



**CHURCH OF GOD**

**78<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

JULY 25-29, 2022 | SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

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# AGENDA

*The Church On Mission*

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# 78<sup>th</sup> International General Council

## THE CHURCH ON MISSION

### AGENDA

#### Statement of Purpose

The years 2020-2022 will not be forgotten! The world experienced a global shift in every part of life all because of the declaration of a global pandemic. This identification led to restrictive measures including quarantines, as well as closure of schools, businesses, church gatherings and much more. After intensive review of Church of God polity and historical precedence, it was determined that the 78<sup>th</sup> International General Assembly, scheduled for 2020, would be postponed until the summer of 2022.

As the pandemic scene changes, daily life is being restored, travel is moving forward, and a level of normalcy is becoming a reality. Now, this summer of 2022, we come together again for the 78<sup>th</sup> International General Assembly with the focus upon ***The Church on Mission!*** As we look to the future, the General Assembly sets the pace with the vision of the Church of God as a relevant movement, which is alive, energetic, and sensitive to the signs of the times.

The International General Assembly is that organized body with full power and authority to designate the teachings, government, principles, and practices of all the local churches around the world. It is composed of all ministers and members of the Church of God, sixteen years of age and above, who are present and registered. During the Assembly, there are business sessions, elections, agenda items, exhibits, special activities, Priority Prayer, worship, and fellowship.

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The purpose of **The Church on Mission Agenda** is to maximize the mission of the Church of God to communicate the full gospel of Jesus Christ in the Spirit and power of Pentecost. It is why we exist. It is a clarion call to go and to do; it is being “on mission.” It is about the Church of God concentrating on foundational principles, Scriptural direction, commitment as one global church, and dedication to a common cause...**The FINISH Commitment**. If we are to witness the fulfillment of the Great Commission, there is only one way to get there, and that is full speed ahead, united as *The Church on Mission!*

# FINISH COMMITMENT

*The Church On Mission*



CHURCH OF GOD 78<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
GENERAL  ASSEMBLY

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# **78th International General Assembly**

## ***International General Council Schedule***

### **1. Official Opening**

### **2. Review of Schedule**

#### **Tuesday, July 26**

##### ***Priority Prayer***

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

##### ***General Council Business***

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

##### ***Special Called General Assembly***

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

##### ***General Council Business***

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

#### **Wednesday, July 27**

##### ***Priority Prayer***

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

##### ***General Council Business***

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

#### **Thursday, July 28**

##### ***Priority Prayer***

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

##### ***General Council Business***

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

#### **Friday, July 29**

##### ***Priority Prayer***

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

##### ***General Council Business***

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

##### ***General Assembly Business***

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### **3. Instructions to Delegates**

### **4. Appointment of Committees**

Ushers

Motions

Tellers

Parliamentarians

Sergeants-at-Arms

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## 5. Nominations and Elections

## 6. Special Orders of the Day

### The Church on Mission

- Wednesday, July 27      *Mark Rutland*  
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Thursday, July 28      *Larry Stockstill*  
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- Friday, July 29      *R.C. Hugh Nelson*  
10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.



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## IMPORTANT

Where any item of the Agenda makes reference to the *International General Assembly Minutes*, the reference is listed on the **left** (even-numbered) pages in a shaded box. The International Executive Council's recommendations are on the **right** (odd-numbered) pages.

**Supplemental Notes and Rationale Statements** briefly explaining the proposed motions are included throughout the Agenda.

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# 78<sup>th</sup> International General Assembly

## THE CHURCH ON MISSION AGENDA

### I. TENURE OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

#### **RATIONALE:**

Due to the inability to conduct the 2020 General Assembly because of the international COVID-19 pandemic, leaders holding appointed and elected positions were left in office to provide for the “continuance of governance.” **These individuals were not elected to new 4-year terms in 2020 but were duly appointed by the Council to serve a period of continued governance.** Only the International General Council can nominate, and the International General Assembly elect these positions. *Robert’s Rules of Order* states that persons elected to office, remain in office until their successor is elected. The *Minutes* allow for members of the Executive Committee to succeed themselves for one four-year term with a maximum of eight years on the Executive Committee. This tenure maximum has already been exceeded by the current 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant General Overseer (10 years). Four members of the International Executive Committee, as well as the Director and Assistant Director of Youth and Discipleship, if reelected to a four-year term at the 2022 International General Assembly, would exceed the maximum tenure limits set by the *Minutes*.

#### **Executive Committee**

Herein lies the challenge: In regard to the members of the Executive Committee, the *Minutes* (see S7., S8., and S9.) state that they shall be elected for a four-year term, and they shall be eligible to serve no more than eight consecutive years in that particular office or on the Executive Committee. Therefore, the question becomes, do we abide by “elected for a four-year term” (a term issue) or “serve no more than eight consecutive years on the Executive Committee (a tenure issue)?”

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According to the Bylaws, this matter must be resolved by the International General Assembly, since the Assembly adopted these policies.

Some have proposed that the general overseer simply announce that if any of those affected by the postponement of the 2020 Assembly are reelected, they would only have two years of eligibility remaining. To do so would assume one knows the will of the body and would prohibit the General Council and General Assembly from deciding if they would like to extend the maximum tenure of these individuals, if reelected, for **this one time**.

The Church of God Bylaws provide guidance concerning the selection and tenure of members of the International Executive Committee (see S2., page 63 of 2018 General Assembly *Minutes*):

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Executive Board**

**International Executive Committee**—The executive officers of the Church of God shall be the general overseer, three assistant general overseers, and the secretary general. These shall constitute the International Executive Committee. Their tenure in office, manner of selection, duties and authorities, and procedure for filling vacancies **shall be decided by the International General Assembly upon recommendation from the International General Council** (emphasis added).

The Bylaws take precedence over any other provisions in the *Minutes*. The above cited language allows the International Executive Council to recommend to the International General Council a motion regarding the tenure of the members of the International Executive Committee, with the final decision to be made by the International General Assembly.

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The International General Assembly has the sole authority to determine term/tenure issues of the International Executive Committee. No person or no body of authority has the right to set terms of the Executive Committee, except the International General Assembly upon recommendation from the International General Council.

Since the International General Council and International General Assembly were unable to express their preferences for these offices in 2020, they should be allowed to express themselves this Assembly regarding extension of tenure.

### **Executive Council**

The Bylaws do not provide specific direction concerning the selection and tenure of members of the International Executive Council, other than to note that the International General Council shall elect the Council of Eighteen (see *Minutes*, S2., Article VI, page 62).

At the 2018 General Assembly, all eighteen (18) members of the Executive Council were elected. Of the eighteen, eleven (11) members were re-elected, having initially begun their tenure in 2016. Consequently, those eleven members would have been ineligible for re-election had the 2020 International General Council been conducted, and therefore are ineligible for re-election now.

In addition, seven (7) International Executive Council members were newly elected at the 2018 International General Assembly, and based upon the *Minutes* provision cited above, all seven would have been eligible to be re-elected by the 2020 International General Council.

The motion that follows allows the International General Council and the International General Assembly the opportunity to address the term/tenure issue of the seven International Executive Council members that were newly elected by the 2018 International General Council.

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## **International Director and Assistant Director of Youth and Discipleship**

During the “continuance of governance” term, the International Director of Youth and Discipleship passed away. Following the procedure set out in the *Minutes* (**S13. PROCEDURE FOR FILLING VACANCY OF AN ELECTED MINISTRY LEADER, page 85**), the Assistant Director of Youth and Discipleship was elevated to the directorship and the “mail in” voting process, provided for in that same section of the *Minutes*, was used to fill the vacant assistant director position. Both positions were filled prior to the half-way point of the “extended” two-year term.

The terms for the International Director and Assistant Director of Youth and Discipleship are four years and a person elected to such positions cannot succeed himself (see *Minutes*, S10., page 78). However, the current holders of both offices took their positions, not in the midst of a regular four-year term but prior to one-half of the two-year extended term being fulfilled under the “continuance of governance” provision.

No guidance is provided in the *Minutes* concerning term or tenure when succession by the International Director or the Assistant Director of Youth and Discipleship occurs during the midst of a term. Historical practice within the Church has been that if a person succeeded another in a position, and more than half the term is left, the time in the position is counted against the successor. However, if less than half the term remains upon the successor assuming the position, the time in the position does not count against the successor. *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (12th Edition, paragraph 56:31) provides for the same procedure.



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The motion that follows allows the International General Council and International General Assembly the opportunity to address the term/tenure issue of the International Director and Assistant Director of Youth and Discipleship who assumed their positions during the extended term caused by the pandemic.

**Director and Assistant Director of World Missions**

Since the tenure of the Director and Assistant Director of Church of God World Missions would have been completed in their respective positions had the 2020 General Assembly been held, their tenure is now complete. Therefore, there is no need for the body to address those positions.

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## **PREAMBLE:**

Due to the inability to conduct the 78<sup>th</sup> International General Assembly in 2020 because of the COVID-19 global pandemic, leaders holding elected positions were held in place under an International Executive Council passed “continuance of governance” resolution, since the *International General Assembly Minutes* provide no guidance for what to do when elections could not be held. Because of the disruption in the normal election cycle caused by the postponement of the 78th International General Assembly, the following options are presented for consideration and implementation, **applicable for the 2022 International General Assembly only:**

### **1. Tenure of the Newly Elected Members (2016) of the International Executive Committee**

#### **Options:**

- A. Two-Year Option** – If you believe the newly elected members (2016) should only have two more years of tenure eligibility, you should select the number 2 on your keypad.
- B. Four-Year Option** – If you believe the newly elected members (2016) should have four years of tenure eligibility, you should select the number 4 on your keypad.

### **2. Tenure of the Newly Elected Members (2018) of the International Executive Council**

#### **Options:**

- A. Tenure Completed Option** – If you believe the newly elected members (2018) should not have any tenure eligibility remaining, you should select the number 1 on your keypad.
- B. Two Additional Years Option** – If you believe the newly elected members (2018) should have two more years of tenure eligibility, you should select the number 2 on your keypad.

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### 3. Tenure of the International Director and Assistant Director of Youth and Discipleship

#### Options:

- A. **Two-Year Option** – If you believe the Director and Assistant Director should only have two more years of tenure eligibility, you should select the number 2 on your keypad.
- B. **Four-Year Option** – If you believe the Director and Assistant Director should have four years of tenure eligibility, you should select the number 4 on your keypad.

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**II. Report - Global Ministry Forum Results**  
(See *Global Ministry Forum Document*)



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## **S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD**

### **ARTICLE VI Governing Bodies**

#### **2. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL Members**

The International General Council is composed of all ordained bishops of the Church of God, who shall comprise its voting constituency.

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### III. Women in Leadership

#### **RATIONALE:**

During recent years, there have been calls for ordained women ministers to participate in and have the right to vote in the International General Council sessions at the General Assembly. This issue was subject to discussion in the open Global Forums conducted following the 2018 General Assembly and this provision is offered in compliance with the General Assembly's direction that motions be formulated and brought back to the International General Council on the topics discussed.

To allow for such, a change in the Bylaws is necessary. The recommendation that follows modifies the Bylaws, providing an equitable method for ordained women ministers to be members of the International General Council with voice and vote authority. Under the proposed measure, only those ordained women ministers who fulfill the same age and years of experience qualifications stated for Ordained Bishops (including completing equivalency testing for General Council certification) would be eligible for participation in the International General Council. It is understood that the provisions applying to a Bishop's wife (see **S22. ORDAINED BISHOP, II, Qualifications of Ordained Bishops, 7., page 103**) would in like manner similarly apply to the husband of a General Council-certified female ordained minister.

It is further noted that this measure only allows for full participation of ordained women ministers in the deliberations and voting in the International General Council and does not allow ordained women ministers the opportunity to be an Ordained Bishop or the additional privileges associated with being an Ordained Bishop.

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## **S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD**

### **ARTICLE VI Governing Bodies**

#### **2. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL Members**

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We recommend:

That we amend page 61, S2. **BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, ARTICLE VI, 2. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL, Members**, by inserting after bishops of the Church of God *and General Council-certified female ordained ministers* 1  
*who have fulfilled the same age requirements, experience* 2  
*and equivalent testing of the ordained bishop credentials as* 3  
*contained in S22. ORDAINED BISHOP, II., Qualifications of* 4  
*Ordained Bishops*, who shall comprise its voting 5  
constituency.

So as to read:

The International General Council is composed of all ordained bishops of the Church of God *and General Council-certified female ordained ministers who have fulfilled the same age requirements, experience and equivalent testing of the ordained bishop credentials as contained in S22. ORDAINED BISHOP, II., Qualifications of Ordained Bishops*, who shall comprise its voting constituency.

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## IV. Meaning and Usage of the Title Ordained “Bishop”

### RATIONALE:

Following extensive discussion, reports, referrals for further study and review, completion of 23 Global Open Forums, and a written professional survey of some 6,300 Church of God ministers and members, there seems to be a desire to have a straight-forward, up-or-down vote on whether the Church of God should continue using the title Ordained “Bishop” in our ranks of ministry. Should the motion to retain the title Ordained “Bishop” pass (*Option A*), it is understood that there is a desire to maintain the title Ordained “Bishop” as a rank of ministry, and no additional action will be needed or required. However, should the motion to change the title Ordained “Bishop” pass (*Option B*), it is understood that there is a desire to change the title Ordained “Bishop” to some other title. Therefore, additional review and action will be needed by the International Executive Council and further consideration at the next General Assembly, potentially requiring a change to the Bylaws necessitating a two-thirds vote and previous notice.

### Options:

- A. Retain the Title Ordained “Bishop”** - If you believe that the title Ordained “Bishop” as a third tier of licensure should be retained, you should select the number 1 on your keypad.
- B. Change the Title Ordained “Bishop”** - If you believe that the title Ordained “Bishop” as a third tier of licensure should be changed, you should select the number 2 on your keypad. (*Should Option B prevail, this matter will be referred to the International Executive Council to bring back an appropriate motion(s) and/or Bylaw changes, along with a recommended new title, to the 2024 International General Council.*)

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**V. Report - Spiritual Acceleration/Core Values**  
(See *General Assembly Report Manual*)



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## VI. Resolution Concerning Human Identity and Sexuality

*WHEREAS, we are faced with societal, cultural, and sociopolitical theories that view "gender identity" as a social construct that proposes there is no Biblical truth to gender and that gender is contextualized as a matter of choice; and* 1-5

*WHEREAS, the Church of God recognizes that today's culture is increasingly embracing a non-biblical view of human sexuality and gender identity by normalizing the LGBTQ agenda, including sexuality, and that biblical sexual norms are being replaced with a postmodern non-biblical view of sexual orientation, gender fluidity, and self-gendering; and* 6-12

*WHEREAS, being created in God's image gives personal identity, dignity and equality to male and female; and* 13-15

*WHEREAS, self-identifying with any sexual orientation or gender identity contrary to the biblical view of gender and sexuality, including such terms as "gay Christian," "homosexual Christian," or any other non-biblical sexual orientation or gender identity is an affront to the Gospel; and* 16-21

*WHEREAS, nowhere in Scripture is it suggested that individuals may self-identify as the gender they wish to be rather than the biological or "natural considerations," and that the Church believes that Scripture is God's final, authoritative, and Spirit-inspired Word to the Church, and that the Bible explains God's design of creation and what constitutes human sexuality, as well as the purpose, order, wholesomeness, and beauty of human sexuality (e.g., Gen. 1:26-27; Gen. 2:18-24; Matt. 19:4-5);* 22-32

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we the people of the Church of God affirm our belief in God's perfect design for human sexuality as the pinnacle of His creation (Genesis 1:27); and* 33-36

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***BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that because God offers 37  
restoration and redemption through Jesus Christ to 38  
all who confess and forsake their sin, we believe that 39  
all people should be treated compassionately and 40  
that care should be taken to offer prayer and 41  
competent counsel for those who face sexual 42  
confusion; and 43***

***THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that in order to 44  
preserve the doctrinal integrity of the Church of God 45  
as part of the Body of Christ, and to provide a biblical 46  
role model to our movement, it is imperative that all 47  
persons employed by the church in any capacity, or 48  
who serve as volunteers, agree to and abide by the 49  
Declaration of Faith and doctrinal statements of the 50  
church. (Genesis 1:27, 2:20-24, 3:17; Proverbs 18:22; 51  
1 Corinthians 11:3, 11; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Peter 3:7) 52***

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## VII. Biblical Fidelity in Gender Identity Affirmation

### **RATIONALE:**

While the Church of God is clear on Biblical marriage and sexuality, the General Assembly has not addressed by name the culturally unfolding topic of gender identity.

For the sake of our general church, our local churches and our church institutions, we should posture our conservative, biblically faithful denomination to articulate clarity from our highest governing body, the Church of God International General Assembly, so that our churches and institutions are appropriately aligned, particularly so that our credentialed and non-credentialed employees of the church are aligned with the doctrine and teaching of the church.

We recommend:

**That page 111, S29. INSTRUCTIONS FOR MINISTERS, II. MARRIAGE AND SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS be amended by inserting:**

*7. No Church of God minister shall permit any employee 1  
of any church or institution of the church, under their 2  
direct authority, to knowingly participate in using or 3  
verbally affirming the use of a self-selected gender 4  
identity that is incongruent with the individual's 5  
biological sex. Ministers are prohibited and must prohibit 6  
their employees from encouraging or affirming people 7  
and especially people within their care to identify with 8  
their sexual temptation, their unbiblical sexual 9  
attraction, or a self-selected gender or gender pronoun, 10  
which is incongruent with their biological sex. 11*

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*Engagement in this behavior is grounds for disciplinary 12  
action. Failure of a credentialed minister to prohibit their 13  
credentialed or non-credentialed employees of 14  
denominationally affiliated institutions or churches, 15  
under their authority, from engaging in this behavior is 16  
grounds for disciplinary action. 17*



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**S24. EXHORTER** (20<sup>th</sup> A., 1925, p. 37; 45<sup>th</sup> A., 1954, p. 29; 65<sup>th</sup> A., 1994, Item 14, p. 91 [75<sup>th</sup> A., 2014; 77<sup>th</sup> A., 2018])

The church shall have an order of the ministry known as exhorter, whose license is signed by the district overseer where his membership is and endorsed by the state overseer.

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## VIII. Entry Level Ministry Title

### **RATIONALE:**

In a society increasingly requiring proper credentials for ministry purposes, the term “exhorter” is not as readily understood by secular audiences not familiar with ministry titles. Webster’s Dictionary defines “exhort” as a verb, meaning, “to incite by argument or advice: urge strongly.” The term “minister” is more globally accepted, and therefore “licensed minister” would be more appropriate as the first level of credentials.

We recommend:

**That we amend page 105, S24. EXHORTER, by striking the word “*EXHORTER*” and inserting “*LICENSED MINISTER.*”** (If adopted, the word “*exhorter*” would be replaced throughout the *Book of Minutes* with the term “*licensed minister.*”)

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## **IX. Report - Visional Actualization**

*(See General Assembly Report Manual)*

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## **S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD**

### **ARTICLE VI Governing Bodies**

#### **2. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL Agenda**

4. Any new business shall be presented to the chairman of the motions committee, which committee shall receive, classify, clarify, eliminate duplication, and dispatch for placement on the agenda following the completion of the printed agenda. Any new business presented to the motions committee shall be presented in typewritten form not later 2 p.m. of the third day of the International General Council. (75<sup>th</sup> A., 2014)

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## X. Motions Committee – Form of Submission

### **RATIONALE:**

While this is a Bylaws item, it is a simple procedural modification from “typewritten form” to current communication methods providing efficiency in presenting motions with clarity to the General Council.

We recommend:

That we amend page 62, S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, Article VI, Governing Bodies, 2. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL, Agenda, paragraph 4, by striking “*typewritten form*” and inserting “*a legible format (print or digital)*.”

So as to read:

**4. Any new business shall be presented to the chairman of the motions committee, which committee shall receive, classify, clarify, eliminate duplication, and dispatch for placement on the agenda following the completion of the printed agenda. Any new business presented to the motions committee shall be presented in *a legible format (print or digital)* not later than 2 p.m. of the third day of the International General Council.**

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## **S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD**

### **ARTICLE VI Governing Bodies**

#### **2. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL Agenda**

4. Any new business shall be presented to the chairman of the motions committee, which committee shall receive, classify, clarify, eliminate duplication, and dispatch for placement on the agenda following the completion of the printed agenda. Any new business presented to the motions committee shall be presented in typewritten form not later 2 p.m. of the third day of the International General Council. (75<sup>th</sup> A., 2014)

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## **XI. Motions Committee – Date of Submission**

### **RATIONALE:**

Historically, the International General Council met Monday through Friday with the General Assembly session occurring on Saturday. Under that schedule, new business from the floor had to be submitted to the motions committee by 2:00 p.m. on the third day (Wednesday) of the International General Council.

Under the current format, the International General Council meets Tuesday through Friday morning with the General Assembly session being held on Friday afternoon. Since new business can currently be submitted to the motions committee up until 2:00 p.m. on the third day (Thursday) of the International General Council, sufficient time is not currently given to “receive, classify, clarify, eliminate duplication, and dispatch for placement on the agenda following the completion of the printed agenda” items that may be submitted to the motions committee, and for consideration of those items by the International General Council.

We recommend:

**That we amend page 62, S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, Article VI, Governing Bodies, 2. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL, Agenda, paragraph 4, by striking the word *third* and inserting the word *second*.**

So as to read:

**4. Any new business shall be presented to the chairman of the motions committee, which committee shall receive, classify, clarify, eliminate duplication, and dispatch for placement on the agenda following the completion of the printed agenda. Any new business presented to the motions committee shall be presented in typewritten form not later than 2:00 p.m. of the *second* day of the International General Council.**



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## **S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD**

### **ARTICLE VI Governing Bodies**

#### **2. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL Members**

The International General Council is composed of all ordained bishops of the Church of God, who shall comprise its voting constituency.

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## XII. International General Council - Meeting

### **RATIONALE:**

Currently, it is assumed that the International General Assembly and International General Council meet simultaneously. However, the *Minutes* do not articulate that the International General Assembly and the International General Council meet in conjunction. In light of potential extenuating and unusual circumstances, it is important to state polity that the two meet in conjunction.

We recommend:

**That we amend page 61, S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, Article VI, Governing Bodies, 2. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL by inserting a paragraph regarding “*Meeting*” following the *Members* paragraph:**

So as to read:

***Meeting***

***The International General Council shall meet biennially, convening in conjunction with the International General Assembly.***

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## **S5. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

### **I. Selection**

3. In accordance with the memorandum of agreement, the moderator of the Full Gospel Church of God in South Africa shall be a member of the International Executive Council of the Church of God in America, and the general overseer of the Church of God shall be a member of the Executive Council of the Full Gospel Church of God in South Africa. (46A, 1956, p.28 (47))

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### **XIII. International Executive Council – Indonesia (Participation)**

#### **RATIONALE:**

In S5. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, I. SELECTION, 3., page 68, the *Minutes* allude to only the “memorandum of agreement” with the Full Gospel Church of God in South Africa. This item does not include the “memorandum of agreement” with the Gereja Bethel Indonesia Church of God. This motion simply articulates recognition of the relationship between the Church of God in America and Gereja Bethel Indonesia.

We recommend:

- A. That we amend pages 68-69, S5. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, I. SELECTION, 3., by inserting “*and the general overseer of the Gereja Bethel Indonesia Church of God*”**

So as to read:

3. In accordance with the memorandum of agreement, the moderator of the Full Gospel Church of God in South Africa ***and the general overseer of the Gereja Bethel Indonesia Church of God*** shall be members of the International Executive Council of the Church of God in America, and the general overseer of the Church of God shall be a member of the Executive Council of the Full Gospel Church of God in South Africa.

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## **S5. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

### **I. Selection**

3. In accordance with the memorandum of agreement, the moderator of the Full Gospel Church of God in South Africa shall be a member of the International Executive Council of the Church of God in America, and the general overseer of the Church of God shall be a member of the Executive Council of the Full Gospel Church of God in South Africa. (46A, 1956, p.28 (47))

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**B. That we amend pages 68-69, S5. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, I. SELECTION, 3., by inserting “*and the Executive Council of the Gereja Bethel Indonesia Church of God.*”**

So as to read:

*3. In accordance with the memorandum of agreement, the moderator of the Full Gospel Church of God in South Africa shall be a member of the International Executive Council of the Church of God in America, and the general overseer of the Church of God shall be a member of the Executive Council of the Full Gospel Church of God in South Africa **and the Executive Council of the Gereja Bethel Indonesia Church of God.***

***If both Recommendation “A” and Recommendation “B” pass, the revised measure would read:***

*3. In accordance with the memorandum of agreement, the moderator of the Full Gospel Church of God in South Africa **and the general overseer of the Gereja Bethel Indonesia Church of God** shall be a member of the International Executive Council of the Church of God in America, and the general overseer of the Church of God shall be a member of the Executive Council of the Full Gospel Church of God in South Africa **and the Executive Council of the Gereja Bethel Indonesia Church of God.***

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## **XIV. International Executive Council Expansion**

### **Background**

The Bylaws of the Church of God (S2., page 63) state that the International Executive Council is composed of the “general overseer, his assistants, the secretary general, and eighteen councilors [the Council of Eighteen] elected by the International General Council.” The *Minutes*, at S5., International Executive Council (pages 68-72), provide details about the selection, the procedure for filling vacancies, as well as the duties and authorities of the Council of Eighteen.

To expand the Council of Eighteen requires a change in the Bylaws, and therefore, a two-thirds vote. However, determining designated slots for those who serve on the International Executive Council is accomplished by amending S5., *International Executive Council*, and only requires a majority vote in the International General Council and General Assembly.

As the Church of God has grown into a global church, the International Executive Council has been expanded in an effort to provide adequate representation to a larger church body. Previously, the International Executive Council included twelve (12) councilors, but was expanded to eighteen (18) in 1986. Now, with over 7.5 million members worldwide and churches in 185 countries, the question arises concerning expanding the International Executive Council to provide even greater representation.

While the potential expansion of the International Executive Council has been under consideration for several years, additional observations and complexities have been identified. The announcement that follows allows for all those issues to be developed and fully considered.



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NOTE: At the 2018 General Assembly, the number of designated positions for pastors on the International Executive Council was increased from nine (9) members to no less than twelve (12) members, and the number of foreign nationals was increased from two (2) members to at least three (3) members. Since these changes were implemented after the International Executive Council was most recently elected, the impact of these actions are not yet known. Further, it should be noted that by memorandums of agreement, the Full Gospel Church of God in South Africa and the Gereja Bethel Indonesia Church of God have representatives on the International Executive Council.

### **Announcement**

A special commission will be appointed by the General Overseer to study the feasibility and operational challenges/opportunities of expanding the International Executive Council, as well as the designation of certain groups to be represented, with special emphasis on the following areas that have already been addressed by the International Executive Council but need further study:

- Ratio of church membership to councilors
- Assurance that the five core ministry gifts - apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds (pastors), and teachers - are represented
- Racial and ethnic diversity
- Clear definition of “foreign national”
- Feasibility of virtual, as well as in-person, meetings
- Potential for cost-sharing of councilors’ expenses,

and that a report on such be brought back and presented, with appropriate motion(s), if necessary, to the 2024 International General Council.

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## **S3. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

### **II. Procedures**

2. Arrangements for the time and place of the International General Assembly shall be left to the International Executive Council (35<sup>th</sup> A., 1940, p.31)

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## XV. General Assembly Procedures and Extenuating Unusual Circumstances

### RATIONALE:

Throughout the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and the potential postponement of the International General Assembly, intense review of Church of God polity was studied including the *Minutes* and possible historical antecedent precedence. Two main questions were as follows: 1) authority to postpone the International General Assembly; and 2) tenure, elections, and continuance of governance. This motion articulates specific and comprehensive potential extenuating unusual circumstances and provides authority under these circumstances for the Executive Council to postpone or reschedule a regularly scheduled International General Assembly.

We recommend:

**That we amend page 65, S3. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, II. Procedures, 2., by substituting the following for Item 2.**

So as to read:

- 2. Arrangements for the time and location of the International General Assembly shall be entrusted to the International Executive Council. Should there be extenuating unusual circumstances including but not limited to the following: a global pandemic or regional or national epidemic; regional, national or global war; natural disaster; or any other event that would demonstrate compelling impact upon the convening of the biennial General Assembly, the International Executive Council shall be empowered to postpone or reschedule the regularly scheduled General Assembly to an appropriate time and place.*
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## **S13. PROCEDURE FOR FILLING VACANCY OF AN ELECTED MINISTRY LEADER**

### **A. Filling Vacancy of Ministry Leader**

In the event the office of an elected ministry head becomes vacant because of death, disability, or the incumbent in any wise being disqualified, the assistant director of said ministry shall be elevated to the office of director.

### **B. Filling Vacancy of Assistant Ministry Leader**

In the event the office of an elected assistant ministry head be vacated because of death, disability, advancement, or the incumbent in any wise being disqualified, the general overseer will submit by mail the names of the next two persons receiving the highest vote for the position, who were not elected to any general office, to the ordained bishops, to select the one who shall fill the vacancy in the ministry.

Ballots must be returned to the general overseer within 45 days to be valid votes. The one receiving the majority vote shall be declared to fill the unexpired term of the assistant to the ministry in question. (67<sup>th</sup> A., 1998, p. 52; 73<sup>rd</sup> A., 2010)

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## **XVI. Procedure for Filling Vacancy of An Elected Ministry Leader Under Extenuating Unusual Circumstances**

### **RATIONALE:**

This motion addresses the impact of potential extenuating unusual circumstances that may alter tenure, election, and succession of elected leadership of the Church of God. Under all circumstances, it is significantly important to preserve the continuity of the governance of the church. This is accomplished by maintaining a policy regarding succession in office of general elected positions with full legal and ecclesiastical authority.

(NOTE: If the motion below is adopted, it will apply to the following positions.)

### **GENERAL ELECTED POSITIONS**

**S5. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, I. Selection, (page 68)**

**S7. GENERAL OVERSEER, III. Procedure for Filling Vacancy, (page 75)**

**S8. ASSISTANT GENERAL OVERSEER, III. Procedure for Filling Vacancy, (page 76)**

**S9. SECRETARY GENERAL, III. Procedure for Filling Vacancy, (page 77)**

**S10. MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP, I. Director of Youth and Discipleship, A. Selection, Tenure, and Salary 1., (page 78)**

**S10. MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP, II. Assistant Director of Youth and Discipleship, A. Selection, Tenure, and Salary 1., (page 78)**

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## **S13. PROCEDURE FOR FILLING VACANCY OF AN ELECTED MINISTRY LEADER**

### **A. Filling Vacancy of Ministry Leader**

In the event the office of an elected ministry head becomes vacant because of death, disability, or the incumbent in any wise being disqualified, the assistant director of said ministry shall be elevated to the office of director.

### **B. Filling Vacancy of Assistant Ministry Leader**

In the event the office of an elected assistant ministry head be vacated because of death, disability, advancement, or the incumbent in any wise being disqualified, the general overseer will submit by mail the names of the next two persons receiving the highest vote for the position, who were not elected to any general office, to the ordained bishops, to select the one who shall fill the vacancy in the ministry.

Ballots must be returned to the general overseer within 45 days to be valid votes. The one receiving the majority vote shall be declared to fill the unexpired term of the assistant to the ministry in question. (67<sup>th</sup> A., 1998, p. 52; 73<sup>rd</sup> A., 2010)

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**S12. MINISTRY OF WORLD MISSIONS, III. Director of World Missions, A. Selection, Tenure, and Salary, (page 82)**

**S12. MINISTRY OF WORLD MISSIONS, IV. Assistant Director of World Missions, A. Selection, Tenure, and Salary, (page 83)**

**CHURCH GOVERNMENT—STATE: TENURE RELATED ITEMS**

**S32. STATE OVERSEER, V. Term of Office, (page 126)**

**S37. STATE YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP DIRECTOR, I. Selection, 2. (page 134)**

**S38. STATE EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS DIRECTOR (USA MISSIONS), (page 135)**

**That we amend page 85, S13. PROCEDURE FOR FILLING VACANCY OF AN ELECTED MINISTRY LEADER, by inserting:**

*C. Policy Regarding Succession in Office of Elected Persons* 1 2

*Persons elected to an international, state/regional, or local position serve in their respective elective office until their successor is named, unless there has been a death or a person has been involuntarily removed, or voluntarily resigned. In extenuating unusual circumstances, including but not limited to the following: a global pandemic or regional or national epidemic; regional, national, or global war; natural disaster; or any other event that would demonstrate compelling impact upon the governance of the Church of God, an individual's tenure in office might exceed the tenure limits set by the International General Assembly.* 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14



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## **S13. PROCEDURE FOR FILLING VACANCY OF AN ELECTED MINISTRY LEADER**

### **A. Filling Vacancy of Ministry Leader**

In the event the office of an elected ministry head becomes vacant because of death, disability, or the incumbent in any wise being disqualified, the assistant director of said ministry shall be elevated to the office of director.

### **B. Filling Vacancy of Assistant Ministry Leader**

In the event the office of an elected assistant ministry head be vacated because of death, disability, advancement, or the incumbent in any wise being disqualified, the general overseer will submit by mail the names of the next two persons receiving the highest vote for the position, who were not elected to any general office, to the ordained bishops, to select the one who shall fill the vacancy in the ministry.

Ballots must be returned to the general overseer within 45 days to be valid votes. The one receiving the majority vote shall be declared to fill the unexpired term of the assistant to the ministry in question.

(67<sup>th</sup> A., 1998, p. 52; 73<sup>rd</sup> A., 2010)

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*In the case of a vacancy in an elected office with a two-15  
year term, if more than half of the term remains to be 16  
filled, the time served shall count as a full two-year term 17  
for the individual filling the vacancy. In the case of a 18  
vacancy in an elected office with a four-year term, if more 19  
than half of the term remains to be filled, the time served 20  
shall count as a full four-year term for the individual 21  
filling the vacancy. 22*

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## **S9. SECRETARY GENERAL**

### **III. Procedure For Filling Vacancy**

In the event the office of the secretary general be vacated because of death, disability, advancement, or the incumbent in any wise being disqualified, the general overseer shall submit by mail the names of the next two men receiving the highest vote, who were not elected to any general office, to the ordained bishops. The ordained bishops shall select the one who will fill the vacancy in the secretary general's office. Ballots must be returned to the general overseer within twenty (20) days to be valid votes. The one receiving the majority vote shall be declared elected to fill the unexpired term of the secretary general. (39<sup>th</sup> A., 1944, p. 38; 41<sup>st</sup> A., 1946, p. 22; [1960]; 50<sup>th</sup> A., 1964, p. 51, Item 6)

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## XVII. Procedure for Filling Vacancy - Secretary General

### RATIONALE:

This motion is a simple procedural modification from “mail” to “the most efficient and effective methods,” providing congruence with other notations throughout the *Minutes* and utilizing current communication methods.

- A. That we amend page 77, S9. SECRETARY GENERAL, III. PROCEDURE FOR FILLING VACANCY, by striking “**mail**” and inserting “***the most efficient and effective methods.***”

So as to read:

In the event the office of the secretary general be vacated because of death, disability, advancement, or the incumbent in any wise being disqualified, the general overseer shall submit by ***the most efficient and effective methods*** the names of the next two men receiving the highest vote, who were not elected to any general office, to the ordained bishops. The ordained bishops shall select the one who will fill the vacancy in the secretary general’s office. Ballots must be returned to the general overseer within twenty (20) days to be valid votes. The one receiving the majority vote shall be declared elected to fill the unexpired term of the secretary general.

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## **S9. SECRETARY GENERAL**

### **III. Procedure For Filling Vacancy**

In the event the office of the secretary general be vacated because of death, disability, advancement, or the incumbent in any wise being disqualified, the general overseer shall submit by mail the names of the next two men receiving the highest vote, who were not elected to any general office, to the ordained bishops. The ordained bishops shall select the one who will fill the vacancy in the secretary general's office. Ballots must be returned to the general overseer within twenty (20) days to be valid votes. The one receiving the majority vote shall be declared elected to fill the unexpired term of the secretary general. (39<sup>th</sup> A., 1944, p. 38; 41<sup>st</sup> A., 1946, p. 22; [1960]; 50<sup>th</sup> A., 1964, p. 51, Item 6)

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**B. That we amend page 77, S9. SECRETARY GENERAL, III. PROCEDURE FOR FILLING VACANCY, by striking “*twenty (20)*” and substituting “*forty-five (45)*.”**

So as to read:

In the event the office of the secretary general be vacated because of death, disability, advancement, or the incumbent in any wise being disqualified, the general overseer shall submit by mail the names of the next two men receiving the highest vote, who were not elected to any general office, to the ordained bishops. The ordained bishops shall select the one who will fill the vacancy in the secretary general’s office. Ballots must be returned to the general overseer within *forty-five (45) days* to be valid votes. The one receiving the majority vote shall be declared elected to fill the unexpired term of the secretary general.

***If both Recommendation “A” and Recommendation “B” are adopted, the revised measure would read:***

In the event the office of the secretary general be vacated because of death, disability, advancement, or the incumbent in any wise being disqualified, the general overseer shall submit by *the most efficient and effective methods* the names of the next two men receiving the highest vote, who were not elected to any general office, to the ordained bishops. The ordained bishops shall select the one who will fill the vacancy in the secretary general’s office. Ballots must be returned to the general overseer within *forty-five (45) days* to be valid votes. The one receiving the majority vote shall be declared elected to fill the unexpired term of the secretary general.

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## **S13. PROCEDURE FOR FILLING VACANCY OF AN ELECTED MINISTRY LEADER**

### **B. Filling Vacancy of Assistant Ministry Leader**

In the event the office of an elected assistant ministry head be vacated because of death, disability, advancement, or the incumbent in any wise being disqualified, the general overseer will submit by mail the names of the next two persons receiving the highest vote for the position, who were not elected to any general office, to the ordained bishops, to select the one who shall fill the vacancy in the ministry.

Ballots must be returned to the general overseer within 45 days to be valid votes. The one receiving the majority vote shall be declared to fill the unexpired term of the assistant to the ministry in question. (67<sup>th</sup> A., 1998, p. 52; 73<sup>rd</sup> A., 2010)

---

## XVIII. Procedure for Filling Vacancy – Assistant Ministry Leader

### RATIONALE:

This motion is a simple procedural modification from “mail” to “the most efficient and effective methods,” providing congruence with other notations throughout the *Minutes* and utilizing current communication methods.

We recommend:

**That we amend page 85, S13. PROCEDURE FOR FILLING VACANCY OF AN ELECTED MINISTRY LEADER, B. Filling Vacancy of Assistant Ministry Leader, by striking “*mail*” and inserting “*the most efficient and effective methods.*”**

So as to read:

In the event the office of an elected assistant ministry head be vacated because of death, disability, advancement, or the incumbent in any wise being disqualified, the general overseer will submit by *the most efficient and effective methods* the names of the next two persons receiving the highest vote for that position, who were not elected to any general office, to the ordained bishops, to select the one who shall fill the vacancy in the ministry.

Ballots must be returned to the general overseer within 45 days to be valid votes. The one receiving the majority vote shall be declared to fill the unexpired term of the assistant to the ministry in question.



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## **XIX. Report/Announcement - Virtual Church**

During a pandemic where health concerns forced “virtual” church services to become an option to regular in-person worship, many churches experienced great results and furthered their evangelistic outreach through different methods of virtually reaching their church members and other interested persons. Because of such great success with further opening the church house doors through electronic mediums, it is important that we continue to pursue every option to reach a global harvest as we seek to fulfill and FINISH the Great Commission.

With ever-increasing technology expanding social and public mediums of communications, a task force will be appointed to review the possibilities and challenges in potentially organizing and establishing virtual churches. Structural and organizational challenges will be identified and reviewed, with recommendations concerning governance and operations submitted to the International Executive Committee and International Executive Council for consideration. If necessary, appropriate motion(s) will be made available to the 2024 International General Assembly.

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## XX. Usage of the Titles of God

### RATIONALE:

The opening two articles of the *Declaration of Faith* are:

We believe:

1. In the verbal inspiration of the Bible.
2. In one God eternally existing in three persons; namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

It is important for the Church of God to be steadfast in our affirmation of Spirit-inspired Biblical language. There is no doubt that God is beyond the scope of our language to describe Him, but this does not license us to move beyond the scope of the language He has provided in Scripture with speculative edits, second guessing of Scripture, and rewrites of the identity of God (II Timothy 3:16).

The *Declaration of Faith* opens with a strong and unambiguous assertion in the belief that the text of the Bible is verbally inspired and given that both the Bible and the *Declaration of Faith* exclusively address God with the names God has chosen for Himself as unveiled in the Scriptures. Scriptures name God in terms of three distinctive persons, i.e., Father, Son and Holy Spirit. For example, the Scriptures command us to “go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19). Therefore, these personal names should be rightly used when we are addressing or describing God. Because the Scriptures use these specific personal names to refer to God, any alteration of these names is a violation of Scripture (Matthew 3:16, Matthew 6:9, Luke 11:2, Isaiah 11:2, Isaiah 42:1, Isaiah 59:21, Isaiah 61:1, Luke 3:22, John 1:31-34, John 3:34, Colossians 1:18-19).

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Because of these truths and because the Church of God is faithful to the Scriptures and our own *Declaration of Faith*, it is absolutely critical at this cultural moment to be clear in our stand against cultural pressure and trends and to stand with Biblical truth.

We recommend:

**That pages 109-110, S29. INSTRUCTIONS FOR MINISTERS, I. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MINISTERS be amended by inserting the following:**

*12. No Church of God minister or employee of any church or institution associated with the Church of God shall violate Articles 1 & 2 of the Declaration of Faith by naming God using feminine pronouns or feminine titles. The usage of feminine titles or feminine pronouns for God in reference to the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit is a violation of the Declaration of Faith and shall result in ministerial disciplinary action.*

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## **XXI. Report - Ministerial Activation**

(See *General Assembly Report Manual*)



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# **PRACTICAL COMMITMENTS, EXPLANATORY NOTES**

## **II. Ordinances of the Church**

### **B. Lord's Supper (Communion) and Feet Washing**

The subject of Communion and Feet Washing was considered, and the Assembly decided that both are taught in the New Testament and may be engaged in at the same service or at different times at the option of the local churches. In order to preserve the unity of the body, and to obey the sacred Word, it was recommended that every member engage in these sacred services, which should be observed one or more times each year. (1<sup>st</sup> A., 1906, Bk. M., p. 15; DF 12)

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## XXII. Ordinances of the Church

### RATIONALE:

The Church of God has always provided “open” sacraments for believers according to our theology, doctrine, and polity. However, the application for sacrament in this context calls for “member” which excludes born-again believers (teens and children) under the age of 16 and/or believers who may attend regularly but are not currently members of the Church of God. While it is not the intent to exclude anyone from sacraments, the heartbeat of this motion should encourage engagement, experience, and broaden one’s theology of his or her walk with God.

We recommend:

**That page 32, PRACTICAL COMMITMENTS, EXPLANATORY NOTES, II. ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH, B. Lord’s Supper (Communion) and Feet Washing be amended by striking the word “*member*” and inserting the words “*Christian believer*.”**

So as to read:

The subject of Communion and Feet Washing was considered, and the Assembly decided that both are taught in the New Testament and may be engaged in at the same service or at different times at the option of the local churches. In order to preserve the unity of the body, and to obey the sacred Word, it was recommended that every *Christian believer* engage in these sacred services, which should be observed one or more times each year.

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# **S12. MINISTRY OF WORLD MISSIONS**

## **I. World Missions Board**

### **B. Duties and Authorities**

7. To allow each country/territory flexibility in matters of polity to reflect cultural differences or government requirements, as long as the changes do not conflict with the doctrinal statements or Practical Commitments of the International General Assembly.

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## XXIII. Duties of the World Missions Board

### RATIONALE:

Currently the *International General Assembly Minutes* authorize the International Executive Council to reword information in the *Minutes* to clarify its meaning and protect its social and cultural appropriateness in countries outside the United States. The Council is also authorized to commission the preparation of an international version of the *Minutes* that takes into consideration the differences in laws and customs between the United States and other countries. All countries outside of the United States and Canada, fall under the supervision of the World Missions Department and the established administrative structure. The cultural differences mentioned earlier do not allow countries to change their administrative structure under the guise of “cultural differences” which conflicts with established administrative structure as is identified in the *Minutes*. This motion seeks to clarify the current language in the *Minutes*.

We recommend:

- A. That we amend page 81, S12. MINISTRY OF WORLD MISSIONS, I. WORLD MISSIONS BOARD, B. Duties and Authorities, paragraph 7 by inserting *and with Church of God International administrative structure* of the International General Assembly.**

So as to read:

7. To allow each country/territory flexibility in matters of polity to reflect cultural differences or government requirements, as long as the changes do not conflict with the doctrinal statements or Practical Commitments *and with Church of God International administrative structure* of the International General Assembly.

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## **S12. MINISTRY OF WORLD MISSIONS**

### **I. World Missions Board**

#### **B. Duties and Authorities**

7. To allow each country/territory flexibility in matters of polity to reflect cultural differences or government requirements, as long as the changes do not conflict with the doctrinal statements or Practical Commitments of the International General Assembly.

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We recommend:

- B. That we amend page 81, S12. MINISTRY OF WORLD MISSIONS, I. WORLD MISSIONS BOARD, B. Duties and Authorities, by inserting the following at the end of item 7. *“No change shall be implemented by a national assembly or convention, or by administrative decree, until such has been presented to the Area Field Director and Director of World Missions, and then approved by the World Missions Board.”***
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So as to read:

7. To allow each country/territory flexibility in matters of polity to reflect cultural differences or government requirements, as long as the changes do not conflict with the doctrinal statements or Practical Commitments of the International General Assembly. *No change shall be implemented by a national assembly or convention, or by administrative decree, until such has been presented to the Area Field Director and Director of World Missions, and then approved by the World Missions Board.*

***If both Recommendation “A” and Recommendation “B” pass, the revised measure would read:***

7. To allow each country/territory flexibility in matters of polity to reflect cultural differences or government requirements, as long as the changes do not conflict with the doctrinal statements or Practical Commitments *and with Church of God International administrative structure* of the International General Assembly. *No change shall be implemented by a national assembly or convention, or by administrative decree, until such has been presented to the Area Field Director and Director of World Missions, and then approved by the World Missions Board.*

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## **XXIV. Report – Generational Assimilation**

*(See General Assembly Report Manual)*



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## **S49. MEMBERSHIP**

### **V. Procedure In Dealing With Member**

If a member who is not a minister shall be charged with any offense which makes it necessary to deal with a member, formal charges in writing shall be given to the member not less than three days (when practical) prior to the time and place of the meeting. The member shall have a right to be heard and offer corroborating testimony at the meeting. Further, the charges shall be heard, and a decision rendered by the local church and pastor's council or (if a church does not have a pastor's council or board of elders) by the members who are present at the meeting and in good standing with the church. Disciplinary actions include but are not limited to official reprimand, restitution, censure, restrictions, and, where necessary, excommunication.

In those cases in which he deems it in the best interest of the local church to do so, the state/regional overseer shall have the authority to excommunicate an unruly or uncooperative member without a formal hearing. A member disfellowshipped by the state/regional overseer shall have the right to appeal to the International Executive Committee within 10 days of the written notice of the overseer's action. The decision of the International Executive Committee is final, with no further recourse for appeal by the member. The local church must remove the name from the membership roll when notified of the action by the state overseer. (71<sup>st</sup> A., 2006, p. 48)

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## XXV. Sexual Abuse/Sexual Exploitation of a Minor in Church Membership Consideration

### RATIONALE:

While the *International General Assembly Minutes* address instances of conviction of sexual abuse of a child by a credentialed minister, there is no corresponding provision regarding the sexual abuse of a child by a non-credentialed member of the church. This measure addresses those instances involving confessing to or being convicted of sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a minor by a non-minister in the local church setting.

We recommend:

**That page 146, S49. MEMBERSHIP, V. PROCEDURE IN DEALING WITH MEMBER be amended by inserting the following as the second paragraph:**

*Any member confessing to or having been convicted of child sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a minor shall be disfellowshipped from the Church of God. However, the opportunity for reconciliation and restoration to church membership shall be given future consideration in appropriate cases.*

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## **S49. MEMBERSHIP**

### **V. Procedure In Dealing With Member**

If a member who is not a minister shall be charged with any offense which makes it necessary to deal with a member, formal charges in writing shall be given to the member not less than three days (when practical) prior to the time and place of the meeting. The member shall have a right to be heard and offer corroborating testimony at the meeting. Further, the charges shall be heard, and a decision rendered by the local church and pastor's council or (if a church does not have a pastor's council or board of elders) by the members who are present at the meeting and in good standing with the church. Disciplinary actions include but are not limited to official reprimand, restitution, censure, restrictions, and, where necessary, excommunication.

In those cases in which he deems it in the best interest of the local church to do so, the state/regional overseer shall have the authority to excommunicate an unruly or uncooperative member without a formal hearing. A member disfellowshipped by the state/regional overseer shall have the right to appeal to the International Executive Committee within 10 days of the written notice of the overseer's action. The decision of the International Executive Committee is final, with no further recourse for appeal by the member. The local church must remove the name from the membership roll when notified of the action by the state overseer. (71<sup>st</sup> A., 2006, p. 48)

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So as to read:

If a member who is not a minister shall be charged with any offense which makes it necessary to deal with a member, formal charges in writing shall be given to the member not less than three days (when practical) prior to the time and place of the meeting. The member shall have a right to be heard and offer corroborating testimony at the meeting. Further, the charges shall be heard, and a decision rendered by the local church and pastor's council or (if a church does not have a pastor's council or board of elders) by the members who are present at the meeting and in good standing with the church. Disciplinary actions include but are not limited to official reprimand, restitution, censure, restrictions, and, where necessary, excommunication.

***Any member confessing to or having been convicted of child sexual abuse or sexual exploitation of a minor shall be disfellowshipped from the Church of God. However, the opportunity for reconciliation and restoration to church membership shall be given future consideration in appropriate cases.***

In those cases in which he deems it in the best interests of the local church to do so, the state/regional overseer shall have the authority to excommunicate an unruly or uncooperative member without a formal hearing. A member disfellowshipped by a state/regional overseer shall have the right to appeal to the International Executive Committee within 10 days of the written notice of the overseer's action. The decision of the International Executive Committee is final, with no further recourse for appeal by the member. The local church must remove the name from the membership roll when notified of the action by the state overseer (71<sup>st</sup> A., 2006, p.48).

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## **S34. STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 5**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Amount</b>
5-star	\$750,000
4-star	\$500,000
AAA	\$350,000
AA	\$250,000
A	\$200,000
Others	As approved by the International Executive Committee

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## XXVI. State Board of Trustees – Real Estate Amounts

### RATIONALE:

The amounts in the specified schedule were established in the year 2002. During the past 20 years the cost of real estate has increased significantly throughout North America, and therefore, these amounts should be adjusted to better facilitate the business operations of the states/territories/regions.

We recommend:

That we amend page 132, S34. STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, item 5 by striking:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Amount</i>	
<i>5-star</i>	<i>\$750,000</i>	1
<i>4-star</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>	2
<i>AAA</i>	<i>\$350,000</i>	3
<i>AA</i>	<i>\$250,000</i>	4
<i>A</i>	<i>\$200,000</i>	5
<i>Others</i>	<i>as approved by the International Executive Committee</i>	6
		7
		8

And inserting:

<i>Category</i>	<i>Amount</i>	
<i>6-star</i>	<i>\$1,750,000</i>	10
<i>5-star</i>	<i>\$1,500,000</i>	11
<i>4-star</i>	<i>\$1,250,000</i>	12
<i>AAA</i>	<i>\$1,000,000</i>	13
<i>AA</i>	<i>\$750,000</i>	14
<i>A</i>	<i>\$500,000</i>	15
<i>Others</i>	<i>as approved by the International Executive Committee</i>	16
		17
		18

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## **S34. STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

7. Any person appointed to the State Board of Trustees shall be a member in good standing of the Church of God. If at any time, any member of any Board of Trustees shall cease to be a member in good standing, or if by reason of death, removal, incapacity or unwillingness to perform all duties of his office, his place on the Board of Trustees may be declared vacant: on the General Board by the general overseer; on the State Board by the state overseer; on a Local Board by a local church conference; and the same authority that declares said office vacant shall appoint a person to serve until the time for regular appointments, and the one so appointed shall have all authority held by the one removed.

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## XXVII. State Board of Trustees – Editorial Change

### RATIONALE:

Under the current operation of Church of God states/regions/territories, women now are eligible to serve as members of Boards of Trustees. This measure adopts this inclusion as part of our stated polity.

We recommend:

**That we amend page 133, S34. STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, 7., by striking “~~his office, his place~~” and inserting “*his/her office, his/her place.*”**

So as to read:

7. Any person appointed to the State Board of Trustees shall be a member in good standing of the Church of God. If at any time, any member of any Board of Trustees shall cease to be a member in good standing, or if by reason of death, removal, incapacity, or unwillingness to perform all duties of *his/her office, his/her place* on the Board of Trustees may be declared vacant: on the General Board by the general overseer; on a State Board by the state overseer; on a Local Board by a local church conference; and the same authority that declares said office vacant shall appoint a person to serve until the time for regular appointments, and the one so appointed shall have all authority held by the one removed.



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## XXVIII. State Overseer Duties

### **RATIONALE:**

The State Overseer (Administrative Bishop) is by virtue of his office the visionary point apostolic leader of the state/territory and as such must lead the state/territory in the fulfillment of the Great Commission. Church planting is essential to the advancement of Great Commission completion and has been noted by multiple scholars as the most effective method for reaching people with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Additionally, growing an organization, denomination, or movement necessitates more than 3% growth annually in order to maintain its membership, accounting for attrition. Developing, implementing, and cultivating church planting strategy with identifiable goals to grow by 4% or more annually will foster the state or territory to grow.

We recommend:

**That we amend page 128, S32. STATE OVERSEERS, VII. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES by inserting the following as paragraphs 1 and 2:**

- 1. Develop and implement a church planting strategy for the state/territory/region.*** 1  
2
- 2. Strive to cultivate the planting/revitalization of churches in the state/territory/region by developing a strategy with identifiable goals to plant, organize, and revitalize churches, to be reviewed by the International Executive Committee at the annual leadership conference.*** 3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8

(Note: If adopted, current Duties and Authorities will be renumbered accordingly.)

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**XXIX. Report - Lee/PTS Scholarship**

(See *General Assembly Report Manual*)

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## **XXX. Resolutions**