

Resolution 4

RECOGNITION OF DIVORCE/ANNULMENT

1 WHEREAS, The various categories of divorce recognition have been approved at
2 various times in history, thus, making the reading of the General Council
3 Bylaws fragmented concerning the five categories; and

4 WHEREAS, It would be beneficial to bring clarity and consolidation when referencing the
5 five various categories of divorce recognition; and

6 WHEREAS, The Executive Presbytery requested the general secretary to review and
7 consider recommending a revision of the General Council Bylaws provision,
8 addressing ecclesiastical annulment (Article VII, Section 2, paragraph k);
9 and

10 WHEREAS, It was determined that a clearer definition of ecclesiastical annulment would
11 be helpful; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE VII. MINISTRY, Section 2. Basic
13 Qualifications, paragraphs j. Marriage status and k. Ecclesiastical
14 annulments and marriage dissolutions, pages 46–47, which reads:

15 **j. Marriage status.** We disapprove of any married persons holding
16 ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God if either marriage
17 partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce occurred prior to
18 his or her conversion or for the scriptural causes of a former spouse's
19 marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the
20 believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10–15), or in the case of
21 domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5–
22 9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians
23 5), except as hereinafter provided.

24 **k. Ecclesiastical annulments and marriage dissolutions.** The
25 Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an
26 applicant qualifies for an ecclesiastical annulment. In such cases there
27 must be clear and satisfactory evidence of deception, fraud, or other
28 conditions which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a
29 valid marriage union, unknown at the time of marriage by the applicant.
30 The Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether

1 an applicant qualifies regarding a former marriage when the termination
2 of that marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the
3 Fellowship relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials;
4 or if a former marriage ended prior to conversion. In those cases
5 involving preconversion divorce they shall be decided on an individual
6 basis just as those that deal with ecclesiastical annulments. Appeals
7 from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the
8 General Presbytery.

9 Be amended to read:

10 **j. Marriage status.** We disapprove of any married persons holding
11 ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God if either marriage
12 partner has a former spouse living, unless the divorce is recognized
13 under one of the following biblical categories:

14 (1) Recognition of preconversion divorce occurred prior to his or her
15 conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17); or for the scriptural causes of a former
16 spouse's marital unfaithfulness, or the

17 (2) Recognition of abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever
18 (1 Corinthians 7:10–15);

19 (3) Recognition of spousal infidelity (Matthew 19:9); or in the case
20 of

21 (4) Recognition of domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or
22 child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5–9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians
23 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians 5); except as hereinafter provided.

24 (5) Recognition of ecclesiastical annulment—a pronouncement
25 declaring a marriage invalid as hereinafter provided (Proverbs 12:22;
26 Matthew 19:6; 1 Corinthians 7:5);

27 ~~**k. Ecclesiastical annulments and marriage dissolutions.** The~~
28 ~~Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an~~
29 ~~applicant qualifies for an ecclesiastical annulment. In such cases there~~
30 ~~must be clear and satisfactory evidence of deception, or fraud, or other~~
31 ~~conditions which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a~~
32 ~~valid marriage union, unknown to the applicant at the time of marriage,~~
33 ~~by the applicant. Additionally, the lack of consummation or other~~

1 conditions which have a profound impact preventing the creation of a
2 valid marriage union can constitute an ecclesiastical annulment. The
3 ~~Executive Presbytery shall have the authority to determine whether an~~
4 ~~applicant qualifies regarding a former marriage when the termination of~~
5 ~~that marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship~~
6 ~~relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials; or if a former~~
7 ~~marriage ended prior to conversion.~~

8 Each ~~In these cases requiring a recognition of involving~~
9 ~~preconversion divorce or ecclesiastical annulment they shall be decided~~
10 ~~by the Executive Presbytery on an individual basis just as those that deal~~
11 ~~with ecclesiastical annulments. as to whether the termination of that~~
12 ~~marriage is consistent with the scriptural position of the Fellowship~~
13 ~~relating to the granting or holding of ministerial credentials. Appeals of~~
14 ~~from the decisions of the Executive Presbytery may be made to the~~
15 General Presbytery.

Sponsor: General Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____