard, John E., Paul, ID  
 Gibbs, Fred N., Lumberton, NC  
 Gibson, Hubert W., Opp, AL  
 Giere, John H., Driftwood, TX  
 Gilbert, James H., Wichita Falls, TX  
 Glover, Gwendolyn D., Springfield, MO  
 Goble, Melvin F., Rockford, IL  
 Goble, Warren D., Kearney, NE  
 Godwin, L. C., Mayfield, KY  
 Gonzalez, Eutimio P., La Marque, TX  
 Gonzalez, Maria R., Fort Myers, FL  
 Gonzalez, Vidal, Orange Park, FL  
 Goodwin, G. G., Hurst, TX  
 Goree, Imelda D., Mobile, AL

Goree, Robert D., Henderson, NV  
 Gorrin, Eudis, Greenville, SC  
 Gouge, Robert G. Jr., Wichita, KS  
 Graham, J. D., Sullivan, MO  
 Grant, Charles J., Duck River, TN  
 Grant, Curtis E., Milton, FL  
 Green, Adeline L., Glendale, AZ  
 Green, Basil R., Lafayette, LA  
 Green, M. L., Hartford, AL  
 Green, Paul J., Muldrow, OK  
 Greene, E. Irene, Tyler, TX  
 Griep, Frank R., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA  
 Griffith, Dennis W., Riverside, CA  
 Grimes, Joe B., Samson, AL  
 Gross, Kenneth, Mount Sterling, KY  
 Gross, Leland V., Sun City, AZ  
 Guiney, Carl E., Woonsocket, RI  
 Gullede, Rick D., Lehigh Acres, FL  
 Guynes, Eleanor R., Waxahachie, TX  
 Hall, Rodney R., Waterloo, IN  
 Hall, Ronald E., Locust Grove, VA  
 Hallquist, Robert A., Vineyard Haven, MA  
 Hamelink, Tracy L., Saint Paul, MN  
 Hamman, Harry J., Muskegon, MI  
 Hanawalt, William L., Cocoa, FL  
 Handley, William R., Houston, TX  
 Haney, Wayne D., Springfield, MO  
 Hanna, Betty J., Phoenix, AZ  
 Hanohano, Louis, Makawao, HI  
 Hanson, Clarence C., Castle Rock, CO  
 Harden, George E., Dothan, AL  
 Hardin, Kenneth L., Farwell, MI  
 Hardy, William R. III, Houston, TX  
 Harms-Moran, Dovie A., Hennessey, OK  
 Harper, Earl, Merkel, TX  
 Harris, James M., Springfield, MO  
 Harris, Joseph E., Lynden, WA  
 Hartzler, Gladys E., Guin, AL  
 Harvey, John H., Marine, IL  
 Hathaway, Elmer, Chelsea, OK  
 Haworth, Milton A., Hobart, OK  
 Haymaker, L. A., Hot Springs, AR  
 Hays, William W., Paris, AR  
 Hazard, Ida G., Rochester, NY  
 Headding, Grace E., Lamar, CO  
 Headley, Ruth O., Grandview, MO  
 Heady, Jack U., Inverness, FL  
 Heath, Larry R., Enid, OK  
 Hebert, Lillie B., Des Allemands, LA  
 Heidorn, Louise T., Jackson, KY  
 Helms, Dewey N., Mrs., Klondike, TX  
 Henderson, Carl S., Dayton, WA  
 Henderson, Loren L., Duncan, OK  
 Herren, Ellen L., Quapaw, OK  
 Herrera, Pedro M., Del Rio, TX  
 Hicks, Clifton R., Manchester, GA  
 Hicks, George E., Conroe, TX  
 High, Derrell D., Mesquite, TX  
 Hild, Paul H., Springfield, MO  
 Hill, Floyd J., Springtown, TX  
 Hill, Howard Dean, Rocklin, CA  
 Hines, Curtis F., Rockville, IN  
 Hines, Harlin C., Nashville, TN  
 Hinman, Lindy P., Newport News, VA  
 Hixon, Gail K., Oakland, MD  
 Hodgeman, Patricia, Bennington, VT  
 Hodges, Albert B., Trinity, AL  
 Hoff, Helen E., Santiago, Chile  
 Hoffman, Paul W., Eugene, OR  
 Hoffman, Ruby N., Eugene, OR  
 Hoffstot, Berlie V., Collinsville, IL  
 Holbrook, Ernest E., Lakeland, FL  
 Holden, Orvil L., Gillette, WY  
 Holland, Thomas C., Cranford, NJ  
 Hollandsworth, Ralph, Gig Harbor, WA  
 Holmquist, Richard A., Little Canada, MN  
 Honey, V. Ward, Portland, OR  
 Horner, Kenneth E., Jacksonville, FL  
 Hotz, Freeda J., Silver Spring, MD  
 Howard, Irving B., Winchester, VA  
 Howard, James E., Eustace, TX  
 Howard, Paul E., Waskom, TX  
 Howe, David L., Bridgeport, WV  
 Hudson, Lloyd E., Collinsville, OK  
 Hudson, Raymond H., Lovington, NM  
 Hughes, James M., McDonough, GA  
 Huie, Bob, Benton, AR  
 Hurst, Evelyn L., Claremore, OK  
 Hurst, U. S., Warrior, AL  
 Hutsell, Paul E., Roswell, NM  
 Hutto, Rendol L., Collins, MS  
 Hymes, Janet L., Wiley Ford, WV  
 Ibarra, Jose, Fullerton, CA  
 Ingroum, Mark W., Kingman, AZ  
 Jackson, Freda L., Springfield, MO  
 Jackson, Jennie N., Bronx, NY  
 Jackson, Jesse D., Independence, MO  
 Jacobs, Henry P., Markham, TX  
 Jacobs, Robert L., Mariposa, CA  
 Jacobsen, Rayder O., Holden, MA  
 Jacobson, Adolph M., Yucaipa, CA  
 James, Lendon N., Waynesboro, MS  
 Janes, Naomi C., Rome, GA  
 Janeski, Clyde L., Fort Worth, TX  
 Jenkins, Edgar, Gilbertown, AL  
 Johnson, Jimmie R., Highland, IN  
 Johnson, Johnie L., Carrizozo, NM  
 Johnston, Elzora L., Quapaw, OK  
 Johnston, Erskin E., Weatherford, TX  
 Johnston, Thomas F., Billings, MT  
 Jolley, Donald L., Macon, GA  
 Jones, Charlie J., Miami Gardens, FL

Jones, Douglas R., Riverbank, CA  
 Jones, Radford, Donaldsonville, GA  
 Jones, Roberto, Margate, FL  
 Jones, William A., Alabaster, AL  
 Jorgenson, Lloyd C., Bismarck, ND  
 June, Norman B., Glens Falls, NY  
 Kalina, Mitchell R., East Pittsburgh, PA  
 Kanaga, Lynn D., Keizer, OR  
 Karol, Stanley W. Sr., Mount Laurel, NJ  
 Kelchner, Daniel H., Chesapeake, VA  
 Kelly, Earl W., Corpus Christi, TX  
 Kelly, Von Duke, Springfield, MO  
 Kemper, Shirley L., Santaquin, UT  
 Kendrick, Klaude, Fayetteville, AR  
 Kenney, Betty Jo, Bellevue, WA  
 Kent, Ruth E., Novi, MI  
 Kenworthy, Chester D., West Sacramento, CA  
 Kersten, Milton J., Waupaca, WI  
 Keyser, Ronald D., Springfield, OR  
 Kiestler, Jessie E., Ripley, TN  
 Kimball, Roland C., Newmarket, NH  
 Kimbler, Rodney P., Pine City, MN  
 King, Earnest W., Quinton, VA  
 King, Eldon L., Pottsville, AR  
 King, Robert S. Jr., Lexington, KY  
 Kingsriter, Arvid C., Minneapolis, MN  
 Kitrel, Jewel W., Paragould, AR  
 Klemin, Anita, Salem, OR  
 Knox, Ida A., Enid, OK  
 Koeshall, Peter J., Lindale, TX  
 Kolenda, Herbert D. Sr., Menominee, MI  
 Kolstad, Tom L., Redmond, OR  
 Kopper, Edwin L., Aptos, CA  
 Kordon, Werner H., Palm Beach Gardens, FL  
 Kowitz, Walter L., Inver Grove Heights, MN  
 Kramer, Lee E., Sterling, IL  
 Krebs, Helen, Skidmore, TX  
 Kronberg, Walter W., Rochester, IN  
 Kurka, Robert L. Jr., Cherry Tree, PA  
 Langley, Lawrence, Spiro, OK  
 Lansberry, James, Rileyville, VA  
 Larson, Claven B., Cottonwood, AZ  
 Leach, Thomas J., Ellendale, ND  
 Lee, James H., Lynn Haven, FL  
 Leeper, Lewis H., Lykens, PA  
 Legg, Robert J., Lake Wales, FL  
 Leggett, Danny R., Kennett, MO  
 Leisz, Jerome P., Vernon, FL  
 Lemos, Ruth Doris, São Paulo, Brazil  
 Lenard, Mildred, West Monroe, LA  
 Lewis, James A., East Wenatchee, WA  
 Lewis, Larry K., Antlers, OK  
 Lewis, Leslie A., Twin Falls, ID  
 Linzey, Stanford E., Escondido, CA  
 Littlefield, Myrtle H., Taylor, AL  
 Long, Curtis L., Pharr, TX  
 Long, David B., Heath, OH  
 Lopez, Trinidad, Laramie, WY  
 Lucero, Richard, Rosemead, CA  
 Lund, Daniel I., Haslet, TX  
 Lunsford, D. A., Palm Harbor, FL  
 Mack, Ella, Surprise, AZ  
 Madero, Arthur R., Los Angeles, CA  
 Magdi, Peter, Madison Heights, MI  
 Mamea, Atapana F., Auburn, WA  
 Marlin, Fon E., Denver, CO  
 Marrero, Pedro A., Humacao, PR  
 Martinez, Emilio, Espanola, NM  
 Martinez-Padilla, Rose Lee, Elk Grove, CA  
 Massey, Joe R., Union, MO  
 Masten, Marvin J. Jr., Lexington, NE  
 Matejka, Lucas P., Anchorage, AK  
 Matheny, Gordon H., Ocala, FL  
 Matson, C. Albert, Luzerne, PA  
 Mattea, Ronald L., Collinsville, IL  
 Matthews, William N., Dublin, TX  
 May, Harold W. Jr., Mogadore, OH  
 McAdams, Ellen M., Garden City, KS  
 McAdams, Henry O., Union, OR  
 McCartt, Marin D., Sunbright, TN  
 McCarty, Pearl E., Kingman, AZ  
 McCauley, Everett L., Union, MO  
 McClendon, J. H., Abilene, TX  
 McCormack, Ida M., Indianapolis, IN  
 McGuire, William E., Wurtland, KY  
 McLennan, John A., Port Angeles, WA  
 McLure, Earl D., West Monroe, LA  
 McManness, Glenda, Westerville, OH  
 McMullen, Robert D., Malvern, AR  
 McMullin, Callie I., Clinton, OK  
 McPheeters, Bernice, Lower Lake, CA  
 McQuillan, Arleene, Cave Creek, AZ  
 Meadows, Larry A., Clewiston, FL  
 Meissner, Edgar G., Bakersfield, CA  
 Melancon, Bernita N., Opelousas, LA  
 Melander, Reuben B., Buffalo Grove, IL  
 Melvin, Harry Jr., Bentonville, AR  
 Mendez, Carol K., Aguada, PR  
 Mercer, James F., Anchorage, AK  
 Merkes, Peter A., Anchorage, AK  
 Messick, J. Edward, Winchester, VA  
 Meszaros, William J., Dearborn, MI  
 Metcalfe, James C. Sr., Poolville, TX  
 Mikulek, Ben J., Bedford, TX  
 Miller, Dallas E., San Diego, CA  
 Mills, James D., Show Low, AZ  
 Mings, Vearl M., Lees Summit, MO  
 Minton, Clifford L., Modesto, CA  
 Miranda, David G., Houston, TX  
 Mitchell, Marjorie, Corning, NY  
 Monge, Miguel A. Sr., Lakeland, FL  
 Montanari, Frank D., Baltimore, MD

Moody, Walter W., Chowchilla, CA  
 Mooney, Stanley E., San Antonio, TX  
 Moore, Billy R., Trumann, AR  
 Moore, Peggy J., Nye, MT  
 Moorman, William, Conroe, TX  
 Morelock, Raymond D., Brownsville, TX  
 Moreno, Maritza, Sulphur Springs, TX  
 Morgan, Bernice E., Kalispell, MT  
 Morris, Marie B., West Plains, MO  
 Morris, Ruby E., Salem, OR  
 Morrison, Gordon L., Crestview, FL  
 Morrow, John D., Cache, OK  
 Mosier, Daniel J. F., Mobile, AL  
 Moya, Arthur J., Loveland, CO  
 Moyer, Samuel N., Gramercy, LA  
 Murphy, Carlos W., Pasadena, TX  
 Murrell, Ray, Sun City, AZ  
 Mussenden, Melanea, Cataño, PR  
 Myers, John J., Pittsburgh, PA  
 Mynatt, E. Doris, Gadsden, AL  
 Neel, Jean Benefiel, Roseville, CA  
 Neel, Robert D., Pryor, OK  
 Neidrauer, Howard D., Corfu, NY  
 Neveu, Todd J., North Huntingdon, PA  
 Newburn, Armon, Broken Arrow, OK  
 Newman, Floyd W., Costa Mesa, CA  
 Ney, Fred J., Norristown, PA  
 Nichols, Lynn S., Norfolk, NE  
 Northcutt, Charles E., Little Rock, AR  
 Norwood, Jesse W., Loves Park, IL  
 Nugent, Elmer J., Camden, AR  
 Nutt, Jerry L., Sucre, Bolivia  
 Nylín, Roy P., Silver Springs, FL  
 Oberdorfer, Dorothy E., Spokane, WA  
 Olson, Bertha G., Springfield, MO  
 Olson, John P., Grand Forks, ND  
 Ortiz, Alexander, Royersford, PA  
 Ortiz, Gabriel M., Coamo, PR  
 Ortiz, Modesta, Juncos, PR  
 Ortner, Jeffery D., Meridian, TX  
 Osmon, Christina N., Evansville, IN  
 Ott, Robert Eugene, Lewisburg, PA  
 Pagan, Jose, Old Tappan, NJ  
 Pansler, C. Eugene Sr., Lakeland, FL  
 Panzanella, Aldo, Strongsville, OH  
 Park, Muriel A., Modesto, CA  
 Parker, Mona B., Baton Rouge, LA  
 Partridge, Jesse M., Leola, AR  
 Pate, E. Morris, Montgomery, AL  
 Payne, Opal, Santa Ana, CA  
 Pearson, Marc, Poulso, WA  
 Pennington, Aaron, Rushville, IN  
 Per Due, Robert R., Louisville, KY  
 Perry, Byron W., Tifton, GA  
 Personeus, Marjory B., Port Orchard, WA  
 Peseti, Iulai, Garden Grove, CA  
 Petersen, Marlin W., Winter Park, FL  
 Peterson, Mervin K., Entiat, WA  
 Peterson, Vernon D., Houston, TX  
 Pettersen, Ove, Hubbardston, MA  
 Phillips, Aubrey T., Blairsville, GA  
 Phillips, Glenn E., Cottage Grove, OR  
 Phillips, Loyd, Baker City, OR  
 Phillips, Verna L., Brooksville, FL  
 Pierce, Alma L., Springfield, MO  
 Pierce, T. Burton Jr., Springfield, MO  
 Pignaloso, Peter, Boynton Beach, FL  
 Pilot, Pearl E., Palm City, FL  
 Poe, Terry A., Inwood, IA  
 Points, John E., El Dorado, AR  
 Pool, Arbert G., Redding, CA  
 Poore, Jerry W., Surgoinsville, TN  
 Porter, L. H., Owensboro, KY  
 Portinga, Alfred R., Forest Lake, MN  
 Powell, Jack Jr., Waianae, HI  
 Powers, Michael K., Crown Point, IN  
 Price, Max E., Columbus, GA  
 Prowitz, Paul C., Oconomowoc, WI  
 Pruett, Karol L., Princeton, MN  
 Pryor, James A., Phoenix, AZ  
 Puckett, Thomas J., North Tazewell, VA  
 Quattlebaum, Curran W., Lenexa, KS  
 Raculia, Joseph Jr., Orange, CA  
 Radke, Paul H. Sr., Westwego, LA  
 Raley, Charles W., Middleburg, FL  
 Ramdeen, Joseph, South Richmond Hill, NY  
 Ramirez, Lionel G., Bajadero, PR  
 Ramos, Bersie, Sacramento, CA  
 Ramos, Elsie E., Hialeah, FL  
 Ramos, Pedro Q., Pueblo, CO  
 Ramos, Victoria, Suffolk, VA  
 Ramsey, Elizabeth E., El Cajon, CA  
 Rasmussen, Aasmund, University Place, WA  
 Raspanti, Joseph, Peoria, AZ  
 Ravan, Marion F. Jr., Keizer, OR  
 Ray, Linda K., Amarillo, TX  
 Ray, Nathan D., Van Buren, AR  
 Reckley, Kent M., Norfolk, VA  
 Register, L. Muriel, Vernon, FL  
 Richard, James K., Frankston, TX  
 Richardson, Gladys E., Uniontown, PA  
 Richmeier, Vernon Sr., Toledo, OH  
 Richmond, Billy W., Huntington, AR  
 Richmond, Jack E., Cedarville, AR  
 Rickles, Kenneth E., Scottsboro, AL  
 Ridgway, Elmer L. Sr., Rawlins, WY  
 Riley, Herbert D., Westover, WV  
 Ring, Michael S., Batesville, AR  
 Risk, Calvin R. Jr., Henderson, NV  
 Risner, Grover W. Jr., Sherwood, OR  
 Rivera, Ismael, Cayey, PR  
 Robeck, Berdetta M., Las Vegas, NV

Roberson, Chester C., Lakeland, FL  
 Roberts, Mervin F., Harrisonville, MO  
 Robins, Arthur H., Bemidji, MN  
 Robison, A. Grant, Simla, CO  
 Robison, B. Van, Kerrville, TX  
 Rodriguez, Carlos A., Camarillo, CA  
 Rodriguez, Epifania, Harbor City, CA  
 Rogers, Calvin T., Old Orchard Beach, ME  
 Rogers, J. Donnie Jr., Yorktown, VA  
 Rogers, Robert M., Woodbridge, VA  
 Roggentine, Wanda F., Oakdale, CA  
 Roman, Alice V., Sacramento, CA  
 Romero, Luis F., Fresno, CA  
 Romero, Obed, Seal Beach, CA  
 Roque, Angel E., Yakima, WA  
 Rose, Lawrence K., Springfield, MO  
 Rosinski, Jeffrey R., Middletown, RI  
 Ross, David W., Galt, CA  
 Ross, J. D., Tyler, TX  
 Ross, Phyliss V., Venice, FL  
 Rowcliffe, Mylo R., Saint James, MN  
 Roy, Richard T., Colchester, CT  
 Roys, Dwight L., Salem, OR  
 Rule, Homer T., Lawrence, KS  
 Russell, Eric C., Morton Grove, IL  
 Sadler, Keith G., Atlantic City, NJ  
 Saffle, Loy V., Judsonia, AR  
 Salazar, Joe, Houston, TX  
 Salazar, Pilar E., San Marcos, TX  
 Salinas, Mildred T., Everett, WA  
 Salsedo, Paul D., Hayward, CA  
 Sanchez, Elias, McAllen, TX  
 Sanders, William R., Jenkintown, PA  
 Sandlin, Zona C., Lucerne, CA  
 Santiago, Angel A., Tampa, FL  
 Santiago, Luis, Sabana Grande, PR  
 Savchenko, Clarence P., Mesa, AZ  
 Savell, J. Paul, Conroe, TX  
 Sawyer, Herbert H., Robertsdale, AL  
 Sawyer, Mixon, Houston, TX  
 Sebastian, Joel E., De Soto, MO  
 Severn, Jimmy R., Decatur, AR  
 Seymour, James C., Ocean Springs, MS  
 Shaklee, Charles G., Weiser, ID  
 Shapter, Charles F., Boron, CA  
 Shatto, Ray Paul, Eagle, ID  
 Shaw, Geoffrey, Bellflower, CA  
 Sheaffer, Bonnie R., Oklahoma City, OK  
 Sheaffer, Daniel T., Oklahoma City, OK  
 Shelley, William L., Vacaville, CA  
 Shields, Michael R., Paris, TX  
 Shipp, Robert H., East Petersburg, PA  
 Shumway, Grace, Wichita, KS  
 Silva, David M., La Marque, TX  
 Sinner, Robert D., Forest Grove, OR  
 Sipes, William F., Mesquite, TX  
 Skinner, Ralph A., Milwaukee, WI  
 Skipper, Iris V., Parsons, WV  
 Slaughter, Cecil B., Winchester, OR  
 Smith, Bill H., Red Oak, TX  
 Smith, Brian K., Hickory, NC  
 Smith, E. Everett, Albuquerque, NM  
 Smith, Eugene, Saratoga, WY  
 Smith, James E., Sweet Springs, MO  
 Smith, Jerry A., Maryville, TN  
 Smith, John O., Lordsburg, NM  
 Smith, Mark R., Warrenton, VA  
 Smith, M. Inez, Caseyville, IL  
 Smithee, Homer E., Mead, OK  
 Snow, Isaac L., Erick, OK  
 Snyder, Neven A., Springfield, MO  
 Sommerfelt, Bill D., Cresco, IA  
 Sorensen, Raymond F., Jefferson, IA  
 Soroka, John S., Romeo, MI  
 Speir, George W., Midlothian, TX  
 Spencer, C. W., Lolita, TX  
 Spivey, Frederick D., Richmond, VA  
 Stanfield, Harold L., Bruceton, TN  
 Stangland, Bernice, Enumclaw, WA  
 Stanley, Donald E., Massillon, OH  
 Stanley, Emma L., Parker, AZ  
 Stanley, Gladys C., Massillon, OH  
 Stapleton, J. Alvin, Pueblo, CO  
 Statezny, Daniel E., Mesa, AZ  
 Stevens, H. L., Dumas, TX  
 Stevenson, Danny L., Quitman, LA  
 Stocker, Harvey, Orlando, FL  
 Stockwell, Viola G., Mineral Wells, TX  
 Stormoen, Lloyd K., Albert Lea, MN  
 Strasdin, Zelma, Somers, MT  
 Strickland, Barbara H., Springfield, MO  
 Strom, Orvia, Springfield, MO  
 Strouth, Garlin C., Ferrum, VA  
 Suan, Betty O., Sacramento, CA  
 Sullivan, Roy W., Bee Branch, AR  
 Sykes, Raymond C., Saint James, MO  
 Tagarook, Gregg A. Sr., Wainwright, AK  
 Tanner, Donald R., Lubbock, TX  
 Tanner, E. Duell, Poplar Bluff, MO  
 Tasi, Raymond H., Patterson, CA  
 Teo, Falefasa F., Santa Clara, CA  
 Thomas, Larry, Keller, TX  
 Thrasher, Joyce E., Plainview, TX  
 Tillman, Marguerite, Costa Mesa, CA  
 Timoschuk, Alex, Ontario, CA  
 Tomlinson, Ada E., Columbus, OH  
 Toone, Glenn J., Bakersfield, CA  
 Trimmer, Donald E., Fresno, CA  
 Trimmer, Victor D., Santa Rosa, CA  
 Tucker, Calvin Jake, Kerens, TX  
 Tucker, William D., Boise, ID  
 Turnbull, Arleta J., Virginia Beach, VA

Turnbull, Robert B. Jr., Virginia Beach, VA  
 Turner, Harry R., Billings, MT  
 Uttz, David F., Upland, CA  
 Valles, Herman, Mayaguez, PR  
 Vanderhoff, Dean L., Tualatin, OR  
 Vargas, Alejandro, El Paso, TX  
 Vaughan, Melva A., Enid, OK  
 Vaughn, Winston E., Florissant, MO  
 Vega, John A., Wyoming, MI  
 Velez, Gilberto Jr., Bronx, NY  
 Vigil, Felipe J., Denver, CO  
 Vinson, Robert R., Troy, MO  
 Waganer, Samuel E. W., Waldron, AR  
 Wagner, Paul L., Omaha, NE  
 Wahl, Velda B., Mountlake Terrace, WA  
 Walker, Charles W., Bristol, VA  
 Walker, James L., Horatio, AR  
 Walker, J. W., Fayetteville, AR  
 Walker, Thomas E., Louisville, KY  
 Ward, Thelma I., Waxahachie, TX  
 Wayman, Philip E., Olympia, WA  
 Weaver, Ray E., Tonasket, WA  
 Webb, C. A., Oklahoma City, OK  
 Weddle, Carl, Olivehurst, CA  
 Welker, Davey R., Park Hills, MO  
 Wells, Claudie R., Rio Rancho, NM  
 Welty, Mary L., Galesburg, IL  
 Westendorf, Charles E., Clear Lake, IA  
 Whaley, Dennis W., Springfield, MO  
 White, G. Raymond, Ennis, TX  
 White, Joel A., Cottondale, FL  
 White, Joe T. Sr., Pooler, GA  
 Whitlock, Dorald K., Amarillo, TX  
 Wien, Jack W., Paradise, CA  
 Wilkes, Cary J., New Brockton, AL  
 Wilkinson, Linwood T., Lynchburg, VA  
 Williams, Bert F., Saraland, AL  
 Williams, Bobby R., Clovis, CA  
 Williams, George L., Satsuma, AL  
 Williams, Jewel, Wheatfield, IN  
 Williams, Lucille, Port Ewen, NY  
 Williford, Ira, North Little Rock, AR  
 Willis, Harmon J. Jr., Hatteras, NC  
 Willis, Robert J., Fresno, CA  
 Wilmoth, Wanda J., North Little Rock, AR  
 Wilson, Annie S., East Point, GA  
 Wilson, Dwight J., Scotts Valley, CA  
 Wilson, Maxine L., Jackson, CA  
 Wimberly, Dueward S., Texas City, TX  
 Wrasse, Robert C., Ludington, MI  
 Wright, Daniel H., Millville, NJ  
 Wright, Manzer L., Summerfield, FL  
 Wright, Patsy J., Geneva, OH  
 Wright, Posey J., Rocky Mount, VA  
 Wright, Samuel L., Bakersfield, CA  
 Wyatt, Curtis W., Hermiston, OR  
 Yandell, Herbert M., Bartlett, TN  
 Yazzie, Lewis B., Rehoboth, NM  
 Yeats, B. Roberts, Spurger, TX  
 Young, Andrew C., Taloga, OK  
 Young, Mina A., Benton, AR  
 Young, Zula B., Dardanelle, AR  
 Zents, Katherine, Hernando, FL  
 Zercher, Gordon D. Sr., San Antonio, TX



# **CONSTITUTION**

**OF**

**THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

**OF THE**

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**REVISED AUGUST 1–5, 2011**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

## Constitution

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

**CONSTITUTION**

**Constitutional Declaration**

**WE BELIEVE:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

That we are a cooperative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal assemblies of like precious faith throughout the United States to be known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God whose purpose is neither to usurp authority over the various local assemblies, nor to deprive them of their scriptural and local rights and privileges; but to recognize and promote scriptural methods and order for worship, unity, fellowship, work, and business for God; and to disapprove unscriptural methods, doctrines, and conduct, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, "till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13).

## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I. NAME

The corporate name is *The General Council of the Assemblies of God*, which refers to the legal entity.

The term *General Council* refers to sessions of the corporation.

The term *Assemblies of God* refers to the entire constituency.

### ARTICLE II. NATURE

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

### ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES

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

- a. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.
- b. To encourage and promote the worship of God.
- c. To encourage and promote the edification of believers.
- d. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.
- e. To respond to human need with ministries of compassion.
- f. To establish and maintain such departments and institutions as may be necessary for the propagation of the gospel and the work of this Pentecostal fellowship.
- g. To approve scriptural teachings and practices, and to disapprove unscriptural teachings and practices. A list of disapproved doctrines and practices is set forth in Articles IX and X of the Bylaws.
- h. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of such property as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

### ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPLES FOR FELLOWSHIP

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

### ARTICLE V. STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. This Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended simply as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing, 1 Corinthians 1:10; Acts 2:42). The phraseology employed in this statement is not inspired or contended for, but the truth set forth is held to be essential to a full-gospel ministry. No claim is made that it contains all biblical truth, only that it covers our need as to these fundamental doctrines.

#### 1. The Scriptures Inspired

The Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God and are the revelation of God to man, the infallible, authoritative rule of faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3:15-17; 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Peter 1:21).

#### 2. The One True God

The one true God has revealed himself as the eternally self-existent "I AM," the Creator of heaven and earth and the Redeemer of mankind. He has further revealed himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 43:10,11; Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22).

## The Adorable Godhead

### (a) Terms Defined

The terms *trinity* and *persons*, as related to the godhead, while not found in the Scriptures, are words in harmony with Scripture, whereby we may convey to others our immediate understanding of the doctrine of Christ respecting the Being of God, as distinguished from “gods many and lords many.” We therefore may speak with propriety of the Lord our God, who is One Lord, as a Trinity or as one Being of three persons, and still be absolutely scriptural (examples, Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:16,17).

### (b) Distinction and Relationship in the Godhead

Christ taught a distinction of persons in the godhead which He expressed in specific terms of relationship, as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is inscrutable and incomprehensible, because unexplained (Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 1:24; Matthew 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 1:3,4).

### (c) Unity of the One Being of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

Accordingly, therefore, there is **that** in the Father which constitutes Him **the Father** and not the Son; there is **that** in the Son which constitutes Him **the Son** and not the Father; and there is **that** in the Holy Spirit which constitutes Him **the Holy Spirit** and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore, the Father is the Begetter; the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Spirit is the One proceeding from the Father and the Son. Therefore, because these three persons in the godhead are in a state of unity, there is but one Lord God Almighty and His name one (John 1:18; 15:26; 17:11,21; Zechariah 14:9).

### (d) Identity and Cooperation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are never **identical** as to **person**; nor **confused** as to **relation**; nor **divided** in respect to the godhead; nor **opposed** as to **cooperation**. The Son is **in** the Father and the Father is **in** the Son as to relationship. The Son is **with** the Father and the Father is **with** the Son, as to fellowship. The Father is not **from** the Son, but the Son is **from** the Father, as to authority. The Holy Spirit is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature, relationship, cooperation, and authority. Hence, no person in the godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others (John 5:17-30,32,37; 8:17,18).

### (e) The Title, Lord Jesus Christ

The appellation *Lord Jesus Christ* is a proper name. It is never applied in the New Testament either to the Father or to the Holy Spirit. It therefore belongs exclusively to the **Son of God** (Romans 1:1-3,7; 2 John 3).

### (f) The Lord Jesus Christ, God With Us

The Lord Jesus Christ, as to His divine and eternal nature, is the proper and only Begotten of the Father, but as to His human nature, He is the proper Son of Man. He is, therefore, acknowledged to be both God and man; who because He is God and man, is “Immanuel,” God with us (Matthew 1:23; 1 John 4:2,10,14; Revelation 1:13,17).

### (g) The Title, Son of God

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

### (h) Transgression of the Doctrine of Christ

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title *Son of God* solely from the fact of the Incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus

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Christ is come in the flesh (2 John 9; John 1:1,2,14,18,29,49; 1 John 2:22,23; 4:1-5; Hebrews 12:2).

### (i) Exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord

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

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

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

## 3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ

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

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

## 4. The Fall of Man

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

## 5. The Salvation of Man

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

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

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

## 6. The Ordinances of the Church

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

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

### **7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian church. With it comes the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4,8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth (Acts 8:12-17; 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9). With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 4:8), a deepened reverence for God (Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28), an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work (Acts 2:42), and a more active love for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost (Mark 16:20).

### **8. The Initial Physical Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4). The speaking in tongues in this instance is the same in essence as the gift of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:4,10,28), but different in purpose and use.

### **9. Sanctification**

Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God (Romans 12:1,2; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 13:12). Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). By the power of the Holy Spirit we are able to obey the command: “Be ye holy, for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:15,16).

Sanctification is realized in the believer by recognizing his identification with Christ in His death and resurrection, and by faith reckoning daily upon the fact of that union, and by offering every faculty continually to the dominion of the Holy Spirit (Romans 6:1-11,13; 8:1,2,13; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 2:12,13; 1 Peter 1:5).

### **10. The Church and Its Mission**

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

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

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

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

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

### **11. The Ministry**

A divinely called and scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for the fourfold purpose of leading the Church in: (1) evangelization of the world (Mark 16:15-20), (2) worship of God (John 4:23,24), (3) building a Body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11,16), and (4) meeting human need with ministries of love and compassion (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

### **12. Divine Healing**

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

### **13. The Blessed Hope**

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

### **14. The Millennial Reign of Christ**

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

### **15. The Final Judgment**

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

### **16. The New Heavens and the New Earth**

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

## **ARTICLE VI. RELATIONSHIPS**

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

## ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1. The General Council of the Assemblies of God

The membership of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall consist of all ordained and licensed ministers holding a current fellowship certificate and churches holding a Certificate of Affiliation issued by The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### Section 2. Assemblies of God

The membership of the Assemblies of God shall consist of all ministers of the Assemblies of God and all other persons who are members of churches affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God and its district councils.

### Section 3. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency at a General Council shall consist of all members of The General Council of the Assemblies of God holding a current fellowship certificate who are present and registered and those delegates chosen by churches affiliated with The General Council of the Assemblies of God who are present and registered, each church being entitled to one delegate.

## ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS

### Section 1. Regular Sessions

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

### Section 2. Special Sessions

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

### Section 3. Right of Initiative

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

## ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

### Section 1. Executive Officers

**a. Corporate officers and terms of office.** The General Council corporate officers shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, and the general treasurer. They shall serve as the officers of the corporation. Their terms of office shall begin 60 days after the date of election, and shall continue for 4 years or until a successor qualifies.

**b. Executive Leadership Team.** The General Council officers along with the executive directors of Assemblies of God World Missions and Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall constitute an Executive Leadership Team. The terms of office for the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions and the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall continue for 4 years or until their successors qualify. Members of the Executive Leadership Team shall be amenable to the actions of the Executive Presbytery within duties prescribed in the Bylaws.

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### Section 2. Executive Presbytery

**a. Composition and terms of office.** The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent, the general secretary, the general treasurer, the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, together with 14 other persons to bring the number to 20. The terms of office for all members of the Executive Presbytery shall begin 60 days after date of election and shall continue for 4 years or until their successors qualify.

**b. Board of Directors.** The Executive Presbytery shall constitute the Board of Directors of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, performing such functions as are usual and customary for a board of directors. *Executive Presbytery* and *Board of Directors* shall be interchangeable terms.

### Section 3. General Presbytery

**a. Representation, qualifications, and responsibilities.** The General Presbytery shall be composed of individuals of maturity, experience, and ability whose lives and ministry are above reproach, who shall represent the Fellowship in all phases of its work in their respective fields. The General Presbytery shall be the official policy-making body of the Assemblies of God when the General Council is not in session. Each district shall have the privilege of representation on the General Presbytery by three members—the district superintendent together with two others who shall be elected by their district council, one of whom shall be an ordained pastor of a church located in the district. They shall take office immediately.

**b. Executive presbyters ex officio members.** All members of the Executive Presbytery shall be ex officio members of the General Presbytery.

**c. World and U.S. missions representation.** The foreign fields shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the regional directors 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)]

**d. Endorsed postsecondary schools representation.** The duly endorsed postsecondary schools of the Assemblies of God shall be represented on the General Presbytery by their presidents. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (4)]

**e. Evangelists representation.** The Assemblies of God evangelists shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the national evangelists representative. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (5)]

**f. Ethnic fellowship representation.** A duly authorized ethnic fellowship shall be represented on the General Presbytery by one of its qualified members. An ethnic fellowship comprised of more than 100 churches shall be represented by two of its qualified members; and, an ethnic fellowship exceeding 150 churches shall be represented on the General Presbytery by three of its qualified members. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (6)]

**g. Ethnic Relations and Hispanic Relations representation.** The Assemblies of God Office of Ethnic Relations and the Assemblies of God Office of Hispanic Relations shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the director of Ethnic Relations and the director of Hispanic Relations.

## ARTICLE X

**h. Additional representation.** One ordained minister under 40 years of age and one female ordained minister shall be selected to represent each geographic area, the Language Area—East Spanish, the Language Area—West Spanish, the Language Area—Other, and the Ethnic Fellowship area as general presbyters. These members shall serve a 1-year term.

**i. Auditors.** Duly qualified auditors may attend the sessions of the General Presbytery. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (8)]

**j. Honorary general presbyters.** Upon the approval of the General Presbytery, honorary members may be chosen by the General Council from among those ministers who (1) have reached the age of 60 years and (2) have served on the General Presbytery for 20 years or more, or served on the General Presbytery as a General Council executive officer for 8 years or more. The addition of such honorary members shall be in addition to the regular number of presbyters granted each district. [See Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (9)]

## ARTICLE X. DISTRICT COUNCILS

### Section 1. Membership

Membership of each district council shall be determined by the district's constitution and bylaws.

### Section 2. Areas of Supervision

The district council shall have supervision over all the ecclesial and sacerdotal activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed field, except as provided for in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws or in cooperative agreements between the General Council and the district council.

### Section 3. Language Districts

A language group may be recognized as a district of the Assemblies of God in accordance with the provision for district councils in the Bylaws. The territory of such a district is confined to ministry among certain language groups, and its geographical area of operation may therefore overlap or coincide with that of one or more other district councils. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 6.)

### Section 4. Credentialing Authority

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

### Section 5. Areas of Authority

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

### Section 6. Relationship With the General Council

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

## CONSTITUTION

The General Council of the Assemblies of God in matters of doctrine and the discipline of ministers.

### ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

#### Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

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

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

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

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

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

**d. Subordinate in matters of doctrine and conduct.** A General Council affiliated assembly shall recognize that a district council or The General Council of the Assemblies of God has the right to approve scriptural doctrine and conduct and to disapprove unscriptural doctrine and conduct and the authority to withdraw its Certificate of Affiliation if deemed necessary. (See Article VI, Section 4, of the Bylaws.)

**e. Right of appeal.** When in need of counsel or advice, the General Council affiliated assembly may appeal to the district officers for help. It may appeal from a decision by the district officers to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God when there is a question whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the district. When exceptions are taken to the decisions of the Executive Presbytery, either by the General Council affiliated assembly or by the district presbytery, appeal may be made to the General Presbytery.

**Section 2. District Council Affiliated Assemblies**

Provision shall be made by the district councils for district council affiliated assemblies which shall be under the supervision of the district council, in accordance with the provisions of the district council constitution and bylaws. These assemblies shall be encouraged to proceed to the status of sovereign General Council affiliated assemblies.

**Section 3. Parent Affiliated Churches**

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

**Section 4. Cooperating Assemblies**

Provision may be made by district councils and the General Council Executive Presbytery for the status of a cooperating assembly, which would allow churches that subscribe to Article V. Statement of Fundamental Truths of the General Council Constitution to enter into a cooperative status with a district and the General Council on a temporary basis (4-year term, renewable by the request of the local church congregation at the discretion of the district council in cooperation with the General Council Executive Presbytery) before officially affiliating with the district council and the General Council.

**Section 5. Assemblies of God Total Giving Participation**

All assemblies are expected to have an interest in, and contribute regularly to, the Assemblies of God Total Giving plan.

**ARTICLE XII. DISSOLUTION**

The assets of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, a Missouri corporation, are irrevocably dedicated to religious and charitable purposes as stated in its Articles of Agreement and this Constitution. In the event of the dissolution of the corporation, and after providing for the payment of its debts and obligations, the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons but will be distributed to one or more nonprofit organizations which are organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes and which are exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

**ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regularly called session of the General Council provided that the proposed amendments have been submitted in writing at least 6 months in advance to the Executive Presbytery. Before the Executive Presbytery may submit proposed amendments for consideration by a session of the General Council, it shall provide written notice of the proposed amendments by regular mail to the office of each district superintendent and each district secretary, and by insertion in the *Assemblies of God Ministers Letter* or any successor publication sent periodically to ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, not later than 60 days prior to said session. Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting.



# **BYLAWS**

**OF**

**THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

**OF THE**

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**REVISED AUGUST 1-5, 2011**

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

Bylaws

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# BYLAWS

## OF

### THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

#### ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

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

#### ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS

##### Section 1. Officers

The officers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be elected at its regular meetings in the manner provided in these Bylaws. They shall be ordained ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be persons of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry are above question, and such qualities alone shall determine their eligibility.

##### Section 2. Nominations and Elections

**a. General superintendent and assistant general superintendent.** All candidates for the offices of general superintendent and assistant general superintendent shall be nominated by receiving 15 votes or more by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be necessary to constitute an election. In the event two-thirds of the votes cast are received by a qualified candidate on the nominating ballot, an election shall be declared. If no election has been declared after the second elective ballot, the 15 candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated. If no election has been declared after the third elective ballot, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.

**b. Other officers.** The general secretary, general treasurer, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, and executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be elected in the following manner: The General Presbytery, serving as a nominating committee, shall be entrusted with the responsibility of making careful investigation concerning the qualifications and general fitness of available candidates for these offices and shall select by secret ballot one or more names to be presented for each office to the General Council in session for election. The General Presbytery shall submit as nominees to the General Council all qualified candidates who have received at least 15 votes in the General Presbytery. The candidates shall be presented to and voted upon by secret ballot by the General Council in session. In the event that only one candidate receives at least 15 votes in the General Presbytery nomination, the vote distinction by the General Council shall be by selecting "yes" or "no." There shall be no further nominations from the General Council floor. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be required to elect.

##### c. Nonresident executive presbyters

(1) *Nominations and elections.* The General Council shall have the right to elect additional officers to serve on the Executive Presbytery as provided in Constitution, Article IX, Section 2.

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(a) *By area.* The nominations for 11 area nonresident executive presbyters shall be made as follows: Each district council at its annual meeting prior to the General Council session shall nominate two ministers from its district, one of whom is not an elected full-time district official, to be presented to the General Council as nominees from its area. These nominees shall be presented to and be balloted upon by the General Council in session. A two-thirds vote shall be required to nominate and elect. If no election has been declared after the third elective ballot has been cast, the three candidates having the highest number of votes in the last ballot cast shall be nominees to be further voted upon, and all other names shall be eliminated.

(b) *By ethnic fellowship.* The nominations for one ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter shall be made as follows: Each general presbyter from an ethnic fellowship, serving in the year General Council meets, shall be presented to the General Council as a nominee from the respective ethnic fellowships. These nominees shall be presented to and be balloted upon by the General Council in session. A two-thirds vote shall be required to nominate and elect.

### (2) *Divisions for electing nonresident executive presbyters.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Language Area—West Spanish:* Central District/Distrito Central, Northern Pacific Latin American, South Central Hispanic, Southern Pacific, Southwest, Texas Gulf Spanish, Texas Louisiana Hispanic, West Texas and Plains

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

(b) *By ethnic fellowship.* For the purpose of electing an ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter, only those ethnic fellowships duly recognized (Bylaws, Article V, Section 8) shall be represented.

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

## d. General presbyters

(1) *District representatives.* In addition to the superintendent of each district, who shall serve on the General Presbytery by virtue of office, two others shall be elected by the

## ARTICLE II

district council in session, both of whom shall be ordained Assemblies of God ministers, and at least one of whom shall be a pastor of a church located in the district. They shall take office immediately upon election.

(2) *Assemblies of God World Missions representatives.* Regional directors 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.

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

(4) *Endorsed postsecondary school representatives.* Endorsed postsecondary school representatives, as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph d, shall be members of the General Presbytery.

(5) *Evangelists representative.* The national evangelists representative as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph e, shall be a member of the General Presbytery.

(6) *Ethnic fellowship representatives.* Ethnic fellowship representatives, as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph f, shall be elected biennially by their respective ethnic fellowships. A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect. They shall take office immediately upon election.

(7) *Ethnic Relations and Hispanic Relations representatives.* The director of Ethnic Relations and the director of Hispanic Relations representatives, as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph g., shall be members of the General Presbytery.

(8) *Auditors.*

(a) National directors elected by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery shall serve as auditors of the General Presbytery.

(b) The legal counsel of the General Council shall be granted the privilege of auditing the General Presbytery meetings.

(c) A district may select no more than one auditor for all duly called sessions of the General Presbytery. Any auditor selected by a district shall be one of its full-time executive presbyters or officers. Expenses for the district auditors shall not be the responsibility of the General Council.

(d) Auditors may be added as approved by the Executive Presbytery.

(e) Auditors shall be without vote and shall have voice only at the request of the chairman. They shall absent themselves from any executive session of the General Presbytery.

(9) *Honorary members.* Honorary general presbyters as provided for in Constitution, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph h, shall have the right of voice and vote at all duly called sessions of the General Presbytery.

(10) *Additional representation.* Each district and ethnic fellowship may nominate two qualified ministers—one ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry. The nominations for each area and all ethnic fellowships shall be voted on as follows:

(a) *By area.* For the purpose of electing one ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active

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in ministry, each district within the eight respective geographical areas and three language areas shall elect on an annual rotational basis qualified members to serve on the General Presbytery for one year, with no more than one ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry serving from an area in any one year. The representation shall be determined on an alphabetical basis of the districts within each area according to an annual schedule set by the Executive Presbytery.

(b) *By ethnic fellowships.* Each year the Executive Presbytery shall designate by feasibility, on a rotational schedule, which ethnic fellowship shall elect for a 1-year term one ordained minister under 40 years of age at the time of election active in ministry and one ordained female minister active in ministry.

### Section 3. Vacancies

**a. Executive officers.** In the event any of the executive offices of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall become vacant through death or other cause, the Executive Presbytery shall fill the office by appointment until the next meeting of the General Council; with the exception that, in the event of death or incapacity of the general superintendent, the assistant general superintendent shall succeed to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council; or, in the event the offices of general superintendent and assistant general superintendent both become vacant, the succession to the office of general superintendent until the next General Council shall be as follows: first, the general secretary; and second, the general treasurer.

#### **b. Nonresident executive presbyters**

##### *(1) By area.*

(a) In the event a vacancy shall occur, for any reason, in the office of an area nonresident executive presbyter, the general secretary shall request each district council within that area (see Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph c) to submit two nominees for the office. The General Presbytery shall, at its next meeting, elect one minister from among the nominees submitted to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the General Council. (See Bylaws, Article II, Section 1, for qualifications.)

(b) Should a vacancy occur so close to the time of the meeting of the General Presbytery that insufficient time remains for district councils to select and submit nominees in the above manner, then nominees shall be obtained by a caucus of the general presbyters of the area involved. Such caucus to be held during the meeting of the General Presbytery.

(c) Nominees shall be voted upon by the entire General Presbytery until one receives two-thirds of all votes cast.

(d) In the event a nonresident executive presbyter moves to a location outside of the boundaries of the area, the Executive Presbytery shall declare a vacancy in that office.

##### *(2) By ethnic fellowship.*

(a) In the event a vacancy shall occur, for any reason, in the office of an ethnic fellowship nonresident executive presbyter, the general secretary shall submit as nominees all current general presbyters who represent an ethnic fellowship. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 8.) The General Presbytery shall, at its next meeting, elect one minister from among the nominees submitted, to fill the vacancy until the next meeting of the General Council. (See Bylaws, Article II, Section 1, for qualifications.)

(b) Nominees shall be voted upon by the entire General Presbytery until one receives two-thirds of all votes cast.

#### **c. General presbyters**

(1) In the event a general presbyter shall move to another district or shall vacate the office for any other reason, the presbytery of the district council shall appoint one to serve as general presbyter until that office is regularly filled at the next meeting of the district council.

(2) In the event an elected general presbyter is unable to attend a duly called session of the General Presbytery, by reason of illness or any other emergency, the district executive

### **ARTICLE III**

presbytery or district presbytery shall have the right to select an alternate, provided the alternate meets the ordinary requirements for general presbyters. The alternate shall have all the rights and privileges of a regularly elected general presbyter. The district shall present certification of an alternate to the general secretary not later than the opening session of the General Presbytery.

#### **Section 4. Removal for Cause**

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

### **ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM**

#### **Section 1. Duties of the General Superintendent**

The duties of the general superintendent shall include the following:

- a. Emphasize and implement the fourfold mission of the church: the evangelization of the world, the worship of God, the building of a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world; and promote and coordinate efforts directed toward the fulfilling of that mission.
- b. Superintend all work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- c. Act as president of the corporation in all legal matters, and be an ex officio member of all committees and boards.
- d. Preside at the sessions of the General Presbytery and the General Council.
- e. Preside at all meetings of the General Council Credentials Committee and sign all credentials.
- f. Preside at all sessions of the Executive Presbytery and the Executive Leadership Team and receive all communications directed to these bodies.
- g. Administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the General Council Credentials Committee.
- h. Sign all official and legal documents (see Section 7 of this Article).
- i. Perform any other functions usual and customary as presiding officer or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or by the Executive Presbytery.
- j. Cast primary vision for the Fellowship along with the other executive officers.
- k. Provide spiritual oversight to leadership and the National Leadership and Resource Center personnel.
- l. Strategically network with other fellowships.
- m. Give consultation in hiring staff at departmental level of leadership or above.
- n. Lead Tier I leadership, executive officers, and the Executive Presbytery.

#### **Section 2. Duties of the Assistant General Superintendent**

The duties of the assistant general superintendent shall include the following:

- a. Assist the general superintendent.
- b. Serve as vice-president of the corporation and preside at meetings of the Executive Presbytery and the Executive Leadership Team in the absence of the general superintendent.
- c. Perform any other functions under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

## **BYLAWS**

### **Section 3. Duties of the General Secretary**

The duties of the general secretary shall include the following:

- a. Make and keep true records of the proceedings of the General Council and shall publish the same as approved and directed by the Executive Presbytery.
- b. Serve as the custodian of the official seal and issue credentials under the direction of the General Council Credentials Committee and shall keep a record of all ordained, licensed, and certified ministers, and assemblies of the Fellowship.
- c. Sign all official and legal documents (see Section 7 of this Article).
- d. Serve as secretary of the General Presbytery, Executive Presbytery, the General Council Credentials Committee, and the Executive Leadership Team and keep accurate minutes of the deliberations of these bodies.
- e. Edit and prepare for distribution the minutes of the meeting of the General Presbytery after examination and approval thereof by the Executive Presbytery.
- f. Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

### **Section 4. Duties of the General Treasurer**

The duties of the general treasurer shall include the following:

- a. Serve as custodian of all funds of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements according to generally accepted accounting principles.
- b. Provide budgets and financial reports as periodically requested by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.
- c. Provide oversight of an internal auditor, who shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and shall be directly accountable to the Executive Leadership Team and the Executive Presbytery.
- d. Provide oversight of the preparation of an annual audit of the financial records of The General Council of the Assemblies of God by an independent auditor, prepared in conformity with generally accepted auditing standards.
- e. Give fidelity and such other bonds in amounts periodically determined by the Executive Presbytery.
- f. Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

### **Section 5. Duties of the Executive Director of Assemblies of God World Missions**

The executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery, shall perform the following duties and render the following services:

- a. Direct the world missions activities of the Fellowship.
- b. Represent The General Council of the Assemblies of God in all relationships with governments or authorities where our world missions work is involved.
- c. Distribute all world missions funds as directed by the World Missions Committee.
- d. Keep such records of all funds received and disbursed as will safeguard the funds from loss en route to the field.
- e. Serve as chairperson of the World Missions Committee and World Missions Board.
- f. Keep a record of all official acts of the World Missions Board and other committees of the division.
- g. Serve as an executive officer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and thus serve on the Executive Leadership Team.

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h. Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

### Section 6. Duties of the Executive Director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions

The executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery, shall perform the following duties and render the following services:

a. Direct the U.S. missions activities of the Fellowship, insofar as such activities are not already directed within and by the respective district councils of the General Council.

b. Represent The General Council of the Assemblies of God in all relationships with governing authorities where U.S. missions work is involved.

c. Distribute all U.S. missions funds as directed by the U.S. Missions Committee.

d. Serve as chairperson of the U.S. Missions Board and U.S. Missions Committee.

e. Keep a record of all official acts of the U.S. Missions Board and other committees of the division.

f. Serve as an executive officer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and thus serve on the Executive Leadership Team.

g. Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

### Section 7. Duties of the Executive Presbytery

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

a. Serve as the Board of Directors of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. They shall be empowered to supervise and have general oversight of all departments. They shall be authorized to act for the corporation in all matters that affect its interests while the General Council is not in session, subject to the provisions of paragraphs h and k of Section 7 of this Article.

b. Interpret policy originating in the legislation of the General Council or the General Presbytery. Such interpretations shall be final unless reversed at the next meeting of the body in which the legislation originated.

c. Buy, take, lease, or otherwise acquire, own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease, or otherwise dispose of real property, personal and mixed, tangible and intangible of whatsoever kind; to borrow monies as deemed necessary and to issue bonds of whatsoever kind, trust deeds, mortgages, debentures, and notes; and to enter into contracts; all as may seem expedient and proper in the furtherance of the work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

d. Hold in trust such funds as may be committed to them as trustees, or to dispose of the same as may be directed.

e. Issue annuity bonds or contracts, and to protect the same by judicious investments.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

m. Provide oversight of internal operations of the National Leadership and Resource Center as indicated in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*.

### **Section 8. Duties of the Executive Leadership Team**

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

a. Serve as the executive arm of the Executive Presbytery.

b. Provide for general services as required for the various operations at the National Leadership and Resource Center.

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

d. Give administrative oversight to all General Council offices.

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

f. Lead assigned ministries.

g. Manage internal operations of the National Leadership and Resource Center as indicated in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*.

### **Section 9. Duties of the General Presbytery**

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

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

b. Be the policy-making body.

c. Act as a court of final appeal for a disciplined minister or a district appealing a decision of the General Council Credentials Committee.

d. Determine the salaries and allowances of all elected officers of the General Council. A committee of five general presbyters shall be appointed annually by the Executive Presbytery for the purpose of making a review of such salaries and allowances. It shall report its recommendations to the General Presbytery for final action.

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

f. Any district council by the action of its district presbytery or any three or more general presbyters may have a matter added to the General Presbytery agenda at any time during any duly called General Presbytery meeting.

## **ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES**

### **Section 1. Standing Committees**

Standing committees shall be appointed as necessary. They shall serve for the designated time or until their purpose is accomplished. In the event a vacancy shall occur in a standing committee, the Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to fill such vacancy.

### **Section 2. Credentials Committee**

The Executive Presbytery shall constitute the credentials committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and said credentials committee shall be referred to in these Bylaws as the General Council Credentials Committee. It shall have the authority to issue certificates of ordination, ministry licenses, and certified ministers certificates, and to issue annual fellowship cards to those persons whose renewal questionnaires have received

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district endorsement. It may delegate the routine work of the credentials committee to the Executive Leadership Team.

### Section 3. Roster Committee

A Roster Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery prior to each meeting of the General Council. This committee shall be expected to open the roster on the morning of the day preceding the convening of the General Council. It shall be entrusted with the responsibility of examining credentials of all ministers and delegates. Ordained and licensed ministers shall identify themselves by fellowship cards of the current year; delegates from assemblies shall obtain letters from their church secretary or pastor certifying to their appointment by the assembly to represent it in the General Council. Badges shall be issued by the committee to all qualified delegates and ministers, and any other relevant status.

### Section 4. Resolutions Committee

**a. Procedure for presentation of resolutions.** A Resolutions Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. All resolutions for presentation to the General Council, except emergency measures, shall be presented to the general secretary's office at least 100 days prior to a General Council session. The Resolutions Committee shall prepare the resolutions in printed form and mail them to the General Council ministers and churches at least 30 days prior to the General Council, with the understanding that this does not apply to business growing out of Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery meetings just prior to the General Council, and that resolutions of an emergency nature shall be decided by a two-thirds vote of the General Council.

**b. Sponsorship policy.** All resolutions presented to the Resolutions Committee shall be signed by the author or sponsor. When a resolution is presented for the consideration of the General Council in session the author, sponsor, or a spokesperson appointed by the author or sponsor shall be expected to be the first speaker on behalf of the resolution.

**c. Scriptural interpretation.** Except for resolutions submitted by the Executive Presbytery, the General Presbytery, or a district council, resolutions that involve scriptural interpretation shall be forwarded to the Commission on Doctrinal Purity when in the judgment of the Resolutions Committee such an action is needful. The commission shall evaluate and draft a brief assessment of the scriptural interpretation embodied in the resolution. The assessment, stating their agreement or disagreement with the scriptural interpretation, shall accompany the resolution when presented to the General Council for consideration.

**d. Appropriateness of resolutions.** The Resolutions Committee shall, by a two-thirds vote, determine the appropriateness of proposed resolutions. Inappropriate resolutions may include those that, if adopted, would conflict with the Constitution or Bylaws; or whose substance is not in keeping with appropriateness for discussion by the General Council. A resolution passed by a district council in session shall always be deemed appropriate.

**e. Right of sponsor.** If the Resolutions Committee determines that a resolution is inappropriate, it shall so advise the author and shall apprise the author of his or her right to present the proposed resolution to the General Council in session for a determination as to appropriateness.

**f. Format of presentation.** The Resolutions Committee shall:

- (1) Put resolutions in proper form.
- (2) Eliminate duplication of similar resolutions relating to a specific subject.
- (3) Present resolutions in a logical sequence.

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### **Section 5. Spiritual Life Committee**

A Spiritual Life Committee shall be appointed by the general superintendent in consultation with the Executive Presbytery, selected from a cross section of the Fellowship. The committee shall function for a 2-year period and report to the biennial meeting of the General Council and to the Executive Presbytery as feasible.

### **Section 6. Other Committees**

Other committees may be appointed by the General Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery.

## **ARTICLE V. DISTRICT COUNCILS**

### **Section 1. Formation of New Districts**

**a. Conference status.** In isolated geographical areas where there is development potential, the first step may be the establishing of a conference status that would provide assistance of an existing district until the new district is capable of independent operation.

**b. Guidelines.** Guidelines for the establishing of new districts shall include:

- (1) A minimum of 40 Assemblies of God churches.
- (2) Size and maturity of the churches as to membership, leadership, and program ministries.
- (3) The location, size, and potential growth of the geographical area under consideration.
- (4) The effect the establishment of the proposed new district will have on other districts.

**c. Boundaries.** The boundaries of the new district shall be determined by cooperative agreement between the district or districts geographically affected and the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Section 2. The Role of the District**

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

### **Section 3. Officers**

Each district council shall elect a superintendent, together with such other officers as may be deemed advisable by the district membership, such as, assistant superintendent, secretary-treasurer, and presbyters. A district superintendent or any other elected officer may serve other than full time at the discretion of the district council.

### **Section 4. Voting Constituency**

The voting constituency shall consist of all ordained and licensed ministers, and accredited delegates from affiliated churches, and such other persons as may be prescribed by the district constitution and bylaws, who are present and registered at district meetings.

### **Section 5. Presbyters**

Districts are encouraged to organize in such a way that the presbyter may focus on ministering to ministers, providing encouragement, prayer, leadership development, by

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modeling spiritual maturity and leadership to the pastors, ministers, and churches assigned to the responsible presbytery.

### Section 6. Ethnic/Language Districts

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

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

**c. Cooperative relationship.** Both the ethnic/language district and the geographical district shall seek to promote a spirit of fellowship and cooperation. The ethnic/language district officers and the geographical district officers should inform or consult with each other concerning the opening of new language works or institutions of any kind, in a given area. It is strongly recommended that the ethnic/language district and the geographical district appoint representatives(s) to serve with their respective presbyteries to provide and encourage cooperative strategies and relationships. The language churches, whether members of a geographical or ethnic/language district, are encouraged to unite where possible, in fellowship activities.

**d. Sponsorship and affiliation of an ethnic/language group.** Should an English-speaking church desire to initiate sponsorship of an ethnic/language group, it shall consult with its district officials for counsel and guidance. The geographical district should inform or consult with language district officers concerning the beginning of an ethnic/language group within churches belonging to the geographical district. The sponsoring church may provide facilities and support to such a work through its district U.S. missions department. Such an effort may be initiated with the objective in mind that it will develop into an Assemblies of God church. When such a church reaches as many as 20 adult members, it may then seek affiliation with a district of its choice following prescribed guidelines as outlined in these Bylaws.

**e. Church transfer procedure.** When a church desires to transfer from an ethnic/language district to the geographical district in which it is located or from a geographical district to an ethnic/language district, a church business meeting shall be called and the minutes of said meeting shall reflect the action authorized by the congregation. This action shall be submitted to the officers of the ethnic/language district and the geographical district. If either district has objections, the church shall have the right of appeal to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution (Article XI).

### Section 7. Dissolution of District

**a. Loss of recognition.** In the event an existing district shall have less than 40 churches, General Council or district affiliated, its recognition shall cease, unless an exception is granted by the General Presbytery.

**b. General Presbytery prerogative.** Dissolution of a district shall be the prerogative of the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

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### **Section 8. Ethnic and Language Fellowships**

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

## **ARTICLE VI. ASSEMBLIES**

### **Section 1. Procedure for Affiliation**

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

The procedure for affiliation shall be:

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

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

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

d. Upon approval by the district presbytery, the application for affiliation shall be forwarded to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Recognition of affiliation shall occur upon receipt by the assembly of an official Certificate of Affiliation issued by the general secretary. In the event an application for affiliation is declined by a district presbytery, appeal may be made by the church to the General Council Executive Presbytery whose decision shall be final.

### **Section 2. Annual Report and Offerings From Assemblies**

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

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

**c. Assemblies of God Total Giving**

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

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

(3) *Credit.* Assemblies of God Total Giving recognition shall provide credit to Assemblies of God churches for contributions to the Fellowship Partners plan for support of the General Council; Assemblies of God World Missions, Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, Benevolences Ministries, Christian Higher Education (including educational institutions), Church Ministries (including men's, women's, church music, youth, and senior adults), General Administration (including executive and Spiritual Life offices), other General Council, regional, and district-sponsored or approved projects, and parent churches for satellite startup costs, up to 6 months, including property (facilities and equipment), promotion, personnel (pastoral selection and moving expenses). Contributions from districts other than where a district-approved project is located can be granted Assemblies of God Total Giving credit only if the district where the contribution originates gives its approval and if the contribution is channeled through that district or the National Leadership and Resource Center. It is expected that the National Leadership and Resource Center division or department related to a given project will be notified of approved projects. It is also understood that no district or region may receive Assemblies of God Total Giving credit for projects specifically disapproved by the General Council.

**Section 3. Safeguarding the Assemblies**

a. Pastors and leaders of assemblies should make proper investigation of persons who seek to gain entrance to teach, minister, or pastor. Use of the platform should be denied until spiritual integrity and reliability have been determined. It is recommended that Assemblies of God churches use Assemblies of God ministers since the use of non-Assemblies of God ministers may bring confusion and problems detrimental to the Fellowship.

b. No minister dismissed by the Assemblies of God may be allowed to pastor or have ministry in an Assemblies of God church. Pastors and district officials should maintain an exchange of information regarding dismissed ministers known to be seeking ministry in our assemblies.

**Section 4. Relationships Between Churches, District Councils, and the General Council**

**a. Nature.** General Council affiliated churches are deemed to be sovereign, autonomous, self-governing, and self-determining bodies which have, by their sovereign, self-determining action in making application for and receiving recognition as a General Council affiliated church, entered into an agreement with the Fellowship to be amenable to the General Council and district council in matters of doctrine and conduct. (See Constitution, Article XI, Section I, paragraph d.)

**b. Relationships.** Cooperative fellowship describes both the relationship that exists between local churches and their relationships with the district councils and the General Council.

**c. Organizational assistance.** The services of both the General Council and district council are available to assist the General Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the

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official board of the church or a petition signed by 30 percent of the voting members, with the petitioning process and delivery to the district council taking no more than 30 days in total to complete. When district officers receive such requests, it is recommended they first verify that scriptural principles of reconciliation, such as those found in Matthew 18:15–17 and 1 Timothy 5:19, have been reasonably attempted by the requesting party in situations involving interpersonal conflict. District officers shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary, recommending remedial actions to the responsible district governing entity, (e.g., district presbytery or district executive presbytery). At its discretion, that governing entity may act to bring the church under district supervision and, when necessary, revert it from General Council status to district affiliated status until the governing entity considers the problem resolved.

**d. Preservation of affiliation.** In the event the termination of affiliation with The General Council of the Assemblies of God is under consideration by an affiliated assembly, the pastor or board shall invite the district officers to participate in a specially called business meeting where such matters will be discussed and voted upon for the express purpose of giving the district officers the opportunity to present the case for continued General Council affiliation. A decision to disaffiliate shall require a two-thirds vote of the membership, or a more restrictive rule prescribed by the governing documents of the church or district. In the case of a previously existing church which later affiliated with the Fellowship through a vote of its membership, the percentage required to disaffiliate shall not exceed the percentage required when the church voted to affiliate.

### **Section 5. Guidelines for Minimal Membership for General Council Affiliated Assemblies**

If a General Council affiliated church is unable to meet any of the criteria for affiliation as set forth in the Constitution, Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, it shall seek the assistance of the district officers for help in maintaining the minimal requirement for General Council affiliation. The district may use any means prescribed by its bylaws to assist the church in returning to a position of strength. If the minimal requirements have not been attained, the church shall revert to district affiliated status until the minimal requirements for General Council affiliation have been attained.

### **Section 6. New Assemblies**

The planting of new churches shall be a priority goal of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Resources at all levels shall be aligned to accomplish this purpose. Initiative for establishing new churches and the oversight of those churches may emanate from local assemblies, sections, and district councils. District presbyteries, sectional committees, or the authorities within a district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches shall not prohibit the planting of new churches unless a compelling reason exists. If it is determined that a compelling reason exists, a minister or local church desiring to plant the church shall have the right to appeal to their district presbytery or authorities within a district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches, and the decision of the district may be appealed to the General Council Executive Presbytery, whose decision shall be final.

### **Section 7. Assemblies Resulting From a Division**

**a. Status of assembly.** When efforts to maintain unity and harmony in an assembly have failed, and a division results in a new congregation being formed, the district should exercise strong and wise leadership in ascertaining the facts and seek to preserve Assemblies of God adherents for the Fellowship. Within the bounds of ethical principles, sound doctrine, and district policy, all districts should seek to retain any meritorious group within the Assemblies of God.

**b. Status of minister.** Circumstances in each case will determine whether the minister should be disciplined or denied ministry in either the original church or the dissident group,

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or even residency in the area where the division occurred. If a minister is guilty of inappropriate conduct resulting in a division, the district presbytery shall deal appropriately with the minister as provided in Article X, Section 3, of the Bylaws.

### Section 8. Transfer of Local Church Membership

**a. Letter of introduction.** It is recommended that members request a letter of introduction from the church of which they are a member to be sent by mail to the church with which they desire to affiliate.

**b. Acknowledgment of transfer.** It is recommended that the receiving church shall give an acknowledgment of transfer to the former church.

## ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY

### Section 1. Ministry Described

Christ's gifts to the Church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders, and helpers (Romans 12:7,8). We understand God's call to these ministry gifts is totally within His sovereign discretion without regard to gender, race, disability, or national origin.

Three classifications of ministry are recognized and transferable among all Assemblies of God districts: the ordained minister, the licensed minister, and the certified minister.

All ordained, licensed, and certified ministers holding current ministerial credentials are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church, and those holding a local church credential as provided below.

A fourth classification of ministry, a local church credential, may be provided by a local General Council affiliated church under basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the district council. The local church credential shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church) and shall be limited to 2 years, unless the credential is solely required for active and ongoing local ministry in a prison, hospital, or institution. A person holding a local church credential can perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church if authorized in writing by the senior pastor of the local church issuing the credential.

### Section 2. Basic Qualifications

The following qualifications pertain to all applicants for ministerial recognition:

**a. Salvation.** Testimony to having experienced the new birth (John 3:5).

**b. Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Testimony to having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues according to Acts 2:4. The Spirit-filled life will enable a minister to fulfill the fourfold mission of the church (Constitution, Article V, paragraph 10).

**c. Evidence of call.** Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.

**d. Christian character.** A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without (Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:7).

**e. Doctrinal position.** A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

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**f. Assemblies of God polity.** A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices, and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the General Council and district council Constitution and Bylaws.

**g. Voluntary cooperation and commitment to the Fellowship.** An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older mature Christians and those in positions of authority.

By voluntary it is meant that, upon learning the principles, doctrines, and practices of the Assemblies of God, and by seeing the benefits to be derived from being associated with such an organization, persons of their own free choice decide to become members, thus subscribing to all that for which the organization stands.

For the minister, by cooperation, it is meant, to the best of one's ability, complying with all decisions setting forth and defining duties and responsibilities incumbent upon members of the organization. It includes active participation and respect for the will of the majority expressed through constitutional processes.

Hence, for the minister, voluntary cooperation means that when the minister decides to become a cooperating member of the Assemblies of God, this cooperation and participation thereby becomes obligatory and not optional.

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

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

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

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

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

**i. Mandatory screening.** All applicants for ministerial credentials shall be screened through a designated screening agency established by the Executive Presbytery. Said screening shall be done by the district council prior to the submission of the application to the office of the general secretary.

**j. Marriage status.** We disapprove of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15), except as hereinafter provided.

**k. Ecclesiastical annulments and marriage dissolutions.** The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies for an ecclesiastical annulment. In such cases there must be clear and satisfactory evidence of deception, fraud, or other conditions which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a valid marriage union, unknown at the time of marriage by the applicant. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies regarding a former marriage when the termination of that marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the

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Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or if a former marriage ended prior to conversion. In those cases involving preconversion divorce they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with ecclesiastical annulments. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.

**l. Eligibility of women.** The Scriptures plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the Word (Joel 2:29; Acts 21:9; 1 Corinthians 11:5). Women who meet the qualifications for ministerial credentials are eligible for whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and have the right to administer the ordinances of the church and are eligible to serve in all levels of church ministry, and/or district and General Council leadership.

**m. Ministers from other organizations.** If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the credentials committees of both the General Council and the district councils are under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on his or her own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted. Such applicants shall be required to:

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

### Section 3. Specific Qualifications

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

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

**c. Certified minister.**

- (1) *General requirements.* They shall show promise of usefulness in the gospel work. They shall devote full or part time to Christian ministry and, at the discretion of the district credentials committees, may remain under the supervision of a pastor or a ministry coach

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or mentor. They shall show evidence of a divine call and be actively engaged in some aspect of ministry and proclamation of the gospel, except in case of ill health or advanced age.

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

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

(a) The ministry certificate on a provisional basis will be issued for 1 year and shall not be renewed more than two times.

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

**d. Licensed minister.** Qualifications for license shall include clear evidence of a divine call, character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's life in service to the proclamation of the gospel.

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

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

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

(3) No person may be ordained to the ministry until he or she has shown evidence of a divine call and has held a ministry license and has been actively engaged in ministry and proclamation of the gospel for at least 2 full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.

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

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

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

### Section 4. Action of Credentials Committee

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

### Section 5. Certificates

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

### Section 6. Official List

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

**b. Inactive or disabled ministers.** All credentialed ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time ministry, shall be expected to notify the district office, which shall inform the general secretary who shall then be authorized to transfer the names of such persons to the inactive list, unless the district of which said person is a member requests otherwise by letter.

(1) *Definition.* All ministers who have not been actively engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel over a period of 1 year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.

(2) *Removal of inactive ministers from ministerial list.* When a minister is inactive for 2 or more consecutive years, his or her name shall be eliminated from the ministerial list, unless the credentials committee of the district of which said person is a member requests otherwise by letter.

(3) *Exceptions.* This shall not apply to those whose inactivity has been caused by infirmity; or those engaged in other aspects of full-time ministry such as the National Leadership and Resource Center or district workers, educators, ministers of music, ministers of youth, and ministers of Christian education; or those who have reached the age of 60 years; or those ministers who have had 25 years of approved service as credentialed ministers, or those whose spouse is disabled or has retired giving them little opportunity for public ministry.

(4) *Ministers with disabilities.* Ministers with permanent disability or illness, which prevents them from engaging in active ministry, shall be indicated as disabled. The credential status of the minister shall remain unchanged. The annual renewal of his or her credentials shall take place in the regular manner. Ministers with disabilities thus approved by their district shall not have further obligation of financial support to the General Council.

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

### Section 7. Senior Ministers

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

#### a. Terminology

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

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

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

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

### c. Guidelines

(1) *Reports.* Senior-active and senior-semiretired ministers shall continue to file their annual reports and pay the General Council portion of their tithes in the regular manner. Senior-retired ministers shall file an abbreviated report to maintain a correct address file for mail and insurance purposes.

(2) *Sources of income.* These designations and guidelines shall apply regardless of whether the senior minister's income is from ministry, from retirement plans or Social Security payments, or from investments or other employment.

(3) *Designation in publications.* No distinguishing mark shall accompany the listing of senior-active in the official publications of the Assemblies of God, but may be so indicated in the working lists used for insurance and retirement purposes. Senior-semiretired and senior-retired ministers shall have this status indicated in the *Official List of Assemblies of God Ministers*.

(4) *Support of General Council National Leadership and Resource Center.* Senior-active and senior-semiretired ministers shall continue to designate the required amount of support to the General Council National Leadership and Resource Center as set forth in Bylaws, Article VII, Section 10, paragraph f. Senior-retired ministers shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes previously paid to the General Council.

**d. Aged Ministers Assistance.** It is recommended that all Assemblies of God churches contribute regularly to provide assistance to aged ministers who are in need of financial assistance. Assistance shall be made available to ordained ministers of the Assemblies of God and to their widows, because of age or physical infirmity, and for whom no other means of support is available. Eligibility shall be determined on the following basis:

(1) *Ministerial requirement.* The applicant shall have been an ordained minister in good standing and have held credentials for at least 10 years immediately prior to retirement.

(2) *Age requirement.* The applicant shall have reached the age of 65 in the case of an ordained minister, or 60 in the case of a spouse of a minister.

(3) *Disability requirement.* Ministers who have been disabled to the extent that they cannot perform their ministerial duties shall also be eligible to make application.

(4) *Financial cooperation requirement.* The record of the applicant shall indicate that he or she has complied with the approved financial plans of the district council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

(5) *District endorsement requirement.* Unqualified endorsement must be given by the district officers.

### e. Limitations of this Section 7

(1) *For General Council usage only.* The definitions and decisions included in Section 7 apply only to General Council usage and are not binding upon the various districts, nor to the official legislation under which their members serve.

(2) *Other financial responsibility not circumvented.* No part of Section 7 is intended to modify the responsibility of ministers to their districts nor to terminate the biblical responsibility for tithing.

## Section 8. Ministerial Relations

**a. Amenability.** All certified, licensed, and ordained ministers shall be amenable to both the district council and The General Council of the Assemblies of God in matters of doctrine and discipline. (See Bylaws, Article X.) All local church credential holders shall be amenable to their local church under guidelines established by the General Presbytery and district council in matters of doctrine and discipline. (See Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1.)

**b. Affiliation with district of residence.** All credential holders shall be expected to affiliate with the district council within the boundaries of which they reside and work in cooperation with the same.

(1) *Exception.* Ministers who reside in one district but pastor or serve on the staff of a church located in another district shall be required to be a member of the district in which the church is located.

(2) *Nationally appointed U.S. missionaries.* Nationally appointed U.S. missionaries shall become members of the district in which they serve and shall be listed on the ministerial roster of that district by the office of the general secretary. They may also retain honorary membership in their home district, be listed as a missionary under national appointment in the home district's yearbook, and be extended voice and vote in their home district while on official furlough.

(3) *Church-planting ministries.* Ministers who serve in a transdistrict ministry related to church-planting efforts may do so provided:

(a) They have a scope of ministry which reaches beyond district boundaries; and

(b) Both districts agree to the assignment; and

(c) If the assignment involves a language group, they follow the guidelines provided by the Executive Presbytery of the General Council and adhere to these Bylaws governing interdistrict relations. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 6.)

Church planters holding credentials may obtain affiliation with the district they intend to serve and retain honorary membership in their home district, be listed in the home district's yearbook, and be extended voice and vote in their home district for such time as they serve in another district. The financial responsibilities shall be the same as those of a nationally appointed U.S. missionary. [See Bylaws, Article VII, Section 8, paragraph c, subparagraph (3).]

**c. Cooperation with other districts.** Ministers shall be expected to cooperate with other district councils in which they may labor temporarily. It is recommended as a standard of proper practice that all ministers conform to the financial policy of the district with which they are affiliated with the following exceptions:

(1) *Financial responsibility of world missionaries.* World missionaries will be obligated to pay \$25 per month to their home district when resident in the U.S. and \$10 per month when resident on their fields.

(2) *Financial responsibility of chaplains.* All chaplains, military and institutional, will be obligated to their home district in the amount of 10 percent of their tithes from income earned from the chaplaincy. All chaplains are also encouraged to make voluntary contributions to the district in which they fulfill their assignments.

(3) *Financial responsibility of nationally appointed or approved U.S. missionaries.* Nationally appointed or approved U.S. missionaries shall contribute 25 percent of their tithe to their member district where they serve and 25 percent of their tithe to their home district if they are listed as honorary members. Missionaries who minister in their home district shall contribute a minimum of 50 percent of their tithe to that district.

## Section 9. Transfer of Credentials

**a. Certificate of transfer.** When a member minister takes up residence in another district, a certificate of transfer shall be issued within 60 days by the district of which he or she is a member, unless there are charges pending against the minister. The certificate of transfer shall be accepted by the district into which the minister moves. Exceptions may be made for the following:

(1) Ministers moving to serve at the Assemblies of God National Leadership and Resource Center.

(2) Those who have attained the age of 60 and are no longer engaged in active ministry and those who have attained the age of 65 and are not pastoring a church.

(3) Those who are in the Armed Forces currently on active duty.

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(4) Those who are serving on the staffs of schools affiliated with the General Council and district council or nonaffiliated schools acceptable to the General Council and the district council in which the school is located.

(5) Those who are appointed U.S. missionaries or world missionaries who are on furlough or on temporary assignment in the United States and reside in a district other than their home district.

(6) Ministers having membership in one district and a mailing address only in another district.

(7) Students in schools outside their home districts.

(8) Those who are serving in a non-Assemblies of God institution providing:

(a) They have a regular scope of ministry which reaches beyond district boundaries.

(b) Both districts agree to the exception.

(c) The institution is acceptable to both districts.

(9) Church planters involved in transdistrict ministry.

**b. Transfers from Assemblies of God World Fellowship.** A minister holding ordination (or equivalent) with a member group of the Assemblies of God World Fellowship may transfer his or her ordination to The General Council of the Assemblies of God if the following criteria are met:

(1) A letter of recommendation from the executive committee of the national church or equivalent letter of recommendation.

(2) A course on history and polity of U.S. church.

(3) A completed ministerial application.

**c. Transcript.** In order to assist a member minister who is transferring into another district, a transcript giving helpful information concerning the minister and his or her spouse should accompany the certificate of transfer.

**d. Transfers between ethnic/language districts and geographical districts.** Credential holders from ethnic/language districts may transfer to geographical districts and credential holders from geographical districts may transfer to ethnic/language districts.

### Section 10. Credential Renewals and Reinstatements

#### **a. Terminology**

(1) *Renewed.* The term *renewed* shall apply to all ministers who have met the annual deadline for renewal including those who are delinquent but who renew by January 15.

(2) *Reinstated.* The term *reinstated* shall apply to the persons whose names have been deleted from the official ministerial list, who upon application are approved for restoration of credentials.

**b. Expiration date.** All fellowship certificates are valid only until December 31 of each year and must be renewed annually. The renewing of credentials is the responsibility of the individual minister. Ministers who do not receive an annual renewal form by December 1 should notify their district office.

**c. Grace period until January 15.** All who have not renewed their fellowship certificates postmarked on or before December 31 shall be considered delinquent. They shall be required to pay a late fee of \$50 up until January 15, to be divided equally between the district and General Council.

**d. Reinstatement of lapsed minister.** Ministers whose renewal applications are not postmarked by January 15 shall be recorded as lapsed as of December 31. They must make application for reinstatement and pay a nonrefundable fee of \$100, to be divided equally between the district and the General Council. These ministers shall not be subject to the

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minimal time lapse required of those whose credentials have been terminated for other causes.

**e. Reinstatement of other than dismissed minister.** When a minister who is a member of our Fellowship is removed from our rolls for any cause, except failure to renew and dismissal, and shall apply for reinstatement, he or she shall not be eligible for reinstatement until at least 6 months have elapsed after his or her name has been stricken from our list of ministers. The application must be made in the district where the minister resides and be accompanied with a nonrefundable fee of \$100 to be divided between the district and the General Council. (See Bylaws, Article X, Section 12, paragraph b, for reinstatement of dismissed minister.)

The district of residence shall seek a letter of clearance from the district that processed the termination and, upon receipt of the clearance, may add its endorsement and forward the application, together with the letter of clearance, to the General Council Credentials Committee for its action.

**f. Support of the National Leadership and Resource Center.** The work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, in its program of developing the spirit of cooperation and fellowship in U.S. and world missions fields, incurs considerable expense, including the financial support of the executive officers and offices.

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

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

### Section 11. Nondisciplinary Credential Terminations

#### **a. On the initiative of the minister.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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current fellowship card to the district office. The district shall forward these to the office of the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Refusal to surrender his or her credential and current fellowship card shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister.

### **Section 12. Ministerial Status Changes**

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

### **Section 13. Transfer of Information**

The general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and any district officer, may share information in a minister's file that pertains to the minister's fitness for ministry with any other district officer. The term "minister's file" includes files maintained for both credentialed ministers and applicants for ministerial credentials. This provision shall also apply to designees of the general secretary or district officer.

### **Section 14. Privileged Communications**

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

### **Section 15. Integrity in Educational Credentials**

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

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

## **ARTICLE VIII. CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**

### **Section 1. Christian Marriage**

Marriage was established by God in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2:18, 21-25) and confirmed by Jesus Christ to be a permanent relationship between a man and a woman (Matthew 19:4-6). Because marriage is not only a commitment to a spouse, but also to God (Genesis 2:24; Mark 10:9; Ephesians 5:31), a believer should marry only another believer (2 Corinthians 6:14). Christian marriage is a reflection of the love, purity, and permanence between Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:23-33).

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

### Section 2. Children

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

## ARTICLE IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

### A. COMMISSION ON DOCTRINAL PURITY

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

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

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

### B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED

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

#### Section 1. Unconditional Security

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

#### Section 2. Legalism

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

**b. Adding conditions to salvation.** The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians

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2:8,9). Therefore, the Assemblies of God disapproves any teaching or practice that seems to add conditions to salvation (Galatians 3:1-5).

### Section 3. Eschatological Errors

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

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

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

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

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

### Section 4. Membership in Secret Orders

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

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

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

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

## Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage

**a. Membership**

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

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

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

**c. Local church leadership**

(1) *Standard for offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon.* Since the New Testament restricts divorced and remarried believers from the church offices of bishop, or elder, and deacon, we recommend that this standard be upheld by all our assemblies (Titus 1:5-9; 1 Timothy 3:12), except when the divorce occurred prior to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17) or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15).

(2) *Prerogative of local assemblies.* It is understood that recommendations are not binding, but local assemblies shall maintain the prerogative of setting their own standards (in accord with provisions of Article XI of the Constitution).

**d. Performing marriage ceremonies**

(1) *Ministerial guidelines.* We discourage any Assemblies of God minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former spouse is still living, unless the case is included in the exceptional circumstances described in Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph b.

(2) *Violation of conscience not required.* We realize that the remarrying of such persons included in the exceptive circumstances in Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraph b, could violate the conscience of a minister; and if this should be the case, the minister should not be expected to perform such ceremonies.

(3) *Same-sex ceremonies.* No minister shall perform any type of marriage, cohabitation, or covenant ceremony for persons who are of the same sex. Such a ceremony would endorse homosexuality which is a sin and strictly forbidden in God's Word (Leviticus 18:22; 20:13; Romans 1:26,27; 1 Corinthians 6:9; 1 Timothy 1:9-11). Any minister of our Fellowship who performs a ceremony for these types of disapproved relations, unless innocently deceived into doing so, shall be dismissed from the Fellowship.

(4) *Counsel.* An Assemblies of God minister is urged to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies with scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior to performing the ceremony. A minister may not perform ceremonies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom, and sobriety.

**e. Ministerial credentials.** We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former spouse living unless the divorce occurred prior to conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15). (See also Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs j and k.)

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### **Section 6. Worldliness**

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

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

### **Section 7. Abuses of Stewardship**

#### **a. Tithing**

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

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

#### **b. Solicitation of funds**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Section 8. Violations of Ministerial Courtesy**

All discourteous conduct is disapproved, and all ministers are advised against interfering with pastors in charge of assemblies, whether it be by going in upon their work without consent or by such correspondence with members of the assembly as will hurt the influence of the leader. All correspondence which concerns the whole assembly shall be addressed to the one in charge and not to individual members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work shall be addressed to the officers of the assembly.

Any minister who so offends shall be subject to discipline.

**Section 9. Ministry in a Non-Assemblies of God Church**

Ministers shall not be limited or restrained from entering open doors to preach this Pentecostal message, so long as they retain Assemblies of God doctrine, standards of holiness, proper attitudes, and proper ministerial conduct without compromise.

Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle for growth and spiritual development of the Assemblies of God Fellowship, it is essential that we recognize our relationship to each other and that we practice Christian cooperation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local church work.

We recommend therefore that our ministers confer with district council officials before engaging in ministry in any church group or organization not affiliated with the Assemblies of God so as to ascertain whether such ministry might result in confusion or misunderstandings. If the minister does not have district approval, he or she shall be expected to refrain from conducting services for the church. Ministers who violate this principle shall be subject to discipline.

**Section 10. An Improper Attitude Toward Those Removed From the Fellowship**

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our assemblies, all who hold credentials, and local churches holding certificates of affiliation, shall refrain from taking an attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of those entrusted with this responsibility. Those who fail to support said verdict shall be subject to reprimand or, if persisted in, appropriate discipline.

**Section 11. Interdenominational or Ecumenical Relationships**

The General Council of the Assemblies of God encourages ministers or churches to fellowship with other Christians of like precious faith who hold to the inspiration of Scripture, the deity of Christ, the universality of sin, the substitutionary Atonement, the physical resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and His second coming.

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall not belong to any interdenominational or ecumenical organization that denies the evangelical beliefs stated in the above paragraph, and urges its ministers and churches to avoid entanglement with such interdenominational or ecumenical organizations except as opportunity may arise to support biblical values in the culture or provide opportunity to bear witness to our evangelical and Pentecostal faith and experience.

**Section 12. Divine Healing and Professional Medicine**

The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of any credentialed minister counseling a believer to exclude medical advice and/or treatment when seeking prayer for physical healing. Assemblies of God ministers shall not represent medical advice and/or treatment as a lack of faith in God's healing power.

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### Section 13. Accountability in Educational Attribution

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

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

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

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

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

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

## ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE

### Section 1. The Nature and Purposes of Discipline

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

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

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

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

### Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action

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

- a. Moral failure involving sexual misconduct.
- b. Moral failure involving pornography.
- c. Any moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct.
- d. General inefficiency in the ministry.
- e. A failure to represent our Pentecostal testimony correctly.
- f. A contentious or noncooperative spirit.
- g. An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly.
- h. An arbitrary rejection of district counsel.
- i. A declared open change in doctrinal views.
- j. Immoral, unethical, or illegal practices related to personal, church, or ministry finances.
- k. A marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraphs d and e.)
- l. Violations of ministerial courtesy. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 8.)
- m. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies of God church. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 9.)
- n. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship. (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 10.)

Notwithstanding the above, when more than 7 years have elapsed from an occurrence that is cause for disciplinary action, a district credentials committee may recommend to the General Council Credentials Committee that no discipline be administered when, in view of all the circumstances, it would appear that such discipline would serve only as punitive in nature rather than rehabilitative. In all such cases, final determination shall be made by the General Council Credentials Committee.

#### **Section 4. Right of Initiative**

**a. Authority.** Occasions sometimes arise which make it necessary to deal with ministers who for some reason seem to have reached the place where, in the opinion of the leaders, endorsement can no longer be given. Credentials committees which have the authority to ordain ministers and to recommend them for credentials also have the right to withdraw their approval and to recommend the recall of credentials.

**b. Prior right of district.** The officers of the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred shall be recognized as having the prior right of initiative in matters of discipline.

**c. Responsibility of district of affiliation.** If the district in which an alleged offense is reported to have occurred for some reason cannot take action, the General Council Credentials Committee shall refer the matter, together with the facts and supporting instruments, to the district with which the minister is affiliated.

**d. Responsibility of General Council Credentials Committee.** In the event a district fails to take action within 90 days after a matter has been referred to it, it shall be the responsibility of the General Council Credentials Committee to see that action is initiated.

#### **Section 5. Investigation of Reports or Complaints of Alleged Violations or Confessions of Violations of Assemblies of God Principles**

**a. Within the Districts of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.** Reports or complaints of alleged violations of Assemblies of God principles (Bylaws, Article X, Section 3) or confessions of such by a minister shall be investigated. The superintendent of the district in which the alleged offense is reported to have occurred, or an appointed representative, shall conduct the investigation to determine their source and validity. It is the responsibility of the district superintendent to safeguard the church, the minister, the district, and the Fellowship. In the event such reports or complaints against a minister are filed with the General Council Credentials Committee, they shall be referred to the district in which the offense occurred for investigation. A copy shall be sent to the district with which the minister is affiliated.

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(1) *Interview with complainants.* The persons involved shall be interviewed to ascertain the facts in the case and the reasons underlying the persistence of the reports or complaints.

(2) *Interview with accused minister.* The accused minister shall be given an opportunity to be interviewed to discuss the complaints received in the hope that the matter can be resolved.

(3) *Signed complaints.* In the event the investigation so warrants, a signed complaint shall be filed with the district office by each complainant describing the alleged offense.

(4) *Conditions for ministry during investigation.* Conditions of continuing ministry may be subject to restriction during the time of investigation at the discretion of the appropriate district officers on the basis of evidence at hand and the nature of the alleged offense. Such conditions are subject to review in 3-month intervals until such investigation has been completed resulting in either clearing the person of the allegations or filing formal charges.

**b. Outside United States.** In case the alleged misconduct occurs outside the United States in an area under the general oversight of Assemblies of God World Missions, that division shall take the initiative to file complete data with the district of the minister's affiliation. Any hearing or trial affecting that individual's ministerial credentials shall be held in the district of the minister's affiliation. Assemblies of God World Missions shall convey all information available to the said district as follows:

(1) *Report to district of affiliation.* At the earliest date after Assemblies of God World Missions receives a report of misconduct, such report shall be conveyed by telephone and by letter to the superintendent of the district with which the minister is affiliated.

(2) *Confidential file.* A confidential file shall be submitted to the superintendent, conveying all information as it becomes available to the division. A final complete file shall be prepared under the direction of the field director of the field involved and shall be presented to the district superintendent for use in any action the district may take.

(3) *Additional information.* When in the judgment of Assemblies of God World Missions or the district involved, basic information is lacking (which information may be available at the site of the alleged misconduct), arrangements may be made for the gathering of such.

### Section 6. Preparation and Filing of Charges

If after due investigation it is determined that charges should be made, proper charges shall be prepared and filed in the district office. If no one appears to sign the charges, the district officers making the investigation may file charges based on the evidence in their possession. The person against whom charges have been filed shall be informed in writing by certified mail, at the last address furnished to the district, of the charges made in keeping with Bylaws, Article X, Section 3.

### Section 7. District Hearing and Discipline

**a. District hearing.** In the event the reports or complaints cannot be dealt with privately to the satisfaction of all concerned, the superintendent of the district in which the alleged offense is said to have occurred, or the superintendent of the district with which the minister is affiliated, shall arrange for a hearing by the district credentials committee for the accused minister. The minister shall be required to appear at the hearing in the hope the matter can be resolved.

**b. Forfeiture of rights of accused.** A hearing shall not be considered as final disposition of the case until the accused be present and be allowed all rights and privileges granted herein. However, an accused member may be found guilty of charges and disciplined for failure to appear at the hearing, or if proof is found of willful neglect to take advantage of rights and privileges provided in these Bylaws.

**c. Discipline**

(1) *Cause for discipline.* A minister who has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles set forth in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, either by a confession of the minister involved or by deliberation of the district presbytery, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

(2) *Determination of discipline.* It shall be the responsibility of the credentials committees to determine whether the circumstances of the case merit rehabilitation or dismissal. The credentials committees shall weigh decisions on: (a) the basis of the offense itself, (b) the manner and thoroughness of repentance, (c) the attitude of the offending minister toward the discipline, and (d) the willingness manifested to cooperate.

(3) *Administering discipline redemptively.* If the district determines that guilt has been established, discipline shall be administered prayerfully and in the fear of God, in accordance with the Scriptures, and as set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws of this ecclesiastical body (Bylaws, Article X, Sections 8 and 9).

**d. Surrender of credentials.** Disciplined ministers shall be required to surrender their ministerial credentials and their current fellowship card to the district office. In the event of rehabilitation the credentials shall be held in the district office. In the event of dismissal the district shall forward the credentials to the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Refusal to surrender ministerial credentials and current fellowship card may result in placing an additional charge against the minister.

**Section 8. Rehabilitation**

Recognizing that the underlying principle involved in discipline is redemptive, and that man's conscience frequently brings him to judgment and confession, and that justice can sometimes be best served with mercy, an effort should be made to lead the offending minister through a program of rehabilitation, administered in love and kindness. The following provisions for rehabilitation shall apply.

**a. Basis.** Those found to have violated any of the Assemblies of God principles (Bylaws, Article X, Section 3) may request a program of rehabilitation as an alternative to dismissal. Rehabilitation is a privilege granted out of mercy and not a right to be expected or demanded. The primary purpose is to restore a person to God, spouse, and family, with the results leading to possible restoration to ministry. Granting such request shall be at the discretion of the district and General Council credentials committees.

**b. Procedure and requirements.** The following procedure shall be used by the district presbytery in determining the specific requirements for rehabilitation for the individual minister.

(1) *Rehabilitation requirements.* The specific terms and conditions of the rehabilitation program as recommended by the district credentials committee are to be forwarded to the General Council Credentials Committee for approval. After such approval they shall be given to the minister.

(a) *Suspension.* The minister shall be considered to be under suspension during the entire period of rehabilitation.

(b) *Terms and Conditions*

(1) *Period of time.* The program for rehabilitation shall continue for not less than 1 year except when the violation involves misconduct defined in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, paragraph a, in which case it shall continue for not less than 2 years.

(2) *Authority.* The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish guidelines and policy in regard to terms and conditions of rehabilitation. Such guidelines and policy shall be consistent with provisions of the Bylaws.

(c) *Extent of ministry.* The extent to which ministry may be permitted, if any, shall be determined by the district presbytery, subject to the approval of the General

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Council Credentials Committee and compatible with the guidelines and policy established by the General Presbytery.

(d) *District membership.* The minister shall not be permitted to transfer his or her membership to another district during the period of rehabilitation.

(e) *Publication.* While the minister's credentials are in a state of suspension, the minister's name shall not be removed from the ministerial roster, nor shall the minister's disciplinary status be published in either the General Council or district council official publications.

(f) *Credentials renewal.* The minister shall renew his or her credentials annually in the regular manner.

(g) *Supervision.* In the event his or her ministerial activity has been terminated, the minister must become established in a local church working under the supervision of a pastor or presbyter.

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

(i) *Ministerial benefits.* During the program of rehabilitation the minister shall continue to be eligible for benefits such as the ministers group insurance and Ministers Benefit Association.

(j) *Program administration.* The approved rehabilitation program shall be administered by the district presbytery.

(2) *District progress reports.* The credentials committee of the district shall submit to the General Council Credentials Committee on February 1 and August 1 of each calendar year a progress report relative to the rehabilitation of ministers under discipline.

(3) *Completion of rehabilitation.* When the rehabilitation program has been satisfactorily completed, the suspension shall be lifted and the minister shall be restored to good standing.

(4) *Transfer of information.* A rehabilitation information form for district use, prepared and distributed by the general secretary, shall be completed by the district in which the rehabilitation occurred when the rehabilitated minister requests a transfer to a new district. The completed rehabilitation form shall accompany the Certificate of Transfer to another district. A disciplined minister shall, as a condition of entering a rehabilitation program, sign a Limited Disclosure Agreement approved by the General Presbytery allowing the basis of his or her rehabilitation program to be disclosed by the district superintendent or district secretary of a transferring district. The information shall be preserved for future reference in the files of the district in which the rehabilitation occurred and the General Council.

**c. Eligibility of previously dismissed.** In the event a minister who has been dismissed requests reinstatement, the district shall first obtain permission from the General Council Credentials Committee before submitting an appropriate rehabilitation program as prescribed in Section 8 of this article. The dismissed minister shall not be eligible for reinstatement until the requirements for rehabilitation have been completed. Consideration may also be given to a minister if in the opinion of the credentials committees he or she has satisfactorily fulfilled the remedial requirements of such rehabilitation.

### Section 9. Referral for Action to the General Council Credentials Committee

#### **a. District recommendation**

(1) *Rehabilitation.* When a minister is to be placed in a rehabilitation program in accordance with Section 8 of this article, the district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and recommended terms of rehabilitation. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

(2) *Dismissal.* When a minister has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles as set forth in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, and it is determined that rehabilitation is not feasible or fails, a minister's credentials are to be

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terminated by dismissal. The district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and its recommendation for dismissal. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

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

(4) *Credential absolution.* Should a district where a dismissal occurred determine, after careful investigation, that a dismissed minister has completed remedial rehabilitation followed by faithful service for many years, it may request the General Council Credentials Committee to lift a dismissal and clear the minister's name by changing his or her credential status from dismissed to resigned.

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

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

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

### Section 10. Right of Appeal

**a. Filing of appeal to the General Council Credentials Committee.** The right of appeal applies to all actions of discipline and termination of credentials other than lapsing or resigning on the initiative of the minister. An accused minister shall have 30 days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee'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.

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

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

(2) *Denial of appeal.*

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

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

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### **c. Right of appeal to the General Presbytery.**

(1) A disciplined minister whose appeal has been denied by the General Council Credentials Committee may appeal to the General Presbytery. An accused minister shall have 30 days from the date notification of the General Council Credentials Committee's decision was mailed to appeal to the General Presbytery. The appeal is to be sent to the office of the general superintendent, and must include new exculpatory information, with copies sent to the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation and any other districts involved. The decision of the General Presbytery shall be final.

(2) A district may appeal a decision of the Executive Presbytery to the General Presbytery. The decision of the General Presbytery shall be final.

### **Section 11. Publication of Dismissal**

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

### **Section 12. Reinstatement of Credentials**

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

**b. Minimal time-lapse for dismissed ministers.** The minimal time-lapse required before a minister who has been dismissed is eligible for reinstatement shall be 1 year, except it shall be 2 years for a minister who has been dismissed because of charges as stated in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, paragraph a. The time-lapse shall be computed from the date of the district presbytery action as it appears on the ministerial status report filed with the General Council Credentials Committee. (See Bylaws, Article VII, Section 10, for other renewals and reinstatements.)

**c. Rehabilitation obligatory.** When a minister has been dismissed from our Fellowship and applies for reinstatement, he or she shall comply with the procedures for rehabilitation outlined in Section 8, paragraph c, of this Article.

**d. Option to refer to General Presbytery.** The General Council Credentials Committee may also hold the reinstatement of a minister's credentials in abeyance until the next session of the General Presbytery in order that the General Presbytery may have the opportunity to review the case, in which event the matter of reinstatement of such minister may be left entirely with that body.

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

### **Section 13. Notice**

Notice shall be deemed to have been given to a minister by certified mail from the district or General Council Credentials Committee on the basis of the last address furnished to the district or General Council by the minister. In the event the certified letter is returned as undeliverable for any reason, notice will have been deemed to have been given in view of the fact it is the minister's responsibility to furnish the district or General Council his or her address, and to accept lawful mail.

## **ARTICLE XI. NATIONAL MINISTRIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

In addition to the divisions provided for in Article XIII, Assemblies of God World Missions; and Article XIV, Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, the Board of Directors of The

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General Council of the Assemblies of God shall establish such national ministries, including commissions, divisions, and departments as may from time-to-time be needed to carry out the fourfold mission of the church.

The organization and establishment of these ministries shall be provided for in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*. (See Bylaws, Article XII. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*.)

### ARTICLE XII. THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD ORGANIZATIONAL MANUAL

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall develop and maintain a set of documents referred to as *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*. This document shall set forth in detail the organization of commissions, divisions, departments, and ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God as from time-to-time may be established to carry out the fourfold mission of the church.

*The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* shall be administered by the Executive Leadership Team as approved by the Executive Presbytery. The Executive Presbytery shall submit annually to the General Presbytery for approval all proposed additions, deletions, and modifications to *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* shall be available to all General Council affiliated churches and ordained or licensed ministers.

## ARTICLE XIII. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WORLD MISSIONS

### Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

**a. Authorization.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall assume responsibility and do all within its power for the spread of the gospel in foreign lands. In keeping with this objective, there shall be an Assemblies of God World Missions to which shall be committed all the world missions interests of the Fellowship.

**b. Purpose.** The primary responsibility of this division in its field of activity shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its fourfold mission.

**c. Strategy.** The missions strategy of the division shall be:

- (1) The widest possible evangelization of the spiritually lost through every available means;
- (2) The establishment of indigenous churches after the New Testament pattern;
- (3) The training of national believers to proclaim the gospel to their own people in an expanding mission to other people; and
- (4) The showing of compassion for suffering people in a manner representing the love of Jesus Christ.

**d. Indigenous principle.** The Pauline example shall be followed as far as possible by seeking out neglected regions where the gospel has not been preached and by establishing self-supporting, self-governing, self-propagating national churches in all regions.

### Section 2. Organization and Governance

**a. Executive director.** There shall be an executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions who shall be elected in the manner described in Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph b.

**b. Administrator.** The Executive Presbytery shall elect an administrator who shall serve under the executive director in the administration of the division.

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**c. Departments.** The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish departments within the division at the initiative of the Executive Presbytery. Departments shall operate within the parameters and guidelines of *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*.

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

### **e. World Missions Board**

(1) *Composition.* The activities of Assemblies of God World Missions shall be under the supervision of the World Missions Board which shall consist of the executive director of the division; the general superintendent (ex officio); two executive presbyters; the administrator; the regional directors; eight pastors of proven world missions zeal and accomplishments, each from a different area of the nation; and eight laypersons, endorsed by their pastors, each from a different area of the nation and from churches other than those whose pastors serve concurrently on the World Missions Board.

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

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

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

(5) *Board of Appeals.* Those members of the World Missions Board who are not members of the World Missions Committee shall sit as a Board of Appeals to act upon any appeal from decisions of the division. In such an appeal, members of the World Missions Committee may present the case for Assemblies of God World Missions' decision to the Board of Appeals, but shall not be present at the time of deliberation or voting. The missionary or World Missions Committee may appeal to the Executive Presbytery or General Presbytery from the decision of the Board of Appeals.

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

**f. Regional directors.** There shall be regional directors who shall direct the missions activities in their assigned geographical regions. They shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery for a 4-year term on the basis of nominations by the missionaries in the respective areas, subject to the ratification of the General Presbytery.

**g. Creation of new region.** With the creation of a new region, the World Missions Board shall have the discretion of nominating a regional director, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery. The normal cycle of missionary endorsement will follow.

**h. Area directors.** There shall be area directors who shall serve under the regional directors, directing and coordinating missions activities in their assigned areas. They shall be appointed by the World Missions Board on the basis of nominations by the World Missions Committee and regional director in their respective areas.

**i. World Missions Committee.** The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a World Missions Committee consisting of the executive director as chairperson, the administrator as vice-chairperson, the regional directors, the leaders of major

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departments of the division, and other personnel as determined by the Executive Presbytery. The responsibilities of the World Missions Committee shall be the general supervision and direction of the work of the division and its missionaries in conformity with the established policies and principles of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the World Missions Board.

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

**k. World missions policies.** All appointed world missionaries shall be required to work in accord with the published policies of the division as authorized by the World Missions Board.

### Section 3. Support of Assemblies of God World Missions

The administrative expenses and emergency field needs of Assemblies of God World Missions and its missionaries shall be provided from:

- a. Offerings designated for office expense.
- b. One-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment receiving funds through the division.
- c. Undesignated funds.
- d. Five percent of all missionary offerings (with the exclusion of special personal designations) received shall be transferred to the General Emergency Fund.

### Section 4. Missionary Candidates

**a. Appointment.** The selection and appointment of missionaries shall be the prerogative of the World Missions Board on recommendation of the World Missions Committee.

**b. Examination criteria.** The World Missions Board shall be governed in its selection and appointment of missionaries by examining each applicant as to:

- (1) Personal experience of full New Testament salvation.
- (2) Definite experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.
- (3) Definite call to missions work.
- (4) Physical, mental, and spiritual fitness to work.
- (5) Christian standing and general qualifications.

It is required that all applicants receiving appointment shall have the unqualified endorsement of their district councils, particularly in regard to effective ministry and Christian character. Applicants shall not be granted general missionary appointment until they have first qualified for ordination by The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Candidates shall prove their ministry and stability of character by a qualifying period of service in the United States.

**c. Specialized service.** Candidates for world service of a specialized character, such as nurses and teachers, may be granted appointment for such types of work, if properly qualified, without the necessity of being ordained. Nevertheless, such candidates shall have the endorsement of their respective district councils in regard to their Christian experience and local church activity.

### Section 5. Support of Missionaries

**a. A faith mission.** The world missions program of the Assemblies of God is a faith mission. Missionaries are urged to place their faith in God for supplying their needs. Thus missionaries itinerate among the churches to solicit prayer and financial support.

**b. Church support.** Every local church shall be encouraged to assume responsibility for support of duly appointed missionaries and approved ministries in cooperation with Assemblies of God World Missions.

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

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

### Section 6. Ordination of Missionaries

The ordination of persons for or under appointment of Assemblies of God World Missions shall be determined on the basis of their qualifications for ordination rather than on the basis of their appointment.

### Section 7. Field Organizations

**a. National church organization.** Missionaries shall make every effort to establish indigenous Assemblies of God national church organizations in the countries they serve. Organizational patterns shall conform to practical, cultural forms acceptable to the body of believers. Close fraternal relationships with Assemblies of God organizations in other countries shall be encouraged without infringement affecting the autonomy of each national organization.

**b. Missionary fellowships.** Missionary fellowships, composed of all appointed missionaries assigned permanently to a region of Assemblies of God World Missions, may be formed in each political or geographical area as circumstances may indicate. These missionary fellowships are to be considered as the direct creation of and amenable to the Assemblies of God World Missions since missionary appointment automatically confers membership in the missionary fellowship. The missionary fellowships shall serve in an advisory capacity to Assemblies of God World Missions in matters of policy and missionary personnel relative to their respective fields.

In those areas where there are insufficient personnel to make the organization of a missionary fellowship practical, Assemblies of God World Missions may appoint a representative(s) to act for the missionaries and Assemblies of God World Missions in matters normally handled by the missionary fellowship.

### Section 8. Property

**a. Investment principles.** All possible precautions shall be taken to safeguard funds invested in foreign properties so that they shall continue to advance the cause of the Assemblies of God in those countries. No funds shall be made available for the purchase of property until arrangements have been made to comply with the laws of the respective countries concerning the legal holding of the title, and in order to maintain a proper relationship between these missions projects and Assemblies of God World Missions, these principles shall be followed:

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

(2) *Title to institutional properties.*

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

(b) *Exceptions.* Assemblies of God World Missions shall be authorized to transfer title to the local national Assemblies of God organization when it deems such action to be in the best interests of the work. Church buildings or pastors' residences that are procured solely for the benefit of the local church with either local or foreign funds shall be held in the name of its national Assemblies of God organization or by a local church that is fully established and competent to hold property in its own name.

(3) *Title policy on General Council loans.* In all cases where Assemblies of God World Missions has advanced funds on a loan basis, The General Council of the Assemblies of

## ARTICLE XIV

God shall hold title to the property or receive other adequate security until the loan is fully paid.

**b. Missionary fellowship project endorsement.** Missionaries contemplating the purchase of property or erection of buildings shall cooperate with the missionary fellowship on the field and must secure its endorsement before requesting the approval of the division.

**c. Legal documents.** A certified copy of the property deeds, titles, and other legal papers relating to all missions properties which have been purchased shall be forwarded to Assemblies of God World Missions for filing.

## ARTICLE XIV. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD U.S. MISSIONS

### Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

**a. Authorization.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall assume responsibility and do all within its power to spread the gospel to the homeland. In keeping with this obligation, there shall be an Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.

**b. Purpose.** The primary responsibility of this division shall be to act as an agency of the church in fulfilling its mission. The essential functions are promoting the establishing of indigenous churches and facilitating the evangelization and discipleship of individuals within the scope of U.S. Missions. All such activities shall be conducted in full cooperation with the district councils. The division shall provide coordination, promotion, assistance to motivate action, and shall receive and disburse funds.

### Section 2. Organization and Governance

**a. Executive director.** There shall be an executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions who shall be elected in the manner described in Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph b.

**b. Administrator.** There shall be an administrator who shall serve under the executive director in the administration of the division.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**e. U.S. Missions Board.** The work of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be under the advisement of a U.S. Missions Board.

## BYLAWS

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

### **g. Commission on Chaplains**

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

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

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

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

### **Section 3. Support**

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

- a. Offerings.
- b. Five percent of all funds contributed through the national Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.
- c. One-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment designated to their respective departments.
- d. All endorsed and/or approved Assemblies of God chaplains actively serving full- or part-time, reserve chaplains, chaplain trainees, military trainees, and military seminarians shall contribute one-half of their tithe from their income earned from chaplaincy services to Chaplaincy Ministries.

## ARTICLE XV

### **e. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries**

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

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

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

## **ARTICLE XV. CORPORATIONS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

### **Section 1. Authorization**

The Executive Presbytery may from time-to-time establish certain Assemblies of God corporations, which entities are separately legally incorporated for governance purposes from The General Council of the Assemblies of God, but whose boards of directors are appointed by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery. All such corporations shall be submitted to the General Council for approval.

### **Section 2. Board of Directors**

The oversight of policy and administration of each of the corporations shall be delegated to a board of directors in accordance with the provisions of the corporation's articles and bylaws. The articles and bylaws of each corporation and amendments thereto shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery.

### **Section 3. Amenability**

Each corporation and its board of directors shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

### **Section 4. Fiscal Affairs**

The books of each corporation shall be audited annually by a certified public accountant selected by the Executive Presbytery, and such audit shall be included with The General Council of the Assemblies of God annual audit report to the General Presbytery and the General Council in session.

### **Section 5. Recognized Corporations**

The following entities shall constitute the recognized corporations of The General Council of the Assemblies of God: Central Bible College, Evangel University, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Global University of the Assemblies of God, Assemblies of God Financial Services Group, Assemblies of God Foundation, Assemblies of God Loan Fund, and Assemblies of God Ministers Benefit Association. No General Council corporation shall be dissolved, merged, or liquidated without the approval of the General Council in session.

## **ARTICLE XVI. AFFILIATED MINISTRIES**

### **Section 1. Authorization**

Ministries that represent a national or global ministry focus working with The General Council of the Assemblies of God or its corporations but whose boards of directors are not controlled or appointed by the Executive Presbytery may be recognized by the Executive Presbytery as affiliated ministries.

## **BYLAWS**

### **Section 2. Board of Directors**

Each affiliated ministry shall have a board of directors that will be responsible for governance and administration of the ministry. The board of directors shall be selected by the ministry itself in the manner prescribed by its bylaws, except that the Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to appoint one member of the board of directors.

### **Section 3. Governance**

Each affiliated ministry shall select and manage its own employees, maintain accounting records, hold title to property, obtain insurance, file tax returns, prepare financial statements, pay salaries and other expenses, raise funds, create and distribute promotional literature, provide charitable contribution receipts to donors, and in all other respects operate as an autonomous legal ministry except as noted in Section 4 through 6, below.

### **Section 4. Relationship**

Affiliated ministries shall enter into a covenant relationship with The General Council of the Assemblies of God under such terms and conditions as are established by the Executive Presbytery and approved by the General Presbytery.

The charter or bylaws of each affiliated ministry shall affirm acceptance of the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, including the Statement of Fundamental Truths. Each affiliated ministry shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery with regard to doctrine and compliance with the Constitution and Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. In all other respects an affiliated ministry shall be autonomous and self-governed.

### **Section 5. Name and Logo**

Affiliated ministries may refer to their status as an affiliated ministry with The General Council of the Assemblies of God but may not use the Assemblies of God name or logo or other indications or marks to convey in any way a formal legal relationship with The General Council of the Assemblies of God or its recognized corporations, unless an exception has been granted by the Executive Presbytery.

### **Section 6. Dissolution**

The charter or bylaws of an affiliated ministry shall specify that in the event of dissolution its assets shall be distributed to The General Council of the Assemblies of God or any Assemblies of God church, district council, or corporation.

## **ARTICLE XVII. MILITARY SERVICE**

As a Movement we affirm our loyalty to the government of the United States in war or peace.

We shall continue to insist, as we have historically, on the right of each member to choose whether to declare their position as a combatant, a noncombatant, or a conscientious objector.

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

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

Assemblies of God as outlined in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*.

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

### **ARTICLE XIX. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The regular order of business for the General Council meeting shall be:

1. Report of the general superintendent
2. Report of the general secretary
3. Report of the general treasurer
4. Departmental reports
5. Unfinished business
6. Election of officers
7. New business
8. Adjournment

All business sessions of the General Council shall commence with prayer.

### **ARTICLE XX. QUORUM**

All members registered and voting in any meeting of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall constitute a quorum, and all general presbyters registered and voting in any meeting of the General Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of eleven executive presbyters at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. The presence of four members at any meeting of the Executive Leadership Team shall constitute a quorum.

### **ARTICLE XXI. AMENDMENTS**

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



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**THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF**  
**THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**  
**(With revised Constitution and Bylaws)**  
**August 1-5, 2011—Phoenix, Arizona**

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## **Position Papers Adopted by the General Presbytery**

All position papers adopted by the General Presbytery in session may be obtained from the General Council Web site at [www.ag.org](http://www.ag.org) under the *Beliefs* tab.