

# **RESOLUTIONS**

**PROCESSED FOR PRESENTATION**

**TO THE**

**57TH GENERAL COUNCIL**

**AUGUST 7-11, 2017**

**ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA**

## **2017 Resolutions Committee**

Donald H. Detrick, chairperson  
Doyle A. Fulkes  
Walter F. Harvey  
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James A. Palmer  
Rachel L. Ross  
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# **AMENDMENTS**

## **TO THE**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE XIII. AMENDMENTS**

(Page 106)

Amendments to the Constitution may be made at any regularly called session of the General Council provided that the proposed amendments have been submitted in writing at least 6 months in advance to the Executive Presbytery. Before the Executive Presbytery may submit proposed amendments for consideration by a session of the General Council, it shall provide written notice of the proposed amendments by regular or electronic mail to the office of each district superintendent and each district secretary and to ministers of The General Council of the Assemblies of God, not later than 30 days prior to said session. Amendments to the Constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of all members present and voting.

**Resolution 1**

**DISTRICT COUNCIL NOMENCLATURE**

1 WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God membership consists of all ministers in possession of  
2 current credential recognition by the Assemblies of God and all churches who  
3 have voluntarily chosen affiliation with the Assemblies of God; and  
4 WHEREAS, The district councils (both geographic and language/ethnic) recognized by the  
5 Assemblies of God serve as the primary interface for credential matters and  
6 providing a network of fellowship among member churches and ministers; and  
7 WHEREAS, In order to more clearly convey culture, mission, and purpose, various district  
8 councils have chosen to amend their identity, choosing other descriptive names;  
9 and  
10 WHEREAS, The General Council documents should recognize and empower its districts in  
11 such action; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution ARTICLE X. DISTRICT COUNCILS,  
13 Section 1. Membership, page 103, which currently reads:

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

16       Be amended to read:

17       Membership of each district council shall be determined by the district's  
18       constitution and bylaws. District councils may also be known as networks,  
19       resource centers, or other nomenclature adopted by their council in session.

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery

Presented \_\_\_\_\_  
Amended \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
Lost \_\_\_\_\_

1           **Resolution 2**

2           **DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE ON GENERAL PRESBYTERY—CONSTITUTION**

3           WHEREAS, Action was taken during the 2015 General Council to amend the General Council  
4           Bylaws ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section  
5           2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph d. General presbyters, subparagraph (1)  
6           *District representatives*, as follows:

7           **d. General presbyters**

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

14           WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution also needs to be amended to bring it into  
15           conformity with the above action taken by the 2015 General Council in session;  
16           therefore, be it

17           RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS AND  
18           PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 3. General  
19           Presbytery, paragraph a. Representation, qualifications, and responsibilities, pages  
20           101–102, which reads:

21           **Section 3. General Presbytery**

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

1 Be amended to read:

2           **Section 3. General Presbytery**

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

14 And,

15 WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND  
16 PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph d. General  
17 presbyters, subparagraph (1) *District representatives*, was amended during the  
18 2015 General Council in session but discussion did not include the word  
19 “ordained” being added to the text; and

20 WHEREAS, The General Council Constitution and Bylaws must be in conformity; therefore,  
21 be it

22 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND  
23 PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph d. General  
24 presbyters, subparagraph (1) *District representatives*, page 111, which reads:

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

1 Be amended to read:

2           (1) *District representatives.* Each district shall have the privilege of  
3           representation on the General Presbytery by three members—the district  
4           superintendent together with two others who shall be elected by their district  
5           council, one of whom shall be an ordained pastor of a church or an ordained  
6           person involved in other ministry located in the district. They shall take office  
7           immediately upon election. In addition to the superintendent of each district,  
8           who shall serve on the General Presbytery by virtue of office, two others shall  
9           be elected by the district council in session, both of whom shall be ordained  
10           Assemblies of God ministers, and at least one of whom shall be a pastor of a  
11           church or a person involved in other ministry located in the district. They shall  
12           take office immediately upon election.

Sponsor: General Presbytery

Presented \_\_\_\_\_  
Amended \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
Lost \_\_\_\_\_

### **Resolution 3**

#### **COMPASSION, JUSTICE, AND PEACEMAKING**

1        Angels heralded Christ's birth with the words, "Peace on earth." We also know that, as the  
2 Prince of Peace, Christ will return soon to set up His kingdom by bringing "Peace on earth" and  
3 rule with justice. However, between these two events, what is our role in bringing peace and  
4 justice to our world today? Do we merely wait for Christ to return and bring peace? Do calls for  
5 justice in the Old Testament speak to the Assemblies of God today? Is there a place for a  
6 Pentecostal prophetic word like that of Amos? What should be our response to conflict, human  
7 trafficking, slave labor, child exploitation, the homeless, and widows and orphans? The General  
8 Council of the Assemblies of God, district councils, and local churches should be involved in  
9 conflict resolution between churches, denominations, races, religions, and countries. We believe  
10 justice and peacemaking are necessary complements of compassion ministries, and this should  
11 be clearly stated in our Constitution.

12      Furthermore, the Commission on Doctrinal Purity and the General Presbytery approved the  
13 Assemblies of God position paper entitled, "Church Mission and Peacemaking." We, the  
14 undersigned, propose the following amendment to our Constitution, ARTICLE III.  
15 PREROGATIVES, line e. which reads, "To respond to human need with ministries of  
16 compassion," by adding the words "and actions that promote justice and peacemaking."

17      Resolution to amend the Constitution by adding explicit language on justice and  
18 peacemaking to further define ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES, line e:

19 WHEREAS, The General Council at its August 2009 meeting in Orlando, Florida, amended the  
20 General Council Constitution, ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES, by the addition  
21 of the line e:

22                e. To respond to human need with ministries of compassion; and

23 WHEREAS, The function of the body of Christ is to follow the will of its Head and His  
24 example; and

25 WHEREAS, Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God"  
26 (Matthew 5:9); and

27 WHEREAS, Amos declared, "Let justice roll on like a river" (Amos 5:24); and

28 WHEREAS, Zechariah wrote, "This is what the LORD Almighty said, 'Administer true justice;  
29 show mercy and compassion to one another'" (Zechariah 7:9); and

1    WHEREAS, Paul wrote, "Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to  
2                         mutual edification" (Romans 14:19); and

3    WHEREAS, The author of Hebrews wrote, "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone  
4                         and to be holy" (Hebrews 12:14); and

5    WHEREAS, James wrote, "Peacemakers who sow in peace reap a harvest of righteousness"  
6                         (James 3:18); and

7    WHEREAS, Matthew records the prophecy of Isaiah, "A bruised reed he will not break, and a  
8                         smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to  
9                         victory" (Matthew 12:20; Isaiah 42:3); and

10   WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God adopted the position paper entitled, "Church Mission and  
11                         Peacemaking," which states, "the Assemblies of God considers peacemaking to  
12                         be intrinsic to the Church's mission" (page 1, line 2); "the Church in our time, and  
13                         every time, has both the imperative and the challenge of pursuing peace" (page 4,  
14                         line 19); and "in view of the admonitions of Scripture to pursue peace in a broken  
15                         world, the importance and relevance of deliberate peacemaking activities is  
16                         abundantly clear" (page 9, line 23); and

17   WHEREAS, Justice seeking and peacemaking are necessary complements to ministries of  
18                         compassion in regards to a Christian response to human need; therefore, be it

19   RESOLVED, That the General Council Constitution, ARTICLE III. PREROGATIVES, line e,  
20                         page 94, which reads:

- 21                         e. To respond to human need with ministries of compassion.

22                         Be amended to read:

- 23                         e. To respond to human need with ministries of compassion and actions that  
24                         promote justice and peacemaking.

Sponsor: J. Ross Byars  
                           Robert E. Cooley  
                           Murray W. Dempster  
                           Robert W. Houlihan  
                           Nam Soo Kim  
                           Russell P. Spittler

Presented \_\_\_\_\_  
Amended \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
Lost \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution 4**

**QUALIFYING MEMBERSHIP IN LOCAL CHURCHES**

1 WHEREAS, The qualifying requirements for recognition of a local church being given General  
2 Council affiliated status is established by the General Council Constitution  
3 ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES; and  
4 WHEREAS, One of the minimal requirements established is the number of voting members in  
5 the local assembly, currently established at 20 (twenty) members; and  
6 WHEREAS, The underlying assumption of the recognition of “General Council affiliated  
7 status” for a local assembly is the achievement of both self-governance and self-  
8 sustaining in its operations; and  
9 WHEREAS, It is for the benefit of healthy local churches that this threshold number be  
10 reviewed by the General Council in session, for the purpose of providing  
11 maximum strength to the local church; therefore, be it  
12 RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution ARTICLE XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES,  
13 Section 1. General Council Affiliated Assemblies, paragraph a. Requirements for  
14 affiliation, subparagraph (3), page 104, which currently reads:

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

20 Be amended to read:

21 (3) Have a minimum active voting membership of 30 ~~20~~ persons who shall  
22 accept responsibility to maintain scriptural order in the local body. In cases  
23 where there are fewer than 30 ~~20~~ voting members, an exception may be  
24 granted by the district, in compliance with General Presbytery policy, and  
25 provided that the church has demonstrated the capacity for self-governance;

Sponsors: Larry H. Griswold  
D. Rick Ross  
New Jersey District Presbytery  
Ohio District Presbytery

Presented \_\_\_\_\_  
Amended \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
Lost \_\_\_\_\_

**AMENDMENTS  
TO THE  
BYLAWS**

**ARTICLE XXI. AMENDMENTS  
(Page 164)**

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

## **Resolution 5**

## **INACTIVE MINISTERS STATUS**

1 WHEREAS, The General Council Bylaws ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY, Section 6. Official List,  
2 references an “inactive list” for those credential holders who have not been  
3 engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel over a period of one  
4 year; and

5 WHEREAS, The categories of *lapsed*, *resigned*, *not renewed*, and *dismissed* have served well  
6 to define any needed credential changes from that of an “active status”; and

7 WHEREAS, The *inactive* list itself has not been maintained or updated by district councils and  
8 the general secretary’s office for many years, with the exception of ministers with  
9 disabilities; and

10 WHEREAS, An *inactive* list presently seems to serve no necessary purpose moving forward,  
11 other than for those ministers with disabilities; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY, Section 6. Official  
13 List, paragraph b. Inactive or disabled ministers and paragraph c. Restoration to  
14 active status, pages 131–132, which presently reads:

**b. Inactive or disabled ministers.** All credentialed ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full-time ministry, shall be expected to notify the district office, which shall inform the general secretary who shall then be authorized to transfer the names of such persons to the inactive list, unless the district of which said person is a member requests otherwise by letter.

(1) *Definition.* All ministers who have not been actively engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel over a period of 1 year shall have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.

(2) *Removal of inactive ministers from ministerial list.* When a minister is inactive for 2 or more consecutive years, his or her name shall be eliminated from the ministerial list, unless the credentials committee of the district of which said person is a member requests otherwise by letter.

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

(4) *Ministers with disabilities.* Ministers with permanent disability or illness, which prevents them from engaging in active ministry, shall be indicated as disabled. The credential status of the minister shall remain unchanged. The annual renewal of his or her credentials shall take place in the regular manner. Ministers with disabilities thus approved by their district shall not have further obligation of financial support to the General Council.

**c. Restoration to active status.** Should the minister at any time return to active ministry, his or her name may be restored to the active list upon application bearing endorsement by the district officiary.

Be amended to read:

**b. Ministers with disabilities.** Ministers with permanent disability or illness, which prevents them from engaging in active ministry, shall be indicated as disabled. The credential status of the minister shall remain unchanged. The annual renewal of his or her credentials shall take place in the regular manner. Ministers with disabilities thus approved by their district shall not have further obligation of financial support to the General Council.

Inactive or disabled ministers. All credentialed ministers who shall withdraw from active ministry or shall cease to engage in pastoral, evangelistic, or other full time ministry, shall be expected to notify the district office, which shall inform the general secretary who shall then be authorized to transfer the names of such persons to the inactive list, unless the district of which said person is a member requests otherwise by letter.

1                             (1) *Definition.* All ministers who have not been actively engaged in viable  
2                             ministry and proclamation of the gospel over a period of 1 year shall  
3                             have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.

4                             (2) *Removal of inactive ministers from ministerial list.* When a minister is  
5                             inactive for 2 or more consecutive years, his or her name shall be  
6                             eliminated from the ministerial list, unless the credentials committee of  
7                             the district of which said person is a member requests otherwise by  
8                             letter.

9                             (3) *Exceptions.* This shall not apply to those whose inactivity has been  
10                          caused by infirmity; or those engaged in other aspects of full-time  
11                          ministry such as the National Leadership and Resource Center or  
12                          district workers, educators, ministers of music, ministers of youth, and  
13                          ministers of Christian education; or those who have reached the age of  
14                          60 years; or those ministers who have had 25 years of approved  
15                          service as credentialed ministers, or those whose spouse is disabled or  
16                          has retired giving them little opportunity for public ministry.

17                          (4) *Ministers with disabilities.* Ministers with permanent disability or  
18                          illness, which prevents them from engaging in active ministry, shall be  
19                          indicated as disabled. The credential status of the minister shall  
20                          remain unchanged. The annual renewal of his or her credentials shall  
21                          take place in the regular manner. Ministers with disabilities thus  
22                          approved by their district shall not have further obligation of financial  
23                          support to the General Council.

24                          e. **Restoration to active status.** Should the minister at any time return  
25                          to active ministry, his or her name may be restored to the active list upon  
26                          application bearing endorsement by the district officiary.

27                          And, be it further

28                          RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY, Section 11.  
29                          Nondisciplinary Credential Terminations, paragraph b. On the initiative of the  
30                          district, page 137, which presently reads:

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

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

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

9           Be amended to read:

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

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

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

Sponsor: General Presbytery

Presented \_\_\_\_\_  
Amended \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
Lost \_\_\_\_\_

1           **Resolution 6**

2           **SENIOR STATUS FOR MINISTERS**

1       WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY, Section 7. Senior Ministers,  
2           mandates the reclassifying of each credential holder who turns 65 years of age as  
3           either senior-active, senior-semiretired, or senior-retired; and  
4       WHEREAS, The age of 65 no longer represents retirement age for many credential holders;  
5           and  
6       WHEREAS, Reasons related to insurances or other credential benefits that would be linked to  
7           the age of 65 no longer exist; and  
8       WHEREAS, The senior-active and senior-semiretired statuses do not change a credential  
9           holder's financial obligations to the General Council or to most districts; and  
10      WHEREAS, It requires extra time and expense for the General Council to track and notify  
11           ministers of their senior status when they turn age 65, with no related changes,  
12           benefits, or consequences for the credential holder; and  
13      WHEREAS, The re-designated status of "senior" has not always been understood in the  
14           honorary way in which it was intended for credential holders who are still active  
15           in ministry; therefore, be it  
16      RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY, Section 7. Senior  
17           Ministers and paragraphs a. through c., pages 132–133, which presently reads:

18           **Section 7. Senior Ministers**

19           In respect and honor to those ministers who have given years of service to  
20           the Fellowship, senior status shall automatically be given to all credential  
21           holders who have reached the age of 65, whether or not they continue in full-  
22           time ministry.

23           **a. Terminology**

- 24           (1) The term *senior-active* shall be used for credential holders  
25           who continue to serve more than half-time in the ministry.  
26           (2) The term *senior-semiretired* shall be used for credential  
27           holders who continue to be active, but for half-time or less.  
28           (3) The term *senior-retired* shall be used for those who have  
29           ceased to engage in any regular appointed ministry.

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

6                   **c. Guidelines**

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

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

16                  (3) *Designation in publications.* No distinguishing mark shall  
17                  accompany the listing of senior-active in the official publications of  
18                  the Assemblies of God, but may be so indicated in the working lists  
19                  used for insurance and retirement purposes. Senior-semiretired and  
20                  senior-retired ministers shall have this status indicated in the *Official*  
21                  *List of Assemblies of God Ministers.*

22                  (4) *Support of General Council National Leadership and*  
23                  *Resource Center.* Senior-active and senior-semiretired ministers shall  
24                  continue to designate the required amount of support to the General  
25                  Council National Leadership and Resource Center as set forth in  
26                  Bylaws, Article VII, Section 10, paragraph f. Senior-retired ministers  
27                  shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes  
28                  previously paid to the General Council.

1 Be amended to read:

2 **Section 7. Senior-Retired Ministers**

3 In respect and honor to those ministers who have given years of service to  
4 the Fellowship, the term senior-retired shall be used for those who are 65  
5 years of age or older and who have ceased to engage in any regular appointed  
6 ministry. senior status shall automatically be given to all credential holders  
7 who have reached the age of 65, whether or not they continue in full time  
8 ministry.

9 **a. Terminology**

10 (1) The term senior active shall be used for credential holders  
11 who continue to serve more than half time in the ministry.

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

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

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

21 **b e. Guidelines**

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

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

1                   (2) (3)     *Designation in publications.* ~~No distinguishing mark~~  
2     shall accompany the listing of senior active in the official publications  
3     of the Assemblies of God, but may be so indicated in the working lists  
4     used for insurance and retirement purposes. Senior semiretired and  
5     Senior-retired ministers shall have this status indicated in the *Official*  
6     *List of Assemblies of God Ministers.*

7                   (3) (4)     *Support of General Council National Leadership and*  
8     *Resource Center.* Senior active and senior semiretired ministers shall  
9     continue to designate the required amount of support to the General  
10    Council National Leadership and Resource Center as set forth in  
11    Bylaws, Article VII, Section 10, paragraph f. Senior-retired ministers  
12    shall be free to distribute as they desire the portion of their tithes  
13    previously paid to the General Council.

Sponsor: General Presbytery

Presented \_\_\_\_\_  
Amended \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
Lost \_\_\_\_\_

## **Resolution 7**

### **NONRESIDENT EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERS BALLOTED BY AREA**

1 WHEREAS, It benefits the Fellowship, as a grassroots movement to maintain local  
2 representation, when possible; and

3 WHEREAS, In recent years, increasing numbers of representatives based on gender, age, and  
4 ethnicity have been added to the General Council Executive Presbytery; and

5 WHEREAS, Our General Council is large both in numbers and geography; and

6 WHEREAS, It is often challenging for the voters from one geographic area to have sufficient  
7 knowledge of nominees from another area; and

8 WHEREAS, It would seem beneficial to the Fellowship to allow the voters from the areas to  
9 vote on the nominees from their own area, rather than from the General Council  
10 at-large; and

11 WHEREAS, Electronic voting at General Council creates the time-saving possibility of voting  
12 simultaneously for each General Council nonresident executive presbyters by  
13 area; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE II, ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND  
15 PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph c. Nonresident  
16 executive presbyters, subparagraph (a) *By area*, page 110, which reads:

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

1                   Be amended to read:

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

Sponsor: Ohio District Council  
Alabama District Presbytery  
Florida Multicultural District Executive Committee  
Georgia District Presbytery  
Iowa District Presbytery  
Kentucky District Presbytery  
Louisiana District Board  
Minnesota District Presbytery  
Montana District Presbytery  
New Mexico District Presbytery  
Northern California-Nevada District Presbytery  
Samoan District Council  
South Dakota District Presbytery  
West Florida District Presbytery  
West Texas District Presbytery

Presented	_____
Amended	_____
Referred	_____
Adopted	_____
Lost	_____

## **Resolution 8**

## **CHI ALPHA CAMPUS MINISTRIES NAME CHANGE**

1                   And, be it further  
2 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE XIV. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD U.S.  
3                   MISSIONS, Section 3. Support, paragraph e, page 161, which reads:

4                   **e. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries.**

5                   All Chi Alpha groups are required to contribute five percent of all group  
6                   revenue to national Chi Alpha Campus Ministries.

7                   Be amended to read:

8                   **e. Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A.**

9                   All Chi Alpha groups are required to contribute five percent of all group  
10                  revenue to national Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A.

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery

Presented \_\_\_\_\_  
Amended \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
Lost \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution 9**

**STRENGTHENING NEWLY FORMED DISTRICTS**

1 WHEREAS, The expansion and growth of the Assemblies of God through its district councils  
2 is provided for in General Council Bylaws ARTICLE V. DISTRICT COUNCILS,  
3 Section 1, Formation of New Districts, indicating that new districts will continue  
4 to be formed; and

5 WHEREAS, Our experience with the approval of newly formed districts is similar to our  
6 experience in planting churches throughout our Fellowship, namely that “birth-  
7 weight” of the newly formed ministry does matter; and

8 WHEREAS, It would be to the advantage of the churches and ministers as members of any  
9 newly formed district that every effort be made to guarantee the strength and  
10 sustainability of the new district; therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 1.  
12 Formation of New Districts, paragraph b. Guidelines, subparagraphs (1) through  
13 (5), pages 120–121, which reads:

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

15           (1) A minimum of 40 Assemblies of God churches sponsored by an  
16 existing district and having voted to become a part of the new district at the  
17 beginning of the conference unless an exception has been granted by the  
18 Executive Presbytery.

19           (2) Size, maturity, and financial stability of the churches as to  
20 membership, leadership, and program ministries.

21           (3) The location, size, and potential growth of the geographical area  
22 under consideration.

23           (4) The effect the establishment of the proposed new district will have on  
24 other districts.

25           (5) Churches and ministers that have voted to become a part of the new  
26 conference shall be required to contribute one-third of their district tithes or  
27 dues to the new conference during the first year, two-thirds of their district  
28 tithes or dues to the new conference during the second year, and contribute the  
29 full amount of tithes or dues as determined by the newly established district  
30 during the third year and following.

1 Be amended to read:

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

3           (1) A minimum of 40 60 Assemblies of God churches (of which at least  
4           50 percent are General Council affiliated status) sponsored by an existing  
5           district and having voted to become a part of the new district at the beginning  
6           of the conference unless an exception has been recognized granted by the  
7           Executive Presbytery.

8           (2) Size, maturity, and financial stability of the churches as to  
9           membership (assessing both total membership and regular attendance),  
10          leadership, and program ministries.

11          (3) Size, maturity, and financial stability of the proposed district, its  
12          potential for leadership, and its ability to sustain support and program  
13          ministries to its churches.

14          (4) ~~(3)~~ The location, size, and potential growth of the geographical area  
15          under consideration.

16          (5) ~~(4)~~ The effect the establishment of the proposed new district will  
17          have on other districts.

18          (6) ~~(5)~~ Churches and ministers that have voted to become a part of the  
19          new conference shall be required to contribute one-third of their district tithes  
20          or dues to the new conference during the first year, two-thirds of their district  
21          tithes or dues to the new conference during the second year, and contribute the  
22          full amount of tithes or dues as determined by the newly established district  
23          during the third year and following.

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery

Presented \_\_\_\_\_  
Amended \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
Lost \_\_\_\_\_

**Resolution 10**

**LISTING OF DISTRICT COUNCILS**

1 WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God membership consists of all ministers in possession of  
2 current credential recognition by The General Council of the Assemblies of God  
3 and all churches who have voluntarily chosen affiliation with The General  
4 Council of the Assemblies of God; and

5 WHEREAS, District councils (both geographic and language/ethnic) recognized by the  
6 Assemblies of God serve as the primary interface for credential matters and  
7 providing a network of fellowship among member churches and ministers; and

8 WHEREAS, In order to more clearly convey mission and purpose, various district councils  
9 have chosen to amend their identity, choosing other descriptive names; and

10 WHEREAS, The expansion and growth of the Assemblies of God through its district councils  
11 is provided for in General Council Bylaws ARTICLE V. DISTRICT COUNCILS,  
12 Section 1. Formation of New Districts, indicating that new districts will continue  
13 to be formed; and

14 WHEREAS, When a new district council is formed, or a district council chooses to rename  
15 itself, editorial amendments to the General Council Bylaws (ARTICLE II.  
16 ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and  
17 Elections, paragraph c. Nonresident executive presbyters) are required by the  
18 General Council in session, in order to bring our documents into agreement with  
19 action of district councils in session, and previously approved by the General  
20 Presbytery in session; and

21 WHEREAS, Eliminating routine editorial amendments would make more efficient use of the  
22 General Council agenda and time spent by the delegates in session; therefore, be it

23 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND  
24 PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph c. Nonresident  
25 executive presbyters, subparagraphs (2) *Divisions for electing nonresident*  
26 *executive presbyters*, (a) *By area*, pages 110–111, be amended by deleting the  
27 individual names of various districts assigned to areas recognized by the  
28 Assemblies of God and by the addition of text so that the section which currently  
29 reads:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20                            *Language Area—East Spanish:* Florida Multicultural, Midwest Latin  
21                            American, Puerto Rico, Southern Latin, Spanish Eastern

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

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

28                            Be amended to read:

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

30                            (a) *By area.* For the purpose of electing nonresident executive presbyters,  
31                            The General Council of the Assemblies of God shall be divided into 14 areas  
32                            as follows, according to district boundary lines in the following manner:

1           *~~Northwest Area: Alaska, Montana, Northwest, Oregon, Southern Idaho,~~*  
2           *~~Wyoming~~*

3           *~~Southwest Area: Arizona, Hawaii, Northern California Nevada, Rocky~~*  
4           *~~Mountain, Southern California~~*

5           *~~North Central Area: Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Northern~~*  
6           *~~Missouri, South Dakota, Wisconsin Northern Michigan~~*

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

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

11          *~~Gulf Area: Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Southern Missouri,~~*  
12          *~~Tennessee~~*

13          *~~Northeast Area: New Jersey, New York, Northern New England,~~*  
14          *~~Pennsylvania Delaware, Potomac, Southern New England~~*

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

17          *~~Language Area-East Spanish: Florida Multicultural, Midwest Latin~~*  
18          *~~American, Puerto Rico, Southern Latin, Spanish Eastern~~*

19          *~~Language Area-West Spanish: Central District/Distrito Central, Northern~~*  
20          *~~Pacific Latin American, Northwest Hispanic, South Central Hispanic,~~*  
21          *~~Southern Pacific, Southwest, Texas Gulf Hispanic, Texas Louisiana Hispanic,~~*  
22          *~~West Texas and Plains~~*

23          *~~Language Area-Other: Brazilian, German, Korean, National Slavic,~~*  
24          *~~Samoaan, Second Korean~~*

25          *The addition of new areas and the assignment of individual districts to*  
26          *areas shall be determined by the General Presbytery in session, and reported*  
27          *to the General Council in a timely manner.*

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery

Presented \_\_\_\_\_  
Amended \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
Lost \_\_\_\_\_

**HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER**

**RESOLUTION**

## **Resolution 11**

### **HONORARY GENERAL PRESBYTER—CHARLES O. KELLY**

1 WHEREAS, Charles O. Kelly has served the Assemblies of God with great distinction as a  
2 minister of the gospel for 52 years; and

3 WHEREAS, He has served The General Council of the Assemblies of God as a general  
4 presbyter for 46 years, during which time he served as district secretary-treasurer  
5 of the North Carolina District for 22 years, and as district superintendent of the  
6 North Carolina District for 24 years; and

7 WHEREAS, He served on the Board of Regents of Southeastern University for a total of 40  
8 years and as chairman of the Board of Regents for 7 years, and interim president  
9 for 2 years; and

10 WHEREAS, He continues to serve on the Board of Native American Bible College where he  
11 has served 46 years and as chairman of the board for 24 years; and

12 WHEREAS, He continues to serve on the Board of Regents of Northpoint College and  
13 Graduate School; and

14 WHEREAS, He has served on various committees of the General Council; and

15 WHEREAS, This Fellowship has been blessed by his spiritual leadership, practical wisdom,  
16 and faithfulness in ministry and service; and

17 WHEREAS, It is proper and fitting to honor those whose service among us has represented the  
18 highest standards of integrity, ethics, loyalty, diligence, and hard work; and

19 WHEREAS, Charles O. Kelly meets all of the General Council Constitution and Bylaws  
20 qualifications for recognition as an honorary general presbyter; and

21 WHEREAS, Article IX, Section 3, paragraph j, pages 102–103, of the General Council  
22 Constitution makes provision for persons with such distinctive history to be  
23 chosen as an honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the  
24 Assemblies of God; therefore, be it

25 RESOLVED, That Charles O. Kelly be elected by this General Council to the position of  
26 honorary general presbyter of The General Council of the Assemblies of God.

Sponsor: North Carolina District Council  
General Presbytery

Presented	_____
Amended	_____
Referred	_____
Adopted	_____
Lost	_____

# **NOTES**

