

# 2024

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AGENDA ITEMS  
ADOPTED  
BY THE  
79<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JULY 8-12, 2024  
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

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FINISH COMMITMENT  
*Harvest* **NOW**

CHURCH OF GOD 79<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
GENERAL  ASSEMBLY

## **INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. That Gary Joseph Lewis serve as General Overseer for the ensuing four years.
2. That Tony D. Stewart serve as First Assistant General Overseer for the ensuing four years.
3. That T. Wayne Dority serve as Second Assistant General Overseer for the ensuing four years.
4. That Mark Lanier Williams serve as Third Assistant General Overseer for the ensuing four years.
5. That Thomas Andrew Madden serve as Secretary General for the ensuing four years.

## **OTHER NOMINATIONS**

6. That Brian K. Yaun serve as director of Youth and Discipleship for the ensuing four years.
7. That Max Daniel Reyes serve as assistant director of Youth and Discipleship for the ensuing four years.
8. That David E. Ramirez serve as assistant director of World Missions for the ensuing four years.
9. That Sean Stewart O'Neal serve as director of Evangelism for the ensuing four years.
10. That Robert Scott Sheppard serve as assistant director of Evangelism for the ensuing four years.

## **COUNCIL OF EIGHTEEN**

1. Kevin Miles McGlamery
2. Angel Marcial E.
3. William A. Lee, Jr.
4. Anthony T. Pelt
5. Joe Dobbins
6. Kip Anthony Box
7. Kenneth Lamar Hill
8. R.C. Hugh Nelson
9. Rick Whitter
10. Ishmael Prince Charles
11. Kelvin Earl Page
12. David Charles Cooper
13. Nick Park
14. Niko Njotorahardjo

15. Lennox Dacosta Walker
16. Jerry D. Madden
17. Julio Cesar Melendez Olguin
18. Toby Stephen Morgan

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1. MINISTRY OF EVANGELISM

- (1) We amend pages 79-80, S11. MINISTRY OF USA MISSIONS, by striking "~~MINISTRY OF USA MISSIONS, I. USA MISSIONS BOARD, II. RESOLUTION ON USA MISSIONS~~", and inserting the following:

#### *S11. MINISTRY OF EVANGELISM*

##### *I. Evangelism Board*

##### *A. Selection*

*The Evangelism Board shall consist of not less than seven members who shall be appointed biennially by the International Executive Committee, having a diverse representation from each designated area of North America which would be defined as Northeast USA, Southeast USA, Northwest USA, Southwest USA, Midwest USA and Canada.*

##### *B. Duties and Authorities*

*The Evangelism Board shall:*

- 1. Support the director of Evangelism in fulfillment of the mission and vision of evangelism ministry.*
- 2. Serve the needs of the church as they relate to all phases of evangelism ministry, including the following: apologetics, personal evangelism, church planting, church health and revitalization, revivalists/evangelists, and general evangelism strategies and ministry.*
- 3. Strengthen the partnership with state/regional administrative bishops and ministry of Evangelism directors, evangelism task forces, and all areas of evangelism ministry.*
- 4. Consider and approve the annual budget of the ministry of Evangelism for presentation to the International Executive Council.*
- 5. Develop evangelism resources relevant for state/regional and local ministry opportunities.*

6. Create initiatives for developing home missionaries to work within unreached people groups.
7. Recognize, encourage, and resource creative expressions of evangelism that are currently being implemented, as well as new innovative ideas for evangelism.

## *II. Director of Evangelism*

### *A. Selection, Tenure, and Salary*

*The office of director of Evangelism shall be filled by one who devotes their full time to the mission and vision of Church of God evangelism, including all phases of evangelism ministry with focus on the United States and Canada. He shall be nominated by the International General Council and elected by the International General Assembly quadrennially (four-year term). He shall not be eligible to succeed himself beyond one four-year term. His salary shall be set by the International Executive Council.*

### *B. Duties and Authorities*

1. Provide guidance and direction of the Evangelism budget.
2. Provide an annual report to the Evangelism Board and International Executive Committee measuring the implementation, productivity, and effectiveness of Church of God Evangelism Ministries.
3. Utilize and give oversight to the Church Planting Designated Fund (Church Planting Bank) to plant churches.
4. Design, develop, and implement an evangelism program/strategy that gives priority to the following: apologetics, personal evangelism, church planting, church health and revitalization, revivalists/evangelists, and general evangelism strategies and ministry.

## *III. Assistant Director of Evangelism*

### *A. Selection, Tenure, and Salary*

*The assistant director of Evangelism shall be one nominated by the International General Council and elected quadrennially (four-year term) by the International General Assembly. He shall not be eligible to succeed himself beyond one four-year term. His salary shall be set by the International Executive Council.*

### *B. Duties and Authorities*

*The assistant director of Evangelism shall assist the director of Evangelism.*

- (2) We amend page 139, S38. STATE EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS DIRECTOR (USA MISSIONS), *Selection*, by striking "~~STATE EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS DIRECTOR (USA MISSIONS), Selection~~", and inserting the following:

S38. STATE/REGIONAL EVANGELISM BOARD

I. Selection

1. Each state/region shall have an Evangelism Board.
2. The board shall be elected by the ministers of the state/region.
3. The board shall consist of not less than three members, who may be either ordained ministers or bishops. In states/regions where the administrative bishop and state council shall determine there are not enough qualified ministers to consider, exhorters shall be considered eligible to serve.

II. Duties and Authorities

1. The board shall meet as often as the state/regional Evangelism director and state/regional overseer deem necessary.
2. The board shall counsel with and assist the state/regional overseer and state Evangelism director in drafting and promoting a program of evangelism for the local churches in each state.
3. The board shall, with the state Evangelism director, partner with the ministry of Evangelism to train, resource, and equip local church pastors, ministers, and laity in evangelism.

- (3) We amend page 139, by inserting the following:

S39. STATE/REGIONAL EVANGELISM DIRECTOR

I. Selection

1. The state/regional Evangelism director shall be nominated by the state overseer and elected by the state council prior to the International General Assembly. The position may be full time with compensation or other operational options adopted that the state overseer and state council deem appropriate.
2. Ordained bishops shall be used to fill the office where practical.
3. The state/regional Evangelism director's term of office shall be for two years, with a maximum of four consecutive years in a respective non-mission state.

II. Duties and Authorities

The state/regional Evangelism director shall:

1. Promote fulfillment of the mission and vision of evangelism ministry under the supervision of the state/regional overseer.
2. Work in cooperation with a duly elected/appointed state/regional

*Evangelism Board in the development of a state/regional Evangelism program under the supervision of the state overseer as recommended by the director of Evangelism.*

3. *Provide direction for all phases of Evangelism including the Church Planting and Revitalization Task Force in the respective state/region.*
4. *Work in cooperation with the director of Evangelism with implementation of relevant evangelism initiatives.*

*Note: Current S39 will become Item III.*

## **2. DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF EVANGELISM**

- (1) We amend page 60, S2. Bylaws of the Church of God, Article VI. Governing Bodies, 1. International General Assembly, Elections, by inserting the words, "*the director of Evangelism*" following "the assistant director of Youth and Discipleship."
- (2) We amend page 60, S2. Bylaws of the Church of God, Article VI. Governing Bodies, 1. International General Assembly, Elections, by inserting the words, "*the assistant director of Evangelism*" preceding "the director of World Missions."
- (3) We amend page 62, S2. Bylaws of the Church of God, Article VI. Governing Bodies, 2. International General Council, Agenda, 5. by inserting the words, "*the director of Evangelism*" following "the assistant general Youth and Discipleship director."
- (4) We amend page 62, S2. Bylaws of the Church of God, Article VI. Governing Bodies, 2. International General Council, Agenda, 5. by inserting the words, "*the assistant director of Evangelism*" preceding "the director of World Missions."

## **3. BIBLICAL SEXUALITY**

*We adopt the following to be inserted in the General Assembly Minutes.*

We Commit...

*That all Church of God leaders, ministers, teachers, and employees—defined as credentialed employees, or any employees connected with conveying the message of the church and carrying out its mission—not be employed by or regularly attend churches or religious organizations (public services exempted) that hold stances on human sexuality contrary to biblical teaching, the Church of God Minutes, the Declaration of Faith, or the Practical Commitments of the Church of God, subject to appropriate polity action.*

*Further, that appropriate Church of God departments curate biblical sex education resources designed principally and practically for use in Church of God regions, churches, and educational institutions.*

#### 4. FEMALE MINISTERS IN ECCLESIASTICAL TRIAL BOARDS

We amend page 123, S31. OFFENDING MINISTERS, Ministerial Discipline, B. Trial Procedures, 2. Selection of Trial Board, item c, by inserting:

*"and where the state overseer deems such to be prudent and appropriate, he may also appoint not less than two (2) ordained female ministers, each with more than seven (7) years of active credentialed ministerial service in the Church of God "* following "ordained bishops."

So as to read:

The trial board should consist of not less than three (3) ordained bishops, *and where the state overseer deems such to be prudent and appropriate, he may also appoint not less than two (2) ordained female ministers, each with more than seven (7) years of active credentialed ministerial service in the Church of God.*

#### 5. GENERATIONAL HARVEST

We adopt the following to be inserted in the General Assembly Minutes.

GENERATIONAL HARVEST

We Believe...

*That the Great Commission (Matt. 28:19-20) is a Divine command and a defining factor in the mission of the Church. The Great Commission compels the church to preach the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit with signs following and to make disciples of all people. The Church of God has experienced exponential growth, but we must remain intentional in our witness and in our teaching. To fulfill the command of our Lord, in light of our beliefs regarding the eternal consequences of our actions (Declaration of Faith, Article 14) and know the Gospel is the only hope for the lost (Declaration of Faith, Articles 4 and 5), we must seek to gather the harvest in a manner that engages and reaches all generations.*

*We Affirm...*

- That all believers, regardless of age, are to participate in the Great Commission and be active in carrying the Gospel to the ends of the earth.*
- That we must impart a motivating love for the lost and a passion for evangelism to the next generation of believers.*
- That we must encourage, enlist, empower, and train every generation to engage in this vision.*
- That denominational leaders, pastors, educators, and lay persons are to collectively engage in finishing the Great Commission.*
- That we must identify, resource, and train those who are called and gifted in evangelism and soul winning.*

*We Commit...*

*To actively disciple our children, youth, young adults, middle-aged adults, and senior adults so that they understand what it means to be a missional Christian, a faithful disciple, a responsible part of the church, and the purpose of Christian living. We further commit that each pastor and leader will promote the work of evangelism in an age-relevant manner to those whom they lead.*

## **6. DOCTRINAL FIDELITY**

*We adopt the following to be inserted in the General Assembly Minutes.*

**DOCTRINAL FIDELITY**

**We Believe...**



*That maintaining doctrinal fidelity is essential to being faithful members and ministers of the Church of God.*

*We Affirm...*

- *That the Church of God stands for the whole Bible rightly divided and for the New Testament as the only rule of government and practice.*
- *That the Church of God Declaration of Faith, Doctrinal Commitments, and Practical Commitments remain the definitive statements of our belief.*
- *That we communicate and emphasize fidelity to Church of God doctrinal distinctives as stated in the CHURCH OF GOD BOOK OF DISCIPLINE, CHURCH ORDER, AND GOVERNANCE.*
- *That we perpetuate our uncompromising doctrinal identity as a Pentecostal church committed to the manifestation of the Fruit of the Spirit in the lives of believers and the operation of spiritual gifts in the life of the church.*
- *That we intentionally preach, teach, and proclaim Church of God doctrine with the Pentecostal distinctive of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance as the initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit and living a Spirit-empowered life.*
- *That we, the Church of God, maintain our standard of holiness in stated doctrine, in principles of conduct, and as a living reality in our hearts.*
- *That the Church of God is a body directed by the Holy Spirit, fully understanding that baptism in the Holy Spirit is both a personal blessing and an endowment of power for witness and service in fulfilling the Great Commission.*
- *That the Church of God is a New Testament church, focused on the local congregation, where the pastor nurtures and leads all members to exercise spiritual gifts in ministry.*
- *That the Church of God demonstrates love and concern for all people, without bias, according to the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ through intentional evangelism, discipleship, and ministry engagement.*
- *That the Church of God is Christ-centered, people-oriented, and need sensitive in all its programs, initiatives, and ministries.*

*We Commit...*

- *That all faculty of Church of God higher education institutions shall continue to be required to annually sign a contract that they will not take a position, endorse in their teaching, or publish content contrary to the*

*Declaration of Faith or any other established doctrine of the Church of God.*

- *That all Church of God credentialed ministers will not take a position or endorse in their teaching or publish content contrary to the Declaration of Faith or any other established doctrine of the Church of God.*
- *That all religion and theology faculty in Church of God institutions of higher learning shall be credentialed Church of God ministers where possible. Should some qualified fraternal or laity Pentecostal scholars and/or faculty not hold Church of God credentials, they shall sign a statement committing to not take a position, or endorse in their teaching, or publish content contrary to the Declaration of Faith, Doctrinal Commitments, and Practical Commitments or any other established doctrine of the church. Further, should there be any question regarding possible exemptions, they shall be submitted to a process established by the International Executive Committee.*
- *That all Church of God pastors and ministers be encouraged to guard against and correct any teaching contrary to the Declaration of Faith, Doctrinal Commitments, or Practical Commitments for any minister, speaker, or teacher who stands before Church of God congregations in worship settings, or teaching environments.*
- *That all educational institutions and local churches shall post the Declaration of Faith in appropriate visible locations.*
- *That all Church of God local churches, ministries, educational institutions, and administrative offices which maintain a website post on said website the Declaration of Faith as an expression of Church of God doctrine.*
- *That all Church of God constituents including administrative leaders, ministers, evangelists, pastors, and teachers pledge their commitment to*
- *Church of God doctrinal fidelity as stated in the Declaration of Faith.*

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR MINISTERS

We amend page 112, S29. INSTRUCTIONS FOR MINISTERS, I. General Instructions for Ministers, 9. by inserting the following:

In addition, that all Church of God credentialed ministers shall affirm their fidelity to the Church of God by reaffirming their commitment to the Declaration of Faith,

Doctrinal Commitments, and Practical Commitments of the Church of God. This affirmation shall be submitted biennially with the September ministerial report.

So as to read:

9. In order for any minister to be considered eligible for election or appointment by the International Executive Committee, General Council or General Assembly, the minister must be current on both personal ministerial reports and the local church reports with required finances from the church he/she pastors (if applicable).

Any exceptions must be approved by the International Executive Committee. Further, this same measure applies to state/regional positions and boards. Any exception at the state/regional level must be approved by the state/regional overseer in writing.

*In addition, that all Church of God credentialed ministers shall affirm their fidelity to the Church of God by reaffirming their commitment to the Declaration of Faith, Doctrinal Commitments, and Practical Commitments of the Church of God. This affirmation shall be submitted biennially with the September ministerial report.*

## 7. QUALIFICATIONS FOR STATE OVERSEERS

We amend page 131, S32. STATE OVERSEERS, II. QUALIFICATIONS, 6., by striking "five (5)" and inserting "four (4)".

So as to read:

The state overseer shall have served as the senior/lead pastor of a local church congregation for a minimum of **four (4)** years, or after having been elected to an International Office or position in the Church of God. (Anyone under appointment as an Administrative Bishop, or as a Youth and Discipleship director, as of the 2018 General Assembly, shall be exempt from this requirement.)

## 8. STATE OVERSEERS—DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES

We amend page 133, S32, STATE OVERSEERS, VII. Duties and Authorities, by striking paragraph 11, and inserting the following:

*Appoint or remove any officer in a local church, when necessary.*

So as to read:

11. Appoint or remove any officer in a local church, when necessary.

## 9. QUALIFICATIONS OF ORDAINED BISHOPS—ACTIVE MINISTRY

We amend page 104, S22. ORDAINED BISHOP, II. Qualifications of Ordained Bishops, item 2, by adding the following as a final parenthetical sentence:

*(For this item, "active ministry" shall be defined as the number of years one has held Church of God ministerial credentials or credentials from fraternal organizations recognized by the Church of God.)*

So as to read:

2. An applicant for ordination as bishop may be ordained when he is twenty-five (25) years of age, provided he has had at least eight (8) years of active ministry, or he has three (3) years of active ministry accompanied by a ministry-related degree or its equivalency from an accredited institution or one certified by the Church of God Division of Education, or when he is thirty (30) years of age, provided he has had at least five (5) years of active ministry, if he is otherwise qualified. In those cases in which a ministerial applicant has had verifiable active ministerial experience prior to receiving credentials, exceptions to the age qualifications can be made upon recommendation by the ministerial applicant's administrative bishop and with the approval of the Executive Council. *(For this item, "active ministry" shall be defined as the number of years one has held Church of God ministerial credentials or credentials from fraternal organizations recognized by the Church of God.)*

## 10. RESPONSIBLE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA/ DIGITAL PLATFORMS

(1) We amend page 147, S48. MEMBERS, IV. Requirements of Members, by adding the following as item:

D. *Christian Use of Social Media and Digital Platforms*

*As Christ's disciples, we are to manifest His love to others (John 13:35). We are to make Christ known by both our actions and our words (1 John 3:18). As social media and digital platforms continue to grow in popularity and usage, Christians have more far-reaching venues for sharing the good news of Jesus than ever before in history. Christians should prayerfully engage the world, using all means available, to spread the gospel.*

*In using social media and digital platforms, Christians should always speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15) and do all things for the edification of others (Rom. 15:2). We should always be respectful when disagreeing with the opinions of others. We should never be harsh nor demeaning in our words, so that our comments become personal attacks (Phil. 2:14-15). We should seek to use Godly wisdom so that our comments may be described as "first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy" (James 3:17).*

- (2) We amend page 112, S29, INSTRUCTIONS FOR MINISTERS, I. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR MINISTERS, 10. Responsible Use of Social Media, by adding the following as paragraph 2:

*As social media and digital platforms continue to proliferate with rapid growth and utilization, Church of God ministers should always strive to:*

- a. Uphold the doctrine of the Church of God by not writing or commenting/sharing in a way that affirms anything contrary to the accepted doctrine of the Church of God.*
- b. Refrain from breaching professional confidentiality by disclosing confidential, financial, administrative, and ecclesiastical information presented in official meetings of local church and pastors councils, state boards and committees, as well as general boards and committees. Such breach of confidentiality may result in disciplinary action.*

So as to read:

10. Responsible Use of Social Media: Christians are exhorted by Scripture to speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15), to provide things honest in the sight of all persons (Rom. 12:17), and to do all things for the edification of others (Rom. 15:2). The use of social media by believers should conform to these and other Biblical standards.

*As social media and digital platforms continue to proliferate with rapid growth and utilization, Church of God ministers should always strive to:*

- a. Uphold the doctrine of the Church of God by not writing or commenting on anything contrary to the accepted doctrine of the Church of God.*
- b. Credentialed ministers are to refrain from breaching professional confidentiality by disclosing confidential, financial, administrative, and ecclesiastical information presented in official meetings of local church and pastors councils, state boards and committees, and general boards and committees. Such breach of confidentiality may result in disciplinary action.*

## 10. SEXUAL ABUSE OF A CHILD/SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF A MINOR

(1) We amend page 117, S30. DISORDERLY MINISTERS [MINISTERIAL DISCIPLINE], III. DISORDERLY CONDUCT, A. Explicit Heterosexual Misconduct, by adding item 5.

*5. Any minister confessing to or having been convicted of sexual abuse of a child or sexual exploitation of a minor shall have his/her membership and credentials permanently revoked.*

(2) We amend page 117, S30. DISORDERLY MINISTERS [MINISTERIAL DISCIPLINE], III. DISORDERLY CONDUCT, A. Explicit Heterosexual Misconduct, item 4, by striking "~~sexual abuse of a child or.~~"

So as to read:

4. Any minister found guilty of a second offense involving adultery, fornication, or any other sexual misconduct, or any combination of these offenses, shall have his/her credentials permanently revoked. He/she must be disfellowshipped from the church. However, the opportunity for reconciliation and restoration to church membership shall be given future consideration in appropriate cases.

(3) That we amend page 150, S49. MEMBERSHIP, V. PROCEDURE IN DEALING WITH MEMBER by inserting the following as the second paragraph:

*Any member confessing to or having been convicted of sexual abuse of a child or sexual exploitation of a minor shall have his/her membership permanently revoked from the Church of God.*

Note: Current second paragraph will become paragraph three.

## 11. STATEMENT ON RACISM AND ANTISEMITISM

We adopt the following to be inserted in the General Assembly Minutes.

### STATEMENT ON RACISM AND ANTISEMITISM

#### We Believe...

*In the value and dignity of all human beings, as created in the image of God (Gen. 1:27). We believe the New Testament teaches that in Christ there is no disparity of value in the human race based on religion, socio-economic status, or gender. (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:26-29; Eph. 6:8; Col. 3:8-11). Further, we believe that all of humanity descended from one man and one woman and are therefore of one race (Gen. 3:20; 1 Cor. 15:45-49; Acts 17:26). Additionally, redemption is provided for all by the same God and Savior, Jesus Christ (John 3:16; 14:6).*

#### We Affirm...

*That the Church of God stands against racism and antisemitism in all forms, including prejudice, inequality, unfair business practices, injustice of every type, and any other mistreatment of individuals based upon skin color, ethnicity, nationality, native language, or other racially biased grounds. We affirm that mistreatment of others based on the aforementioned reasons is unjust, unbiblical, and sinful.*

#### We Commit...

- *To communicating the Gospel in a manner that celebrates the diversity of humanity and seeks to be inclusive to all ethnicities.*
- *To intentionally reach across denominational and congregational lines to have fellowship and collaborate in ministry with all biblically faithful Christians, regardless of ethnicity, nationality, or native language.*
- *To speak out against racism and to assist those who have been victims of racism.*
- *To teach unity in Christ within the body, encouraging interaction within*

*the greater Kingdom of God, and within our own local churches, making it possible for anyone, regardless of skin color or ethnicity, to find a home wherever the Church of God exists.*

## **RESOLUTIONS OF APPRECIATION**

1. Tim Hill
2. Raymond Culpepper
3. David E. Ramirez
4. Rob Bailey
5. John D. Childers
6. International Executive Committee
7. General Assembly Leadership