

Resolution 3

QUALIFICATIONS FOR GENERAL PRESBYTERS

1 WHEREAS, There is mounting value in our Fellowship being placed on the role of ordination;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Most presbytery roles at the district/network level require the minister to be
4 ordained; and

5 WHEREAS, It has become the growing practice and expectation over time that all general
6 presbyters are ordained ministers; and

7 WHEREAS, It would seem contrary to our culture and values to bypass an ordained minister to
8 place a nonordained candidate on the General Presbytery; and

9 WHEREAS A pastor who serves an Assemblies of God church is better suited as a general
10 presbyter than a pastor who serves a non-Assemblies of God church; and

11 WHEREAS, It is the common practice of our districts/networks, and it conforms with the
12 constitutional requirement, that the third general presbyter of a district/network is
13 a lead pastor of a local church rather than a person involved in other ministry;
14 therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That all general presbyters shall be ministers ordained with the Assemblies of God;
16 and, be it further

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

1 of representation on the General Presbytery by three members—the district
2 superintendent together with two others who shall be elected by their district
3 council, one of whom shall be an ordained pastor of a church located in the
4 district. They shall take office immediately.

5 Be amended to read:

6 **Section 3. General Presbytery**

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

18 And, be it further

19 RESOLVED, That General Council Constitution ARTICLE IX. OFFICERS AND
20 PRESBYTERIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL, Section 3. General Presbytery,
21 paragraph c. World and U.S. Missions representation, page 102, which reads:

22 **c. World and U.S. Missions representation.** The foreign fields shall be
23 represented on the General Presbytery by the regional directors and the
24 International Ministries director of Assemblies of God World Missions and by
25 two others from each of the overall areas which the regional directors and the
26 International Ministries director represent. [*See* Bylaws, Article II, Section 2,
27 paragraph d, (2)] The stateside missions work shall be represented on the
28 General Presbytery by the departmental directors of Assemblies of God U.S.
29 Missions. [*See* Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (3)]

30 Be amended to read:

1 **c. World and U.S. Missions representation.** The foreign fields shall be
2 represented on the General Presbytery by the regional directors and the
3 International Ministries director of Assemblies of God World Missions and by
4 two others ordained missionaries from each of the overall areas which the
5 regional directors and the International Ministries director represent. [*See*
6 Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (2)] The stateside missions work
7 shall be represented on the General Presbytery by the ordained departmental
8 directors of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions. [*See* Bylaws, Article II, Section
9 2, paragraph d, (3)]

10 And, be it further

11 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND
12 PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph d. General
13 presbyters, subparagraph (1), page 111, which reads:

14 **d. General presbyters**

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

21 Be amended to read:

22 **d. General presbyters**

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

29 And, be it further

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

4 (2) *Assemblies of God World Missions representatives.* Regional directors
5 and the International Ministries director of Assemblies of God World Missions,
6 representing the missionaries from their respective areas, are members of the
7 General Presbytery by virtue of office. Two additional representatives on the
8 General Presbytery from each region and International Ministries shall be
9 chosen in the following manner: The Assemblies of God World Missions Board
10 shall nominate four missionaries from each general area and International
11 Ministries represented by the regional directors and the International Ministries
12 director. Nominees will be selected from missionaries who will be in the United
13 States at the time of the General Presbytery meeting and who preferably have
14 had administrative experience in the field. Ballots shall be sent to all
15 missionaries in each area who shall by vote select two to represent them on the
16 General Presbytery. These shall be mailed to the general secretary who shall
17 prepare a report to the Executive Presbytery. A simple majority vote shall be
18 required to elect.

19 Be amended to read:

20 (2) *Assemblies of God World Missions representatives.* Regional directors
21 and the International Ministries director of Assemblies of God World Missions,
22 representing the missionaries from their respective areas, are members of the
23 General Presbytery by virtue of office. Two additional representatives on the
24 General Presbytery from each region and International Ministries shall be
25 chosen in the following manner: The Assemblies of God World Missions Board
26 shall nominate four ordained missionaries from each general area and
27 International Ministries represented by the regional directors and the
28 International Ministries director. Nominees will be selected from missionaries
29 who will be in the United States at the time of the General Presbytery meeting
30 and who preferably have had administrative experience in the field. Ballots
31 shall be sent to all missionaries in each area who shall by vote select two to
32 represent them on the General Presbytery. These shall be mailed to the general

1 secretary who shall prepare a report to the Executive Presbytery. A simple
2 majority vote shall be required to elect.

3 And, be it further

4 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND
5 PRESBYTERS, Section 2. Nominations and Elections, paragraph d. General
6 presbyters, subparagraph (3), page 111, which reads:

7 (3) *Assemblies of God U.S. Missions representatives*. Departmental
8 directors of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be members of the General
9 Presbytery by virtue of their office.

10 Be amended to read:

11 (3) *Assemblies of God U.S. Missions representatives*. Ordained
12 departmental directors of Assemblies of God U.S. Missions shall be members
13 of the General Presbytery by virtue of their office.

14 And, be it further

15 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND
16 PRESBYTERS, Section 3. Vacancies, paragraph c. General presbyters,
17 subparagraph (1), page 114, which reads:

18 **c. General presbyters**

19 (1) In the event a general presbyter shall move to another district or shall
20 vacate the office for any other reason, the presbytery of the district council shall
21 appoint one to serve as general presbyter until that office is regularly filled at
22 the next meeting of the district council.

23 Be amended to read:

24 **c. General presbyters**

25 (1) In the event a general presbyter shall move to another district or shall
26 vacate the office for any other reason, the presbytery of the district council shall
27 appoint one ordained minister to serve as general presbyter until that office is
28 regularly filled at the next meeting of the district council.

29 And, be it further

1 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws ARTICLE XIII. ASSEMBLIES OF GOD WORLD
2 MISSIONS, Section 2. Organization and Governance, paragraph j. General
3 Presbytery representatives, page 158, which reads:

4 **j. General Presbytery representatives.** Each of the regions shall be
5 represented on the General Presbytery by its regional director and two others.
6 International Ministries shall be represented on the General Presbytery by its
7 director and two others. [*See* Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (2).]

8 Be amended to read:

9 **j. General Presbytery representatives.** Each of the regions shall be
10 represented on the General Presbytery by its regional director and two others
11 ordained missionaries. International Ministries shall be represented on the
12 General Presbytery by its director and two others ordained missionaries. [*See*
13 Bylaws, Article II, Section 2, paragraph d, (2).]

Sponsor: Executive Presbytery
General Presbytery

Presented _____
Amended _____
Referred _____
Adopted _____
Lost _____