

2010

INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL **AGENDA**



***ENGAGING THE
MISSIONAL MANDATE***

*Go! INTO ALL THE WORLD ...
FORWARD TOGETHER*

**Church of God
73rd International General Assembly
July 27–30, 2010
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 briefly explaining the proposed motions are included at the end of the Agenda, pages 37-42.

73rd International General Assembly

International General Council Agenda

SCHEDULE

Tuesday, July 27

8:30 a.m. – Noon

2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Thursday, July 29

8:30 a.m. – Noon

2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 28

8:30 a.m. – Noon

2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Friday, July 30

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. (General
Assembly Business Session)

Check the program for times and location of International General Council prayer meetings.

OFFICIAL OPENING

INSTRUCTIONS TO DELEGATES

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Usher

Motions

Teller

Parliamentarians

Sergeant-at-Arms

NOMINATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. General Overseer
2. First Assistant General Overseer
3. Second Assistant General Overseer
4. Third Assistant General Overseer
5. Secretary General

OTHER NOMINATIONS

6. Director of Youth and Christian Education
7. Assistant Director of Youth and Christian Education
8. Director of Evangelism and Home Missions
9. Assistant Director of Evangelism and Home Missions
10. Director of World Missions
11. Assistant Director of World Missions

ELECTION OF COUNCIL OF EIGHTEEN

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PREAMBLE

The proceedings of the Church of God General Assembly are guided by the Scriptural Principles for Ministry cited on pages 36–43 of the *Minutes of the International General Assembly, 2008*. The Statement of Vision, Statement of Mission, Core Value Commitments and Principles for Ministry of the Church of God are listed under Scriptural Principles for Ministry.

The preparation of this agenda has also been guided by the Vision, Mission, Core Value Commitments and Principles for Ministry of the Church of God. References are cited before each item on this agenda.

The Mission of the Church of God is the preamble to the proceedings of this General Council:

The mission of the Church of God is to communicate the full gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20) in the Spirit and power of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4, 6, 13-18). (71st A., 2006, p. 44)

Vision, Mission and Core Values:

1. **Statement of Vision:** “Our vision arises from our understanding of what the sovereign God purposes to do for and through His church. The Great Commission remains our mandate from Christ” (*International General Assembly Minutes, 2008*, pp. 36–37). [**Applicable to Agenda Items 1 and 8**]

2. **Leadership Development, paragraph 1:** “We commit ourselves to identifying and developing individuals whom God has called and given leadership gifts and challenging them to become servant-leaders” (*International General Assembly Minutes, 2008*, p. 39). [**Applicable to Agenda Item 2**]

(Continued on page 7)

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3. **Leadership Development, paragraph 2:** “Creating an environment in which men and women with ministry gifts are developed to serve as servant-leaders.

Clergy, B., 4: Recognition of the vital role women presently give in Church of God ministry—their teaching, preaching, administrative and leadership skills—and renewed encouragement and support for their ministry, in keeping with that obvious emphasis found in the Gospels, throughout the Book of Acts, and in the Epistles (Acts 16:14, 15, 40; 18:26; 21:8–9; Romans 16:1–7; Titus 2:3–5)” (*International General Assembly Minutes, 2008*, pp. 39, 42). [**Applicable to Agenda Item 3**]

4. **Local Churches, B., 3:** “Greater care in the appointment of pastors, with emphasis on compatibility and inter-relationships between congregation and leaders (Titus 1:5–9; Ephesians 5:21; Hebrews 13:17, 18; Romans 12:14–21).

Clergy, B., 2: Establishing more specific Scriptural and practical assessment and appraisal procedures for evaluating ministers of all ranks and in all positions on a continuing basis (Romans 12:2; 13:5; 2 Timothy 4:5)” (*International General Assembly Minutes, 2008*, pp. 41–42). [**Applicable to Agenda Item 4**]

5. **Preamble, paragraph 2:** “As with other religious organizations, we now face great and complex challenges. About us are undeniable signs that tough times lie ahead for any movement attempting to survive and grow with an attitude of business as usual. We must take an honest look at our challenges, and we must not complacently assume immunity to the difficulties faced by other larger, more traditional denominations, some of which are already in the embrace of noticeable decline” (*International General Assembly Minutes, 2008*, p. 36). [**Applicable to Agenda Items 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, and 15**]

(Continued on page 9)

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6. Clergy, A. Priority Statement: “The Church of God believes that from within the priesthood of all believers God specifically selects, calls, anoints, and commissions certain individuals for extraordinary service and leadership and that this special (clergy) calling is of God’s sovereign will, characterized by individuals with spiritual passion, love for the lost, total involvement, lifelong sacrifice, and servant leadership rather than by those seeking position or personal honor” (*International General Assembly Minutes, 2008*, p. 41). [**Applicable to Agenda Items 11 and 12**]

7. Church Planting, paragraphs 1, 2: “We commit ourselves to identifying, training, and resourcing God-called church planters and to intentionally planting new life-giving churches. Focusing designated resources of the local church, state/regional offices, and the international offices for planting new churches” (*International General Assembly Minutes, 2008*, p. 39). [**Applicable to Agenda Item 16**]

8. Interdependence, paragraphs 1, 5: “We commit ourselves to the principle of interdependence, acknowledging our interconnectedness and dependence on all the members of the Body of Christ. Engaging in dialogue and partnership with local, national, and international organizations who seek to fulfill the Great Commission of Christ” (*International General Assembly Minutes, 2008*, p. 40). [**Applicable to Agenda Item 17**]

(Continued on page 11)

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REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. MISSION AND VISION PRESENTATION

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 5, paragraph 1.

The general overseer will present a missional action plan for the church for the ensuing two years.

2. REPORT FROM THE BYLAWS AND STRUCTURE/USA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 5, paragraph 2.

EXPLANATORY NOTE: The following two items were announced to the 2008 International General Assembly:

- 1) *That a study commission representing the leadership and constituency of our church is being appointed by the general overseer in consultation with the Executive Committee to study our bylaws and structure and to make a report with recommendations to the 2010 General Council.*
- 2) *That a study commission is being appointed by the general overseer with representative membership (age, gender, ethnicity, laity and ministers) to prepare recommendations for the bylaws and governance structure of the USA National Council/Assembly to report to the 2010 USA National Council meeting for consideration. Further, this commission will consider the feasibility of a delegated National Assembly and International Assembly.*

Because of polity issues which overlapped, these two study commissions were merged. The chairman of the study committee will give a report to the International General Council regarding the committee's findings.

(Continued on page 13)

Page 146, S58. Ordained Bishop, II. Qualifications of Ordained Bishops, paragraph 8:

8. It is understood that female ministers are not eligible for ordination as bishop (63rd A., 1990, p. 79).

Page 120, S43. Church and Pastor's Council, I. Selection, paragraph 1:

1. When a local church deems it practical to have a Church and Pastor's Council, said council shall be elected by the governing body of the church consisting of the loyal members. Members of the Church and Pastor's Council shall be loyal male members of the church.

3. WOMEN IN MINISTRY

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 7, paragraph 3.

We recommend:

1. That page 146, S58. **Ordained Bishop, II. Qualifications of Ordained Bishops, paragraph 8, be deleted.**

8. It is understood that female ministers are not eligible for ordination as bishop (63rd A., 1990, p. 79).

[Note: If item 1 is adopted, item 2 will be considered.]

2. That other references in the *Minutes* be amended to reflect the above motion.
3. That we amend page 120, S43. **Church and Pastor's Council, I. Selection, paragraph 1, by deleting the word "male":**
 1. "When a local church deems it practical to have a Church and Pastor's Council, said council shall be elected by the governing body of the church consisting of the loyal members. Members of the Church and Pastor's Council shall be loyal *mate* members of the church."

4. REPORT: PASTORAL REVIEW SYSTEM

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 7, paragraph 4.

EXPLANATORY NOTE: The 2008 International General Assembly adopted the following motion:

(Continued on page 15)

Page 54, S2. Bylaws of the Church of God, Article VI, Governing Bodies, 1. International General Assembly, Meeting:

Meeting

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

That page 168, S41. PASTOR, I. Appointment of Pastors, be referred to the Executive Council for study and research and be brought back to the 2010 General Council for consideration of an option for a pastoral review system.

The chairman of the committee will give a report to the International General Council regarding the committee's findings.

5. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 7, paragraph 5.

We recommend:

- 1) That we amend page 54, S2. Bylaws of the Church of God, Article VI, Governing Bodies, 1. International General Assembly, Meeting, by striking the word, “biennially” and inserting the word, “quadrennially.” (Effective 2012)**

Note: If the above motion is adopted, the following motions will be considered.

(Continued on page 17)

Page 56, S2. Bylaws of the Church of God, Article VI, Governing Bodies, 2. International General Council, Agenda, paragraph 1:

Agenda

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.

Page 62, S5. International Executive Council, I. Selection, paragraph 4:

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.

2) That we amend page 56, S2. Bylaws of the Church of God, Article VI, Governing Bodies, 2. International General Council, Agenda, paragraph 1, by striking the word, “biennially,” and inserting the word, “quadrennially.” (Effective 2012)

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

3) That we amend page 62, S5. International Executive Council, I. Selection, paragraph 4, by striking the word, “biennially,” and inserting the word, “quadrennially.” (Effective 2012)

4. The eighteen (18) members shall be elected by the International General Council ~~biennially~~ *quadrennially*, with a member being eligible to succeed himself for one term.

4) That all references in the *Minutes* to “biennial” or “biennially” be amended to reflect “quadrennial” or “quadrennially” as appropriate.

5) That the tenured offices in the *Minutes* be changed to reflect these motions and the International Executive Council be authorized to resolve any conflicts or questions regarding terms of office in the *Minutes* in implementing the above motions reflecting a quadrennial International General Assembly.

(Continued on page 19)

Page 55, S2. Bylaws of the Church of God, Article VI. Governing Bodies, 1. International General Assembly, Elections:

Elections

The International General Assembly shall elect the general overseer, the assistant general overseers, the secretary general, the general Youth and Christian Education director, the assistant general Youth and Christian Education director, the Evangelism and Home Missions director, the assistant Evangelism and Home Missions director, the director of World Missions, and the assistant director of World Missions (58th A., 1980, pp. 29-32, (1-4).

6. ELECTED POSITIONS

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 7, paragraph 5.

EXPLANATORY NOTE: Motions 1 and 2 below are a change in title only.

We recommend:

- 1) That we amend page 55, S2. Bylaws of the Church of God, Article VI. Governing Bodies, 1. International General Assembly, Elections by striking the words, “*general Youth and Christian Education director;*” and inserting the words, “*director of Youth and Discipleship.*”
- 2) That we amend page 55, S2. Bylaws of the Church of God, Article VI. Governing Bodies, 1. International General Assembly, Elections, by striking the words, “*assistant general Youth and Christian Education director;*” and inserting the words, “*assistant director of Youth and Discipleship.*”

Note: Motions 3 and 4, if adopted, will mean the termination of the two offices identified, effective the Assembly of 2012. The adoption of these two motions will also remove them from the list of nominations by the International General Council on page 56 of the *Minutes*.

- 3) That we amend page 55, S2. Bylaws of the Church of God, Article VI. Governing Bodies, 1. International General Assembly, Elections, by striking the words, “*Evangelism and Home Missions director.*” (Effective 2012)

(Continued on page 21)

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4) That we amend page 55, S2. Bylaws of the Church of God, Article VI. Governing Bodies, 1. International General Assembly, Elections, by striking the words, “assistant Evangelism and Home Missions director.” (Effective 2012)

5) That other references to these positions in the *Minutes* be amended to reflect these motions.

7. RESTRUCTURING OF INTERNATIONAL OFFICES

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 7, paragraph 5.

We recommend:

That the International Executive Council be authorized to conform the Minutes of the International General Assembly to reflect the changes adopted by the Executive Council in the restructure report (where appropriate).

8. PURPOSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 5, paragraph 1.

We recommend:

That we amend page 54, S2. Bylaws of the Church of God, Article VI. Governing Bodies, 1. International General Assembly, by adding the following under the heading, “Purpose:”

“The purpose of the International General Assembly is to advance the mission, vision, and commitments of the Church of God as stated in the International General Assembly Minutes.”

(Continued on page 23)

Page 68, S7. General Overseer, I. Selection, paragraph 2:

2. He shall be elected for a two-year term, and he shall be eligible to serve no more than four consecutive years (41st A., 1946, p. 26).

Page 70, S8. Assistant General Overseers, I. Selection, paragraph 3:

3. The assistant general overseers shall be elected for a two-year term, and they shall be eligible to serve no more than four consecutive years in either of said offices, or a maximum of eight years on the International Executive Committee.

Page 71, S9. Secretary General, I. Selection, paragraph 2:

2. The Secretary General shall be elected for a two-year term, and he shall be eligible to serve no more than four consecutive years (41st A., 1946, p. 26).

9. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 7, paragraph 5.

We recommend:

- 1) **That we amend page 68, S7. General Overseer, I. Selection, paragraph 2, by substituting the following:**

*2. He shall be elected for a four-year term, and shall be 1
eligible to serve no more than eight consecutive years in 2
this office or on the Executive Committee. 3*

- 2) **That we amend page 70, S8. Assistant General Overseers, I. Selection, paragraph 3, by substituting the following:**

*3. The assistant general overseers shall be elected for a 1
four-year term, and they shall be eligible to serve no more 2
than eight consecutive years in either of said offices or on 3
the Executive Committee. 4*

- 3) **That we amend page 71, S9. Secretary General, I. Selection, paragraph 2, by substituting the following:**

*The Secretary General shall be elected for a four-year 1
term, and he shall be eligible to serve no more than eight 2
consecutive years in this office or on the International 3
Executive Committee. 4*

(Continued on page 25)

Page 70, S8. Assistant General Overseers, III. Procedure for Filling Vacancy:

Should the office of an assistant general overseer be vacated because of advancement, death, disability, or the incumbent in any wise being disqualified, the general overseer shall convene with the International Executive Council within thirty (30) days. This vacancy shall be filled by the International Executive Council appointing one of the other remaining assistants to fill the vacancy (by advancement in the order of their election by the International General Assembly).

10. ASSISTANT GENERAL OVERSEER VACANCY

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 7, paragraph 5.

We recommend:

That we amend page 70, S8. Assistant General Overseers, III. Procedure for Filling Vacancy, by striking the words “the general overseer shall convene with the International Executive Council within thirty (30) days. This vacancy shall be filled by the International Executive Council appointing one of the other remaining assistants to fill the vacancy (by advancement...)” and inserting the words, “the remaining International Executive Committee members shall automatically advance” so as to read:

Should the office of an assistant general overseer be vacated because of advancement, death, disability, or the incumbent in any wise being disqualified, *the remaining International Executive Committee members shall automatically advance* (in the order of their election by the International General Assembly).

(Continued on page 27)

Page 169, S70. Compensation for Pastors, VI. Supplemental Pastor's Retirement Fund (71st A., 2006, pp. 44, 45):

WHEREAS, the key to the local church is the pastor; and,
WHEREAS, the International Executive Committee has cast a vision of building healthy, growing, praying pastors who build healthy, growing, praying churches; and,
WHEREAS, an actuarial study of the Aged Ministers Fund has determined the decreasing liabilities will generate a surplus of funds that can be designated for a supplemental retirement benefit for pastors;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED:

THAT 15 percent of the tithes coming to the Church of God International Offices be used to fund the participants in the Aged Ministers Fund until such time as the fund liabilities cease; and,

THAT based on the actuarial performance of the Aged Ministers Fund, any surplus of the 15 percent designated by the International General Assembly be directed to a Supplemental Retirement Benefit for current Aged Ministers Fund participants, widows, and senior pastors, with the amounts to be determined by the International Executive Council; and,

THAT this supplemental retirement benefit be credited to the Benefits Board account of each senior pastor in an annual contribution (on or near August 31 of each year), providing that the pastor's and church's reports, with appropriate percentages, are current; and,

THAT the start date and amount of said assistance be determined by the International Executive Council, with the goal of eventually equaling 10 percent of the tithes sent to the International Offices by the respective pastor's church; and, finally,

THAT appropriate accountability requirements (that is, prompt reporting, personal tithing, and so forth) be determined by the International Executive Council as prerequisites for participation in this supplemental retirement benefit plan.

11. SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT BENEFIT PROGRAM

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 9, paragraph 6.

We recommend:

That we amend page 169, S70. Compensation for Pastors, VI. Supplemental Pastor’s Retirement Fund, by deletion and that the monies be used to fund the participants in the Aged Ministers Fund until such time as the fund liabilities cease.

(Continued on page 29)

Page 62, S5. International Executive Council, I. Selection, paragraph 5:

5. The eighteen (18) members shall be elected from the ordained bishops and no chief executive officer, or his assistant, of any church agency which presents a budget to the International Executive Council, shall be eligible to serve on the International Executive Council.

12. ELIGIBILITY FOR ELECTED/APPOINTED OFFICE

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 9, paragraph 6.

We recommend:

That we amend page 152, S65. General Instructions for Ministers by adding the following as paragraph 9:

*In order for any minister to be considered eligible for elec- 1
tion/appointment by the International Executive Committee, 2
General Council or General Assembly, the minister must be 3
current on both personal ministerial reports and the local 4
church reports with required finances from the church he/ 5
she pastors (if applicable). Any exceptions must be ap- 6
proved by the International Executive Committee. 7*

13. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 7, paragraph 5.

We recommend:

That we amend page 62, S5. International Executive Council, I. Selection, paragraph 5, by striking the words “the International Executive Council,” and inserting the words “a divisional leader,” so as to read:

5. The eighteen (18) members shall be elected from the ordained bishops and no chief executive officer, or his assistant, of any church agency which presents a budget to ~~the International Executive Council~~ *a divisional leader*, shall be eligible to serve on the International Executive Council.

(Continued on page 31)

Page 96, S23. State Overseers, I. Selection, paragraph 2:

2. Further, that state overseers be installed in a commissioning service at the International General Assembly.

Page 69, S7. General Overseer, II. Duties and Authorities, paragraph 6:

6. Together with his assistants and the secretary general, appoint all general standing boards and committees biennially, said appointments to be made while the International General Assembly is in session, except in cases of emergency.

14. STATE OVERSEERS

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 7, paragraph 5.

We recommend:

That we amend page 96, S23. State Overseers, I. Selection, paragraph 2, by deletion.

~~2. Further, that state overseers be installed in a commissioning service at the International General Assembly.~~

15. GENERAL OVERSEER

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 7, paragraph 5.

We recommend:

That we amend page 69, S7. General Overseer, II. Duties and Authorities, paragraph 6, by striking “while the International General Assembly is in session” and inserting the words, “within two weeks of the close of the International General Assembly,” so as to read:

6. Together with his assistants and the secretary general, appoint all general standing boards and committees biennially, said appointments to be made ~~while the International General Assembly is in session~~, within two weeks of the close of the International General Assembly, except in cases of emergency.

(Continued on page 33)

Page 99, S24. State Council, II. Duties and Authorities, paragraph 1:

The State Council shall

1. With the state overseer, have supervision of the state missions money, surplus tithes, state parsonage, campground, and all other funds received and disbursed by the state treasury.

Page 133, S51. AFFILIATION WITH CHURCH OF GOD [1994]:

When a church or association of churches desires to become affiliated with the Church of God, thus becoming part of the International General Assembly, the church or association must follow the established procedure for acceptance into the Church of God as set forth by the International General Assembly. Appropriate forms of organization, with resolutions to unite with the church, must be processed in a legal business meeting to show acceptance of the faith, government, polity, and practices of the Church of God, and the willingness to abide by the actions of the International General Assembly. All of the necessary forms pertaining thereto, including deeds, shall be submitted not more than five (5) years after the date of the affiliation/organization meeting, renewable at the request of the local church and with the approval of the administrative bishop (72nd A., 2008).

16. STATE COUNCIL

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 9, paragraph 7.

We recommend:

That we amend page 99, S24. State Council, II. Duties and Authorities, paragraph 1, by adding the following:

The proceeds from the sale of property of disbanded churches, less expenses incurred by state/regional offices for that particular church, shall be disbursed with a mission priority of church planting.

17. AFFILIATION WITH CHURCH OF GOD [1994]

Vision, Mission and Core Values: See page 9, paragraph 8.

We recommend:

That we amend page 133, S51. AFFILIATION WITH CHURCH OF GOD, by substituting the following:

That non-Church of God churches that wish affiliation status with the Church of God, be allowed to join as associate churches.

Local churches affiliating with the Church of God as associate churches would be able to retain ownership of their properties. These churches would enjoy the benefits of covenant mentoring groups, Church of God doctrine, global networking, leadership development, membership privileges and ministry opportunities while showing acceptance of the faith, government, polity, and practices of the Church of God.

(Continued on page 35)

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*When there is a need for a pastoral change in an associate 1
church, the associate church governing board shall work in 2
conjunction with the administrative bishop in the selection of 3
a pastor. 4*

18. RESOLUTIONS

The chairman of the Resolutions Committee will give a report of recommended resolutions.

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Supplemental Notes

- 1. MISSION AND VISION PRESENTATION** – A presentation on fulfilling the Great Commission and church planting will be given.
- 2. REPORT FROM THE BYLAWS AND STRUCTURE/ USA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE** – This report is in response to announcements made to the 2008 International General Assembly. No specific recommendations are included at this time, but further study will be ongoing.
- 3. WOMEN IN MINISTRY** – The early General Assemblies recognized that women ministered in Scripture but decided not to ordain women due to what they considered the lack of an example in Scripture. It was decided that women could be licensed to preach and to pastor but could not participate in any governmental or priestly functions. For example, women could not set a church in order or baptize converts under their ministries.

The General Assembly has now allowed women clergy to use the designation “Ordained Minister” and to perform all of the sacerdotal functions of ministry such as baptizing new converts, marrying couples, burying the dead, receiving members into the local church, etc. Women have the right to participate with both voice and vote in the General Assembly business session and in the local church conference, which are the highest governing bodies of the Church of God on the general and local levels respectfully. However, women cannot serve as bishops, and thus cannot participate in the International Executive Council or hold any position elected or nominated by the International Executive Council.

The statement this motion seeks to delete was added to the *Minutes* at the 1990 Assembly. In the 2000 Assembly the no-

menclature of the ministerial ranks was changed to exhorter, ordained and ordained bishops thus allowing women ministers to use the designation “ordained” but they were still prevented from obtaining the highest rank of ministry.

In the 2006 Assembly, the Doctrine and Polity Committee presented four position papers to the General Council with no recommendation (2 for and 2 against women serving as ordained bishops). [These papers are available for review on the Church of God website.] Therefore the issue was not put to a vote. This is the first time since 1990 that the General Council will actually vote on whether or not female ministers should be allowed to obtain the highest rank of ministry in the Church of God.

The International Council of the Church of God, consisting of representatives from around the world, met in September 2009 and recommended to the International Executive Council that the issue of women becoming ordained bishops be placed on the 2010 General Council Agenda. During the Regional Listening Tours conducted by the International Executive Committee in early 2009, several requests for consideration of this item were also voiced. The motions reflect these calls from the field.

4. REPORT: PASTORAL REVIEW SYSTEM – At the last Assembly (2008) a motion was presented to reinstate the mandatory pastoral preference vote every four years. The motion was referred to the Executive Council to study the development of a possible Pastoral Review System. This is the report of the committee appointed to study the issue.

5. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Beginning in 1906, the Church of God General Assembly convened annually. In 1946, the 41st General Assembly adopted the motion that the General Assembly convene biennially with the general organization of the church “adjusted to this set-

up.” A review of the motion and rationale by the Supreme Council (Executive Council) August 13-18, 1946, stated three primary reasons: first, the aggregate cost to the church and constituency; second, inadequate time for full implementation of “policy items” and decisions of the General Assembly; and third, “from two to four months of efficient service before and after the Assembly are lost.”

Now, six decades later, we are faced with the same general conditions. The cost for General Assemblies is ever increasing. It now costs the tithe fund budget nearly \$2.4 million every two years, which doesn’t include the cost to departments, state offices or local churches. Cities that host the International General Assembly estimate an \$18-20 million impact on the local economy. In addition to the increasing financial impact of the General Assembly, the implementation of ministry initiatives and policies do not achieve their full potential due to time constraints, and the continual transition of leadership at all levels of the church minimizes ministry effectiveness.

The International Executive Council believes that a quadrennial International General Assembly period could help to accomplish our mission more effectively, provide a sense of momentum, embrace positive change, and help realize a mission-focused future.

6. ELECTED POSITIONS – In the restructuring process of the International Offices, the International Executive Committee recommended to the International Executive Council that the title of the Youth and Christian Education department, director and assistant director be changed to reflect Youth and Discipleship.

Motions 3 and 4 reflect a recommendation to delete the offices of the director and assistant director of Evangelism and Home Missions. Many of the previous functions of this department have become separate ministries (ie. Lay Ministries, Men/

Women of Action, etc.) leaving Senior Adult Ministry, Jail Ministry and the Southwest Indian Ministry as the primary functions of this department.

7. RESTRUCTURING OF INTERNATIONAL OFFICES –

The International Executive Committee presented a report recommending sweeping changes in the structure and personnel of the International Offices to the January 2010 meeting of the International Executive Council. Several positions identified in the *Minutes* for various departments were recommended to be unfunded positions in the budget for 2010–2011. This report was adopted by the International Executive Council (See informational document titled *Report of the International Executive Committee Adopted by the International Executive Council*.)

Proposed amendments to the *Minutes* to reflect these changes can be found in the informational document titled *Proposed Changes Necessary in the Minutes to Reflect the Restructure Proposals*. These documents are not open to debate or amendment. They are provided for informational purposes only.

8. PURPOSE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY – It was brought to the attention of the International Executive Council that the Bylaws of the Church of God did not contain a purpose statement for the International General Assembly. This motion seeks to succinctly state its purpose.

9. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE –

This issue is separate from the issue of a quadrennial Assembly. These motions seek to extend the tenure of the general overseer, his assistants, and the Secretary General from two years to four years and to allow a person elected to the International Executive Committee to serve in any of the 5 positions for eight consecutive years, rather than being forced to leave a particular office after four consecutive years. However, it does not extend members' tenure on the International Executive Committee

beyond the current eight consecutive year limitation.

10. ASSISTANT GENERAL OVERSEER VACANCY – This motion seeks to remove the current requirement for the general overseer to convene the International Executive Council in the event there is a vacancy. Other members of the Executive Committee would automatically advance in the order of their election. The procedure for filling a vacancy in the Secretary General’s office is already covered on page 71 of the *Minutes*.

11. SUPPLEMENTAL RETIREMENT BENEFIT PROGRAM – When this motion was adopted, the actuarial study forecast a three percent (3%) annual growth of revenue from the tithe fund and a four to six percent (4-6%) investment return. However, since its adoption, the tithe fund revenue and the investment return has decreased, so the actuarial projections have been reduced accordingly. This motion will help guarantee the solvency of the Aged Ministers Fund until all of the liabilities have been paid.

12. ELIGIBILITY FOR ELECTED/APPOINTED OFFICE – This motion’s purpose is to provide for greater accountability in ministerial and local church reporting. If a minister’s personal report or, if he pastors, his local church report and/or its tithe to the state/regional office or the International Offices is delinquent, he would be ineligible for election or appointment by the International Executive Committee, General Council or General Assembly.

13. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL – This motion is also a result of the restructuring of the International Offices. Currently the leaders of departments/ministries prepare a budget that is submitted to the Executive Council’s Budget Review Committee. In the restructure, ministries will present their budgets to their division leader who will then present a divisional budget to the Budget Review Committee.

14. STATE OVERSEERS – Since state/regional overseers are generally installed by their assigned states after their appointment or commissioned at the Leadership Meeting following the Assembly, this motion seeks to remove the requirement of a commissioning service for state/regional overseers at the Assembly.

15. GENERAL OVERSEER – This motion seeks to remove the current requirement for the International Executive Committee to make all of the committee and board appointments at the General Assembly. In prior Assemblies, newly nominated Executive Committee members have spent all night making appointments to have the appointment book ready for distribution on Saturday morning. With the shortening of the Assembly, this motion seeks to give the Executive Committee two weeks following the close of the Assembly to announce its committee and board appointments.

16. STATE COUNCIL – This motion seeks to further clarify how the proceeds from the sale of disbanded churches should be disbursed. In some states/regions the funds have been used to fund the state/regional office operations, hire personnel or pay debts. This motion states the funds should be disbursed with the missional priority of church planting.

17. AFFILIATION WITH CHURCH OF GOD – This motion seeks to redefine what it means to be affiliated with the Church of God. If adopted, it creates associate church status for non-Church of God churches. The associate church retains ownership of its property and subscribes to the doctrine and polity of the Church of God. In the event a pastoral change is needed, the governing board of the associate church works in conjunction with the administrative bishop in the selection of a pastor.

18. RESOLUTIONS - Resolutions regarding current issues and for appreciation will be presented.
