

2022

International General Assembly Agenda

FINISH COMMITMENT
The Church On Mission



CHURCH OF GOD 78TH INTERNATIONAL
GENERAL  ASSEMBLY

NOMINATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

We recommend:

1. That Timothy M. Hill serve as General Overseer for the ensuing two years.
2. That Raymond F. Culpepper serve as First Assistant General Overseer for the ensuing two years.
3. That Tony D. Stewart serve as Second Assistant General Overseer for the ensuing four years.
4. That David E. Ramirez serve as Third Assistant General Overseer for the ensuing two years.
5. That Gary Joseph Lewis serve as Secretary General for the ensuing four years.

OTHER NOMINATIONS

We recommend:

6. That Rob Bailey serve as Director of Youth and Discipleship for the ensuing two years.
7. That Brian K. Yaun serve as Assistant Director of Youth and Discipleship for the ensuing two years.
8. That M. Thomas Propes serve as Director of World Missions for the ensuing four years.
9. That John D. Childers serve as Assistant Director of World Missions for the ensuing four years.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COUNCIL OF EIGHTEEN

1. William A. Lee, Jr.
2. Robert Scott Sheppard
3. Angel Marcial E.
4. Anthony T. Pelt
5. Kip Anthony Box
6. Kenneth Lamar Hill
7. Joe Dobbins
8. David Smith
9. Nick Park
10. Kelvin Earl Page
11. Lennox Dacosta Walker
12. Rick Whitter
13. R.C. Hugh Nelson
14. David Charles Cooper
15. Julio C. Melendez Olgvin
16. Kenneth Ray Anderson
17. Mark C. Leonhardt
18. Timothy Edwin Brown

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Report - Global Ministry Forum Results

(See Global Ministry Forum Document)

2. Meaning and Usage of the Title Ordained “Bishop”

We recommend:

That the title Ordained “Bishop” as a third tier of licensure be retained.

3. Report - Spiritual Acceleration/Core Values

(See General Assembly Report Manual)

4. Resolution Concerning Human Identity and Sexuality

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

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

WHEREAS, being created in God’s image gives personal identity, dignity and equality to male and female; and

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

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

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

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

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

5. Biblical Fidelity in Gender Identity Affirmation

We recommend:

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

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

Engagement in this behavior is grounds for disciplinary action. Failure of credentialed ministers to prohibit their employees of denominationally affiliated institutions or churches, under their authority, from engaging in this behavior is grounds for disciplinary action. "Employees" shall be defined as credentialed employees, or any employees connected with conveying the message of the church and carrying out its mission.

6. Report - Visional Actualization

(See General Assembly Report Manual)

7. Usage of the Titles of God

We recommend:

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

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

8. Motions Committee – Form of Submission

We recommend:

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

So as to read:

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

9. Motions Committee – Date of Submission

We recommend:

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

So as to read:

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

10. International General Council - Meeting

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

So as to read:

Meeting

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

11. International Executive Council – Indonesia (Participation)

We recommend:

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

So as to read:

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

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

So as to read:

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

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

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

12. International Executive Council Expansion

Announcement

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

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

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

13. General Assembly Procedures and Extenuating Unusual Circumstances

We recommend:

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

So as to read:

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

14. Procedure for Filling Vacancy of An Elected Ministry Leader Under Extenuating Unusual Circumstances

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

C. Policy Regarding Succession in Office of Elected Persons

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

In the case of a vacancy in an elected office with a two-year term, if more than half of the term remains to be filled, the time served shall count as a full two-year term for the individual filling the vacancy. In the case of a vacancy in an elected office with a four-year term, if more than half of the term remains to be filled, the time served shall count as a full four-year term for the individual filling the vacancy.

15. Procedure for Filling Vacancy - Secretary General

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

So as to read:

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

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

So as to read:

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

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

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

16. Procedure for Filling Vacancy – Assistant Ministry Leader

We recommend:

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

So as to read:

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

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

17. Report/Announcement - Virtual Church

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

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

18. Report - Ministerial Activation

(See General Assembly Report Manual)

19. Ordinances of the Church

We recommend:

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

So as to read:

The subject of Communion and Feet Washing was considered, and the Assembly decided that both are taught in the New Testament and may be engaged in at the same service or at different times at the option of the local churches. In order to preserve the unity of the

body, and to obey the sacred Word, it was recommended that every **Christian believer** engage in these sacred services, which should be observed one or more times each year.

20. Report – Generational Assimilation

(See General Assembly Report Manual)

21. State Board of Trustees – Real Estate Amounts

We recommend:

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

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

And inserting:

Category	Amount
6-star	\$1,750,000
5-star	\$1,500,000
4-star	\$1,250,000
AAA	\$1,000,000
AA	\$750,000
A	\$500,000
Others as approved by the International Executive Committee	

22. State Board of Trustees – Editorial Change

We recommend:

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

So as to read:

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

that declares said office vacant shall appoint a person to serve until the time for regular appointments, and the one so appointed shall have all authority held by the one removed.

23. State Overseer Duties

We recommend:

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

- 1. *Develop a culture of mission in the state/territory/region that will lead to church planting and church multiplication.***
- 2. *Strive to cultivate the planting/revitalization of churches in the state/territory/region by developing a strategy with identifiable goals to plant, organize, and revitalize churches, to be reviewed by the International Executive Committee at the annual leadership conference.***

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

24. Report - Lee/PTS Scholarship

(See General Assembly Report Manual)

RESOLUTIONS