

Resolution 11

CHARGES FOR MINISTERIAL DISCIPLINE

1 WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws ARTICLE X. DISCIPLINE, Section 3. Causes of
2 Disciplinary Action cites specific ministerial disciplinary offenses; and

3 WHEREAS, The present list of offenses, while helpful and comprehensive, has not been updated
4 in decades and does not reflect a number of contemporary issues that are often
5 present; and

6 WHEREAS, Matters such as substance abuse and financial mismanagement are sometimes dealt
7 with by district/network credentials committees during disciplinary proceedings;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The General Council Restoration Manuals Update Committee has been studying
10 these issues; and

11 WHEREAS, The Committee has concluded that a more comprehensive, contemporary, and
12 categorized list would be helpful; and

13 WHEREAS, Moral transgressions by ministers are serious matters which must be treated
14 accordingly, but the term *failure* can become unproductively attached to a
15 minister's self-identification as opposed to their sinful behavior, sending an
16 unhelpful and damaging message to both ministers and spouses who are
17 considering God's plan for forgiveness and restoration; therefore, be it

18 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article X. DISCIPLINE, Section 3. Causes of
19 Disciplinary Action, page 148, which reads:

20 Violations of Assemblies of God principles as stated in these Constitution
21 and Bylaws may give cause for disciplinary action by the credentials
22 committees. Among such causes for action shall be:

- 23 a. Moral failure involving sexual misconduct
- 24 b. Moral failure involving pornography
- 25 c. Any moral or ethical failure other than sexual misconduct
- 26 d. General inefficiency in the ministry
- 27 e. A failure to represent our Pentecostal testimony correctly
- 28 f. A contentious or noncooperative spirit

- 1 g. An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly
- 2 h. An arbitrary rejection of district counsel
- 3 i. A declared open change in doctrinal views
- 4 j. Immoral, unethical, or illegal practices related to personal, church, or
- 5 ministry finances
- 6 k. A marriage in violation of our stand on marriage and divorce (*See*
- 7 Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraphs d and e.)
- 8 l. Violations of ministerial courtesy (*See* Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section
- 9 8.)
- 10 m. Ministry without prior approval in a non-Assemblies of God church (*See*
- 11 Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 9.)
- 12 n. An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the Fellowship (*See*
- 13 Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 10.)

14 Notwithstanding the above, when more than seven (7) years have elapsed
 15 from an occurrence that is cause for disciplinary action, a district credentials
 16 committee may recommend to the General Council Credentials Committee that
 17 no discipline be administered when, in view of all the circumstances, it would
 18 appear that such discipline would serve only as punitive in nature rather than
 19 restorative. In all such cases, final determination shall be made by the General
 20 Council Credentials Committee.

21 Be amended to read:

22 Violations of Assemblies of God principles as stated in these Constitution
 23 and Bylaws may give cause for disciplinary action by the credentials
 24 committees. Among such causes for action shall be:

25 **a. Sexual Misconduct**

26 (1) ~~a-~~ Moral transgression failure involving sexual misconduct

27 (2) ~~b-~~ Moral transgression failure involving pornography

28 **b. Financial Misconduct**

29 (1) Immoral, unethical, or illegal practices related to personal finances

30 (2) ~~j-~~ Immoral, unethical, or illegal practices related to ~~personal~~, church,
 31 or ministry finances

1 **c. Relational/Ethical Misconduct**

2 (1) e- Blatant misrepresentation of A failure to represent our
3 Pentecostal testimony ~~correctly~~

4 (2) i- A declared open change in doctrinal views

5 (3) f- A contentious or noncooperative spirit

6 (4) g- An assumption of dictatorial authority over an assembly

7 (5) h- An arbitrary rejection of counsel from district leadership
8 ~~counsel~~

9 (6) l- Violations of ministerial courtesy or ethics (See Bylaws,
10 Article IX, B, Section 8.)

11 (7) n- An improper attitude toward those dismissed from the
12 Fellowship (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 10.)

13 (8) d- General inefficiency in the ministry

14 (9) e- ~~Any M~~moral or ethical transgression failure other than sexual
15 misconduct

16 (10) m- Ministry in a non-Assemblies of God church without proper
17 ~~prior~~ approval from district leadership in a non-Assemblies of God church
18 (See Bylaws, Article IX, B, Section 9.)

19 (11) k- A marriage in violation of our standards for either a
20 recognized divorce or a biblical ~~on~~ marriage ~~and divorcee~~ (See Bylaws,
21 Article IX, B, Section 5, paragraphs d and e.)

22 **d. Substance Use and Abuse**

23 Violations of General Council Bylaws ARTICLE IX. DOCTRINES
24 AND PRACTICES DISAPPROVED, Paragraph B, Section 14. Substance
25 Usage, including:

26 (1) Use or abuse of alcohol or recreational drugs

27 (2) Abuse or addiction involving other legal substances

28 (3) Use, abuse, or addiction involving other illegal substances

1
2
3
4
5
6
7

Notwithstanding the above, when more than seven (7) years have elapsed from an occurrence that is cause for disciplinary action, a district credentials committee may recommend to the General Council Credentials Committee that no discipline be administered when, in view of all the circumstances, it would appear that such discipline would serve only as punitive in nature rather than restorative. In all such cases, final determination shall be made by the General Council Credentials Committee.

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery
General Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____