

## Resolution 17

### ALIGNING DIVORCE PROVISIONS THROUGHOUT THE BYLAWS

1 WHEREAS, For ministerial credentialing purposes, The General Council will recognize  
2 a divorce when the former spouse is still living in one of the following  
3 circumstances as supported by Scripture: (1) the divorce occurred prior to  
4 the applicant's conversion; (2) the former spouse's infidelity; (3)  
5 abandonment of the believer by the unbeliever; (4) domestic violence by a  
6 spouse to the applicant or child; or (5) ecclesiastical annulment; and

7 WHEREAS, Portions of The General Council Bylaws have not been updated to align  
8 with the above named positions; and

9 WHEREAS, This incongruity seems to hold parishioners and church board members to  
10 a different standard than credentialed ministers with regard to remarriage;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The provision for recognition of a divorce for a credential applicant or  
13 spouse is supported by Scripture and should also apply to congregants and  
14 lay people; therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE IX. DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES  
16 DISAPPROVED, B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES  
17 DISAPPROVED, Section 5. Divorce and Remarriage, paragraph b.  
18 Remarriage, page 59, which reads:

19 **b. Remarriage.** Low standards on marriage and divorce are very  
20 hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore,  
21 we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We positively  
22 disapprove of Christians getting divorces for any cause except  
23 fornication and adultery (Matthew 19:9). Where these exceptional  
24 circumstances exist or when a Christian has been divorced by an  
25 unbeliever, we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved  
26 by the believer in the light of God's Word (1 Corinthians 7:15, 27–28).

27 Be amended to read:

28 **b. Remarriage.** Low standards on marriage and divorce are very  
29 hurtful to individuals, to the family, and to the cause of Christ. Therefore,  
30 we discourage divorce by all lawful means and teaching. We positively

1 disapprove of Christians getting divorces for any cause except  
2 fornication and adultery (Matthew 19:9), or the abandonment of the  
3 believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10–15), or in the case of  
4 domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Matthew 18:6;  
5 Ephesians 5:28-33; Colossians 3:19), or an annulment (Proverbs 12:22;  
6 Matthew 19:6; 1 Corinthians 7:5). Where these exceptional  
7 circumstances exist ~~or when a Christian has been divorced by an~~  
8 ~~unbeliever,~~ we recommend that the question of remarriage be resolved  
9 by the believer in the light of God’s Word (Matthew 19:3-12; 1  
10 Corinthians 7:10-28 15, 27–28).

11 And, be it therefore further

12 RESOLVED, That The General Council Bylaws Article IX. DOCTRINES AND  
13 PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, B. LIST OF DOCTRINES AND PRACTICES  
14 DISAPPROVED, Section 5 Divorce and Remarriage, paragraph e.  
15 Ministerial credentials, page 60 which reads:

16 **e. Ministerial credentials.** We disapprove of any married minister  
17 of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or  
18 spouse has a former spouse living unless the divorce occurred prior  
19 to conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17) or for the scriptural causes of a former  
20 spouse’s marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9) or the abandonment of  
21 the believer by the unbeliever (1 Corinthians 7:10–15) or in the case of  
22 domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5–  
23 9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians 5).  
24 (See also Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs j and k.)

25 Be amended to read:

26 **e. Ministerial credentials.** We disapprove of any married minister  
27 of the Assemblies of God holding credentials if either minister or spouse  
28 has a former spouse living unless the divorce occurred prior to  
29 conversion (2 Corinthians 5:17), or for the scriptural causes of a former  
30 spouse’s marital unfaithfulness (Matthew 19:9) or the abandonment of the  
31 believer by the unbeliever, (1 Corinthians 7:10–15) or in the case of  
32 domestic violence by a spouse to a spouse or child (Psalms 11:5; 146:5–

1 9; Proverbs 6:16; Isaiah 1:16–17; Ephesians 4:1–3, 31–32; Ephesians 5),  
2 or an ecclesiastical annulment (Proverbs 12:22; Matthew 19:6; 1  
3 Corinthians 7:5). (See also Bylaws, Article VII, Section 2, paragraphs j and  
4 k.)

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery  
General Presbytery

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