

Church Of God In Christ, Inc.  
General Council of Pastors and Elders  
Judicial Review Committee / Ecclesiastical Appeals Court

P. O. Box 356  
Douglasville, Georgia 30133-0356



**Dr. Frederick D. Jenkins - Georgia**

Chairman / Chief Ecclesiastical Appeals Court Judge

**ECCLESIASTICAL APPEALS COURT JUDGES**

Supt. Alton Barnes- Connecticut  
Dr. Destry C. Bell, Sr. - Texas  
Supt. Lee E. Blackmon- Texas  
Supt. Timothy Bouknight- Massachusetts  
Dr. Robert E. Garner -Michigan  
Supt. Johnnie Q. Jones -California  
Supt. Jesse J. Lipford -Tennessee  
Supt. Bruce A. McCoy -Michigan  
Pastor Lawrence H. Murray -Nevada  
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Elder Ward A. Snow -Alabama  
Pastor Talbert W. Swan, II- Massachusetts  
Pastor Carl E. Williams- Tennessee

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**FILE: MATTER #MHBvJZTH0506011**

**THE MATTER**  
**OF**  
**BISHOP MARK H. BLADE**  
**AND**  
**SUPT. JAMES Z. T. HARRIS**  
**OF**  
**FIRST ECCLESIASTICAL JURISDICTION OF INDIANA**  
**CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.**



Church Of God In Christ, Inc.  
**General Council of Pastors and Elders**  
**Judicial Review Committee / Appeals Court**

July 8, 2011

Bishop Mark H. Blade, Jurisdictional Prelate  
First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Indiana  
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.  
2210 N. 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
Terre Haute, IN 47804

Bishop Blade,

I greet you in the matchless name of our Lord and risen Savior Jesus Christ, it is my prayer that this communication finds you, your family, and the people of faith over whom the Lord has placed you as watchman in good health and blessed of the Lord.

This communication is a formal response to your letter dated March 31, 2011 sent to and received by Supt. Isaiah C. Grover, Chairman of the General Council of Pastors and Elders. On May 6, 2011 Chairman Grover turned the letter over to the Judicial Review Committee / Appeals Court of the General Council for consideration, action and response.

After careful review of the correspondence received and communications with the participation's we have come to a conclusion please review the attached findings and recommendations.

Sincerely

Dr. Frederick D. Jenkins  
Chief Appeals Court Judge  
Juridical Review Committee Chairman

cc: Supt. James Z. T. Harris.  
General Council of Pastors and Elders.  
File.



Church Of God In Christ, Inc.  
**General Council of Pastors and Elders**  
**Judicial Review Committee / Appeals Court**

**July 8, 2011**

**Bishop Mark H. Blade, Jurisdictional Prelate**  
**And**  
**Supt. James Z. T. Harris, Jurisdictional Council Chairman**  
**Of**  
**Indiana First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction**  
**Church Of God In Christ, Inc.**

**ISSUE:**

The Judicial Review Committee / Appeals Court received on May 6, 2011 from the General Council Chairman a communication dated March 31, 2011 from Bishop Mark H. Blade, Jurisdictional Bishop of the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Indiana Referencing: "Job Description of Chairman of Pastors & Elders Council-Indiana First" in which he expressed concern about the actions and activities of the elected Chairman of the Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council Indiana First, to wit the following could be perceive:

1. Conflict of Interest.
2. Witness tampering.
3. Failure to comply with Jurisdictional Bishops' Request.
4. Circumvent the Jurisdictional Bishop.

The correspondence and documents received were reviewed and analyzed, and conversation between the parties conducted. After telephone conversations with both Bishop Blade and Supt. Harris about the matter, Bishop Blade expressed he felt that the communication and cooperation between he and the Jurisdictional Council Chairman was improving, but that he still wanted the information relating to the Job description of the Jurisdictional Council Chairman, Supt. Harris expressed his desire to eliminate any miscommunication that might have mistakenly occurred between he and the Jurisdictional Bishop and that he would work to insure there be no future occurrence of the same.

**OPINION:**

While it is the duty and responsibility of the Chairman of Jurisdictional Council of Pastors and Elders to preside at Jurisdictional Trials, whenever there is the appearance of a Conflict of Interest where the Jurisdictional Chairman cannot be objective or any of the participants feel that they cannot receive justice because of the Jurisdictional Chairman's proximity to or previous knowledge of or involvement with the matter before the Jurisdictional Council, and the

Jurisdictional Chairman cannot prove to the satisfaction of the Jurisdictional Council and the Parties to the matter the Jurisdictional Council Chairman can be objective and impartial, The Jurisdictional Council Chairman should consider or even recuse himself from the matter at hand.

Among the many duties and responsibilities of the Jurisdictional Council Chairman, Concern for the wellbeing of the Brethren should be in the upper echelon of his priorities, however under no circumstances should he undertake any actions with regards to his concerns without First Consulting with the Jurisdictional Bishop, to insure that there is harmony in the brotherhood and that there be no duplication of efforts.

As the Chairman of the Jurisdictional Council of Pastors and Elders, The Chairman is obligated to be governed by the Rules and Regulation of the Council and the mandates of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. as outline in the Official Manual and the Amendments, therefore the calling of any meeting of the Council other than that prescribe in the Official Manual and the 1994 Amendment without first consulting with the Jurisdictional Bishop could be perceived as circumventing the Jurisdictional Bishop.

### **RECCOMENDATION:**

As Rules and Regulations, Policies and Procedures, and the Constitution of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. are changed and amended from time to time it might be time for more training on the changes that has occurred that you might not be familiar with. The General Council of Pastors and Elders stands ready to assist you in this effort. Please feel free to contact us for any help and assistance that we can be.

### **SO ORDERED**

Under my hand this **8th** day of **July** in the year of our Lord **2011**.

Dr. Frederick D. Jenkins  
Chief Ecclesiastical Appeals Court Judge  
General Council of Pastors and Elders  
Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

**Church Of God In Christ, Inc**  
World Headquarters.  
930 Mason Street  
Memphis, Tennessee 38126

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE V OF THE  
CONSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**

**Section B**

1. There shall be a Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council in each of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions in the Church Of God In Christ, Inc.
2. The Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council shall be made up of all Pastors and Elders in the Jurisdiction who are in good standing.
3. The Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council shall elect all of its officers.
4. The Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council shall adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary for the orderly conduct of its business. Such rules and regulations shall not conflict with the provisions of the Constitution of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. or any laws adopted by the General Assembly.
5. The officers of the Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council shall be: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and such other officers as the Council may determine.
6. The Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council purpose shall be, to serve as a Trial Court for the Pastors and Elders within the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.
7. The Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council shall consider only those matters referred to it by the Jurisdictional Bishop, The Jurisdictional Assembly, Departments of the Jurisdiction, Local congregations and individuals; supplying them with a formal report of its findings.
8. The Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council shall meet twice (2) annually: Once in the Jurisdictional Spring Meeting, and during the Jurisdictional Holy Convocation; (or as may be needed to consider matters referred to it) and shall have one (1) annual Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council Conference.

# **General Council of Pastors and Elders**

## **Rules and Regulations**

### *Article IV Section II, Office of the Chairman (Revised 11/2010)*

#### **1. Qualifications**

- a. The Chairman must be a man above reproach, a man of integrity, the husband of one wife, temperate, sensible, and dignified, hospital, and an able teacher, not a drinker or abuser of substances, not violent, not quarrelsome, but gentle and easy to get along with.
- b. The Chairman must be well versed in the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., Parliamentary Procedure, Robert's Rules of Order, The Judicial Code of Conduct for the Church Of God In Christ, and the Rules and Regulations of the General Council of Pastors and Elders.
- c. Have a thorough knowledge of the Jurisdiction's program as outlined by the Jurisdictional Bishop.
- d. Have a thorough knowledge of leadership, ministry and management from a biblical context.
- e. Have ample time in the Church Of God In Christ and the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, thus conditioned by the spirit of this Church.
- f. Have a long-term record of supporting the leadership and programs of the Church Of God In Christ, also one who insists upon the same from others.
- g. He must be in good standing in the local, district, jurisdictional and national Church.

#### **2. Election and Tenure**

- a. The Chairman shall be elected by a majority vote of the Council (of those members present and voting at the time of the election).
- b. The Chairman tenure may run current with that of the Administration, or every four years as outline in the Council Rules and Regulation or in the case of his Episcopal elevation, resignation, incapacitation, removal for cause as outlined in the official manual of the Church Of God In Christ or death and the qualification and election of his successor.

#### **3. Duties and Responsibilities**

- a. As a Council of the Organization / Jurisdiction, it is there to assist the general body in its mission and purpose, the Chairman of the Jurisdictional Council of Pastors and Elders must assist in the responsibility for the synchronization of the programmatic efforts of the Jurisdiction's operations, thus avoiding liabilities to the Church Of God In Christ.

- b. The Chairman of the Jurisdictional Council must be responsive to the Jurisdictional directions and faithful to Jurisdictional Affairs as outlined by the Jurisdictional Bishop, as he is directed by the General Church.
- c. The Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the Jurisdictional Council, in accordance with the rules of Parliamentary Law, Robert's Rules of Order and the rules of the Jurisdictional & General Council of Pastors and Elders.
- d. The Chairman shall be responsible for implementing all decisions made by the Jurisdictional Council, except where the Constitution of the Church Of God In Christ expresses otherwise.
- e. The Chairman shall preside over all Jurisdictional Trials unless there is a conflict of interest in which case he shall recuse himself.
- f. The Chairman shall have power and authority to appoint standing committees as are provided for in these rules.
- g. The Chairman shall have power and authority to call special meetings of the Jurisdictional Council as are provided for in the rules.
- h. The Chairman shall assist the Jurisdictional Bishop in coordinating the National/Jurisdiction's program through the members of the Jurisdictional Council.
- i. The Chairman shall promote the National/Jurisdictional program enthusiastically as directed by the Jurisdictional Bishop.
- j. The Chairman shall attend all National/Jurisdictional functions designated to be required, representing the Jurisdictional Council and be receptive to the General Church programs.
- k. The Chairman shall be receptive and responsive to the needs and welfare of all members of the Jurisdictional Council, working with the Jurisdictional Bishop to accomplish a positive end.
- l. The Chairman shall have the power and authority to appoint and remove officers (not elected Council officers) to serve in the Jurisdictional Council, with consultation and approval of the Jurisdictional bishop

The Chairman must be able to:

Influence and motivate the interest of all members of the Council to the Church's program.

Identify with every phase and/or segment of the Jurisdiction's operation.

Provide for a broader involvement of the Pastors and Elders, which will enhance Jurisdictional participation.

Identify trends and categorize those trends as favorable or unfavorable to the welfare of the Jurisdiction and Church.



Be instant in directing energy to offset unfavorable trends and enterprising in maximum usage of favorable trends to benefit the Jurisdictional Mission and purpose.

The Chairman shall work with the Jurisdictional Bishop to insure harmony and support in the Jurisdiction for the vision of the Jurisdiction as provided by the Jurisdictional Bishop.

The Chairman shall be a Signer on all-official document of the Jurisdictional Council.

The Chairman shall serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Jurisdictional Council.