

### **GC 2003 VFT Resolution #3 — Restoring Cooperating Assembly Status**

Historically, The General Council of the Assemblies of God recognized a "cooperating assembly" status to allow interested congregations to participate in the ministries of the Fellowship without officially affiliating. Many strong churches have entered the Fellowship in previous years through this opportunity, while some churches still exist in this category with no official status.

This resolution restores the cooperating assembly status to allow a congregation to cooperate on a transitional basis with the district council and the General Council if they subscribe to the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

**RESOLVED**, That General Council Constitution Article XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES, Section 4, to read as follows:

#### **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 status, 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.

**NOTE:** The General Presbytery in its August 9-11, 2004 meeting ratified the guidelines for cooperative church status, a process designed to enable the AG to welcome churches that share our mission, vision and doctrine. The following points summarize guidelines for such a church:

- Any cooperative church currently on the official list of churches in the office of the general secretary will be grandfathered so that they are not required to meet the four-year time limitation provision.
- The general secretary will develop an application form for churches applying for cooperative status; said application will include a statement of agreement with our Statement of Fundamental Truths.
- If a district desires to renew more than once the status of a cooperative church, it is free to recommend that to the Executive Presbytery.
- A former or present General Council affiliated or district affiliated church or a church pastored by a dismissed minister are not eligible to apply for the status of a cooperative church.
- New cooperative churches will be listed in the quarterly issue of the *Minister's Letter*. The district in relationship with the cooperative assembly will be responsible to inform the general secretary's office of the name of the church, the pastor, phone number, fax number, e-mail, etc. The general secretary's office will not be required to keep a database on non-credentialed pastors of cooperative churches.
- When a cooperative church decides to move to the status of district affiliated or General Council affiliated, the district council office will be required to submit a New Churches Open form and/or an Application of Affiliation form to the general secretary's office.
- Since a cooperative church is not listed as a new church, when it does decide to move to the status of district affiliated or General Council affiliated it will then be included in the official statistics of the General Council and will receive an Annual Church Ministries Report form from the general secretary's office.
- The district in relationship with the cooperative church will be responsible to monitor the four-year requirement outlined by the General Council.