2014

International General Council

AGENDA

FAITH - LORD - MISSION

Church of God
75th International General Assembly
July 29 – August 1, 2014
Orlando, Florida
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.
75th International General Assembly
International General Council Agenda

SCHEDULE

Tuesday, July 29
8:30 a.m. — Noon
2:00 p.m. — 4:30 p.m
7:00 p.m. — 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 30
8:30 a.m. — Noon
2:00 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 31
8:30 a.m. — Noon
2:00 p.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Friday, August 1
8:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m.
1:00 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.
(International General Assembly Business Session)

Check the Monday edition of GA Today for schedule of International General Council prayer meetings.

OFFICIAL OPENING

INSTRUCTIONS TO DELEGATES

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES
Usher     Motions
Teller     Parliamentarians
Sergeant-at-Arms

ELECTIONS
Youth and Discipleship Director
Youth and Discipleship Assistant Director
World Missions Director
World Missions Assistant Director
Council of Eighteen

GENERAL OVERSEER’S STATE OF THE CHURCH REPORT

RECLAIMING THE CENTER/CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION REPORT
See Enclosed Report
RATIONALE — COMMITMENTS TO OUR MISSION AND VISION

The original Commitments to Our Mission and Vision were established almost a decade ago, and in this ever-changing culture, the church must be fluid and adapt to new methods while maintaining the true message. As the church continues to grow and develop, we find it beneficial to expand upon these core values with the addition of three distinct and relevant values—Communication, Discipleship, and Education.

The adoption of these additional core values will provide both clarity and structure to the overall-ministry thrust of the church.

It is vital that the church utilize every available medium to effectively communicate the message to today’s culture. Discipleship is the foundation stone upon which the church will continue to grow and prosper, and education is the heartbeat of our future.

Therefore, we urge the passage of these core principles as necessary additions to our Mission and Vision Commitments.
The current **COMMITMENTS TO OUR MISSION AND VISION** are:

1. Prayer
2. Pentecostal Worship
3. World Evangelization
4. Church Planting
5. Leadership Development
6. Care
7. Interdependence

(See 2012 *Minutes* pages 38-41)
1. COMMITMENTS TO OUR MISSION AND VISION

We recommend:

That we amend pages 38-41, COMMITMENTS TO OUR MISSION AND VISION, by adding No. 8 on Communication,

so as to read:

That we commit ourselves to utilizing every available medium and means to effectively maintain open and perpetual communication with our constituency.

This commitment will be demonstrated by

Understanding that communication is the process of exchanging information, imparting ideas, and sharing the message so it is understood by others.

Exploring the best media choices available to enable the transforming message of Christ to all mankind and cultural contexts.

Discovering new ways and means of efficient and effective electronic mediums to maintain continuous connection with our constituency.

Empowering ministry resources available to the church for immediate response to the needs of the world and the mission engagement of the church.

Employing every facet of communication to expand the global reach of Christ’s message, sustain open exchange of ministry concepts, encourage the strengthening and growth of local churches, enlist and equip the next generation of leaders, and fulfill our mission and vision as a movement that is Christ-centered, people-oriented, and need-sensitive in all its ministry endeavors.
THIS IS A NEW AGENDA ITEM THAT DOES NOT EXIST IN THE 2012 MINUTES

The current COMMITMENTS TO OUR MISSION AND VISION are:

1. Prayer
2. Pentecostal Worship
3. World Evangelization
4. Church Planting
5. Leadership Development
6. Care
7. Interdependence

(See 2012 Minutes pages 38-41)
2. COMMITMENTS TO OUR MISSION AND VISION

We recommend:

That we amend pages 38-41, COMMITMENTS TO OUR MISSION AND VISION, by adding No. 9 on Discipleship,

so as to read:

We commit ourselves to the Lord’s command to make disciples of all nations, to develop committed and faithful followers of Jesus Christ, and to be people of conviction identifiable by

1. Their commitment to know what they believe and who they are in Christ;
2. Their competence through spiritual discipline, calling, and empowerment, and;
3. Their character development, which will result in reproducing themselves, disciples making disciples.

This commitment will be demonstrated by

• Understanding that discipleship must be intentional for all believers upon their acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Savior. If we are to retain them, they must be taught and have someone who will disciple them.

• Asking every church to prioritize discipleship in every facet of their ministry. Everything that is planned and executed in the local church should be identified as part of the discipleship process for those who are involved. The local church must understand that the growth process is ever evolving and must provide a framework by which growth can happen.

• Providing resources and discipleship experiences that will assist pastors and church leaders in the discipleship process, understanding that models may vary, but the outcome will be committed Christ followers.

• Understanding that passing the faith to the next generation will require making disciples of all ages. Discipleship must begin at the earliest age and continue.

THIS IS A NEW AGENDA ITEM THAT DOES NOT EXIST IN THE 2012 MINUTES

The current COMMITMENTS TO OUR MISSION AND VISION are:

1. Prayer
2. Pentecostal Worship
3. World Evangelization
4. Church Planting
5. Leadership Development
6. Care
7. Interdependence

(See 2012 Minutes pages 38-41)
3. COMMITMENTS TO OUR MISSION AND VISION

We recommend:

That we amend pages 38-41, COMMITMENTS TO OUR MISSION AND VISION, by adding No. 10 on Education,

so as to read:

We commit ourselves to education as a vital part of all phases of the Spirit-filled Christian life. Education is to be nurtured by the church: locally in rural areas, towns, and cities; regionally in counties, states, and geographical regions; internationally in every country with a Church of God presence; and globally on every continent of the world. We will demonstrate our commitment by

• Developing and fostering means of self-education with access to educational resources.

• Recognizing local-church institutions which provide education in church and/or school formats.

• Affirming in public places those who minister in education.

• Sponsoring educational institutions of higher learning to equip laity, ministers, institutions, and ministries.

• Providing curriculum and materials which affirm the doctrines, practices, mission, vision, and commitments of the Church of God.
RATIONALE – CHANGES TO THE MINUTES IN THE AREA OF CHURCH GOVERNMENT — GENERAL

Agenda items 4–28 are measures that deal directly with the *Church of God Book of Discipline, Church Order, and Governance*, commonly referred to as the Minutes.

In an attempt to be true to the purpose of the International General Assembly—to advance the mission, vision, and commitments of the Church of God, we find it necessary to bring our Minutes into conformity with our mission and vision. This process of Reclaiming Our Center, necessitates the deletion and amendment of several of the measures that have been placed into the Minutes over the past decades which are today either obsolete or irrelevant.

In an attempt to provide structure to our organization, we have encumbered the Minutes with items of a managerial nature that have diverted our attention and focus away from our real purpose.

While these items deal only with the section of the Minutes referred to as Church Government—General, it highlights the need to reclaim the original purpose and intent and return to our center.

Therefore, we recommend that these measures be adopted as presented.
PAGE 57, S1. GENERAL CHURCH, I. NAME OF CHURCH, ITEM 2

2. We recommend that all of our churches be listed in phone directories and new papers under the heading Church of God, that they display on their buildings the name Church of God, and that the denominational emblem be used for identification. Any identifying title used to designate a particular church shall include a prominent display of the name Church of God (45th A., 1954, p. 28; 60th A., 1984, p. 43).

PAGE 57, S1. GENERAL CHURCH, II. CHURCH — LOCAL

Whereas many members moving to other parts of the nation find it hard to locate our churches, we recommend that churches make use of all available advertising media, such as newspapers, highway signs, and listing in the yellow pages of telephone directories, hotel directories, and any other door available (48th A., 1960, p. 53).
4. **NAME OF CHURCH**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 57, S1. GENERAL CHURCH, I. Name of Church, Item 2 by substituting the following paragraph:

2. We recommend that all of our churches be listed in phone directories and newspapers under the heading Church of God, that they display on their buildings the name Church of God, and that the denominational emblem be used for identification. Any identifying title used to designate a particular church shall include a prominent display of the name Church of God (45th A., 1954, p. 28; 60th A., 1984, p. 43).

and replacing with,

“We recommend that local churches use the Church of God emblem for identification.”

5. **CHURCH — LOCAL**

*We recommend:*

That we delete page 57, S1. GENERAL CHURCH, II. Church — Local.

II. CHURCH—LOCAL

Whereas many members moving to other parts of the nation find it hard to locate our churches, we recommend that churches make use of all available advertising media, such as newspapers, highway signs, and listing in the yellow pages of telephone directories, hotel directories, and any other door available (48th A., 1960, p. 53).
PAGE 57, S1. GENERAL CHURCH, IV. FORM OF GOVERNMENT, A. GOVERNING BODY

After due consideration the Assembly adopted the following: we do not consider ourselves a legislative or executive body, but judicial only (1st A., 1906, Bk. M., p. 15).

PAGE 57, S1. GENERAL CHURCH, IV. FORM OF GOVERNMENT, B. CHURCH AND STATE, 2.

The Church of God is definitely opposed to any form of dictatorship in matters pertaining to state and civil government. We heartily endorse the democratic way of life and faithfully pledge ourselves to its support, maintenance, and progress (37th A., 1942, p. 36).
6. GOVERNING BODY

We recommend:

That we amend page 57, S1. GENERAL CHURCH, IV. Form of Government, A. Governing Body by inserting the following as a second “explanatory paragraph”:

2. This is understood to mean that we acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Head of the Church (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:15; Colossians 1:18), and that He guides the church through His Word (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and by His Spirit (John 16:13; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22). Therefore, the International General Assembly is to seek to correctly discern the Scriptures and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in regard to doctrine, discipline, church order, and governance.

7. CHURCH AND STATE

We recommend:

That we delete page 57, S1. GENERAL CHURCH, IV. Form of Government, B. Church and State, 2.

The Church of God is definitely opposed to any form of dictatorship in matters pertaining to state and civil government. We heartily endorse the democratic way of life and faithfully pledge ourselves to its support, maintenance, and progress (37th A., 1942, p. 36)
PAGE 58, S1. GENERAL CHURCH, IV. FORM OF GOVERNMENT, C. LOCAL CHURCH PART OF THE ASSEMBLY, ITEM 1

1. The local churches, the names of which are officially registered with the Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee, U.S.A., are the result of the faithful services of the ministers and representatives of the International General Assembly, and these churches, when thus received by the representatives of the International General Assembly, then became and composed a part of the International General Assembly. Therefore, the right of any local church as a whole to withdraw from the International General Assembly is not recognized and does not exist, but those members who prove disloyal to the government and teachings as promulgated from time to time by the International General Assembly, or who are otherwise disorderly, are to be dealt with as individuals (15th A., 1920, p. 50; 45th A., 1954, pp. 27, 28; 50th A., 1964, p. 54; [1994]).
8. LOCAL CHURCH PART OF THE ASSEMBLY

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 58, S1. GENERAL CHURCH, IV. Form of Government, C. Local Church Part of the Assembly, Item 1 by substituting the following paragraph:

C. Local Church Part of the Assembly

Therefore, the right of any local church as a whole to withdraw from the International General Assembly is not recognized and does not exist, but those members who prove disloyal to the government and teachings as promulgated from time to time by the International General Assembly, or who are otherwise disorderly, are to be dealt with as individuals.

with,

All Church of God congregations, which are officially registered with the Church of God, Cleveland, Tennessee, USA, are part of the International General Assembly. Further, the right of any church as a whole, including those affiliated by amalgamation, to withdraw from the International General Assembly is not recognized and does not exist. Those members of a local church who prove disloyal to the government and teachings of the Church of God as determined by the International General Assembly or who are otherwise disorderly are to be dealt with as individuals.
2. If a church is organized and they do not accept the teachings of the Assembly, they cannot be recognized by headquarters [at any level of church government] as a Church of God (15th A., 1920, p. 68).

F. Cooperation With PCCNA

F. Cooperation With PCCNA (42nd A., 1948, p. 32; [The Pentecostal Fellowship of North America (PFNA) became the PCCNA in 1994.]) The Church of God shall cooperate with the Pentecostal/Charismatic Churches of North America (PCCNA) in their endeavors.
9. **LOCAL CHURCH PART OF THE ASSEMBLY**

*We recommend:*

That we delete page 58, S1. GENERAL CHURCH, IV. Form of Government, C. Local Church Part of the Assembly, Item 2.

2. If a church is organized and they do not accept the teachings of the Assembly, they cannot be recognized by headquarters [at any level of church government] as a Church of God (15th A., 1920, p. 68).

10. **COOPERATION WITH PCCNA**

*We recommend:*

That we delete page 59, S1. GENERAL CHURCH, IV. Form of Government, F. Cooperation with PCCNA.

F. Cooperation With PCCNA (42nd A., 1948, p. 32; [The Pentecostal Fellowship of North America (PFNA) became the PCCNA in 1994.])

The Church of God shall cooperate with the Pentecostal/Charismatic Churches of North America (PCCNA) in their endeavors.
A. Church—Nonprofit Organization

In order that there be no misunderstanding as to the objectives and purposes for which the affairs of the Church of God are conducted, it is hereby expressly declared that the Church of God shall continue to be as it has been heretofore, a religious, nonprofit organization, not operated for the financial gain or profit of any person or group, and that all net receipts of the Church of God shall be used for religious, charitable, and educational purposes (44th A., 1952, p. 35).

B. General Financial Drive

No general project which would necessitate a financial drive among the local churches shall be undertaken without the approval of the International General Assembly (38th A., 1943, p. 30).
11. **FINANCIAL STRUCTURE**

*We recommend:*

That we delete page 59, S1. GENERAL CHURCH, V. Financial Structure, A and B.

V. Financial Structure

A. Church—Nonprofit Organization

In order that there be no misunderstanding as to the objectives and purposes for which the affairs of the Church of God are conducted, it is hereby expressly declared that the Church of God shall continue to be as it has been heretofore, a religious, nonprofit organization, not operated for the financial gain or profit of any person or group, and that all net receipts of the Church of God shall be used for religious, charitable, and educational purposes.

B. General Financial Drive

No general project which would necessitate a financial drive among the local churches shall be undertaken without the approval of the International General Assembly.

[Church of God Legal Counsel has determined that this language is not indispensable and can be deleted from the Minutes.]
2. One of the first principles accepted in the earliest history of its organization was that we accept the whole Bible rightly divided, which is today one of the most sacred principles; therefore, we meet in biennial conference with all ministers and laymen who wish to attend to search the Scriptures and put them into practice. Our teachings and faith are the same as originally accepted in its original organization, and all the changes in government and management have been duly authorized by the International General Assembly in its various sessions which adopts measures by a majority vote of all Church of God members present and registered at the International General Assembly, being their privilege to vote on any and all propositions presented. Nominees by the International General Council are declared elected to office on a majority vote of the International General Assembly (15th A., 1920; 45th A., 1954, p. 33; 64th A., 1992, p. 73).
12. **DEFINITION**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 65, S3. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, I. Definition, Item 2 by

A. Inserting the following:

> From its earliest history, the Church of God has been guided by the sole authority of Holy Scripture;

B. That we amend by striking the word “laymen” and inserting the word *laity*.

C. That we delete the following: Our teachings and faith are the same as originally accepted in its original organization.

D. That we amend by striking the word “management” and inserting the word *polity*.

E. That we delete the phrase: being their privilege to vote on any and all propositions presented.

so as to read:

One of the first principles accepted in the earliest history of its organization was that we accept the whole Bible rightly divided, which is today one of the most sacred principles. *From its earliest history, the Church of God has been guided by the sole authority of Holy Scripture*; therefore, we meet in conference with all ministers and *laity* who wish to attend to search the Scriptures and put them into practice. All the changes in government and *polity* have been duly authorized by the International General Assembly in its various sessions which adopts measures by a majority vote of all Church of God members present and registered at the International General Assembly. Nominees by the International General Council are declared elected to office on a majority vote of the International General Assembly.
Because both public and private schools are adjusting their schedules to begin the first week of August in most states, consideration should be made to holding the General Assembly no later than the last week of July. This would help parents of schoolage children, and ministers’ wives who teach school, to not miss the first days of school (70th A., 2004 p. 57).

4. Following our custom that has always governed our International General Assembly in the past, we recommend that no books be sold on the grounds except through the bookstand [the official exhibit area] (25th A., 1930, p. 22).
13. **PROCEDURES**

*We recommend:*

That we delete, page 66, S3. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, II. Procedures, Item 2, second paragraph.

Because both public and private schools are adjusting their schedules to begin the first week of August in most states, consideration should be made to holding the General Assembly no later than the last week of July. This would help parents of school-age children, and ministers’ wives who teach school, to not miss the first days of school.

(This same wording is included on page 72, S5. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, III. Duties and Authorities, Item 15 which will also be deleted if the above motion is adopted.)

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14. **PROCEDURES**

*We recommend:*

That we delete page 66, S3. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, II. Procedures, Item 4.

4. Following our custom that has always governed our International General Assembly in the past, we recommend that no books be sold on the grounds except through the bookstand [the official exhibit area].
PAGE 67, S3. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, III. ROLE OF THE LAITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PARAGRAPH 5

All delegates (preregistered at least 30 days in advance of the Assembly), shall be mailed a copy of agenda items that are being presented to the International General Council for possible inclusion on the International General Assembly agenda;

PAGE 68, S4. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL, III. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL AGENDA

Inasmuch as the official agenda, which is to claim the attention of the International General Council, is mailed to the ordained bishops at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the International General Council, all recommendations must be received by the International Executive Council in time for consideration at its April session in order to appear on the Assembly agenda (53rd A., 1970, p. 57 Item 18).
15. **ROLE OF THE LAITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 67, S3. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, III. Role of the Laity in the International General Assembly, Paragraph 5 by striking the words “be mailed” and inserting the words *receive by the most efficient and effective methods*,

so as to read:

All delegates (preregistered at least 30 days in advance of the Assembly), shall *receive by the most efficient and effective methods* a copy of agenda items that are being presented to the International General Council for possible inclusion on the International General Assembly agenda.

16. **INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL AGENDA**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 68, S4. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL, III. International General Council Agenda by

A. Striking the word “mailed” and inserting the words *made available by the most efficient and effective methods*.

B. Striking the word “Assembly” and inserting the words *General Council*.

so as to read:

Inasmuch as the official agenda, which is to claim the attention of the International General Council, is *made available by the most efficient and effective methods* to the ordained bishops at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the International General Council, all recommendations must be received by the International Executive Council in time for consideration at its April session in order to appear on the International *General Council* agenda.
PAGE 68, S4. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL, III. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL AGENDA

Inasmuch as the official agenda, which is to claim the attention of the International General Council, is mailed to the ordained bishops at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the International General Council, all recommendations must be received by the International Executive Council in time for consideration at its April session in order to appear on the Assembly agenda (53rd A., 1970, p. 57 Item 18).

PAGE 70, S5. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, III. DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES, ITEM 3

3. All measures designed to change, alter, or delete any doctrine of the Church of God as prescribed in the Declaration of Faith, before being presented to the International General Assembly, shall be first submitted to the International Executive Council in writing twelve (12) months prior to the regular session of the International General Council, and must have a three-fourths majority vote to carry. The measure shall then be submitted to the International General Council for consideration, and if the International General Council approves the measure by a three-fourths vote, the International Executive Committee shall place the said measure in the *Church of God Evangel* quarterly for a study until the next regular session of the International General Assembly, thus giving the membership an opportunity to consider and vote on the said measure in the International General Assembly before it becomes a ruling (45th A., 1954, p. 34 (34); 49th A., 1962, p. 34 (11); 50th A., 1964, p. 50 (5); p. 56 (19).
17. **INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL AGENDA**

_We recommend:_

That we amend page 68, S4. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL, III. International General Council Agenda, by adding the following as paragraph 2:

2. _To allow opportunity for consideration and perfection, all resolutions, prepared by the duly appointed Resolutions Committee, shall be distributed by the best available means to all present ordained bishops at or before the time of adjournment of the last business session on the day before they are to be considered by the International General Council._

18. **DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES**

_We recommend:_

That we amend page 70, S5. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, III. Duties and Authorities, Item 3 by striking the words, “place the said measure in the Church of God Evangel quarterly for a study until the next regular session of the International General Assembly,” and inserting, _publicize the said measure by all means deemed appropriate,_

so as to read:

The measure shall then be submitted to the International General Council for consideration, and if the International General Council approves the measure by a three-fourths vote, the International Executive Committee shall _publicize the said measure by all means deemed appropriate,_ thus giving the membership an opportunity to consider and vote on the said measure in the International General Assembly before it becomes a ruling.
12. Permission to establish an institution of higher education, that is, a Bible college or a liberal arts college, shall be granted by the International Executive Council (56th A., 1976, p. 54).


14. The International Executive Council is authorized to initiate a radio and television program in the interest of the Church of God (46th A., 1956, p. 30).
19. **DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES**

*We recommend:*

That we delete page 71, S5. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, III. Duties and Authorities, Item 12.

12. Permission to establish an institution of higher education, that is, a Bible college or a liberal arts college, shall be granted by the International Executive Council.

20. **DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES**

*We recommend:*

That we delete page 72, S5. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, III. Duties and Authorities, Item 13.

13. The International Executive Council shall be authorized to establish a loan fund to provide interim financing for churches in new fields.

21. **DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES**

*We recommend:*

That we delete page 72, S5. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, III. Duties and Authorities, Item 14.

14. The International Executive Council is authorized to initiate a radio and television program in the interest of the Church of God.
11. Appoint a committee of three to assist him in preparing a program for the International General Assembly.

12. When necessary for the protection of the church in general, advertise parties causing trouble in the church or churches. This shall be done by the general overseer or state overseer (27th A., 1932, p. 37).

5. Employ all help necessary for his office; employees’ salaries to be set in conjunction with the different divisional ministry directors (41st A., 1946, p. 27; 47th A., 1958, p. 31; 73rd A., 2010).
22. **DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES**

*We recommend:*

That we delete page 76, S7. GENERAL OVERSEER (Presiding Bishop, see p. 153), II. Duties and Authorities, Item 11.

11. Appoint a committee of three to assist him in preparing a program for the International General Assembly.

23. **DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES**

*We recommend:*

That we delete page 77, S7. GENERAL OVERSEER (Presiding Bishop, see p. 153), II. Duties and Authorities, Item 12.

12. When necessary for the protection of the church in general, advertise parties causing trouble in the church or churches. This shall be done by the general overseer or state overseer.

24. **DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES**

*We recommend:*

That we delete page 78, S9. SECRETARY GENERAL (Executive Bishop, see p. 153), II. Duties and Authorities, Item 5.

Employ all help necessary for his office; employees' salaries to be set in conjunction with the different divisional ministry directors.
1. State and district overseers shall keep the missions cause before the people in their convention work, and an offering [for missions] shall be taken in each district and state convention. Our members on the field shall be notified in time to give them a chance to bring or send their missions offerings.

5. Churches and individuals who so desire shall be granted the privilege of contributing directly to the support of any of our missionaries or workers in world fields and all such contributions shall be sent through the office of the secretary general, subject to the regulations of the World Missions Board.
25. **METHODS USED FOR RAISING MISSIONS FUNDS**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 85, S12. MINISTRY OF WORLD MISSIONS, V. Methods Used For Raising Missions Funds, Item 1 by substituting the following:

State and district overseers shall keep the missions cause before the people in their convention work, and an offering [for missions] shall be taken in each district and state convention. Our members on the field shall be notified in time to give them a chance to bring or send their missions offerings:

with

State and regional overseers shall keep the cause of international missions before the ministers and laity, giving opportunity for special offerings in meetings in support of world missions.

26. **METHODS USED FOR RAISING MISSIONS FUNDS**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 86, S12. MINISTRY OF WORLD MISSIONS, V. Methods Used For Raising Missions Funds, Item 5 by substituting the following:

5. Churches and individuals who so desire shall be granted the privilege of contributing directly to the support of any of our missionaries or workers in world fields and all such contributions shall be sent through the office of the secretary general, subject to the regulations of the World Missions Board.

with

Churches and individuals who so desire shall be granted the privilege of contributing directly to the support of any of our missionaries or international workers and that such contributions may be sent to the World Missions Department designated for the recipient of the gift.
Selection, Duties, and Authorities
That we have an Advisory Board to the Lee University Board of Directors, consisting of all state overseers, which shall meet with the board of directors and the university president at each International General Assembly, to advise with them in matters pertaining to the best interest of the university and church (42nd A., 1948, p. 32).
27. **DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES**

*We recommend:*

That we delete page 95, S19. **LEE UNIVERSITY, IV. Advisory Board, Selection, Duties and Authorities.**

**IV. ADVISORY BOARD**

Selection, Duties, and Authorities

That we have an Advisory Board to the Lee University Board of Directors, consisting of all state overseers, which shall meet with the board of directors and the university president at each International General Assembly, to advise with them in matters pertaining to the best interest of the university and church (42nd A., 1948, p. 32).
III. EDITORIAL POLICIES

1. We believe our literature to be one of the greatest mediums for provoking and shaping the thought of our people in matters pertaining to the amity, progress, and position of our church.
2. We believe the *Church of God Evangel* and our Sunday School Literature are representative voices of the church as a whole and should not in any circumstances solely reflect the opinion of one section, ministry, or individual.
3. We believe these publications are for the dissemination of the truth, the propagation of the gospel of Christ, and the indoctrination of our people, and must at all times conform to the Teachings of the Church of God and the Declaration of Faith as outlined by the International General Assembly.
4. We believe our policy should be one of cordiality and friendliness toward all, without the surrender of any of our teachings or principles.
5. It should be the general policy of our official journal, the *Church of God Evangel*, to publish articles, editorials, news items, reports of activities, and personal testimonies in harmony with and for the best interest of the church.
6. All publications should be Biblical, fundamental, Pentecostal, and evangelistic.
7. They should be patriotic, but not militaristic.
8. They should be nonpolitical and nonracial.
9. They should not be used for propaganda or promotion of personal, secular, or business enterprises.
28. **EDITORIAL POLICIES**

*We recommend:*

That we amend pages 96/97, S20. MINISTRY OF PUBLICATIONS, III. Editorial Policies, Items 1-9 by striking the following:

III. **EDITORIAL POLICIES**

1. We believe our literature to be one of the greatest mediums for provoking and shaping the thought of our people in matters pertaining to the amity, progress, and position of our church.

2. We believe the Church of God Evangel and our Sunday School Literature are representative voices of the church as a whole and should not in any circumstances solely reflect the opinion of one section, ministry, or individual.

3. We believe these publications are for the dissemination of the truth, the propagation of the gospel of Christ, and the indoctrination of our people, and must at all times conform to the Teachings of the Church of God and the Declaration of Faith as outlined by the International General Assembly.

4. We believe our policy should be one of cordiality and friendliness toward all, without the surrender of any of our teachings or principles.

5. It should be the general policy of our official journal, the Church of God Evangel, to publish articles, editorials, news items, reports of activities, and personal testimonies in harmony with and for the best interest of the church.

6. All publications should be Biblical, fundamental, Pentecostal, and evangelistic.

7. They should be patriotic, but not militaristic.

8. They should be nonpolitical and nonracial.

9. They should not be used for propaganda or promotion of personal, secular, or business enterprises.

and inserting:

*That the editorial policies of Pathway Press shall reflect the doctrine, mission, vision, and core values of the church and be determined by the General Publications Board in consultation with the International Executive Committee.*
THIS IS A NEW AGENDA ITEM THAT DOES NOT EXIST IN THE 2012 MINUTES
The purpose of the International General Assembly is to advance the mission, vision and commitments of the Church of God. Throughout the decades, the International General Assembly has evolved into a corporate gathering that has focused primarily upon the operational functions of the body.

At the instruction of the International General Assembly, the International Executive Council initiated an intentional process that reclaims the central purpose of the International General Council and International General Assembly.

Following thorough review, and discussion, the International Executive Council brings the following rationale for the establishment of a Church of God Ministry Operations Manual:

- There is a need to refocus the energies of the biennial International General Council/Assembly from management to mission as called for in its purpose and the reason for its establishment.
- These sections apply primarily to the church in the USA/Canada. The international community uses them as a model, but is not required to strictly adhere to the provisions therein.
- This action would eliminate the need for a USA National Assembly and center discussions at the International General Assembly to only those items that affect the Church of God around the world (doctrinal and practical commitments, ministerial credentialing and discipline, the operation of the general church, and the mission and vision of the church).
- To adopt changes to these sections (State, Local, Personnel) that may greatly alter the organizational structure of the Church of God on a majority vote of the ordained bishops who report online, is actually more inclusive than limiting the vote to those “present and registered at the International General Assembly.”
- This would allow for the church to adapt to our changing world more rapidly.

The structure given in this manual is offered as a model from which adaptation may be made to serve the interests of various countries. The World Missions Department, with authority granted by the International General Assembly, publishes a Policy Manual which gives additional details for the structure of the Church of God in missions areas.
29. MINISTRY OPERATIONS MANUAL

We recommend:

That the existing Minutes of the International General Assembly be modified into two sections, including first the minutes of the General Assembly, doctrinal statements, church teachings, mission and vision, Church Government—General, S1–S20, Church Government—Ministry, S55–65, (in accordance with S2. Bylaws of the Church of God, Article III) and, second, that managerial and operational sections (Church Government—State, S21–34, Church Government—Local, S35–54, Church Government—Personnel, S66–73) be included in a Ministry Operations Manual.

In accordance to our commitment to mission and vision, the International Executive Council purports that any revisions to the Ministry Operations Manual must be submitted to appropriate procedures. Revisions in the Ministry Operations Manual that would significantly alter the organizational structure of the Church of God must be ratified by a majority vote of the ordained bishops who report online to the Church of God International Offices, Cleveland, Tennessee, U.S.A. Those not reporting online, will have the opportunity to vote by ballot, which would be mailed and must be returned by the date specified.

The International Executive Council will be responsible to review and revise the Ministry Operations Manual. Further, any items that qualify by majority vote of the International Executive Council to significantly alter the organizational structure will be submitted to the stated voting constituency.
PAGES 147-148, S55. APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY, V. DIVORCED AND REMARRIED APPLICANTS

1. No applicant whose former spouse is living, or whose spouse’s former spouse is living, shall be considered eligible for ministerial credentials except in cases where the divorce occurred because of the infidelity of the former spouse (see Matthew 19: 9); or that the divorce occurred prior to conversion (see 2 Corinthians 5:17) or due to abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (see 1 Corinthians 7:15). Conversion is interpreted as that point in time when one makes a public commitment to Christ, followed by a consistent Christian lifestyle. In no case shall this provision apply to one who once walked with Christ [lived as a Christian], but who later divorced and/or remarried while living in a backslidden condition.

2. The records of all such applicants shall be investigated and approved [or disapproved] by the respective state overseer, his council, and the International Executive Committee, prior to his or her being set forth [for the ministry] by the local church. 148 MINUTES OF THE 74th INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3. Applicants for ordained bishop who have a living former spouse, or whose spouse has a living former spouse, shall be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the International Executive Council, before being set forth [for ordination] by the local church.

4. Persons with previous marriages, who now prove themselves faithful to God and to present family responsibilities, shall be permitted to hold the rank of exhorter, ordained minister, or ordained bishop, provided they are otherwise qualified.

PAGE 146, S55. APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY, II. INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS, ITEM 4

4. Require all exhorters to participate in the MIP, or its equivalent, before being promoted to the rank of ordained minister. Equivalent shall be defined as the MIP reading requirement under the supervision of the state overseer, or one whom he appoints, plus one of the following:

- One year of pastoral ministry
- One year of evangelism ministry
- One year of associate pastoral ministry
30. **DIVORCED AND REMARRIED APPLICANTS**

*We recommend:*

That we amend pages 147-148, S55. APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY, V. Divorced and Remarried Applicants, by adding the following, which shall be listed as paragraph 5:

5. Applicants for ministry who have more than one previous marriage ending in divorce or whose spouse has more than one previous marriage ending in divorce must be approved for any rank of ministerial credentialing by a two-thirds majority vote of their respective State/Regional Council and by a two-thirds majority vote of the International Executive Council before proceeding with the credentialing process provided they are otherwise qualified.

31. **INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 146, S55. APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY, II. Internship Requirements, Item 4 by adding the following as bullet four:

“One year of specialized ministry listed on the ministerial report form (e.g. Chaplaincy, etc.)”

so as to read:

II. INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS
4. Require all exhorters to participate in the MIP, or its equivalent, before being promoted to the rank of ordained minister. Equivalent shall be defined as the MIP reading requirement under the supervision of the state overseer, or one whom he appoints, plus one of the following:

- One year of pastoral ministry
- One year of evangelism ministry
- One year of associate pastoral ministry
- *One year of specialized ministry listed on the ministerial report form (e.g. Chaplaincy, etc.)*
2. Our ministers should inform themselves in the Teachings and Doctrines as set forth by the International General Assembly of the Church of God (42nd A., 1948, p. 29).

3. Since we do not license or ordain applicants for the ministry unless they pay tithes, they are required to pay tithes to retain their license (22nd A., 1927, p. 29).
32. **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 147, S55, APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY, IV. General Requirements of Applicants for Ministry, Item 2 by striking

2. Our ministers should inform themselves in

and inserting, *All ministers shall agree with and adhere to,*

so as to read:

*All ministers shall agree with and adhere to* the Teachings and Doctrines as set forth by the International General Assembly of the Church of God (42nd A., 1948, p. 29).

33. **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 147, S55. APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY, IV. General Requirements of Applicants for Ministry, Item 3 by striking

3. Since we do not license or ordain applicants for the ministry unless they pay tithes, they are required to pay tithes to retain their license (22nd A., 1927, p. 29).

and inserting, *All ministers,*

so as to read:

*All ministers* are required to pay tithes to retain their license. (22nd A., 1927, p. 29).
PAGE 147, S55. APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY, IV. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY, ITEM 5

5. All applicants for the ministry should be actively engaged, either in evangelistic or pastoral work, before being recommended for the ministry (46th A., 1956, p. 26).

PAGE 153, S57. ORDAINED MINISTER, I. QUALIFICATIONS OF ORDAINED MINISTERS, ITEM 2

2. The candidate for ordained minister shall be actively engaged in the ministry either in pastoral or evangelistic work.
34. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 147, S55. APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY, IV. General Requirements of Applicants for Ministry, Item 5 by striking

5. All applicants for the ministry should be actively engaged either in evangelistic or pastoral work, before being recommended for the ministry (46th A., 1956, p. 26).

and inserting, *in ministry before being recommended for credentialed ministry,* so as to read:

All applicants for the ministry should be actively engaged *in ministry before being recommended for credentialed ministry.*

35. QUALIFICATIONS OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

*We recommend:*

That we amend, page 153, S57. ORDAINED MINISTER, I. Qualifications of Ordained Ministers, Item 2 by striking, the phrase “the ministry either in pastoral or evangelistic work,” and inserting, *ministerial activity*

so as to read:

The candidate for ordained minister shall be actively engaged in *ministerial activity.*
PAGE 153, S57. ORDAINED MINISTER, I. QUALIFICATIONS OF ORDAINED MINISTERS, ITEM 3

3. Must be thoroughly acquainted with the Teachings and Doctrines of the Church of God as set forth by the International General Assembly.

PAGE 154, S58. EXHORTER, I. QUALIFICATIONS OF EXHORTERS, ITEM 3

3. The candidate for exhorter must be actively engaged in the ministry either in evangelistic or pastoral work before being recommended for licensing.
36. **QUALIFICATIONS OF ORDAINED MINISTERS**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 153, S57. ORDAINED MINISTER, I. Qualifications of Ordained Ministers, Item 3 by striking, *be thoroughly acquainted with* after the word “Must”, and inserting, *agree with and adhere to*

so as to read:

Must *agree with and adhere to* the Teachings and Doctrines of the Church of God as set forth by the International General Assembly.

37. **QUALIFICATIONS OF EXHORTERS**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 154, S58. EXHORTER, I. Qualifications of Exhorters, Item 3 by striking, the phrase “the ministry either in pastoral or evangelistic work,” and inserting, *ministerial activity*

so as to read:

I. QUALIFICATIONS OF EXHORTERS

3. The candidate for exhorter shall be actively engaged in *ministerial activity* before being recommended for licensing.
2. Purpose:
The purpose of ministerial restoration is to place an offending minister back in a position of usefulness and activity appropriate to his/her demonstration of renewed spiritual capabilities.
38. **RESTORATION**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 161, S64. DISORDERLY MINISTERS, I. Forgiveness and Restoration, B. Restoration, 2. Purpose by adding the following as the second paragraph:

*The restoration process involves a team that is made up of the following: Ministerial Advocate, Administrative Bishop, a representative from the Center of Ministerial Care—in their respective country, mentoring pastor, and counselor.*

**RATIONALE — EXPLICIT HETEROSEXUAL MISCONDUCT**

The addition of the word “revoked” will provide to the convening authority in a ministerial discipline situation the option of revocation for not only fornication and adultery but also for explicit heterosexual misconduct which has become very diverse in a culture which produces a variety of sexual sin due to the development of technology and the total disregard for the moral absolutes of the Word of God. There are many sins of a sexual nature that fall under the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 5:28 where Jesus stated, “That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” (i.e., Romans 1:28; 2 Peter 2:14-15). Therefore, it is important for the church to add the word “revoked” to this measure.

The other portion of this measure regarding Ministerial Care is for editorial purposes to make it consistent with other passages in the Minutes regarding ministerial discipline.
1. Any minister found guilty of adultery, fornication, or other sexually explicit heterosexual misconduct shall have his/her ministerial credentials suspended for a minimum period of two years. Should said minister desire reinstatement of credentials, he/she shall submit to the prescribed program of restoration.
39. **EXPLICIT HETEROSEXUAL MISCONDUCT**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 162, S64. DISORDERLY MINISTERS, III. Disorderly Conduct, A. Explicit Heterosexual Misconduct, Item 1 by:

A. **Adding the word** *revoked* following the word “suspended;”

B. **Adding the phrase** *through the office of the Center for Ministerial Care,* at the end of the paragraph,

so as to read:

III. DISORDERLY CONDUCT

A. Explicit Heterosexual Misconduct

1. Any minister found guilty of adultery, fornication, or other sexually explicit heterosexual misconduct shall have his/her ministerial credentials suspended/*revoked* for a minimum period of two years. Should said minister desire reinstatement of credentials, he/she shall submit to the prescribed program of restoration *through the office of the Center for Ministerial Care.*
IV. PROGRAM OF RESTORATION

Any minister whose credentials have been suspended shall be offered a program of restoration. The restoration process shall involve ministry from the entire church body.
40. **PROGRAM OF RESTORATION**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 164, S64. DISORDERLY MINISTERS, IV. Program of Restoration by

A. **Adding the word, revoked following the word “suspended;”**

B. **Adding the words, be facilitated by the Center for Ministerial Care office and in the second sentence.**

so as to read:

IV. PROGRAM OF RESTORATION

Any minister whose credentials have been suspended/revoked shall be offered a program of restoration. The restoration process shall *be facilitated by the Center for Ministerial Care office and* involve ministry from the entire church body.
2. Selection of Trial Board

The state overseer shall appoint all trial boards.

a. He should avoid using the State Council as a trial board.
41. SELECTION OF TRIAL BOARD

We recommend:

That we amend, page 168, S65. OFFENDING MINISTERS, I. Ministerial Discipline—Trial Procedures and Appeals for Church of God Ministers, B. Trial Procedures, 2. Selection of Trial Board by adding the following:

However, individual members of any elected board can be selected by the administrative bishop, if he chooses.

so as to read:

B. Trial Procedures

2. Selection of Trial Board

The state overseer shall appoint all trial boards.

a. He should avoid using the State Council as a trial board. However, individual members of any elected board can be selected by the administrative bishop, if he chooses.
PAGE 168, S65. OFFENDING MINISTERS, I. MINISTERIAL DISCIPLINE—TRIAL PROCEDURES AND APPEALS FOR CHURCH OF GOD MINISTERS, B. TRIAL PROCEDURES, 2. SELECTION OF TRIAL BOARD, ITEM H

h. The accused minister shall be given the option of inviting another duly credentialed Church of God minister to appear with him [or her] during hearings, trials, and appeals, for the purpose of personal support. (Since this is an ecclesiastical matter in the brotherhood of the church, no legal counsel may be present.)

PAGES 158-159, S63. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MINISTERS, BY ADDING A SUBHEADING AS I. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MINISTERS, FURTHER THAT A SECOND SUBHEADING BE ADDED AS II. MARRIAGE AND SAME-GENDER RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE FOLLOWING AS ITEM A-F.
42. **SELECTION OF TRIAL BOARD**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 168, S65. OFFENDING MINISTERS, I. Ministerial Discipline—Trial Procedures and Appeals for Church of God Ministers, B. Trial Procedures, 2. Selection of Trial Board, Item h by adding the phrase, “*as well as the person making the accusation,*” after the words “the accused minister,”

so as to read:

The accused minister *as well as the person making the accusation* shall be given the option of inviting another duly credentialed Church of God minister to appear with him/her during hearings, trials, and appeals, for the purpose of personal support. (Since this is an ecclesiastical matter in the brotherhood of the church, no legal counsel may be present.)

43. **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MINISTERS**

*Note:*

Pages 158/159, S63 GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MINISTERS, will be edited to reflect the following if item 44 prevails

A. Insert a subheading as I. General Instructions for Ministers, with current items 1-10 listed as subpoints.

B. Insert a second subheading as II. Marriage and Same-Gender Relationships
**RATIONALE — MARRIAGE AND SAME-GENDER RELATIONSHIPS**

Marriage is a ceremony of divine worship in which two individuals—a male and a female—make a covenant with each other and with God to honor each other’s body and bones as one (Genesis 2:23-24; Ephesians 5:8-33). Each is to love the body of his/her companion as his/her own body. It is a union of a woman and a man. In accordance with Scripture, the church prohibits same-gender cohabitation in imitation of marriage. Only in biblically defined marriage can men and women fulfill each other physically and spiritually, and conform to the will of God in the nature and experience of marriage, and in the well-being of society.

This measure is the policy statement that affirms the Church of God position against same sex marriage and authorizes the prohibition of Church of God credentialed ministers from performing same sex marriages and/or allowing the use of Church of God facilities for the use of same sex marriages. This policy statement has been adopted by the Church of God Legal Counsel, the Doctrine and Polity Committee, and the International Executive Council and is being brought to the International General Council, and if passed, to the International General Assembly for ratification and adoption.
44. **MARRIAGE AND SAME-GENDER RELATIONSHIPS**

*We recommend:*

That we amend pages 158-159, S63. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MINISTERS, by adding the following:

so as to read:

**II. Marriage and Same-Gender Relationships**

A. The Church of God rejects the cultural, political, and theological pressures to change the definition of marriage as being between one man and one woman. We affirm this definition based on God’s Word and the truth that Christian marriage between a man and a woman reflects the theological truth of Christ’s love for His Church.

B. Church of God ministers, whether ordained or licensed, shall only perform or participate in marriage ceremonies or marriage blessings between one man and one woman, as marriage is defined in the Bible. This policy also is applicable to Church of God ministers who serve in capacities outside the scope of normal pastoring, such as military, hospital, and corporate chaplains.

C. Local Church of God churches and the local Church of God ministers who serve them shall only hold, provide facilities for, conduct or preside over weddings, wedding receptions, and anniversaries (and other gatherings related to weddings, receptions, and anniversaries) that celebrate a marriage or blessing between one man and one woman, as marriage is defined in the Bible.

D. Church of God ministers shall maintain a Christlike attitude of love, mercy, and grace, when counseling or otherwise dealing with individuals in same-gender relationships. A Christlike spirit will maintain the truth of God’s Word, the policies of the church, and avoid inappropriate remarks or attitudes that do not reflect the Holy Spirit.

E. Church of God ministers shall seek to find godly counselors to whom they can refer individuals in same-gender relationships for additional ministry and guidance.

F. Failure of Church of God ministers to adhere to these biblically based guidelines will result in forfeiture of ministerial credentials.
During the General Council Session of the 74th International General Assembly, a motion was received to consider S21. State Overseers, II. Qualifications. The motion was referred to the International Executive Council and recommendations be brought back to the 2014 International General Council. A State Overseers’ Qualifications Study Committee was appointed with the assignment to review if any prerequisites could be determined to prequalify a person for this position. Following thorough analysis and review, the Study Committee submitted to the International Executive Council a report, *The Changing Role of the State Overseer/Administrative Bishop*, revealing that mere prequalifiers were inadequate to address some of the real issues facing this office. Further, the study addressed the biblical profile of a state overseer/administrative bishop and concluded that in order to better clarify the current expectations for this office, changes should be considered in four areas: Tenure, Evaluation, Selection, and Training (the TEST of Leadership). Subsequent recommendations for the 2014 International General Council Agenda provide a broader view of this office and look beyond the limited scope of pastoral tenure prequalifiers into areas that could impact real change for the church and strengthen the vital role of the state overseer/administrative bishop. A copy of the report is provided to the International General Council membership.
The state overseer’s term of office shall be for two years, terminating the Sunday following the close of the International General Assembly. He shall be eligible to succeed himself for an additional term in the same state. Any additional terms in the same state beyond the two terms (four years) must meet the following criteria:

1. He must receive a minimum of a two-thirds majority of the vote of the ministers [in his state or region].
2. The success of his administration must merit said consideration [for an additional term in the same state].
3. The International Executive Committee must believe his reappointment to be in the best interest of the state.

The tenure of office [for the state overseer] is for a maximum of 12 years in nonmission states. He may serve all or part of his tenure in any state or number of states depending upon the above-stated criteria. He may be eligible for reappointment as a state overseer after serving in some other capacity for at least two years.

Overseers who are appointed for the first time shall be given a period of orientation immediately following their appointment by the International Executive Committee.
45. **TERM OF OFFICE**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 101, S21. STATE OVERSEERS, V. Term of Office, by

A. Striking the word “two” and inserting the word, *four* in the first sentence.

B. Striking the words “terminating the Sunday following the close of the International General Assembly.”

C. Striking the sentence: “He shall be eligible to succeed himself for an additional term in the same state”

D. Striking the words, “in the same state beyond the two terms (four years)”

E. Striking the following at the end of subpoint 2, “[for an additional term in the same state]:”

F. Striking the last paragraph: “The tenure of office [for the state overseer] is for a maximum of 12 years in nonmission states. He may serve all or part of his tenure in any state or number of states depending upon the above-stated criteria. He may be eligible for reappointment as a state overseer after serving in some other capacity for at least two years.”

so as to read:

V. Term of Office

The state overseer’s term of office shall be for *four* years. Any additional terms must meet the following criteria:

1. He must receive a minimum of a two-thirds majority of the vote of the ministers [in his state or region].

2. The success of his administration must merit said consideration for an additional term.

3. The International Executive Committee must believe his reappointment to be in the best interest of the state.

46. **ORIENTATION**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 101, S21. STATE OVERSEERS, IV. Orientation by adding

1. **Orientation/Evaluation/Training/Coaching**

   *This orientation class will be offered to new state overseers and will be taught by veteran state overseers appointed by the International Executive Committee.*
Overseers who are appointed for the first time shall be given a period of orientation immediately following their appointment by the International Executive Committee.
47. **ORIENTATION**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 101, S21. STATE OVERSEERS, IV. Orientation by adding the following as Item 2:

STATE OVERSEERS, IV. Orientation/Evaluation/Training/Coaching

2. **Evaluation**

That a new evaluation tool be devised that would allow and require a personal performance review from his International Executive Committee Liaison where each point of the strengths/weaknesses performance review is discussed in detail.

That the state overseer should be required to bring a written vision and strategic plan for leading his territory in case he should be reappointed for a new term.

That the incoming state overseer be required to do a sit-down consult with the outgoing state overseer in order to keep continuity in relationships and to better understand unique circumstances in churches, as well as projects in process.

48. **ORIENTATION**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 101, S21. STATE OVERSEERS, IV. Orientation by adding the following as Item 3.

IV. Orientation/Evaluation/Training/Coaching

3. **Training**

*We recommend that an annual training course for state overseers be developed and that this course be recorded as a video course so that it could be reviewed each year. It should be taught by many International Executive Committee members, veteran overseers,*

*(Continued on Page 75)*
Overseers who are appointed for the first time shall be given a period of orientation immediately following their appointment by the International Executive Committee.
as well as former International Executive Committee members. It should also feature pastors and state council members who share their relationship needs from the office of the state overseer.

Each state overseer should bring a written update on his vision and strategic plan for his state that was submitted at the beginning of his term.

The annual training course will be a requirement for those wanting to be reconsidered for appointment.

49. **ORIENTATION**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 101, S21. STATE OVERSEERS, IV. Orientation by adding the following as Item 4.

**IV. Orientation/Evaluation/Training/Coaching**

4. **Coaching**

The art of coaching is quickly becoming the greatest leadership development process in the 21st century.

Each state overseer will be assigned a coach who will either be another state overseer or a former state overseer. The purpose of this relationship is to have someone to lean on for advice, confidentiality, prayer, and counsel.
PAGE 100, S21. STATE OVERSEERS, I. SELECTION

State overseers shall be appointed by the International Executive Committee, and a rating instrument shall be designed to indicate the state overseers’ performance, and this rating sheet shall substitute for the preference ballot as the primary source of information. Also, that a place be provided on the rating sheet for the individual’s preference for state overseer. Only performance sheets with state overseer preferences that are returned will be counted in the reappointment of state overseers.

PAGE 62, S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, ARTICLE VI. GOVERNING BODIES, 2. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL, AGENDA, ITEM 1

1. The International General Council shall meet biennially to consider all recommendations from the International Executive Council. The International General Council agenda shall be mailed to the ordained bishops at least thirty (30) days prior to the International General Council.
50. **SELECTION**

We recommend:

That we amend page 100, S21. STATE OVERSEERS, I. Selection by adding the following as Item 2:

2. That the opportunity to participate in the State Administrative Bishop Preference/Evaluation voting process be restricted to those credentialed ministers who are current with their personal ministerial reports to both their State/Region Office and the International Offices. In addition, those ministers who have been appointed as a pastor of a local church must also be current with their state/region and international monthly church reports, including appropriate monies, since the time of their appointment in order to participate in the process.

51. **INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL AGENDA**

We recommend:

That we amend page 62, S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, ARTICLE VI. GOVERNING BODIES, 2. International General Council, Agenda, Item 1, by striking the word “mailed” and inserting the words, made available by the most efficient and effective methods

so as to read:

The International General Council shall meet biennially to consider all recommendations from the International Executive Council. The International General Council agenda shall be made available by the most efficient and effective methods to the ordained bishops at least thirty (30) days prior to the International General Council.
(1) Mail to ministers whose addresses are on record at the Church of God International Offices in Cleveland, Tennessee, U.S.A., including national and territorial leaders, the notice and copies of the proposed change(s) to the Bylaws of the Church of God to be considered by the International General Council not later than 90 days prior to the opening of the International General Council. Pastors should make this notice available by public announcement and/or posting to their congregations.
52. PREVIOUS NOTICE

We recommend:

That we amend, page 65, S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, ARTICLE X. Amendment of Bylaws, Previous Notice, Item 1, by striking “mail to ministers whose addresses are on record at” and replacing with That previous notice items be made available by the most efficient and effective methods to ministers who report to the Church of God International Offices in Cleveland, Tennessee, U.S.A.

so as to read:

That previous notice items be made available by the most efficient and effective methods to ministers who report to the Church of God International Offices in Cleveland, Tennessee, U.S.A., including national and territorial leaders, the notice and copies of the proposed change(s) to the Bylaws of the Church of God to be considered by the International General Council not later than 90 days prior to the opening of the International General Council. Pastors should make this notice available by public announcement and/or posting to their congregations.
Strategic Direction
Strategic direction consists of a process that determines how we will accomplish our mission and vision. Crucial resources for implementation of our strategic directions should be a commitment to a missional mentality, transformational leadership, and a positive future orientation. An alternating International General Assembly/Celebration could provide fiduciary resources that could heighten our strategic ministry directions and expand time for open discussion, networking, and task-force participation to develop productive ways and means to fulfill our mission.

One of the most significant impacts of this model is the opportunity for global connection. As the Church of God ministers today in approximately 180 nations, there is a constant attempt to emphasize internationalization at the International General Assembly; however, only about ten percent of the attending registered delegates are designated as international. This International General Assembly model could provide the opportunity to convene a genuine International General Assembly Celebration in some world location, granting time for dialogue and discussion, discipleship, worship, celebration, networking, and ministry interdependence. In addition, an International General Assembly Celebration could be video streamed live around the world, presenting an authentic opportunity for our constituency to connect with the global Church of God.

Ministry Productivity
Within our current operations, several months before and after an International General Assembly are less productive because of continual transitions and expectations at the international and state/regional levels. An alternating International General Assembly Business and Celebration paradigm could accentuate the continuity of ministry activities and leadership, supporting sufficient time for development of ministry initiatives and implementation of goals and objectives. In addition, this model could accentuate relational networking, connection with constituents, and effective team relationships.

Fiduciary Responsibility
Currently, the International General Assembly budget demonstrates an increase per annum of approximately 12-15 percent for meeting facilities, accommodations, travel, technical services, and production. These budgetary items will continue to call for greater financial demands. While the polity of the Church of God mandates the International General Assembly, the proposed paradigm would minimize expenditures, saving the general church significant funds. (Continued on Page 83)
The International General Assembly shall meet biennially to consider all recommendations from the International General Council.
Conclusion
Since its beginning, the Church of God has been a spiritual force—a movement—empowered by the Holy Spirit to fulfill the Great Commission. Although there are many external forces at work in the world, there is a mighty multitude of believers who must be equipped and mobilized to sustain our calling and destiny in order to make a significant contribution to ministry.

An alternating International General Assembly Business and Celebration could help to accomplish our mission more effectively, provide a sense of momentum, embrace positive change, and help realize a preferred future.

53. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

We recommend:

That we amend page 61, S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, ARTICLE VI, Governing Bodies, 1. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY, Meetings by

A. Deleting the word “biennially”

so as to read:

The International General Assembly shall meet to consider all recommendations from the International General Council.

B. Adding the following

Further, the International General Assembly shall convene biennially, alternating during each quadrennial term as International General Assembly Business and International General Assembly Celebration.

That the alternating quadrennial International General Assembly paradigm be initiated with the International General Assembly Business in 2016 and the International General Assembly Celebration 2018.
1. The International General Council shall meet biennially to consider all recommendations from the International Executive Council. The International General Council agenda shall be mailed to the ordained bishops at least thirty (30) days prior to the International General Council (Minutes of the July 1966, International Executive Council, page 93).
54. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL

We recommend:

That we amend page 62, S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, ARTICLE VI, 2. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL, Agenda, paragraph 1 by striking the word “biennially” and inserting the word quadrennially,

so as to read:

1. The International General Council shall meet quadrennially to consider all recommendations from the International Executive Council.

Note: All references to “biennially” in the Minutes will be edited to conform to the above motion.

RATIONALE — REALIGNMENT OF TENURE FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS

In our ever-changing world, the church finds itself struggling to keep pace and maintain a vibrant, effective, ministry focus and vision. One of the reasons for this struggle is the constant change that takes place with the leadership of the organization.

In 2010, the International General Council and the International General Assembly passed a measure allowing the Executive Leadership of the Church of God to be elected for a four-year term instead of a two-year term, which has proven to provide continuity of mission and vision for the church.

With this as our model, we feel that the same rationale and need for continuity of mission and vision should be extended to other elected leaders within the organization.

This extension of term would allow these ministry leaders to provide long-range mission and vision ministry leadership in a time when stability is needed.

Therefore, we urge the passage of these tenure-related items as it relates to the elected leaders of the organization.
PAGE 79, S10. MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP, I. DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP, A. SELECTION, TENURE, AND SALARY, ITEM 1

1. The office of the director of Youth and Discipleship shall be filled by one who shall devote his full time to the promotion of the Church of God youth and discipleship work. He shall be eligible to succeed himself one term. He shall be nominated by the International General Council and elected biennially by the International General Assembly.

PAGE 79, S10. MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP, II. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP, A. SELECTION, TENURE, AND SALARY, ITEM 1

1. The assistant director of Youth and Discipleship shall be nominated by the International General Council and elected biennially by the International General Assembly. He shall be eligible to succeed himself one term.
55. **SELECTION, TENURE, AND SALARY**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 79, S10. MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP, I. Director of Youth and Discipleship, A. Selection, Tenure, and Salary, Item 1 by striking the word “biennially” in the last sentence and inserting the word *quadrennially* (4-year term) *(Effective 2016)*

so as to read:

He shall be nominated by the International General Council and elected *quadrennially* (4-year term) by the International General Assembly. *(Effective 2016)*

56. **SELECTION, TENURE, AND SALARY**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 79, S10. MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP, II. Assistant Director of Youth and Discipleship, A. Selection, Tenure, and Salary, Item 1 by striking the word “biennially” in the last sentence and inserting the word *quadrennially* (4-year term) *(Effective 2016)*

so as to read:

The assistant director of Youth and Discipleship shall be nominated by the International General Council and elected *quadrennially* (4-year term) by the International General Assembly. *(Effective 2016)*
A. Selection, Tenure, and Salary
The director of World Missions shall be nominated by the International General Council and elected by the International General Assembly biennially. He shall be eligible to serve no more than four consecutive years. His salary shall be set by the International Executive Council.

A. Selection, Tenure, and Salary
The assistant director of World Missions shall be nominated by the International General Council and elected by the International General Assembly biennially. He shall be eligible to serve no more than four consecutive years. His salary shall be set by the International Executive Council.
57. **SELECTION, TENURE, AND SALARY**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 84, S12. MINISTRY OF WORLD MISSIONS, III. Director of World Missions, A. Selection, Tenure, and Salary by striking the word “biennially” in the last sentence and inserting the word *quadrennially* (4-year term) *(Effective 2016)*

so as to read:

The director of World Missions shall be nominated by the International General Council and elected by the International General Assembly *quadrennially* (4-year term). *(Effective 2016)*

58. **SELECTION, TENURE, AND SALARY**

*We recommend:*

That we amend page 84, S12. MINISTRY OF WORLD MISSIONS, IV. Assistant Director of World Missions, A. Selection, Tenure, and Salary by striking the word “biennially” in the last sentence and inserting the word *quadrennially* (4-year term) *(Effective 2016)*

so as to read:

The assistant director of World Missions shall be nominated by the International General Council and elected by the International General Assembly *quadrennially* (4-year term). *(Effective 2016)*
4. The eighteen (18) members shall be elected by the International General Council biennially, with a member being eligible to succeed himself for one term (S3, V.A, 9).
59. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SELECTION

We recommend:

That we amend page 69, S5. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, I. Selection, Item 4, by

A. Striking the word “biennially” and inserting the word quadrennially.

B. Striking the phrase, “with a member being eligible to succeed himself for one term,” and inserting the phrase limited to one term (4 years). (Those who have served only two years in 2016 will be eligible for an additional four years.) (Effective 2016)

so as to read:

The eighteen (18) members shall be elected by the International General Council quadrennially, limited to one term (4 years). (Those who have served only two years in 2016 will be eligible for an additional four years.) (Effective 2016)

Note: The Minutes will be edited to conform to the above structure if adopted.