

SECTION 2: GENERAL BYLAWS



**PROPOSED REVISION
GENERAL BYLAWS
OF THE
PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD
(INCORPORATED)**

PREAMBLE

We believe that it is the express purpose of God, our Heavenly Father, to call out of the world a people who shall constitute the Body, the Church of Jesus Christ, built and established upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone.

We further believe that members of the Body, the Church, are enjoined to assemble themselves together for worship, fellowship and instruction in the Word of God, the work of its ministry, and for the exercise of those spiritual gifts and offices provided for in the New Testament; and according to God's Word, the early Christians came together in such fellowship as a representative Body of blood-washed and Spirit-filled believers, who cooperated with, and sent out, evangelists and missionaries and, under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, set over the churches, apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, deacons and helpers.

Therefore, we recognize ourselves as a cooperative Fellowship of Christians, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace, till we all come in the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:3-13).

SECTION I - "ESSENTIAL VALUES"

**ARTICLE I
Doctrinal Statement**

As a covenant community comprised of followers of Jesus Christ devoted to the Word of God, the Pentecostal Church of God adheres to the following essential values as foundational doctrines and those things which we hold as absolute beliefs (Luke 1:1); seeking always the global advancement of the Kingdom of God (Acts 1:8); endeavoring to be connected and serve with a Christ-honoring approach that there be no divisive disturbance of the peace and harmony within the Body of Christ (Mark 10:45, 1 Corinthians 1:10) in order that we will be a relevant voice to reach the unreached peoples of our generation and send the reached into the harvest (Acts 13:36).

1. The Scriptures

The Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16) presenting to us the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men, and constituting the Divine and only rule of Christian faith and practice (2 Peter 1:21).

2. The Godhead

We believe there is but one true and living God, who is everlasting, infinite in power, wisdom and goodness; that He is the Creator of all things, visible and invisible, and Preserver of all things (Romans 1:20; Colossians 1:16). In the unity of this Godhead, there are three persons of one individual essence, who are co-equal, co-existent and co-eternal; namely, the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost (Matthew 3:16, 17; 28:18, 19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 1:1, 2, 18; 10:33; 14:26; 15:26; Philippians 2:6; Hebrews 9:14).

The Son is the eternally begotten of the Father and accepted earthly limitations for the purpose of incarnation, being true God and true man; conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the Virgin Mary. He died upon the cross, the just for the unjust as a substitutionary sacrifice, and all who believe in Him are justified on the grounds of His shed blood. He arose from the dead according to the Scriptures. He is now at the right hand of the Majesty on High as our great High Priest, and He will return again to establish His Kingdom of righteousness and justice.

The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person, Executive of the Godhead on earth, the Comforter sent by the Lord Jesus Christ to indwell, to guide and to teach the believer, and to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment.

3. Man, His Fall and Redemption

Man is a created being, made in the likeness and the image of God, but through Adam's transgression and fall, sin came into the world (Romans 5:12). "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23) "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one." (Romans 3:10) Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was manifested to undo the works of the devil, and gave His life and shed His blood to redeem and restore man to God (1 John 3:8).

4. Salvation

Salvation is made possible through the meritorious work of Jesus Christ on the cross and through Holy Spirit conviction. Godly sorrow works repentance and makes possible the experience of the new birth, and Christ formed within us is the gift of eternal life (Titus 2:11; Romans 10:13-15; Luke 24:47; Titus 3:5-7).

Man is a free moral agent and can at any time after the new birth experience turn away from God and die in a state of sin facing the consequences of hell (II Peter 2:20-22).

Salvation is the gift of God to man, separate from works and the Law, and is made operative by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, producing works acceptable to God (Ephesians 2:8).

5. The Church

The true Church, built upon the Foundation of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11; Ephesians 2:20), is the Body of our Lord (Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:27); Christ being the Head (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18). Its earthly constituents are all true believers, born again of the Spirit (John 3:6) and of the Word (1 Peter 1:23), who are living an overcoming Christian life (Ephesians 5:27; Revelation 21:27). To the Church, through its members, is delegated the various gifts and offices of the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 12:7-11, 27, 28) which are necessary for the successful evangelization of the world and the perfecting of the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:11, 12).

This universal, invisible, sanctified Church is the chaste virgin Bride of Christ (2 Corinthians 1:1, 2; Ephesians 5:26, 27; Revelation 21:9b, 27). It is this Bride for whom Jesus Christ returns, just prior to the Great Tribulation, to catch her away and take her to heaven (John 14:23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

6. The Ministry

God, through the Holy Spirit, definitely calls such as He desires to serve as apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, and specifically endues the one called with the talents and gifts peculiar to that office or offices (Ephesians 4:11-13). Under no circumstances should anyone be ordained or set apart to any such office unless the calling is distinct and evident.

7. Water Baptism

Baptism in water is by immersion, a direct commandment of our Lord (Matthew 28:19), and is for believers only. The ordinance is a symbol of the Christian's identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:4; Colossians 2:12; Acts 8:36-39).

The following recommendation regarding the water baptism formula is adopted, "On the confession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ the Son of God, and by His authority, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

8. The Baptism of the Holy Ghost

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire (Matthew 3:11), is a gift from God, as promised by the Lord Jesus Christ to all believers in this dispensation, and is received subsequent to the new birth (John 14:16, 17; Acts 1:8; 2:4, 38, 39; 10:44-48). The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is accompanied by the speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit Himself gives utterance as the initial physical sign and evidence (Acts 2:4).

9. Sanctification

The Bible teaches that without holiness no man can see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). We believe in the doctrine of sanctification as a definite, yet progressive, work of grace, commencing at the time of regeneration and continuing until the consummation of salvation (Hebrews 13:12; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; Ephesians 5:26; 1 Corinthians 6:11; John 17:17; 1 Thessalonians 5:23).

10. The Lord's Supper

The ordinance of the Lord's Supper is a commandment of our Savior; and being a memorial to His death and resurrection, is strictly limited to Christian believers (1 Corinthians 11:27). The time and frequency of its observance is left to the discretion of each congregation (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Only unfermented grape juice, the fruit of the vine, as recommended by our Lord (Matthew 26:29; Mark 14:25; Luke 22:18) shall be used in connection therewith.

11. Foot Washing

Foot washing is recognized among many believers as a Christian practice, and the time, manner and frequency of its observance is left to the discretion of each local congregation (John 13).

12. Divine Healing

Healing is for the physical ills of the human body and is wrought by the power of God, through the prayer of faith, and by the laying on of hands (Mark 16:18; James 5:14, 15). It is provided for in the atonement of Christ and is available to all who truly believe.

13. Resurrection of the Just

The Bible promises, "This same Jesus shall so come in like manner" (Acts 1:11). His coming is imminent; when He comes, "The dead in Christ shall rise first: then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17). Following the tribulation, He shall return to earth as King of kings and Lord of lords, and together with His saints, who shall be kings and priests, He shall reign a thousand years (Revelation 20:6).

14. Setting a Time for the Lord's Return

It is unwise to teach that the Lord will come at some specified time, thereby setting a date for His appearing. It is also unwise to teach, preach or publish visions of numbers and dates which would tend to fix the time of the second coming of the Lord (Mark 13:32, 33).

15. The Coming of the Lord

We believe the Bible presents the coming of Christ as personal, imminent, pre-tribulational and pre-millennial. We further contend that this position alone admonishes watchfulness, incites holy living, prevents spiritual declension, and provides maximum incentive and motive for urgency and zeal in evangelizing the unsaved. As demonic deception and satanic darkness deepens, we urge our ministers to maintain and proclaim this doctrinal viewpoint as the “blessed hope” of the Church.

Furthermore, we recommend that should any of our preachers hold to the mid or post-tribulation doctrine, they refrain from preaching and teaching it. Should they persist in emphasizing this doctrine to the point of making it an issue, their standing in the fellowship will be seriously affected.

16. Hell and Eternal Retribution

The one who physically dies in his sins without Christ is hopelessly and eternally lost in the Lake of Fire, and therefore has no further opportunity of hearing the Gospel or for repentance (Hebrews 9:27). The Lake of Fire is literal (Revelation 19:20). The terms “eternal” and “everlasting” used in describing the duration of the punishment of the damned (Matthew 25:41-46) in the lake of fire, carry the same thought and meaning of endless existence, as used in denoting the duration of joy and ecstasy of saints in the presence of God.

17. Tithes

We recognize the scriptural duty of all our people, as well as ministers, to pay tithes as unto the Lord (Hebrews 7:8). Tithes should be used for the support of the active ministry and for the propagation of the Gospel and work of the Lord in general and not given to charity or used for other purposes (Malachi 3:7-11; Hebrews 7:2; 1 Corinthians 9:7-11; 16:2).

SECTION II – “MORAL VALUES”

ARTICLE II Biblical Standards for Ministry

Section 1. Christian Affirmations.

As Christians, the members of the Pentecostal Church of God:

- A. We faithfully pledge our loyalty to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- B. We affirm complete confidence in the infallible Word of God.
- C. We affirm our commitment to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19, 20; Mark 16:15, 16) and we declare our willingness to go anywhere, do anything and sacrifice everything God requires of us in the fulfillment of that commission.

- D. We accept God's call to preach and teach the Word to all people as God gives opportunity, and we do this because of God's love for every human being who, apart from faith in Christ, is judgment bound and destined for hell.
- E. We endorse the Gospel message of salvation by grace alone through faith in the risen Lord Jesus Christ and His atoning death on the cross for our sins.
- F. The proclamation of the Gospel must include a thoughtful call of every person to repent, to commit to Jesus Christ and to follow Him as Lord and Savior, and to do all these lovingly and without coercion or manipulation.
- G. We will stay prayerfully filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit for a deeply spiritual Christ-centered ministry.
- H. We will lead lives of holiness and moral purity, appropriately representing Christian ministry to the Church and the world.
- I. We will practice a life of regular Bible study and pray for personal spiritual growth and anointed ministry.
- J. We will be faithful stewards of all personal and church finances and we will be accountable to all concerned in the finance of our ministry and will be honest in reporting our statistics. We will keep personal and church financial activities separate and inviolate. Following these standards, we will faithfully promote our ministry in the community, "providing things honest in the sight of all men."
- K. We believe our family is a sacred trust and our responsibility to each family member is to be kept as faithfully as our call to minister to others.
- L. We are responsible to the local church and we will conduct our ministry to build up the local body of believers in the larger interest of the Church universal. We are responsible to faithfully discipline all who come to faith under our ministry, to encourage every person to identify with the local church, to work faithfully at evangelism, Christian education and Christian discipleship, and endeavor to train every believer in personal witnessing.
- M. We will share the cross of Christ by relieving both the social and spiritual sufferings of humanity, whether rich or poor, healthy or infirmed; we will do our utmost to alleviate human need, following Christ as our example.
- N. We will give ourselves to prayer, to evangelism, to revival, to Bible-based counseling, to Christian education, to peacemaking and to our particular office, ministry and calling until Christ returns for His own. We do solemnly affirm these biblical principles for Christian ministry.
- O. We will be subject to those who God has placed in authority over us.
- P. We believe that homosexuality is incompatible with Christian ministry and practicing homosexuals may not be credentialed within the Pentecostal Church of God.

ARTICLE III Sexual Ethics

Section 1. Principles of Moral Behavior.

The following principles of moral behavior and relationships are foundational for sexual ethics throughout the Pentecostal Church of God. These principles arise from our understanding of God's Word as revealed by the Holy Spirit in Scripture, creation, and the tradition of the Church.

- A. The love of God revealed in Jesus Christ is central to our approach in ethics.
- B. The worth of persons is understood by God's eternal love.
- C. Scripture assigns to the Church the responsibility to protect the vulnerable.
- D. Personal responsibility for behavior is paramount.
- E. Freedom for the oppressed and for the captive is essential (Luke 4:18, 19).
- F. The marriage covenant between a man and a woman is foundational (Genesis 2:24; Malachi 2:13-16).
- G. Faithfulness to our covenants is vital (Ecclesiastes 5:5).

Section 2. Affirmations Regarding Sexuality.

We affirm the following statements about human sexuality:

- A. Sexuality is a good and holy gift of God to humanity bestowed in original creation (Genesis 1:27; 2:25). At the same time, we recognize that our sexuality has been affected by the fall of humanity in the Garden of Eden making necessary these statements about God's original and redeemed design for human sexuality.
- B. Monogamous marriage between a man and a woman, based on the principle of covenant initiated by God, is the relationship through which sexuality can fulfill its potential to bless human lives. The covenant of marriage stresses sexual fidelity to one's spouse. It promotes love, trust, companionship, intimacy, spirituality, and peace (Ephesians 5:31).
- C. Biblical sexual relationships demonstrate and are guided by the principles of Christ's love, mutual respect, responsibility, justice, covenant, and faithfulness (1 Corinthians 7:3-5).
- D. Sexual ethics should be the same for all persons without discrimination.
- E. People can lead fulfilling lives in harmony with God's will without being sexually active (1 Corinthians 7:17).

Section 3. Personal Action.

Based on these principles and affirmations, we believe God calls the Church and all persons to:

- A. Exemplify the morality of sexual ethics as expressed through Christ's love, justice, and faithfulness in the marriage covenant.
- B. Stress that sexual desire itself does not morally justify sexual activity.
- C. Renounce as immoral sexual activities that are selfish, irresponsible, promiscuous, degrading, or abusive.
- D. Denounce all forms of exploitation, abuse, and sexual violence. Sexual acts that degrade or dehumanize are contrary to God's will. These include, but are not limited to sexual harassment, pornography, genital mutilation, child abuse, incest, rape, prostitution, and human sex trafficking. No physical, emotional, or spiritual abuse is acceptable.
- E. Offer safety and healing ministry as a natural function of the Body of Christ to those who have been threatened, ostracized, exploited, abused, violated, and whose relationships have been broken.

ARTICLE IV

Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage

Section 1.

Affirmation of Marriage. The Pentecostal Church of God affirms that marriage is between one man and one woman. Homosexuality is not compatible with Christian ministry.

Section 2.

Designed by God. Marriage is a covenant designed by God and is a sacred covenant relationship between husband and wife for a lifetime. The sanctity of marriage and family is upheld in Scripture. It is understood, therefore, that divorce is the breaking of the marriage covenant and represents less than the ideal. We further understand that sin has disrupted marriage and family relationships. Divorce is not encouraged in Scripture, for the grace of God encourages reconciliation. Yet because of the hardness and stubbornness of the human heart, reconciliation is not always possible. The New Testament does reflect a higher standard for the ministry because of the responsibility of leadership in the Church and that the minister's life must model his/her message. We seek to comprehend and practice a balance between God's grace and holding the standard set forth in God's Word.

Section 3.

Divorced and Remarried Ministers. No divorced and remarried Christian shall be granted Credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God except in the following cases:

- A. The divorce occurred prior to the first confirmed experience of salvation (Hebrews 9:22; 2 Corinthians 5:17).
- B. The divorce was for the cause of fornication on the part of the applicant's former spouse (Matthew 5:32; 19:9), where the applicant was faithful to the marriage vows.

- C. The divorce occurred when an unbeliever departs from a believer (1 Corinthians 7:15). It must be determined that every effort was made personally and legally to save the marriage, and said divorce occurred against the will of the applicant.

ARTICLE V

Ministerial Discipline and Restoration

Section 1. Biblical Authority.

The Pentecostal Church of God recognizes the responsibility to exercise Biblical authority in the form of discipline. Disciplinary action should always honor God, follow Scriptural truth, maintain purity of intention, seek reconciliation and restoration, and safeguard the integrity and purity of ministry.

Section 2. Accountability of Ministers.

All ministers are accountable to their respective district board in every matter of conduct and doctrine. No accusations or charges against any credentialed minister shall be considered, unless all the procedure outlined within the Addendum to the General Bylaws shall be adhered to. Violations resulting in disciplinary action include lack of compliance of the Biblical Standards of Ministry (Article II of General Bylaws).

Procedure:

1. When an accusation is correctly filed with the District Bishop, the district executive committee shall meet with:
 - A. The accuser
 - B. The accused
 - C. Both parties
2. After the three meetings, the district executive committee shall determine if the accusation shall be made a formal charge.
3. If a formal charge is made, the investigation team shall be formed and the remaining procedures remain in place.

Section 3. Development and Approval of Policy.

- A. The General Board shall be assigned the functional role of developing the policies and procedures for accusations, discipline and restoration of ministers.
- B. The General Convention shall adopt the policies and procedures on accusations, discipline and restoration, which may be amended by a majority vote.
- C. These procedures shall be printed as a separate policy and included in the General Handbook along with the Bylaws of the Pentecostal Church of God.

Section 4. Indebtedness of Ministers.

All credentialed ministers who depart a place of ministry without making satisfactory stewardship arrangements for indebtedness shall be brought before their district board.

Section 5. Gambling.

The Pentecostal Church of God declares opposition to the sin of gambling in any form.

ARTICLE VI Youth Ministries Covenant

We believe that God is calling the youth of the world to a personal experience of salvation, through faith in the sacrifice of Christ on Calvary, and is then baptizing them in the Holy Ghost; and

God is filling their hearts with a passionate love for souls, and with holy fire and zeal for service and sacrifice.

Because of God's loving action toward us, the youth of the Pentecostal Church of God do hereby pledge themselves to a complete commitment to our Lord, and, recognizing the severity of our times, we hereby unite ourselves to do battle against Satan and his snares, and we will not be found in places of immoral entertainment or exhibition that bring dishonor to the Kingdom of God;

Knowing that Satan will do all he can to hinder us, we will keep ourselves free from all forms of gambling, tobacco, alcoholic beverages and drugs that are physically and mentally harmful; and we will avoid malicious talk and/or vulgar communications; and we will keep ourselves from the influence of, and personal involvement in witchcraft, astrology and the occult, from types of music which suggest behavior not conducive to wholesome Christianity, and from involvement in premarital, impure and/or unnatural sex; and,

Since our bodies are the temples of the Holy Ghost, we hereby pledge to clothe them with apparel which is neither suggestive nor provocative, but which attracts others to our Lord rather than our persons; and,

We do further agree to cooperate with our ministers and leaders, and with both our general and district officials for the glory of God, and the furtherance of the Gospel.

ARTICLE VII Women's Ministries Covenant

God is calling the women of our churches into His service to equip others; therefore as the Pentecostal Church of God Women's Ministries, we do hereby commit as laborers together with God; empowered by the Holy Spirit to impact our families, our communities, our nation and our world.

SECTION III – “MISSIONAL VALUES”

ARTICLE VIII Ministerial Relationships

Section 1. Ministerial Relationships.

The following shall govern ministerial relationships in the Pentecostal Church of God.

- A. Each district shall, through its proper officials, ordain and license suitable candidates for the ministry, subject to the conditions set forth in the General Bylaws and the respective district.
- B. In recognition of the fact that ordination is the highest goal to which ministers may attain and, therefore, is reserved for those who have spent sufficient time in the active ministry so as to prove their qualifications for this high office, no person shall be ordained to the ministry who is not active in the ministry at the time application is made for ordination and/or who does not give clear evidence of his or her intention to remain in the active ministry.
- C. In order to be considered for ordination, the applicant must have fulfilled at least one (1) full year of full-time ministry; if working on a secular job, must have at least two (2) years' experience in an acceptable ministry. Each district's bylaw shall contain this provision.
- D. PCG churches are privileged to use the ministers of other churches of like faith, as evangelists only. Any pastor or evangelist is privileged to labor in other churches where he deems it wise to do so for the upbuilding of the cause of his or her district, providing he or she does not lend his or her efforts to a neighboring antagonistic assembly or church, thereby injuring the Pentecostal Church of God congregation in the community.
- E. PCG ministers shall cultivate mutual fellowship and work in harmony. They shall not lend themselves to any disgruntled element in any local church for the purpose of deposing the present pastor or causing dissension or strife. Those doing such are subject to discipline.
- F. Ministers and workers are advised not to interfere with others who may have charge of a church or mission, whether it be contacting the members without the consent of the one in charge, or by corresponding with the members of the church, so as to affect the influence of the leaders. All inquiries or correspondence that concerns the church, such as visiting the field, conducting meetings, etc., should be addressed to the pastor; or where there is no pastor, the correspondence should be addressed to the church secretary and/or trustees.
- G. Any minister moving from one district to another shall, upon arrival, notify the officials of the district into which they have relocated. After residing in the district for thirty (30) days, the minister shall be required to transfer except as permitted by the district board in which the minister now resides.

- H. No district may refuse the transfer of a minister, who is in good standing with another district, without bringing charges against the minister being transferred. When a minister is transferred from one district to another, a copy of the said transfer should be mailed or given to the minister being transferred. No district may refuse to transfer a minister who is in good standing without just cause. Good standing shall mean that the one being transferred has not violated any general or district bylaws, has no written accusations or pending charges and has paid all fees and met their obligations. Just cause is to be determined by the district executive committee. In the holding up of a transfer, proper notice is to be given to the minister who is seeking to be transferred.
- I. The ministers who are being considered for the pastorate of one of our churches shall be advised of any outstanding obligations to the general office, and shall be instructed regarding the responsibility to see that such obligations are paid by the respective department of the church for which the obligation was contracted.
- J. The Bible teaches that we should not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers, and that a Christian's effectiveness in witnessing would be drastically impaired, if not entirely destroyed, by maintaining membership in a lodge, secret order or secret society. Therefore, no minister of the Pentecostal Church of God shall be permitted to carry credentials with this organization and belong at the same time to a lodge, secret order or society. This shall not refer to trade unions, where membership is necessary for employment.
- K. Ministers applying for credentials are required to make their application through the district in which they reside, unless approval is granted from the resident district for application to be made through another district.

ARTICLE IX Ministerial Credentials

PROVISO: The General Board is authorized to approve and implement new credential processes, such as: levels of credentials, introductory fees, conditions and timelines, with proposed credential modification to be presented to the 2015 General Convention.

Section 1. Minister's Study Series.

- A. The Minister's Study Series shall consist of the Exhorter's Study Series, License Study Series, and Ordination Study Series and shall be the official study course for ministers of the Pentecostal Church of God. This shall be the process for credentials for all new ministers and those advancing from exhorters to license and from license to ordination. Those ministers who believe they have completed equivalent studies shall be required to pass the final examination for the appropriate credential, in which case the requirement for completing the Study Series for that credential shall be waived. If equivalency is sought, the exam and either the transcript of classes taken or the Minister Study Series Equivalency Form shall be submitted with the minister's application to the office of the General Secretary. Upon the completion of the Minister's Study

Series, a comprehensive test, provided by the general office, will be given to the minister by the respective district. Said minister must receive a seventy percent (70%) score on the test in order to receive a certificate of completion. Should said minister fail to achieve a score of at least seventy percent (70%), he/she must repeat the test until the satisfactory score is achieved. No series will be deemed completed until satisfactory score is achieved. A certificate of completion shall precede acceptance for ordination. Although this is a national program, it shall be processed through the district office.

- B. For ministers transferring to PCG from another organization, a questionnaire shall be established from this series for exhorter, license and ordination. If passed and everything else is cleared, the minister shall be granted the desired credential. If the minister does not pass, they shall be asked to take the course from whatever level was failed.

Section 2. Exhorters.

Exhorter status is considered the first step toward the goal of ordination.

- A. Upon acceptance as an exhorter, by completing the Exhorter's Study Series, the minister shall hold this first step credential for a minimum of one (1) year. During this time the minister may exercise spiritual ministries as their gifts may be.
- B. During this one-year period the minister may complete the License Study Series and complete the reading of the whole Bible, but this must be completed within two (2) years.
- C. Within a two-year period the exhorter shall submit to their district board an application for advancement to licensed status. The district board shall then determine if the exhorter is granted licensed status. If the district board does not grant licensed status at this time, the exhorter may apply again within another two-year period. If after that time the district board does not grant licensed status, the exhorter shall no longer hold ministerial credentials.

PROVISO: Any person who holds exhorter status prior to August 1, 2013 may maintain this status for an additional two years as the exhorter proceeds toward licensed status. The district board shall then determine if the exhorter is granted licensed status. If the district board does not grant licensed status at this time, the exhorter may apply again within another two-year period. If after that time the district board does not grant licensed status, the exhorter shall no longer hold ministerial credentials.

Section 3. Licensed Minister.

The license credential is considered a second step toward the goal of becoming an ordained minister.

- A. Within a two-year period the licensed minister shall submit to their district board an application for ordination. The district board shall then determine if the licensed minister is approved for ordination. If the district board does not approve ordination at this time, the licensed minister may apply again within another two-year period. If after that time the district board does not

- approve ordination, the licensed minister shall no longer hold ministerial credentials.
- B. Upon completion of the Ordination Study Series, a licensed minister may apply to the district board to be approved for ordination.
- C. In the district board's consideration, the following questions should be noted:
- Has the licensed minister read the whole Bible?
 - Has the licensed minister given evidence of definite plans to be active in the ministry?
- D. Licensed ministers are at liberty to exercise their gifts as the Spirit leads and the doors open.

PROVISO: Licensed ministers who have served in this role for at least seven (7) years prior to August 1, 2013 may take the ordination exam and be ordained with the approval of the district board.

Section 4. Ordination.

Ordination is considered an eventual goal for Pentecostal Church of God ministers.

- A. The potential ordination candidate shall give clear evidence of the intention to remain in active ministry. The district shall notify the general office of new ordinations.
- B. Any licensed minister desiring ordination in any district, other than the district in which licensed status was granted, shall present a recommendation from the District Bishop of the district that issued the license.
- C. Applicants for credentials or promotions may be denied, even though all the required criteria is met, if it is deemed that the acceptance of the applicant for other reasons would be detrimental to the well-being of the church as a whole.
- D. Annual credential renewal shall be attested by the district office and issued by the general office.
- E. Any minister holding credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God cannot hold credentials in any other church organization or religious fellowship that issues credentials to preach the gospel.
- F. The place of women in ministry relates to the principle that the Holy Spirit divides upon each as He will. "In the last days our sons and daughters shall prophesy" (Joel 2:28, 29; Acts 2:17, 18). When called of God and anointed by the Spirit, our women may freely serve as helpers, pastors and evangelists, but in order to fulfill the admonition of the Apostle Paul in 1 Timothy 2:12, all executive positions in the district and the national movement shall be occupied by men.

- G. No credentials shall be approved for any candidate nor any minister be given annual renewal of ministerial status who attended Messenger College and still has outstanding amounts payable to the college unless a letter is presented from the college indicating that proper arrangements have been made for payment. Each district office shall be notified by the college no later than December first of each calendar year of any delinquency of payments by the respective student.

Section 5. Credential Fees.

Each minister shall participate financially for the maintenance of the General offices by paying the sum of \$30.00 each month, two dollars of which shall go to support Messenger College, six dollars for the support of the department of Youth Ministries, one dollar to the National Missions department, with five dollars being placed in the benevolent death benefit fund to be applied to death benefits only.

1. Included in the monthly contributions shall be the following:
2. The usual application or renewal fee for credentials.
3. The subscription to *The Pentecostal Messenger*.
4. Only current gratis ministers (as of 12/31/2007) will be covered with the \$4,000 death benefit (payable to the beneficiary upon death).
5. Where both husband and wife are ministers, either ordained or licensed, or licensed to exhort, the following option is available: One minister shall pay \$30.00 monthly, which is the usual application or renewal fee for ministers, and the other shall pay half the regular rate (\$15.00 monthly) and would not be entitled to a separate subscription to *The Pentecostal Messenger*.
6. If said fees are not paid for a period of thirty (30) days, the minister will receive a letter of delinquency with a copy to the district office. If the minister is still delinquent after sixty (60) days, the credentials will be dropped by the General office and the district office will be notified.
7. The following ministers shall have their credential fees and their subscription to *The Pentecostal Messenger* waived for one of the following three conditions; (1) When credentialed ministers reach the age of seventy (70) and have carried ordination with the Pentecostal Church of God for at least twenty (20) years or (2) if they are totally disabled with a terminal illness/physically debilitating condition and are not pursuing active ministry, or (3) if they are seventy (70) year of age with twenty (20) years of continuous service and who do not qualify for gratis status and cannot pursue active ministry. In order for ministers to begin receiving this waiver, their credential fees must be paid up to date.
8. All ministers shall pay their tithe/dues as required by their district.

ARTICLE X Ministry and Mission

Section 1. Ministerial Philosophy.

A structure of ministry teams built on clear values and functions rather than interest groups perpetuates corporate significance. A model based on values and mission will promote corporate significance. Departments built on personality driven models appealing to special interests groups divide the corporate body. Direction toward values and mission disseminates corporate vitality.

Section 2. Ministry Leaders.

- A. Each ministry of the general organization shall be directed by a ministry director.
- B. The General Board shall elect ministry directors. Up to three nominations for each position may be made by the General Council with other nominations being in order from the floor during the General Board meeting.
- C. Ministry directors shall be elected for a first term of two years and subsequently to terms of four (4) years.
- D. Ministry directors shall have the same qualifications as that of the General Bishop.
- E. Ministry directors shall be responsible to the General Bishop and the General Council and report to General Bishop, the General Secretary and to the General Board.
- F. Ministry directors shall meet monthly with the General Bishop and General Secretary and shall furnish a financial budget report at this meeting, as well as an update of how their department is moving toward the overall mission of the PCG. The General Board shall have the authority to reprimand and, if needed, to terminate the Ministry Directors who do not adhere to and comply with job description.
- G. Ministry directors shall promote in unity the overall vision and strategic plan of the General Bishop for the movement. Each district is encouraged to follow a similar procedure with the District Bishop having the opportunity to choose the district ministry team to advance one vision of the district.

Section 3. Finance.

- A. Ministry directors shall be paid a salary from the general fund, the amount to be stipulated by the General Board. They shall each be paid a stipulated travel expense for all travel made necessary by the business of their office.
- B. Each ministry department shall develop a preliminary budget for the department and submit it for review and approval by the General Board.

Section 4. General Missions Board.

The Pentecostal Church of God, being cognizant of the great need for missionary work in the United States and foreign lands, does hereby establish

a general missions board, which shall be under the direction and supervision of the General Council and General Board. The membership of this board shall include all missions directors and nine (9) members elected by the General Board for a term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected. Should a vacancy occur in one of the elected positions on the General Missions board, the General Board shall elect a successor for the remainder of the two-year term. The General Missions Board shall be responsible for the budgetary management and procedural areas of the mission efforts of the Pentecostal Church of God.

Section 5. Global Missions.

The director of Global Missions shall have general supervision, direction and management over all undertakings, business and operations of missions and shall be responsible to the General Bishop, the General Missions Board and the General Board.

- A. He shall devote his full time to the work of his office for the purpose of promoting greater interest in, and support of world missions.
- B. He shall be granted a place on the General Board and shall be chairman of the General Missions Board and the World Missions task force. He shall be paid a salary from the World Missions fund, the amount to be stipulated by the General Board. He shall be paid a stipulated rate per mile for traveling expenses for all travel made necessary by the business of the office.
- C. A world missions task force shall be appointed by the General Bishop in coordination with the director of world missions. The world missions task force shall assist the director in fulfilling the outreach mission of PCG throughout the world.

Section 6. National Missions.

- A. National Missions shall be responsible for benevolent ministries that display the core values of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by mobilizing the church for compassionate services. National Missions shall provide inspiration, information (training and resources) and initiative for mobilizing local church groups to meet the needs of victims of unforeseen circumstances, necessities to the needy, and network with other compassionate ministries to provide assistance nationally.
- B. The director of National Missions shall have general supervision, direction and management over all undertakings, business and operation of the National Missions department, within the U.S.A. and in foreign countries, subject to the General Bishop, the General Missions board and the General Board.
- C. He shall devote the work of this office to the purpose of promoting greater interest in, and support of National Missions.
- D. He shall chair the National Missions task force. He shall be paid a salary from the National Missions fund, the amount to be stipulated by the

General Board.

- E. A National Missions task force shall be appointed by the General Bishop in coordination with the director of National Missions. The National Missions Task Force shall assist the director in fulfilling the outreach mission of PCG throughout the nation.
- F. The King's Men Fellowship, evangelists, inner city ministries, prison and domestic chaplains, shall each be a division of national mission's department.
- G. Endorsed evangelists and non-military chaplains by the department shall pay their tithe to their home district with fifty percent (50%) of the tithe being sent to the national mission's department.

Section 7. Indian Ministries.

- A. Indian Ministries shall be responsible for evangelization of and bring ministerial support to Native Americans.
- B. The director of Indian Missions shall have general supervision, direction and management over all undertakings, business and operation of the Indians missions department, within the U.S.A. subject to the General Bishop, the General Missions board and the General Board.
- C. He shall devote his full time to the work of his office for the purpose of promoting greater interest in, and support of Indian Missions.
- D. He shall chair the Indian Missions task force. He shall be paid a salary from the Indian Missions fund, the amount to be stipulated by the General Board.
- E. An Indian Missions task force shall be appointed by the General Bishop in coordination with the director of Indian Missions. The Indian Missions task force shall assist the director in fulfilling the outreach mission of PCG throughout the nation.

Section 8. Ministerial Development.

Ministerial relations shall be responsible for developing healthy pastors and ministers in the covenant community of the PCG, the ministerial relations department would focus on four key vital areas:

- A. Pastoral Care for overall spiritual, physical and relational health of those serving in pastoral roles.
- B. Pastor's Networking to provide connectivity to resources, relationship, coaching and mentoring systems for all PCG pastors.
- C. Ministerial Development through assisting in systematizing the maturation processes for all PCG ministers allowing for spiritual and academic development in an atmosphere of excellence and accountability.

- D. Healthy Churches: Covenant community spiritual growth focused on serving local churches with implements for the overall spiritual health of local congregations.
- E. This department is charged with the performance of the strategic values of the PCG: “Pray, Go, Lead and Reach.”

Section 9. Military Chaplaincy.

The mission of military chaplaincy is to increase the quality and quantity of ministry opportunities to the total military community via the training of Pentecostal students, clergy and laity.

- A. The commission on military chaplaincy shall consist of the General Bishop, the national representative for the military chaplaincy, two active duty chaplains residing in the United States and whomever designated by the General Bishop.
- B. The national representative shall be nominated by the General Council and elected by the General Board for a term of two years. He shall:
 - 1. Represent the denomination in all functions concerning military matters.
 - 2. Process all applications of candidates for the military chaplaincy for submission to the Commission on Military Chaplaincy in the conferring of ecclesiastical approvals and endorsements.
 - 3. Work among service personnel (military personnel ministries—MPM) with the understanding that there shall be a proper liaison between the MPM and foreign shore military ministry already supervised by the denomination’s overseas missions program to deployed personnel.
 - 4. Appoint contact pastors for military bases in the U.S.
 - 5. Serve as the certifying and approving authority for those applying to the military as directors of religious education.
 - 6. Visit each active duty chaplain once per tour-of-duty for encouragement and in the representation of the denomination’s General Bishop.
 - 7. Visit Messenger College annually for recruitment.
 - 8. Recruit local ministers into the reserve chaplaincy.
 - 9. Monitor the scholarship funds for the future chaplain candidates.
 - 10. Be directly amenable to the General Bishop.
- C. Funding for the commission on military chaplains/military and VA personnel will be provided by active, reserve and VA chaplains’ tithes and other designated offerings as determined by the General Board Policy. If

pastoring a PCG church, the tithe from the pastorate shall be paid to the district. All other tithes from all other sources shall be under the jurisdiction of the respective districts.

Section 10. Youth Ministries.

Youth Ministries shall encourage youth in the work of the Lord; to stimulate Christian fellowship among ourselves and other Christian youth; to develop our talents and abilities as Christian workers, by a life of prayer, in studying the Word of God, the Bible, and through actual participation in the ministry, that souls may be saved and believers filled with the Holy Ghost; to increase acts of charity, serve in visiting the sick, and relieve the afflicted and unfortunate; and, that the gifts and callings of Christ, through the Spirit, may be shown forth through a life of holy consecration and sincere devotion.

- A. The director of Youth Ministries shall have general supervision, direction and management over all undertakings, business and operation of the Youth Ministries department, subject to the General Bishop, the General Missions board and the General Board.
- B. He shall devote his full time to the work of his office for the purpose of promoting greater interest in, and support of Youth Ministries.
- C. He shall be granted a place on the General Board and shall be chairman of the national youth leadership team. He shall be paid a salary from the Youth Ministries fund, the amount to be stipulated by the General Board. He shall be paid a stipulated rate per mile for traveling expenses for all travel made necessary by the business of his office.
- D. A National Youth Leadership Team (NYLT) shall include:
 - 1 National Director
 - 1 District Director from each district
 - 1 National Bible Quiz Director
- E. Each district shall participate in funding Youth Ministries according to the number of churches in the district. The national Youth Ministries budget shall include funding from National Youth Week offerings and special offering days. Any amount over the budget shall remain in the district office.
- F. The tithe of the district youth directors shall be designated for the support of the Youth Ministries department.

Section 11. Women's Ministries.

Women's Ministries exist to represent Jesus Christ throughout the earth empowered by the Holy Spirit. Our mission is to evangelize, disciple, and encourage.

- A. The director shall be a woman with at least (5) years' experience in the ministry with proven ministerial ability. The leadership team shall have the

- prerogative of submitting up to three (3) nominees to the General Board for consideration at the post-convention meeting. The director shall be elected by the General Board of the Pentecostal Church of God for a term of two (2) years.
- B. The director shall have the responsibility to promote the vision and mission of the department. She shall be responsible for leading the Women's Ministries Leadership Team (WMLT); stewarding the budget as recommended by the WMLT and approved by the General Board; and other duties and responsibilities as shall be required by the General Council and the General Board.
- C. The Women's Ministry leadership team shall formulate guidelines and activities to support Women's Ministries throughout the church and shall consist of:
- General Director of Women's Ministries
 - General Bishop's wife
 - General Secretary's wife
 - Assistant General Bishops' wives
 - Two representatives from each district, the district director and secretary, or a representative duly appointed by the district director.
- D. The director of Women's Ministries, General Bishop's wife, General Secretary's wife, and Assistant General Bishop's wives shall be called the National Women's Ministries Leadership Council.
- E. The Women's Ministries fund shall be managed by a budget recommended by the Women's Ministries Leadership Team and approved by the General Board.
- F. Each district director of Women's Ministries shall pay her tithe from all monies received from her office to the general Women's Ministries department.

Section 12. Senior Adult Ministries.

Senior Adult Ministry shall serve the ministerial needs of senior adults working in cooperation with the general and district officials and local pastors.

- A. The Senior Adult Ministry shall be under the direction of the national Senior Adult Ministry director. There shall be a district representative, appointed by the district board and one (1) chairman in each local church (to be appointed by the pastor) who shall be a member in good standing in said local church.
- B. The director shall be nominated by the General Council and elected by the General Board for a term of two years.

- C. He shall be directly amenable to the General Bishop.
- D. One Sunday each year (date to be set by the General Council) shall be designated as National Senior Minister's Day to honor our retired and aged ministers.

Section 13. Messenger College Support Plan.

The following ongoing support plan is designed to provide total organization participation/support for Messenger College, which investment will perpetuate the world ministry of the church.

- A. Districts — A budget based on \$25.00 per church per year. When a district is not current in its district college assessment at the time of the Board of Regents meeting, the District Bishop will not have a voice or vote on the board of regents with the exception of a dependent district that is unable to pay.
- B. Churches — A minimum of \$10.00 per month. If the District Bishop can show just causes of hardship of the churches to the General Council, the churches will be relieved of the obligation; to be reviewed annually.
- C. A complete Messenger College financial report is to be presented for discussion to each registered delegate at each General Convention.

ARTICLE XI Communications Ministry

Section 1. Official Periodical.

The official periodical of the Pentecostal Church of God shall be known as *The Pentecostal Messenger*.

- A. *The Pentecostal Messenger* shall be published at least quarterly.
- B. The General Bishop shall be the editor-in-chief.

Section 2. Communications Network

- A. A board of communications shall be established, nominated by the General Council and elected by the General Board, of at least five and no more than seven individuals with the oversight of: public relations, marketing, media and digital ministries of the Pentecostal Church of God.
- B. A communications review board shall be established consisting of all ministry directors.
- C. A communications director shall be appointed by the General Board.

SECTION IV – “STRATEGIC VALUES”

ARTICLE XII General Leadership

Section 1. Form of Government.

The Pentecostal Church of God shall maintain a representative and congregational form of government.

Section 2. Corporate Officers.

A. Officers.

1. The officers of this corporation shall be a president and a secretary.
2. The officers shall jointly sign all deeds, notes, mortgages, leases and other documents of every character and description, and shall attach the corporate seal to such thereof as may be necessary, for and on behalf of the corporation; and shall manage, direct, superintend and carry on the business of the corporation; subject to the approval or disapproval of the General Board:
3. The office of president shall at all times be filled by the General Bishop.
4. The office of secretary shall at all times be filled by the General Secretary.

B. Selection, Qualifications and Duties of Corporate Officers

1. General Bishop (President).
 - a. The General Bishop and president shall be a male member of the organization, an ordained minister with not less than ten (10) years of experience in the ministry and shall not be less than thirty-five (35) years of age. He shall be elected by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the organization cast at a General Convention for a first term of two (2) years and subsequently to terms of four (4) years. He shall be required to establish a home and reside in the vicinity of the general headquarters, and shall be required to spend at least ten (10) days of each month in the general office. Should said office become vacant, for any reason, the General Board shall appoint a suitable, qualified male person to fill the unexpired term.
 - b. The General Bishop shall have general supervision, direction and management over all undertakings and operations of the organization, to which he shall devote full time. He shall act as chairman of all General Conventions, General Board and General Council meetings, and shall be ex officio member of all standing committees and shall also perform such duties as may be required of him as president of the corporation; and shall report his activities in writing and shall be accountable to the General Board meetings and General Conventions.

- c. He shall be requested to represent our organization to other functions at which we should have a voice, and to the government when necessary.
- d. The General Bishop shall be fully accountable to the General Council, General Board and General Convention and shall give account of his activities and vision to each of these.

2. General Secretary (Secretary)

- a. The General Secretary shall be a male member of the organization and an ordained minister with not less than six (6) years' experience in the ministry. He shall be elected under the same rules which govern the election of other general officials. He shall devote full time to his duties.
- b. The General Secretary shall be the corporate secretary and legal officer in custody of the corporate seal and shall retain and maintain current documents necessary for the corporation, including registration with all agencies as needed.
- c. He shall provide information on legal matters from legal counsel to the general and district offices. The proper deeding of properties and other legal documents shall have his oversight.
- d. He will be custodial secretary of the corporate seal and as the corporate secretary shall, with the president, sign all deeds, notes, mortgages, leases and all corporate documents shall attach the corporate seal to such thereof as may be necessary on behalf of the corporation.
- e. He shall supervise the official archives of the movement and keep it in good and proper order. He shall be responsible to maintain an accurate record of the minutes of all meetings of the General Convention, General Board and General Council (and related committees and boards) which shall be presented at such meetings. He shall be a member of the General Board, the General Council, the global missions board, the National Missions board, and ex officio member of all standing committees and boards.
- f. He shall maintain a record of all credentialed ministers and shall issue the necessary credentials when so instructed by the credentials committee of the district from which the application comes provided, however, all requirements of the general bylaws are fully met. In the event an application is in question on any matter, said application will be held for review by the General Council. He shall also issue church membership charters.
- g. He shall keep records of churches, membership and important related information.

- h. He will develop and supervise the official office of information, maintaining current data to share with our constituency and national directors.
- i. He will direct communications and public relations and the office of development.
- j. He will develop and direct the stewardship program being involved in acquisition of resources for ministry.
- k. He will assist the General Bishop in communicating the vision and purpose of the church throughout the constituency.
- l. He will administer the ministerial credentials and church charter office along with the church membership roll.
- m. He shall submit written reports as may be required of the activities of his office to and be accountable to the General Convention, General Board and General Council meetings.
- n. He shall reside in the vicinity of the international headquarters.
- o. This position is considered a full time resident office position.
- p. He shall furnish such reports and data to the General Bishop as needed upon request.
- q. A list of all ministers of the organization shall be maintained by the General Secretary.

ARTICLE XIII

Assistant General Bishops

Section 1. Requirement.

The assistant General Bishops shall meet the requirements as set forth in the general bylaws for the General Bishop and must be in the active full-time ministry, but shall not be required to be a member or have been a member of the General Board.

Section 2. Election.

They shall be elected by the voting constituency of each of six geographical divisions of the United States in which the assistant General Bishop resides. This election shall be ratified by the General Convention.

Section 3. Residence.

Each must reside in the division from which he was elected and remain in that division during his entire stay in office. In the event he shall move from the area he serves, the office shall immediately become vacant. The assistant General Bishop shall reside within the geographical division of the United States of their respective divisions, as follows:

- A. North Central Division—Districts: Central, Illinois, Minnesota, North Central, Southern Missouri.

- B. South Central Division—Districts: Arkansas, East Texas, Louisiana, North Texas, Oklahoma, South Central Hispanic, Southwest Texas.
- C. Northeastern Division—Districts: Capital, Indiana, Michigan, Northeast Hispanic, Ohio.
- D. Southeastern Division—Districts: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mid-Atlantic Coast, Mississippi, Tennessee, West Virginia.
- E. Northwestern Division—Districts: Alaska, Colorado, Oregon/ Southern Idaho, Pacific Northwest, Utah-Wyoming, Yellowstone.
- F. Division—Districts: Arizona, Arizona Hispanic, Central California, New Mexico, Southern California, Southern California Hispanic, Northern California, Northern California Hispanic.

Section 4. Ministerial Supervision and Assistance.

Each Assistant General Bishop shall communicate with the districts in the division and assist the District Bishops as needed.

Section 5. Terms.

They shall serve a term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected.

**ARTICLE XIV
General Board**

Section 1. Membership.

The members of the General Board, consisting of the following described officials, shall be the managing directors and together serve as the governing body of the organization between meetings of the convention:

- General Bishop
- General Secretary
- Assistant General Bishops.
- Director of Global Missions.
- Director of National Missions.
- Director of Youth Ministries.
- Director of Indian Missions.
- Director of Military Chaplains
- Director of Communications
- President of Messenger College.
- District Representation.

- A. Districts consisting of one (1) to fifteen (15) duly chartered churches shall be represented by the District Bishop. In the event the District Bishop is unable to attend, one of the other district officials shall represent the district.
- B. Districts consisting of sixteen (16) to twenty-five (25) duly chartered churches shall be represented by the District Bishop and either the district secretary/treasurer or the district presbyter.
- C. Districts with more than twenty-five (25) duly chartered churches shall be represented by the District Bishop, the district secretary/treasurer and the district presbyter.
- D. This does not exclude honorary board members.
- E. Only members of the General Board will pay tithes to the General office.

Section 2. Decision Making.

The corporation shall be bound by the official acts of approval or disapproval rendered by the required vote of those General Board members present and voting at a regular or properly called meeting at which a quorum is present.

Section 3. Presiding Officer.

The General Bishop shall preside at all meetings of the General Board unless the General Bishop should yield the chair to one of the assistant General Bishops.

Section 4. Official Record and Summary.

The General Secretary shall serve as secretary of the General Board. The General Secretary shall maintain the minutes of the General Board. A summary of action taken at all General Board meetings shall be made available, upon request, to any ordained minister of the Pentecostal Church of God, in good standing, said summary to exclude all discussion and comment which reflects negatively on any individual.

Section 5. Regular Meetings.

Regular meetings of the General Board shall be held in the months of June and November for the purpose of transacting such business of the corporation that shall come before it. Written notice of each regular meeting shall be provided to each member of the General Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

Section 6. Special Meetings.

Except during General Convention, special meetings of the General Board may be called by the General Bishop upon notice provided to all members of the General Board at least ten (10) days prior to the special meeting. The meeting notice shall give with specificity the item or items of business to be transacted. Only those items of business noticed in the call of the meeting may be enacted at a special meeting of the General Board.

Section 7. Conference Call or Electronic Means.

The General Board may conduct business by conference call or by other electronic means so long as all members may hear each other and participate simultaneously.

Section 8. Quorum.

The quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the General Board shall be a majority of the General Board members in office whether or not the meeting is held in person or by conference call or other electronic means.

Section 9. General Board Committees.

The General Bishop or the General Board may create committees as needed which shall report to the appointing office or board. The General Bishop shall appoint the members of all committees created

Section 10. Location, Date and Schedule for Youth Ministries Event.

The General Board will determine the location, dates and schedule for the biennial Youth Ministries event held in the even numbered years.

Section 11. Authority Between Conventions.

The General Board shall be authorized to decide issues relative to policy, personnel, operations and budgets between General Conventions for the welfare of the PCG.

Section 12. Tithes.

All members of the General Board shall send their tithe/dues from whatever source received to the general office.

**ARTICLE XV
General Council****Section 1. Membership.**

There shall be a General Council consisting of the following:

- 1 General Bishop;
- 1 General Secretary;
- Assistant General Bishops.

Section 2. Conference Call or Electronic Means.

The General Council may conduct business by conference call or by other electronic means so long as all members may hear each other and participate simultaneously.

Section 3. Quorum.

The quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting of the General Council shall be six (6) members regardless of whether the meeting is in person or by other electronic means.

Section 4. Meetings.

Regular meetings of the General Council shall be set by the General Council. Special meetings shall be called by the General Bishop or by at least three (3) members of the General Council by petition to the General Bishop or General Secretary.

Section 5. Notice.

Seven (7) days' notice shall be given to all members of the council prior to any regular meeting. Three (3) days' notice shall be given prior to any special meeting of the General Council unless such notice is waived by each and every member of the General Council in emergency situations.

Section 6. Duties and Responsibilities.

The following shall be included in the duties and responsibilities of the General Council.

- A. The General Council shall serve as the ministerial credential review committee.
- B. The General Council shall serve as the finance committee, for the Pentecostal Church of God.
- C. The General Council may be assigned other duties by the General Board from time to time.
- D. The General Council is authorized to act on behalf of the General Board in emergency situations.
- E. The General Council shall be fully accountable to the General Board and General Convention.

**ARTICLE XVI
Districts****Section 1. District Boundaries.**

The field shall be divided into districts, whose boundaries shall be established by the General Board after mutual agreement between the officials of the district and the General Board.

Section 2. District Government.

Each district shall have its own representative form of government which shall include a District Bishop, who shall be proactive in training and equipping ministers and shall assist local churches to become healthy, growing expressions of the Body of Christ. The district may elect such other officers as it shall determine. No provision in district bylaws shall conflict with any provision of the general bylaws or policies established by the General Board.

Section 3. Emergency Situations.

In emergency situations the General Board is authorized to place the district on dependent district status following the guidelines established by the General Board. When the General Board is not meeting, the General Council shall have this responsibility.

Section 4. Qualifications.

The qualifications for District Bishops shall be the same as those for the General Bishop.

ARTICLE XVII

Local Churches

Section 1. Governance of Congregations.

Local churches shall elect their own pastors and officers and shall adopt their own form of government and bylaws, which shall not conflict with the district or general bylaws. Each church shall cooperate by completing an annual "Local Church Report."

Section 2. Emergency Situations.

If any pastor, official, member or any other person or persons of any congregation or church should be found to be conspiring, plotting or planning in any manner against the welfare of the Pentecostal Church of God, for the purpose of gaining control of any real estate or personal property of any congregation, the Pentecostal Church of God, or any other situation should arise that might require prompt and definite action, the General Bishop or the District Bishop shall, and are authorized and directed to promptly take possession of said property or properties in the name of the Pentecostal Church of God and retain of them until the emergency has passed.

Section 3. Tithe.

Since the tithe is God's plan for financing His church, each church affiliated and associated with the Pentecostal Church of God is encouraged to support general and district ministries with the firstfruits (10%) of their undesignated income. Undesignated income shall be defined as the total of all congregational income minus the costs of personnel compensation and all missions offerings. Each church's firstfruits shall be sent to their respective district office with the district office forwarding 1/2 of local church contribution to the general office. Districts with 35 churches or less will forward 1/3 of local contribution to the general office.

Section 4. Membership.

Any person accepted for membership in a Pentecostal Church of God must have a born again experience of salvation, and either have or be actively engaged in seeking the baptism of the Holy Ghost according to Acts 2:4.

Section 5. Applicants for Ministerial Credentials.

No applicant for ministerial credentials shall be allowed to apply for any congregation of the Pentecostal Church of God or be an interim pastor until the applicant is cleared by the general office, even though the applicant may have been approved by the district board.

Section 6. Title to Local Church Properties.

Title to all local church properties (both real and personal), either purchased by or given to the Pentecostal Church of God, is to be held in fee simple in the name of the recognized district of the Pentecostal Church of God in which the property is located. Each district shall carry a dissolution clause directing, upon the dissolution of the district, that all net assets shall accrue to the Pentecostal Church of God (Incorporated), a Texas corporation whose headquarters is located in Bedford, Texas.

- A. Property owned, paid for or partly paid for by, or given to, the Pentecostal Church of God or one of its districts may be deeded to the local church (or its trustees), provided the following reversionary clause is a part of the deed:

“In the event of either an attempted conveyance of any interest in this real estate, or disaffiliation with the Pentecostal Church of God, or the dissolution of the local church, or the use of this real estate for any purpose other than as a church, this real estate will automatically revert to the recognized district of the Pentecostal Church of God in which this real estate is located with no further act or deed required.”

- B. The respective district shall provide its written consent, waiver or subordination agreement to a local church which has been granted title to its real estate with the above reversionary clause to sell, exchange, transfer and convey said property, or to borrow money and pledge the said real estate for the repayment of the same and to exercise all necessary deeds, conveyance, etc.; after satisfaction of the following:
1. The proposed transfer shall be brought before a regular or special meeting of the local church;
 2. Said meeting and the notice thereof shall be in compliance with all bylaws of the local church;
 3. A simple majority of the local members must be present at the meeting;
 4. The meeting must be chaired by the District Bishop of the Pentecostal Church of God or by one he may appoint or one provided for by the district bylaws;
 5. The proposed transfer shall be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of all church members present at the meeting;
 6. The proposed transfer is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members of the district board after compliance with the respective district's bylaws relative to the transfer of real estate.
- C. Inasmuch as Indian Missions properties (churches) have land grants, revocable permits, and the others are deeded to the Pentecostal Church of God (Incorporated), Bedford, Texas, a Texas corporation, they shall be excluded.
- D. Any minister who does not comply with the bylaw provision for transfer of property shall be required to meet the respective district board for accountability. If there is no quorum of five members of said district board, the General Council shall replace the district board. The credentials of any minister in noncompliance with bylaw procedures for legal transfer of property shall be in jeopardy.
- E. The conveyance of any district interest in real estate or the execution of a consent to transfer an interest in real estate owned by a local church shall be made and executed by the District Bishop and the district secretary

only after a regular or special district board meeting at which the issue of real estate is on the notice of meeting and agenda and approved at said meeting, at which a simple majority of members must be present, by two-thirds (2/3) of the district board members in attendance.

- F. All churches listed on the Pentecostal Church of God IRS lists shall be pastored by ministers credentialed with the Pentecostal Church of God. All district bylaws shall be amended to provide the same.

SECTION V – “LEGAL VALUES”

ARTICLE XVIII

Name

The name of the corporation shall be: Pentecostal Church of God (Incorporated).

ARTICLE XIX

Purpose

Section 1. Objects.

The objects of this corporation shall be:

1. To preach the Gospel and further the cause of the Kingdom of God in the United States of America and foreign lands;
2. To promote and maintain churches and missions;
3. To promote fellowship and means of cooperation between churches of similar faith and doctrine;
4. To promote, establish and maintain certain districts therein, which shall be self-governing insofar as same do not conflict with the objects and purposes of this organization, subject to the jurisdiction and control of the corporation;
5. To promote freedom of worship and liberty of expression, within the limits of its own statement of faith and doctrine, among its own churches, ministers and members;
6. To qualify and credential ministers to preach the Gospel;
7. To foster biblical education and ministerial training, and establish other institutions and to own and operate such properties as will support Christian ministry as directed by the General Board;
8. To own, operate and maintain such printing and publishing plants as may, in the opinion of the General Board, be necessary to print and publish Bibles, books, pamphlets, periodicals and other religious literature as may be required for its own use; and to sell, give away or otherwise dispose of same in the furtherance of the work of said organization without pecuniary profits to any members of said corporation;

9. To buy, rent, acquire by gift or otherwise, and to own, operate, maintain and use, such real estate and personal and mixed property as shall be necessary for the maintenance, operation and carrying on of the business of the corporation; and to lease, sub-rent, sell, assign, transfer, convey and otherwise dispose of said properties upon such terms and conditions and at such times as, in the opinion of the General Board, be advantageous to the interest of the corporation;
10. To borrow money for the purpose of purchasing such real estate, personal and mixed property as, in the opinion of the General Board, may be necessary to properly and adequately carry on the objects and purposes of the corporation business and undertakings, and to execute notes, deeds of trust, mortgages and other evidences of indebtedness, on behalf of the corporation, for the repayment thereof, and to satisfy and release notes, deeds of trust, mortgages and other evidences of indebtedness, on behalf of the corporation; (For clarification purposes in connection with organizational business affecting church-owned properties, the respective interests in properties, real, personal and mixed, owned in whole or in part by the Pentecostal Church of God (Incorporated), a Texas Corporation, or any of its districts, shall be construed to be interests in fee simple.) and
11. To make bylaws for the government of the corporation, not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the State of Texas, the United States of American, other states or foreign countries; and to alter, revise and amend the same.

ARTICLE XX

Fiscal Year and Budget

The fiscal year for the Pentecostal Church of God, its departments, and all of its subsidiaries shall be from January 1 to December 31 of each year. The budget for each succeeding fiscal year shall be submitted to the General Board for approval at each November regular meeting.

ARTICLE XXI

General Conventions

Section 1. Location, Date and Schedule.

The General Board will determine the location, dates and schedule for the biennial General Convention. The convention shall be held between June 15 and July 2 of each odd numbered year. The dates of each General Convention shall be established at least two years prior to the convention.

Section 2. Voice and Vote in the Convention.

When properly registered, the following persons shall have voice and vote in the General Convention:

- A. Credentialed ministers;
- B. The saved spouse of each credentialed ministers;
- C. Spouses of deceased ministers who continue to maintain active membership in local Pentecostal Church of God churches;

- D. Two (2) delegates elected or duly appointed from the membership of each chartered church who are at least eighteen (18) years of age based on one delegate per fifty (50) or a fraction thereof in average Sunday morning attendance as reported on the last Annual Local Church Report;

Section 3. Present and Registered In Order To Vote.

All persons with voting rights at the General Convention must be present and registered and shall show proper credentials to the Registration committee, who shall pass on whether or not they shall be seated with voice and vote in the proceedings of the convention.

Section 4. Proxy and Absentee Ballots.

No proxy or absentee voting shall be permitted at General Conventions.

Section 5. Vote Required for Adoption of Actions of the Convention.

All matters coming before the General Convention shall be decided by majority vote except those specifically requiring a two-thirds (2/3) vote as set forth in the adopted parliamentary authority or in these bylaws.

Section 6. Convention Budgets.

Each department shall submit a proposed budget including income from convention offerings and its convention expenses to the General Council prior to General Convention for their consideration and approval.

Section 7. Convention Business.

The General Convention may

- Elect general officers;
- Consider properly proposed amendments to the general bylaws;
- Consider adoption of policies and procedures for the governance of the corporation;
- Consider the approval of resolutions that state positions on matters of importance; and
- Take any other action that may, in the opinion of the convention, best foster the objects of the corporation.

Section 8. Highest Ruling and Policy Making Body.

The General Convention when convened for any regular or special meeting shall be the highest ruling and policy making body in Pentecostal Church of God. Any action taken by the General Convention shall be binding upon the denomination in all respects. All officials, general and district, as well as all boards and committees, shall be bound by the actions of the General Convention.

Section 9. Registration Report, Convention Rules and Agenda.

The convention registration report, convention standing rules and the convention agenda shall be governed by rules recommended by the General Board and adopted at the beginning of each General Convention.

ARTICLE XXII Dissolution

Section 1. Exclusively for Religious and Charitable Purposes.

The assets of the Pentecostal Church of God (Incorporated), a Texas corporation, are irrevocably dedicated exclusively for religious, charitable and/or education purposes. In the event of dissolution of the corporation, the General Board shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all of the liabilities of the corporation, dispose of all the assets of the corporation, so as to insure that the remaining assets will not inure to the benefit of any private person or persons, but that all remaining assets will be distributed to a non-profit organization or organizations, which are exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law as the General Board shall determine).

Section 2. Transfer of Assets Upon Dissolution.

In the event of the dissolution of any district corporation, the assets of the district corporation will be transferred to the general corporation. In the event of the dissolution of any local church, the assets of the local church will be transferred to the district corporation in which the church is located.

ARTICLE XXIII Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern this corporation in all case to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order or standing rules adopted for the meetings of the General Convention, General Board or General Council by those respective bodies for their own meetings.

ARTICLE XXIV Amendment of Bylaws

Section 1. Bylaws Committee Selection.

A bylaws committee shall be appointed by the General Bishop and approved by the General Council and shall begin its functions at least one year prior to each General Convention.

Section 2. Duties of the Bylaws Committee.

The duties of the bylaws committee shall be:

- A. To offer suggestions to and have consultation with the proposer(s) of any suggested bylaws amendment. If after such advice and consultation, the proposer(s) may choose to rewrite the proposed amendment or choose to withdraw the amendment.
- B. To correct grammar, punctuation and formatting to ensure proper consideration of the proposed amendment by the General Convention and not to alter or remove from the convention agenda any proposed amendment to the bylaws properly presented to the committee.

- C. To submit any proposed amendment to the bylaws, together with their recommendations, for the consideration of the General Convention.

Section 3. Specific Language.

All proposed amendments to the general bylaws shall indicate with specificity what language is to be struck out and what language is to be inserted together with the exact article and section designation to which the proposed bylaw amendment shall apply if adopted.

Section 4. Proposing Bylaws Amendments.

Any proposed amendments to the general bylaws, other than those proposed by the General Board, must be approved by at least one district board. In order to be considered by the General Convention, any proposed amendments to the bylaws from district boards must be received by the General Secretary's office by January 1 of the convention year.

Section 5. Notice of Proposed Amendments to the General Bylaws.

Any proposed amendments to the bylaws shall be noticed to all ministers by being made available electronically no later than March 1 of the convention year.

Section 6. Vote Required for Amendment of the Bylaws.

A two-thirds (2/3) of those members of the General Convention properly registered, present and voting shall be required for adoption of any proposed amendment to the bylaws

ADDENDUM

THE PROCESS OF RECEIVING AN ACCUSATION

INTRODUCTION:

The issue of reconciliation is the mandate of Christ to His Church. ("Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:18 NKJV) Reconciliation is the work of God. Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. (Matthew 5:9 NKJV) According to Dr. Kenneth Newberger, (2009) "The term "sons of God" conveys the idea that they share in the essence or nature of the one to whom they are said to be related." (p.16) Reconciliation is rooted in the nature of God and is the essence of His work in humanity. Reconciliation is the ultimate goal of a process, which includes receiving, handling and processing accusations. Every conflict in the life of a Christ-follower should lead towards total reconciliation within the Body of Christ and in relationship to our Heavenly Father.

Spiritual reconciliation is a weighty matter. The work begins with personal spiritual integrity followed by much fasting and prayer. The process must be dealt with in the highest integrity of character. There must exist proper documentation in order to protect all parties. Church leadership must not be forsaken in the handling of an accusation. Accusers and accused must be treated fairly and impartially.

The manner of handling an accusation must be standardized across the covenant community of the PCG. A system of consistency protects all parties and ensures less errors, neglect and mishandling of accusations. Also, standardization creates a culture of organizational integrity.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION:

“Do not receive an accusation against an elder except from two or three witnesses. Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear. I charge you before God and the Lord Jesus Christ and the elect angels that you observe these things without prejudice, doing nothing with partiality.”

1 Timothy 5:19-21

“Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of meekness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

Galatians 6:1

“And we urge you brethren, to recognize those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:12

“Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.”

James 5:19-20

“If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of Glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people’s matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. For the time is come for judgment to begin at the house of God and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the Gospel of God? Now ‘If the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear?’ Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good as to a faithful Creator.”

1 Peter 4:14 – 19

PROCEDURAL POLICY

The leadership of the Pentecostal Church of God recognizes its responsibility to exercise Biblical authority in the form of discipline. Disciplinary action should always honor God, follow Scriptural truth, maintain purity of intention, seek reconciliation, and safeguard the integrity and purity of ministry.

Section 1. Accountability of Ministers.

All ministers are accountable to their respective district board in every matter of conduct and doctrine. No accusations or charges against any credentialed minister shall be considered unless the entire procedure outlined within the

General Bylaws is adhered to. Violations resulting in disciplinary action include lack of compliance of the Biblical Standards for Ministry (Article II of General Bylaws).

Section 2. Definitions.

- A. Accusation. Any allegation of misconduct or failure to uphold the doctrine of the Pentecostal Church of God.
- B. Charge. The proper documentation of at least two accusations.
- C. Minister. Any minister holding credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God.
- D. Writing or Written. An original written document. Email, text, facsimile or other electronic communication shall not suffice as writing.
- E. Suspension. Termination of all ministry activities within the Pentecostal Church of God; remaining current on all ministerial financial and reporting obligations and remaining under the jurisdiction of the presiding district until a resolution of all charges has been reached.)
- F. Reconcilable. A settled dispute, action bringing differences into agreement or harmony. Differing parties becoming amicable.
- G. Contrition. Sincere penitence or remorse. A true purpose to amend actions that have been confessed.
- H. Restoration. The action necessary to bring a minister to the place of health in order to return to the original position of ministry.

Section 3. Procedures.

In all actions other than those initiated by a district board, the following procedure shall be strictly adhered to:

- A. All accusations against any minister shall be made in writing in the format required, signed by the accuser and submitted to the District Bishop. Any person making any accusations against a credentialed minister of the PCG must follow the process set forth in this article, except in the case of child abuse or neglect. All legal requirements and bylaws concerning child abuse and neglect must be followed at all times.
- B. The accuser must meet with the District Bishop, at a time and location selected by the bishop, and complete and sign the accusation form. If the accuser is not willing to complete and sign the accusation form, the matter will be immediately dropped.
- C. If the accuser does not meet with the District Bishop and complete and sign the form, the accuser must be informed that the matter cannot proceed. The accuser must also be informed that the accusation is and must remain confidential and not disclosed to third persons.

- D. The District Bishop must inform the accuser that a sole accusation against a spiritual leader cannot be acted upon. (1 Timothy 5:19) If there is only one accusation, the district officials shall keep the information on file following the command of 1 Timothy 5:19-21. An exception to this shall be made when prevailing evidence exists such as photographs, witnesses, video, etc.
- E. If the accusation is against a district executive officer, the accuser shall immediately notify the assistant General Bishop.
- F. The district officials shall immediately create a file for all accusations and charges against any minister and forward the information to the General Secretary.
- G. When two or more properly documented accusations are made against a minister, those making the accusations shall meet with the district executive committee, at a time and location selected by the committee, in order to ascertain the facts of the matter. In the event the accusers fail to meet as requested by the committee the charges shall be dropped.
- H. The District Bishop shall provide written notice to the accused minister of the meeting described in subparagraph “G” providing at least one day notice and no more than five days notice. A documentation form shall be utilized for responses to accusations which shall be completed in writing by the accused minister and provided to the District Bishop.
- I. After the three meetings the District Executive Committee shall determine if the accusation shall be made a formal charge.
- J. If a formal charge is made, the investigation team can be formed.
- K. At any time the district executive committee may take one or more of the following actions on a charge:
 - a. At the request of the accuser, accused minister or District Bishop and at the sole discretion of the district executive committee, temporarily suspend the proceeding and refer the matter for consultation with the Ministry Relations Department, as selected by the General Board.
 - b. Immediately suspend the minister until final resolution of the charges. The district shall immediately notify the Office of the General Secretary of any minister placed on suspension.
 - c. Attempt reconciliation between the accusers and the minister. If in the sole discretion of the district executive committee, reconciliation is reached between the accusers and the minister, the committee shall not proceed with the process but refer the matter to the Ministry Relations Department. In the event that after referral to the Ministry Relations Department the parties remain irreconcilable, the Ministry Relation Department shall refer the matter back to the District executive committee for further proceedings.
- L. If a formal charge is filed and reconciliation between the accusers and the

minister cannot be reached, the Ministry Relations Department shall refer the matter back to the district executive committee for further proceedings and the District Bishop shall appoint a team of three qualified persons to investigate the charges. The investigation team shall appoint a chairperson who shall report their findings and recommendations to the district board. The investigation team shall hear no testimony except that which bears directly on the written charges. The chairman shall enforce this rule. The members of the investigation team shall maintain complete confidentiality with respect to the accusations, discussions, evidence and findings.

- M. Upon completion of the work of the investigation team, the district board shall hear from the accusers, the accused and the chairman of the investigation team at a time and location to be determined by the district board after no less than ten (10) days written notice to the accusers, minister and chairman of the investigation team. The district board shall evaluate the situation and determine the appropriate course of action. The district board shall have the prerogative to request consultation from the Ministry Relations Department.
- N. If the district board concludes that the accused minister confesses, repents and shows evidence of contrition, the district board shall determine the next steps of the process. Programs of restoration shall be established and recommendations can be made by the Ministry Relations Department and enforced by the district board. Ministers placed in a restoration program shall be considered on suspension as defined herein. If charges are substantiated and considered of sufficient merit, the culpable minister can, at the sole discretion of the district board, be dropped from the ranks of credentialed ministers.
- O. The district board shall determine periods of restoration except in cases that have been submitted to the Ministry Relations Department. When the restoration process has been successfully completed, the minister shall be considered in good standing and active status restored.
- P. If the district board determines that the charges are unsubstantiated, the accusers shall be required to meet the district board for full accountability of their actions. The false accusers shall be required to submit to the same process of discipline.
- Q. The process of mediation/restoration shall be extended to members of local churches. Members of the local church must follow this process:
 - 1. The member must appeal to the local church defined leadership (board. Etc.)
 - 2. If mediation/restoration cannot be reached through the local church, the member may address the matter to the district board.
 - 3. The decision of the district board shall be final.
 - 4. All chartered churches shall carry this provision in their local church bylaws.

Section 4. Appeal Process.

The appeal process shall be:

- A. There shall be no appeal heard that has not been submitted to the Department of Ministerial Relations for possible mediation.
- B. Any appeal of a decision made by a district board shall be made within thirty days to the office of the General Bishop. The General Bishop shall notify the national board of appeals. This board shall be nominated by the General Council, elected by the General Board and consist of five individuals, with two alternates. These members shall be trained and competent to serve in such a capacity. A district board shall have the privilege of submitting individuals to the General Council for consideration.
- C. The national board of appeals shall hear appeals from credentialed ministers. Their decision shall be final in all matters.
- D. Once an appeal has been filed it can only be withdrawn by a majority vote of the national board of appeals.
- E. Any member of the national board of appeals shall have the privilege to recuse themselves in order to ensure a fair and equitable outcome of the appeal.
- F. Any member of the national board of appeals who was on the investigation team, a member of the disciplining district board, or has a personal/family relationship with any party in the matter under consideration shall recuse themselves.
- G. The Chairperson of the board shall choose an alternate when necessary.
- H. Any person who has submitted an appeal shall relinquish all voting privileges until the final decision has been determined.