

Resolution 27

PREACHING REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDENTIALLED MINISTERS

WHEREAS, Preaching has always played a vital role in Pentecostal ministry since the inception of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, We affirm the value of preaching as proclaiming the gospel in any context at any time as a vital component of ministry; and

WHEREAS, A broader definition of the term, “ministry” can be found by taking at face value the Statement of Fundamental Truths 11. The Ministry, which defines the parameters of threefold purpose in ministry without specifically using the term, “preaching”; and

WHEREAS, Our Fellowship could be well served by eliminating the distinctions made in our current Bylaws regarding ministry between “preaching” and “non-preaching” or “specialized” ministry; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 3. Specific Qualifications, c. Certified minister, page 112, which reads:

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

Be amended to read:

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

And be it further:

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

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

(1) *Preaching ministry.* Clear evidence of a divine call, a practical experience in preaching, together with an evident purpose to devote one's time to preaching the gospel. Licensed ministers shall preach at least 15 times a year, except in case of ill health or infirmity.

(2) *Specialized ministry.* An evident purpose to devote one's time to a specialized ministry such as Christian education, music, church-related ministry by a minister's spouse, or other full-time ministries. The same qualifications as outlined in Section 2 of this article shall apply.

Be amended to read:

Licensed minister. Qualifications for license shall ~~include be in two categories:~~ (1) ~~*Preaching Ministry.*~~ clear evidence of a divine call, a ~~practical experience in preaching, together with~~ character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's ~~time to preaching~~ life in service to the proclamation of the gospel. ~~Licensed ministers shall preach at least 15 times a year, except in case of ill health or infirmity.~~

(2) ~~*Specialized ministry.*~~ An evident purpose to devote one's time to a ~~specialized ministry such as Christian education, music, church related ministry by a minister's spouse, or other full time ministries.~~ The same qualifications as outlined in Section 2 of this article shall apply.

And be it further:

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

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

Be amended to read:

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

And be it further:

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

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

Be amended to read:

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

And be it further:

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

(1) *Definition.* All ordained and licensed ministers who shall have preached less than 15 times, and certified ministers who shall have preached less than 12 times, within a period of 1 year or have not been actively engaged in some other aspect of ministry shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.

Be amended to read:

(1) *Definition.* ~~All ordained and licensed ministers who shall have preached less than 15 times, and certified ministers who shall have preached less than 12 times, within a~~ All ministers who have not been actively engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel over a period of 1 year or have not been actively engaged in some other aspect of ministry shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.

And be it further:

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

The Executive Presbytery shall constitute the credentials committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and said credentials committee shall be referred to in these Bylaws as the General Council Credentials Committee. It shall have the authority to issue certificates of ordination, licenses to preach, specialized ministries licenses, and certified ministers certificates, and to issue annual fellowship cards to those persons whose renewal questionnaires have received district endorsement. It may delegate the routine work of the credentials committee to the Executive Leadership Team.

Be amended to read:

The Executive Presbytery shall constitute the credentials committee of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, and said credentials committee shall be referred to in these Bylaws as the General Council Credentials Committee. It shall have the authority to issue certificates of ordination, ministry licenses ~~to preach, specialized ministries licenses,~~ and certified ministers certificates, and to issue annual fellowship cards to those persons whose renewal questionnaires have received district endorsement. It may delegate the routine work of the credentials committee to the Executive Leadership Team.

And be it further:

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

(2) *Pastoral requirements.* In the event a certified minister is serving in a position as the pastor, he or she shall be expected to advance to license to preach within 2 years of acceptance of the pastorate. This shall not apply to any minister who has reached the age of 65 or older, or whose certificate has been issued on a provisional basis. Any exceptions shall be at the discretion of the district credentials committee.

Be amended to read:

(2) *Pastoral requirements.* In the event a certified minister is serving in a position as the pastor, he or she shall be expected to advance to the licensed credential level license to preach within 2 years of acceptance of the pastorate. This shall not apply to any minister who has reached the age of 65 or older, or whose certificate has been issued on a provisional basis. Any exceptions shall be at the discretion of the district credentials committee.

And be it further:

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

(5) *Exceptions to requirements.* The General Council Credentials Committee, upon request by a district credentials committee and where exceptional circumstances exist, may waive the requirements for an applicant holding a license to preach for 2 full consecutive years or being a member of the district in which he or she is seeking ordination for at least 1 year.

Be amended to read:

(5) *Exceptions to requirements.* The General Council Credentials Committee, upon request by a district credentials committee and where exceptional circumstances exist, may waive the requirements for an applicant holding a ministry license ~~to preach~~ for 2 full consecutive years or being a member of the district in which he or she is seeking ordination for at least 1 year.

And be it further:

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

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

Be amended to read:

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

And be it further:

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

In all cases the minister shall be requested to surrender his or her credential (Certificate of Ordination, License to Preach, Specialized Ministries License, Certificate of Ministry) and current fellowship card to the district office. The district shall forward these to the office of the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Refusal to surrender his or her credential and current fellowship card shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister.

Be amended to read:

In all cases the minister shall be requested to surrender his or her credential (Certificate of Ordination, Ministry License ~~to Preach~~, ~~Specialized Ministries License~~, Certificate of Ministry) and current fellowship card to the district office. The district shall forward these to the office of the general secretary of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Refusal to surrender his or her credential and current fellowship card shall be considered insubordination and may result in placing a charge against the minister.

And be it further:

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

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery
General Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____