

1949

Grace Council

# MINUTES and CONSTITUTION

WITH BYLAWS, REVISED

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*Bartlett Peterson*  
Bartlett Peterson  
General Secretary

## Assemblies of God

THE TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL COUNCIL  
Seattle, Washington, September 9-14, 1949

# MINUTES

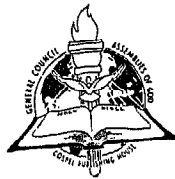
of the

## Twenty-Third

# GENERAL COUNCIL

of the

# ASSEMBLIES OF GOD



Convened at  
Seattle, Washington  
September 9—14, 1949

Printed in the U. S. A.

## THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, INC.

General Offices: 434 W. Pacific Street, Springfield 1, Missouri

### Officers and Heads of Departments

Wesley R. Steelberg ..... General Superintendent  
Gayle F. Lewis ..... Assistant General Superintendent  
(Publications)  
Ralph M. Riggs ..... Assistant General Superintendent  
(Education)  
Fred Vogler ..... Assistant General Superintendent  
(Home Missions—Benevolences)  
Bert Webb ..... Assistant General Superintendent  
(Youth—Christ's Ambassadors)  
J. Roswell Flower ..... General Secretary  
Wilfred A. Brown ..... General Treasurer  
Noel Perkin ..... Foreign Missions Secretary

### Executive Presbytery

Wesley R. Steelberg, Wilfred A. Brown, William I. Evans,  
J. Roswell Flower, D. P. Holloway, Gayle F. Lewis,  
Noel Perkin, Bartlett Peterson, Ralph M. Riggs,  
Fred Vogler, Bert Webb, A. A. Wilson,  
Ernest S. Williams (honorary.)

**THE TWENTY-THIRD GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE  
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD CONVENED AT  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 9-14, 1949.**

The twenty-third session of the General Council of the Assemblies of God was convened at 9:00 a.m., Friday, September 9, 1949, in the Civic Auditorium, Seattle, Wash. Rev. Emil A. Balliet of Springfield, Missouri presided at the devotional service and the congregational singing was led by Rev. Theodore Ness of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Prayer was offered by Rev. Noel Perkin, Foreign Missions Secretary. Mrs. Wilson Katter, Hilding Halvorson and Meryle Erby ministered in song.

Rev. G. F. Lewis, Assistant General Superintendent, greeted the Assemblies of God members and friends and introduced the Executive Presbyters, who in turn brought personal greetings to the assembled congregation.

Rev. Frank Gray, Superintendent of the Northwest District, extended to the ministers, missionaries and delegates a hearty welcome to the District and the city of Seattle.

A representative of the Traffic Division of the Seattle Police Department was introduced by Frank Gray, who graciously informed the delegates of the rules regulating the traffic of the city. He was followed by Mr. William F. Devin, Mayor of the City of Seattle, who stepped up to the speaker's desk with his open Bible and read a portion of the Scriptures from Matthew 5:13-16. He extended to the delegates of the Assemblies of God a cordial welcome to the city, gave personal testimony to his faith in Jesus Christ, and exhorted the congregation to follow the Scriptures with the purpose of glorifying "our Father which is in heaven."

In response, Rev. Bartlett Peterson, Executive Presbyter of the General Council and President of Central Bible Institute and Seminary, expressed the appreciation of the Assemblies of God fellowship for the welcome we had received and the privilege of being assembled in a city which has the honor of being served by a mayor who is a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Special greetings which had been received from members of the Assemblies of God who were unable to be present, were then read by the General Secretary. These were received from Rev. and Mrs. Flem Van Meter and J. R. Evans of St. Petersburg, Florida; Rev. and Mrs. Leonard Palmer of Brisbane,

Australia; Raymond Busby, the Netherlands East Indies; J. Narver Gortner of Berkeley, California; and the Southwestern Bible Institute Crusaders and Assembly of God church pastor at Angleton, Texas.

Rev. Noel Perkin read cablegrams from the South India District Council and the District Council of Peru. Rev. John W. Stallings conveyed through Rev. Fred Vogler, greetings from the Christian Deaf Fellowship.

A most timely and challenging message from the Book of Nehemiah was brought by Rev. Ernest S. Williams, in which reference was made to the rebuilding of the gates of the city wall in which he stressed the qualifications which should be considered in the choice of the man who is to become the next General Superintendent.

Each business meeting throughout the Council was opened by a devotional period in which the delegates were edified by ministry in song, prayer and the preaching of the Word of God. A complete record of this ministry is retained in the files of the General Secretary, but eliminated from these printed minutes for the sake of brevity.

**FRIDAY AFTERNOON**

During the devotional service, California State Prison Chaplain Harry C. Warwick introduced Pastor Erling Strom of Oslo, Norway, who brought to the convention greetings from the Norwegian Pentecostal brethren and expressed a desire to return to the people of Norway a word of greeting from the people of the Assemblies of God. He spoke in Norwegian with Chaplain Warwick interpreting.

Choosing as his text 2 Timothy 2:3, Rev. Daniel J. Courtney of Winter Haven, Fla., the afternoon devotional speaker exhorted the people to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Dr. R. L. Decker, Executive Secretary of the National Association of Evangelicals, was then introduced by the General Secretary (J. R. Flower). After expressing appreciation for the message of Brother Courtney, he outlined the factors which influenced the evangelical denominations to unite with the N. A. E. He mentioned especially the threat of Romanism to Protestantism today and what has been accomplished through having a representative in Washington, D. C. He also mentioned the N. A. E. influence affecting the committee work on the Barden Bill for federal aid to education.

Following the address by Dr. Decker, the business session

opened at four o'clock with Rev. Ernest S. Williams presiding.

Printed reports of all departments were distributed on the floor. (Copies of these reports are available on request from the office of the General Secretary, and are therefore not made a part of the printed minutes.)

The General Report and the report of the Secretary's Office were then read by J. R. Flower, General Secretary. The General Treasurer, Wilfred A. Brown, followed with the reading of the Treasurer's Report. Both reports were accepted by motion.

The report of the Educational Department was read by Ralph M. Riggs, Assistant General Superintendent and Educational Secretary. In addition to the printed report, Brother Riggs reported on the Correspondence Study Course which is headed by Frank M. Boyd. Through this branch of the Educational Department, six courses are provided, utilizing twenty-three different textbooks. There is a present enrollment of 275 students. On motion, the report of the Educational Department was accepted.

After the motion to adjourn was made, the Rev. Noel Perkin closed with prayer and the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

SATURDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 10, 1949

Following the devotional service, presided over by Rev. Carl Perry of Montgomery, Ala., the General Superintendent Ernest S. Williams opened the business meeting by reading the names of the members of the General Council serving on committees, as follows:

#### General Council Committees

**Home Missions Committee:** Atwood Foster, Chairman, Roy Smuland, Robert C. Jones, Earl G. Van Zant, R. Arthur McClure, A. C. Bates, Charles F. Norton, A. H. Morrison.

**Foreign Missions Committee:** James O. Savell, Chairman, N. D. Davidson, Howard S. Bush, Ernest L. Friend, Howard C. Osgood, Robert W. Cummings.

**Radio Committee:** Emil A. Balliet, Chairman, Floyd L. Hawkins, James B. Hosier, Wallace S. Bragg, Clarence T. Beem, Wm. J. Roberts.

**Ministerial Relations:** A. Newton Chase, Chairman, James D. Menzie, Carl W. Loenser, David Burris, Ben Hardin, James E. Austell, V. G. Greisen, Homer M. Sheats.

**Committee on Management:** Fred Vogler, Chairman, Robert F. Ashworth.

**Women's Missionary Council:** Mrs. A. W. Erickson, Chairman, Mrs. F. J. Walton, Mrs. A. T. Hickman, Mrs. Paul C. Samuelson, Mrs. Edwin B. Crump, Mrs. Geo. H. Carmichael, Mrs. Edith Whipple.

**Publicity Committee:** Hart R. Armstrong, Chairman, G. Kenneth Short, Ralph M. Harris.

**Educational Committee:** Chas. W. H. Scott, Chairman, Wm. E. Pickthorn, Henry H. Ness, Arthur H. Graves, W. I. Evans, Millard E. Collins, Irvine J. Harrison, Ernest E. Bauer, Donald M. Edson, Chelsea Melvin.

**Committee on Benevolences:** Glenn A. Renick, Chairman, Bert Webb, Noel Perkin, V. H. Ray, Allan C. Trimble, Herman G. Johnson, W. R. Williamson.

**Program Committee:** Watson Argue, Chairman, Carl E. Perry, Emil A. Balliet,

**Roster Committee:** Cordas C. Burnett, Chairman, Paul G. Trulin, Wesley F. Morton, Wesley R. Steelberg, Charles E. Blair, Leonard L. Norville, Robert L. Brandt, Herbert E. Eicher, Emmet M. McLaughlin.

**Resolutions Committee:** Bartlett Peterson, Chairman, Reuben J. Carlson, Oscar C. Arnesen, Roy H. Wead, Thomas R. Brubaker, E. L. Tanner, Curtis W. Ringness, Earl E. Bond, James K. Gressett, William G. White.

**Christ's Ambassadors:** Harry M. Myers, Chairman, John I. Wannemacher, L. Bernard Keener, Edwin Burris, Raymond R. Wiley, Richard C. Fulmer, Thomas M. Waldron, Jr., Charles W. Denton.

**Ministers Benefit Assn.:** Wilfred A. Brown, Chairman, Ralph M. Riggs, G. F. Lewis, Bert Webb.

Due to the temporary absence of Rev. Bartlett Peterson, President of Central Bible Institute and Seminary, the General Secretary read the report of C.B.I.S. in his stead. Upon motion, this report was accepted as read.

The report of the Radio Department was read by Rev. T. F. Zimmerman, National Director of the Department, and the report of the Christ's Ambassadors Department was read by Wesley R. Steelberg, Assistant General Superintendent and National C. A. Director. Both reports were accepted by motion. The next report to be considered was that of the Sunday School Promotional Department, which was read by the new Director, Paul Copeland. This report was also accepted by motion. The last report to be considered was that

of the Gospel Publishing House, which report was read by the Manager, J. Z. Kamerer. It was moved and the motion prevailed that this report be accepted.

#### SATURDAY AFTERNOON

Following the devotional service, presided over by Emil A. Balliet, the chairman, E. S. Williams reported the number of registrants in all categories, including 1400 voting delegates. He then publicly welcomed the general officers of the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada and of the Open Bible Standard Churches. Brother E. J. Fulton, General Chairman of the latter-named denomination, brought a few words of greeting and appreciation of the fellowship which he had found in the Assemblies of God.

Rev. Noel Perkin did not read the entire report of the Foreign Missions Department, but called attention to certain highlights in the report, requesting that all read the entire report carefully. Upon motion, which was seconded, the report was accepted as presented.

The Chair then took the opportunity of referring to the great burden resting upon the shoulders of the Missions Secretary and urged that this burden be lightened by every church and pastor getting behind the great missionary project of getting the Gospel out while we still have the opportunity and time.

The report of the Home Missions Department was read by Fred Vogler. He made an additional report concerning the prison work being carried on by several Assemblies of God ministers and prison chaplains, among whom are Brothers Warwick and Ramirez. At the conclusion of this report, the Chairman of the Home Missions Committee, Rev. Atwood Foster, read the proposed Five-Year Plan, which had been prepared by the Home Missions Committee. The Chair ruled that it would be best to take no action on this plan at the present time but that at a later period in the session the committee can bring its recommendation for adoption. On motion, which was seconded, the report of the Home Missions Department was accepted.

The report of the Department of Benevolences, including reports concerning the Ministers' Retirement Home and the National Children's Home, was then read by Brother Vogler, and on motion, was accepted. Brother Williams spoke briefly concerning several outstanding needs in connection with the operation of the National Children's Home. The Chair was then yielded to Gayle F. Lewis, Assistant General Superintendent.

Brother Lewis, taking the Chair, reported that the next order of business was the consideration of the Pension Plan, which had been designated at the 1947 General Council as the first order of business in 1949. A committee, consisting of G. F. Lewis, R. M. Riggs, Bert Webb and W. A. Brown, had been appointed and instructed to make investigation and then submit to the 1949 General Council, a plan which they considered to be workable for the providing of retirement income for the ministers of the Assemblies of God. Printed copies of the proposed plan were then distributed to the assembly. Before reading the pamphlet, the General Treasurer mentioned that in considering a plan several things must be considered—not only our own ideas of what a plan should be, but the practical angles that will make it work. The pamphlet was then read as follows:

#### PROPOSED PENSION PLAN FOR MINISTERS OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

When the General Presbytery met in September, 1948, a Committee was formed to function in an effort to seek a better method of providing for the support of our aged ministers than that of the present Ministers' Benefit Association.

Pursuant to the above instructions, this Committee has been formed and has spent considerable time studying the present needs and probable future responsibilities in connection with the support of our aged ministers on a retirement basis.

We find ourselves facing an important problem. At the present time our office is assisting some 120 family units. By this we mean either a minister and his wife, or a single minister, or a minister's widow. This is costing in the neighborhood of \$4,000.00 each month. The average date of ordination for the persons being aided is the year 1920. Computing on the basis of the number of ordained ministers as of that year, we estimate that it will be necessary for us to be giving aid to family units in the years to come as follows:

Year	Family Units	Year	Family Units
1950	133	1966	439
1952	154	1968	511
1954	164	1970	592
1956	207	1972	664
1958	234	1974	714
1960	263	1976	818
1962	297	1978	877
1964	371		

Several facts appear from these figures. By 1958, twice as many ministers will be receiving help from us, and within 20 years, well over four times as many will be receiving aid than at the present time. By 1978, or 29 years hence, it would be our responsibility to help seven times as many units as at the present. By that time, at present average rates, we would be paying \$29,230.41 per month or \$350,764.92 per year.

We expect that God will continue to greatly prosper us with constant growth as a movement, but it is obvious that our numerical growth will not enable us to help our aged brethren at present rates too far into the future. Then, too, it must be remembered that our present assistance is being given in times of comparative prosperity on the part of our churches. Less prosperous times will increase our difficulties in helping our elder brethren, while at the same time there will be many more applications for assistance due to the hardness of the times.

If we confine ourselves to the giving of aid on the basis of the two offerings received each year from our churches, the prospect is that somewhere down the line (not too far hence) the monthly allowances to our needy brethren will be lowered drastically.

Since there is no prospect of ministers becoming beneficiaries of any proposed enlarged United States Social Security Act, and since the State Old Age Assistance Plans present certain objectionable features concerning the surrender of property, etc., it would seem to us that in keeping with the policy of many businesses and other religious denominations, we will be compelled sooner or later to give serious consideration to an adequate pension plan.

That being the case, it would seem the part of wisdom not to delay in adopting such a plan. It will never be possible to inaugurate a plan cheaper than at the present, for each year we wait, the number of those needing old age benefits will increase rather than diminish. By the same token, the denominational burden of old age assistance will be eased the sooner the program is started.

**It should be understood, however, that there is no quick means to obtain a good old age retirement. A study as to the requirements of any personal annuity which one may purchase through an insurance company will soon disabuse our minds about that.**

One dollar a month for one year or for forty years, plus a small amount left over from the semi-annual church offering will never provide anything but a pitifully small retirement benefit. Neither can we guarantee that a per-

son entering ANY pension plan late in life will in such a small space of time build up a sufficient reserve to provide satisfactory retirement.

We would like to have a minimum benefit provision so that help may be adequately given to those who are well along in years when a plan is adopted. We do not feel free, however, to give promise of this until by the study of statistics by a competent Actuary, we are sure that we have or can obtain sufficient reliable resources upon which we can count for this purpose.

The Committee has given serious study to the Pension Plans of other religious denominations and has had conferences with an Actuarial Firm and with Representatives of Insurance Companies.

In submitting the Pension's problem to the Insurance Company that handles the Gospel Publishing House Pension Plan, we found them to be very much interested. After many conferences, they have submitted the following Plan.

#### **The Plan**

All ordained ministers of the General Council who are 55 years old or younger, and who are in active ministry are eligible to participate in the Plan. Each minister shall contribute an amount equivalent to 3 per cent of his salary during his active membership. The congregation of each participating minister shall contribute a sum equal to 8 per cent of the salary of such minister.

Out of the 3 per cent contribution of the minister, an insurance policy is purchased. For example, a minister earning \$3,000.00 at age 30 would receive a policy in the amount of \$5,930.00 (See table appended for further figures.) It is easy to see that should the annuitant die before retirement, his companion would receive more than he personally had paid into the Plan. This is especially true in the case of a participant's death shortly after entering the Plan.

The remainder of the minister's 3 per cent contribution, plus 7 per cent will be placed in a Supplemental Fund to the credit of the participant. This amount will bear interest which will be added to his account annually. The remaining 1 per cent will be used for administrative purposes.

Annuities, of course, simply represent so much money put in over a period of time and accumulated at interest. Studies show that anyone above age 55 would not have time to accumulate satisfactory benefits in the Plan.

At age 65, the participant's insurance will have a cash surrender value. At this time the amount to his credit in

the Supplemental Fund will be turned over to the Insurance Company, and it, plus the cash value of the policy will constitute the basis of his annuity. The Insurance Company will be able to guarantee a set fixed sum for life which would not be possible in a self-administered Pension Plan.

When a minister is laboring as an evangelist, it would seem necessary that he absorb all payment costs. He will be eligible to participate if he pays at least 6 per cent of his salary into the Plan. Should he care to pay more, he may pay up to 10 per cent of his salary. Of course this means that if he pays only 6 per cent he would receive a lesser insurance and annuity, but in the same proportion to the number of dollars deposited into the Plan.

The standard annuity calculated in the Plan provides income for life with a minimum of 5 years guaranteed. Other options available at age 65 are:

- (1) Income for life with 10 or 15 years guaranteed.
- (2) Income for life to annuitant and the survivor (joint and survivor).
- (3) Income for life to annuitant with either 2/3 or 50 per cent to the survivor.

As soon as 50 per cent of the churches and pastors in any district wherein there are 100 churches or more with ordained ministers as pastors apply for participation in the Plan, the benefits of the Plan will be put into effect for these churches and pastors who have applied for participation.

When a total of 500 churches and pastors have applied to become participants, then any district may become covered by the Plan when 50 per cent of the churches and ordained pastors apply to become participants.

The following Table illustrates at quinquennial ages from 25 to 55 and for 3 different annual salaries the Insurance and Retirement Annuity Benefits available under the proposed Plan.

Age	Annual Salary	10% of Salary	Unit* Cost	Number of Units	Amount of Life Insurance	Monthly Pension at 65
25	\$2,000	\$200	\$20.63	9.69	\$4,845	\$ 96.90
	3,000	300	20.63	14.54	7,270	145.40
	4,000	400	20.63	19.39	9,695	193.90
30	2,000	200	25.29	7.91	3,955	79.10
	3,000	300	25.29	11.86	5,930	118.60
	4,000	400	25.29	15.82	7,910	158.20
35	2,000	200	31.68	6.31	3,155	63.10
	3,000	300	31.68	9.47	4,735	94.70
	4,000	400	31.68	12.63	6,315	126.30
40	2,000	200	40.83	4.90	2,450	49.00
	3,000	300	40.83	7.34	3,670	73.40
	4,000	400	40.83	9.80	4,900	98.00

45	2,000	200	54.80	3.65	1,825	36.50
	3,000	300	54.80	5.47	2,735	54.70
	4,000	400	54.80	7.30	3,650	73.00
50	2,000	200	78.64	2.54	1,270	25.40
	3,000	300	78.64	3.81	1,905	38.10
	4,000	400	78.64	5.09	2,545	50.90
55	2,000	200	126.83	1.58	790	15.80
	3,000	300	126.83	2.37	1,185	23.70
	4,000	400	126.83	3.15	1,575	31.50

\* Unit Factor equals \$500 of Life Insurance Paid Up at age 85 plus deposit necessary to accumulate by age 65 sufficient cash in Trust Fund to convert with Cash Value of Policy to \$10 per month Annuity for life, 60 months certain (Male Lives). Deposit into Trust Fund is discounted for Standard CSO Mortality and 2½% interest.

### RECOMMENDATION

In view of the aforementioned report, the Committee recommends that the General Council in session adopt the following resolution.

Resolved:

That Article XVI of the General Council by-laws be amended by changing its title to Ministers' Retirement and Relief and by striking out its present sections and substituting the following therefor:

#### Section 1. ORGANIZATION

The Executive Presbytery of the General Council shall be authorized to create a Pension Trust and Plan to provide a retirement pension for ordained ministers of the General Council. The Executive Presbytery shall constitute the Trustees of the Plan and as such shall administer the Plan according to the terms of this Article and invest its funds in that way which they shall consider best. They shall have the right to appoint a Pension Committee of three, six, or nine members to which they may delegate the interpretation and application of the provisions and terms of the Plan as applicable to individual cases.

#### Section 2. RESOURCES

This Pension Trust Fund shall be created and supported from the following sources:

Each minister member shall contribute three per cent of the regular salary which he received during the time of his membership in the Plan; and

The church of which the minister is pastor or the District or General Council office that he serves shall also contribute a sum that is eight per cent of the amount which the member receives as salary.

Ten-elevenths of this eleven per cent (the combined contribution of the member and the group that he serves) shall be placed in the individual account of this member

to be used for his benefit and the other one per cent shall be placed in the administration account of this Fund.

Ordained evangelists of the General Council may pay six per cent of their income and receive proportionate benefit from this Fund and full benefit if they pay ten per cent.

### Section 3. DISBURSEMENTS

It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to provide an insurance coverage for the protection of the member's beneficiaries, an arrangement for assistance in case of permanent disability before retirement, and a pension at sixty-five payable for life and for five years certain with the standard optional plans for payment.

### Section 4. RELIEF

For the benefit of those ministers who are already over sixty-five years of age or are beyond the age when membership in this Fund will provide them material benefit and who may suffer need unless assisted, semi-annual offerings shall still be requested of our churches. These shall be disbursed by the Executive Presbytery according to their discretion to ordained ministers of the General Council or their dependants whose need is certified by the Officiary of the District of which they are or were members.

Respectfully submitted,  
WILFRED A. BROWN  
For the Committee

In order to bring the matter before the Assembly, it was moved that the recommendation of the committee be adopted, viz., that the General Council in session adopt the proposed Pension Plan. The motion was seconded, and an extended discussion of the plan ensued.

During the discussion, E. S. Williams rose to a question of privilege, moving that telegrams of greetings from the General Council be sent to three retired Executive Presbyters, Rev. J. Narver Gortner of Berkeley, Calif., Rev. Flem Van Meter and Rev. J. R. Evans of Pinellas Park (near St. Petersburg), Florida, and General Presbyter Glenn A. Renick of Hannibal, Mo. The motion prevailed.

The discussion was interrupted again by a privileged motion from the floor that the first order of business on Monday morning be the election of officers. The motion was seconded and prevailed.

The afternoon session then adjourned, prayer being offered by Noel Perkin.

## SUNDAY SERVICES

In keeping with traditional custom, all business was set aside for a full day devoted to spiritual ministry, fellowship and inspiration. The Memorial and Communion service at 9 a.m. was presided over by Fred Vogler, Assistant General Superintendent. Rev. Frank Gray spoke from the text: "These all died in faith." Ernest S. Williams, General Superintendent, read the names of sixty-eight ministers who had departed to be with their Lord since the last General Council, and the names of two departed missionaries were read by Noel Perkin, Foreign Missions Secretary. The Memorial Service was followed immediately by a mass communion service, in which the assembled company was served by members of the General Presbytery. The roll of honor was as follows:

### MINISTERS DECEASED SINCE 1947 GENERAL COUNCIL

Alford, Roxanna (Mrs.), Monrovia, Calif.  
Arnon, Joseph L., Portland, Oreg.  
Augat, Christopher, St. Petersburg, Fla.  
Baker, Clarence H., Sanford, Fla.  
Brown, Robert A., New York, N. Y.  
Campbell, Charles W., Springville, N. Y.  
Canaris, Peter G., San Francisco, Calif.  
Carter, Lawrence R., Hollywood, Calif.  
Childers, Mrs. W. W., Madison, Ill.  
Choate, Clovis M., Haworth, Okla.  
Clause, Albert, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Close, Clifford B., Moorhead, Minn.  
Coleman, Grover L., Caldwell, Ida.  
Craig, W. A., Montvale, Va.  
Crick, Ethel M. (Mrs. T. N.), Augusta, Ga.  
Davenport, Charles A., Vermillion, S. Dak.  
Davis, Alice Mae, Scio, Ohio  
Duncan, George A., Splendora, Tex.  
Dunlap, George W., The Dalles, Oreg.  
Elliott, Roy P., Brookfield, Mo.  
Franks, Mary F., Hawthorne, Calif.  
Gill, Henry, Oakland, Calif.  
Hale, J. Lon, Long Beach, Calif.  
Hanson, George W., Keedysville, Md.  
Hinson, Gladys, Hot Springs, Ark.  
James, George, Alexandria, Va.  
Johnson, Hjalmar M., Sparta, Wisc.  
Kennedy, Andrew J., Kingsport, Tenn.



Kerr, Samuel, Lynwood, Calif.  
 Klar, Carl H., Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Knuth, Herman E., Strasburg, Colo.  
 Krans, Raymond L., Perrysburg, Ohio  
 Lane, Willis B., Harlingen, Tex.  
 Lang, Henry C., Hemet, Calif.  
 Lasater, Clabern A., Ft. Smith, Ark.  
 McClure, A. D., Ottumwa, Iowa  
 McDaniel, Miles H., Coolidge, Ariz.  
 McFarland, Charles L., Winchester, Va.  
 McGuire, Jess, Alton, Mo.  
 Mhoon, John F., Rison, Ark.  
 Miller, John D., Pasadena, Calif.  
 Miller, Ruth A. (Mrs. Z. P.), San Jose, Calif.  
 Mitchell, Hardy W., Sherman Oaks, Calif.  
 Moody, Loretta J., Oakland, Calif.  
 Moon, Robert H., Oakland, Calif.  
 Morris, John, Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Nash, Clifton W., Celina, Ohio  
 Neal, J. G., Modesto, Calif.  
 Perks, Cecil J., Mt. Vernon, Wash.  
 Petersen, Adolph, South Bend, Ind.  
 Peterson, Pauline C., Seattle, Wash.  
 Pix, Clarence W., So. San Gabriel, Calif.  
 Raroha, David F., Freemansburg, Pa.  
 Robison, Edward, Dallas, Tex.  
 Sheall, Charles, Wichita, Kans.  
 Snow, Herbert F., Pensacola, Fla.  
 Spellman, Linda P. (Mrs. C. I.), Los Angeles, Calif.  
 Staats, Loren B., Dallas, Tex.  
 Stevenson, Mathilda (Mrs.), New York, N. Y.  
 Stewart, Everett L., Ceres, Calif.  
 Terrill, William B., Eureka Springs, Ark.  
 Thompson, Thomas B., Sacramento, Calif.  
 Twiss, Thomas, Scranton, Pa.  
 Unruh, John H., Hemet, Calif.  
 Van Cleef, John C., Hill City, S. Dak.  
 Voight, Mila W. (Mrs.), Durant, Fla.  
 Wilson, Norborne L., San Diego, Calif.  
 Woods, Lewis, Missouri City, Mo.

MISSIONARIES DECEASED SINCE 1947  
 GENERAL COUNCIL

Lewer, Katherine M., Southwest China—May 19, 1948  
 Frink, Betty (Mrs. Elmer A.), Nigeria—June 5, 1948

Rev. Bartlett Peterson, President of Central Bible Institute and Seminary, brought the message at the 10:45 a.m. service on the subject, "The Revelation of God's Arm of Salvation," taking Isa. 53:1 as a text.

Over a hundred returned missionaries participated in the great missionary rally on Sunday afternoon. The two speakers were Paul Schoonmaker of India and Kenneth Short of Borneo and the Philippines. At the conclusion of the second message, a missionary offering was received in excess of \$10,000, the largest offering for missions ever to be received at any General Council.

The large auditorium, seating approximately 6,000, was well filled for the night service. The evangelistic message was brought by Watson Argue, pastor of Calvary Temple, in Seattle.

MONDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 12, 1949.

The first order of business following the devotional period was the election of officers, and tellers were appointed with B. Martin Kvamme acting as chairman.

**Report of Roster Committee**

A report was brought in by the Chairman of the Roster Committee, as follows: The registration to the present time shows 1,293 ordained ministers, 100 foreign missionaries under appointment, 319 delegates, 838 visitors, making a total of 2,550. With the exception of the number of visitors present, these figures exceed those of the General Council of 1947. The present voting constituency is 1,712.

Ernest S. Williams, the incumbent in office of General Superintendent, having announced his purpose to withdraw from this position, the field was left wide open for a large number of nominations. Thirty-four names were placed in nomination, none of which received the two-thirds vote on the nominating ballot necessary for election. On the first elective ballot, there was no election declared.

**Discussion of Pension Plan Resumed**

While the tellers were counting the ballots for General Superintendent, discussion of the Pension Plan was resumed. The opposition to the plan seemed to be very strong, and when the question was called for, the motion to adopt was lost.

A motion was then made from the floor that all the Assemblies of God churches send to the General Treasurer 3% of their general offerings for the support of aged ministers. The

motion was seconded and was vigorously opposed. It failed to pass, the majority voting in the negative on the ground the churches cannot be persuaded to support such a plan.

On the suggestion of R. J. Thurmond, Secretary-Treasurer of the Northern California-Nevada District, that a larger committee be appointed to make further investigation looking toward the adoption of a workable pension plan and to bring its findings to the 1951 General Council, the Chair appointed R. J. Thurmond to act as chairman of such a committee, with authority to select the other members of the committee to work with him.

It was moved, seconded and the motion was carried that if a satisfactory plan can be devised by the aforementioned committee, it be put in printed form and mailed to all the churches so that the plan can be studied and understood before it comes up for adoption at the 1951 General Council.

In view of the pressure of unfinished business yet to come before the Council, it was moved by Fred Vogler, and the motion was seconded, that the devotional services preceding the business meetings be curtailed by the reading of the Scriptures only, and that C. C. Burnett be given the time to represent the American Bible Society. The motion passed. The meeting then adjourned until the afternoon.

#### MONDAY AFTERNOON

Following the reading of the first fourteen verses of the eighth chapter of Romans by W. E. Cummings, Superintendent of the South Dakota District, C. C. Burnett, representative of the American Bible Society, spoke in behalf of the Society and an offering was taken for it, amounting to \$444.08.

The tellers reported that 1,445 votes were cast on the second ballot, but no candidate had received a two-thirds vote. Ballots were distributed again and the congregation stood and unitedly asked God's guidance for the choice of General Superintendent.

When it was definitely understood that the proposed pension plan had been rejected, Lester Sumrall arose to a question of privilege and inquired as to whether or not it would be possible to put the proposed pension plan into operation in any one district if there are enough ministers interested. Wilfred A. Brown, General Treasurer, in reply to this question stated that any District having 100 or more ordained ministers can qualify on a District basis if they have 50% of the ministers participating; less than 100 ministers, 75%; and 25 or less there must be 100%.

#### Support of Headquarters Office

Bartlett Peterson, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read the following resolution and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, The General Council Office has expanded with the growth of the movement, thus entailing the expense of added personnel together with increased cost of overhead, in the face of decreased monetary values,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That the By-Laws of the General Council, Article XIV, Section 2, Line 7, be amended to read: "the sum of one dollar and fifty cents per month."

The motion was seconded and after brief comment was adopted.

He next submitted Resolution No. 2 and moved that it be adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, It is evident that many ministers fail to contribute to the support of the Headquarters Office because of oversight or neglect, and in view of the fact that the majority of the Districts have proven the worth of friendly but faithful reminders of financial obligations to the fellowship,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, That the last sentence of Article XIV, Section 2 of the By-Laws be made a separate paragraph to be known as sub-section (b) and that the balance of present Section 2 be designated as sub-section (a) to which shall be added the following:

"The General Treasurer's office shall submit to the respective District offices a semi-annual report of ministers' contributions for the support of headquarters. Each District shall make this information available to its ministers by any of the following methods: 1. Collectively through District publications; 2. Individually by personal letter; or 3. In any other manner they may select."

The motion was seconded and adopted.

#### Motion Affecting Bible Institutes

The Chairman then read Resolution No. 3 and moved that it be adopted:

WHEREAS, The interests of the General Council relating to the establishment of Bible Institutes could be best served by a policy of cooperation between the Headquarters Educational Department and the District offices,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Article X, Section 5, paragraph 1, sentence 2 of the By-Laws be amended to read as follows:

"The initiative in the establishment of new Bible Institutes may be taken by the Educational Department or by any interested group in any part of the country, subject to the approval of the Educational Department and the District in which it is to be located."

The motion to adopt was seconded and carried.

#### **Resolution Affecting Executive Presbyters**

E. S. Williams read to the Assembly the report made by him to the General Presbyters in 1948 at which time he recommended a change in the General Council By-Laws to eliminate the necessity of having non-resident Executive Presbyters. Acting upon this advice, it was moved, seconded and the motion prevailed that the matter of changing the By-Laws in regard to the election of non-resident Presbyters be brought before the next General Council.

Wilson Katter moved that the minutes of this General Council be printed and put into the hands of the ministers as soon as possible. The motion was seconded and carried.

#### **A Change in Time for General Councils**

The motion was made, seconded and carried that subsequent Councils be held the third week in August.

#### **The Home Missions Six-Year Expansion Plan**

The chairman of the Home Missions Committee, Atwood Foster, read the "Six Year Expansion Plan," its goal and program, and moved the adoption of the plan as follows:

While viewing the great growth which has taken place in the Assemblies of God, we also must consider the limitless possibilities and the positive necessity for continued expansion. Our 6,000 organized Assemblies of God churches, and nearly 275,000 enrolled members in the United States, are scarcely a beginning when compared with the population of the country.

We, therefore, recommend that we adopt a SIX YEAR EXPANSION PLAN (if Jesus tarries) by which we shall seek to increase the number of churches from 6,000 to 10,000. In order to accomplish this we would suggest the following procedure:

**OUR GOAL:** 10,000 Churches by General Council, 1955

First and second year—General Council Meeting 1949 to General Council 1951, 600 per year; increase of 1200 new churches (1½ per day and 2 on each Sunday):

Third and fourth years—General Council 1951 to Gen-

eral Council 1953, 650 per year; increase of 1300 new churches (1½ per day and 3 on Sunday);

Fifth and sixth years—General Council 1953 to General Council 1955, 759 per year; increase of 1500 new churches (two churches per day).

#### **THE PROGRAM**

I. That we encourage consecrated young people, and Christian men and women, skilled in some trade or profession, to seek employment in cities and towns where no assembly is established, that they may assist in opening new churches on the Vocational Volunteers program, by

- (1) engaging in personal work
- (2) distributing tracts and gospel literature
- (3) arranging and conducting prayer meetings
- (4) assisting in evangelistic meetings
- (5) and in general working for the establishment of a new assembly.

II. That we encourage our well-known **evangelists** to hold at least one meeting a year in a new, unevangelized field. We would strongly recommend that he be given freedom to enter the particular field which God has laid upon his heart.

III. That we use **student graduates** in new field work, and also as assistant pastors.

#### **IV. METHODS AND MEANS OF PROMOTION**

(1) Canvassing a new town with literature: (a) Evangelical, (b) The Pentecostal Evangel, (c) Tracts.

(2) Using the Christian young people of the town and nearby towns.

(3) Radio work should also be valuable in the promotion of a new field work. Let us sow America down with the Gospel before the coming of the Lord.

(4) Street meetings.

#### **V. EQUIPMENT**

(1) Tents (2) Portable tabernacles (3) Tabernacles on wheels (4) Store buildings (5) Brush arbors (6) Abandoned church buildings which might be purchased (7) The use of homes for cottage prayer meetings.

#### **VI. NEW CHURCHES TO BE OPENED BY**

(1) Pastors of established churches (2) The sections of the Districts (3) The Districts as a whole (4) The Christ's Ambassadors of the sections and the Districts (5) Each assembly should undertake to establish another church.

#### **VII. SOME BENEFITS OF THE SIX-YEAR PLAN**

(1) Enlarged missionary giving for both foreign and home missions.

(2) Sale of our Assemblies of God literature would be increased.

(3) Our National Radio Program would be assisted and  
**ABOVE ALL, IT WILL MEAN THOUSANDS OF SOULS SAVED FOR ETERNITY.**

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

The tellers reported the result of the final balloting for General Superintendent as follows: Wesley R. Steelberg received 1,126 of the 1,438 votes cast. A total of 958 was required for election. A brief speech of appreciation was given by Wesley R. Steelberg and Mrs. Steelberg was introduced to the assembly.

#### **Vote of Appreciation for Retiring Superintendent**

Bartlett Peterson, Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, read the following resolution and moved its adoption, to wit:

We, the delegates of this 23rd General Council of the Assemblies of God in session in Seattle, Wash., hereby desire to avail ourselves of this opportunity of expressing our sincere appreciation for the valuable services of our beloved General Superintendent, Ernest S. Williams, who has so faithfully served the constituency of the Assemblies of God these many years.

Every decision affecting the brethren has found him impartial; each delicate situation has been met with carefulness and consideration, and each challenging responsibility with courage and fortitude. There has been no portion of God's vineyard too small to demand its share of his attention, the problems of his brethren were his problems, their sorrows his concern and their joys his triumph.

In recognition of the unselfish service that has been so unreservedly outpoured in the interests of this Pentecostal fellowship, we recommend that this 1949 session of the General Council of the Assemblies of God go on record as expressing to our retiring General Superintendent, Ernest S. Williams, our heartfelt thanks and the high esteem in which he is held by his brethren.

The motion was adopted unanimously, the entire assembly rising to sing, "Bless Him, Lord, and Make Him a Blessing."

A series of motions then followed providing for a love offering to be taken for the retiring General Superintendent; that he should be consulted as to the use of this money for the purchase of something that will serve through the years as a remembrance of the love, appreciation and gratitude of this Body for his many years of faithful service; and that the

Executive Presbyters resident at Springfield, Mo. constitute the committee to confer with Brother Williams concerning this matter.

Ballots were then distributed by the tellers for the election of four Assistant General Superintendents, and prayer was offered by Louis F. Turnbull of Los Angeles, Calif., for divine guidance in the choice of these officers.

#### **Further Motions Affecting Home Missions**

Robert C. Jones, a member of the Home Missions Committee, read the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Resolved, that Section VI of the SIX YEAR PROGRAM be amended by the addition of the following: (6) That our large and well established Districts adopt a home mission project in a small, struggling District, and assist the Superintendent of that District in the establishing of a new church.

The motion was seconded and it carried.

A. C. Bates, a member of the Home Missions Committee, presented the following resolution and moved its adoption. The motion was seconded but lost:

Resolved, that we reaffirm the report of the Home Missions Committee as it was adopted by the 1947 General Council, found on pages 27 to 29 of the minutes of that Council, only deleting the following words—"When they have news of sufficient interest to be brought to the fellowship"—which words are found in the middle of the third paragraph from the top of page 29.

TUESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 13, 1949

At the conclusion of the devotional service, C. C. Personius of Alaska invoked God's blessing and guidance for the business of the day.

The tellers brought in a report indicating that three of the Assistant General Superintendents had been re-elected on the nominating ballot. Of the total 1,211 votes cast, G. F. Lewis received 1,096, R. M. Riggs received 1,036 and Fred Vogler 856. 808 votes were required for election. 108 names were submitted as nominees for the office of the fourth Assistant General Superintendent and the voting was resumed.

#### **Resignation of Stanley H. Frodsham Announced**

Ernest S. Williams, the retiring General Superintendent, asked for the floor to make an important announcement. He said that he had for some time felt it wise and to be the mind of

the Lord that he resign as General Superintendent, to relinquish his position that younger men might carry on in his stead. He stated that J. Z. Kamerer, who had been with the Gospel Publishing House for many years, would also, in all probability, be retiring from his position in two or three years. It was now his responsibility to present to the Council the resignation of Brother Stanley H. Frodsham, who has served as Editor of the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL for many of his thirty-three years' affiliation with the Assemblies of God. He then read from Brother Frodsham's letter of resignation as follows:

" . . . I have a deep conviction that the time has come when I should relinquish the task of being Editor of the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL. At this time I wish to thank all my brethren for their kindly forbearance with me during the past thirty-three years. May the Lord bless you all. Yours in the boundless love of Christ"

(Signed) STANLEY H. FRODSHAM

Brother Williams then suggested that since it is the prerogative of the General Presbyters to appoint a successor to Brother Frodsham, prayer be offered for divine guidance in making the right choice.

Following the suggestion of Brother Williams that the appreciation of the General Council for Brother Frodsham and his work find expression in some tangible form, it was moved, seconded and the motion prevailed that a love offering be lifted for him. This was done immediately.

A motion was made from the floor that a telegram of greeting be sent to William Long of Des Moines, Iowa, who was detained at home on account of illness. The motion was seconded and passed. The telegram was sent by the Secretary.

#### **By-Law Affecting Election of Officers Amended**

The Chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented resolution No. 5, and moved its adoption as follows:

WHEREAS, the present provisions in the By-Laws for the selection of General Treasurer and Foreign Missions Secretary have proven impractical, be it therefore

RESOLVED, That lines 7 and 8 of Article II, Section 2, Par. "d" be amended to read: ". . . one name for each office to be presented to the General Council for ratification," thus making the entire paragraph to read as follows:

d. The General Treasurer and the Foreign Missions Secretary shall be selected 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 men for these strategic posts and shall select by secret ballot one name for each office to be presented to the General Council in session for ratification. A two-thirds vote shall be required for election.

The motion was seconded and after some discussion was adopted.

#### **Choice of Cities for the General Council in 1951**

The choice of cities for the 1951 General Council was called to the attention of the Council. The General Secretary mentioned the names of numerous cities from which have come invitations for this convention, but stated that preference should be given to invitations extended by District men rather than city officials. Rev. R. C. Jones, Superintendent of the Georgia District, in behalf of the eight Southeastern districts, extended an invitation to the Council to meet in Atlanta, Ga., in 1951. He mentioned several advantages offered by this Southeastern city, including auditorium, transportation, climate, etc. The motion was made and seconded that Atlanta, Ga., be the choice of cities for the 1951 General Council. The motion was not entertained until other sections were given the opportunity of extending invitations. No further invitations having been received, it was the decision of the Council during the afternoon session to accept the invitation which had been received from Atlanta, Ga. The decision was made with enthusiasm.

#### **TUESDAY AFTERNOON**

Following a brief devotional service, Henry B. Hall of the Narcotic Educational Foundation of America and the Anti-Narcotic League was given the opportunity of speaking on the subject of juvenile delinquency. He stated that with the great blessings we have received from God there comes a responsibility far greater than we realize. He made plain that in view of the alarming increase in moral laxity and crime, something drastic must be done to save our boys and girls from spiritual and moral disaster.

R. M. Riggs was asked to preside over the afternoon meeting. Following prayer, offered by E. E. Bond, the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee presented Resolution No. 6 and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, Our retiring General Superintendent has been in close association with the development and growth

of our movement for more than a score of years, and

WHEREAS, We sincerely desire to retain his valuable counsel and advice, be it hereby

RESOLVED, That this 23rd General Council recognize Brother Ernest S. Williams as an honorary member of the Executive Presbytery.

Brother Williams immediately voiced a protest, on the ground he felt he should be completely relieved of executive responsibility. His objection was overruled, and when the motion was put to the vote it was carried unanimously.

#### **"The New Order of the Latter Rain"**

Resolution No. 7 was read by the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee as follows:

WHEREAS, We are grateful for the visitation of God in the past and the evidences of His blessings upon us today, and

WHEREAS, We recognize a hunger on the part of God's people for a spiritual refreshing and manifestation of His Holy Spirit, be it therefore

RESOLVED, That we recommend to the ministers of the Assemblies of God and to churches affiliated and associated with us, that we set our hearts to seek for a continued outpouring of the Holy Spirit founded upon the clear teaching of the Word of God, and be it further

RESOLVED, That we disapprove of those extreme teachings and practices which, being unfounded Scripturally, serve only to break fellowship of like precious faith and tend to confusion and division among the members of the Body of Christ, and be it hereby known that this 23rd General Council disapproves of the so-called "New Order of the Latter Rain," to wit:

1. The overemphasis relative to imparting, identifying, bestowing or confirming of gifts by the laying on of hands and prophecy.

2. The erroneous teaching that the Church is built on the foundation of present-day apostles and prophets.

3. The extreme teaching as advocated by the "New Order" regarding the confession of sin to man and deliverance as practiced, which claims prerogatives to human agency which belong only to Christ.

4. The erroneous teaching concerning the impartation of the gift of languages as special equipment for missionary service.

5. The extreme and unscriptural practice of imparting or imposing personal leadings by the means of gifts of utterance.

6. Such other wrestings and distortions of Scripture interpretations which are in opposition to teachings and practices generally accepted among us.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we recommend following those things which make for peace among us, and those doctrines and practices whereby we may edify one another, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit until we all come unto the unity of the faith.

The motion was made and seconded that this resolution be adopted. After brief debate it was adopted with an overwhelming majority.

The motion was then made, seconded and it was adopted that in order that the entire constituency may have the benefit of this decision, the resolution be printed in THE PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL.

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

The tellers reported that on the third ballot, Bert Webb was elected to the office of Assistant General Superintendent, having received 933 votes of the 1,130 ballots cast. The required number for election was 758. He was called to the rostrum and spoke briefly, asking that prayer be offered for him as he assumes the responsibility of the office to which he has been chosen.

#### **Election of General Secretary**

J. R. Flower was re-elected to the office of General Secretary on the nominating ballot, having received 1,011 of the 1,235 ballots cast. The required number was 824.

The motion was made, seconded and prevailed that cablegrams be sent to the chaplains of the Assemblies of God in service, to convey to them greetings from this General Council.

Nominations were made from the floor for the remaining four persons to serve as Executive Presbyters. Twenty-three names were submitted when the motion was made, seconded and carried that nominations be closed. Ballots were then passed by the tellers for the election of four Executive Presbyters.

It was moved, seconded and the motion prevailed that a telegram be sent to the honorable President of the United States to assure him of the prayers of this church body in this convention that God may be with him in the discharge of his great responsibilities.

#### **Membership in the P.F.N.A. introduced**

Ernest S. Williams presented the matter of Assemblies of God membership in the Pentecostal Fellowship of North

America, giving a brief history of its origin, growth and purpose. He stated that a committee had been appointed to explore the desirability of membership in this fellowship, and he moved that this Council go on record as approving membership in the P.F.N.A., particularly in relation to the national phases of the association. Some discussion followed in which the difficulties of association on the local level were mentioned. It was stated that membership in the P.F.N.A. need not create problems between churches in a local community, but that there are definite advantages in the association of the leaders of Pentecostal denominations on a national scale.

#### WEDNESDAY MORNING, SEPTEMBER 14, 1949

The business meeting opened with a report from the Roster Committee. There were 1,341 ordained ministers, 104 foreign missionaries, 335 delegates from churches and 815 visitors, making a total registration of 2,595. The total voting constituency was 1,780.

The Secretary read the minutes of Tuesday's meetings, which were approved as read. The Chair was relinquished to Wilfred A. Brown, who presided throughout the morning meeting.

The first order of business was the matter of membership in the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America, this question having been before the house at the close of the Tuesday afternoon meeting. It was moved, seconded and the motion prevailed that the question of membership in the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America be tabled until the question of affiliation with the National Association of Evangelicals has been decided.

#### **Affiliation with the National Association of Evangelicals**

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution No. 8 and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, There has been a desire on the part of a number of our ministers to discuss the affiliation of the Assemblies of God with the National Association of Evangelicals, be it hereby

RESOLVED, That this General Council re-affirm its action to affiliate with the aforesaid Association as taken in the session of 1943.

Discussion ensued, both pro and con. When the vote was taken, the resolution was adopted by a clear majority.

#### **Election of Two Executive Presbyters**

The tellers reported that on the second ballot, Aaron A. Wilson and William I. Evans had been elected Executive

Presbyters. Balloting was continued for the election of the remaining two executives.

The motion was made that the matter of membership in the Pentecostal Fellowship of North America be taken from the table. Discussion on this question was then resumed until the noon hour for adjournment.

#### WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Following a brief devotional service, Ernest S. Williams opened the afternoon business session and turned the chair over to Wilfred A. Brown. After brief discussion, the vote was taken and the motion to affiliate with the P.F.N.A. was carried.

#### **Report of Foreign Missions Committee**

Rev. J. O. Savell, Chairman of the Missions Committee, presented the Committee's recommendation, as follows:

First, Because of the proved value of missionary secretaries in those Districts which have appointed them, we recommend that such representatives be appointed in all of our Districts, with the purpose of furthering the cause of missions in general, and, in particular, for arranging missionary conventions and maintaining close cooperation between the Districts and the Foreign Missions Department;

Second, Because of the great opportunity now afforded for the evangelization of Italy, we recommend that assurances be given to our Italian brethren of our genuine desire to cooperate with them in this enterprise and to establish contacts with reliable brethren in Italy who can and will assume responsibility for the careful distribution of such support as may be sent. All such support should be sent through the Foreign Missions Department.

Third, We recommend that a standing committee be appointed consisting of the five field secretaries and five other ordained ministers of the home fellowship, to consider the request of some of our foreign fields to be made an integral part of the American Assemblies of God.

Further, That this committee consider the request of our missionaries in the French Colonies that we should have such an association with the French Assemblies of God that we could give proof of a French legal representative of the American Assemblies of God in Paris who would be authorized to represent us in all matters pertaining to our work in the French Colonies.

Further, This committee shall bring in its report on these two matters to the next General Presbyters' Meeting.

Brother Savell moved the adoption of this recommendation. It was seconded and the motion was adopted.

#### **Resolution Pertaining to C.B.I.**

The Chairman of the Resolutions Committee then read Resolution No. 9 and moved its adoption.

WHEREAS, The Central Bible Institute is the only school in our Fellowship created and controlled by the General Council, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this General Council express itself as approving the action of the Executive Presbytery and Educational Committee respecting the relation of C.B.I. to an accrediting association and the issuance of degrees.

#### **Final Report of Tellers**

During the debate on Resolution No. 9, the tellers brought in a report that Bartlett Peterson had been elected an Executive Presbyter on the fourth ballot. A short time later they reported that D. P. Holloway had been elected on the sixth ballot.

Following the newly adopted procedure for the election of General Treasurer and Missionary Secretary, the nominating committee having presented the names chosen by the General Presbyters for these positions, viz., Wilfred A. Brown for Treasurer and Noel Perkin for Missionary Secretary, the balloting was continued. The choice of the General Presbyters for these two offices was approved; 886 votes out of a total of 914 were received by Wilfred A. Brown and 874 out of a total of 906 were received by Noel Perkin, both of whom were declared elected.

Discussion of the question of approval of the action of the Executive Presbytery and Educational Committee respecting the relation of C.B.I. to an accrediting association and the issuance of degrees, was continued throughout the balloting. Finally the question was brought to a climax by the moving of the previous question. A standing vote was taken with the result that 369 were shown to be in the affirmative and 313 in the negative. There was a contest for a recount, but the motion was lost.

C. C. Burnett proposed that the matter of qualifications for ordination to the ministry be settled by the adoption of a resolution making it imperative that the possession of degrees will never be used as a requirement for ordination to the ministry. The suggestion was received with approval.

#### **New Rule Governing Appointment of Standing Committees**

The Chairman of the Resolutions Committee then read Resolution No. 10 as follows:

WHEREAS, There is a great volume of business to be transacted at each session of the General Council, and

WHEREAS, The appointment of Standing Committees at the interim session of the General Presbytery would conserve time, be it therefore

RESOLVED, That Article IV of the By-Laws, Section 1 entitled STANDING COMMITTEES be amended to read:

"Standing committees shall be established as necessity may require. Committee members shall be appointed by the General Superintendent in collaboration with Departmental heads, subject to approval by the General Presbytery. They shall serve from the date of appointment to the next regular session of the General Presbytery convening between General Councils."

The chairman of the Committee moved its adoption and the motion was seconded and carried.

#### **Department of Benevolences**

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee read Resolution No. 11 as follows:

WHEREAS, The Department of Benevolences has been authorized and organized by authority of a Resolution adopted at the 1947 General Council, meeting at Grand Rapids, Mich., be it therefore

RESOLVED, That in order to properly establish said Department in our By-Laws, Article XV entitled "Institutions" be numbered XVI and each succeeding article be advanced one number and that a new article be created as Article XV entitled "Department of Benevolences", and be it further

RESOLVED, That Paragraph "a" of Section 1 of the present Article XV be amended to read as follows:

a. The General Council shall be in sympathy with the establishment and maintenance of missionary homes, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the new Article XV shall read as follows:

#### **Section 1. Authorization**

There shall be a Department of Benevolences which shall have the oversight of the Homes for the Aged and Children's Homes. The Department shall be administered by a Commission consisting of a Director and four



other members who shall be appointed by the General Superintendent in cooperation with the Executive Presbytery.

#### Section 2. General Council Benevolent Institutions

General Council Homes for the Aged and General Council Children's Homes shall be operated by Boards of Directors appointed by the Executive Presbytery; said Boards shall be responsible to the Department of Benevolences in matters of policy and government.

#### Section 3. District Council Benevolent Institutions

District Councils shall be recognized as having the authority to set up Homes for the Aged and Children's Homes in cooperation with the Department of Benevolences. They shall be expected to conform to the standards approved by that department.

It was moved and seconded that Resolution No. 11 be adopted. The motion carried.

The Chairman of the Resolutions Committee then presented Resolution No. 12 as follows:

RESOLVED, That we extend a vote of appreciation to Brother Frank Gray, Superintendent of the Northwest District Council, the other officers and ministers of the Northwest District Council, the local pastors, congregations and committees, for their cordial hospitality extended to the 23rd Biennial session of the General Council of the Assemblies of God. Be it further

RESOLVED, That this General Council hereby express its deep and sincere appreciation for the kind and generous hospitality extended by the Honorable Mr. Langlie, Governor of the State of Washington; the City of Seattle; the Honorable Mr. Devin, Mayor; the Chamber of Commerce; the Convention Bureau; the daily newspapers and radio stations of Seattle, for the general publicity given to the convention, and be it further

RESOLVED, That letters expressing our appreciation be written to each of the parties named in the foregoing.

The motion was made, seconded and prevailed that Resolution No. 12 be adopted.

It was moved, seconded and the motion prevailed that it be an order of business at the next General Council to entertain a motion authorizing a change in the By-Laws to read: "That no educational program adopted at present or in the future by the General Council of the Assemblies of God shall in any wise deprive the ministers who have not had the educational advantages provided from the privilege of equal fellowship and place in the ministry."

The 23rd session of the General Council was then adjourned by the rising of the delegates to sing the hymn, "Blest be the Tie that Binds," and the concluding prayer of benediction by Rev. Alan A. Banks.

**Constitution of the General Council of the Assemblies of God in the United States of America and Foreign Lands Revised to September 9-14, 1949**

**CONSTITUTIONAL DECLARATION**

Whereas, It is the express purpose of God, our heavenly Father, to call out of the world a saved people, who shall 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 corner stone; and

Whereas, The members of the body, the church (ecclesia) of Jesus Christ, are enjoined to assemble themselves together 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; and

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

Resolved, That we recognize we are a co-operative fellowship of Pentecostal, Spirit-baptized saints from local Pentecostal Assemblies of like precious faith throughout the United States and foreign lands, to be known as The General Council of the Assemblies of God, whose purpose is not 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 un-Scriptural 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 fulness of Christ." Eph. 4:13.

**ARTICLE I. NAME.**

The name shall be, The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

**ARTICLE II. NATURE.**

The General Council of the Assemblies of God is a co-operative fellowship based upon mutual agreements voluntarily entered into by its membership.

**ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES.**

- a. To approve all Scriptural teaching, methods and conduct; and to disapprove un-Scriptural teachings, methods and conduct.
- b. To encourage and promote the evangelization of the world.
- c. To provide a basis of fellowship among Christians of like precious faith.
- d. 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.
- e. To have the right to own, hold in trust, use, sell, convey, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of, such property, real or chattel, as may be needed for the prosecution of its work.

**ARTICLE IV. PRINCIPLES.**

The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall represent as nearly as possible in detail, the body of Christ as described in the New Testament Scriptures, recognizing the principles inherent in that body as also inherent in this fellowship, particularly the principles of unity, co-operation and equality. Its purpose is to maintain conditions under which it can, as a fellowship, demonstrate these principles and their consequent development.

**ARTICLE V.**

**STATEMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS**

The Bible is our all-sufficient rule for faith and practice. Hence this Statement of Fundamental Truths is intended as a basis of fellowship among us (i.e., that we all speak the same thing. 1 Cor. 1:10; Acts 2:42). The human phraseology employed in such 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 truth in the Bible, only that it covers our present needs as to these fundamental matters.

**1. The Scriptures Inspired.**

The Bible is the inspired Word of God, a revelation from God to man, the infallible rule of faith and conduct, and is

superior to conscience and reason, but not contrary to reason. 2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 1 Peter 2:2.

## 2. The One True God.

The one true God has revealed Himself as the eternally self-existent, self-revealed "I AM"; and has further revealed Himself as embodying the principles of relationship and association, i.e., as Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29; Isa. 43:10, 11; Matt. 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, Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 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 Ghost, but that this distinction and relationship, as to its mode is **inscrutable and incomprehensible**, because **unexplained**. Luke 1:35; 1 Cor. 1:24; Matt. 11:25-27; 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 John 1:3, 4.

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

Accordingly, therefore, there is that in the Son which constitutes Him the Son and not the Father; and there is that in the Holy Ghost which constitutes Him the Holy Ghost and not either the Father or the Son. Wherefore the Father is the Begetter, the Son is the Begotten; and the Holy Ghost 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; Zech. 14:9.

#### (d) Identity and Co-operation in the Godhead

The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are never identical as to Person; nor confused as to relation; nor divided in respect to the Godhead; nor opposed as to co-operation. 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 Ghost is from the Father and the Son proceeding, as to nature. relationship, co-operation and authority. Hence, neither Person in the Godhead either exists or works separately or independently of the others. John 5:17-30, 32, 37; John 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 Ghost. It therefore belongs exclusively to the Son of God. Rom. 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. Matt. 1:23; 1 John 4:2, 10, 14; Rev. 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. Matt. 1:21-23; 2 John 3; 1 John 3:8; Heb. 7:3; 1:1-13.

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

Wherefore, it is a transgression of the Doctrine of Christ to say that Jesus Christ derived the title, Son of God, solely from the fact of the incarnation, or because of His relation to the economy of redemption. Therefore, to deny that the Father is a real and eternal Father, and that the Son is a real and eternal Son, is a denial of the distinction and relationship in the Being of God; a denial of the Father and the Son; and a displacement of the truth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. 2 John 9; John 1:1, 2, 14, 18, 29, 49; 8:57, 58; 1 John 2:22, 23; 4:1-5; Heb. 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 Ghost 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. Heb. 1:3; 1 Peter 3:22; Acts 2:32-36; Rom. 14:11; 1 Cor. 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 Ghost 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; Rev. 5:6-14; Phil. 2:8, 9; Rev. 7:9, 10; 4:8-11.

## 3. Man, His Fall and Redemption.

Man was created good and upright; for God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness." But man, by voluntary transgression, fell, and his only hope of redemption is in Jesus Christ the Son of God. Gen. 1:26-31; 3:1-7; Rom. 5:12-21.

### 4. The Salvation of Man.

#### a. Conditions to Salvation.

The grace of God, which bringeth salvation, hath appeared to all men, through the preaching of repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ; man is saved by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost, and being justified by grace through faith, he becomes an heir of God according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 2:11; Rom. 10:13-15; Luke 24:47; Titus 3:5-7.

#### b. The Evidences of Salvation.

The inward evidence, to the believer of his salvation, is the direct witness of the Spirit. Rom. 8:16. The outward evidence to all men is a life of righteousness and true holiness.

### 5. Baptism in Water

The ordinance of Baptism by a burial with Christ should be observed, as commanded in the Scriptures, by all who have really repented and in their hearts have truly believed on Christ as Savior and Lord. In so doing, they have the body washed in pure water as an outward symbol of cleansing, while their heart has already been sprinkled with the blood of Christ as an inner cleansing. Thus they declare to the world that they have died with Jesus and that they have also been raised with Him to walk in newness of life. Matt. 28:19; Acts 10:47, 48; Rom. 6:4; Acts 20:21; Heb. 10:22.

### 6. The Lord's Supper.

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 Cor. 11:26); and a prophecy of His second coming (1 Cor. 11:26); and is enjoined on all believers "till He come."

### 7. The Promise of the Father.

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the Baptism in the Holy Ghost 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 come the endowment of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry. Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4, 8; 1 Cor. 12:1-31. This wonderful experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. Acts 10:44-46; 11:14-16; 15:7-9.

### 8. The Evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Ghost.

The Baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost 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 Cor. 12:4-10, 28), but different in purpose and use.

### 9. Entire Sanctification.

The Scriptures teach a life of holiness without which no man shall see the Lord. By the power of the Holy Ghost we are able to obey the command, "Be ye holy, for I am holy." Entire sanctification is the will of God for all believers, and should be earnestly pursued by walking in obedience to God's Word. Heb. 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15, 16; 1 Thess. 5:23, 24; 1 John 2:6.

### 10. The Church.

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 First-born, which are written in heaven. Eph. 1:22, 23; 2:22; Heb. 12:23.

### 11. The Ministry and Evangelism.

A divinely called and Scripturally ordained ministry has been provided by our Lord for a twofold purpose: (1) The evangelization of the world, and (2) The edifying of the Body of Christ. Mark 16:15-20; Eph. 4:11-13.

### 12. Divine Healing.

Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers. Isa. 53:4, 5; Matt. 8:16, 17.

### 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 Thess. 4:16, 17; Rom. 8:23; Titus 2:13; 1 Cor. 15:51, 52.

### 14. The Millennial Reign of Jesus.

The revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ from heaven, the salvation of national Israel, and the millennial reign of Christ on the earth are the Scriptural promises and the world's hope. 2 Thess. 1:7; Rev. 19:11-14; Rom. 11:26, 27; Rev. 20:1-7.

### 15. The Lake of Fire.

The devil and his angels, the beast, and the false prophet, and whosoever is not found written in the Book of Life, shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. Rev. 19:20; 20:10-15.

### 16. The New Heavens and 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 and District Councils.

## ARTICLE VII. MEMBERSHIP.

The membership of the General Council shall consist of all ordained ministers, and missionaries under appointment for foreign service, holding accredited fellowship certificates, and such representatives as may be chosen by the assemblies affiliated with us, each assembly being entitled to one delegate.

## ARTICLE VIII. MEETINGS.

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

b. Special sessions of the General Council may be arranged by the Executive Presbytery if agreed by a majority of the General Presbyters.

c. The right of initiative in the matter of calling of special sessions shall be granted to any ordained minister of The General Council of the Assemblies of God when occasion demands. A statement setting forth the reasons for a special session of the Council, signed by not less than fifteen ordained ministers, may be considered sufficient reason for the call of a special session, such statement to be filed with the Executive Presbytery, who may, if it shall be deemed advisable, respond to the summons and issue the call for a special session.

## ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS.

### 1. Executive Officers.

The officers shall consist of the General Superintendent, the Assistant General Superintendents, General Secretary, General Treasurer, and the Foreign Missions Secretary, together with such other officers as may be required in the future. Their terms of office shall begin three months after date of election and shall continue for two years or until their successors qualify.

### 2. Executive Presbytery.

The Executive Presbytery shall consist of the General Superintendent, the Assistant General Superintendents, General Secretary, General Treasurer, and Foreign Missions Secretary, together with such other brethren to be chosen from the active fellowship to bring the number of executives to twelve.

### 3. General Presbytery.

The General Presbytery shall be composed of representative men of mature experience and ability whose lives and ministry are above reproach, who shall represent the fellowship in all phases of its work and interest in their respective

fields. Each District shall have the privilege of representation in the General Presbytery by three members, the District Superintendent together with two others who shall be elected by the District Council and who shall take office immediately subject to the approval of the Executive Presbytery.

The Executive Presbyters shall be ex-officio members of the General Presbytery.

The foreign fields shall be represented in the General Presbytery by the Field Secretaries of the Missions Department and by the Superintendents of duly organized District Councils in foreign lands.

Upon the approval of the General Presbytery, honorary members may be chosen by the General Council from among those ministers who for years have been highly esteemed among us as General Presbyters, and yet who, because of age or infirmity, can no longer assume the full burden of the office. The addition of such honorary members shall not disturb the regular number of Presbyters granted each district.

## ARTICLE X. DISTRICT COUNCILS.

a. Membership of the District Council shall consist of all ordained and licensed ministers of the district, and such delegates as may be elected by assemblies to represent them in the meetings of the District Council. Delegates shall be elected upon a basis of representation as may be agreed upon by the Council.

b. The District Council shall have supervision over all the activities of the Assemblies of God in its prescribed field, except such as are agreed upon by a District Council and the General Council officials.

c. The District Council shall have authority to examine and to license and ordain ministers who are to become members thereof and shall report to the office of the General Council the names of approved licensed ministers.

d. The District Council shall elect its own officers, and arrange for its own meetings. It shall be amenable to the General Council in matters of doctrine, and the personal conduct of all ministers who are permitted to have District endorsement.

e. The District Council, being the creature of the General Council and subordinate thereto, cannot be authorized, in any way, to violate the principles of the General Council constitutional agreements or bylaws. In the prosecution of the

work in its prescribed field the District Council shall be expected to keep vigilant watch against any violation of the principles of spiritual unity and co-operative fellowship to which the General Council fellowship is especially and unalterably dedicated.

#### **ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES.**

All true Pentecostal believers associating themselves in local bodies as assemblies, and accepting their full personal share of responsibility for the maintenance of Scriptural order in the local body, shall have a standard for membership which may be determined either by the local assembly itself, or by agreement with the District Council.

Local assemblies shall be set in order and co-operate in the work of the District. They should support the District organization and may send delegates to the District and General Councils.

We recognize that each local 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 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 that a local assembly is affiliated in the association of the District or General Council shall in no wise destroy its rights as above stated or interfere with its sovereignty. The local assembly shall recognize that the District or General Council has the right to approve Scriptural doctrine and conduct and to disapprove un-Scriptural doctrine or conduct. When in need of counsel or advice, the local assembly may appeal to the District officer for help. It may appeal from a decision by the District officer to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council when there is a question whether or not the Assembly has received proper help from the District.

Local assemblies are expected to have an interest in the missionary enterprise, and to plan for regular contributions to its support.

#### **ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS.**

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regular meeting of the General Council, provided the pro-

posed amendments shall have been submitted in writing to every District for consideration prior to the General Council meeting. Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of all members present for adoption.

### **BYLAWS**

#### **ARTICLE I. PARLIAMENTARY ORDER.**

In order to expedite the work of the Council and to avoid confusion in its deliberations, the Council shall be governed by accepted rules of parliamentary procedure, in keeping with the spirit of Christian love and fellowship.

#### **ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS.**

##### **Section 1. Officers.**

The officers of the General Council shall be elected at one of its regular meetings, according to the manner of election as provided. They shall be chosen from the membership of the General Council, and shall be men of mature experience and ability, whose life and ministry are above question, and such qualities alone shall determine their eligibility.

##### **Section 2. Nomination and Election.**

a. All candidates for office of General Superintendent, Assistant General Superintendents and General Secretary shall be nominated by secret ballot. A two-thirds vote of all votes cast shall be necessary to constitute an election. If no election has been declared after the third 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. Election of General Presbyters shall take place at the District Council meeting.

c. The General Council shall have the right to elect additional officers to serve on the Executive Presbytery as provided in Article X, Section 2, of the Constitution. They shall be nominated from the floor and shall be elected by a two-thirds vote in the same manner as provided for the presiding officers of the General Council.

d. The General Treasurer and the Foreign Missions Secretary shall be selected 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 men

for these strategic posts and shall select by secret ballot one name for each office to be presented to the General Council in session for ratification. A two-thirds vote shall be required for election.

### **Section 3. Vacancies.**

a. In the event any of the Executive Offices of the General Council shall become vacant through death or other cause, the Executive Presbyters shall fill the office by appointment until the next meeting of the General Council, with the exception that in the event of the death or incapacity of the General Superintendent, the General Secretary shall call a special meeting of the General Presbyters to be convened within thirty days, for the purpose of electing from the Assistant General Superintendents one to fill the office for the unexpired term.

b. In the event a General Presbyter shall move to another District or shall vacate his 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.

### **Section 4. Voting Constituency.**

The voting constituency shall consist of all accredited members, present and registered at any special or regular meeting of the General Council.

## **ARTICLE III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.**

### **Section 1. Duties of the General Superintendent.**

a. To be the head of the General Office, and to supervise all the work of that office during the interim between sessions of the General Council. To act as President of the Corporation in all legal matters.

b. To preside at the sessions of the General Presbytery and the General Council.

c. To preside at all meetings of the Credentials Committee, and to sign all credentials.

d. To preside at all sessions of the Executive Presbytery, and to receive all communications directed to that body.

e. To be General Superintendent of all work on the field conducted in behalf of the fellowship, and to encourage Bible and Missionary Conventions throughout the country.

f. To administer discipline in all cases when requested to do so by the Credentials Committee.

g. To perform any other functions usual and customary as

presiding officer or such as may be directed by the General Council or by the Executive Presbytery.

### **Section 2. Duties of the Assistant General Superintendents.**

a. To assist the General Superintendent.

b. To serve as Vice-Presidents of the corporation and to preside at meetings of the Executive Presbytery in the absence of the General Superintendent.

c. To serve as departmental heads as may be directed by the General Superintendent.

d. The responsibility of office work and field ministry shall be equitably distributed among these men under the direction of the General Superintendent.

e. Finally, to perform any other functions under the supervision of the General Superintendent, or such as may be directed by the General Council or the Executive Presbytery.

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

a. The General Secretary shall 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. He shall be custodian of the official seal of the Council and shall issue Credentials under the direction of the Credentials Committee and shall keep a record of all ministers, licentiates and assemblies in the fellowship.

c. He shall act as Secretary of the Executive Presbytery and the General Presbytery, and shall keep accurate minutes of the deliberations of these bodies.

d. He shall be authorized to sign all official and legal documents and to perform such other functions as are customary or as may be directed by the General Council or the Executive Presbytery.

e. He shall act as Secretary of the Credentials Committee and shall be considered as ex officio member of all other committees.

### **Section 4. Duties of the Treasurer.**

a. To be custodian of all General Council funds.

b. He shall keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements, conducting the work of his office according to accepted business methods.

c. He shall give a report from time to time as may be requested by the General Council or the Executive Presbytery.

d. He shall give bond to the amount of \$50,000. The treasurer's books shall be audited annually by competent auditors.

e. He shall perform such other functions as are customary to his office or as may be directed by the Council or the Executive Presbytery.

#### **Section 5. Duties of the Foreign Missions Secretary.**

a. To act as head of the Missions Department under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery.

b. To keep a record of all decisions of the Missionary Committee and of all official acts of the Missions Department.

c. To conduct all correspondence with prospective Missionaries and with those already on the field.

d. To conduct the Missionary columns in the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL from missionary letters and reports.

e. To represent the General Council in all relationships with governments or authorities where our Missionary work is involved.

f. To direct the Missionary activities of the fellowship.

g. To distribute all missionary funds as directed by the donors or by agreement with the Foreign Missions Committee.

h. To keep such records of all funds received and disbursed as will safeguard the funds from loss en route to the field.

i. To acknowledge in the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL all funds received for Missionary work.

j. To act as purchasing agent for Missionary supplies.

k. To perform such other functions as may be directed by the Executive Presbytery.

#### **Section 6. Duties of the Executive Presbytery.**

a. The Executive Presbyters shall serve as trustees of the General Council. 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.

b. They shall have the right to 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 as may be useful for the prosecution of its work.

c. To hold in trust such funds as may be committed to them as trustees, or to dispose of the same as may be directed.

d. To issue annuity bonds or contracts, and to protect the same by judicious investments.

e. They shall be authorized to purchase or to dispose of securities as need requires in an effort to strengthen the financial position of the corporation.

f. All properties of the General Council shall be bought, taken, held, sold, transferred, mortgaged, leased, assigned or conveyed by the trustees in the corporate name.

g. In all matters of great importance, the Executive Presbyters shall communicate with the members of the General Presbytery before final action shall be taken.

h. The Executive Presbyters shall be empowered to 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.

i. The Executive Presbyters shall also at their discretion call business meetings of the General Presbytery when deemed advisable.

j. The Executive Presbyters shall make a report to the General Council of their activities in behalf of the fellowship as may be directed.

#### **Section 7. Duties of the General Presbytery.**

a. The General Presbytery shall be empowered to act in all matters pertaining to foreign missionary and ministerial relationships, and all matters which pertain to the proper functioning of the departments and institutions in the fellowship. It shall constitute an advisory body to the Executive Presbytery. All decisions pertaining to constitutional order or fundamental doctrines shall be referred by it to the General Council for ratification in the manner provided in the General Council Constitution.

b. The General Presbytery shall also act as a Court of Appeal for the reviewing of testimony given in missionary and ministerial trials. Its decisions shall be final.

### **ARTICLE IV. COMMITTEES.**

#### **Section 1. Standing Committees.**

Standing committees shall be established as necessity may require. Committee members shall be appointed by the General Superintendent in collaboration with Departmental heads, subject to approval by the General Presbytery. They shall serve from the date of appointment to the next regular session of the General Presbytery convening between General Councils.

#### **Section 2. Credentials Committee.**

Such members of the Executive Presbytery as may reside at headquarters shall constitute a Credentials Committee. They shall have authority to issue certificates of ordination to



approved ministers, who have District Council endorsement, and to issue annual fellowship certificates.

**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 responsibility of examining credentials of all ministers and delegates. Ordained ministers shall identify themselves by fellowship certificates 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. Suitable badges shall be issued by the Committee to all qualified delegates and ministers, such badges to indicate the classification of ordained ministers, foreign missionaries, licensed ministers, delegates from assemblies, visitors, etc.

**ARTICLE V. DISTRICT COUNCILS.**

**Section 1. Boundaries.**

The boundaries of the Districts shall be determined or rearranged by co-operative agreement between the Districts and the Executive Presbyters of the General Council.

**Section 2. Officers.**

Each District Council shall be authorized to elect Superintendent, Secretary-Treasurer and Presbyters together with such other officers as may be deemed advisable by the District membership.

**Section 3. Voting Constituency.**

The voting constituency shall consist of all accredited members present and registered, including ordained and licensed ministers and accredited delegates from affiliated churches.

**ARTICLE VI. MINISTRY.**

**Section 1. Ministry Described.**

Three classifications are recognized, viz., the ordained minister, the licensed minister, and the exhorter or Christian worker. All applicants for ministerial recognition must give testimony to having received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4.

**Section 2. Qualifications.**

a. Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament Scriptures. 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9.

b. Qualifications for a license to preach shall be:

First: Clear evidence of a divine call, a practical experience in preaching, together with an evident purpose to devote one's time to preaching the gospel.

Second: Conformity to such provisions as are made for candidates by the General Council in reading courses and other training.

c. Efficient helpers in Gospel-work who devote a part of their time to Christian service may be recognized as Christian workers or exhorters.

**Section 3. License to Preach and Christian Workers, or Exhorters' Certificates.**

Licenses to Preach and Christian workers' or Exhorters' Certificates shall be granted by District Councils to properly qualified applicants.

**Section 4. Ordinations.**

a. All ordinations shall take place under the auspices of the District Councils. Applicants twenty-three years of age or over who shall have met the necessary requirements shall appear before the credentials committee of the district where they reside. No person may be ordained to the ministry until he shall have held a license to preach and shall have been engaged in active work as a pastor or evangelist for at least two full consecutive years.

b. The Scriptures plainly teach that while there is a difference between the ministry of men and of women in the church, divinely called and qualified women may also serve the church in the ministry of the Word. Women who may have demonstrated a distinct ministry of evangelism and who have met the requirements of District Councils may be licensed to preach the Word. Matured women of not less than twenty-three years of age who have developed in the ministry of the Word so that their ministry is acceptable generally and who have proved their qualifications in actual service and who have met all the requirements of the Credentials Committees of the District Councils may be ordained to the ministry of the Gospel and may serve either as evangelists or as pastors as their qualifications warrant. The right to administer the ordinances of the church, when such acts are necessary, shall be included in the ordination.

**Section 5. Exceptions.**

a. It is recommended that our District Councils refrain from

ordaining to the ministry any preacher who may have been licensed in another District until such licentiate shall have resided in the District in which he is seeking ordination at least one year and shall have met the requirements of the District granting him license, and until endorsement be secured from the officary of the District in which the candidate was previously licensed.

b. Since divorced and remarried persons in the ministry usually cause stumbling, reproach and division, whatever may have been the cause of divorce, we disapprove of District Councils granting credentials to those who have remarried and are now living in a state of matrimony while former companions are living.

c. The Credentials Committee of the General Council shall not be authorized to give consideration to an applicant for credentials upon the basis of an annulment of a former marriage unless the application is accompanied by a clear and satisfactory evidence of an illegal marriage through deception or fraud. Every application must be judged on its own merits regardless of expressed opinions of attorneys or judges. The General Presbytery, acting as a court of appeals, has the right to make its own decisions in all such matters.

#### **Section 6. Certificates.**

Ordination papers with the accompanying fellowship certificates shall be issued by the General Council Credentials Committee from the Executive office.

Fellowship Certificates are renewable annually and are valid only until September 1 of each year.

#### **Section 7. Expiration of Fellowship Certificates.**

Inasmuch as all fellowship certificates expire on the 31st day of August of each year, all who shall have failed to renew their fellowship certificates on or before October 1st, or who shall have failed to indicate their purpose to do so, shall be considered as delinquents whose names shall not appear on the ministerial list to be mailed to the clergy bureaus.

#### **Section 8. Official List.**

a. An official list of all ordained ministers shall be compiled by the Credentials Committee of the General Council and published for the convenience of all concerned. The list shall show whether or not each minister is giving full time<sup>to</sup> to his or her ministry. This official list shall be revised annually, and shall include only the names of those ministers

to whom certificates of fellowship have been issued for the current year.

b. All ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or who cease to engage in either pastoral or evangelistic work for a period of one year or more shall be expected to notify the office of the General Secretary, who shall be authorized to remove the names of such persons and to place them upon an inactive list. Ministers who preach or conduct Gospel services less than twenty-five times per year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for one year. If such inactivity shall continue for a second year, they shall be removed from the ministerial fellowship. It shall be understood that this shall not apply to inactivity caused by infirmity of old age or ill health. Should the minister at any time return to active ministry, his or her name may be restored to the active list upon an application for reinstatement bearing the endorsement of the District Officiary.

#### **Section 9. Ministerial Relations.**

a. All ministers holding credentials with the District and General Councils shall be amenable to both the District and General Councils in matters of doctrine and conduct.

b. All ministers ordained and licensed, shall be expected to affiliate with the District Council within the boundaries of which they reside, and to work in co-operation with the same. They shall be expected to co-operate with other District Councils in which they may labor temporarily.

#### **Section 10. Certificate of Transfer.**

A certificate of transfer shall be issued by the District Council for all ministers who are leaving their home district to locate permanently in another district.

#### **Section 11. Affiliating with Other Organizations.**

When any of the ministers of the Assemblies of God shall identify themselves with other organizations granting ministerial credentials, and shall have received such credentials, their affiliation with this body shall be regarded as having ceased. They shall then be requested to return to the Executive Office of the General Council the credentials which had been issued by that office.

#### **Section 12. Withdrawal and Reinstatement of Ministers.**

a. In the event of the announced desire of a minister to withdraw from our fellowship, before action shall have been taken in the matter by the Credentials Committee or the

Executive Presbyters, due investigation shall be made as to the standing of the minister in the District of his affiliation. His request shall be granted, provided he is found in good standing in his home District. In case the evidence gathered shall warrant contrary action, then the minister shall be advised of the finding of the Credentials Committee, and shall be dropped from the fellowship. In the event the minister asks for a trial, the regular provisions made for trials shall be followed in the disposing of the case, and upon conviction, his name shall be published as "dropped" instead of "withdrawn." All information pertaining to the minister, so gathered, shall be preserved in the office of the General Council Credentials Committee for future reference.

b. When a minister connected with our fellowship shall have been dropped from our rolls or shall have ceased to be connected with us by virtue of having become identified with another organization, or for any other cause, and shall apply to be reinstated, he shall in no case be eligible for reinstatement until at least six months shall have elapsed after he has been removed from our list of ministers. The Credentials Committee of the General Council may also hold the matter in abeyance until the next session of the General Council in order that the General Presbytery may have the opportunity to review the case, in which event the matter of reinstatement of such minister shall be left entirely with that body.

c. Applications for reinstatement may be made through the District Council within which territory his residence may be found, but the application will be considered subject to the approval of the District in which the former action was taken.

### **Section 13. Discipline of Members.**

Occasions sometimes arise which make it necessary to deal with ministers who are affiliated with us who for some reason seem to have reached the place where, in the estimation of the brethren, endorsement can no longer be given. It is obvious that the Credentials Committees which have the authority to ordain ministers and to recommend them to the headquarters office for credentials also have the right to withdraw their approval and to recommend that the headquarters office recall the credentials. General inefficiency in the ministry, a failure or inability to correctly represent our Pentecostal testimony, a record of assembly breaking instead of making, a contentious, non-cooperative spirit, an

assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly, and an arbitrary rejection of District counsel, a declared open change in doctrinal views, a habit of running into debt which brings reproach upon the cause, a marriage in opposition to our constitutional stand on marriage and divorce, etc., may give cause for the action of the Credentials Committee.

Both the officary of the District Council and the Credentials Committee of the General Council shall be recognized as having the right of initiative in this matter. If, after repeated counsel and warnings, there has been no change of character or attitude on the part of the minister, the officary of the District Council may recommend to the Credentials Committee of the General Council that his fellowship certificate be not renewed or that his name be dropped from the official list of ministers of the General Council.

Such recommendation shall set forth in writing satisfactory reasons for the action, and a copy of the recommendation shall be placed in the hands of the minister involved. If in the judgment of the Credentials Committee, the District officary was justified in the action taken, they shall be authorized to comply with the request of the District.

The right of initiative may be exercised by the Credentials Committee of the General Council in the event that complaints against a minister shall be filed with the committee affecting the character or conduct of the minister. Such complaints shall be referred to the District Officiary for investigation and such action as the revealed facts may warrant.

### **Section 14. Performing Marriage Ceremonies (Divorced persons).**

We disapprove of any General Council minister performing a marriage ceremony for anyone who has been divorced and whose former companion is still living. We also warn that any minister of our fellowship who performs such a ceremony, unless he is innocently deceived into doing the same, may be dismissed from the Council.

### **Section 15. 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 private members. Where there is no pastor, letters concerning the work shall be addressed to the officers of an assembly.

Any minister who so offends shall be subject to Scriptural treatment as an offender by the District Officer or by the Executive Presbytery of the General Council. Such discourtesy will seriously affect the granting of annual Fellowship Certificates and may be the basis for their recall.

#### **Section 16. Ministry in Non-Council Assemblies.**

Inasmuch as unity is a vital principle of the church, the condition of growth and spiritual development and power in the apostolic body, it is essential that we recognize our vital relationship to each other, and that we practice Christian cooperation in all our pastoral, evangelistic, missionary, and local church work and business. Therefore we recommend that our evangelists and pastors consult with our Council officials before conducting a campaign with a non-Council assembly in any given city, so as to ascertain whether or not such non-Council assembly is approved as to doctrinal standards and co-operative fellowship with Council Assemblies, and if not approved by the District officials, they shall be expected to not hold a campaign for them. Ministers who violate this principle shall be considered as having opened the door for censor or charge which may necessitate the recall of their credentials.

#### **Section 17. Attitude Toward Those Removed From Council Fellowship.**

While the Constitutional Declaration includes this prerogative, "To disapprove un-Scriptural methods, doctrine and conduct," adequate safeguards are provided in the Bylaws by arranging for appeals from local and District decisions, thus guaranteeing fair and impartial consideration of all actions affecting standing and fellowship.

In order to render effective decisions made in the interest of proper discipline and for the protection of our assemblies, after investigation and consideration of all facts by those qualified to act in such cases according to our co-operative agreements, such decisions shall be by all considered just and final and all who hold credentials shall refrain from taking any attitude toward offenders that would tend to nullify or set at naught the solemn verdict of the brethren entrusted with this responsibility.

In the event of a violation of this agreement the offender shall be subject to reprimand, or such other discipline as shall

be agreed upon by the officary of the District with which he is affiliated. In the event that the agreement shall be violated outside of his District the officary of the District in which the offense is committed may communicate with the Secretary at headquarters, and it shall be the duty of the Secretary to notify the offending brother that a repetition of the offense will seriously affect his standing as a Council minister, and, if persisted in, may result in his suspension or severance from our fellowship.

#### **Section 18. Trials and Appeals.**

a. Both the Officiary of the District Council and the Executive Presbytery of the General Council shall be recognized as having the right of initiative in the trial of members. Trials shall be granted for willful violation of Council principles, wrong doctrine, or other misconduct. In the event the officary of the District Council shall take the initiative, the trial shall be conducted by said officary in accordance with Council principles. In the event that the Executive Presbytery shall take the initiative and it should appear to them after consultation with the District Officiary not to be feasible to conduct a trial within the bounds of the District where the alleged offense may have been committed, a Judiciary Committee of six ordained ministers may be appointed by the Executive Presbytery, one of whom shall be chosen by said committee to act as chairman. This committee shall be authorized and instructed to conduct a fair trial in accordance with Council principles.

b. A complete stenographic record of all trials of ministers shall be kept.

c. It shall be the privilege of every minister who may have had a trial to appeal from the decision rendered, provided such an appeal shall be made within thirty days thereafter.

d. Whenever a minister of the General Council shall appeal from a decision of the District to the Executive Presbytery, or from the decision of the Executive Presbytery to the General Presbytery, it shall be the duty of the Executive Presbytery or the General Presbytery to review the case by full examination of the documentary evidence relative to the trial in order to determine whether or not a proper trial has been conducted and a fair decision rendered. Those who conducted the trial shall, in such a case, furnish a complete record of the trial, including all evidence produced. No new evidence shall be considered in the review. All new evidence or testimony must be presented in re-trials.

e. In case the Executive Presbytery, or General Presbytery, shall decide, after such a review, that the decision made has not been a fair one, it shall be the right of that Body to which appeal has been made to reverse the decision, or, if it is decided that the case has been handled improperly, it shall be the right of those listening to the appeal to remand the case for retrial.

f. Appeals from decisions made by the District Officials shall not be heard by the General Presbytery until after the evidence has first been reviewed by the Executive Presbytery and its decision has been made.

## ARTICLE VII. ASSEMBLIES.

### Section 1. Membership Certificates.

The General Council office shall issue a membership certificate of proper proportions and script for framing to all churches coming into the fellowship.

### Section 2. Government of U. S. A. Requirements.

Whereas, the government of the U. S. A. requires of headquarters a report periodically of the number of lay members of our assemblies, it is important that each assembly of our General Council fellowship keep an up-to-date record of its membership and that a record of same be sent annually to the office of the General Council Secretary.

### Section 3. Safeguarding the Assemblies.

It is known that many unreliable and unsafe teachers and preachers go about seeking entrance into assemblies without any recommendation; therefore all pastors, workers and leaders of assemblies should make proper investigation regarding such not known to them, and the platform be denied strangers until proper recommendations be forthcoming.

The advice and counsel of the District Presbytery should be sought in such cases, and in all matters of importance when at all possible. Pastors and Presbyters should notify each other, reciprocally, as to such persons when any unreliability becomes manifest.

## DEPARTMENTS

## ARTICLE VIII. FOREIGN MISSIONS DEPARTMENT

### Section 1. Missionary Purpose.

a. 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.

b. The Pauline example shall be followed as far as possible by seeking out neglected regions where the Gospel has not been preached, as well as by establishing self-supporting, self-governing, self-propagating native churches.

c. In fields where Pentecostal missionaries are already stationed, consultation shall be had with the brethren on the field and the Missions Department, and a satisfactory plan agreed upon before an attempt shall be made to establish new stations in such localities.

d. Every assembly shall be encouraged to assume definite responsibility for full or partial support of one or more missionaries in co-operation with the Foreign Missions Department.

### Section 2. Missions Department.

a. The Missions Department shall consist of the Foreign Missions Secretary and four others, appointed by the Superintendent in co-operation with the Foreign Missions Secretary and subject to the approval of the General Presbytery, who together shall comprise the Missionary Committee. All the activities of the Missions Department shall be carried on under the supervision of the Executive Presbytery to which the Missions Department shall be amenable.

b. All the Missionary interests of our fellowship shall be assigned to the management of the Foreign Missions Department in co-operation with the District Council on the field.

### Section 3. Support of Missions Department.

The Missionary Secretary shall from time to time prepare and send to each pastor information setting forth the financial needs of the Missions Department that the efficient administration of the Department be not hindered through lack of funds. It is also requested that each pastor enlighten his assembly concerning the need of supporting the Missions Department, and an offering toward upkeep of this Department is recommended when sending missionary offerings.

### Section 4. Missionary Candidates.

a. The selection and appointment of missionaries shall be the prerogative of the Missionary Committee.

b. The Missionary Committee shall be governed in its selection and appointment of missionaries by the following requirements. Each applicant shall be examined—

- (1) As to personal experience of full New Testament salvation.
- (2) As to a definite call to foreign work.

- (3) As to physical, mental and spiritual fitness for work.
- (4) As to Christian standing and general qualifications, it being required that each applicant seeking appointment first secure the endorsement of his local assembly and District Council.
- (5) Young men shall not be granted missionary appointment until they have first qualified for ordination in the homeland, and women candidates shall prove their ministry and stability of character by a similar probationary period of service in the homeland.

c. Prospective missionaries shall be expected to exercise faith in God to provide their outfit and fare to the field as far as practicable. The fitness of the candidate for foreign service, however, will influence the decision of the committee more than the amount of funds pledged toward the applicant's support.

d. Funds provided for the prospective missionaries who shall for any reason be prevented from going to the field shall be remitted to their respective donors unless by the consent of said donors they can be made available for other missionaries or missionary purposes.

e. All persons making application for appointment as missionaries shall be expected to meet the requirements of the Missions Department.

f. The Missions Department shall confine its missionary activities within the limits of its resources and shall not accept and send out missionaries until the condition of its finances fully warrants such action.

g. Each missionary shall be expected to devote two full years to language study, if necessary, before taking up his full active work. Courses of study with examinations shall be arranged by an advisory committee on each field. Failure on the part of any missionary to obtain a working knowledge of the language during his first term shall furnish ample ground upon which to question his fitness for a second term.

#### **Section 5. Support of Missionaries.**

a. The undesignated funds sent to the Foreign Missions Department shall be distributed to those who have received the appointment of the Missionary Committee, and are in harmony with our Statement of Fundamentals. All funds assigned to particular persons shall be forwarded by the Foreign Missions Department exactly as directed.

b. It is recommended that all missionaries send a report of moneys received and submit a budget of expenses to the

Foreign Missions Department. It shall not be incumbent upon the Foreign Missions Department to send of its undesignated funds to missionaries who do not furnish such a report.

c. Missionaries expecting the endorsement and aid of the Foreign Missions Department shall report to the Missionary Committee and receive its approval before leaving this country. The Missionary Committee shall assume no responsibility whatever, where the foregoing requirements are not complied with. Funds designated for missionaries whose names do not appear on our list will be gladly forwarded by the Missions Department.

d. It is recommended that Districts endorsing candidates for missionary appointment assume as far as is practicable responsibility for their support.

#### **Section 6. Ordination of Missionaries.**

The ordination of missionaries under appointment of the Missions Department shall be determined on the basis of their qualifications for ordination rather than on the basis of their appointment.

#### **Section 7. Fellowship Certificates.**

a. The Foreign Missions Department shall renew the Fellowship Certificates of all foreign missionaries in good standing on or before the first of the year without cost to the missionaries.

This requirement on the part of the Missions Department shall be contingent upon the missionary's filling out in ample time the questionnaire provided by the Department and sending same to the home office.

b. Each missionary shall file with the Foreign Missions Department a full statement regarding his work, e. g., concerning his family and accommodations, period of service, language qualifications, nature of work in which engaged, prospects of the field, present number of recognized adherents, etc.

#### **Section 8. District Councils.**

a. District Councils shall be formed on the field where there are sufficient missionaries and trustworthy ordained native preachers, provided the approval of the Missions Department shall have first been secured. Where numbers are not sufficient to warrant the formation of a District Council, the missionary shall be amenable directly to the Foreign Missions Department.

b. It shall be considered the duty of the various District Councils on the foreign field to co-operate with the Foreign Missions Department in maintaining a high standard of Christian character and work in the interests of greater efficiency.

#### **Section 9. Property.**

a. All missionary property shall be held by the General Council wherever legally possible.

No funds shall be made available for missionary homes, stations, schools, etc., until adequate and proper safeguards, such as complying with the laws of the respective countries for the legal holding of property and such as establishing and maintaining a proper relationship between these missionary projects and the Foreign Missions Department, shall have been provided.

b. Missionaries contemplating the purchase of property or erection of buildings should co-operate with the District Council on the field, and secure its endorsement before submitting their proposition to the Foreign Missions Department.

c. A certified copy of the property deeds, titles, and other legal papers relating to all missionary properties which have been purchased shall be forwarded to the Foreign Missions Department for file.

#### **Section 10. Native Workers.**

a. It is recommended that great care be exercised in the selection of native workers, and that no worker be engaged who does not manifest a real consecration to the cause of Christ.

b. No offerings for the support of native workers shall be sent direct to the natives, but to the missionary representatives of the General Council.

#### **Section 11. Furloughs.**

a. Missionaries while home on furlough shall be considered as on vacation. It will be expected, however, that they shall co-operate with the home office in the interests of the work as far as possible.

b. The period and frequency of furlough shall be governed by the recommendation of the District Councils on the respective fields in co-operation with the Foreign Missions Department. It shall not be incumbent on the Foreign Missions Department to grant a furlough allowance to missionaries who return to the homeland without first having an understanding with the District Council on the field.

c. When missionaries do not intend to return to the field or for any reason are not recommended for further service, it shall not be incumbent on the Foreign Missions Department to continue their allowance for more than six months after their return to the homeland, except in cases of ill health or because of the infirmities of age.

d. All missionaries who have arranged to return to the home field shall co-operate with the Foreign Missions Department where there is no District Council on the field, in making arrangements for a supply to take charge of their work or station and shall co-operate with the Foreign Missions Department in securing and forwarding funds for the maintenance of such work or station during their absence.

e. All missionaries who shall have completed a satisfactory term of service shall be eligible for reappointment for another term.

### **ARTICLE IX. HOME MISSIONS DEPARTMENT**

#### **Section 1. Authorization and Scope.**

There shall be a Home Missions Department of the General Council. The work of the Department shall include church extension and general home missionary effort in co-operation with District Councils, and general supervision over the various branches that are now or may hereafter be authorized by the General Council.

#### **Section 2. Government and Organization.**

a. The Home Missions Department shall consist of the Home Missions Secretary, who shall be one of the Assistant General Superintendents, assigned to head the department by the General Superintendent, together with four others, appointed by the General Superintendent, in co-operation with the Home Missions Secretary and subject to the approval of the General Presbytery, who shall constitute the Home Missions Committee.

b. The work of the Home Missions Department as a whole shall be under the general oversight of, and amenable to, the Executive Presbytery.

c. The department shall be financed by gifts, contributions and such funds as may be assigned to it.

#### **Section 3. The Church Extension Division.**

The Church Extension work of the Home Missions Department shall function in co-operation with the various Districts, in entering new fields in the United States, raising up new works, and in the general extension of our Fellowship.

#### **Section 4. The Home Missions Division.**

Home Missions work shall include all ministry among those classes of Americans now living in the Continental United States who are not usually ministered to by the Assemblies and Ministers of our Fellowship. Particularly listed in this group are the Jews, the population of Alaska, the American Indian, the deaf, the prisoners, and foreign-language groups of the United States.

#### **Section 5. Branches.**

a. A Branch is defined as a unit in the General Council organization equivalent to a District Council in General Presbytery and General Council Membership and relationship, and according to all provisions of Article X of the Constitution. A Branch is distinguished from a District Council in that its territory of operation is not geographical, but is confined to ministry among certain races or language groups. Its geographical area of operation may therefore overlap or coincide with that of one or more District Councils.

b. Branches shall be allowed that independence of operation which is accorded District Councils within the framework of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws and transfers and other relationships between themselves and regular District Councils shall be effected with that consideration and respect practiced between District Councils. In order to promote a spirit of fellowship between them, the Branch Officials and the Home Missions Department should consult and cooperate with the Officials of the District concerning the entering and/or maintenance of a work in a given area.

### **ARTICLE X. EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT**

#### **Section 1. Authorization.**

There shall be an Educational Department of the General Council which shall have as its general responsibility the promotion of the educational activities of the Assemblies of God. This general responsibility shall specifically include Sunday Schools and other educational activities of local churches, schools for the academic education of our members, and the education and training of our ministers and candidates for the ministry. These specific functions shall call for the creation of three divisions in the Educational Department, viz., the Church School, the Academic, and Bible Institute; which divisions are hereby recognized.

It is understood that the promotion referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be only to that extent and in that way

which conforms with the vested authority of the General Council Executive Offices and the sovereignty of the various districts and churches.

#### **Section 2. Government and Organization.**

The government and work of the Educational Department, and all its divisions, shall be vested in, and committed to the Executive Presbytery which shall serve as the Educational Committee. An Educational Secretary shall be appointed by the General Superintendent from among the Assistant General Superintendents who shall serve as Executive Secretary of the Educational Committee and head of the Educational Department.

The Department shall be strengthened by an advisory committee consisting of nine brethren experienced in teaching, whose duties shall be to provide helpful counsel and general assistance in standardizing, co-ordinating and facilitating the entire educational activities of the General Council. These advisory members shall be appointed by the General Superintendent in co-operation with the Educational Secretary and subject to the approval of the General Presbytery. They shall continue in office for two years or until their successors are selected.

#### **Section 3. The Church School Division.**

The Church School Division of the Educational Department shall supervise the preparation of curricular material for Sunday Schools and all other kinds of church schools and shall have the responsibility of general promotion and development of Sunday Schools and all other kinds of church schools in the churches of our constituency.

#### **Section 4. Academic Division**

The work of the Academic Division of the Educational Department shall include the supervision of all academic institutions of learning which are operated by and for the members of the Assemblies of God other than those which are purely local in character.

General supervision of the academic school work carried on by and for the members of the Assemblies of God shall be vested in the Educational Department. Its responsibility shall also be to encourage and provide for that academic education of the youth of our Fellowship for which there shall be need and demand.

The Educational Department shall have the right to erect standards to which all academic institutions shall be required to conform in order to receive General Council endorsement. No academic institution operated by members of the General



Council or patronized by members of the Assemblies of God shall be recognized as approved by the General Council unless and until it conforms to the standards erected for such institutions by the Educational Department and has been approved by such Department. The Educational Department shall issue yearly certificates of endorsement to academic institutions meeting its standard for endorsement.

#### **Section 5. The Bible Institute Division**

The work of this division shall include the establishment of a sufficient number of Bible Institutes for the spiritual education and training of ministerial and missionary candidates and other Christian workers. The initiative in the establishment of new Bible Institutes may be taken by the Educational Department or by any interested group in any part of the country, subject to the approval of the Educational Department and the District in which it is to be located.

The Educational Department shall have the right to erect standards to which all Bible Institutes shall be required to conform in order to receive General Council endorsement. These standards may include the spiritual qualifications of the faculty, the required subjects of the curriculum, the length of class periods, school semesters and terms, the requirements for admission and for graduation, the aids to spiritual life such as quiet hours, daily chapel, missionary prayers, etc., rules of conduct, discipline, practical Christian work, social life, health conditions, etc. The Educational Department shall issue yearly certificates of endorsement to Institutes meeting its standard for endorsement.

It shall be the responsibility of the Educational Department to seek to maintain a high level of spirituality in all our Bible Institutes and to guard against any departure from the doctrines and spiritual experiences set forth in our statement of fundamental truths. This department shall also encourage educational and administrative efficiency in the various schools.

It shall also be the prerogative of the Educational Department to seek to provide our own textbooks for our Bible Institutes and prepare reading courses and promote short intensive institutes for those unable to attend Bible Schools and for our ministers in general. General responsibility for the welfare and development of our Bible Institute system as a whole, for the spiritual education and training of all candidates for Christian service and the stimulation of the needed interest and support of this work among our constituency shall be vested in the Educational Department.

#### **Section 6. Central Bible Institute**

a. The Educational Committee of the General Council shall constitute the Board of Directors of Central Bible Institute. They shall appoint the President of Central Bible Institute and, in consultation with him, the various members of its faculty and administrative staff.

b. As progress and growth demands, the Educational Department may provide a Full Theological Seminary Course in addition to the Bible Institute Course, and provide post-graduate work for graduates who seek special training for the ministry in the United States or foreign lands.

### **ARTICLE XI. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLICATIONS**

#### **Section 1. Authorization.**

a. There shall be a Department of Publications which shall have as its purpose the promotion and development of the publishing and distributing agencies of the General Council.

b. A Secretary of Publications shall be appointed by the General Superintendent from among the Assistant General Superintendents who shall be the head of this department.

#### **Section 2. Management and Control.**

a. The management and control of the Department of Publications shall be committed to a Publications Committee which shall be composed of the Secretary of Publications, the Manager of the Gospel Publishing House, the Editor of the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL, and two other brethren appointed by the General Superintendent, in co-operation with the Secretary of Publications subject to the approval of the General Presbytery. Inasmuch as the work of the Educational Department is closely related to the Department of Publications, the Educational Secretary shall be an ex-officio member of the Department of Publications.

b. The Gospel Publishing House, its equipment, the promotion and expansion of its publications and general business interests shall be under the supervision of the Department of Publications.

c. The Department shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery and all matters of importance must be submitted to the Presbytery for Executive approval.

d. The PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL shall be the official organ of the General Council of the Assemblies of God and shall be published in the interest of the fellowship and for the propagation of our distinctive testimony.

e. The Editor of the PENTECOSTAL EVANGEL and the Manager of the Gospel Publishing House shall be chosen by the General Superintendent in co-operation with the Secretary of Publications subject to the approval of the General Presbytery. They shall work in co-operation with the Department of Publications and under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery. The Editor of Church School Publications, editorial writers, and other helpers as they are needed shall be chosen by the Publications Committee.

## **ARTICLE XII. YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT**

### **Section 1. Authorization.**

a. There shall be a Young People's Department identified as the Christ's Ambassadors Department of the General Council, which shall have the responsibility of promoting young people's activities for the Fellowship. The General Superintendent shall appoint one of the Assistant General Superintendents as the Director of the Department. It shall be his duty to direct the activities of the Department.

b. The Director of the Department, together with five others to be appointed by the General Superintendent in co-operation with the Director of the Department, subject to the approval of the General Presbytery, shall constitute the Young People's Committee, and the General Superintendent shall designate one of the five to serve as National Christ's Ambassadors Secretary. At least two members of the above committee shall be appointed from the field at large. The Department shall be amenable to the Executive Presbytery.

### **Section 2. Purpose.**

a. The purpose of this Department shall be to plan and promote a spiritual program to save and conserve young people for the Kingdom of God. Its aim shall be to correlate the wisdom and leadership of our older brethren with the zeal and enthusiasm of youth in harmony with the constitutional principles of co-operative fellowship and unity of the Assemblies of God.

b. The functions of this Department shall include:

- (1) Encouraging and assisting the development of District Young People's programs.
- (2) Co-ordinating the development and promotion of projects of national scope.
- (3) Producing literature and helps to meet the needs of our Christ's Ambassadors.
- (4) Promoting spiritual programs adaptable to the particular problems of young people in high schools and colleges.

### **Section 3. Name.**

The organizations comprising local and District groups of young people of the Assemblies of God shall be known as Christ's Ambassadors.

### **Section 4. Organ.**

The CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS HERALD shall be the organ of the Young People's Department.

### **Section 5. District Organizations.**

Groups of local organizations may be formed into District organizations, with the approval of the officary of the District Councils involved. The District organization shall be governed by the principles of co-operative fellowship and shall be considered as a branch or department of the District Council. The District Council officary shall be considered as the honorary membership of the District organization and shall be honored and respected in all matters affecting the activities of the organization. The District organization shall have the right to elect its own officers when deemed advisable by the District Presbytery, and to supervise its own activities within the boundaries of the territory involved. The Superintendent of the District Council shall be an ex-officio member of all District committees.

a. The young people's President shall be an ordained minister.

b. The manner of election of the President by the young people's organization shall be subject to the approval of the District Council.

c. A constitution and bylaws covering the activities of the District organization shall be submitted to and approved by the District Presbytery.

d. The President of the District organization shall be subject to call by the District Presbytery for consultation in matters pertaining to young people.

e. Sectional meetings of the district organization shall be strictly spiritual in character and arranged through the co-operation of the pastors and young people's leaders in each section, taking care not to conflict with other local or District meetings.

### **Section 6. Local Organizations.**

a. All local young people's organizations shall be considered as a branch of the local church work, to be under the general supervision of the pastor, whose counsel, advice and direction

shall be respected in all activities which affect the relationship of the organization to the church and its activities in service.

b. The local young people may elect their own officers subject to the approval of the pastor and the church board, and may conduct their own services provided such services do not conflict with, nor detract from the regular services of the church.

c. The pastor shall be considered as an honorary member of the organization and an ex officio member of all its committees, and should be respected and honored as a shepherd and guide in all matters of service and fellowship.

### ARTICLE XIII. RADIO DEPARTMENT

#### Section 1. Authorization

There shall be a Radio Department created to be operated under the direction of a Radio Commission and a Radio Director. Said Commission and Director are to be appointed and supervised by the Executive Presbytery.

#### Section 2. Objectives

a. In preparation of the national broadcast, the Commission on Radio shall solicit the highest possible quality in musical presentation and shall feature capable speakers who shall offer messages in keeping with the Statement of Faith of the General Council of the Assemblies of God.

b. Programs shall originate from such sources, and be released through such outlets, and feature such talent as shall meet the requirements of the Radio Commission.

c. A transcription library shall be provided for our ministers to draw upon for use in the preparation of local broadcasts as may be desired. Complete transcriptions shall also be prepared for optional use of ministers and churches. Such transcriptions shall allow time for local announcements. An appropriate series of transcriptions offering a distinctive presentation of our Statement of Faith shall be prepared for use in extended Home Missions work.

#### Section 3. Funds

The Radio Director shall be authorized to employ such means for the raising of funds as shall be deemed advisable by the Radio Commission.

### ARTICLE XIV. DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

#### Section 1. Authorization.

a. There shall be a Department of Finance which shall have the responsibility for safeguarding, supervising and investing the finances of the General Council.

b. The Department shall be amenable to and function under the general supervision of the Executive Presbytery.

c. The Department shall consist of the Treasurer of the General Council, who shall be the head of the Department, together with one member of each Department of the General Council, to be appointed by the General Superintendent in co-operation with the General Presbytery.

#### Section 2. Support of Headquarters.

a. The work of the General Council in its definite program of development of the spirit of cooperation and fellowship in home and foreign fields incurs considerable expense, including financial support of the Executive Officers and the maintaining of the Executive Offices. Every minister should, therefore, recognize his obligation to contribute from his tithes or as an offering, or through his influence, the sum of one dollar and fifty cents (\$1.50) per month. And further, looking toward the increased efficiency of the service to the fellowship throughout the entire field, all who can contribute more, personally or through their assemblies, than the suggested amount, are hereby strongly urged to do so. The General Treasurer's office shall submit to the respective District offices a semi-annual report of ministers' contributions for the support of Headquarters. Each District shall make this information available to its ministers by any of the following methods: 1. Collectively through District publications; 2. Individually by personal letter; or 3. In any other manner they may select.

b. If practicable, let each assembly take one offering each year for the upkeep of the General Council office and the travel expense of Executive Officers.

### ARTICLE XV. DEPARTMENT OF BENEVOLENCES

#### Section 1. Authorization.

There shall be a Department of Benevolences which shall have the oversight of the Homes for the Aged and Children's Homes. The Department shall be administered by a Commission consisting of a Director and four other members who shall be appointed by the General Superintendent in cooperation with the Executive Presbytery.

#### Section 2. General Council Benevolent Institutions.

General Council Homes for the Aged and General Council Children's Homes shall be operated by Boards of Directors appointed by the Executive Presbytery; said Boards shall be responsible to the Department of Benevolences in matters of policy and government.

### **Section 3. District Council Benevolent Institutions.**

District Councils shall be recognized as having the authority to set up Homes for the Aged and Children's Homes in co-operation with the Department of Benevolences. They shall be expected to conform to the standards approved by that Department.

## **ARTICLE XVI. INSTITUTIONS**

### **Section 1. Miscellaneous Institutions.**

a. The General Council shall be in sympathy with the establishment and maintenance of missionary homes.

b. The General Council shall be in sympathy with the establishment and maintenance of missionary schools on the various mission fields where practicable for the training of native workers, and schools for the education of the young children of missionaries.

### **Section 2. Private Ownership of Religious Institutions.**

The General Council approves the holding of title to all church buildings, schools or other institutions that are supported by funds solicited for the work of God through properly constituted corporations. It disapproves the holding title to such properties by the ministers of the Assemblies of God, through private ownership, corporation of sole, closed corporation or any other type of ownership where initiative of action or final authority is not vested in a corporation of the whole. 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, the General Council strongly recommends that a properly incorporated body be formed and that the title to the property be transferred to it.

A disregard of this principle and recommendation of the General Council shall seriously affect the relationship to the General Council of members involved in such ownership.

## **ARTICLE XVII. MINISTERS' BENEFIT ASSOCIATION**

### **Section 1. Organization**

The Executive Presbytery shall be authorized to create and put into operation an Association of Assemblies of God Ministers available to all ordained ministers of the General Council which shall have as its objective the accumulation of funds

to make possible the retirement of its members at 65 years of age with a monthly income for life. This Association shall be known as the Assemblies of God Ministers' Benefit Association and shall adopt its own Articles of Association in keeping with these bylaws and subject to the approval of the Executive Presbytery of the General Council. It shall not be available to ministers of those Districts which have retirement plans of their own which involve offerings from the churches.

### **Section 2. Administration**

The Executive Presbytery of the General Council shall serve as the first Board of Directors of this Association but shall delegate the administration of this Association to succeeding Boards of Directors which shall be elected by the members of the Association. All Boards of Directors of this Association shall, however, be amenable to the Executive Presbytery of the General Council.

### **Section 3. Benevolent Disbursements**

This Association, through its Board of Directors, shall be authorized and instructed to continue the same assistance to needy ministers and their widows, which has been provided through the Ministers' Benevolent Fund and on the same conditions, namely: (1) that applicants shall have engaged in active and approved ministry in the General Council fellowship for a period of ten or more years; (2) that the record of the applicant shall indicate that he or she has complied with the agreed upon financial plan of the District and General Council; and (3) that the District Officiary of which he or she is a member shall apply for or endorse the application for such assistance.

### **Section 4. Ministers' Benevolent Fund**

The Board of Directors of the Ministers' Benefit Association, in taking over the administration of the present Ministers' Benevolent Fund, shall be and hereby is authorized to assume the administration of the sum of money which has now accumulated and is being held by the Executive Presbytery in the Ministers' Benevolent Fund. This Fund may henceforth be administered for Benevolent and Retirement purposes provided that, in the event that for any reason the Ministers' Benefit Association shall be liquidated and cease to function, the sum of \$100,000.00 from its funds shall be returned to the Executive Presbytery for the purpose of recreating and operating the Ministers' Benevolent Fund.

### **Section 5. Investment of Funds**

The Board of Directors of the Ministers' Benefit Association shall be authorized to invest the funds of this Association in property of the General and District Councils and local churches of the Assemblies of God provided that such investments are fully protected by mortgage or by note signed by General or District Council officials.

### **Section 6. Contributions**

Each member of the Ministers' Benefit Association shall be expected to contribute at least One Dollar (\$1.00) per month to this Association.

Each assembly in our fellowship is requested to take up an assembly freewill offering for the Ministers' Benefit Fund twice each year, advisedly during May and November if these months are suitable and convenient to the local Assembly. These offerings shall be sent immediately to the Board of Directors of the Ministers' Benefit Association, and shall be held and disbursed by them according to their Articles of Association.

Our entire Council fellowship and constituency is urged upon any fitting occasion and through the columns of our publications to interest friends in making special gifts and endowments to this Association.

## **ARTICLE XVIII. MILITARY SERVICE**

While recognizing Human Government as of Divine ordination and affirming our unswerving loyalty to the Government of the United States, nevertheless we are constrained to define our position with reference to the taking of human life.

We, as followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, believe in implicit obedience to the Divine commands and precepts which instruct us to "Follow peace with all men" (Heb. 12:14), "Resist not evil" (Matt. 5:39), "Love your enemies" (Matt. 5:44), etc. These and other scriptures have always been accepted and interpreted by our churches as prohibiting Christians from shedding blood or taking human life; therefore, we, as a body of Christians, while purposing to fulfill all the obligations of loyal citizenship, are nevertheless constrained to declare we cannot conscientiously participate in war and armed resistance which involves the actual destruction of human life, since this is contrary to our view of the clear teachings of the inspired Word of God which is the sole basis of our faith. At the same time the General Council hereby declares its unswerving loyalty to the

Government and to its Chief Executive, and we purpose to assist the government in time of war in every way morally possible, consistent with our faith.

## **ARTICLE XIX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED**

In accord with its constitutional prerogatives, the General Council has declared itself pertaining to disapproval of certain matters as follows:

### **Section 1. Heresies Disapproved.**

The General Council hereby disapproves of the Seventh-day teaching, of the extreme so-called Eternal Security teaching, and of the Restitution of All Things doctrine, and those holding and agitating such teachings, thereby causing confusion and division among God's people, shall be dealt with according to Titus 3:10.

### **Section 2. Regarding Meats.**

The pressing of the question of eating, or not eating meats, is causing divisions in some of the assemblies,

Therefore, the General Council disapproves of such extreme positions on this question which cause these divisions, and we recognize the right of each individual conscience in this matter, according to Col. 2:14-17; Rom. 14:1-23.

### **Section 3. Setting a Time 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; and also it is unwise to give out from the platform, or publish visions of numbers and dates fixing the time of the second coming of the Lord.

### **Section 4. Regarding Secret Orders.**

Ours is a last day message in preparation for the coming of the Lord (Matt. 24:14), leaving us no alternative but whole-hearted 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 (Eph. 5:16).

The nature of such organizations demands secrecy (John 18:20, Acts 26:26) reinforced by unchristian oaths (Matt. 5:34) and strong attachment by binding obligations to persons who

are for the most part unregenerated. (II Cor. 6:14). Moreover, the spirit, philosophy, and general influence of such secret orders aims at the improvement of the natural man only (I Cor. 2:14; Col. 2:8), thus wrongly channeling by incorrect interpretation important spiritual truths (II Pet. 3:16).

Confidence in these secret orders and their teachings has always tended toward the embracing of a false hope of salvation through good works and improved moral service (Eph. 2:8, 9).

In consideration of the foregoing, all ministers affiliated with us should refrain from identifying themselves with any of the secret orders which we recognize as essentially of the world, worldly, and we advise any who may have identified themselves with such orders to sever their connections therewith (II Cor. 6:17). Furthermore, our ministers are requested to use their good influence among our lay members to dissuade them from such fraternal affiliations (I Tim. 4:12; II Tim. 2:24-26).

#### **Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage.**

a. 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 cases be left in the hands of the Lord, and that they walk in the light as God lets it shine on their souls.

b. 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 divorce for any cause except for fornication and adultery (Matt. 19:9); and recommend the remaining single of all divorced Christians, and that they pray God so to keep them in purity and peace. (See I Corinthians 7.)

#### **Section 6. Worldliness.**

In order to strengthen the hands of our pastors and evangelists in holding up Bible standards against popular sins, we as a body unitedly declare ourselves against all forms of worldliness, but particularly against modern immodesty and extremity in dress, and we all agree as pastors, evangelists, licensed ministers, exhorters, Sunday school superintendents and teachers, to speak the same things and voice ourselves against all forms of popular sins.

#### **Section 7. Post-Tribulation Rapture Teaching.**

Whereas, The General Council 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

Whereas, The teaching that the Church must go through the Tribulation tends to bring confusion and division among the saints; therefore,

We recommend that all our ministers teach the imminent coming of Christ, warning all men to be prepared for that coming, which may occur at any time, and not lull their minds into insecurity by any teaching that would cause them to feel that certain events must occur before the Rapture of the saints.

Furthermore, We recommend that should any of our ministers hold to the post-Tribulation doctrine, they refrain from preaching and teaching it. Should they persist in emphasizing this doctrine to the point of making it an issue, their standing in the fellowship will be seriously affected.

#### **Section 8. Improper Use of Tithes.**

a. According to 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 given to charity or used for other purposes. In tithing, the ministers ought to be examples.

b. 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 should belong to the pastor for his support.

#### **Section 9 Improper Solicitation of Funds.**

a. 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.

b. 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 General Council principles or policies.

c. (1) Leaders in local projects shall have unquestioned freedom in local churches or communities.

(2) Projects of general interest to the District must have the authorization of the District Officiary.

(3) Projects or institutions of national scope must have the authorization of the Executive Presbytery of the General Council.

(4) Promotion of all projects of a missionary character must have the authorization of the Missions Department.

d. The obtaining and use of mailing lists for promotional purposes not having proper authorization or which are not in keeping with Council policies 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.

#### **ARTICLE XX. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The regular order of business for the Council Meeting shall be:

1. Report of the General Superintendent.
2. Report of Secretary.
3. Report of Treasurer.
4. Departmental Reports.
5. Unfinished Business.
6. Election of Officers.
7. New Business.
8. Adjournment.

All business sessions of the Council shall commence with prayer.

#### **ARTICLE XXI. QUORUM**

All members registered and voting in any meeting of the General Council shall constitute a quorum, and all General Presbyters registered and voting in any meeting of the General Presbytery shall constitute a quorum. A majority of the Executive Presbyters at any meeting of the Executive Presbytery shall constitute a quorum.

#### **ARTICLE XXII. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Bylaws may be made at any regular meeting of the General Council. Amendments to be adopted shall require a majority of all votes cast.