

ELECTIONS

1. Gary J. Lewis was elected to serve as director of Youth and Discipleship for the ensuing two years.
2. David C. Blair was elected to serve as assistant director of Youth and Discipleship for the ensuing two years.
3. Timothy M. Hill was elected to serve as director of World Missions for the ensuing two years.
4. John D. Childers was elected to serve as assistant director of World Missions for the ensuing two years.

COUNCIL OF EIGHTEEN

1. Kevin Edward Wallace
2. Raymond F. Culpepper
3. David E. Ramirez S
4. Timothy Bryan Cutshall
5. Victor M. Pagan
6. Thomas Andrew Madden
7. Oliver Lewis McMahan
8. William Ernest Isaacs
9. Dwight Everett Allen
10. Niko Njotorahardjo
11. Nick Park
12. Chris Moody
13. Tony D. Stewart
14. David Charles Cooper
15. Kip Anthony Box
16. Mark Laverne Walker
17. George Dennis McGuire
18. Jimmy Dale Smith

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **That we amend page 162, S64. DISORDERLY MINISTERS, Section IV. Program of Restoration, by adding the following as paragraph E:**

Whereas the Church of God is a church that believes in the restoration of the individual; and whereas the Church of God makes such provision for the restoration of credentialed ministers who successfully complete care counseling; and whereas there is a wealth of potential ministers among the Church of God laity; Be it resolved that any lay member with

past disqualifying behaviors who successfully completes a restorative care program (Church of God) and is otherwise qualified for credentialed ministry be considered for possible licensing.

- 2. That we amend page 72, S5. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, III. Duties and Authorities, by adding the following as the next paragraph:**

All business before the International Executive Council between assemblies concluded and decided be made available to all credentialed ministers through the ministerial reporting website. Any disciplinary actions will not be included.

- 3. That we amend page 148, S56. ORDAINED BISHOP, I. MEANING AND USAGE OF THE TERM BISHOP, section A, Biblical Understanding of Ordination, by adding the following as paragraph 8:**

That a study be done and a theological paper prepared defining the meaning and usage of the title Ordained Bishop; and should it be necessary change the current nomenclature in order to clarify and fulfill the intent of the International General Council with respect to designation of ministerial rank in the Church of God. Further, that said study is brought back to the 2016 International General Assembly and that the results of such study be included in the Minutes of the International General Assembly of the Church of God.

- 4. That we amend page 102, S23. STATE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, paragraph 1, by striking the word “male”:**

so as to read:

1. In each state, territory, or country where needed, the state overseer shall, at a state meeting or called meeting of the ministers of the church, or at a state convention of the membership of the church, appoint a State Board of Trustees of not less than five members.

5. COMMITMENTS TO OUR MISSION AND VISION

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, sustaining open exchange of ministry concepts, encouraging the strengthening and growth of local churches, enlisting and equipping the next generation of leaders, and fulfilling our mission and vision as a movement that is Christ-centered, people-oriented, and need-sensitive in all its ministry endeavors.

6. COMMITMENTS TO OUR MISSION AND VISION

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.*

(Matthew 5:43-48; 22:37-38; 28:19-20; John 14:15, 21-23; 15:10; Acts 1:8; 2:1-11, 41-47; Romans 12:1-2; 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Galatians 5:22-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:19-23; 2 John 6.)

7. COMMITMENTS TO OUR MISSION AND VISION

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.*

8. NAME OF CHURCH

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.”

9. CHURCH — LOCAL

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).~~

10. GOVERNING BODY

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 by the guidance of the Holy Spirit in regard to doctrine, discipline, church order, and governance.

11. LOCAL CHURCH PART OF THE ASSEMBLY

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 amalgamated church as a whole, 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.

12. COOPERATION WITH PCCNA

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.~~

13. FINANCIAL STRUCTURE

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*.]

14. DEFINITION

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 biennial 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.

15. PROCEDURES

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.)

16. PROCEDURES

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].~~

17. ROLE OF THE LAITY IN THE INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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

18. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL AGENDA

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.

19. DIVORCED AND REMARRIED APPLICANTS

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.

20. INTERNSHIP REQUIREMENTS

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.)*

21. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY

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 adhere to,*

so as to read:

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

22. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY

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).

23. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY

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.*

24. MARRIAGE AND SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS

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

so as to read:

II. Marriage and Same-Sex 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 an ordained minister or ordained bishop, 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 Christ-like attitude of love, mercy, and grace, when counseling or otherwise dealing with individuals in same-gender relationships. A Christ-like 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.*

25. TERM OF OFFICE

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

- A. Striking the word “~~two~~” and inserting the word, four (beginning with the 2016 International General Assembly term) 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].~~”**

so as to read:

V. Term of Office

The state overseer's term of office shall be for *four* years (beginning with the 2016 International General Assembly term). 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.

The tenure of office [for the state overseer] is for a maximum of 12 years 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.

26. SELECTION, TENURE, AND SALARY

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)*

27. SELECTION, TENURE, AND SALARY

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)*

28. SELECTION, TENURE, AND SALARY

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)

29. SELECTION, TENURE, AND SALARY

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)

30. That we amend page 79, S10. MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP, I. Director of Youth and Discipleship, A. Selection, Tenure, and Salary, 1 by striking “He shall be eligible to succeed himself one term.” and inserting, the following:

So as to read:

He shall not be able to succeed himself beyond one four-year term. (Effective 2016)

31. That we amend page 79. S10. MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP, II. Assistant Director of Youth and Discipleship, A. Selection, Tenure, and Salary, 1 by striking “He shall be eligible to succeed himself one term.” and inserting, the following:

So as to read:

He shall not be able to succeed himself beyond one four-year term. (Effective 2016)

32. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS OF APPLICANTS FOR MINISTRY

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.*

33. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL AGENDA

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.

34. PREVIOUS NOTICE

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.

35. QUALIFICATIONS OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

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*.

36. QUALIFICATIONS OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

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, *adhere to*

so as to read:

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

37. QUALIFICATIONS OF EXHORTERS

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.

38. RESTORATION

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 for Ministerial Care—in their respective country, mentoring pastor, and counselor.

39. EXPLICIT HETEROSEXUAL MISCONDUCT

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.*

40. PROGRAM OF RESTORATION

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.

41. SELECTION OF TRIAL BOARD

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.*

42. SELECTION OF TRIAL BOARD

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 41 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-Sex Relationships.

44. SELECTION

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 or in covenant agreement with their state/region and international monthly church reports, including appropriate monies, beginning at the time of their appointment in order to participate in the process.