

INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL AGENDA

I. Official Opening

II. Review of Schedule

Tuesday, July 19

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 20

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 21

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, July 22

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

*(International General
Assembly Business Session)*

III. Instructions to Delegates

IV. Appointment of Committees

Ushers

Motions

Teller

Parliamentarians

Sergeant-at-Arms

V. State of the Church Address – Dr. Mark L. Williams

VI. Nominations / Elections

General Overseer

First Assistant General Overseer

Second Assistant General Overseer

Third Assistant General Overseer

Secretary General

Youth and Discipleship Director

Youth and Discipleship Assistant Director

World Missions Director

World Missions Assistant Director

Council of Eighteen

VII. Special Orders of the Day

Wednesday, July 20

8:45 a.m. Great Commission and Urban Evangelism – Dr. Tony Evans

1:45 p.m. Spiritual Fathering and Mentoring – Larry Stockstill

Thursday, July 21

8:45 a.m. Sanctity of Marriage – Dr. Jimmy Evans

1:45 p.m. Great Commission and Culture – Dr. Ed Stetzer

VIII. Ordained Ministers Included in International General Council

That we amend page 59, S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, ARTICLE VI, 2. International General Council, *Members*, by adding “***ordained ministers 25 years of age and older and***” so as to read:

The International General Council is composed of all ***ordained ministers 25 years of age and older and*** ordained bishops of the Church of God, who shall comprise its voting constituency. (That all other references to ordained ministers be amended to reflect this motion.)

Rationale:

This motion seeks to affirm the value of a new generation of ministers by giving them voice and vote in shaping the future mission, vision, and core values of the Church of God. It also expands the International General Council to include ordained women, whose anointed insights and spiritual discernment are much needed in addressing the growing complexity of fulfilling the Great Commission.

Ordained ministers are currently permitted to serve in the Church of God as pastors, ministers, chaplains, missionaries, and a wide variety of other vital ministries. As such, they are held accountable to the recommendations of the International General Council and decisions of the International General Assembly, yet they do not have opportunity to share their insights, ideas, experiences, wisdom, discernment, and concerns in the formation of those recommendations. This proposal seeks to remedy that situation.

Additionally, the motion, if passed, provides greater incentive for attendance to International General Assemblies and ministerial credential advancement.

Finally, if passed, service in an official elected or appointed capacity such as the presiding bishop, the International Executive Committee, the director and assistant director of Youth and Discipleship, the director and assistant director of World Missions, the Council of Eighteen (18), administrative bishops, and any other so identified by the *Minutes* will continue to be restricted to ordained bishops (S5. I. SELECTION, item 5, International General Assembly MINUTES, page 67; S22. III. RIGHTS AND AUTHORITIES, item 2, International General Assembly MINUTES, page 101).

IX. State Overseers Term of Office

That we amend page 125, S32. STATE OVERSEERS, V. Term of Office, by striking “12” in the last paragraph and replacing it with **16 (effective with the 2018 International General Assembly Term)** so as to read:

“The tenure of office [for the state overseer] is for a maximum of **16 years (effective with the 2018 International General Assembly term)** in non-mission 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.”

Rationale:

It has been clearly demonstrated that longevity in leadership roles provides for a more consistent vision, greater accountability, and better stability in an organization. Increasing the state overseer’s tenure from 12 years to 16 years allows for longer tenures in states, particularly when an overseer has a state financially stable, moving in a positive direction, and has the overwhelming support of his leadership team and the ministers.

It recognizes the value of an experienced, effective, and approved state leader remaining in a place of leadership for a longer period.

It acknowledges the benefits of continuity in leadership and aligns with the denomination’s core value of leadership training.

It permits the state overseer to become increasingly familiar with the churches and pastors he supervises.

It allows continuation of the present system of evaluation of overseers by ministers within each state as a condition of continuing appointment beyond the initial assignment.

It affirms findings of the church that states and regions with continuity of leadership over longer periods have resulted in healthier growth, as opposed to those areas that have frequent leadership turnover.

X. Meaning and Usage of the Term “Bishop” Report

After a detailed review by the International Executive Council of the meaning and usage of the term “bishop,” further study needs to be done that will better address whether it is necessary to change the current nomenclature in order to clarify and fulfill the intent of the International General Council with respect to the designation of the ministerial rank in the Church of God. We also recommend that the study include a detailed look at the title of “Ordained Bishop” and any effect it has on the legal and cultural issues of the International Church and on the IRS rulings concerning the national church. Further, that the following issues and relatedness of these issues be part of this report:

1. Titles for all Ranks of Ministry
2. Qualifications of Ministry
3. Women in Ministry

That this study be brought back to the 2018 International General Council.

XI. Ordained Bishop Qualifications

That we amend page 100, S22. ORDAINED BISHOP, II. QUALIFICATIONS OF ORDAINED BISHOPS, 2 by inserting the following after the word “ministry” on line 3: ***or he has three (3) years of active ministry accompanied by a ministry-related degree or its equivalency from an accredited institution or one certified by the Church of God Division of Education,***

So as to read:

*An applicant for ordination as bishop may be ordained when he is twenty-five (25) years of age, provided he has had at least eight (8) years of active ministry, **or he has three (3) years of active ministry accompanied by a ministry-related degree or its equivalency from an accredited institution or one certified by the Church of God Division of Education,** or when he is thirty (30) years of age, provided he has had at least five (5) years of active ministry, if he is otherwise qualified.*

Rationale:

The purpose of this motion is to account for those ministers who have chosen to obtain a ministry-related degree or its equivalency rather than go directly into active ministry.

- Acknowledges the biblical truth that the church’s ministry should include younger ministers as well as older ministers (Joel 2:28-29; Acts 2:17-18), passion as well as wisdom, and increasingly opens ministry to the sons of the church.
- Recognizes the experiential value of learning that takes place in the classroom under the tutelage of capable teachers as similar in value to the learning that takes place by field experience.
- Affirms the important task filled by Church of God ministerial, educational institutions.
- Follows the biblical injunction that a bishop not be a novice.
- Connects the oncoming generation in a tangible way with the church of today.
- Creates a responsible role for younger ministers in the Church of God, who are often courted by other denominations and movements.

XII. Contemporary Ministerial Development Committee Report

This report focuses on the development of a culture of learning to prepare every minister for the challenges and opportunities of ministry by mobilizing every agency and all available resources to invest in perpetual ministerial training.

XIII. Resolutions Committee

XIV. Motions From the Motions Committee