

# **MINUTES**

**of the**

**55th Session of**

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

**Convened in Orlando, Florida**

**August 5–9, 2013**

**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**

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

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

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## FOREWORD

The 55th General Council convened in Orlando, Florida, August 5–9, 2013, with over 26,000 children, youth, and adults attending from around the nation.

The theme of this General Council was “Believe”—believing God for “greater things” as we prepare to step into our 100th year as a movement. There was a strong call to depend upon God and step forward in faith to reach our world, relying on His favor and blessing.

The General Council began with the Influence Conference, a powerful event that brought together over 5,000 attendees and featured guest speakers Robert N. Madu II, Wilfredo (Choco) de Jesus, Judah Smith, Dary R. Northrop, and Christine Caine.

General Superintendent George O. Wood opened the General Council on Tuesday night by preaching on the Council theme “Believe” followed by a Thursday night World Missions Celebration in which Assemblies of God World Missions Executive Director Gregory M. Mundis spoke. The youth Fine Arts Finale concluded the Council on Friday night with over 15,000 young people and adults in attendance.

In the business sessions, George O. Wood was reelected to a four-year term as general superintendent. Douglas E. Clay and Zollie L. Smith, Jr., were also reelected to four-year terms as general treasurer and executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, respectively.

It was reported that in the 2011–2012 biennium, the United States Assemblies of God grew by 2 percent (2%) to nearly 3,100,000 adherents, representing 23 years of consecutive growth. Meanwhile, the World Assemblies of God Fellowship grew by 4 percent (4%) to over 66,300,000 people. We thank God for His blessings and depend on Him for our future.

Our next General Council will be in Orlando, Florida, August 3–7, 2015.

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

James T. Bradford  
General Secretary



**MINUTES OF THE 55th GENERAL COUNCIL  
OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD  
CONVENED IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA  
AUGUST 5–9, 2013**

The General Council Influence Conference convened on Monday and Tuesday, August 5–6.

**TUESDAY EVENING—AUGUST 6**

The 55th General Council began with a 7 p.m. service at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, with George O. Wood, general superintendent, as the keynote speaker.

General Superintendent George O. Wood opened the service with a welcome and encouraged everyone to BELIEVE for Greater Things. He followed with an impassioned prayer to God to fill the service with His presence. The general superintendent introduced a theme video that was shown. Amena Brown, a spoken word artist, presented a word about “the great cloud of witnesses” that had brought the Assemblies of God into being. She exhorted the crowd to “let Jesus’ footsteps be our measurement for success” and to “share and live the message of Jesus with everyone we meet.” The Influence Worship Band—Clayton Brooks, The Oaks Fellowship, Red Oak, Texas; Kurtis Parks, National Community Church, Washington, D.C.; and Ryan Williams, River Valley Church, Apple Valley, Minnesota—led a time of praise and worship. James T. Bradford, general secretary, offered prayer.

Assistant General Superintendent L. Alton Garrison welcomed attendees and introduced the Executive Leadership Team. He also recognized and expressed appreciation to Assemblies of God leadership including the executive presbyters, retired executives and spouses, fraternal delegates, and representatives from the World Assemblies of God Fellowship. He welcomed all the students from National Fine Arts who were in attendance for the combined youth and adult service. A video about *Vision* was shown announcing the Centennial Celebration and telling about the digital curriculum that is being produced. An offering was received for Assemblies of God Trust.

Prior to the message, an inspiring 20-minute video on the State of the Fellowship was presented featuring the general superintendent’s call to prayer. The report told the stories of five Assemblies of God churches that exemplify five characteristics needed in all Assemblies of God churches: (1) The church empowers community, (2) The church empowers members, (3) The church is a friend to the lost, (4) The church is diverse, and 5) The church walks in the Spirit. He called for the Church to believe God for greater things!

The keynote message for the 55th General Council was brought by General Superintendent George O. Wood and was entitled *Four Women Who Changed the Course of History—Believing beyond Your Circumstances*. He gave a stirring call to experience biblical faith and told the stories of four biblical women whose hard-won faith changed the course of history. Interwoven between his four points—Sarah Laughed, Naomi Plodded, Hannah Wept, Mary Submitted—he told stories from the history of the Assemblies of God to show that biblical faith is a living, contemporary faith. The following musical presentations were given: “The Songs of the Reaper” sung by Dwight C. Colbaugh and accompanied by Thomas R. Matrone, “’Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus” sung by Jacque L. Blauvelt and accompanied by Thomas R. Matrone, “I Believe” sung by Paula R. Gallaway playing for herself. In closing, the general superintendent told the story of Stan S. Steward, Jr., a

missionary who passed away August 2, 2013, and shared a video entitled, *Dying Out Loud*. (The Steward story is the subject of *Dying Out Loud*, a new book and DVD available from Influence Resources.) Hundreds of worshippers streamed to the altars to offer themselves to God. The general superintendent encouraged them, “The faith that overcomes the world is the faith that says, ‘I’m all in for Jesus.’” He exclaimed, “All for Jesus!”

## **WEDNESDAY MORNING—AUGUST 7**

### **Business Session**

The first business session of the 55th General Council of the Assemblies of God convened at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, Wednesday, August 7, at 8:30 a.m. L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent, led in singing and praise to God and opened the session with prayer. Thomas R. Matrone, Springfield, Missouri, served at the piano.

The assistant general superintendent introduced General Superintendent George O. Wood, chairman, who welcomed the delegates and called the business session to order at 8:38 a.m.

### **Adoption of Agenda**

The chairman called attention to the agenda. A motion prevailed to adopt the agenda as a guide for this meeting. A motion prevailed, by common consent, to allow the body to take resolutions out of sequence as deemed necessary.

### **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; Gregory M. Mundis, 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 and asked them to stand: C. Dan Betzer, Southeast Area; Warren D. Bullock, Northwest 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; Rodney K. Loy, Gulf Area; John E. Maracle, Ethnic Fellowships; Jesse Miranda, Jr., Language Area—West Spanish; T. Ray Rachels, Southwest Area; H. Robert Rhoden, Northeast Area; Clarence W. St. John, North Central Area.

### **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; L. John Bueno, former executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions; Charles T. Crabtree, former assistant general superintendent; Richard Dresselhaus, former executive presbyter, Southwest Area; 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. The chairman expressed special appreciation to Thomas E. Trask, former general superintendent.

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

The chairman expressed appreciation to all of the National Leadership and Resource Center personnel who are serving in Orlando, Florida, and in Springfield, Missouri. He extended a heartfelt thank you to the Executive Management Team: Sol Arledge, chief operating officer; Wini Arledge, vice president of Ministries; Steve Blount, vice president of Publishing, Production, and Fulfillment; Susan Blount, vice president of Integrated Communications, Marketing, and Sales; Gary Rhoades, chief financial officer; and Tim Strathdee, chief information officer.

## **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 Orlando, Florida**

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

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

The chairman expressed appreciation to Governor Rick Scott and to the State of Florida.

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

The chairman expressed appreciation to the Brazilian District Council and Superintendent Joel F. Costa, the Peninsular Florida District Council and Superintendent Terrell R. Raburn, the Southeastern Spanish District Council and Superintendent Saturnino Gonzalez, and the West Florida District Council and Superintendent Thomas L. Moore, for hosting this 55th General Council.

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

The chairman acknowledged the General Council committees, 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; Sol Arledge, Wini Arledge, Steve Blount, Susan Blount, James T. Bradford, L Alton Garrison, Gregory M. Mundis, Gary Rhoades, Zollie L. Smith, Jr., Tim Strathdee, George O. Wood

### *Parliamentary*

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

### *Resolutions*

John R. Wootton, chairperson; Donald H. Detrick, Maria C. Garcia, Barbara L. Gilliam, Douglas M. Graham, Clemente Maldonado, Jr., Eric A. Treuil

*Roster*

Steven L. Powell, co-chairperson; Ramon J. Rojas, co-chairperson; Mark Christianson, liaison

*Spiritual Life*

George O. Wood, chairperson; L. Alton Garrison, Doug Clay, James T. Bradford, Gregory M. Mundis, Zollie L. Smith, Jr.

*Tellers*

Micheal E. Dickenson, chairperson; Mark D. Christianson, liaison; Malcolm P. Burleigh, Tito H. Gonzalez, Mark E. Jakelsky, Anibal A. Peña, Randall S. Rogers, John L. Weidman

**National Operational Committees**

*Program Committee*

George O. Wood, chairperson; L. Alton Garrison, Doug Clay, James T. Bradford, Gregory M. Mundis, Zollie L. Smith, Jr.

*Executive Management Team (EMT)*

Sol Arledge, Wini Arledge, Steve Blount, Susan Blount, Gary Rhoades, Tim Strathdee

*Program Resource Committee*

Sol Arledge, team leader; Wini Arledge, Heath Adamson, Steve Blount, Susan Blount, Ramona Edgman, Mark Entzminger, Keith Kidwell, Sharon Lee, Thomas Matrone, Sharla Moody, Charity Reeb, Gary Rhoades, Tim Strathdee

*Children's Activities/Kids Council*

Mark Entzminger, team leader; Scott Berkey, Patti Chapman, Susan Englert

*Equipment*

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

*Event Management Team*

Sharon Lee, team leader; Dan Bull, Janell Campbell, Paul Griffin, Lori Lawley, Sheila Mixer, Trina Russell

*Event Services Team*

Sharon Lee, team leader; Dan Bull, Janell Campbell, Paul Griffin, Lori Lawley, Thomas Matrone, Sheila Mixer, Trina Russell, Joy Wootton; Non-employees: Dan Castor, Norm Gannon, Drew Perry

*Exhibits/Sponsorships*

Leo Crosby, team leader; Janell Campbell, Sharon Lee; Non-employee: Drew Perry

*Finance/Accounting*

Gary Rhoades, team leader; Roland Dimos, Janice Hayes, Shari Klassen, Kenneth Tripp, Aron Vad

*Hospitality*

Eliza Delgado, chairperson; Beth Carroll, Jan Meese, Susan Putman, Robyn Redmon, Heather Scranton, Joy Sorbo, Helen Wray

*Human Resources*

Beth Carroll, director; Heather Scranton

*Influence Conference*

Sol Arledge, team leader; Wini Arledge, Trevor Birch, Steve Blount, Susan Blount, Eliza Delgado, Charity Reeb

*Prayer*

John Maempa, chairperson; Non-employees: Freedom Fellowship International, Waxahachie, Texas

*Printed Materials*

Sharla Moody, team leader; Trevor Birch, Sonny Carder, Sharon Lee, Charity Reeb, Paul Smith, Keith Surface, Esther Wood

*Promotions/Press/Communications*

Sol Arledge, team leader; Stephanie Anderson, Wini Arledge, Josh Babyar, Trevor Birch, Susan Blount, Sonny Carder, Leo Crosby, Mark Forrester, Justin Lathrop, Rosalee McMain, Charity Reeb, Tim Strathdee, Keith Surface

*Council Today*

Josh Babyar, team leader; Bill Campbell, Randy Clute, Kathy Cook, Keith Surface, Dan Van Veen

*Registration*

Sharon Lee, team leader; Justin Butler, Chris Hill, Sheila Mixer, Kelly Rhea

*Technology/IT Support*

Tim Strathdee, team leader; Fred Behling, Justin Butler, Lucas Cornwell, Brandon Cranor, Becky Harp, Bruce Harp, 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*

Mark Christianson, liaison

*Translations*

Kevin Babin, deaf coordinator; Efraim Espinoza, Spanish coordinator; Scott Temple, Ethnic Relations

*Transportation*

Dan Clopine, team leader; Erin Buskirk, company pilot; Joel Dense, Eliza Delgado, Larry Kolsky, Sharon Lee, Ron Sherman

*Ushers/Communion*

Wade Trivitt, team leader; Eliza Delgado, Sharon Lee, Pete Tarka

*Youth Ministries*

L. Alton Garrison, executive leader; Heath Adamson, Sol Arledge, Wini Arledge, Chet Caudill, Misty Hawley, Kim Johnson, Chad Phillips, Steve Pulis, Charity Reeb, Jack Trewern, Rod Whitlock

**General Superintendent's Report**

L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent, assumed the role of the chairman during the report of the general superintendent, and he introduced General Superintendent George O. Wood.

The general superintendent presented the report of the general superintendent. He focused on the values that govern the administration and pointed to the Core Values he developed: Passionately Proclaim the Gospel, Strategically Invest in the Next Generation, Vigorously Plant New Churches and Revitalize Existing Churches (he announced that 1,597 churches have begun in the last five years), Skillfully Resource the Fellowship, and Fervently Pray for God's Favor and Blessing. He expressed his gratefulness for this wonderful Church and to this body for giving this team what is needed to reach and bless the body of Christ.

By common consent, a motion prevailed to accept the report of the general superintendent with 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 was presented by video prior to the general superintendent's message on Tuesday evening.

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

L. Alton Garrison presented the report of the assistant general superintendent highlighting Church Ministries. Our mission is the effectiveness of the local church, and our desire is to have an unbroken continuum of discipleship culture from cradle to grave. He shared some themes of the national office ministries and solicited the prayers of the body for the ministry teams. A healthy church is an Acts 1:8 church. He stated that our curriculum and discipleship training material is based upon the Acts 2 model, using the words: Connect, Grow, Serve, Go, Worship.

By common consent, a motion prevailed to accept 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 telling that the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center is the largest Pentecostal archive in the world, with nearly 700,000 pages of archived materials. He reported some statistics and announced that the U.S. Assemblies of God has grown about 2 percent over the past biennium to just under 3.1 million adherents. He expressed concern that the percentage of ministers under the age of 40 has declined from two decades ago, but there is excitement about the many new young leaders God is raising up.

By common consent, a motion prevailed to accept the report of the general secretary and express appreciation to James T. Bradford.

### **Roster Report**

The general superintendent expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Roster Committee. Steven L. Powell, co-chairperson of the Roster Committee, presented the following roster report as of 9:05 a.m., Wednesday morning, August 7, 2013:

#### **VOTING:**

Ordained	2,435
Licensed	611
Delegates	355
Executive Presbyters	20
General Presbyters	268
Voting Constituency	3,689

**NONVOTING:**

Exhibitors	1,248	
Auxiliary Staff	96	
Certified	580	
General Attendees	10,659	
Delegate	1	
Guests	150	
Other	482	
Staff	197	
Kids Council	626	
Fine Arts/AIM	7,748	
Nonvoting Constituency		<u>21,787</u>
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION</b>		<b>25,476</b>

A motion prevailed to accept the report.

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

Gregory M. Mundis, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, presented the Assemblies of God World Missions report emphasizing the Great Commission and focusing on the indigenous church. He reported there to be 362,000 churches, 2,000 Bible schools, and 119,000 students around the world. He spoke of the many partnerships around the world, the unreached people groups that need to be reached, and the suffering church that includes many people who pay a high price to follow the Lord Jesus.

By common consent, a motion prevailed to accept the report from Assemblies of God World Missions and express appreciation to Gregory M. Mundis.

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

Zollie L. Smith, Jr., executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, presented the report from Assemblies of God U.S. Missions reporting that the support for Assemblies of God U.S. missionaries has been on the increase and there is now only 5 percent of missionaries who remain underfunded. The financial shortage created the inability to fulfill the mission and it was decided that all missionaries must be healthy and strong financially. He believes that by the end of December 2013 all U.S. missionaries will be fully funded. The executive director expressed his thanks to his administrative staff, department leaders, and missionaries who have worked to bring about this goal. He expressed his thanks to this body and reminded everyone of the U.S. Missions banquet to be held tonight.

By common consent, a motion prevailed to accept the report from Assemblies of God U.S. Missions and express appreciation to Zollie L. Smith, Jr.

**Electronic Voting Instructions**

The General Council used an electronic voting system. Mark Christianson, General Council Information Technology, presented the electronic voting instructions, both orally and by video. The delegates were instructed that in order to participate in the voting they needed to register their voting device with their voter identification number. The chairman declared the voting device registration closed. A practice vote was taken to help familiarize the delegates with the electronic voting procedure.

The general superintendent led in the chorus, "I Love You, Lord."

## **Election of General Superintendent**

The general superintendent turned over the chairmanship of the meeting to L. Alton Garrison, assistant general superintendent, during the election of the 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 general superintendent. T. Ray Rachels, executive presbyter for the Southwest Area, offered prayer for God's direction for this election. The ballot was cast for the election of the general superintendent and the chairman declared the voting closed.

Micheal E. Dickenson, chairman of the Tellers Committee, reported that no person received a sufficient number of votes on the nominating ballot to be elected. According to Bylaws, Article II, all persons receiving 15 or more votes shall be nominees for the office of general superintendent. The following report was given for the nominating ballot of the office of general superintendent.

Total votes cast	2,073
Invalid votes	6
Votes needed to elect	1,382

The following persons received 15 or more votes: James T. Bradford, Douglas E. Clay, Richard W. DuBose, L. Alton Garrison, Thomas W. Greene, Randy L. Valimont, George O. Wood, and George P. Wood.

The following persons requested that their names be removed from the ballot: L. Alton Garrison, Randy L. Valimont, and George P. Wood. One nominee and a delegate reported that social media was being used to make the election a political issue, rather than this election being borne out of prayer. Rodney K. Loy, executive presbyter for the Gulf Area, offered prayer for the elective ballot and asked God to give direction.

Instructions were reviewed for the electronic voting procedure. Since there was no election on the nominating ballot, the first elective ballot was cast for the office of general superintendent. The chairman declared the balloting closed. The chairman indicated that no further business would be considered until a report is received.

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the first elective ballot:

Total votes cast	2,026
Invalid votes	9
Votes needed to elect	1,351
James T. Bradford	90
Douglas E. Clay	343
Richard W. DuBose	132
Thomas W. Greene	121
George O. Wood	1,331

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

The chairman of the Tellers Committee gave the following report on the second elective ballot:

Total votes cast	2,065
Invalid votes	12
Votes needed to elect	1,377

James T. Bradford	25
Douglas E. Clay	384
Richard W. DuBose	95
Thomas W. Greene	43
George O. Wood	1,506

The chairman, having noted that George O. Wood received sufficient votes in excess of the two-thirds vote required, declared George O. Wood reelected as general superintendent for a 4-year term to expire in 2017.

George O. Wood invited his wife, Jewel Wood, and his family to join him on the platform. He introduced his family and thanked the body for the enormous privilege that has been given to him. He covets the prayers, support, direction, and input from this body and the church. He declared, “This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.”

The assistant general superintendent returned the chair to General Superintendent George O. Wood.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 10:43 a.m. for the Communion service and a message from J. Don George, executive presbyter of the South Central Area, with the business session to reconvene at 2:30 p.m.

### **Communion Service**

The Communion service was held at the Orange County Convention Center. Michael R. Burnette, Jr., LifePoint Church, Clarksville, Tennessee, led in worship.

General Superintendent George O. Wood presided during the Communion service and was assisted by members of the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery. J. Don George, executive presbyter for the South Central Area and founding pastor of Calvary Church in Irving, Texas, brought the message recounting the ups and downs of his decades-long ministry at Calvary Church. (His story is the subject of an Influence Resources book, *Against the Wind*.) He exhorted the ministers and laypeople in attendance: “We must passionately embrace change” and concluded with an altar response. During the altar time, a quartet of music was provided by C. Dan Betzer, J. Don George, Garry D. Page, and Larry D. Ford.

### **Memorial Scroll**

The Memorial Scroll, a video scroll listing the names of 810 ministers who have passed away since the last meeting of the General Council, was shown during the Memorial Breakfast.

The names of those honored on the Memorial Scroll appear at the end of the minutes of the General Council on page 81.

## **WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 7**

Assistant General Superintendent L. Alton Garrison opened the Wednesday afternoon session at 2:30 p.m. and prayer was offered in English and Mohawk by John E. Maracle, executive presbyter of the Ethnic Fellowship Area. The chairman called the meeting to order at 2:33 p.m.

## Introduction of Franklin Graham

General Superintendent George O. Wood introduced Franklin Graham of Samaritan's Purse who brought greetings from his father, Billy Graham, who still has a burden for evangelism. He reported that old Billy Graham tapes are being used in home meetings and people are being saved. He announced that they will be focusing on America over the next five years and encouraged everyone to participate when possible.

## Roster Report

Steven L. Powell presented the following roster report as of 1:32 p.m., Wednesday afternoon, August 7, 2013:

### VOTING:

Ordained	2,448	
Licensed	613	
Delegates	361	
Executive Presbyters	20	
General Presbyters	268	
Voting Constituency		3,710

### NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	1,255	
Auxiliary Staff	96	
Certified	587	
General Attendees	10,841	
Guests	150	
Other	483	
Staff	197	
Kids Council	626	
Fine Arts/AIM	7,748	
Nonvoting Constituency		<u>21,983</u>
TOTAL REGISTRATION		25,693

A motion prevailed to accept the roster report.

## Election of General Treasurer

James T. Bradford, general secretary, read Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph b, pertaining to the election of general treasurer and executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, and reported the General Presbytery's nominee for general treasurer is Douglas E. Clay.

The general superintendent called for the vote of the general treasurer and instructed the delegates to vote "yes" or "no" for nominee Douglas E. Clay for the position of general treasurer. The electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the voting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,422
Needed to elect	948
Yes votes	1,311
No votes	111

Having noted that Douglas E. Clay received a number of votes in excess of the two-thirds required, the chairman declared Douglas E. Clay reelected to the position of general treasurer for a 4-year term to expire in 2017.

The general superintendent invited Gail Clay to join her husband, Doug Clay, on the platform. General Treasurer Doug Clay expressed his thanksgiving to the body for this expression of confidence. He stated that they are products of the church and have dedicated their lives to the Church. He closed by reciting the opening of the Royal Rangers Pledge, "With God's help, I will do my best to serve God."

### **Resolution 10. Southern Latin District Council**

Clemente Maldonado, Jr., member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 10. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 10 as follows:

WHEREAS, In 2008 the Southeastern Spanish District Council adopted a petition to establish the Southern Latin Conference comprised of the states of Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi with the purpose of gradually forming a new district; and

WHEREAS, In 2008 the Southeastern Spanish District Council adopted a petition to establish the Mid Atlantic Hispanic Conference comprised of the states of North Carolina and South Carolina with the purpose of gradually forming a new district; and

WHEREAS, The Southern Latin Conference and the Mid Atlantic Hispanic Conference agreed to merge for the purpose of fulfilling the guidelines for the formation of a new district and adopted the name Southern Latin District; and

WHEREAS, On February 22, 2013, the District Presbytery of the Southeastern Spanish District Council approved the merger of the Southern Latin Conference and the Mid Atlantic Hispanic Conference and approved that they be recognized as a new sovereign district of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Location, size, and maturity are qualifications prescribed in the formation of new districts according to General Council Bylaws, Article V, Section 1, paragraph b. Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, The Southern Latin Conference has grown and developed with 51 churches, 6 more in the process of affiliation, and 10 recently planted together with 86 credentialed ministers, 35 of them ordained, and 9 Bible institute sites with approximately 200 students registered; and

WHEREAS, The geographical distance between the churches in the Southern Latin Conference and the Southeastern Spanish District has made it difficult at times of credentials, ministry, and district council conventions; and

WHEREAS, The Southern Latin Conference complies with the minimum guidelines as described in General Council Bylaws Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 1. Formation of New Districts and Section 6. Ethnic/Language Districts, paragraph a. Recognition qualifications; 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 Southern Latin District Council; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph c (2) (a) *Language Area—East Spanish*, page 104, which presently reads:

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

Be amended to read:

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

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

The general superintendent called for the vote of the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions. The general secretary reported the General Presbytery's nominee for executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions is Zollie L. Smith, Jr.

The general superintendent called for the vote of the executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions and instructed the delegates to vote "yes" or "no" for nominee Zollie L. Smith, Jr., for the position of executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions. The electronic 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 executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions:

Total votes cast	1,437
Needed to elect	958
Yes votes	1,267
No votes	170

Having noted that Zollie L. Smith, Jr., received a number of votes in excess of the two-thirds required, the chairman declared Zollie L. Smith, Jr., reelected to the position of executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions for a 4-year term to expire in 2017.

The general superintendent invited Phyllis Smith to join her husband, Zollie L. Smith, Jr., on the platform. Executive Director Zollie L. Smith, Jr., expressed his thankfulness for the confidence and trust that has been displayed. He stated that his first term was to acclimate, his second term was to establish goals, and his third term is to execute the mission.

### **Privileged Motion**

A motion was made and seconded for the Resolutions Committee to dispense with the reading of each resolution in its entirety and read only the resolved portions. The motion carried.

### **Resolution 12. Extension of Terms for Pastoral and Lay Representation on the World Missions Board**

John R. Wootton, chairman of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 12. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 12 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God values both pastoral and layperson representation on the World Missions Board; and

WHEREAS, The current three-year term affords each member the opportunity to participate in only six board meetings, each successive meeting adding to their understanding of the processes and procedures of the organization; and

WHEREAS, A longer experience and a greater working knowledge of the board is vital to the ongoing health of the organization; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Council Bylaws Article XIII. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WORLD MISSIONS, Section 2. Organization and Governance, paragraph e. World Missions Board, subparagraph (3) *Term of office*, page 140, which reads:

(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.

Be amended to read:

(3) *Term of office*. The term of office of the appointed pastors and laypersons shall be for 4 ~~3~~ years, rotated so some of the members ~~pastors~~ will be elected each year to maintain continuity. Upon completion of a term, they shall not succeed themselves in office.

### **Introduction of Dan Castor**

The chairman introduced Dan Castor, president of DCI Meetings and Encore Productions, and producer of the General Council event.

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

The general secretary presented the nominees for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Northwest Area. The chairman called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Northwest Area. An electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the balloting 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	1,452
Invalid votes	19
Needed to elect	968
Warren D. Bullock	531
Scott R. Erickson	84
Doyle A. Fulkes	54
Albert G. Miller	20
Gary L. Morton	114
Alan H. Schaberg	78
Monty R. Sears	66
Alan E. Warneke	90
Roy W. (Bill) Welch III	60
Leslie E. Welk	145
William E. (Bill) Wilson	191

Since there was no election, a second elective ballot was cast, and the chairman declared the balloting 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	1,563
Invalid votes	21
Needed to elect	1,042
Warren D. Bullock	1,077
Scott R. Erickson	18
Doyle A. Fulkes	9
Albert G. Miller	8
Gary L. Morton	52
Alan H. Schaberg	16
Monty R. Sears	15
Alan E. Warneke	22
Roy W. (Bill) Welch III	17
Leslie E. Welk	81
William E. (Bill) Wilson	227

Having noted that Warren D. Bullock received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared Warren D. Bullock reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Northwest Area for a 4-year term to expire in 2017.

**Resolution 15. Honorary General Presbyter—Robert J. Fox**

Maria C. Garcia, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 15. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 15 as follows:

WHEREAS, Robert J. Fox has served this Fellowship with great distinction as a minister of the gospel for 42 years; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served the Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God in pastoral ministry in Billings, Montana, for 31 years; and

WHEREAS, He served as district youth director (DCAP) for the Northwest District for 5 years; and

WHEREAS, He served as district presbyter for the Montana District for 7 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served on the Board of Directors of Northwest University for 20 years; and

WHEREAS, He has faithfully served as district secretary of the Montana District Council of the Assemblies of God for 20 years; 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, Robert J. Fox meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, section 3, paragraph j, 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 J. Fox be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Resolution 16. Honorary General Presbyter—Daniel M. York**

Donald H. Detrick, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 16. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 16 as follows:

WHEREAS, Daniel M. York has served this Fellowship with great distinction as a minister of the gospel for 42 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served as a general presbyter for 20 years and superintendent of the Wyoming District Council of the Assemblies of God for 9 of those years, assistant superintendent for 15 years, and 5 years as district Sunday School director; and

WHEREAS, He has served on the Board of Regents for Trinity Bible College and on the Board of Directors for Northwest University of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, He has served, taught, and ministered in places around the world including Bangkok, Latvia, Poland, and Africa; and

WHEREAS, His leadership in the Wyoming 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 Wyoming fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Daniel M. York meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, section 3, paragraph j, 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 Daniel M. York be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

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

General Treasurer Doug Clay and Gary Rhoades, chief financial officer, presented the general treasurer's report which included the financial report of the General Council and its affiliates as well as the Audit Report. The general treasurer reported that 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 accept the General Council Audit Report.

A motion prevailed to accept the report of the general treasurer. The chairman noted that a request was made for future financial reports to include some bar charts or graphics to indicate the financial positions.

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

The general secretary presented the nominees for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Southwest Area. The chairman called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Southwest Area. An electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,507
Invalid votes	17
Needed to elect	1,005
Bret L. Allen	140
James R. Braddy	229
Robert G. Drake	52
Richard M. Guerra	104
Stephen L. Harris	146
Klayton A. Ko	77
Alex Lucero	47
George K. Nagato	80
T. Ray Rachels	548
Donald H. Steiger	67

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	1,500
Invalid votes	13
Needed to elect	1,000
Bret L. Allen	56
James R. Braddy	260
Robert G. Drake	8
Richard M. Guerra	42
Stephen L. Harris	83
Klayton A. Ko	25
Alex Lucero	11
George K. Nagato	27
T. Ray Rachels	955
Donald H. Steiger	20

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 Southwest Area:

Total votes cast	1,490
Invalid votes	10
Needed to elect	994
Bret L. Allen	24
James R. Braddy	164
Robert G. Drake	9
Richard M. Guerra	15
Stephen L. Harris	34
Klayton A. Ko	11
Alex Lucero	7
George K. Nagato	15
T. Ray Rachels	1,195
Donald H. Steiger	6

Having noted that T. Ray Rachels received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared T. Ray Rachels reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Southwest Area for a 4-year term to expire in 2017.

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

The general secretary presented the nominees for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the North Central Area. The chairman called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the North Central Area. An electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,412
Invalid votes	8
Needed to elect	942
M. Ray Brewer	130
Jerry A. Brooks	39
Leon D. Freitag	28
J. Lowell Harrup	104
Gary L. Hoyt	98
Thomas M. Jacobs	71
Larry A. Liebe	70
Darrell D. Losing	13
Gary I. Pilcher	78
Stephen R. Schaible	38
Clarence W. St. John	584
Edmund L. Tedeschi	66
Ronald J. Traub	41
Robert A. Wine	44

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	1,428
Invalid votes	6
Needed to elect	952

M. Ray Brewer	106
Jerry A. Brooks	10
Leon D. Freitag	6
J. Lowell Harrup	42
Gary L. Hoyt	28
Thomas M. Jacobs	14
Larry A. Liebe	6
Darrell D. Losing	8
Gary I. Pilcher	23
Stephen R. Schaible	6
Clarence W. St. John	1,157
Edmund L. Tedeschi	9
Ronald J. Traub	5
Robert A. Wine	2

Having noted that Clarence W. St. John received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared Clarence W. St. John reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the North Central Area for a 4-year term to expire in 2017.

### **Resolution 13. Senior Ministers Status**

Barbara L. Gilliam, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 13. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 13 as follows:

WHEREAS, During the 1970s, the General Council in session decidedly removed the terminology *superannuated ministers* from the General Council Bylaws, changing the text to what is presently used; and

WHEREAS, The present General Council Bylaws do not make a status provision for senior ministers who are active in ministry for more than half-time but less than three-quarters time; and

WHEREAS, Any reasons for this status being left vague years ago no longer exist; and

WHEREAS, There are ministers who are active in ministry more than half-time but less than three-quarters time for which there is no bylaw provision for classification; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 7. Senior Ministers, paragraph a. Terminology, subparagraph (1), page 121, which reads:

(1) The term *senior-active* shall be used for credential holders who continue to serve three-quarters to full-time in the ministry.

Be amended to read:

(1) The term *senior-active* shall be used for credential holders who continue to serve more than half-time ~~three-quarters to full-time~~ in the ministry.

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

The general secretary presented the nominees for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the South Central Area. The chairman called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the South Central Area. An electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,374
Invalid votes	8
Needed to elect	916
Stephen E. Banning	32
Tim R. Barker	27
Glenn R. Beaver	12
H. Franklin Cargill	81
Vance A. Cauthon	18
T. Craig Dacus	14
Micheal E. Dickenson	47
Richard W. DuBose	315
J. Don George	661
Thomas D. Lakey	23
David C. Vistine	8
Terry L. Yancey	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 South Central Area:

Total votes cast	1,443
Invalid votes	8
Needed to elect	962
Stephen E. Banning	4
Tim R. Barker	4
Glenn R. Beaver	3
H. Franklin Cargill	17
Vance A. Cauthon	2
T. Craig Dacus	5
Micheal E. Dickenson	9
Richard W. DuBose	350
J. Don George	969
Thomas D. Lakey	5
David C. Vistine	4
Terry L. Yancey	63

Having noted that J. Don George received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared J. Don George reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the South Central Area for a 4-year term to expire in 2017.

### **Resolution 8. Conference Status**

Donald H. Detrick, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 8 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 8 as follows:

WHEREAS, The growth of ethnic fellowships and ethnic/language districts will continue to lead, in some cases, to the formation of new districts; and

WHEREAS, The formation of an intermediate “conference status” is authorized in General Council Bylaws Article V. as a preparatory step to becoming a district; and

WHEREAS, The application of the “conference status” provision should not necessarily be limited to “isolated geographic areas” only; and

WHEREAS, There would be value in encouraging a two-year conference status for every district in formation during which organizational issues can be addressed and the requisite number of churches prepared; and

WHEREAS, There are presently no guidelines for the transitioning of finances from existing districts to new districts in order to minimize the financial impact to existing districts when a new district forms; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 1. Formation of New Districts, paragraph a. Conference status, page 112, which reads:

**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.

Be amended to read:

**a. Conference status.** ~~In isolated geographical areas where there is development potential~~ When there is potential for the development of a new district, the first step may shall be the establishing of a conference status that would be mentored by an assisting provide assistance of an existing district(s) until the new district is capable of independent operation. Such conference shall function for a minimum of 2 years, or longer if so directed by the Executive Presbytery, prior to becoming a district unless an exception has been granted by the Executive Presbytery. The conference shall operate as directed by approved Executive Presbytery criteria.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 1. Formation of New Districts, paragraph b. Guidelines, page 112, which reads:

**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.

Be amended to read:

**b. Guidelines.** Guidelines for ~~the~~ establishing of new districts shall include:

- (1) A minimum of 40 Assemblies of God churches sponsored by an existing district and having voted to become a part of the new district at the beginning of the conference unless an exception has been granted by the Executive Presbytery.
- (2) Size, ~~and~~ maturity, and financial stability 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.
- (5) Churches and ministers that have voted to become a part of the new conference shall be required to contribute one-third of their district tithes or dues to the new conference during the first year, two-thirds of their district tithes or dues to the new conference during the second year, and contribute the full amount of tithes or dues as determined by the newly established district during the third year and following.

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

The general secretary presented the nominees for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—West Spanish. The chairman called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—West Spanish. An electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,296
Invalid votes	9
Needed to elect	864
Maria C. Garcia	268
Saul D. Gonzalez	79
Lauro C. Hernandez	15
Jesse Miranda	603

Rogelio A. Ovalle	60
Ezequiel Pecina	47
Dennis J. Rivera	148
Eleazar (JR) Rodriguez, Jr.	67

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	1,367
Invalid votes	9
Needed to elect	912
Maria C. Garcia	232
Saul D. Gonzalez	26
Jesse Miranda	1,023
Rogelio A. Ovalle	11
Ezequiel Pecina	10
Dennis J. Rivera	41
Eleazar (JR) Rodriguez, Jr.	15

Having noted that Jesse Miranda, Jr., received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared Jesse Miranda, Jr., reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter for the Language Area—West Spanish for a 4-year term to expire in 2017.

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

The general secretary presented the nominees for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Ethnic Fellowships. The chairman called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Ethnic Fellowships. An electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,239
Invalid votes	8
Needed to elect	826
Hanfere Aligaz	25
Samuel K. Asiedu	39
Inosi S. Batibasaga	6
Charles A. Berkley, Jr.	43
Michael D. Calise	28
Moses Cao	54
Abraham H. Chikwendu	28
Walter F. Harvey	61
Cregg Jones	10
Victor Joseph	20
Nilo (Jaren) Lapasaran, Jr.	26
Yen-Sha Lim	69
Rudolf A. Lolowang	11
Teodor (Ted) Luca	6

Tony T. Mageo	14
John E. Maracle	520
Filimone Mau	17
Belinda M. McCleese	47
Michael Nelson	83
Nicholas K. Opuni	14
George A. Rafidi	62
Jean N. Rebecca	15
K. P. Titus	26
Thomas Valtierra, Jr.	7

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 Fellowships:

Total votes cast	1,250
Invalid votes	6
Needed to elect	834
Hanfere Aligaz	4
Samuel K. Asiedu	3
Inosi S. Batibasaga	2
Charles A. Berkley, Jr.	8
Michael D. Calise	2
Moses Cao	8
Abraham H. Chikwendu	2
Walter F. Harvey	17
Victor Joseph	4
Nilo (Jaren) Lapasaran, Jr.	1
Yen-Sha Lim	29
Rudolf A. Lolowang	2
Teodor (Ted) Luca	2
Tony T. Mageo	4
John E. Maracle	1,075
Filimone Mau	4
Belinda M. McCleese	16
Michael Nelson	42
Nicholas K. Opuni	1
George A. Rafidi	11
Jean N. Rebecca	3
K. P. Titus	2
Thomas Valtierra, Jr.	2

Having noted that John E. Maracle received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared John E. Maracle reelected as the nonresident executive presbyter from the Ethnic Fellowships for a 4-year term to expire in 2017.

**Introduction of R. Bryan Jarrett, Nonresident Executive Presbyter  
Additional Representation—Ordained Pastor under 40 Years of Age**

The chairman introduced R. Bryan Jarrett, nonresident executive presbyter for the Additional Representation—Ordained Pastor under 40 Years of Age, who was the first person selected to this position. R. Bryan Jarrett, who is eligible for reelection, shared why he did not allow his name to be considered as a nominee during this General Council. He expressed that his heart is with his family, and he must be in the right place and that is with

them. He also stressed the importance of having someone younger to fill the position, as in four years he will be 43 years old. He expressed great appreciation for the general superintendent. Serving in this position is a privilege and an honor. He believes that he, his church, and his family have benefitted from this process, and it has been a meaningful experience.

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

The general secretary presented the following four nominees for the position of nonresident executive presbyter for the Additional Representation—Ordained Pastor under 40 Years of Age as selected by the General Presbytery:

Jason W. Exley  
Jesse R. Martinez  
Brian C. Schmidgall  
Joseito Valasquez

The chairman called for the vote of the nonresident executive presbyter for the Additional Representation—Ordained Pastor under 40 Years of Age. An electronic ballot was cast and the chairman declared the balloting closed.

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

Total votes cast	1,269
Invalid votes	6
Needed to elect	846
Jason W. Exley	443
Jesse R. Martinez	142
Brian C. Schmidgall	457
Jeseito Valasquez	221

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

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

Total votes cast	1,191
Invalid votes	6
Needed to elect	794
Jason W. Exley	402
Jesse R. Martinez	40
Brian C. Schmidgall	663
Jeseito Valasquez	80

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 Additional Representation—Ordained Pastor Under 40 Years of Age:

Total votes cast	1004
Invalid votes	8
Needed to elect	670
Jason W. Exley	166
Jesse R. Martinez	15
Brian C. Schmidgall	792
Jeseito Valasquez	23

Having noted that Brian C. Schmidgall received more than the two-thirds vote required for an election, the chairman declared Brian C. Schmidgall elected as the additional representative on the Executive Presbytery to represent ordained pastors under 40 years of age for a 4-year term to expire in 2017.

**Resolution 7. Communication Process for Disciplined Ministers**

Maria C. Garcia, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 7 and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded. By common consent, a motion prevailed to grant approval for the General Council legal counsel/parliamentarian to address this body as needed for this agenda item. Richard R. Hammar, legal counsel, gave the rationale for this resolution.

A motion was made and seconded to amend Resolution 7 by the addition of the following sentence at the end of the proposed Section 14. Legal Representation: “A minister shall be permitted to be accompanied by one approved credentialed minister at any meeting, hearing, or appeal pertaining to his or her discipline.”

Following extended discussion, a motion was moved, seconded, and carried to call for the previous question. A voice vote was taken to adopt the amendment to Resolution 7. The chairman declared that the decision was not clear based upon the voice vote taken by ayes and nays. A standing vote was taken and the chairman declared the decision was not clear as the vote was fairly evenly divided. In light of the decision not being determined, the chairman called for the matter to be held over until the next day to allow the body to vote again on the amendment and call for a counted vote, if needed.

(See page 37 for additional action taken.)

**Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Awards**

Marilyn K. Abplanalp, president of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education, presented the Delta Alpha Distinguished Educator Awards. She introduced the following who had been honored during the Educators Luncheon: LeRoy R. Bartel, Southwestern Assemblies of God University; Joan Cargnel, Evangel University; James D. Hernando, Assemblies of God Theological Seminary; and Daniel Nelson, North Central University. The following resolutions were presented to each one:

**LeRoy R. Bartel**

WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor LeRoy R. Bartel 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 Bartel has served the Lord as a professor at Southwestern University of the Assemblies of God from 1984 to 1996, and has served as the dean of the College of Bible and Church Ministries at Southwestern Assemblies of God University from 2004 to the 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 Bartel having met the criteria of service, scholarship, teaching, and character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session June 25, 2013, 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, recognizes Doctor LeRoy R. Bartel 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 Bartel 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 7, 2013, Orlando, Florida.

### **Joan Cargnel**

WHEREAS, The Doctor Joan Cargnel 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 Cargnel has served the Lord as an assistant professor at Evangel University from 1985–1992, as the vice president for Student Development at Evangel University from 1992–1993, and as a professor from 2002–2013 at Evangel University and has been nominated by the Evangel University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Cargnel, having met the criteria of service, scholarship, teaching, and character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session June 25, 2013 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, recognizes Doctor Joan Cargnel 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 Cargnel 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 7, 2013, Orlando, Florida.

### **James D. Hernando**

WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor James D. Hernando 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 Hernando has served the Lord as a professor at Trinity Bible College from 1978–1986, and has served as a professor at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary from 1990 to the 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 Hernando, having met the criteria of service, scholarship, teaching, and character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session June 25, 2013, 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, recognizes Doctor James D. Hernando 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 Hernando 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 7, 2013, Orlando, Florida.

### **Daniel Nelson**

WHEREAS, The Doctor Daniel Nelson 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 Nelson has served the Lord as a professor at North Central University from 1989 to the present; and in addition has held several administrative positions during that time, and has been nominated by the North Central University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Nelson, having met the criteria of service, scholarship, teaching, and character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session, June 25, 2013, 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, recognizes Doctor Daniel Nelson 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 Nelson 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 7, 2013, Orlando, Florida.

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

Marilyn K. Abplanalp, president of The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education, presented the Distinguished Administrator Award. She recognized Gordon L. Anderson, North Central University, and George F. Crawford, Evangel University, as recipients of the Omicron Alpha Distinguished Administrator Award. The following resolutions were presented during the Educators Luncheon:

#### **Gordon L. Anderson**

WHEREAS, The Reverend Doctor Gordon L. Anderson 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 Anderson has served the Lord as a faculty member at North Central University from 1982 to the present, and has served as a missionary on special assignment with the Assemblies of God World Missions from 1992–1995, and has served as the president of North Central University from 1995 to the present, and has been nominated by the North Central University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Doctor Anderson, having met the criteria of service, scholarship, administration, and character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session, June 25, 2013, 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, recognizes Doctor Gordon L. Anderson 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 Anderson 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 7, 2013, Orlando, Florida.

### **George F. Crawford**

WHEREAS, Mister George F. Crawford has distinguished himself in our Fellowship as an excellent college administrator and has made an outstanding contribution and lifetime commitment to Christian higher education in the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Mister Crawford has served as the vice president for Business and Finance at Evangel University from 1974 to the present and has been nominated by the Evangel University Board of Directors for national recognition by the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, Mister Crawford, having met the criteria of service, scholarship, administration, and character, was elected by The Alliance for Assemblies of God Higher Education in session, June 25, 2013, 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, recognizes Mister George F. Crawford 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 Mister George F. Crawford 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 7, 2013, Orlando, Florida.

### **Announcements/Council Now App**

The general superintendent announced various events that are scheduled throughout the General Council and invited everyone to visit the Exhibit Hall. He also informed the delegates that the *Council Today* will not be published as has been done in the past; however, event articles will be made available online at the ag.org Web site and on the Council Now app.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 5:03 p.m. to reconvene at 8:45 a.m. on Thursday, August 8, 2013.

## **WEDNESDAY EVENING—AUGUST 7**

An early evening banquet was held for the adults and hosted by Assemblies of God U.S. Missions. It focused on celebrating and raising awareness for Compassion Ministries. The speaker for the evening banquet was Joni Eareckson Tada, founder and chief executive officer of Joni and Friends International Disability Center.

The Wednesday evening service of the 55th General Council began at 7 p.m. in the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. It was a youth service with an emphasis on Fine Arts. Two presentations were made that celebrated 50 years of Fine Arts.

Worship was led by the Influence Band: Clayton Brooks, The Oaks Fellowship from Red Oak, Texas; Kurtis Parks, National Community Church from Washington, D.C.; and Ryan Williams, River Valley Church from Apple Valley, Minnesota. Bruce S. (Scotty) Gibbons, Jr., Youth Ministries strategic partner, led the congregation in prayer.

Heath Adamson, director of Youth Ministries and senior ministry business director, introduced youth minister Jeanne Mayo, Snellville, Georgia, who brought a message, “Bury Me Standing!” referencing a practice in ancient cultures where warriors were buried in an upright position, ready to battle upon resurrection. She declared, “The world will be changed by bury-me-standing people.” She emphasized that this generation is quite possibly the one who will welcome back Jesus to the earth, making personal evangelism of the utmost importance. She challenged each individual to live a life that will affect the kingdom of God, to “dream like you’ll live forever, but live like you’ll die tomorrow.” Students filled the altars during a time of response, asking God to empower them with His Spirit as they prepare to be deployed for the greatest work of evangelism this generation has seen.

## **THURSDAY MORNING—AUGUST 8**

### **Memorial Breakfast and Service**

The Memorial Breakfast was held at the Orange County Convention Center for family members who have lost loved ones during this past biennium, between the dates of June 1, 2011, and May 31, 2013. General Secretary James T. Bradford opened the service by bringing greetings and offering a prayer. He shared that 810 Assemblies of God ministers are remembered this year, representing nearly 40,000 years of active ministry between them. “As our Fellowship enters its 100th year, we cannot help but feel a profound debt of gratitude to those who have gone before us. We stand on their shoulders.” In tribute to the deceased ministers, a memorial scroll video listing each name was shown.

C. Dan Betzer, executive presbyter and senior pastor of First Assembly of God, Fort Myers, Florida, ministered in song with David L. Thomas, of the same congregation, at the piano.

General Superintendent George O. Wood offered prayer for the families of those who have gone to their eternal reward and introduced Thomas E. Trask, former general superintendent and chairman of the Global Prayer Initiative for Convoy of Hope. Thomas E. Trask brought a message of comfort and inspiration using the text from 1 Thessalonians 4:16–17, as well as other passages in the Word of God, focusing on “His presence,” “His protection,” “His promises,” and “His provision.” Throughout his message were interludes of song with hymns of comfort being sung by those in attendance. Thomas R. Matrone from Central Assembly of God, Springfield, Missouri, served at the piano.

The names of those honored on the Memorial Scroll appear at the end of the minutes of the General Council on page 81.

### **Business Session**

Doug Clay, general treasurer, opened the morning session at 8:45 a.m. by bringing greetings to everyone and offering a prayer.

General Superintendent George O. Wood called the meeting to order at 8:49 a.m.

## **Roster Report**

Ramon J. Rojas, co-chairperson of the Roster Committee, presented the following roster report as of 8:36 a.m., Thursday, August 8, 2013:

**VOTING:**

Ordained	2,453
Licensed	614
Delegates	362
Executive Presbyters	20
General Presbyters	268
Voting Constituency	3,717

**NONVOTING:**

Exhibitors	1,261
Auxiliary Staff	96
Certified	590
General Attendees	10,988
Guests	150
Other	483
Staff	197
Kids Council	632
Fine Arts/AIM	7,748
Nonvoting Constituency	<u>22,145</u>
TOTAL REGISTRATION	25,862

A motion prevailed to accept the roster report.

### **Resolution 7. Communication Process for Disciplined Ministers (cont.)**

The chairman presented the proposed amendment to Resolution 7 as presented on Wednesday afternoon, August 7. A motion was made and seconded to amend Resolution 7 by the addition of the following sentence at the end of the proposed Section 14. Legal Representation: "A minister shall be permitted to be accompanied by one approved credentialed minister at any meeting, hearing, or appeal pertaining to his or her discipline." The chairman called for a standing vote to be taken, and he indicated the decision was not clear. The chairman called for a visual count of the standing vote to be taken by the tellers. The Tellers Committee reported the following count:

Those in favor of adopting the amendment: 417  
Those opposed to adopting the amendment: 279

The chairman declared that the amendment passed and is adopted.

The chairman called for a voice vote on the main motion as amended. The chairman declared that resolution 7 as amended has passed. The adopted Resolution 7 as amended is following:

WHEREAS, The discipline of ministers is an ecclesiastical process unconstrained by civil law; and

WHEREAS, It has been the long tradition in The General Council of the Assemblies of God to deny disciplined ministers the right to have attorneys present during any hearing or appeal; and

WHEREAS, It would be desirable for the General Council Bylaws to explicitly confirm this tradition; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article X. DISCIPLINE, page 138, be amended by the addition of the following new Section 14. Legal Representation:

**Section 14. Legal Representation**

The discipline of ministers is a sacred responsibility that is entrusted to the credentials committees of districts and the General Council. A minister shall not be permitted to be accompanied by one or more attorneys at any meeting, hearing, or appeal pertaining to his or her discipline. A minister shall be permitted to be accompanied by one approved credentialed minister at any meeting, hearing, or appeal pertaining to his or her discipline.

(See page 31 for previous action taken.)

**Resolution 1. Notification of Constitutional and Bylaws Amendments**

Donald H. Detrick, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 1 and moved its adoption. John R. Wootton, chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented the rationale for the resolution. The chairman stated the resolution would be considered by seriatim.

A motion prevailed to adopt the Constitutional amendment of Resolution 1 by a two-thirds vote.

A motion prevailed to adopt the Bylaws amendment of Resolution 1 by a majority vote.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 1 in total as follows:

WHEREAS, There is an increasing preference for electronic communication due to convenience and cost savings; and

WHEREAS, There remains a desire on the part of many for the continuation of hardcopy communications; and

WHEREAS, The present guidelines in the Constitution of The General Council of the Assemblies of God require resolutions affecting the Constitution to be submitted in writing to constituents no later than 60 days before General Council convenes; and

WHEREAS, The present guidelines in the Bylaws of The General Council of the Assemblies of God require resolutions affecting the Bylaws to be submitted in writing to constituents no later than 30 days before General Council convenes; and

WHEREAS, To avoid exorbitant expenses associated with sending two different mailings at two different times, the practice of the National Leadership and Resource Center over the years has been to combine the resolutions for the General Council Constitution and Bylaws into a single mailing; and

WHEREAS, The present deadlines create a window for review, preparation, and distribution that leaves too little margin for error and unexpected interruptions; and

WHEREAS, Changing the deadline for constitutional resolutions from 60 days to match the 30-day deadline for Bylaws resolutions would substantially alleviate the pressure on a variety of workers and committee members; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution Article XIII. AMENDMENTS, page 99, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 or electronic 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~~ 30 days prior to said session. Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article IV. COMMITTEES, Section 4. Resolutions Committee, paragraph a. Procedure for presentation of resolutions, page 111, which reads:

**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.

Be amended to read:

**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 or electronic form and send ~~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.

## **Resolution 2. General Council Affiliated Churches Requirement of Affiliation**

Clemente Maldonado, Jr., member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 2 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 2 as follows:

- WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God is a voluntary cooperative Fellowship, and cooperation and partnership of churches for ministry are essential and indispensable to our Fellowship; and
- WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God is a missional Fellowship, and support of missions beyond the local church is a fundamental obligation of the local church; and
- WHEREAS, Assemblies of God World Missions and Assemblies of God U.S. Missions are making a tremendous impact for the kingdom of God and are worthy of local church support; and
- WHEREAS, The founders of the Assemblies of God referenced organizing support for missions as one of the primary motivations driving the formation of this Fellowship; and
- WHEREAS, The November 1914 General Council adopted the resolution, "We commit ourselves and the Movement to Him for the greatest evangelism that the world has ever known" and subsequently urged cooperation from every church; and

WHEREAS, This legacy of dedication is the bequest of our founders, and taking up this commitment should be the task of every Assemblies of God congregation; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution Article XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES, Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies, paragraph a. Requirements for affiliation, page 98, which reads:

**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.

Be amended by inserting a new subparagraph (7), with the amended section to read:

**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; and
- (7) Demonstrate a willingness to contribute to Assemblies of God missions.

### **Resolution 3. Church Governance**

Eric A. Treuil, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 3 and moved its adoption. The chairman stated the resolution would be considered by seriatim.

The vote for the constitutional amendment of Resolution 3 was taken by a standing vote. The chairman declared the constitutional amendment is adopted.

The vote for the bylaws amendment was taken by a voice vote. The chairman declared the bylaws amendment adopted.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 3 in total as follows:

WHEREAS, No single model of church governance is taught in the New Testament, and a variety of church governance structures are evident in the Book of Acts and the Pauline Epistles; and

WHEREAS, In its pursuit of congregational autonomy and Spirit-led leadership, the General Council embraces a culture of church multiplication where its districts are empowered to approve a variety of church governance models; and

WHEREAS, Today a variety of church governance structures continue to emerge, including some which do not pursue an expanding voting membership; and

WHEREAS, It is desirable to make General Council affiliation available to these and other churches when they demonstrate to the satisfaction of district leadership that they possess the capacity of self-governance; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution, Article XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES, Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies, paragraph a. Requirements for affiliation, subparagraph (3), page 98, which reads:

- (3) Have a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body;

Be amended to read:

- (3) Have a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body. In cases where there are fewer than 20 voting members, an exception may be granted by the district, in compliance with General Presbytery policy, and provided that the church has demonstrated the capacity for self-governance;

And, be it further

RESOLVED, The General Council Bylaws, Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 6. Ethnic/Language Districts, paragraph d. Sponsorship and affiliation of an ethnic/language group, page 113, which reads:

**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.

Be amended to read:

**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, unless an exception has been granted by a district in accordance with the provisions of General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (3), it may then seek affiliation with a district of its choice following prescribed guidelines as outlined in these Bylaws.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 1. Procedure for Affiliation, paragraph 1, page 114, which reads:

**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.

Be amended to read:

**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, unless an exception has been granted by the district in accordance with the provisions of General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (3). 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.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 5. Guidelines for Minimal Membership for General Council Affiliated Assemblies, page 116, which reads:

**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.

Be amended to read:

**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, unless an exception has been granted by the district in accordance with the provisions of General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (3).

## **Resolution 4. Language Districts**

Douglas M. Graham, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 4 and moved its adoption. Duane P. Durst, chairperson of the Language Districts Study Committee, announced the members of the committee who worked together to bring forward this resolution and Resolution 8. The chairman stated the resolution would be considered by seriatim.

The vote for the constitutional amendment of Resolution 4 was taken by a standing vote. The chairman declared the constitutional amendment is adopted.

The vote for the bylaws amendment was taken by a voice vote. The chairman declared the bylaws amendment is adopted.

A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 4 in total as follows:

WHEREAS, A task force was appointed by the Executive Presbytery to review existing General Council Constitution and Bylaws provisions regarding language and ethnic districts, their relationship to geographic districts, and the identity of foreign language districts in light of post-first-generation foreign language adherents acculturating into American society; and

WHEREAS, Said task force has affirmed that the growth in the Assemblies of God coming from the language and ethnic districts necessitates the emphasizing of equality between geographic and language/ethnic districts; and

WHEREAS, Said task force further has observed that the acculturation of second-generation language district members and their children, whereby churches become almost exclusively English speaking, does not necessarily diminish the ethnic/cultural heritage that in the past was based primarily on language; and

WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws clarification regarding Executive Presbytery criteria and leadership ratification for ethnic fellowships which have not become districts would be beneficial; therefore be it

RESOLVED, The General Council Constitution Article X. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 3. Language Districts, page 97, which reads:

### **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.)

Be amended to read:

### **Section 3. Language Districts**

**a. Geographic Districts.** A ~~language group~~ geographic area 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 and may therefore overlap or coincide with that of one or more other language/ethnic district councils. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 6.)

**b. Language/Ethnic Districts.** A language/ethnic 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/ethnic 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.)

And, be it further

RESOLVED, The General Council Bylaws Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 6. Ethnic/Language Districts, paragraphs a, b, c, d, and e, page 113, which reads:

### **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 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).

Be amended to read:

**Section 6. ~~Ethnic/Language Districts~~ Language/Ethnic Districts**

**a. Recognition qualifications.** In order to become a district of the Assemblies of God, an ~~ethnic/language~~ language/ethnic 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 of districts.** An ~~ethnic/language~~ Language/Ethnic and geographic districts 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~~ language/ethnic district and the geographical district shall seek to promote a spirit of fellowship and cooperation. The ~~ethnic/language~~ language/ethnic 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~~ language/ethnic district and the geographical district appoint representatives 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~~ language/ethnic district, are encouraged to unite where possible in fellowship activities.

**d. Sponsorship and affiliation of an ethnic/language language/ethnic group.** Should an English-speaking church desire to initiate sponsorship of ~~an ethnic/language~~ a language/ethnic group or a language/ethnic church desire to initiate sponsorship of an English-speaking group, it shall consult with its district officials for counsel and guidance. The ~~geographical~~ respective districts/fellowships should inform ~~or consult with language district officers~~ their counterparts concerning the beginning of ~~an ethnic/language group within~~ such 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~~ language/ethnic district to the geographical district in which it is located or from a geographical district to ~~an ethnic/language~~ language/ethnic 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~~ language/ethnic 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).

And, be it further

RESOLVED, The General Council Bylaws Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 8. Ethnic and Language Fellowships, page 114, which reads:

#### **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.

Be amended to read:

### **Section 8. ~~Ethnic and Language~~/Ethnic Fellowships**

~~Ethnic or language~~ Language/Ethnic groups may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery, in accordance with Executive Presbytery criteria, 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~~ language/ethnic 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~~ language/ethnic fellowship to represent the ~~ethnic or language~~ language/ethnic fellowship within a district. Leadership for the fellowship groups shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery.

### **Resolution 5. Electronic Balloting for Nonresident Executive Presbyters**

John R. Wootton, chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 5 and moved its adoption.

Following extended discussion, a motion was moved and seconded to table the matter until a time when some of the issues can be worked out. A voice vote was taken to table Resolution 5 and the chairman declared the motion passed. Resolution 5 as presented follows:

WHEREAS, Our Fellowship is large in numbers and geography; and

WHEREAS, It is difficult and costly for many members to attend General Council; and

WHEREAS, It would seem beneficial to provide a way for these members to participate in General Council business; and

WHEREAS, It is technically possible to conduct certain elections by the Internet; and

WHEREAS, This would also substantially reduce the number of elections at General Council business sessions thus saving substantial time; and

WHEREAS, The General Council would benefit by using this time for other purposes; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution Article VII. MEMBERSHIP, Section 3. Voting Constituency, page 95, which reads:

#### **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.

Be amended to read:

### **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. Voting constituency for an electronic ballot shall consist of the same with the exception of the attendance requirement.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution Article VIII. MEETINGS, page 95, be amended by the addition of a new Section 3. Distance Meetings, to read as follows:

### **Section 3. Distance Meetings**

Certain elections may be conducted by an electronic ballot according to provisions hereinafter described in the Bylaws.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That present Section 3 be renumbered as Section 4.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph c. Nonresident executive presbyters, subparagraph (1), (a), 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 and be balloted upon by the General Council in ~~session~~ a distance meeting via electronic ballot. Electronic balloting shall be conducted in such manner that voters have no less than five (5) minutes and no more than ten (10) minutes to cast their vote for each ballot. Successive balloting shall commence immediately after the report for the previous ballot has been posted by the Tellers Committee and shall continue until an election has been declared. 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.

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

The General Superintendent's Medal of Honor was presented by the general superintendent to the following two outstanding laypersons:

#### **J. E. "Joe" Martinez**

A video was shown in which the general superintendent and Byron D. Klaus, president of Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, presented the General Superintendent's Medal of Honor posthumously to Joe Martinez in a presentation to his wife, Anne, who makes her home in California.

In his first letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul spoke of those who should serve the church as being men who proved themselves blameless, gained a good standing with others, and placed great confidence in faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Truly, J. E. "Joe" Martinez embodied these traits. A man of utmost integrity, Joe faithfully served the churches he attended in numerous ministry roles including deacon, treasurer, Sunday School teacher, youth advisor, and soloist. He served as a mentor to future ministers and Assemblies of God leaders, and as an adviser to his district and national leadership.

Joe actively served in several Assemblies of God churches, including 47 years as a member of First Assembly of God in Albuquerque, New Mexico, now known as Copper Pointe Church. During this time he served in numerous roles, including treasurer, church business administrator, and as a member of the board of directors. In its early days, the church was at times sustained by the faithful contributions of Joe and his family. Today, the church is a vibrant congregation of 2,600, reaching thousands for Christ.

Joe's former pastor and district superintendent R. Kenneth George states, "I found Joe to be a man of godliness, honor, and wisdom. Brother J. E. Martinez's loyalty and dedication set him apart as a beacon for others to follow."

Joe was a professor of civil engineering at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque from 1947–1985. In a time when education and Pentecost were not always equated, he inspired many as a Spirit-filled, well-educated servant of the Lord.

Jesse Miranda, Jr., executive presbyter for the Language Area—West Spanish, says, "I was 8 years old when during an altar service in our church my mother placed her arm around me and whispered in my ear, 'Son, when you grow up, I want you to be an educated man.'"

She then pointed toward the altar and said, ‘That is an educated man.’ There, prostrate before the Lord, was Joe E. Martinez . . . I grew up knowing what my mother meant was that I was to be a man with a heart on fire and a mind ablaze. To this day, this is the image I carry of what it is to be an educated, Pentecostal man.”

Over the years, Joe served our Fellowship in several capacities including the Board of Directors for Evangel University, the Laymen’s Advisory Council to World Missions, and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary Board of Directors. His spiritual leadership and contributions to the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary were keenly evident during his years of service on the board as the school launched a major capital campaign that resulted in new facilities.

Assemblies of God Theological Seminary (AGTS) President Byron D. Klaus states, “Wherever J. E. Martinez has been—in church supporting his pastor, living out his professional life with excellence, lending his maturity to the task of being a board member at AGTS—his life is one worth acknowledging, emulating, and honoring.”

The general superintendent declared, “For a life of faithfulness and service, bringing glory to God and to this Fellowship, it gives me great pleasure to posthumously confer upon Joe E. Martinez the church’s highest award for laypersons, the General Superintendent’s Medal of Honor.”

Due to Brother Martinez’s passing in May 2013, we are honored to have his widow, Anne, receive this award on his behalf.

### **Juleen Turnage**

Juleen Turnage has given a lifetime of faithful service to God and to the Assemblies of God. She spent much of her early years in Branson, Missouri, where she attended First Assembly of God and fulfilled various ministry roles. Upon her graduation from Parkview High School in Springfield, she became a student at Central Bible Institute, later known as Central Bible College. At Central Bible College, she took a job as secretary to the dean, Robert E. Cooley, beginning her lifetime career with the Assemblies of God.

She later accepted a position as secretary to the president, J. Robert Ashcroft, and in 1968, assumed the role of news editor for the *Pentecostal Evangel*, serving under Editor Robert C. Cunningham.

In April 1977, Juleen was unanimously approved by the Executive Presbytery as the new director of public relations, becoming the first laywoman to head a national office at the Assemblies of God headquarters.

Over the next 35 years, Juleen would serve with distinction under four successive general superintendents: Thomas F. Zimmerman, G. Raymond Carlson, Thomas E. Trask, and George O. Wood.

Former Superintendent Thomas E. Trask says, “I can’t tell you how many times I had the privilege of sitting with her and hearing her input into a situation and knowing that you could count on the value of her input.”

Juleen served as the church’s official representative to the news media and directed all public relations functions. Her unswerving commitment to openness, truth, and integrity even in the most difficult of circumstances earned the respect of church leadership and media alike and the appreciation of ministers and church members across the nation.

Steve Grant, news anchor at NBC affiliate KY3 in Springfield says, “It is very simply her reputation and character. Her best self, integrity, and talents arrive in the room before she does and linger there well after she has departed. Everywhere, every time.”

Juleen has been trusted to lead many vital initiatives and fulfill key roles for the General Council. This includes helping to steer 18 General Council conventions, the Assemblies of God 75th Anniversary, and the 2000 Celebration. Those who work with her have come to appreciate her multiple giftings and organizational skills.

Juleen’s heart for the church and the causes of the Kingdom is evident in the many resources created during her tenure including: multimedia campaigns, numerous doctrinal brochures, and multiple print and e-mail communications. She saw the shifting times of communications and led the church into the digital age with an e-mail based news service called “AG NEWS.” She helped to establish a Web presence for the General Council, video sites such as AGTV, and social media pages like Facebook. Juleen believed the church should use every resource, tool, and vehicle available to communicate the message of Jesus Christ to every generation.

Juleen also is known in the greater Springfield community for selfless and effective service in numerous organizations and initiatives as well as her home church, Evangel Temple Assembly of God.

Her pastor, Charles D. Arsenault, calls her a “respected lady, above reproach,” who has served her Fellowship but also the religious and secular communities of her city—all while displaying a consistent lifestyle of highest integrity and Christian testimony.

The impact of Juleen’s ministry is far-reaching. More than 60 employees have served under Juleen during her 35 years in the Office of Public Relations. Many former staff members serve today around the world as pastors, missionaries, educators, journalists, and other professionals. Her influence extends beyond the national offices as she has invested in hundreds of future leaders and professionals as a public relations teacher at Evangel University.

Juleen’s desire to follow God’s leading has permeated all areas of her life and work. Her heart always has been to see a Spirit-led church communicate the good news of Jesus with character and conviction.

The general superintendent declared, “For a life of faithfulness and service, bringing glory to God and to this Fellowship, it gives me great pleasure to confer upon Juleen Turnage the church’s highest award for laypersons, the General Superintendent’s Medal of Honor.”

Juleen Turnage expressed her thanks and appreciation to her pastor, Charles D. Arsenault, Evangel Temple, Springfield, Missouri, for nominating her, and to the Executive Presbytery for honoring her in this way. She also expressed her thanks to her husband, Vance Turnage, her family, and most of all she thanked God for the leading in her life.

Thomas E. Trask, former general superintendent, offered a prayer of blessing on Juleen Turnage and her family.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 10:45 a.m. for the morning worship service.

## Morning Worship Service

The general superintendent convened the morning worship service at 10:50 a.m. and introduced The Honorable John D. Ashcroft, former United States attorney general, who first offered special prayer for the persecuted Christians around the world. He introduced his wife, Janet Ashcroft, and brought a message in word and song by leading in “A Congregational Service of Scripture and Songs,” a reflection on Psalm 103:1–5. Joy Wootton, Springfield, Missouri, served at the piano for the congregational singing that was interspersed during his message and Scripture memorization. He taught the audience a gospel song that he wrote, “Yet Still He Crowns Me,” that expresses heartfelt wonder at God’s graciousness in saving unworthy sinners and in rewarding their efforts. The service concluded with him leading in a song about our Blessed Hope, “Come and Dine.”

## THURSDAY AFTERNOON—AUGUST 8

### Business Session

James T. Bradford, general secretary, opened the afternoon business session at 2:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone. He brought a prayer and then encouraged everyone to visit the 7:14 Prayer Room during this General Council.

The general superintendent called the session to order at 2:34 p.m.

### Roster Report

Ramon J. Rojas, co-chairperson of the Roster Committee, presented the following roster report as of 2:21 p.m. on Thursday, August 8, 2013:

#### VOTING:

Ordained	2,457	
Licensed	614	
Delegates	362	
Executive Presbyters	20	
General Presbyters	268	
Voting Constituency		3,721

#### NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	1,262	
Auxiliary Staff	96	
Certified	594	
General Attendees	11,138	
Guests	153	
Other	486	
Staff	197	
Kids Council	632	
Fine Arts/AIM	7,749	
Nonvoting Constituency		<u>22,307</u>
TOTAL REGISTRATION		26,028

A motion prevailed to accept the roster report.

### Church Multiplication Network—Church Planters Awards

The chairman introduced Steven M. Pike, director of Church Multiplication Network, who presented the following church planter awards.

He recognized National Community Church, Washington, D.C., and Pastor Mark A. Batterson for opening the most parent affiliated churches (PAC churches) in the past year

with seven new churches. J. Kenneth Burtram, superintendent of the Potomac District Council accepted the award on behalf of Pastor Batterson.

Steven M. Pike recognized the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Council and its superintendent, Stephen R. Tourville, for opening the most churches in the past 2 years by planting thirty-two new churches.

The Willard E. Coleman Award, a special award for church planters who have persevered in a difficult planting situation, was presented to Dennis F. (Denny) and Cheryl Curran, pastors of River of Life Assembly of God in Cold Spring, Minnesota. River of Life Church has planted six churches and two granddaughter churches, and they plan to continue to plant more churches throughout rural Minnesota.

Special recognition was given to Brian C. and Mary Schmidgall, pastors of MiddleTree Church, Saint Louis, Missouri, who are the recipients of the Church Planter Award of Excellence, an award that represents someone who exemplifies church planting.

### **Greetings from Brian C. Schmidgall**

The general superintendent took the opportunity to introduce Brian C. Schmidgall, the newly elected nonresident executive presbyter for the Additional Representation—Ordained Pastor under 40 Years of Age. Brian C. Schmidgall brought greetings and told that he is humbled by this election, but he is glad that God has given him this opportunity to help people. He shared his love for the Lord and for people, and he thanked the body for this opportunity to serve.

### **Resolution 6. Classifications of Ministry**

Barbara L. Gilliam, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 6 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 6 as follows:

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 1. Ministry Described, specifies four classifications of ministry; and

WHEREAS, This description of the classifications of ministry has been assumed to be exclusive; and

WHEREAS, Questions have arisen as to whether the classifications of ministry in the General Council Bylaws Article VII, Section 1, are exclusive, thus preventing districts from recognizing additional classifications; and

WHEREAS, To allow district councils to create additional classifications of ministry would inevitably result in confusion and inconsistencies within the Fellowship; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 1. Ministry Described, page 117, which currently reads:

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 nontransferable (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.

Be amended by inserting a new paragraph at the end of the section, with the amended section to read:

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 nontransferable (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.

No other classification of ministry shall be recognized other than those described in this section.

### **Resolution 9. Ministerial Support—Dues Increase**

Eric A. Treuil, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 9 and moved its adoption. Warren D. Bullock, executive presbyter for the Northwest Area presented the rationale for this resolution.

A voice vote was taken and the chairman declared the resolution is adopted. A delegate questioned the decision of the voice vote and requested a visual vote. The chairman took a standing vote and declared the motion was passed and resolution 9 adopted. Resolution 9 as adopted follows:

WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws, Article VII. Ministry, Section 10, paragraph f states that ministers contribute to the work of the General Council in the amount of \$20 per month for ordained ministers, \$15 per month for licensed ministers, and \$7.50 per month for certified ministers; and

WHEREAS, There has been no increase in the minister's contributions since 2005; and

WHEREAS, There has been inflationary growth in the economy since 2005; and

WHEREAS, The financial support from ministers is a major source of income in assisting the national office to skillfully resource our Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, The expenses of the General Council have increased regularly since 2005; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 10. Credential Renewals and Reinstatements, paragraph f. Support of the National Leadership and Resource Center, page 125, which reads:

**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.

Be amended to read:

**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 ~~\$25~~ \$20 per month (~~\$300~~ \$240 per year) from their tithes or as an offering. Licensed ministers should contribute ~~\$20~~ \$15 per month (~~\$240~~ \$180 per year) from their tithes or as an offering; and certified ministers should contribute ~~\$10~~ \$7.50 per month (~~\$120~~ \$90 per year) from their tithes or as an offering. 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.

And be it further

RESOLVED, The above action be implemented effective January 1, 2014.

#### **Resolution 14. Relational Districts**

Eric A. Treuil, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 14 and moved its adoption. Jason P. Stidham, maker of the resolution, presented the rationale for this resolution.

Following discussion, a motion was moved and seconded to refer the matter to the Executive Presbytery to return a proposal that would be formed in a way as to eliminate some of the concerns that have been expressed. The chairman called for a voice vote to refer the resolution to the Executive Presbytery, and he indicated the decision could not be determined. The chairman called for a standing vote and declared the motion to refer the matter to the Executive Presbytery was lost.

Following further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to call for the previous question. A standing vote was taken and the chairman declared the motion carried to call for the previous question.

The chairman called for a standing vote to be taken for the main motion to adopt Resolution 14. The chairman declared the motion was lost. Resolution 14 as presented follows:

WHEREAS, The intent of the Assemblies of God is to see God's church grow through the developing of local congregations; and

WHEREAS, Current media and transportation developments have broken down previous limitations in time and space; and

WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God currently has ethnic/language districts that are based on a common cultural identity rather than geography; and

WHEREAS, A growing trend in the church today is multisite campuses; and

WHEREAS, The philosophy of ministry of a local church and its pastor causes it to associate with other like-minded churches and pastors across geographical boundaries; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, pages 112–114, be amended by the addition of a new Section 7. Relational Districts to read as follows:

**Section 7. Relational Districts**

**a. Recognition qualifications.**

(1) A relational district consists of 40 churches or more that choose, regardless of where they are located in the United States, to associate together to form a district.

(2) The name of the relational district and the names of the charter churches shall be submitted to the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God for its approval.

**b. Equality with geographical and ethnic/language districts.**

A relational district shall have the same privileges and responsibilities which are accorded district councils within the framework of the Constitution and Bylaws.

**c. Church transfer procedures.** When a church desires to transfer from one district to another, 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 district the congregation is leaving as well as the district it is joining. If either district has objection, 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 1, paragraph e. Right of Appeal.).

**d. Cooperative relationships in all districts.** Geographical, ethnic/language, and relational districts shall seek to promote a spirit of fellowship and cooperation. The relational district must inform the geographical or ethnic/language district of relational district churches that are located within the geographical or ethnic/language district's area.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That present sections 7 and 8 be renumbered as sections 8 and 9.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That in order to allow relational districts to be represented on the Executive Presbytery, General Council Bylaws Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph c. Nonresident executive presbyters, subparagraph (2) *Divisions for electing nonresident executive presbyters*, page 104, be amended by adding a new paragraph (c) to be entitled, *By relational districts*, which will read as follows:

(c) *By relational districts*. When a relational district is formed, the Executive Presbytery shall add it to one of the 11 existing areas for the purpose of the relational district's being represented in the election of a nonresident executive presbyter.

And, be it further

RESOLVED, That present subparagraph letter (c) be relettered as (d).

### **Remarks from the General Superintendent**

The chairman expressed personal comments of his love for this Fellowship. He pled with the body to avoid the kind of thing that happened at Corinth, where we say, "I am of Cephas, I am of Paul, I am of Christ." He expressed his hope that in our evangelism methods, in our attempt to reach this culture, we are progressive and in our doctrine we are all conservative. He stated, "I enter this term and appeal to you as a body and as I look across this Fellowship: Let's own both words, all of us. Let us not have division among us where we see one as being progressive and another as being conservative. Let's not have pride in the use of the word *progressive*; let's not have pride in the use of the word *conservative*." He appealed to the body for everyone to do their dead-level best. He asked for forgiveness if he has wounded anyone in the body. The body responded with a standing ovation of applause.

The general superintendent led in prayer for God to help the Assemblies of God and prayed that God will use this Fellowship to be a shining light to the world to advance the ministry of the gospel.

The chairman expressed appreciation for the decorum of the floor, how each side expressed their opinion. This modeled what the church should do. He thanked everyone for the kind way in which this discussion was conducted.

### **A Word from The Lord**

The business session was interrupted by a brother who said he felt the Lord's moving on his heart to give a message to this assembly. A message in tongues was given with another giving the interpretation. An extended time of worship, prayer, and singing along with a time of waiting on God followed.

### **Brian M. Bolt Testimony**

The general superintendent introduced Brian M. Bolt, pastor of City Reach Church Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who gave his incredible personal testimony of coming to Christ and his call to church planting.

## **Introduction of Phil Vischer JellyFish Labs and Creator of VeggieTales**

The general superintendent introduced Phil Vischer of JellyFish Labs and creator of VeggieTales who brought greetings and shared his personal testimony of growing up in church and wanting to do something that mattered for Christ. He told the story of his ministry venture and dream and how at one time he let pride get in the way of what God wanted to do. He stressed the importance of hearing from God every day and closed by leading in prayer.

### **Recess**

The meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m. to reconvene at 8:45 a.m. on Friday, August 9, 2013.

## **THURSDAY EVENING—AUGUST 8**

The Thursday evening service of the 55th General Council began at 7 p.m. in the Orange County Convention Center. The service began with an Olympic-style missionary parade, with hundreds of missionaries from Assemblies of God World Missions entering the hall in color-coordinated shirts with arms waving and smiling faces. General superintendent George O. Wood welcomed the delegates and attendees and told that the Assemblies of God was birthed in missions.

Iglesia El Calvario Worship Band from Orlando, Florida, led the congregation in worship, singing both in English and Spanish. A video of the theme “Any Price,” showing efforts of Assemblies of God World Missions around the globe, was shown and Gregory M. Mundis led in prayer for the offering. Thomas Chad Harvey, pastor of First Assembly of God, Raleigh, North Carolina, introduced speaker Gregory M. Mundis, executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, followed by the Samoan Team from Lighthouse Outreach Center Assembly of God in Waipahu, Hawaii, with Jerad and Jovaun Woods who sang, “We Will Go,” an anthem for the evening.

Executive Director Gregory M. Mundis expressed thanks to all those who have given, prayed, and gone to help fulfill the Great Commission. He spoke of the present-day emphasis on partnerships, unreached people, and the suffering church, and declared that the current strategy of World Missions is built upon the “vision, passion, and purpose of our forefathers but is married to the leading of the Spirit in present-day realities.” His message was the story of a young man studying to become a monk who came upon a tract and went to Bible school instead of completing his Buddhist studies. The young man poured himself into witnessing and praying, casting out demons, and church planting in south Sri Lanka. He continued telling the young man’s testimony, saying the anonymous soldier paid the ultimate price and died a martyr, leaving behind a wife who continued his work despite opposition and persecution while raising their son. Although the persecution did not cease for 12 years after his death, his wife continued and would not abandon his church. That church has now planted six other churches and two preaching points in southern Sri Lanka. To date, more than 1,000 people have come to know Jesus because of the unwavering commitment of this couple. The executive director talked about the “chain of grace” that led to these results, from the writer of the tract to the supporters who prayed and gave to build the church. As he closed the message, the young man’s widow was led to the platform by the general superintendent of the Assemblies of God in Sri Lanka. Greg Mundis asked the congregation for an offering, not monetary but to offer oneself to share the gospel and be willing to lay one’s life on the line. He appealed for an army of harvest workers to bring in the harvest in the last days and invited those feeling the call to come for a prayer that was led by the widow. The service closed with a commissioning prayer.

## FRIDAY MORNING—AUGUST 9

### Business Session

Zollie L. Smith, Jr., executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, opened the Friday morning business session at 8:47 a.m. and offered a prayer.

The chairman called the meeting to order at 8:50 a.m.

### Roster Report

Steven L. Powell, co-chairperson of the Roster Committee, presented the following roster report as of 7:57 a.m. on Friday, August 9, 2013:

#### VOTING:

Ordained	2,458
Licensed	614
Delegates	362
Executive Presbyters	20
General Presbyters	268
Voting Constituency	3,722

#### NONVOTING:

Exhibitors	1,266
Auxiliary Staff	96
Certified	597
General Attendees	11,196
Guests	154
Other	486
Staff	197
Kids Council	632
Fine Arts/AIM	7,750
Nonvoting Constituency	<u>22,374</u>
TOTAL REGISTRATION	26,096

A motion prevailed to accept the roster report as presented and further to keep the roster open until the conclusion of the Friday night service in order to include any additional attendees.

### Resolution 11. Nonresident Executive Presbyters— Nominees under 40 Years of Age

Douglas M. Graham, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 11 and moved its adoption.

A motion was moved and seconded to amend the resolution on page 37, lines 10 and 13, by adding the text “minister” and “ministers” following the words “ordained female” and “ordained females,” respectively, and to strike the letter “s” on the word “females.” The motion was carried to amend the resolution.

The motion was carried to adopt the amended Resolution 11 as follows:

WHEREAS, During the 2011 General Presbytery meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, a motion prevailed to request the Executive Presbytery to bring a report to the General Presbytery clarifying the term *pastor* as it pertains to executive presbyter nominees for the ordained pastor under 40 years of age; and

WHEREAS, The designation *ordained pastor* has historically been understood to be the senior or lead pastor of a church; and

WHEREAS, This is the only nonresident executive presbyter nomination requiring the nominee to be a senior or lead pastor; and

WHEREAS, It is the *perspective* of the under 40 representative on the Executive Presbytery that is sought as much or more than the specific experience of being a senior or lead pastor; and

WHEREAS, The present limitation excludes qualified evangelists, educators, ministry specialists, and church staff members who are under 40 years of age from being nominated; and

WHEREAS, There would be value in the potential perspective and expertise of individuals who function in areas of ministry outside of being a senior or lead pastor; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph c. Nonresident executive presbyters, subparagraph (2) (c) *Additional representation*, page 104, which reads:

(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.

Be amended to read:

(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~~ minister under 40 years of age at the time of election and one ordained female minister (no age requirement). From the nominees, the General Presbytery shall select and submit to the General Council four names of ordained ~~pastors~~ ministers under 40 years of age at the time of election and four names of ordained females ministers (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.

## **Expression of Appreciation to Committees**

The chairman expressed appreciation to the following committees for their service during the General Council business sessions: Parliamentary Committee: Richard R. Hammar, chairperson; Charles F. Hefton, Jay A. Herndon; Resolutions Committee: John R. Wootton, chairperson; Donald H. Detrick, Maria C. Garcia, Barbara L. Gilliam, Douglas M. Graham, Clemente Maldonado, Jr., Eric A. Treuil; Roster Committee: Steven L. Powell, co-chairperson; Ramon J. Rojas, co-chairperson; Mark Christianson, liaison; Tellers Committee: Micheal E. Dickenson, chairperson; Mark D. Christianson, liaison; Malcolm P. Burleigh, Tito H. Gonzalez, Mark E. Jakelsky, Anibal A. Peña, Randall S. Rogers, John L. Weidman.

## **Resolution 17. Southeastern Spanish District Name Change**

Douglas M. Graham, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 17 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 17 as follows:

WHEREAS, The name Southeastern Spanish District reflects the geographical territory that it covers from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina, when it was initially established as a district; and

WHEREAS, If the resolution regarding the establishment of a new Southern Latin District which includes Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina, is approved at the 2013 General Council in session in Orlando, Florida; and

WHEREAS, The Southeastern Spanish District Presbytery approved a name change that will reflect the territory that the district will cover and the cultural diversity of its members, based upon the new district formation being approved; and

WHEREAS, The Southeastern Spanish District Council of the Assemblies of God in session June 18, 2013, took action to approve the new name to be Florida Multicultural District Council of the Assemblies of God; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the new name for the Southeastern Spanish District Council of the Assemblies of God will be the Florida Multicultural District Council of the Assemblies of God; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph c, (2), (a), *Language Area—East Spanish*, page 104, which presently reads:

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

Be amended to read:

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

## **Resolution 18. Texas Gulf Spanish District Name Change**

Clemente Maldonado, Jr., member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 18 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 18 as follows:

WHEREAS, The name Texas Gulf Spanish District was adopted sometime before the August 2011 General Council meeting held in Phoenix, Arizona, by the General Presbytery of the Southern Conference, as the future name of the new district; and

WHEREAS, Because the next General Council meeting would not take place until 2013, and General Superintendent George O. Wood believed the best time to seek approval for the formation of the new district was during the August 2011 General Council meeting, the formation of the new district with the name Texas Gulf Spanish District was approved at the 2011 General Council meeting in Phoenix, Arizona; and

WHEREAS, The word “Spanish,” included in the name adopted by the 2011 General Council, refers only to a language, but the word “Hispanic” refers to a broader cultural identity of a people; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the name of the Texas Gulf Spanish District be changed to the name Texas Gulf Hispanic District; and, be it further

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

Be amended to read:

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

### **Resolution 19. Samoan District Council**

Clemente Maldonado, Jr., member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 19 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 19 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Samoan Assemblies of God churches in Alaska, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Texas, and Washington have been in existence as the Samoan Fellowship since 1968; and

WHEREAS, On December 30, 2003, the Samoan Fellowship approved and signed the Articles of Fellowship, which officially recognized the Samoan Fellowship as a fellowship of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, On November 2–5, 2005, the Samoan Fellowship voted to consider becoming an official district; and

WHEREAS, On July 16–19, 2008, the Samoan Fellowship selected a committee to work on required criteria for establishing a district and conduct further research, as well as to decide that the district offices will be in the location of the Samoan Christian Fellowship, 19804 8th Avenue South, Des Moines, Washington; and

WHEREAS, On November 2–5, 2011, in its biennial meeting, the Samoan Fellowship met at Garden Grove Samoan Assembly, Garden Grove, California, and voted overwhelmingly to move from fellowship to district status provided it is approved by the General Council Executive Presbytery; and

WHEREAS, The vision is to develop healthy churches, train and empower healthy leaders to maximize effectiveness in the proclamation of the mission of God; and

WHEREAS, The Samoan Fellowship complies with the minimum guidelines as described in the General Council Bylaws Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 1. Formation of New Districts and Section 6. Ethnic/Language Districts, paragraph a. Recognition qualifications; 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, During the May 30–31, 2013, meeting of the Executive Presbytery approval was granted for the formation of the Samoan District Council; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article II, Section 2, paragraph c, (2), (a), *Language Area—Other*, page 104, which presently reads:

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

Be amended to read:

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

### **Resolution 20. Meetings of the Executive Presbytery**

John R. Wootton, chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 20 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 20 as follows:

WHEREAS, Chapter 352 of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, under which The General Council of the Assemblies of God is incorporated, does not address meetings of a corporate board of directors by telephone or similar means, and does not recognize board action by unanimous referenda; and

WHEREAS, *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*, (11th edition 2011) recognizes board action by conference telephone call only if authorized by an organization's bylaws; and

WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws do not expressly authorize actions by the Executive Presbytery by conference telephone call or referenda; and

WHEREAS, It is sometimes expedient for the Executive Presbytery to take action by conference telephone call or referenda; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That a new Section 10 be added to the General Council Bylaws Article III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM, page 110, as follows:

**Section 10. Meetings**

Members of the Executive Presbytery, or any committee designated by the Executive Presbytery, General Presbytery, or General Council, may participate and act at any meeting through the use of a conference telephone or other communications device by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate simultaneously with each other. Participation in such meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting of the member or members so participating.

Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery may be taken without a meeting if all members consent thereto in writing, and the writings are filed with the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Presbytery.

**Resolution 21. Restoration of Ministry**

Douglas M. Graham, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 21 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 21 as follows:

WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE sets forth both the theology and the practices of dealing with violations of Assemblies of God principles; and

WHEREAS, The foundational Scripture guiding these actions is found in Galatians 6:1 (“you who are spiritual should restore him gently.”); and

WHEREAS, It would be advantageous to the General Council that its wording be, where possible, most consistent with scriptural wording, and most reassuring to ministers and churches if such language be used; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. Discipline be amended by the editorial process of replacing the word *rehabilitation*, or a derivative thereof, with the word *restoration*, or a derivative, wherever it exists in the current reading, as follows:

General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE, Section 1. The Nature and Purposes of Discipline, page 132, which reads:

**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.

Be amended to read:

**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 (Galatians 6:1).

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.

And, that General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE, Section 2. The Relationship Between the District and General Council Credentials Committees, page 132, which reads:

**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.

Be amended to read:

**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 restoration ~~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.

And, that General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE, Section 3. Causes of Disciplinary Action, final paragraph, page 133, which reads:

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.

Be amended to read:

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 restorative ~~rehabilitative~~. In all such cases, final determination shall be made by the General Council Credentials Committee.

And, that General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE, Section 7. District Hearing and Discipline, paragraphs c and d, page 135, which reads:

**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.

Be amended to read:

**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 restoration ~~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 restoration ~~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.

And, that General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE, Section 8. Rehabilitation, pages 135–136, which reads:

**Section 8. Rehabilitation**

Recognizing that the underlying principle involved in discipline is redemptive, and that man's conscience frequently brings him to judgment and confession, and that justice can sometimes be best served with mercy, an effort should be made to lead the offending minister through a program of rehabilitation, administered in love and kindness. The following provisions for rehabilitation shall apply.

**a. Basis.** Those found to have violated any of the Assemblies of God principles (Bylaws, Article X, Section 3) may request a program of rehabilitation as an alternative to dismissal. Rehabilitation is a privilege granted out of mercy and not a right to be expected or demanded. The primary purpose is to restore a person to God, spouse, and family, with the results leading to possible restoration to ministry. Granting such request shall be at the discretion of the district and General Council credentials committees.

**b. Procedure and requirements.** The following procedure shall be used by the district presbytery in determining the specific requirements for rehabilitation for the individual minister.

(1) *Rehabilitation requirements.* The specific terms and conditions of the rehabilitation program as recommended by the district credentials committee are to be forwarded to the General Council Credentials Committee for approval. After such approval they shall be given to the minister.

(a) *Suspension.* The minister shall be considered to be under suspension during the entire period of rehabilitation.

(b) *Terms and Conditions*

(1) *Period of time.* The program for rehabilitation shall continue for not less than 1 year except when the violation involves misconduct defined in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, paragraph a, in which case it shall continue for not less than 2 years.

(2) *Authority.* The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish guidelines and policy in regard to terms and conditions of rehabilitation. Such guidelines and policy shall be consistent with provisions of the Bylaws.

(c) *Extent of ministry.* The extent to which ministry may be permitted, if any, shall be determined by the district presbytery, subject to the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee and compatible with the guidelines and policy established by the General Presbytery.

(d) *District membership.* The minister shall not be permitted to transfer his or her membership to another district during the period of rehabilitation.

(e) *Publication.* While the minister's credentials are in a state of suspension, the minister's name shall not be removed from the ministerial roster, nor shall the minister's disciplinary status be published in either the General Council or district council official publications.

(f) *Credentials renewal.* The minister shall renew his or her credentials annually in the regular manner.

(g) *Supervision.* In the event his or her ministerial activity has been terminated, the minister must become established in a local church working under the supervision of a pastor or presbyter.

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

(i) *Ministerial benefits.* During the program of rehabilitation the minister shall continue to be eligible for benefits such as the ministers group insurance and Ministers Benefit Association.

(j) *Program administration.* The approved rehabilitation program shall be administered by the district presbytery.

(2) *District progress reports.* The credentials committee of the district shall submit to the General Council Credentials Committee on February 1 and August 1 of each calendar year a progress report relative to the rehabilitation of ministers under discipline.

(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.

Be amended to read:

### **Section 8. Restoration 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 restoration rehabilitation, administered in love and kindness. The following provisions for restoration 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 restoration ~~rehabilitation~~ as an alternative to dismissal. Restoration ~~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 restoration ~~rehabilitation~~ for the individual minister.

(1) *Restoration* ~~Rehabilitation~~ *requirements.* The specific terms and conditions of the restoration ~~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 restoration ~~rehabilitation~~.

(b) *Terms and Conditions*

(1) *Period of time.* The program for restoration ~~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 restoration ~~rehabilitation~~. Such guidelines and policy shall be consistent with provisions of the Bylaws.

(c) *Extent of ministry.* The extent to which ministry may be permitted, if any, shall be determined by the district presbytery, subject to the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee and compatible with the guidelines and policy established by the General Presbytery.

(d) *District membership.* The minister shall not be permitted to transfer his or her membership to another district during the period of restoration ~~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 restoration ~~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 restoration ~~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 restoration ~~rehabilitation~~ of ministers under discipline.

(3) *Completion of restoration ~~rehabilitation~~.* When the restoration ~~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 restoration ~~rehabilitation~~ information form for district use, prepared and distributed by the general secretary, shall be completed by the district in which the restoration ~~rehabilitation~~ occurred when the restored ~~rehabilitated~~ minister requests a transfer to a new district. The completed restoration ~~rehabilitation~~ form shall accompany the Certificate of Transfer to another district. A disciplined minister shall, as a condition of entering a restoration ~~rehabilitation~~ program, sign a Limited Disclosure Agreement approved by the General Presbytery allowing the basis of his or her restoration ~~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 restoration ~~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 restoration ~~rehabilitation~~ program as prescribed in Section 8 of this article. The dismissed minister shall not be eligible for reinstatement until the requirements for restoration ~~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 restoration ~~rehabilitation~~.

And, that General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE, Section 9. Referral for Action to the General Council Credentials Committee, paragraph a. District recommendation, pages 136–137, which reads:

**a. District recommendation**

(1) *Rehabilitation.* When a minister is to be placed in a rehabilitation program in accordance with Section 8 of this article, the district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and recommended terms of rehabilitation. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

(2) *Dismissal.* When a minister has been found guilty of violating any of the Assemblies of God principles as set forth in Bylaws, Article X, Section 3, and it is determined that rehabilitation is not feasible or fails, a minister's credentials are to be terminated by dismissal. The district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and its recommendation for dismissal. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

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

(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.

Be amended to read:

**a. District recommendation**

(1) *Restoration ~~Rehabilitation~~.* When a minister is to be placed in a restoration ~~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 restoration ~~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 restoration ~~rehabilitation~~ is not feasible or fails, a minister's credentials are to be terminated by dismissal. The district shall forward to the General

Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and its recommendation for dismissal. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

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

(4) *Credential absolution.* Should a district where a dismissal occurred determine, after careful investigation, that a dismissed minister has completed remedial ~~restoration~~ 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.

And, that General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE, Section 12. Reinstatement of Credentials, paragraph c. Rehabilitation obligatory, page 138, which reads:

**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.

Be amended to read:

**c. Restoration ~~Rehabilitation~~ obligatory.** When a minister has been dismissed from our Fellowship and applies for reinstatement, he or she shall comply with the procedures for restoration ~~rehabilitation~~ outlined in Section 8, paragraph c, of this Article.

### **Resolution 22. Evangel University Consolidation**

Clemente Maldonado, Jr., member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 22 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 22 as follows:

WHEREAS, The 54th General Council adopted Resolution 27, approving the consolidation of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Central Bible College, and Evangel University; and

WHEREAS, The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) approved the application for consolidation submitted by the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 27 provided that, upon approval by the Higher Learning Commission, the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery 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. Recognized Corporations; and

WHEREAS, It is necessary to maintain the corporate status of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary and Central Bible College for up to 1 year in order to ensure the completion of Central Bible College seniors in their academic program and the necessary wrapping up of the legal corporations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the names of Central Bible College and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary shall be removed from the General Council Bylaws Article XV. CORPORATIONS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, page 145, at such time as is deemed advisable by the Executive Presbytery.

### **Springfield, Missouri, Schools Consolidation Report**

The general superintendent gave a complete report on the consolidation of the three Springfield, Missouri, schools—Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Central Bible College, and Evangel University—including the processes with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and the presidential search. He reported the School of Theology and Ministry is the first school of the consolidated university and appealed for financial assistance for this entity. He talked about the Central Bible College campus and the study being conducted for consideration of future plans for the property.

### **Resolution 23. Honorary General Presbyter—Gary A. Denbow**

Donald H. Detrick, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 23. M. Ray Brewer, superintendent of the Northern Missouri District Council, moved its adoption as he gave special honor to Gary A. Denbow. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 23 as follows:

WHEREAS, Gary A. Denbow has served as a member of the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God continuously for over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, He served the Northern Missouri District of the Assemblies of God for 24 years as lead pastor of Christian Chapel Assembly of God in Columbia, Missouri, and assistant district superintendent for 17 years; and

WHEREAS, He served with distinction as president of Central Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, for eight years; and

WHEREAS, He served as youth director for the Southern Missouri District, as member of the Board of Regents of North Central University, and on many other committees of the Northern Missouri District Council and the General Council; and

WHEREAS, While a missionary in the Philippines, he served as administrator for Immanuel Bible College, director of International Correspondence Institute, teacher at Far East Advanced School of Theology, and pastor of Holy Spirit Fellowship; and

WHEREAS, Since being ordained in 1971, he has faithfully served as evangelist, missionary, pastor, church planter, educator, theologian, and spiritual statesman; and

WHEREAS, Many have reaped the benefits of his leadership, wisdom, ministry, and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, Gary A. Denbow meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, section 3, paragraph j, 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 Gary A. Denbow be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

**Resolution 24. Honorary General Presbyter—Bobby L. Johnson**

Barbara L. Gilliam, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 24 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 24 as follows:

WHEREAS, Bobby L. Johnson has served the Arkansas District Council with honor and distinction as the assistant district superintendent for eight years; and

WHEREAS, He has made significant contributions not only to the Arkansas 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 23 years; and

WHEREAS, His leadership in the Arkansas 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 Arkansas Fellowship and the General Council Fellowship at large; and

WHEREAS, Bobby L. Johnson meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, section 3, paragraph j, 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 Bobby L. Johnson be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Resolution 25. Honorary General Presbyter—John A. Loper, Jr.**

Eric A. Treuil, member of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 25 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 25 as follows:

WHEREAS, John A. Loper, Jr., has served as a credentialed Assemblies of God minister for 48 years and as an ordained minister for 45 years; and

WHEREAS, He has served the Alabama District Council with distinction as pastor, district youth director, and assistant superintendent; and

WHEREAS, He has served 22 years as a general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God; and

WHEREAS, John A. Loper, Jr., meets all the General Council Bylaws qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and

WHEREAS, Article IX, section 3, paragraph j, 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 John A. Loper, Jr., be elected by this General Council to the position of honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Introduction of Newly Reelected Nonresident Executive Presbyters**

The chairman introduced the following newly reelected nonresident executive presbyters. Each one brought greetings and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to serve the Fellowship:

Warren D. Bullock, Northwest Area  
J. Don George, South Central Area  
John E. Maracle, Ethnic Fellowships  
Jesse Miranda, Jr.; Language Area—West Spanish  
T. Ray Rachels, Southwest Area  
Clarence W. St. John, North Central Area

### **Resolution 26. Courtesy Resolution**

John R. Wootton, chairperson of the Resolutions Committee, presented Resolution 26 and moved its adoption. A motion prevailed to adopt Resolution 26 as follows:

WHEREAS, The 55th General Council of the Assemblies of God has been afforded gracious hospitality and accommodation by the officials and agencies of the city of Orlando, Florida, and our host districts, the Peninsular Florida District Council, the West Florida District Council, the Brazilian District Council, and the Southeastern Spanish District Council; and

WHEREAS, A wide host of persons, countless agencies, and firms have committed much in order to provide effective service to the members, delegates, and guests of this 55th General Council; and

WHEREAS, The 55th 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: City of Orlando Mayor John Hugh “Buddy” Dyer; the Orange County Convention Center, Visit Orlando (the 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 to “Believe for Greater Things” at this 55th General Council in the State of the Fellowship/Spiritual Life Report and the ever-present call and challenge to expand God’s 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 55th General Council of the Assemblies of God that we rededicate ourselves, the Holy Spirit being our helper, to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ and that we leave this council in the bonds of Christian unity, determined to serve His wishes with all the resources, passion, and energy of our lives.

### **Adjournment**

A motion prevailed to adjourn the business meeting of the 55th General Council at 9:55 a.m., Friday, August 9, 2013. The general superintendent closed the meeting with the singing of the Doxology.

### **Morning Worship Service**

The general superintendent convened the morning worship service at 10 a.m. and introduced Jim Cymbala, pastor of Brooklyn Tabernacle in Brooklyn, New York, who brought a message about the church at Antioch from Acts 13. He addressed the topic of prayer and relying on the Holy Spirit and offered prayer for the assembly. The message culminated with Jim Cymbala leading in an extended time of song and prayer at the altar.

### **Roster Report**

Steven L. Powell, co-chairperson of the Roster Committee, provided the following final Roster Report as of Friday afternoon, August 9, 2013, at 4:17 p.m.:

#### **VOTING:**

Ordained	2,458
Licensed	614
Delegates	362
Executive Presbyters	20
General Presbyters	268
Voting Constituency	3,722

**NONVOTING:**

Exhibitors	1,268	
Auxiliary Staff	96	
Certified	597	
General Attendees	11,202	
Guests	154	
Other	486	
Staff	197	
Kids Council	632	
Fine Arts/AIM	7,750	
Nonvoting Constituency		<u>22,382</u>
<b>TOTAL REGISTRATION</b>		<b>26,104</b>

**FRIDAY EVENING—AUGUST 9**

The combined youth and adults Celebration Service of the 55th General Council began Friday at 7 p.m. in the Orange County Convention Center. The final night of the 2013 General Council culminated in a celebration of the 50th year of Fine Arts Festival for the Assemblies of God and a challenge for students to reach their friends with the hope of the gospel. The evening began with an overture of “Blessed Assurance” given by the 50-member Fine Arts orchestra made up of current Fine Arts students and participants, under the direction of Jason P. Salazar, Springfield, Missouri.

Heath Adamson, director of Youth Ministries and senior ministry business director, welcomed the crowd of approximately 15,500 and told of the rich history of Fine Arts. He told that one does not have to be an actor or recording artist to be successful in the kingdom, “You simply need to say yes when the Spirit speaks.” Mark A. Lawley, Brookline Station, Missouri, directed a 100-person choir made up of current Fine Arts students and participants and featured former Fine Arts participant, Michael Neale, Franklin, Tennessee. Chester D. (Chet) Caudill, Jr., Student Missions director for Youth Ministries, reported on the results of two major outreaches that took place in Orlando, Florida, during the week.

The service included presentations from the top Fine Arts participants from across the nation, and Youth Ministries recognized award recipients in each category. District Youth Directors Joseph J. Vasquez, Orlando, Florida, and Albert M. Force III, Lakeland, Florida, led in prayer in both Spanish and English asking God to bring revival to this generation of students. Chet Caudill received an offering for Speed the Light to be used toward the purchase of tablets to train church planters in India.

General Superintendent George O. Wood closed the service by thanking the staff and volunteers who made the week possible, and he asked for people to stand who would commit to leading a Bible study with their friends within the next 30 days. He announced that Bible studies and daily video-based devotions will be made available to them. He said, “The future of this Movement lies in the young people of this Movement—Greater things are ahead!”

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, 2011, to May 31, 2013, and were included in the Memorial Scroll:

Acuna, Christine, Milliken, CO  
 Adam, Grace C., Saint Paul, MN  
 Adcock, Joe K., Paragould, AR  
 Aguilar, Virginia M., San Antonio, TX  
 Alford, Donald R., Sr., Longview, TX  
 Allen, Darlene, Jefferson City, MO  
 Alley, Max F., Broken Arrow, OK  
 Anderegg, John P., Sanford, FL  
 Andersen, Silas P., Chariton, IA  
 Anderson, Lucile, Medora, IL  
 Anderson, Robert C., Lincoln, DE  
 Andreozzi, Richard, Jr., Haverhill, MA  
 Andres, Alvin W., Topeka, KS  
 Andrews, Olan J., Allen, TX  
 Anguiano, Jose, Morton, TX  
 Annis, Todd E., Jacksonville, FL  
 Armendariz, Jaime, Presidio, TX  
 Armstrong, Donald R., Evansville, IN  
 Arrowood, Irene M., Des Moines, IA  
 Arzola, Carlos M., Cayey, PR  
 Askins, M. Alvin, Orangevale, CA  
 Austin, Jack J., Sr., Gravette, AR  
 Austin, James F., Shelbyville, TN  
 Ayala, Vicente T., Denver, CO  
 Bach, Lillian, Shoreline, WA  
 Ball, Howard L., Pompton Lakes, NJ  
 Banks, Roger K., Des Moines, IA  
 Barr, Clarence E., Sr., Carlinville, IL  
 Barrans, Leo R., Juneau, AK  
 Barrett, Arvel J., Fayetteville, PA  
 Barrett, Bertha N., Denver, CO  
 Barrett, Louise, Martinsburg, WV  
 Bartlett, David T., Rochester, MN  
 Barton, Dwight G., Saint Louis, MO  
 Baumgartner, Mark A., Crescent, PA  
 Bedwell, Ernest W., Bend, OR  
 Belin, J. O., Camden, AR  
 Bell, Agnes D., Kirkland, WA  
 Bell, Wilbur D., Blue Ridge, GA  
 Benavidez, Facundo, Santa Fe, NM  
 Bereal, Charles R., Compton, CA  
 Berg, Harry H. Jr., Lubbock, TX  
 Best, Kenneth E., Springfield, MO  
 Biggs, Ernest O., Eight Mile, AL  
 Billingsley, Thomas W., Lakeland, FL  
 Blasé, Dominick J., New Hartford, NY  
 Blauvelt, Loretta I., Springfield, MO  
 Blevins, Thomas E., Aubrey, TX  
 Blomquist, Axel Felix, Staten Island, NY  
 Bluhm, Violet F., Lakewood, CO  
 Bobo, J. W., Hot Springs, AR  
 Bolton, Robert J., Havertown, PA  
 Bonnette, Margaret H, Coushatta, LA  
 Born, Eugene A., Marysville, WA  
 Bornert Robert D., Springfield, MO  
 Bowers, Claude L., Tualatin, OR  
 Bowers, Joan L., Springfield, MO  
 Bowersock, John E., Phoenix, AZ  
 Boyd, John J., Thousand Oaks, CA  
 Boyd, Roger L., Springfield, IL  
 Boyes, Marieta M., Longview, WA  
 Boykin, Raymond E., Noble, OK  
 Boze, Elsie, Monticello, IN  
 Brandt, Ethel, Littleton, CO  
 Brannan, Georgie A., Seligman, MO  
 Bransford, Wesley J., Jacksonville, OR  
 Brantley, R. Brian, Rentz, GA  
 Briggs, Kathleen, Blanchard, OK  
 Broadhead, Hillard H., Blairsville, GA  
 Brooks, Nellie L., Overland Park, KS  
 Brown, George P., Bakersfield, CA  
 Brown, Victor C., Wesley Chapel, FL  
 Broyles, Margaret, Alma, AR  
 Buckmaster, Charlotte, Las Vegas, NV  
 Bukowiecki, Joseph, Bronx, NY  
 Buntain, Fulton W., Tacoma, WA  
 Burgess, Helen L., Harrah, WA  
 Burgess, James H., Prescott Valley, AZ  
 Burke, F. E., Linden, MI  
 Burke, Robert L., Vernon, FL  
 Burnett, Henry C., Jr., Sikeston, MO  
 Burton, J. Keith, Bethany, MO  
 Butts, John W., Colcord, OK  
 Caldwell, Lois M., Atkins, AR  
 Camacho, Isauro, North Bergen, NJ  
 Camp, Violet E., Brookings, SD  
 Campbell, David E., Douglas, WY  
 Capron, Belkis S., Union City, NJ  
 Carlson, Yvonne L., Springfield, MO  
 Carpenter, Daniel L., Pineland, TX  
 Carpenter, Nelma D., Little Rock, AR  
 Carpenter, Richard N., Riverside, CA  
 Carrasquillo, Betty, West Palm Beach, FL  
 Carrera, Manuel, Artesia, NM  
 Carroll, George W., Wichita Falls, TX  
 Carroll, J. Donald, Fortson, GA  
 Carter, Danny R., New Sharon, IA  
 Castro, Arcadio R., Somerset, NJ

Cates, Hayden L., Imperial Beach, CA  
 Caudill, Maurice A., Reno, NV  
 Cauley, Rocky, Waynesboro, MS  
 Cavallo, Ernest G., Jr., Medford, MA  
 Chairez, Gabriel D., Solomon, AZ  
 Chandler, Edna W., Bossier City, LA  
 Chang, Joon Sueng, Staten Island, NY  
 Chantler, Paul E., Sublimity, OR  
 Chapman, Willard T. R., Modesto, CA  
 Cherry, Johnny B., Raceland, LA  
 Childress, Donald, Sr., Rio Vista, CA  
 Claiborne, Waymon P., Jacksonville, TX  
 Clark, Charles E., Jacksonville, FL  
 Clark, Lloyd E., Hartford, AL  
 Clay, Robert L., Fairfield, CA  
 Clute, Laverne L., Springfield, MO  
 Cobb, Richard N., Chandler, AZ  
 Cobb, Robert L., Tulsa, OK  
 Coberly, Troy A., Eufaula, OK  
 Coffey, Inez, Sand Springs, OK  
 Cofield, Ernest, Monroeville, AL  
 Cohrs-Thackwell, Loraine, Lake Stevens, WA  
 Cole, Glen D., Roseville, CA  
 Coleburn, William J., Highland, CA  
 Coleman, Don B., Santa Ana, CA  
 Colizzo, John A., Valrico, FL  
 Collier, Judy, Kansas City, MO  
 Collins, David E., Dulles, VA  
 Collins, Donnie E., Sumter, SC  
 Collins, Earl R., Stephenville, TX  
 Combs, Ada Mae, Arlington, TX  
 Combs, Marydell, Springfield, MO  
 Comer, F. Eugene, Corvallis, OR  
 Connell, Leon, Lemitar, NM  
 Cooper, Freddy L., Birmingham, AL  
 Cottingham, Mary S., Tulsa, OK  
 Couch, Robert M., Andalusia, AL  
 Coulter, Harold J., Bartlett, TN  
 Cox, Donald D., Waterloo, IA  
 Cox, Russell J., Tempe, AZ  
 Creel, Virginia, Plant City, FL  
 Cress, Roy, Falling Waters, WV  
 Crim, Phillip A., Parsons, KS  
 Cruse, Zelma I., Elk City, OK  
 Cruz, Olivia A., Rosenberg, TX  
 Culbertson, Roger L., Defiance, OH  
 Cunningham, Herman E., Lewiston, ID  
 Curtis, Virginia D., Santa Ana, CA  
 Dahlberg, Henry I., Missoula, MT  
 Dahlberg, Peter J., Rapid City, SD  
 Danner, D. Wayne, Springdale, AR  
 Davenport, Charles A., Derby, KS  
 Davis, Albert C., Dallas, OR  
 Davis, Doyle E., Muskogee, OK  
 Davis, Edgar M., Mobile, AL  
 Davis, Elvin C., Samburg, TN  
 Davis, John W., Huntington Beach, CA  
 Davis, Lola L., Fort Smith, AR  
 Dawson, John M., Lancaster, OH  
 Dearborn, Robert E., Indian Trail, NC  
 Deater, Franklin L., Sr. Allegan, MI  
 Decker, Dale E., Springfield, MO  
 Decker, Edward E., Tulsa, OK  
 Decker, M. Lois, Tulsa, OK  
 Defeis, Mark R., Overland Park, KS  
 De La Rosa, Salvador, Corpus Christi, TX  
 De Leon, Juan P., Pasco, WA  
 Delgado, Jose L., Rio Grande, PR  
 Delre, Vincent, New Philadelphia, OH  
 Denker, Winston L., Anderson, MO  
 Denyes, G. Mark, Minneapolis, MN  
 Devine, Marjorie, Sequim, WA  
 Dewlen, Gerald W., Lakeland, FL  
 Dick, Barbara M., Russellville, MO  
 Dickenson, Melvin E., Ardmore, OK  
 Dickhoff, Donald R., Montesano, WA  
 Dimond, Larry D., Saint Paul, MN  
 Dimusto, Pasquale A., Troy, MI  
 Dinkins, Bert L., Deer Park, TX  
 Ditrolio, Samuel R., Portland, ME  
 Donadio, Patrick J., Springfield, MO  
 Donelson, Daniel P., Springfield, MO  
 Dortch, Richard W., Clearwater, FL  
 Dougherty, James W., Bend, OR  
 Doyle, Kenneth E., Bonne Terre, MO  
 Drew, Thomas P., Union Grove, AL  
 Dugan, Daniel, Basking Ridge, NJ  
 Duncan, Granville T., Seminary, MS  
 Duncan, Harold W., Lodi, CA  
 Dunn, Gregory A., Blanchard, OK  
 Eagler, George D., Indianapolis, IN  
 Early, Alvin D., Niceville, FL  
 Earp, Lloyd D., Tuskahoma, OK  
 Eddlemon, Wallace L., Eudora, AR  
 Edmonds, Ernest T., Scott Depot, WV  
 Edwards, James S., Van Buren, AR  
 Eliason, Edwin E., Grass Lake, MI  
 Eller, John L., Griffin, GA  
 Elrod, George E., Modesto, CA  
 Ely, Carl W., Apache Junction, AZ

Enriquez, Inez R., Salt Lake City, UT  
 Escobedo, Sara B., Bastrop, TX  
 Escobar, James A., Tenino, WA  
 Etcheverry, Jeffery B., Stockton, CA  
 Evans, Jack R., Springfield, MO  
 Everett, John W., Sun City, AZ  
 Faiaipa'u, Saipele, Tracy, CA  
 Farias, Joe, Aurora, CO  
 Farmacka, Charles C., Von Ormy, TX  
 Farmer, Annie Mae, Pioneer, LA  
 Farrington, Norman S., Brockport, NY  
 Faulkner, Stanley J., Redmond, OR  
 Fennessey, John T., Effingham, IL  
 Ferguson, Robert J., Sarasota, FL  
 Ferrell, James E., Griffin, GA  
 Ferrell, Rose E., Longwood, FL  
 Figueroa, Herminia, Vega Alta, PR  
 Finkenbinder, Paul E., Irvine, CA  
 Fisher, C. Thomas, Humboldt, KS  
 Fitch, Wesley J., Dulac, LA  
 Fleig, Ronald D., Wichita, KS  
 Fleming, James R., Modesto, CA  
 Fliflet, Paul M., Turlock, CA  
 Flower, Paula M., Springfield, MO  
 Flowers, Clarence A., Pensacola, FL  
 Flowers, Patricia Ann, West Columbia, TX  
 Flynn, Michael E., Trenton, TN  
 Forestieri, Michael A., Bear, DE  
 Fox, Irene, Bennington, OK  
 Fragoso, Lucrecia, Downey, CA  
 Franklin, Cecil R., Morris, OK  
 Franklin, Donald P., Springfield, MO  
 Freeman, N. Royal, University Place, WA  
 Fritchey, Richard, Sr., Liberty, MO  
 Frivold, Robert W., Seattle, WA  
 Fullerton, John H., Port Neches, TX  
 Furr, Harmon N., McCordsville, IN  
 Gage, Wells H., Jr., Yuma, AZ  
 Gamez, Aurora R., Newark, CA  
 Ganus, Charlie, Millry, AL  
 Garcia, Emilio, Jr., Commerce, CA  
 Garcia, Justina, Bristol, CT  
 Garman, Howard L., Middletown, PA  
 Garrett, David L., Lovell, WY  
 Gates, Leroy O., Polvadera, NM  
 Gay, Ronnie L., Rapid City, MI  
 Geesey, Joyce E., Chandler, AZ  
 Geist, David J., Prescott, AZ  
 George, Claude M., Jr., Kingston, WA  
 Gibbs, Charles R., Salem, MO  
 Gibson, Clara L., Harwood, TX  
 Gilbert, L. Everett, Meridian, ID  
 Gilliam, Marvin D., Monett, MO  
 Gilmore, Lawrence G., Eureka Springs, AR  
 Gipson, Reed, Jr., Odessa, TX  
 Gleason, Fide Della, Clinton, OK  
 Godzich, Leo-Marc, Phoenix, AZ  
 Goggin-Bartles, Elizabeth, Williamsport, MD  
 Golden, Troy D., Geary, OK  
 Gonzalez, Andres, Atwater, CA  
 Gonzalez, Himilce, Penuelas, PR  
 Goodenough, Richard D., Clayton, NC  
 Gore, Mack E., Portia, AR  
 Gorman, Jack, Independence, KS  
 Goss, Freddie C., Savannah, GA  
 Goss, Retha L., Cape Coral, FL  
 Gotcher, Thomas M., Fordyce, AR  
 Gould, Charles, Jr., Cross Plains, TN  
 Grabill, Paul E., State College, PA  
 Grams, Thomas O., Everson, WA  
 Graner, Steven S., Pasadena, CA  
 Grant, Edward L., Manassas, VA  
 Greathouse, Hollis R., Franklin, TN  
 Green, D.B., Seminole, AL  
 Green, Luther R., Amarillo, TX  
 Greer, Athalee, Hattiesburg, MS  
 Greer, Charles J., Springfield, MO  
 Gregg, Calvin, Mount Ayr, IA  
 Griffin, Robert A., Bonifay, FL  
 Grisbee, Jesse W., Fort Worth, TX  
 Groah, Christy M., Ellendale, ND  
 Gross, D. George, Alpine, TX  
 Grossglass, Mearle, Baldwinsville, NY  
 Grounds, Leslie L., Fort Worth, TX  
 Gruetzmacher, Calvin, Pasadena, TX  
 Gulyas, Stefan, Torrington, CT  
 Gunderson, John C., Brooklyn Park, MN  
 Gustafson, A. Donald, Thousand Oaks, CA  
 Guthrie, James L., Stigler, OK  
 Hadley, Gordon C., Myrtle Creek, OR  
 Hall, Ralph R., Fresno, CA  
 Ham, Bonnie B., Sulphur Springs, TX  
 Ham, Ralph D., Sulphur Springs, TX  
 Hamilton, George T., Whitehouse, TX  
 Hammack, Martha M., Celina, TX  
 Hance, Truman O., Bakersfield, CA  
 Haney, Sanford W., Jr., Bonifay, FL  
 Hanson, Catherine S., Lodi, WI  
 Harding, Frederick M., Clio, MI  
 Harding, Harold L., Jr., Bloomsburg, PA

Hardy, Edward R., Raymore, MO  
 Harrel, Jonathan M., Jr., Ventura, CA  
 Harrison, Billy C., Tallapoosa, GA  
 Harrison, Fran W., Montgomery, AL  
 Harrison, Owen A., Walnut Cove, NC  
 Harrison, Robert E., Napa, CA  
 Harryman, Raymond E., Harlingen, TX  
 Hatchner, Edward J., Lancaster, PA  
 Headrick, Harold B., La Pine, OR  
 Helms, Charles W., Jasper, FL  
 Helms, Shelly, Dothan, AL  
 Hembree, James R., Harlingen, TX  
 Henderson, Donald A., Valrico, FL  
 Hergott, Albert W., Shakopee, MN  
 Herman, Wanda J., Birmingham, AL  
 Hernandez, Brigido, New York, NY  
 Hernandez, Logan M., Fresno, CA  
 Hernandez, Paul, Aurora, IL  
 Hickey, Wallace R., Greenwood Village, CO  
 Higgins, W. David, Cleveland, TN  
 Hild, Myrtle, Springfield, MO  
 Hinton, A. Pau, Holt, FL  
 Hobson, John, Waterville, ME  
 Hodgerney, Raymond N., Keene, NH  
 Hodges, Carl E., Chipley, FL  
 Hodges, Lois M., Springfield, MO  
 Hohimer, Marshall H., Fort Collins, CO  
 Holderby, Reid A., Junction City, OR  
 Hollandsworth, Rosemary, Gig Harbor, WA  
 Holley, Chester, Samson, AL  
 Hollis, Oliver W., Topeka, KS  
 Honnell, Billy M., Camden, AR  
 Hood, David F., Vacaville, CA  
 Hooten, William D., Atlanta, TX  
 Hoppers, Leslie W., Pine Bluff, AR  
 Horn, Ronald C., Duluth, MN  
 Hough, Thelma L., Appleton City, MO  
 Howard, Genevieve M., Lenexa, KS  
 Howard, Harold W., Fontana, CA  
 Hudson, Onie Marie, Lovington, NM  
 Huerta, Bessie A., Whittier, CA  
 Hughes, Thomas L., Loveland, OH  
 Hull, Herbert E., Oklahoma City, OK  
 Hunt, Raymond V., Riverside, CA  
 Hunt, W. Dave, Watkinsville, GA  
 Hunter, Alvin, Alma, AR  
 Huston, Dewey O., Springfield, MO  
 Hutchcroft, Norwin C., Spokane, WA  
 Ibeco, Ratu T., San Rafael, CA  
 Illum, Virgil W., Divide, CO  
 Inman, Bessie, Ormond Beach, FL  
 Irby, Barbara B., Garland, TX  
 Irby, W. Elwood, Anaheim, CA  
 Irving, George C., Logan, NM  
 Iseminger, C.H., Jacksonville, FL  
 Jackson, Annie L., McDonough, GA  
 Jackson, Billy D., Cascade Locks, OR  
 Jackson, Clarence W., McDonough, GA  
 Jackson, Joseph E., Sr., Hot Springs, AR  
 Jacobs, Emily M., Minneapolis, MN  
 Jacobson, J. Edwin, Libby, MT  
 James, John H., Wichita Falls, TX  
 James, Lorena, Springfield, MO  
 Jaruczyk, Anatolio, Clark, NJ  
 Jeffcoat, Clarence L., Penrose, CO  
 Jeffcoat, Imageen, Penrose, CO  
 Jenkins, David P., Central Point, OR  
 Jeter, Gertrude, Ozark, MO  
 Jimenez, Ramon, Bronx, NY  
 John, George W., Louisiana, MO  
 Johns, L. J., Mechanicsville, VA  
 Johnson, George L., Fresno, CA  
 Johnson, Glen R., Soldotna, AK  
 Johnson, Herbert L., Grants Pass, OR  
 Johnson, Jack D., Farmersburg, IN  
 Johnson, J. Foy, Lakeland, FL  
 Johnson, Lawrence D., Salem, OR  
 Johnson, Raymond T., Mesquite, TX  
 Johnson, Worth M., Farmville, VA  
 Johnston, Earl F., Hampton, AR  
 Jones, Paul E., Robards, KY  
 Jones, Spencer M., Pocola, OK  
 Jordan, M. Duane, Boulder City, NV  
 Jordan, William R., Montgomery, TX  
 Juve, Duane V., Maple Grove, MN  
 Katzelnik, Pilar, Virginia Beach, VA  
 Kaupanger, Joyce L., Salinas, CA  
 Keller, Charles E., Oppelo, AR  
 Keller, Ruby N., Oppelo, AR  
 Kelley, Joe Dee, Jackson, TN  
 Kellogg, Bernard E., Visalia, CA  
 Kelly, J. Rose, Minneapolis, MN  
 Kemper, M.W., Santaquin, UT  
 Kennedy, Gilbert L., Ripon, CA  
 Kersten, Dorothy, Waupaca, WI  
 Killian, Gerald J., Modesto, CA  
 Kim, Charles T., Staten Island, NY  
 Kipp, F. Maxine, Sacramento, CA  
 Klein, Ronald A., Vancouver, WA  
 Knez, Jiae C., Alexandria, VA

Kolenda, Arnold E., Costa Mesa, CA  
 Koons, Pauline, Tulsa, OK  
 Kricorian, Daniel L., Alta Loma, CA  
 Krupnick, Bonnie J., Edmond, OK  
 Ladd, Sally B., Lamar, AR  
 Lafaele, Tali, Honolulu, HI  
 Lamance, Lewis I., Port Ludlow, WA  
 Lambert, Steven H., Seminole, FL  
 Land, Agward L., Ripley, TN  
 Landry, Stephen W., West Monroe, LA  
 Lanier, Florence I., Port Orange, FL  
 Larson, Orville W., Red Wing, MN  
 Lassiter, James C., Murfreesboro, TN  
 La'ulu, Eddie T., Honolulu, HI  
 Lavino, Jack V., Phoenix, AZ  
 Lawrence, Bud, Kansas City, MO  
 Lawson, Robert E., Norton, VA  
 Ledbetter, Marion T., Stonewall, OK  
 Lee, Esther H., Flushing, NY  
 Lee, George W., Stockbridge, GA  
 Lee, Glen R., Lexington, OK  
 Lee, Henry D., Parkersburg, WV  
 Leeder, Robert L., Memphis, TX  
 Leen, Robert G., Bemidji, MN  
 Lemberg, Margaret, Janesville, WI  
 Lemos, John K., Sao Paul, Brazil  
 Lett, Leonard F., Culloden, WV  
 Levang, Norman T., Monticello, MN  
 Lichi, John J., Salisbury, MD  
 Lindvall, John A., Santa Ana, CA  
 Little, Wanda L., Spanish Springs, NV  
 Litwin, Roger W., Placerville, CA  
 Livingston, L. Virginia, Oakland, CA  
 Logsdon, Gerald L., Pleasant Hill, IA  
 Long, James W., Salt Lake City, UT  
 Lopez, Enerolisa, Tampa, FL  
 Lopez, Felipe, Pompano Beach, FL  
 Lother, Edmund, Maple Grove, MN  
 Lovelady, Terry J., Oklahoma City, OK  
 Lowe, Roland E., Miami, FL  
 Luerra, Martha E., Redding, CA  
 Lund, Jamie R., Lufkin, TX  
 Lundeen, Ruth G., Alexandria, MN  
 Lundstrom, Lowell O., Savage, MN  
 Lundstrom, Robert J., Newark, DE  
 Machamer, Richard L., Mechanicsburg, PA  
 Madole, Thomas O., Wasilla, AK  
 Madsen, Larry L., Sioux City, IA  
 Malara, Bruno, Melbourne, FL  
 Malz, Carl A., Clearwater, FL  
 Mandigo, Guilford J., Clearlake, CA  
 Manes, Dwayne E., Dickinson, TX  
 Manning, Lonnie C., Penhook, VA  
 Mara, Mildred L., Fresno, CA  
 Marshall, Dorsey E., Jr., Princess Anne, MD  
 Marshall, Howard W., Kansas City, KS  
 Martin, Leon L., Oklahoma City, OK  
 Martinez, Esther S., Houston, TX  
 Martinez, Victor F., San Luis, AZ  
 Mask, Sam A., San Antonio, TX  
 Mathisen, Joel R., Virginia Beach, VA  
 Mattes, Judith A., Yuma, AZ  
 Matthews, Donald, Conneaut, OH  
 Mayeski, Anthony R., Camp Hill, PA  
 Mayo, James G., Covington, GA  
 McClure, Willie W., Grand Prairie, TX  
 McCollam, Donald K., Columbia, MO  
 McComic, Neva, Littleton, CO  
 McDonald, Dewey A., Spencer, OK  
 McDonough, Vernon S., Morrilton, AR  
 McElhaney, Steven D., Bethel Park, PA  
 McGill, James E., Walla Walla, WA  
 McGuire, Brian G., Grand Rapids, MN  
 McKenzie, William O., Palmdale, CA  
 McLain, David, Refugio, TX  
 McManus, Selby F., Brandon, MS  
 McQueen, George T., Rancho Cordova, CA  
 Meeks, Larry D., Debarry, FL  
 Menaldino, Edward E., Springfield, PA  
 Mentze, Douglas A., Oregon City, OR  
 Menzies, William W., Springfield, MO  
 Messick, Lewis A., San Antonio, TX  
 Meyer, Daniel L., Browns Mills, NJ  
 Middleton, Robert E., Sullivan, MO  
 Miles, Derrell L., Grove, OK  
 Miles, Edith A., Camp Hill, PA  
 Miller, Albert J., Iva, SC  
 Miller, James W., Bowling Green, FL  
 Miller, Robert E., Port Orchard, WA  
 Miller, Stephen, Paris, TX  
 Minton, Clifford L., Modesto, CA  
 Mobley, Ishmael W., Stirling City, CA  
 Moen, Paul O., Ruskin, FL  
 Monkus, Raymon H., Mount Holly, NC  
 Moore, Billy R., Brentwood, TN  
 Moore, Geneva, Covington, VA  
 Moore, George M., Columbia Falls, MT  
 Moore, Wilma V., Elkins, WV  
 Morel, Albert, Soledad, CA  
 Morgan, Eugene E., Bend, OR

Morgan, Shelly L., Camby, IN  
Morris, James E., Harrisburg, PA  
Morris, Sime, Jr., Ellisville, MS  
Morris, Thomas L., West Plains, MO  
Morris, Thomas W., Denair, CA  
Morrison, J.C., Arizona City, AZ  
Morrison, Robert F., Green Forest, AR  
Morse, Mearl, Horseheads, NY  
Moser, Joseph L., Chesapeake, VA  
Mosqueda, Stella L., Georgetown, MA  
Mugford, Ralph, Cape Coral, FL  
Munger, Eunice A., Salem, OR  
Munson, Willis E., Paradise, CA  
Musgrove, J. Derald, Springfield, MO  
Musgrove, Lillie S., Paradise, CA  
Myers, David D., Wakita, OK  
Myrick, Bobby M., Ashville, AL  
Narain, Cyril I., Queens Village, NY  
Nash, Frederick J., Covina, CA  
Nelson, Lois F., Reno, NV  
Neumann, Thomas A., Bothell, WA  
Nichols, Weldon T., Batesville, AR  
Nicholson, Virgil M., Springfield, MO  
Nixon, Doris N., Albuquerque, NM  
Nodal, Rose M., Santa Maria, CA  
Norman, Evelyn A., Salem, OR  
Nowlin, Douglas R., Russellville, AR  
Oaks, Jay, Houston, TX  
Oas, John K., Burien, WA  
O'Connor, Robert T., Breckenridge, TX  
Oden, Glenn L., Paris, AR  
Oliver, Danny L., Keota, OK  
Oliver, Mary E., Bastrop, LA  
Olson, Robert E., Monona, WI  
Ordonez, Jorge, San Antonio, TX  
Orr, Elmer M., Enid, OK  
Ortega, Matilde, Amarillo, TX  
Osborn, James E., North Richland Hills, TX  
Overton, William G., Sr., Saraland, AL  
Owen, Robert C., Jeannette, PA  
Page, Brenton B., Sr., Ashland, OH  
Paredes, Benjamin E., Desoto, TX  
Park, Muriel A., Modesto, CA  
Parker, Arthur C., Sr., Story, AR  
Parks, Lucille, Springfield, MO  
Parsley, Marvin L., Old Town, FL  
Pastore, Thelma L., Evansville, IN  
Patrick, William L., Murrieta, CA  
Paul, Buford L., Lakeland, FL  
Payne, Sandra W., Milpitas, CA  
Pekun, Nicolay, North Highlands, CA  
Pena, Luis M., Ontario, OR  
Pence, Jerry A., Sr., Golden Valley, AZ  
Pennington, Roy F., Scottsdale, AZ  
Perea, Paul A., Rifle, CO  
Perez, Felipe, Bayamon, PR  
Perez, Ishmael N., Maxwell, CA  
Perez, Providencia, Deltona, FL  
Perez, Santos M., Dallas, TX  
Perrello, Joseph, North Chesterfield, VA  
Peters, James H., Alma, AR  
Pettenger, Vernon D., Springfield, MO  
Pfitzer, Alex C., Jr., Omak, WA  
Phillips, Arthur C., Redmond, OR  
Phillips, H. Syvelle, Rockwall, TX  
Phillips, Mary S., McAlester, OK  
Phillips, Vonnie, Marianna, FL  
Piedmonte, Ronald E., Vestal, NY  
Pittman, Dortha M., Loganville, GA  
Pitts, L. Wayne, Lakeland, FL  
Pitts, William E., Bernie, MO  
Ponce, Filemon, Fort Stockton, TX  
Porche, Curtis J., Tickfaw, LA  
Potter, Bob E., Bixby, OK  
Potter, Deborah Ruth, Lisbon Falls, ME  
Poultney, Roland G., Marietta, GA  
Prater, Lois B., Snohomish, WA  
Price, L.V. Enid, Bastrop, LA  
Pruett, Beulah H., Memphis, TN  
Pruett, Robert F., Temecula, CA  
Pruett, Sherman W., North Tazewell, VA  
Quiller, Rufus E., Enterprise, AL  
Ragan, J.D., Sachse, TX  
Ramirez, Isidro S., Dayton, TX  
Ramirez, Norma, Poth, TX  
Ramos, John, Jr., Bronxville, NY  
Ramos, Luis E., Bridgeport, CT  
Ramos, Raul R., Grand Prairie, TX  
Rarick, Rachel M., Catawissa, PA  
Rasnake, J. Samuel, Bristol, TN  
Raudszus, Heinz, Portland, OR  
Rayburn, Don, Homer, LA  
Reaves, Stanley L., North Fort Myers, FL  
Reed, Clarence A., Porter, ME  
Reeder, Beverly J., Stockton, CA  
Reichelt, Wesley F., Hubbard, OR  
Reiman, Emily A., Zion, IL  
Renfroe, Willie O., Castleberry, AL  
Reyna, Israel M., Porterville, CA  
Reynolds, Frank M., Springfield, MO

Rider, Robert P., Tulsa, OK  
 Ridout, Thomas W., Yakima, WA  
 Rill, Ruth I., Sacramento, CA  
 Ringmann, Juergen H.O., Tacoma, WA  
 Rios, Daniel, Wichita Falls, TX  
 Rios, Daniel V., Round Rock, TX  
 Rivera, Carlos R., Union, NJ  
 Rivera, Juan M., Elizabeth, NJ  
 Roark, Doyle V., Cordell, OK  
 Robedee, Richard W., Cotuit, MA  
 Roberts, John G., Santa Maria, CA  
 Robertson, Ethel, Norwood, CO  
 Robertson, Roy, Jr., Russellville, AR  
 Robertson, William H., Laguna Woods, CA  
 Robinson, George H., Stephenville, TX  
 Robinson, Stewart H., Springfield, MO  
 Robison, Kenneth D., Bowling Green, OH  
 Rodriguez, Andres, Burke, VA  
 Rodriguez, Gabriel, Columbus, OH  
 Roedts, Robert R., Jr., Hammond, LA  
 Roehl, Leta M., Mason, MI  
 Rogers, Clyde D., Mobile, AL  
 Rogers, Dollie M., Boulder, CO  
 Romero, Joseph, Jr., Fort Morgan, CO  
 Rose, James E., North Little Rock, AR  
 Rose, Mildred E., Houston, TX  
 Rosenberg, Edwin H., Wichita, KS  
 Ross, Burton A., Florence, SC  
 Routley, Elvie M., Daleville, AL  
 Sailors, Jimmy D., La Fayette, GA  
 Salinas, Manuel, Laredo, TX  
 Sanchez, Florentino, Jr., Mission, TX  
 Sandall, Rita M., Canon City, CO  
 Sanders, Alto B., Dothan, AL  
 Sanford, Jerry W., Cottondale, FL  
 Santos, Ana L., Cidra, PR  
 Santos, Jose E., Austin, TX  
 Saucedo, Matias M., Pharr, TX  
 Savchenko, Clarence P., Mesa, AZ  
 Savini, Togiva L., Carson, CA  
 Scevers, Thermon A., Sr., Yoncalla, OR  
 Scharnberg, Robert D., Floodwood, MN  
 Schmautz, Genaah, Belgrade, MT  
 Schmidly, Arthur W., Mount Vernon, MO  
 Schoonover, Frank J., Tumwater, WA  
 Schultz, Theodore R., Hattiesburg, MS  
 Schulz, Eddie R., Lakeland, FL  
 Schwyhart, Jimmy G., Broken Arrow, OK  
 Scott, Elmer L., Centralia, WA  
 Sebastian, Joel E., De Soto, MO  
 Self, Lawrence R., Dora, AL  
 Senkbeil, Horst H., Fremont, CA  
 Seymour, Doris, Ocean Springs, MS  
 Shaffer, Daniel H., Jr., Glenn Heights, TX  
 Shaffer, James M., Clinton Township, MI  
 Shaw, Helen F., Oakland, CA  
 Shaw, Mary Jo, Palo Alto, CA  
 Sheaffer, Bonnie R., Oklahoma City, OK  
 Sheen, In Hwa, Whitestone, NY  
 Sheley, Carolyn R., Sacramento, CA  
 Shell, Davene B., Cape Coral, FL  
 Shell, William L., Oklahoma City, OK  
 Shepard, Virginia, Greensboro, FL  
 Shipley, Walter L., Yerington, NV  
 Shipp, B.R., Bedford, TX  
 Shipp, Lillie H., East Petersburg, PA  
 Shoff, Wanda J., Palmdale, CA  
 Shuert, Norman T., Springfield, MO  
 Sigafus, Donald H., Nixa, MO  
 Sikes, William L., Macon, MO  
 Sill, Alva R., Springfield, MO  
 Silva, Melitina, Brooklyn, NY  
 Simmons, Paul F., Temple, TX  
 Simmons, Roger E., Springfield, MO  
 Singleton, Eslie D., Benton, AR  
 Sizemore, Norman M., Dothan, AL  
 Skinner, Elmer P., Hot Springs, AR  
 Skogstad, Obert B., Clarkston, WA  
 Slater, Vera M., Puyallup, WA  
 Sluder, Nolan D., Tyler, TX  
 Smalling, Jessie J., Idabel, OK  
 Smith, Billy L., Hamlet, IN  
 Smith, Donald B., Winnabow, NC  
 Smith, Ira H., Valley Springs, CA  
 Smith, James E., Troy, AL  
 Smith, John Leonard, Ash Flat, AR  
 Smith, John W., Springfield, MO  
 Smith, Marie, Indianapolis, IN  
 Smith, Velma A., Hamilton, MT  
 Smith, Virginia L., Waxahachie, TX  
 Smith, Wayne R., Rowlett, TX  
 Smith, William C., Athens, TX  
 Snell, Howard C., Enid, OK  
 Sowell, Grady Lee, Rossville, GA  
 Spain, John A., Moss Point, MS  
 Spears, Freda D., Harrison, AR  
 Speed, Gordon E., Tulsa, OK  
 Spencer, Clifford, Sr., Kenai, AK  
 Spradling, Junia K., Duncan, OK  
 Spriggs, Howard E., Austintown, OH

Spruill, Howard V., Lakeland, FL  
 Stavros, Don L., Beaverton, OR  
 Stegen, Arthur Roos, Houghton, NY  
 Stenhouse, George E., Irvine, CA  
 Stetz, Juanita F., Springfield, MO  
 Stevens, Irving E., Hauppauge, NY  
 Stewart, Howard W., Bristow, OK  
 Stewart, James M., Mount Pleasant, TX  
 Stewart, Roy H., Clovis, NM  
 Stull, Marshall A., Myakka City, FL  
 Stump, John T., Bellingham, WA  
 Sullivan, Delores L., Saint Helens, OR  
 Sung, William C., Buena Park, CA  
 Sutterfield, Charles, Russellville, AR  
 Sutton, Clifford C., Bellevue, NE  
 Swanson, Ernest R., Eudora, KS  
 Swope, Bob R., Salem, OR  
 Taber, Michael D., Wynne, AR  
 Tabor, Michael P., Clayton, NC  
 Tackett, Montgomery D., Pleasanton, CA  
 Tandberg, Lloyd G., Kingston, WA  
 Tatom, William R., Hayden, AL  
 Taylor, Lena A., Oklahoma City, OK  
 Taylor, Mildred E., Brooksville, KY  
 Teichmiller, D. Beverly, Tinley Park, IL  
 Tennant, David A., Fairmont, WV  
 Terry, Keith E., Sanborn, NY  
 Thomas, Alma F., Phoenix, AZ  
 Thomas, Alonzo L., Raytown, MO  
 Thomason, Myra N., Lexington, NC  
 Thomassen, Roger C., Springfield, MO  
 Thompson, Thaddeus Carl, Belleview, FL  
 Thompson, Harold W., Fort Smith, AR  
 Thulin, Kenneth R., Sr., Purdy, MO  
 Thursbay, Ernestine M., Panama City, FL  
 Tilus, Bonnie M., Scotts Valley, CA  
 Tindall, George T., Summerfield, FL  
 Tippit, Leo E., Katy, TX  
 Todd, Betty D., Nixa, MO  
 Todd, Bonnie J., Eureka, MO  
 Toliver, Glenn A., Grove, OK  
 Tom, Robert J., Sr., Kayenta, AZ  
 Tomita, Clara K., Prescott Valley, AZ  
 Toole, Carlos C., Eufaula, AL  
 Tracy, Florence T., Costa Mesa, CA  
 Triplett, Sara A., Redwood Falls, MN  
 Tryon, Gary D., Middletown, PA  
 Tucker, Jewell E., Springfield, MO  
 Twist, Notchie L., Schuler, OK  
 Tyler, Michael W., Nashville, TN  
 Upson, Charles W., La Salle, IL  
 Van Der Wert, Elmo, Saint Petersburg, FL  
 Van Winkle, Mary, West Terre Haute, IN  
 Vasconcelos, Joseph, Pompano Beach, FL  
 Vaught, Gladys M., Silsbee, TX  
 Venable, J.C., Oklahoma City, OK  
 Venske, William A., Wisconsin Rapids, WI  
 Vernaud, Jacques, D.R. of Congo, Africa  
 Vigil, Alfonso G., West Valley, UT  
 Villanueva, Hector M., Waterbury, CT  
 Villarreal, Jesus M., Los Angeles, CA  
 Vining, Josephine C., Yuma, AZ  
 Vinson, Michael F., Bakersfield, CA  
 Walker, Carl S., III, O. Fallon, MO  
 Walker, James R., Benton, AR  
 Walker, Kenneth, Jr., Tallahassee, FL  
 Wallace, Bill E., Birmingham, AL  
 Walley, Samuel S., Crowley, TX  
 Ward, Juanita, Smiths, AL  
 Waters, Jack C., Sr., Lexington, NC  
 Watkins, E. Gene, Bixby, OK  
 Watkins, Jeannette Y., Peculiar, MO  
 Watson, James R., Park Ridge, IL  
 Watts, Mark J, Riverside, CA  
 Watts, Willis L., Newalla, OK  
 Weaver, Freddy D., Jayton, TX  
 Weaver, W. Jasper, Cleburne, TX  
 Welborn, E.E., Meridian, MS  
 Wells, James A., Tickfaw, LA  
 Weyandt, Dorothy, State College, PA  
 Wheeler, Robert E., Babbitt, MN  
 Wheelock, Woodward, Little Chute, WI  
 Whitacre, Orville F., Phenix City, AL  
 White, Ernest W., Cordova, TN  
 White, James H., Jr., Lake Providence, LA  
 Whitney, Ronald I., Ocean Shores, WA  
 Whitt, Eunice L., McCrory, AR  
 Wilcox, Joseph B., Bonifay, FL  
 Wileman, Donivan E., Finley, ND  
 Wiley, Ray K., Bushnell, FL  
 Willett, Roy Henry, Lutz, FL  
 Williams, Harold E., Salisbury, MD  
 Willis, Mary Ann, Carthage, TX  
 Wilson, Jeanne J., Ankeny, IA  
 Wilson, William J., Geneva, AL  
 Winters, Ronald M., Ponsford, MN  
 Wolfington, Kathleen, Gage, OK  
 Woll, Kenneth R., El Cajon, CA  
 Woods, George C., North Little Rock, AR  
 Wooten, Joseph E., Eloy, AZ

Wortz, Lloyd E., Delton, MI  
Wortz, Vernon E., Davison, MI  
Wright, Kenneth I, Garland, TX  
Wyatt, Alva E., Bartow, FL  
Wyrick, Earl, Spokane, WA  
Wyrick, Orval M., Miami, OK  
Young, Ethel, Sarasota, FL  
Youngblood, Frances C., Braxton, MS  
Youngblood, Hayward, Braxton, MS  
Ziemann, W. Bernice, Okeechobee, FL  
Zumalt, Fred L., Jr., Forsyth, MO

# **CONSTITUTION**

**OF**

**THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

**OF THE**

**ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**REVISED AUGUST 5–9, 2013**

**ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

# Constitution

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

**CONSTITUTION**

**Constitutional Declaration**

**WE BELIEVE:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## 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).

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **3. The Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ**

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

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

## **4. The Fall of Man**

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

## **5. The Salvation of Man**

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

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

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

## 6. The Ordinances of the Church

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

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

## 7. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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

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

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

## 9. Sanctification

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

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).

## **CONSTITUTION**

- c. To be a channel of God's purpose to build a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son (Ephesians 4:11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:28; 14:12).
- d. To be a people who demonstrate God's love and compassion for all the world (Psalm 112:9; Galatians 2:10; 6:10; James 1:27).

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

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

### **11. The Ministry**

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

### **12. Divine Healing**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ARTICLE VI. RELATIONSHIPS**

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

**ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP**

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

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

**Section 2. Assemblies of God**

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

**Section 3. Voting Constituency**

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

**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.

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**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.

### 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)]

## ARTICLE X

**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.

**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. Districts

**a. Geographic districts.** A geographic area 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 its geographical area of operation and may therefore overlap or coincide with that of one or more other language/ethnic district councils. (See Bylaws, Article V, Section 6.)

**b. Language/Ethnic districts.** A language/ethnic 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/ethnic 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.

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### Section 5. Areas of Authority

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

### Section 6. Relationship With the General Council

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

## ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES

### Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies

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

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

- (1) Accept the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God;
- (2) Adopt a standard of membership that may be determined either by the local assembly or by agreement with the district council;
- (3) Have a minimum active voting membership of 20 persons who shall accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body. In cases where there are fewer than 20 voting members, an exception may be granted by the district, in compliance with General Presbytery policy, and provided that the church has demonstrated the capacity for self-governance;
- (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; and
- (7) Demonstrate a willingness to contribute to Assemblies of God missions.

**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).

## ARTICLE XII

**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.

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **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 or electronic mail to the office of each district superintendent and each district secretary and to ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, not later than 30 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 5–9, 2013**

**ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

## Bylaws

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# BYLAWS

## OF

### THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

#### ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER

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

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

##### Section 1. Officers

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

##### Section 2. Nominations and Elections

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

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

##### **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.

## BYLAWS

(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:* Florida Multicultural, Midwest Latin American, Puerto Rico, Southern Latin, Spanish Eastern

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

*Language Area–Other:* Brazilian, German, Korean, National Slavic, Samoan, 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 minister under 40 years of age at the time of election and one ordained female minister (no age requirement). From the nominees the General Presbytery shall select and submit to the General Council four names of ordained ministers under 40 years of age at the time of election and four names of ordained female ministers (no age requirement). The candidates shall be presented to the General Council in session and voted on by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote shall be required to elect.

**d. General presbyters**

(1) *District representatives.* In addition to the superintendent of each district, who shall serve on the General Presbytery by virtue of office, two others shall be elected by the district council in session, both of whom shall be ordained Assemblies of God ministers, and at least one of whom shall be a pastor of a church located in the district. They shall take office immediately upon election.

(2) *Assemblies of God World Missions representatives.* Regional directors 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 j, shall have the right of voice and vote at all duly called sessions of the General Presbytery.

## BYLAWS

(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 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.

## ARTICLE III

### c. General presbyters

(1) In the event a general presbyter shall move to another district or shall vacate the office for any other reason, the presbytery of the district council shall appoint one to serve as general presbyter until that office is regularly filled at the next meeting of the district council.

(2) In the event an elected general presbyter is unable to attend a duly called session of the General Presbytery, by reason of illness or any other emergency, the district executive presbytery or district presbytery shall have the right to select an alternate, provided the alternate meets the ordinary requirements for general presbyters. The alternate shall have all the rights and privileges of a regularly elected general presbyter. The district shall present certification of an alternate to the general secretary not later than the opening session of the General Presbytery.

### Section 4. Removal for Cause

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

## ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS, PRESBYTERS, EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Section 1. Duties of the General Superintendent

The duties of the general superintendent shall include the following:

- a. Emphasize and implement the fourfold mission of the church: the evangelization of the world, the worship of God, the building of a body of saints being perfected in the image of His Son, and to demonstrate His love and compassion for all the world; and promote and coordinate efforts directed toward the fulfilling of that mission.
- b. Superintend all work of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.
- c. Act as president of the corporation in all legal matters, and be an ex officio member of all committees and boards.
- d. Preside at the sessions of the General Presbytery and the General Council.
- e. Preside at all meetings of the General Council Credentials Committee and sign all credentials.
- f. Preside at all sessions of the Executive Presbytery and the Executive Leadership Team and receive all communications directed to these bodies.
- g. Administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the General Council Credentials Committee.
- h. Sign all official and legal documents (see Section 7 of this Article).
- i. Perform any other functions usual and customary as presiding officer or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or by the Executive Presbytery.
- j. Cast primary vision for the Fellowship along with the other executive officers.
- k. Provide spiritual oversight to leadership and 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:

## **BYLAWS**

- a. Assist the general superintendent.
- b. Serve as vice-president of the corporation and preside at meetings of the Executive Presbytery and the Executive Leadership Team in the absence of the general superintendent.
- c. Perform any other functions under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

### **Section 3. Duties of the General Secretary**

The duties of the general secretary shall include the following:

- a. Make and keep true records of the proceedings of the General Council and shall publish the same as approved and directed by the Executive Presbytery.
- b. Serve as the custodian of the official seal and issue credentials under the direction of the General Council Credentials Committee and shall keep a record of all ordained, licensed, and certified ministers, and assemblies of the Fellowship.
- c. Sign all official and legal documents (see Section 7 of this Article).
- d. Serve as secretary of the General Presbytery, Executive Presbytery, the General Council Credentials Committee, and the Executive Leadership Team and keep accurate minutes of the deliberations of these bodies.
- e. Edit and prepare for distribution the minutes of the meeting of the General Presbytery after examination and approval thereof by the Executive Presbytery.
- f. Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

### **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.

### ARTICLE III

- e. Serve as chairperson of the World Missions Committee and World Missions Board.
- f. Keep a record of all official acts of the World Missions Board and other committees of the division.
- g. Serve as an executive officer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and thus serve on the Executive Leadership Team.
- h. Perform such other functions as are customary under the supervision of the general superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council, the General Presbytery, or the Executive Presbytery.

#### **Section 6. Duties of the Executive Director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions**

The executive director of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery, shall perform the following duties and render the following services:

- a. Direct the U.S. missions activities of the Fellowship, insofar as such activities are not already directed within and by the respective district councils of the General Council.
- b. Represent The General Council of the Assemblies of God in all relationships with governing authorities where U.S. missions work is involved.
- c. Distribute all U.S. missions funds as directed by the U.S. Missions Committee.
- d. Serve as chairperson of the U.S. Missions Board and U.S. Missions Committee.
- e. Keep a record of all official acts of the U.S. Missions Board and other committees of the division.
- f. Serve as an executive officer of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and thus serve on the Executive Leadership Team.
- 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.

## **BYLAWS**

j. All properties of the corporation shall be bought, taken, held, sold, transferred, mortgaged, leased, assigned, or conveyed in the corporate name upon authorization by the Executive Presbytery, as trustees thereof, and the president and the general secretary shall be authorized and they hereby are authorized to execute all documents pertaining to such transactions.

k. Be amenable to the General Presbytery in all matters under the functions and duties of the General Presbytery.

l. Protect and enhance the vision of the executive officers.

m. Provide oversight of internal operations of 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.

### **Section 10. Meetings**

Members of the Executive Presbytery, or any committee designated by the Executive Presbytery, General Presbytery, or General Council, may participate and act at any meeting through the use of a conference telephone or other communications device by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can communicate simultaneously with each other. Participation in such meeting shall constitute attendance and presence in person at the meeting of the member or members so participating.

Any action required or permitted to be taken at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery may be taken without a meeting if all members consent thereto in writing, and the writings are filed with the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Presbytery.

**ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES****Section 1. Standing Committees**

Standing committees shall be appointed as necessary. They shall serve for the designated time or until their purpose is accomplished. In the event a vacancy shall occur in a standing committee, the Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to fill such vacancy.

**Section 2. Credentials Committee**

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

**Section 3. Roster Committee**

A Roster Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery prior to each meeting of the General Council. This committee shall be expected to open the roster on the morning of the day preceding the convening of the General Council. It shall be entrusted with the responsibility of examining credentials of all ministers and delegates. Ordained and licensed ministers shall identify themselves by fellowship cards of the current year; delegates from assemblies shall obtain letters from their church secretary or pastor certifying to their appointment by the assembly to represent it in the General Council. Badges shall be issued by the committee to all qualified delegates and ministers, and any other relevant status.

**Section 4. Resolutions Committee**

**a. Procedure for presentation of resolutions.** A Resolutions Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Presbytery. All resolutions for presentation to the General Council, except emergency measures, shall be presented to the general secretary's office at least 100 days prior to a General Council session. The Resolutions Committee shall prepare the resolutions in printed or electronic form and send 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.

## **BYLAWS**

**e. Right of sponsor.** If the Resolutions Committee determines that a resolution is inappropriate, it shall so advise the author and shall apprise the author of his or her right to present the proposed resolution to the General Council in session for a determination as to appropriateness.

**f. Format of presentation.** The Resolutions Committee shall:

- (1) Put resolutions in proper form.
- (2) Eliminate duplication of similar resolutions relating to a specific subject.
- (3) Present resolutions in a logical sequence.

### **Section 5. Spiritual Life Committee**

A Spiritual Life Committee shall be appointed by the general superintendent in consultation with the Executive Presbytery, selected from a cross section of the Fellowship. The committee shall function for a 2-year period and report to the biennial meeting of the General Council and to the Executive Presbytery as feasible.

### **Section 6. Other Committees**

Other committees may be appointed by the General Presbytery or the Executive Presbytery.

## **ARTICLE V. DISTRICT COUNCILS**

### **Section 1. Formation of New Districts**

**a. Conference status.** When there is potential for the development of a new district, the first step shall be the establishing of a conference that would be mentored by an assisting district(s) until the new district is capable of independent operation. Such conference shall function for a minimum of 2 years, or longer if so directed by the Executive Presbytery, prior to becoming a district unless an exception has been granted by the Executive Presbytery. The conference shall operate as directed by approved Executive Presbytery criteria.

**b. Guidelines.** Guidelines for establishing new districts shall include:

- (1) A minimum of 40 Assemblies of God churches sponsored by an existing district and having voted to become a part of the new district at the beginning of the conference unless an exception has been granted by the Executive Presbytery.
- (2) Size, maturity, and financial stability 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.
- (5) Churches and ministers that have voted to become a part of the new conference shall be required to contribute one-third of their district tithes or dues to the new conference during the first year, two-thirds of their district tithes or dues to the new conference during the second year, and contribute the full amount of tithes or dues as determined by the newly established district during the third year and following.

**c. Boundaries.** The boundaries of the new district shall be determined by cooperative agreement between the district or districts geographically affected and the Executive Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Section 2. The Role of the District**

The district is primarily relationship based. The district should facilitate a network for resources and relationships and provide training for credentialed ministers and local churches. The district provides ministry events to the local church, such as camps, conferences, and retreats; and relates to the General Council affiliated churches in accordance with provisions of the Constitutional Declaration, Constitution Article XI, Bylaws Article VI, and the constitution and bylaws of the respective district council. The district oversees district affiliated churches in accordance with its own bylaws, and processes and recommends ministerial credentialing and discipline for its constituents.

### Section 3. Officers

Each district council shall elect a superintendent, together with such other officers as may be deemed advisable by the district membership, such as, assistant superintendent, secretary-treasurer, and presbyters. A district superintendent or any other elected officer may serve other than full time at the discretion of the district council.

### Section 4. Voting Constituency

The voting constituency shall consist of all ordained and licensed ministers, and accredited delegates from affiliated churches, and such other persons as may be prescribed by the district constitution and bylaws, who are present and registered at district meetings.

### Section 5. Presbyters

Districts are encouraged to organize in such a way that the presbyter may focus on ministering to ministers, providing encouragement, prayer, leadership development, by modeling spiritual maturity and leadership to the pastors, ministers, and churches assigned to the responsible presbyter.

### Section 6. Language/Ethnic Districts

**a. Recognition qualifications.** In order to become a district of the Assemblies of God, a language/ethnic group must have a minimum number of 40 churches.

**b. Equality of districts.** Language/ethnic and geographic districts shall have the same privileges and responsibilities within the framework of the Constitution and Bylaws.

**c. Cooperative relationship.** Both the language/ethnic district and the geographical district shall seek to promote a spirit of fellowship and cooperation. The language/ethnic 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 language/ethnic district and the geographical district appoint representatives to serve with their respective presbyteries to provide and encourage cooperative strategies and relationships. The language churches, whether members of a geographical or language/ethnic district, are encouraged to unite where possible, in fellowship activities.

**d. Sponsorship and affiliation of a language/ethnic group.** Should an English-speaking church desire to initiate sponsorship of a language/ethnic group or a language/ethnic church desire to initiate sponsorship of an English-speaking group, it shall consult with its district officials for counsel and guidance. The respective districts/fellowships should inform their counterparts concerning the beginning of such churches. 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, unless an exception has been granted by a district in accordance with the provisions of General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (3), 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 a language/ethnic district to the geographical district in which it is located or from a geographical district to a language/ethnic 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 language/ethnic 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).

## **BYLAWS**

### **Section 7. Dissolution of District**

**a. Loss of recognition.** In the event an existing district shall have less than 40 churches, General Council or district affiliated, its recognition shall cease, unless an exception is granted by the General Presbytery.

**b. General Presbytery prerogative.** Dissolution of a district shall be the prerogative of the General Presbytery of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

### **Section 8. Language/Ethnic Fellowships**

Language/Ethnic groups may be authorized by the Executive Presbytery, in accordance with Executive Presbytery criteria, 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 a language/ethnic 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 language/ethnic fellowship to represent the language/ethnic fellowship within a district. Leadership for the fellowship groups shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery.

## **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, unless an exception has been granted by the district in accordance with the provisions of General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (3). 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.

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**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 1, paragraph d.)

## **BYLAWS**

**b. Relationships.** Cooperative fellowship describes both the relationship that exists between local churches and their relationships with the district councils and the General Council.

**c. Organizational assistance.** The services of both the General Council and district council are available to assist the General Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the official board of the church or a petition signed by 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, unless an exception has been granted by the district in accordance with the provisions of General Council Constitution Article XI, Section 1, paragraph a, subparagraph (3).

### **Section 6. New Assemblies**

The planting of new churches shall be a priority goal of The General Council of the Assemblies of God. Resources at all levels shall be aligned to accomplish this purpose. Initiative for establishing new churches and the oversight of those churches may emanate from local assemblies, sections, and district councils. District presbyteries, sectional committees, or the authorities within a district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches shall not prohibit the planting of new churches unless a compelling reason exists. If it is determined that a compelling reason exists, a minister or local church desiring to plant the church shall have the right to appeal to their district presbytery or authorities within a district charged with the responsibility of approving new churches, and the decision of the district may be appealed to the General Council Executive Presbytery, whose decision shall be final.

**Section 7. Assemblies Resulting From a Division**

**a. Status of assembly.** When efforts to maintain unity and harmony in an assembly have failed, and a division results in a new congregation being formed, the district should exercise strong and wise leadership in ascertaining the facts and seek to preserve Assemblies of God adherents for the Fellowship. Within the bounds of ethical principles, sound doctrine, and district policy, all districts should seek to retain any meritorious group within the Assemblies of God.

**b. Status of minister.** Circumstances in each case will determine whether the minister should be disciplined or denied ministry in either the original church or the dissident group, or even residency in the area where the division occurred. If a minister is guilty of inappropriate conduct resulting in a division, the district presbytery shall deal appropriately with the minister as provided in Article X, Section 3, of the Bylaws.

**Section 8. Transfer of Local Church Membership**

**a. Letter of introduction.** It is recommended that members request a letter of introduction from the church of which they are a member to be sent by mail to the church with which they desire to affiliate.

**b. Acknowledgment of transfer.** It is recommended that the receiving church shall give an acknowledgment of transfer to the former church.

**ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY**

**Section 1. Ministry Described**

Christ's gifts to the Church include apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11), exhorters, administrators, leaders, and helpers (Romans 12:7,8). We understand God's call to these ministry gifts is totally within His sovereign discretion without regard to gender, race, disability, or national origin.

Three classifications of ministry are recognized and transferable among all Assemblies of God districts: the ordained minister, the licensed minister, and the certified minister.

All ordained, licensed, and certified ministers holding current ministerial credentials are authorized to perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church, and those holding a local church credential as provided below.

A fourth classification of ministry, a local church credential, may be provided by a local General Council affiliated church under basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the district council. The local church credential shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church) and shall be limited to 2 years, unless the credential is solely required for active and ongoing local ministry in a prison, hospital, or institution. A person holding a local church credential can perform the ordinances and ceremonies (sacerdotal functions) of the church if authorized in writing by the senior pastor of the local church issuing the credential.

No other classification of ministry shall be recognized other than those described in this section.

**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).

## BYLAWS

**c. Evidence of call.** Clear evidence of a divine call to the ministry, evidenced by a personal conviction, confirmed by the work of the Spirit and the testimony of fellow ministers.

**d. Christian character.** A blameless Christian life and a good report of those who are without (Titus 1:7; 1 Timothy 3:7).

**e. Doctrinal position.** A thorough understanding of and agreement with our doctrinal position as contained in the Statement of Fundamental Truths.

**f. Assemblies of God polity.** A satisfactory working knowledge of the principles, practices, and purposes of the Fellowship through a study of the General Council and district council Constitution and Bylaws.

**g. Voluntary cooperation and commitment to the Fellowship.** An active loyalty to our constitutional agreements, a cooperative spirit, and a readiness to seek and receive the counsel of older mature Christians and those in positions of authority.

By voluntary it is meant that, upon learning the principles, doctrines, and practices of the Assemblies of God, and by seeing the benefits to be derived from being associated with such an organization, persons of their own free choice decide to become members, thus subscribing to all that for which the organization stands.

For the minister, by cooperation, it is meant, to the best of one's ability, complying with all decisions setting forth and defining duties and responsibilities incumbent upon members of the organization. It includes active participation and respect for the will of the majority expressed through constitutional processes.

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.

## ARTICLE VII

**j. Marriage status.** We disapprove of any married persons holding ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God if either marriage partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to his or her conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15), except as hereinafter provided.

**k. Ecclesiastical annulments and marriage dissolutions.** The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies for an ecclesiastical annulment. In such cases there must be clear and satisfactory evidence of deception, fraud, or other conditions which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a valid marriage union, unknown at the time of marriage by the applicant. The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an applicant qualifies regarding a former marriage when the termination of that marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or if a former marriage ended prior to conversion. In those cases involving preconversion divorce they shall be decided on an individual basis just as those that deal with ecclesiastical annulments. Appeals from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the General Presbytery.

**l. Eligibility of women.** The Scriptures plainly teach that divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the Word (Joel 2:29; Acts 21:9; 1 Corinthians 11:5). Women who meet the qualifications for ministerial credentials are eligible for whatever grade of credentials their qualifications warrant and have the right to administer the ordinances of the church and are eligible to serve in all levels of church ministry, and/or district and General Council leadership.

**m. Ministers from other organizations.** If a minister from another reputable body desires to affiliate with the Assemblies of God, the credentials committees of both the General Council and the district councils are under no obligation to accept the applicant's previous ministerial status, but will judge each candidate on his or her own merits as to the level of credentials to be granted. Such applicants shall be required to:

- (1) Conform to Assemblies of God criteria for recognition.
- (2) Complete an application for ministerial recognition.
- (3) Submit a letter of recommendation from a neighboring Assemblies of God minister or the sectional presbyter for the applicant's area.
- (4) Submit a recommendation from the body with which the minister was formerly affiliated. If such is not available, letters of recommendation should be sought from three reputable ordained ministers who are familiar with the applicant's ministry, two of whom should be with the applicant's former credentialing body.
- (5) Take the credential examination.
- (6) Complete such courses as may be prescribed by the General Presbytery for ministers transferring from other credentialing bodies.
- (7) Meet with the district credentials committee for an oral interview.
- (8) Be recommended by the district credentials committee for action by the General Council Credentials Committee.
- (9) All previously ordained ministers so approved shall receive recognition as ordained Assemblies of God ministers with the laying on of hands by the district presbytery. All other applicants so approved shall receive the appropriate level of credential recognition.
- (10) Ministers who receive Assemblies of God recognition shall relinquish their ministerial credentials with any other organization, unless an exception is granted by the General Council Credentials Committee upon recommendation of a district council credentials committee for a minister serving as a missionary in this country who holds a credential with a member body of the World Assemblies of God Fellowship, or in special and/or unique cases as determined by the General Council Credentials Committee.

## BYLAWS

### Section 3. Specific Qualifications

**a. Residency requirements of applicants.** Applicants for all credentials must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credentials committee.

**b. Local church credential.** A local church credential shall be administered by the local church pursuant to basic guidelines adopted by the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the district council. It shall be non-transferable (limited to the issuing local church).

**c. Certified minister.**

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

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

(3) *Exception for provisional issuance.* A Certificate of Ministry may be issued on a provisional basis to a person who has not met all the credentialing requirements but who is deemed by the district credentials committee to be essential to the continuity of a church or a ministry. The reason for such a provisional issuance must be ministry driven, and the justification for its use is terminated when the minister ceases to be involved in the ministry for which it was initially granted unless the minister accepts another qualifying assignment. Other limitations are:

(a) The ministry certificate on a provisional basis will be issued for 1 year and shall not be renewed more than two times.

(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.

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(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.

## BYLAWS

**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 more than half-time in the ministry.

(2) The term *senior-semiretired* shall be used for credential holders who continue to be active, but for half-time or less.

(3) The term *senior-retired* shall be used for those who have ceased to engage in any regular appointed ministry.

**b. Application for retired category.** Senior-semiretired and senior-retired status shall be granted only to those ministers who filed a request for such status with their district office. The district secretary shall forward annually to the general secretary a list of those ministers who have made these requests.

#### c. Guidelines

(1) *Reports.* Senior-active and senior-semiretired ministers shall continue to file their annual reports and pay the General Council portion of their tithes in the regular manner. Senior-retired ministers shall file an abbreviated report to maintain a correct address file for mail and insurance purposes.

(2) *Sources of income.* These designations and guidelines shall apply regardless of whether the senior minister's income is from ministry, from retirement plans or Social Security payments, or from investments or other employment.

(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.

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(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.

## BYLAWS

(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.

(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 language/ethnic districts and geographical districts.** Credential holders from language/ethnic districts may transfer to geographical districts and credential holders from geographical districts may transfer to language/ethnic 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.

## ARTICLE VII

**b. Expiration date.** All fellowship certificates are valid only until December 31 of each year and must be renewed annually. The renewing of credentials is the responsibility of the individual minister. Ministers who do not receive an annual renewal form by December 1 should notify their district office.

**c. Grace period until January 15.** All who have not renewed their fellowship certificates postmarked on or before December 31 shall be considered delinquent. They shall be required to pay a late fee of \$50 up until January 15, to be divided equally between the district and General Council.

**d. Reinstatement of lapsed minister.** Ministers whose renewal applications are not postmarked by January 15 shall be recorded as lapsed as of December 31. They must make application for reinstatement and pay a nonrefundable fee of \$100, to be divided equally between the district and the General Council. These ministers shall not be subject to the minimal time lapse required of those whose credentials have been terminated for other causes.

**e. Reinstatement of other than dismissed minister.** When a minister who is a member of our Fellowship is removed from our rolls for any cause, except failure to renew and dismissal, and shall apply for reinstatement, he or she shall not be eligible for reinstatement until at least 6 months have elapsed after his or her name has been stricken from our list of ministers. The application must be made in the district where the minister resides and be accompanied with a nonrefundable fee of \$100 to be divided between the district and the General Council. (See Bylaws, Article X, Section 12, paragraph b, for reinstatement of dismissed minister.)

The district of residence shall seek a letter of clearance from the district that processed the termination and, upon receipt of the clearance, may add its endorsement and forward the application, together with the letter of clearance, to the General Council Credentials Committee for its action.

**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 \$25 per month (\$300 per year) from their tithes, or as an offering. Licensed ministers should contribute \$20 per month (\$240 per year) from their tithes or as an offering; and certified ministers should contribute \$10 per month (\$120 per year) from their tithes or as an offering. 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.

## **BYLAWS**

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

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

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

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

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

### **Section 12. Ministerial Status Changes**

All changes in a minister's status are to be reported immediately to his or her district office, which in turn is to report this information to the office of the general secretary of the General Council, on the Ministerial Status Report form provided by that office.

### **Section 13. 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).

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.

## BYLAWS

### Section 2. Legalism

**a. Matters of conscience.** The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that the Scriptures teach a life of “holiness without which no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). However, since sincere commitment to holy living sometimes results in sharp differences of opinion among believers on debatable matters of personal conscience, the Assemblies of God disapproves the practice of pressing these debatable matters of personal conscience upon others (Romans 14:1-4).

**b. Adding conditions to salvation.** The Assemblies of God strongly affirms that salvation is received through repentance toward God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:8,9). Therefore, the Assemblies of God disapproves any teaching or practice that seems to add conditions to salvation (Galatians 3:1-5).

### Section 3. Eschatological Errors

**a. The restitution of all things.** The Assemblies of God understands the teaching of Acts 3:21 to limit the restoration to that of which the prophets have spoken, thus denying the universal redemption theory. We are opposed to all forms of universalism (Matthew 25:46; Revelation 20:10).

**b. Setting a date for the Lord’s return.** It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing (Mark 13:32,33; Luke 12:37-40; 1 Thessalonians 5:2). It is also unwise to give out from the platform, or publish, visions of numbers and dates fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.

**c. Post-Tribulation Rapture.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God has declared itself in the Statement of Fundamental Truths that it holds to the belief in the imminent coming of the Lord as the blessed hope of the Church; and since the teaching that the Church must go through the Tribulation tends to bring confusion and division among the saints, it is recommended that all our ministers teach the imminent coming of Christ, warning all to be prepared for that coming, which may occur at any time, and not lull their minds into complacency by any teaching that would cause them to feel that specific Tribulation events must occur before the rapture of the saints.

**d. Amillennialism.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of the amillennial teaching and its attendant erroneous philosophy which denies the fact of a literal 1,000-year reign of Christ on the earth, and substitutes for it the theory that this Christian or Church dispensation is the spiritual Millennium of which, its proponents say, the Bible writers prophesied.

**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).

## ARTICLE IX

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.

## **BYLAWS**

(4) *Counsel.* An Assemblies of God minister is urged to counsel applicants for marriage ceremonies with scriptural guidelines for Christian marriage prior to performing the ceremony. A minister may not perform ceremonies for persons who, in the minister's opinion, approach marriage without proper forethought, wisdom, and sobriety.

**e. Ministerial credentials.** We disapprove of any married minister of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse has a former spouse living unless the divorce occurred prior to conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10-15). (See also Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs j and k.)

### **Section 6. Worldliness**

In view of the alarming erosion of national moral standards, we reaffirm our intention of holding up Bible standards against all forms of worldliness. We urge all believers to "love not the world, neither the things that are in the world.... For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:15,16).

In its teaching regarding worldliness, the Scriptures warn against participation in activity that defiles the body, or corrupts the mind and spirit; the inordinate love of or preoccupation with pleasures, position, or possessions, which lead to their misuse; manifestation of extreme behavior, unbecoming speech, or inappropriate appearance; any fascination or association which lessens one's affection for spiritual things (Luke 21:34,35; Romans 8:5-8; 12:1,2; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:11; 1 Timothy 2:8-10; 4:12; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-17; Titus 2:12).

### **Section 7. Abuses of Stewardship**

#### **a. Tithing**

(1) According to the Scriptures, tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the gospel and work of the Lord and not be given to charity or used for other purposes. In tithing, the ministers ought to be examples.

(2) We recognize the duty of tithing and urge all our people to pay tithes to God. It is recommended that arrangements satisfactory to the pastor and the church be made by all pastors and churches, so that the pastor may receive regular and adequate support. We disapprove, however, of the teaching that all tithes necessarily should belong to the pastor for his or her support.

#### **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.

## **BYLAWS**

### **Section 12. Divine Healing and Professional Medicine**

The General Council of the Assemblies of God disapproves of any credentialed minister counseling a believer to exclude medical advice and/or treatment when seeking prayer for physical healing. Assemblies of God ministers shall not represent medical advice and/or treatment as a lack of faith in God's healing power.

### **Section 13. Accountability in Educational Attribution**

**a. Attribution.** In order to maintain our testimony of quality and integrity in educational credentials before the Church and the world, and to minimize the possibility of our ministers and churches being victimized by, or supporting, or perpetrating frauds in education or credentialing, we maintain certain standards for the attribution of degrees, certifications, and titles.

(1) *Attribution by ministers.* Our ministers shall refrain from listing, promoting, or attributing to themselves or others any degrees or titles conferred by institutions or organizations having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditation status less than that of our appropriately corresponding Assemblies of God institutions (whether our institute, regional university, or seminary levels).

(2) *Attribution by the General Council.* No media, ministry, department, arm, or employee of the General Council shall list, attribute, or promote for any person, any degree or title conferred by an institution or organization having, at the time of conferral, a formal accreditation 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 (Galatians 6:1).

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 restoration 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 restorative. 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

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representative, shall conduct the investigation to determine their source and validity. It is the responsibility of the district superintendent to safeguard the church, the minister, the district, and the Fellowship. In the event such reports or complaints against a minister are filed with the General Council Credentials Committee, they shall be referred to the district in which the offense occurred for investigation. A copy shall be sent to the district with which the minister is affiliated.

(1) *Interview with complainants.* The persons involved shall be interviewed to ascertain the facts in the case and the reasons underlying the persistence of the reports or complaints.

(2) *Interview with accused minister.* The accused minister shall be given an opportunity to be interviewed to discuss the complaints received in the hope that the matter can be resolved.

(3) *Signed complaints.* In the event the investigation so warrants, a signed complaint shall be filed with the district office by each complainant describing the alleged offense.

(4) *Conditions for ministry during investigation.* Conditions of continuing ministry may be subject to restriction during the time of investigation at the discretion of the appropriate district officers on the basis of evidence at hand and the nature of the alleged offense. Such conditions are subject to review in 3-month intervals until such investigation has been completed resulting in either clearing the person of the allegations or filing formal charges.

**b. Outside United States.** In case the alleged misconduct occurs outside the United States in an area under the general oversight of Assemblies of God World Missions, that division shall take the initiative to file complete data with the district of the minister's affiliation. Any hearing or trial affecting that individual's ministerial credentials shall be held in the district of the minister's affiliation. Assemblies of God World Missions shall convey all information available to the said district as follows:

(1) *Report to district of affiliation.* At the earliest date after Assemblies of God World Missions receives a report of misconduct, such report shall be conveyed by telephone and by letter to the superintendent of the district with which the minister is affiliated.

(2) *Confidential file.* A confidential file shall be submitted to the superintendent, conveying all information as it becomes available to the division. A final complete file shall be prepared under the direction of the field director of the field involved and shall be presented to the district superintendent for use in any action the district may take.

(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.

## ARTICLE X

**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 restoration 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 restoration 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. Restoration**

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 restoration, administered in love and kindness. The following provisions for restoration 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 restoration as an alternative to dismissal. Restoration 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 restoration for the individual minister.

(1) *Restoration requirements.* The specific terms and conditions of the restoration 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 restoration.

(b) *Terms and Conditions*

(1) *Period of time.* The program for restoration 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.

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(2) *Authority.* The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish guidelines and policy in regard to terms and conditions of restoration. Such guidelines and policy shall be consistent with provisions of the Bylaws.

(c) *Extent of ministry.* The extent to which ministry may be permitted, if any, shall be determined by the district presbytery, subject to the approval of the General Council Credentials Committee and compatible with the guidelines and policy established by the General Presbytery.

(d) *District membership.* The minister shall not be permitted to transfer his or her membership to another district during the period of restoration.

(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 restoration the minister shall continue to be eligible for benefits such as the ministers group insurance and Ministers Benefit Association.

(j) *Program administration.* The approved restoration 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 restoration of ministers under discipline.

(3) *Completion of restoration.* When the restoration program has been satisfactorily completed, the suspension shall be lifted and the minister shall be restored to good standing.

(4) *Transfer of information.* A restoration information form for district use, prepared and distributed by the general secretary, shall be completed by the district in which the restoration occurred when the restored minister requests a transfer to a new district. The completed restoration form shall accompany the Certificate of Transfer to another district. A disciplined minister shall, as a condition of entering a restoration program, sign a Limited Disclosure Agreement approved by the General Presbytery allowing the basis of his or her restoration 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 restoration 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 restoration program as prescribed in Section 8 of this article. The dismissed minister shall not be eligible for reinstatement until the requirements for restoration 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 restoration.

### Section 9. Referral for Action to the General Council Credentials Committee

#### a. District recommendation

(1) *Restoration.* When a minister is to be placed in a restoration 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 restoration. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

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(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 restoration is not feasible or fails, a minister's credentials are to be terminated by dismissal. The district shall forward to the General Council Credentials Committee the specific charges and its recommendation for dismissal. The district shall inform the minister involved of its action and, where applicable, the superintendent of the minister's district of affiliation.

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

(4) *Credential absolution.* Should a district where a dismissal occurred determine, after careful investigation, that a dismissed minister has completed remedial restoration 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).

## **BYLAWS**

(b) *Insufficient grounds.* The General Council Credentials Committee shall have the prerogative to determine whether there is sufficient cause to grant an appeal, and remand the case to the district.

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

(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. Restoration obligatory.** When a minister has been dismissed from our Fellowship and applies for reinstatement, he or she shall comply with the procedures for restoration 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.

**Section 14. Legal Representation**

The discipline of ministers is a sacred responsibility that is entrusted to the credentials committees of districts and the General Council. A minister shall not be permitted to be accompanied by one or more attorneys at any meeting, hearing, or appeal pertaining to his or her discipline. A minister shall be permitted to be accompanied by one approved credentialed minister at any meeting, hearing, or appeal pertaining to his or her discipline.

**ARTICLE XI. NATIONAL MINISTRIES OF THE  
GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

In addition to the divisions provided for in Article XIII. Assemblies of God World Missions; and Article XIV. Assemblies of God U.S. Missions, the Board of Directors of The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall establish such national ministries, including commissions, divisions, and departments as may from time-to-time be needed to carry out the fourfold mission of the church.

The organization and establishment of these ministries shall be provided for in *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*. (See Bylaws, Article XII. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*.)

**ARTICLE XII. THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF  
THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD ORGANIZATIONAL MANUAL**

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall develop and maintain a set of documents referred to as *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*. This document shall set forth in detail the organization of commissions, divisions, departments, and ministries of The General Council of the Assemblies of God as from time-to-time may be established to carry out the fourfold mission of the church.

*The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* shall be administered by the Executive Leadership Team as approved by the Executive Presbytery. The Executive Presbytery shall submit annually to the General Presbytery for approval all proposed additions, deletions, and modifications to *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual*. *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Organizational Manual* shall be available to all General Council affiliated churches and ordained or licensed ministers.

**ARTICLE XIII. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WORLD MISSIONS**

**Section 1. Authorization and Purpose**

**a. Authorization.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall assume responsibility and do all within its power for the spread of the gospel in foreign lands. In keeping with this objective, there shall be an Assemblies of God World Missions to which shall be committed all the world missions interests of the Fellowship.

**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.

## BYLAWS

**d. Indigenous principle.** The Pauline example shall be followed as far as possible by seeking out neglected regions where the gospel has not been preached and by establishing self-supporting, self-governing, self-propagating national churches in all regions.

### Section 2. Organization and Governance

**a. Executive director.** There shall be an executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions who shall be elected in the manner described in Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph b.

**b. Administrator.** The Executive Presbytery shall elect an administrator who shall serve under the executive director in the administration of the division.

**c. Departments.** The General Presbytery shall be authorized to establish departments within the division at the initiative of the Executive Presbytery. Departments shall operate within the parameters and guidelines of *The General Council of the Assemblies of God Operations Manual*.

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

#### e. World Missions Board

(1) *Composition.* The activities of Assemblies of God World Missions shall be under the supervision of the World Missions Board which shall consist of the executive director of the division; the general superintendent (ex officio); two executive presbyters; the administrator; the regional directors; eight pastors of proven world missions zeal and accomplishments, each from a different area of the nation; and eight laypersons, endorsed by their pastors, each from a different area of the nation and from churches other than those whose pastors serve concurrently on the World Missions Board.

(2) *Elections.* The members of the World Missions Board shall be nominated by the executive director of Assemblies of God World Missions, and elected by the Executive Presbytery subject to ratification by the General Presbytery.

(3) *Term of office.* The term of office of the appointed pastors and laypersons shall be for 4 years, rotated so some of the members 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.

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**g. Creation of new region.** With the creation of a new region, the World Missions Board shall have the discretion of nominating a regional director, to be appointed by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery. The normal cycle of missionary endorsement will follow.

**h. Area directors.** There shall be area directors who shall serve under the regional directors, directing and coordinating missions activities in their assigned areas. They shall be appointed by the World Missions Board on the basis of nominations by the World Missions Committee and regional director in their respective areas.

**i. World Missions Committee.** The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a World Missions Committee consisting of the executive director as chairperson, the administrator as vice-chairperson, the regional directors, the leaders of major departments of the division, and other personnel as determined by the Executive Presbytery. The responsibilities of the World Missions Committee shall be the general supervision and direction of the work of the division and its missionaries in conformity with the established policies and principles of The General Council of the Assemblies of God and the World Missions Board.

**j. General Presbytery representatives.** Each of the regions shall be represented on the General Presbytery by its regional director and two others. 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.

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**c. Specialized service.** Candidates for world service of a specialized character, such as nurses and teachers, may be granted appointment for such types of work, if properly qualified, without the necessity of being ordained. Nevertheless, such candidates shall have the endorsement of their respective district councils in regard to their Christian experience and local church activity.

### **Section 5. Support of Missionaries**

**a. A faith mission.** The world missions program of the Assemblies of God is a faith mission. Missionaries are urged to place their faith in God for supplying their needs. Thus missionaries itinerate among the churches to solicit prayer and financial support.

**b. Church support.** Every local church shall be encouraged to assume responsibility for support of duly appointed missionaries and approved ministries in cooperation with Assemblies of God World Missions.

**c. Undesignated and general emergency funds.** Undesignated funds and general emergency funds may be used to meet the emergency needs of missionaries who raise their prescribed pledge and cash support and submit required financial reports to the division.

**d. District support.** It is recommended that districts endorsing candidates for missionary appointment assume responsibility for their support as far as practicable.

### **Section 6. Ordination of Missionaries**

The ordination of persons for or under appointment of Assemblies of God World Missions shall be determined on the basis of their qualifications for ordination rather than on the basis of their appointment.

### **Section 7. Field Organizations**

**a. National church organization.** Missionaries shall make every effort to establish indigenous Assemblies of God national church organizations in the countries they serve. Organizational patterns shall conform to practical, cultural forms acceptable to the body of believers. Close fraternal relationships with Assemblies of God organizations in other countries shall be encouraged without infringement affecting the autonomy of each national organization.

**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:

## ARTICLE XIV

(1) *Title to missionary residences.* All missionary residences shall be held in the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God wherever legally possible.

(2) *Title to institutional properties.*

(a) *General policy.* It shall be a general policy to hold institutional properties in the name of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

(b) *Exceptions.* Assemblies of God World Missions shall be authorized to transfer title to the local national Assemblies of God organization when it deems such action to be in the best interests of the work. Church buildings or pastors' residences that are procured solely for the benefit of the local church with either local or foreign funds shall be held in the name of its national Assemblies of God organization or by a local church that is fully established and competent to hold property in its own name.

(3) *Title policy on General Council loans.* In all cases where Assemblies of God World Missions has advanced funds on a loan basis, The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall hold title to the property or receive other adequate security until the loan is fully paid.

**b. Missionary fellowship project endorsement.** Missionaries contemplating the purchase of property or erection of buildings shall cooperate with the missionary fellowship on the field and must secure its endorsement before requesting the approval of the division.

**c. Legal documents.** A certified copy of the property deeds, titles, and other legal papers relating to all missions properties which have been purchased shall be forwarded to Assemblies of God World Missions for filing.

## ARTICLE XIV. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD U.S. MISSIONS

### Section 1. Authorization and Purpose

**a. Authorization.** The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall assume responsibility and do all within its power to spread the gospel to the homeland. In keeping with this obligation, there shall be an Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.

**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.

## BYLAWS

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

(4) *Intercultural Ministries* provides ministry to distinct people groups in the United States who require specialized understanding.

(5) *Mission America Placement Service* provides ministry to enlist, facilitate, and place volunteers in distinct areas of Christian service.

(6) *Teen Challenge International, U.S.A.* provides ministry to people of all ages with addictive behaviors.

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

**e. U.S. Missions Board.** The work of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be under the advisement of a U.S. Missions Board.

**f. U.S. Missions Executive Committee.** The general administrative work of the division shall be conducted by a U.S. Missions Executive Committee consisting of the executive director as chairperson, the administrator as vice-chairperson, the directors of the major departments of the division, and other resource persons as determined by the executive director and approved by the Executive Leadership Team. The responsibilities of the U.S. Missions Executive Committee shall be the general supervision and direction of the work of the division and its missionaries.

### **g. Commission on Chaplains**

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

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

**h. National U.S. missionaries.** National U.S. missionaries shall be appointed by action of the U.S. Missions Executive Committee with the approval of their home districts and the districts in which the missionaries will be working. All missionary appointments and renewals shall be made according to administrative criteria established by Assemblies of God U.S. Missions upon the approval of the work district.

**i. Liaison with districts.** The division and its departments shall maintain a constant liaison with the various districts so that proven programs and innovations in each area may be refined and offered to districts. The work of the departments within U.S. Missions is transdistrict. U.S. missionaries work in cooperation with both U.S. Missions and their assigned district(s) to fulfill the mission and purpose of the Assemblies of God. U.S. missionaries shall conduct their ministry under the blessing and support of the respective district(s). The evaluation of the missionary's effectiveness, pastoral care, and fellowship opportunities shall be shared by the district(s) and U.S. Missions.

**Section 3. Support**

Financial assistance in meeting the operating expenses of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be provided from:

**a.** Offerings.

**b.** Five percent of all funds contributed through the national Assemblies of God U.S. Missions.

**c.** One-half of the tithes of missionaries under appointment designated to their respective departments.

**d.** All endorsed and/or approved Assemblies of God chaplains actively serving full- or part-time, reserve chaplains, chaplain trainees, military trainees, and military seminarians shall contribute one-half of their tithe from their income earned from chaplaincy services to Chaplaincy Ministries.

**e. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries**

All Chi Alpha groups are required to contribute five percent of all group revenue to national Chi Alpha Campus Ministries.

**f. Teen Challenge International, U.S.A.**

All Teen Challenge centers shall contribute a monthly accreditation fee determined by the Teen Challenge U.S.A. board of directors.

**ARTICLE XV. CORPORATIONS OF THE  
GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**

**Section 1. Authorization**

The Executive Presbytery may from time-to-time establish certain Assemblies of God corporations, which entities are separately legally incorporated for governance purposes from The General Council of the Assemblies of God, but whose boards of directors are appointed by the Executive Presbytery and ratified by the General Presbytery. All such corporations shall be submitted to the General Council for approval.

**Section 2. Board of Directors**

The oversight of policy and administration of each of the corporations shall be delegated to a board of directors in accordance with the provisions of the corporation's articles and bylaws. The articles and bylaws of each corporation and amendments thereto shall be approved by the Executive Presbytery and General Presbytery.

**Section 3. Amenability**

Each corporation and its board of directors shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery.

**Section 4. Fiscal Affairs**

The books of each corporation shall be audited annually by a certified public accountant selected by the Executive Presbytery, and such audit shall be included with The General Council of the Assemblies of God annual audit report to the General Presbytery and the General Council in session.

## **BYLAWS**

### **Section 5. Recognized Corporations**

The following entities shall constitute the recognized corporations of The General Council of the Assemblies of God: Evangel University, Global University of the Assemblies of God, Assemblies of God Financial Services Group, Assemblies of God Foundation, Assemblies of God Loan Fund, and Assemblies of God Ministers Benefit Association. No General Council corporation shall be dissolved, merged, or liquidated without the approval of the General Council in session.

## **ARTICLE XVI. AFFILIATED MINISTRIES**

### **Section 1. Authorization**

Ministries that represent a national or global ministry focus working with The General Council of the Assemblies of God or its corporations but whose boards of directors are not controlled or appointed by the Executive Presbytery may be recognized by the Executive Presbytery as affiliated ministries.

### **Section 2. Board of Directors**

Each affiliated ministry shall have a board of directors that will be responsible for governance and administration of the ministry. The board of directors shall be selected by the ministry itself in the manner prescribed by its bylaws, except that the Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to appoint one member of the board of directors.

### **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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**(With revised Constitution and Bylaws)**  
**August 5–9, 2013—Orlando, Florida**

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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.