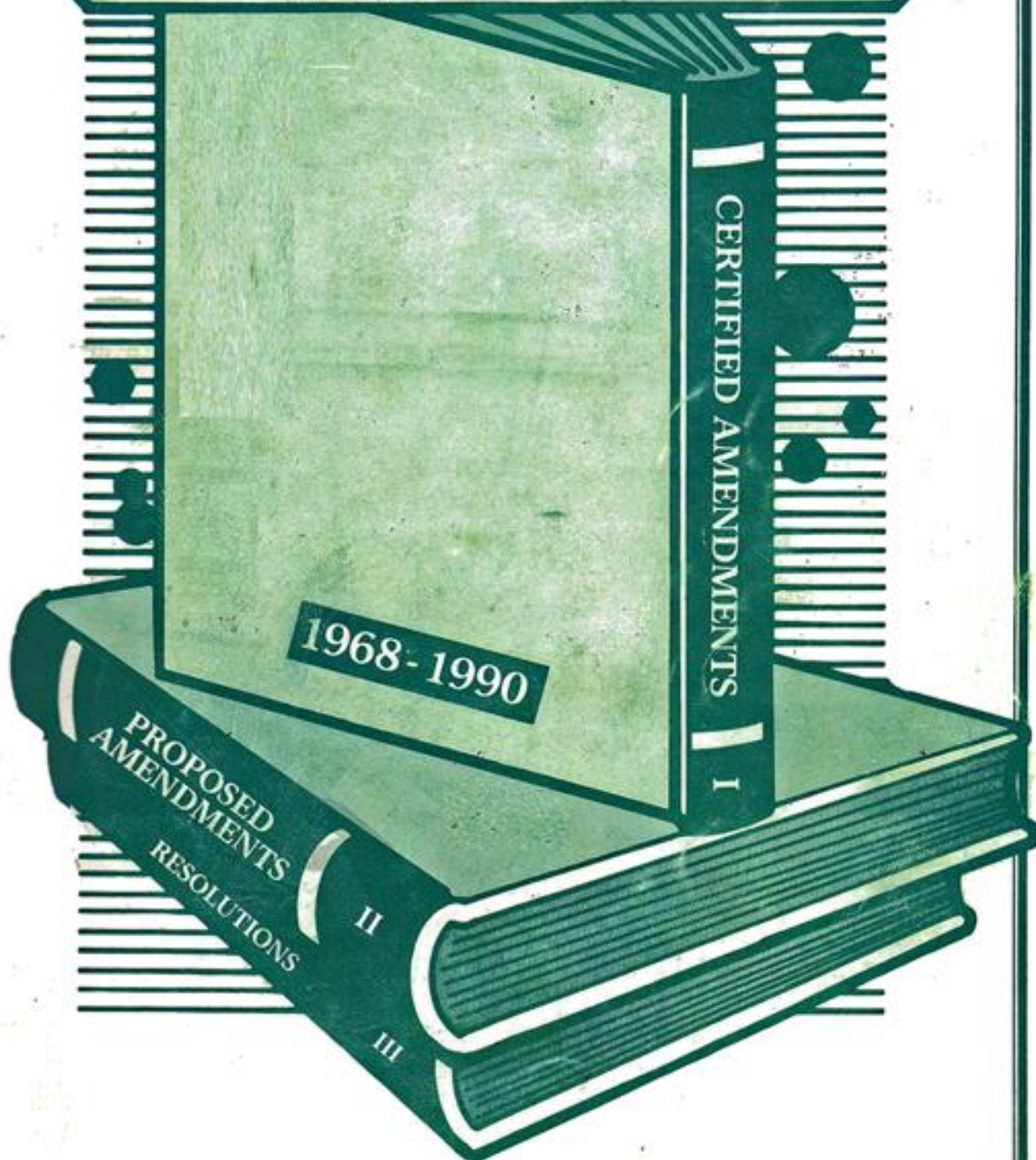


**CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.**  
**MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE**



**Bishop G.R. Ross, General Secretary**  
**Bishop Louis Henry Ford, Presiding Bishop**

## PREFACE

The Office of the General Secretary feels gratified to present for the first time, a comprehensive list of Certified Amendments, Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., and Resolutions Passed by the General Assembly from 1968 to 1990. This most recent production is indicative of the design of the Office of the General Secretary to assure that the officialdom and constituency of the Church of God in Christ are thoroughly equipped with adequate knowledge of General Assembly transactions to deal with the progress and governance of our great Church in this changing age and highly termological society.

The adequacy of this volume has been certified by the fact that the drafts have been carefully scrutinized, edited and verified to assure their accuracy.

The Office of the General Secretary wishes to express its gratitude to the Presiding Bishop L. H. Ford and the General Board for the profound leadership of our Church. A debt of gratitude is owed to those General Assembly Chairmen and Officers who have steered the deliberate assemblies in adjudicating the proceedings subscribed herein. The most recent Chairman, Dr. Frank Ellis has been quite supportive and encouraging in this endeavor Bishop Roy L. H. Winbush deserves a special kind of thanks for his guidance and assistance. Elder Jerry Macklin with his professional acumen has been indispensable in this production. Bro. Eddie Allen rendered invaluable service in editing and proofing. Ms. Christina Edwards, Computer Specialist deserves special recognition for services rendered.

Thanks to others who might have in some way made a contribution.

This production is designed for the use of Bishops, Supervisors, National Officials, Pastors, Elders, Ministers, Missionaries and Lay Members of the General Church. It should be used and restricted to that purpose and should not be released to any persons or groups without authorization.

Bishop G. R. Ross  
General Secretary

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## **PART I**

### **CERTIFIED AMENDMENTS**

(Filed With the Secretary of the State of Tennessee)

## **1952 Amendment to the Charter**

We, the ministers and members of the Church of God in Christ, who hold the Holy Scriptures as contained in the Old and New Testaments as our rule of faith and practice, in accordance with the principles of our faith and government, do hereby amend and modify our By-laws and Constitution, to-wit: All former Articles and Constitution shall be modified to amend as follows:

### **ARTICLE I CHANGE OF NAME**

That the Corporate name of this Corporation shall be “CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST,” and that the Headquarters shall be 958 South Fifth Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

### **ARTICLE 2 SENIOR BISHOP**

Nothing in this Constitution shall operate to deprive Bishop C. H. Mason, 1121 Mississippi Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, the present Chief Apostle, Founder and Senior Bishop, of the authority he now holds as Chief Apostle of the Church of God in Christ.

### **ARTICLE 3 LOCAL CHURCHES**

The membership of the Local Church shall consist of all who have been set in order as a church by those authorized to do so, after having declared their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior, and their belief in our doctrines, and their willingness to submit to our government. Local Churches may be set in order by the overseer having jurisdiction, or an Elder authorized by him.

### **ARTICLE 4 ORGANIZATION OF CHURCHES**

When it seems clear to a State Overseer that a church set in order should not continue as such, it may be disorganized by him and his Board. In case a local church becomes disorganized, any such property that exists may in no way be diverted to other purposes, but shall pass to the control of the State Board for the use of the Church at large as the State Board shall direct, and the Trustees holding such property for the disorganized church, shall sell or dispose of the same only on order, and under the direction of the appointed agent or the State Board and turn over such funds to said agent.

No Board of Trustees may divert property from the use of the “Church of God in Christ,” No Board of Trustee shall refuse the pulpit or the use of a local “Church of God in Christ,” for religious or other purposes to a duly authorized officer of the General Assembly or his representative or representatives.

### **ARTICLE 5 WITHDRAWAL OF CHURCHES**

No local church may withdraw as a body from the “Church of God in Christ” or in any way sever the relation thereto, except by provision of the General Assembly

ARTICLE 6  
CREDENTIALS OF DELEGATES

Secretaries of the several State Assemblies shall furnish certificates of elections of the delegates severally elected to the General Assembly, and shall also send a certificate of such election to the General Assembly, Secretary of the Church.

ARTICLE 7  
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the only doctrine expressing, and law-making authority of the Church. The General Assembly shall be composed of a Chairman, Ordained Elders, Board of State Overseers, Board of Bishops, and such lay delegation as the General Assembly may promote.

The General Assembly shall meet annually at the time and place designated by the Board of Bishops. The General Assembly shall elect by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, two or more Bishops who shall hold office during good behavior, and shall have general supervision of the Church, and who shall compose the Board of Bishops; provided, however, that Bishop C. H. Mason, the present Senior Bishop, shall retain his present power and authority during his life-time, but upon his death said authority shall revert to the Board of Bishops.

The General Assembly shall elect a general Board composed of ten members or more who shall be trustees in trust for the Corporation, and shall compose the Board of Home and Foreign Missions, Publications, Church Extension, Education and Ministerial Relief. Said Board shall transact all business affairs of the Church, and any other matters that may properly come before it, subject to the approval of the Board of Bishops.

Said Board shall be presided over by one of the Bishops. The General Assembly shall be presided over by one of the Bishops. The General Assembly shall be presided over by the Bishops jointly and severally. The General Assembly shall elect its other officers, and organize itself for the transactions of its business according to its wisdom and pleasure.

The General Assembly shall elect a General Secretary, who shall hold office during good behavior, and who shall be the Secretary of the General Assembly, and the Board of Bishops. The General Assembly shall elect a General Treasurer, who shall hold office during good behavior. The General Assembly shall elect by lot from among the male elders of the Church, as many Bishops as it may deem necessary, who shall hold office during good behavior, and who shall constitute the Board of Bishops, provided, however, that they shall be appointed by the present Senior Bishop during his life-time, but upon his decease, they shall be elected by the General Assembly, as provided in this Constitution.

ARTICLE 8  
EXTRA SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The Board of Bishops or a majority thereof shall have the power to call an extra session of the General Assembly, in case of emergency, and to fix the time and place thereof.

ARTICLE 9  
POWERS AND RESTRICTIONS  
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The power and authority of the General Assembly to legislate for the Church. to make such rules and regulations over all the departments as it may deem best, is limited by the following restrictions:

- a.) It shall not set aside or change any of our articles of faith, nor shall it establish any new doctrines contrary to the doctrines that now exist in the church,
- b.) The General Assembly shall not abolish our representative form of government nor the General Superintendency, nor deprive it of any of the authority given it by this Constitution.
- c.) No person shall be seated in the General Assembly who has not been duly elected as a delegate or an alternate by a recognized State Assembly of the Church of God in Christ.

The General Assembly shall not deprive our ministers or members of a fair orderly trial or appeal in case of conviction.

#### ARTICLE 10 RULES OR ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly shall adopt rules of order governing its manner of organization, procedure, committees, and all other matters pertaining to the conduct of its business. It shall be the judge of the elections qualifications of its own members.

#### ARTICLE 11 OVERSEERS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

The overseer will be appointed by the Senior Bishop and may be removed for cause, by the Senior Bishop or his appointee.

The Overseer shall have general supervision of the Church of God in Christ, in their respective State. The Overseers, jointly and severally shall appoint, ordain those who have been elected to be Elders. The Overseers may organize, re-organize local churches. The Overseer presiding over the State Assembly, shall assign Pastors to the several charges within the bounds of his jurisdiction.

The Overseers may appoint District Superintendents over the several districts within their jurisdiction. The Overseer presiding over the State Assembly shall decide all questions of order subject to an appeal to the General Assembly, but all questions of law shall be decided by the General Assembly.

#### ARTICLE 12 BOARD OF BISHOPS

The Bishops shall organize as a Board and shall arrange for an assignment to the members thereof, the work over which they shall have special jurisdiction. The Board of Bishops shall have supervision of all boards and the plans adopted by any Board must have the approval of the Board of Bishops.

The Board of Bishops shall constitute a Board to arrange courses of study for licensed ministers. The Board of Bishops shall have the power to do anything else in the service of the Church not otherwise provided for, according to their wisdom and in harmony with the Constitution of the Church.

#### ARTICLE 13 DEPARTMENTS WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

There will be a Women's Department in the General Assembly, State and Local.

There will be a National Supervisor or Mother working in harmony with the National

Board during good behavior, who will organize this department according to the rule and regulation of the General Board of the General Assembly.

There will be a State Supervisor or Mother working in harmony with the State Overseer, and Board, during good behavior, who will organize this department according to the rules and regulation of the General Board and General Assembly

There will be various auxiliaries in local churches, namely, Bible Band, Sewing Circle, Home and Foreign Mission, Purity Class, Sunshine Band etc. under the supervision of women during good behavior, who will work in harmony with Pastor and said Church, and rules and regulations of said General Assembly.

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

There will be a Sunday School Department for the training or enlightening of our children and adults in scriptural understanding.

There will be a National, State and Local Superintendent, who will hold office during good behavior, who also will organize the same, according to the rules and regulations of the General Assembly.

#### DEPARTMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE

There will be an auxiliary for the youth of our church, namely: Young People's Willing Worker

There will be a National, State and Local President, who will hold office during good behavior, who also will organize same according to the rules and regulations of the General Assembly.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOME AND FOREIGN MISSION

There will be a National President, Executive Secretary and Treasurer and Board of Directors, male and female.

These various departments will work according to rules and regulations of said General Church. Said National Officers to be appointed by Senior Bishop.

### ARTICLE 14

#### TRUSTEES OF LOCAL CHURCHES

All Trustees of Local Church property shall be members of the "Church of God in Christ," In all cases where the law requires a special mode of election of Church trustees, that mode shall be strictly followed. Where no particular mode or election is required by law, the trustee shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the Church, or a meeting called for the purpose, announcement for such meeting having been given.

Before real estate is purchased for the use of the local church, the Trustees shall see that the church in all places where the law will permit is incorporated, and that the Articles of Incorporation shall provide that the local church be subject to the Government of "Church of God

in Christ,” as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Assembly of said Church, and that the business affairs of the church shall be managed by a Board of Trustees elected and organized according to the provisions of said government.

Such articles shall further provide that such corporation shall have power to acquire, hold, sell and convey property both real and person. When this is done, all property acquired shall be deeded directly to the Church in its corporate name. It is required that all deeds conveying church property shall contain the following clause:

“In Trust that said premises shall be maintained and dispose of as a place of worship for the ministry and membership of the “Church of God in Christ,” subject to the doctrine, laws and usages of said Church as from time to time declared by the General Assembly of said Church.”

In no case may the Trustees mortgage or encumber the real estate to meet the current expenses of the church, and they may in no case transfer the real estate of the church without the written consent of the Church,, and the written consent of the Overseer, having jurisdiction, for their faithfulness to their trust they shall be amenable to the local church to which they shall make annual report.

## ARTICLE 15 TRIALS

Deacons of the Local Church shall be appointed and removed by the Pastor Local churches may be tried and disorganized in the manner as herein after set for, when charged with any of the following offenses and found guilty:

Persistently violating the provisions of the law enacted by the General Assembly or refusing to conform to the legal requirements of the constituted authorities of the Church.

Sustaining and supporting a Pastor who teaches doctrines contrary to the articles of Faith of our church.

Sanctioning immoral practices by members and refusing to take legal steps prescribed by the constitution for the trial of persons charged with the commission of such offenses;

When any local church by official act or declaration or by non-performance of any of the official duties imposed upon it by the government of this church as found in our constitution, by-laws, shall offend in any of the foregoing particulars, any member of such church, with the consent of the Bishop having jurisdiction, may file a complaint with the State Board, charging that such church has committed one or more of the foregoing offenses; thereupon, the State Overseer may appoint a court of five Elders to summon witnesses, to hear evidence on behalf of the prosecution and the defense, and to render judgment in the case.

Twenty days before the trial of such church, the time of which shall be fixed by the court written notice shall be served upon the church board of the Church against which complaint is made; such notice shall give the time and place of such trial, and shall contain a correct copy of the complaint and other charges stated therein.

The Church so charged shall have the right to be represented by counsel at the trial, such counsel to be a member in good standing of the “Church of God in Christ.” The State Board shall appoint an Elder of the Church to conduct the prosecution.

In case the Church so charged shall be found guilty by the court it shall be disorganized by the State Overseer and Board, unless it satisfies the members of the Board that it repents of its

evil way, and will conform to the government and faith of our Church, and recognize the constituted authorities of the Church.

All members of the churches convicted as above who repent or disclaim their guilt of the offenses for which said church may be disorganized,, shall be entitled to letters in good standing by the Overseer and may unite with other churches of our faith and order.

Members of local churches shall be tried by the Pastor and the local church with the right appeal to the State Board, whose decision shall be final. An ordained Elder shall be tried by the State Board with the right of appeal to the General Council. A State Supervisor likewise will have the same right of appeal.

### THE ELIGIBILITY OF ELDERS

The certificate of credentials of an Elder are valid only as long as his life adores the Gospel of Christ, and his teachings are in harmony with the Church of God in Christ. Any Elder, Evangelist, or member acting as pastor of a church, who teaches contrary doctrines, or causes dissension, or in any way proves his inability as a Pastor, may be removed by a State Overseer of a General Board, and another appointed in his place.

All charges against an Elder shall be in writing, signed by his accuser or accusers. He shall be allowed counsel which counsel shall be a member of the “Church of God in Christ”. Should the counsel be guilty of improper conduct, the court may refuse to hear him, and also punish him. In case the Elder so accused by found guilty by the unanimous judgment of the Court, after having been tried, according to the rules of evidence, judgment of the court shall be pronounced; such judgment may take the form of expulsion from the church and ministry, or that suspension for a limited time from his membership and ministry.

The trial of an Overseer will be the same as an Elder with the exception, He shall be tried before the Board of Bishops with the right to of an appeal to the General Assembly.

The trial of a Bishop shall be that of an Elder with these exceptions: He shall be tried before the General Council with the right of an appeal to the General Assembly All trials shall be held according to the following scriptures: Duet. 17:6; 1 Tim. 5:19; 2Cor. 13:1.

### ARTICLE 16 LOCAL MINISTERS

A member of a local church to be licensed to preach must first be recommended to the Overseer having jurisdiction, by his pastor and the church. Only an ordained minister may administer water baptism, or the ordinances of the church.

A licensed minister shall be tried by the pastor and church of which he is a member, with the right of appeal to the Overseer or State Board.

### ARTICLE 17

We believe that governments are God-given institutions for the benefit of mankind. We admonish and exhort our members to honor magistrates, and the powers that be , and to respect and obey the civil laws.

We hereby and herewith declare our loyalty to the President and the Constitution of the United States, and pledge fidelity to the flag for which the Republic stands but as God-fearing, peace- loving and law-abiding people, we claim only our inheritance as American citizens

namely: to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience.

We believe that the shedding of human blood, or the taking of human life, is contrary to the teachings of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. and as a body, we are averse to war in all its forms.

## ARTICLE 18 AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The provisions of this Constitution may be altered or amended by two-third majority vote of all the members of the General Assembly present and voting, with the exception of Section a, b, and c of the Article 9 of this Constitution. As soon as alterations or amendments shall have been adopted as herein before provided, the result of the vote shall be announced by the General Secretary whereupon, such alterations or amendments shall have full force and effect.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Approved by Eider C. H. Mason, Senior Bishop, Overseer, U. E. Miller Gen. Sec.

Board of Directors: Bishop C. H. Mason, Senior Bishop, Bishop A. B. McEwen, Bishop U. S. Bailey Bishop O.M. Kelly, Bishop O. T. Jones, Elder J. O. Patterson, Bishop S. M. Crouch, Bishop Chas. Pleas, Bishop V M Barker, Bishop C E. Bennett, Bishop D. Bostick, Overseer W. 3. Shipman, Chairman-Elders Council, Overseer A. M. Cohen, Treasurer, Overseer U. E. Miller, General Secretary.

Certified by James H, Cummings, Secretary of State. Tennessee, December 5th, 1952.

## **1968 AMENDMENT TO CHARTER OF INCORPORATION**

At a meeting of the General Assembly of the CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, and in Constitutional Convention duly called and held at the office of said Corporation in Memphis Tennessee, on the 2nd day of February, 1968, the following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, the Constitution and By-laws of the Church of God in Christ have not been amended, modified, or supplemented since December 1952; and

WHEREAS, it is claimed from time to time that the Constitution has been altered by virtue of custom, usage, and practice; and

WHEREAS, since 1952, the Church of God in Christ has witnessed the demise of its Chief Apostle, Founder, and Senior Bishop, C. H. Mason; and

WHEREAS, the 1952 Constitution in Article 7 thereof provided that Senior Bishop Mason would retain his present power and authority during his life time and upon his death said authority would revert to the Board of Bishops; and

WHEREAS, the Church of God in Christ has witnessed since 1952, as well as since the death of Bishop C. H. Mason, a great growth in its membership, its Pastors, Bishops new Departments and physical structure; and

WHEREAS, the 1952 Constitution fails to speak in many areas in which the Church has grown spiritually, administratively, financially and numerically; and

WHEREAS, the financial structure of the Church of God in Christ may have been adequate in the beginning but is wholly inadequate today because the rapid development, progress, and expanding needs of the Church demand that the National Church be self-sustaining; and

WHEREAS, there has developed a controversy with respect to where the authority and leadership of the Church of God in Christ is placed by its 1952 Constitution since the death of Senior Bishop Mason; and

WHEREAS, ON THE 29TH DAY OF October, 1967, in a Consent Decree entered in Cause 69683-2 R. D., Chancery Court of Shelby County, Tennessee, the parties to the controversy acknowledged "that the ultimate question is Where The Authority of the Church of God in Christ is Placed By Its Constitution", and further the parties recognize and agree that the ultimate solution of these questions and all related chancellery questions should be determined by the General Assembly of the Church of God in Christ in a Constitutional Convention called for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, such Constitutional Convention is now convened, pursuant to the Settlement Decree heretofore referred to, on the date stated by Chancellor Rond in his Order, for the purpose of resolving the ultimate issue of authority and responsibility within the Church as well as to modernize the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ in the light of its national and international growth spiritually, administratively, and numerically;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Constitution and By-laws of the Church of God in Christ be amended as follows:

1. That the General Assembly is the only doctrine-expressing and law-making authority of the Church;

2. That a General Board of twelve (12) Bishops be elected for a term of four (4) years by the General Assembly form the Board of Bishops to conduct the executive and administrative affairs of the Church between meetings of the General Assembly; and

3, That the General Assembly elect for a term of years from the General Board a Presiding Bishop. The Presiding Bishop shall be the Chief Executive Officer and would be empowered to conduct the executive affairs of the Church of God In Christ between meetings of the General Assembly and the General Board, with the limitation that the action of the Presiding Bishop would be subject to the approval of a majority of the General Board and the General Assembly;

4. That neither the presiding Bishop nor any other member of the General Board can serve at the same time as an Officer of the General Assembly, the General Council, or the Board of Bishops.

5. That all civil officers of the Corporation known as the Church of God in Christ shall be elected by a majority vote of the members of the General Assembly, present and voting, and ecclesiastically, the heads of departments of the Church of God in Christ shall be appointed by the General Board for a term of years, provided such are approved by a majority of the General Assembly present and voting.

6. That the office of Senior Bishop and Executive Board of Bishops be abolished.

7. That any Amendment to the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ that is inconsistent with the Amendment herein is hereby repealed.

WE, Bishop A. B. McEwen, Bishop J. S. Bailey, and Bishop J.O. Patterson, the President, Vice- President, and Secretary, respectively, of the Church of God in Christ, a Corporation, chartered and organized by and under the laws of the State of Tennessee, in pursuance to the directions from the Board of Directors of said Corporation, hereby certify that at a meeting of the General Assembly of said Corporation, legally called and held at the office of said Corporation, in the City of Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee, the within and foregoing Amendments to the Charter, Constitution, and By-Laws were adopted by an affirmative vote of the members of the General Assembly, representing more than two-thirds majority vote of all of the members of the General Assembly, present and voting, declaring the desire of the members of the said General Assembly of said Corporation to amend the Charter, Constitution, and By-Laws of said Corporation, as set out hereinabove, and said Amendments were duly entered in the minutes of said Corporation.

NOW, THEREFORE, we hereby certify the fact of the Adoption of said Amendments by the members of the General Assembly of said Corporation for the purposes set out to the end that this certificate may be duly recorded in the office of the Secretary of State.

WITNESS our hands this 2nd day of February, 1967.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>President- Bishop A. B. McEwen, Vice President-Bishop J S. Bailey, Secretary. Bishop J.O, Patterson.

Certified by Joe & Carr, Secretary of State, Tennessee, February 23rd, 1968

**1972 AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER OF THE  
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST  
DECLARATION OF FAITH AND PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Church of God in Christ, hold the Holy Scriptures as contained in the Old and New Testaments of our Bible as a rule of our Faith and Practice. We believe that Governments are God-Given Institutions for the Benefit of mankind. We admonish and exhort our members to honor magistrates and civil authorities and to respect and obey civil laws.

We hereby declare our loyalty to the President of the United States of America and to the Constitution of the United States of America. We pledge allegiance and fidelity to the flag, and to the Republic for which it stands.

However, as God-fearing, peace-loving, and law-abiding people, we claim our heritage and natural right to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience. Therefore, we abhor, war, for we believe that the shedding of human blood or the taking of human life is contrary to the teachings of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And, as a body of Christian believers, we are adverse to war in all of its forms, and believe in the peaceful settlement of all International disputes.

With pride and gratitude we dedicate and commemorate this revision of the Charter, to the memory and honor of the beloved Founder and Chief Apostle of our Church, the late Bishop C. H. Mason, whose vision and wisdom played an indispensable part in developing the principles and precepts upon which our great Church has been built.

And, in order to more effectively carry on the program and work of our Church, we do hereby amend and modify our Charter, as set out hereinafter, and repeal the provisions of all former Charters, Rules, Regulations, Practices, and Usages, inconsistent herewith.

**ARTICLE I - NAME OF CORPORATION**

The corporate name of the Church shall be CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

**ARTICLE II - NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
AND PRINCIPAL OFFICES**

The National Headquarters and Principal Offices of the said Church shall be located at 958 Mason Street, in the city of Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee.

**ARTICLE III - STRUCTURE OF CHURCH, CIVIL AND  
ECCLESIASTICAL**

**Part I- Civil Structure**

The civil officers of the corporation shall be President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Assistant-Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and such other officers as the corporation shall establish.

A. The President shall preside at all meetings and shall have general supervision of the business affairs of the corporation and shall make an annual report of the status and condition of the corporation to its Board of Directors. The President shall sign all certificates, contracts, deeds and

other instruments of the corporation. During the absence or disability of the President, the First Vice- President shall exercise all the powers and discharge all the duties of the President.

B. The Second Vice-President shall exercise all the functions of the President in the absence or disability of the President and the First Vice-President.

C. The Secretary shall keep minutes of all meetings; shall have charge of the seal and corporate books and shall make such reports and perform such other duties as are required of him by the corporation, and shall sign all certificates, contracts, deeds, and other instruments of the corporation.

D. The Assistant Secretary shall perform the duties of the Secretary in his absence, or disability as directed by the Corporation.

E. The Treasurer shall have custody of all monies and securities of the Corporation and shall keep regular books of account. He shall disburse the funds of the corporation in payment of the just demands against the corporation or as may be ordered by the corporation. From time to time as may be required of him he shall make an accounting of all his transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition.

F. The Assistant Treasurer shall perform duties of the Treasurer in his absence, disability, or as directed by the corporation.

G. The officers of the corporation shall hold offices until their successors are duly elected and qualified.

H. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once each year, but special meetings may be called if and when the same may become necessary,

## Part II- Ecclesiastical Structure

Ecclesiastically, the Church of God in Christ shall be composed of (A) the General Board, (B) General Assembly, (C) Board of Bishops, (D) Women's Department, (E) General Council, (F) Jurisdictional Assemblies, and Local Churches.

### SECTION A. THE GENERAL BOARD, ITS ORGANIZATION, POWERS AND DUTIES.

I. The General Assembly shall elect from among the Jurisdictional Bishops, twelve Bishops who shall comprise and be designated as the General Board and they shall be Ex Officio Directors of the Corporation. From the twelve members of the General Board, the General Assembly shall elect a presiding Bishop. The decisions of the General Board shall be final unless the same are overruled, amended, repealed, or modified, by the General Assembly

A. The Presiding Bishop shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Church of God In Christ. The Presiding Bishop shall preside over all sessions of the General Board and shall have the power and authority to conduct the executive functions of the Church of God in Christ when neither the General Board nor the General Assembly is in session; all such action taken by the Presiding Bishop shall be subject to the approval by a majority of the members of the General Board and subject to the will of the General Assembly.

B. The Presiding Bishop shall select the First and Second Assistant Presiding Bishops from among the elected members of the General Board, subject to the approval of the General Assembly The First and Second Presiding Bishops shall hold their respective offices for the term for which they were elected.

C. The First and Second Assistant Presiding Bishops shall aid and assist the Presiding Bishop in discharging his executive functions, and shall serve in their respective order if, for any

reason, the Presiding Bishop does not serve, is unable to serve, until the position is filled by the General Assembly at one of its regular or special sessions.

D. The Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board and subject to the General Board and subject to the will of the General Assembly shall perform all executive duties and specifically shall perform the following duties:

1. Take action upon petitions, request, complaints, and other matters referred to him by the General Assembly, Jurisdictional Assembly, Departments of the Church of God in Christ, or members of the Church of God in Christ.

2. Appoint all Departmental Heads and all National Officers in accordance with the terms and provisions of this Constitution.

3. Appoint all Bishops of Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions and Foreign Jurisdictions from among the roster of qualified elders of the Church of God in Christ. Pastors of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction for which a Bishop shall be appointed can recommend to the General Board the name or names of elders to be considered for the position of Jurisdictional Bishop.

4. Supervise and direct all departments of the Church.

5. Execute the decisions of the General Board and the General Assembly.

E. The General Board shall have the power to exercise all other powers, expressed or implied, which shall be necessary and proper to carry out the foregoing executive functions, and all other powers vested in it by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Church of God in Christ, and all actions taken shall be subject to the will of the General Assembly

F. A General Secretary shall be elected by the General Assembly The General Secretary shall be the Secretary of the General Assembly and the Secretary of the General Church.

1. The General Secretary shall be authorized to appoint the necessary assistants to aid and assist him in carrying out the proper functions of the office of the General Secretary.

2. The General Secretary shall be authorized to appoint and/or establish a secretarial staff for the operation of the Office of the General Secretary.

G. A Financial Secretary shall be elected by the General Assembly The Financial Secretary shall maintain a record of all financial reports, funds taken in and disbursed, and he shall perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the General Assembly.

1. The Financial Secretary shall be authorized to appoint a person to assist him in carrying out the duties and functions of his office.

2. The Financial Secretary shall be authorized to establish a clerical staff to aid and assist in the duties and functions of the Office of the Financial Secretary.

H. A Treasurer shall be elected by the General Assembly The Treasurer shall be the Treasurer shall be the Treasurer of the General Assembly, and the Treasurer of the General Church. He shall have custody of all monies and securities of the church and shall make an accounting of all his transactions as Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall be authorized to appoint a person to assist him in carrying out the duties and functions of his office.

I. All assistants appointed by the General Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer are subject to the approval of the Presiding Bishop and General Board.

J. The term of office of the General Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Treasurer shall run concurrently with that of the current administration.

2. The members of the General Board shall be elected for a term of four (4) years. The term shall be computed from the date of their election and qualification, and each member may hold office until his successor has been duly elected and qualified.

3. In the event a vacancy in the General Board occurs while the General Assembly is not in session, the remaining members of the General Board shall fill such vacancy until such time as the General Assembly shall be convened in regular or special session, at which time the General Assembly shall fill such position in the manner as herein provided. A vacancy in the office of the General Secretary, Financial Secretary, or Treasurer shall be filled in the same manner.

## SECTION B. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly is the supreme legislative and judicial authority of the Church of God in Christ. It is the only tribunal which has power to express the doctrines and creeds of the Church, and its decisions shall be binding on all members of the Church of God In Christ.

1. MEMBERSHIP. The following shall qualify as delegates to the General Assembly:
  - a.) Members of the General Board;
  - b.) Jurisdictional Bishops;
  - c.) Jurisdictional Supervisors of Women's Work;
  - d.) Pastors of Local Churches and Ordained Elders;
  - e.) Two (2) District Missionaries and one(1) Lay Delegate from each Jurisdictional Assembly; and
  - f.) Such foreign delegates as may be determined by the General Assembly in session.
2. ELECTION AND CERTIFICATION OF DELEGATES,
  - a.) Delegates to the General Assembly, except those designated in Section B. Subsection I, Subdivision a, b, and c, shall be elected by the Assemblies of their respective Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions.
  - b.) All delegates to the General Assembly except those designated in Section B, Subsection

I, Subdivision a, b, and c, shall be certified by their respective Jurisdictional Assemblies, and the secretaries of election. The secretary of each Jurisdictional Assembly shall send to the General Secretary a list of such certified delegates, which list shall be registered by the General Secretary, who shall then issue to the delegates certificates of registration.

- c.) Delegates qualifying under Section B, Subsection I, Subdivision a, b, c, shall be issued certificates of registration by the General Secretary after he has verified their respective offices.
- d.) Delegates to the General Assembly shall serve only for the session and time for which they were elected, or for only such time that they shall hold an office that qualifies them to serve as delegates to the General Assembly.
- e.) If a delegate, who has been elected by his Jurisdictional Assembly or, has qualified under Section B, Subsection I, Subdivision a, b, c, is refused a certificate of registration by the General Secretary, the delegate may appeal to the Committee on Credentials through the Chairman or any officer thereof. Upon the filing of such an appeal, the Chairman of the Credentials Committee shall forthwith convene a meeting of the Credentials Committee, which shall then act upon the delegate's claim. An adverse decision by the Credentials Committee may be appealed to the General Assembly, which is then in session, by filing an appeal with the presiding officer or assistant presiding officer thereof. Upon the filing of such appeal, the presiding officer of the General Assembly, shall convene a meeting of the General Assembly, which shall determine the issues presented by the delegate's appeal. The decision by majority vote of the members of the General Assembly present and voting shall be final and binding on all interested parties.
- f.) The Secretary of the Credentials Committee shall keep a record of its proceedings and file certified copies thereof with the Chairman of the General Assembly and the General Secretary of the Church.

3. OFFICERS. The following shall be officers of the General Assembly:

- a.) The first meeting, or session of the General Assembly, shall be called to order by a temporary chairman, who shall have been appointed by the General Board. A permanent chairman shall be elected by a majority vote of the delegates to the General Assembly, present and voting, and he shall hold office as chairman at all sessions of the General Assembly until its final adjournment. However, the permanent chairman shall have the right to appoint a presiding officer in his place and stead, in the event he need be excused, or temporarily relieved of office.
- b.) The financial Secretary and the Treasurer of the Church of God in Christ, shall be bonded, and in addition to duties set out hereinabove, perform such other duties as may be assigned to them by the General Assembly.
- c.) The General Assembly shall elect by majority vote of the members, present and voting, the following additional officers, to wit:
  - a.) Parliamentarian, who shall advise the Chairman as to points of parliamentary procedure;

- b.) Chaplain, who shall conduct devotional services of the General Assembly;
- c.) Sergeant at Arms, who shall keep and maintain order in all sessions of the General Assembly;
- d.) Statistician, who shall supervise, count, and report on all matters voted on by the General Assembly.

#### 4. MEETINGS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

- a.) The General Assembly shall meet annually during the National Convocation of the Church of God in Christ, not before Monday following the official Sunday, nor later than the Thursday following, unless approved by a majority of the delegates, present and voting, in the last regular session.
- b.) Special sessions of the General Assembly shall be called by the General Board by giving notice thereof, at least twenty-one (21) days prior to such special sessions, to all members of the Church of God in Christ, qualified to be delegates to the General Assembly, as provided by Subsection I of Section B hereinabove, stating the purpose of such special sessions. A special session of the General Assembly shall be convened for only the purpose, or purposes, set forth in the Notice calling such special session.
- c.) However, if the General Assembly is in session and has acted on any Constitutional Amendment, requiring a vacancy to be filled, the General Assembly, then in session, is authorized to fill such vacancy, or vacancies, without calling a special session thereof.

#### 5. RULES AND REGULATIONS,

- a.) The General Assembly shall adopt such rules of procedure and regulations governing the conduct of its business and its organization as it may deem necessary, proper, or expedient.
- b.) There can be no appeal from the decisions and determinations of the General Assembly.

#### 6. NATIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

- a.) The General Assembly shall elect from its membership and/or membership of the Church of God in Christ, a National Board of Trustees, which shall consist of not less than fifteen (15), and not more than thirty-one (31) members, and they shall hold office for four years or until their successors are duly elected and qualified.
- b.) The National Board of Trustees shall have and perform the following duties, to wit:
  - 1. It shall hold in trust for the use and benefit of members of the Church of God in Christ property committed to it by the General Board, the Board of Directors of the Corporation, or the General Assembly;

2. It shall hold in trust for the use and benefit of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. any assets, which shall become property of the church with or without proper legal designation, wither by gift, deed, will or otherwise;
3. It shall preserve, protect, secure, and maintain all property of the church, not otherwise provided for;
4. It shall determine and approve the budgetary needs of all national departments, units, auxiliaries, conventions and operations of the Church, which shall require the approval of the General Board and shall be subject to the General Assembly
5. It shall have the right and power to employ a maintenance superintendent and a custodial staff, who shall be under his supervision, to look after, maintain, and preserve, and protect the National Offices, buildings, and grounds of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., and the salaries of such employees' shall be approved by the General Assembly.

#### SECTION C. JURISDICTIONAL ASSEMBLIES

. Jurisdictional Assemblies are bodies of the Church of God in Christ composed of the Following members within, or affiliated with, designated Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions, to wit

- a.) Jurisdictional Bishops;
- b.) Supervisor of Women's Department;
- c.) All Pastor of Local Churches;
- d.) Ordained Elders;
- e.) District missionaries;
- f.) Jurisdictional Department Heads; and
- g.) One lay delegate elected from each Jurisdictional district.

2. Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions shall be determined, established, and dissolved by the General Board, without regard to geographical areas or subdivisions, subject to review by the General Assembly.

3. Jurisdictional Assemblies shall be presided over by their respective Bishops. Jurisdictional Assemblies shall have the right to adopt such laws and rules for their government as may be deemed necessary and proper, but shall not adopt any law, rule, or regulation in conflict with, or repugnant to the Charter, Constitution, laws, rules, and regulations of the General Church.

4. No person shall be elected as an officer of any Jurisdictional Assembly who is not in good standing and fellowship with the Church of God in Christ.

5. Jurisdictional Assemblies of the various Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions shall elect from their membership delegates to the General Assembly.

## SECTION D - LOCAL CHURCHES

I. The Local Church is the basic unit of the structural organization of the Church of God in Christ. Its membership shall consist of all who have been set in order as a Church by those authorized to do so after having first declared their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior and declared their faith and belief in the doctrines of the Church of God in Christ, and their willingness to submit to and abide by the government of the Church Of God in Christ. The Pastor of a local church shall be appointed by the Jurisdictional Bishop of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church.

2. A local church may be established or set in order by the Jurisdictional Bishop or his designee.

3. No local church shall have full status in the Church of God in Christ until it has been registered by its Jurisdictional Bishop in the office of the General Secretary, who shall then issue to the Jurisdictional Bishop a certificate of membership for the local church.

4. Neither a local church, whose Jurisdictional Bishop has not received a Certificate of Membership from the General Secretary of the Church, nor any member thereof, shall be entitled to enjoy the rights, and privileges of membership in the Church Of God in Christ.

5. A local Church, which has been accepted by the Church of God in Christ and issued a Certificate of Membership, shall not have the legal right or privilege to withdraw or sever its relations with the General Church, except by and with the permission of the General Assembly

6. A local Church in good standing and fellowship with the Church of God In Christ and whose certificate of Membership has not been suspended or revoked shall have the right to elect delegates to its Jurisdictional Assembly

7. A local Church may establish its own constitution and By-Laws, provided the same shall not be in conflict with or repugnant to, the Charter, Constitution, Laws, and Doctrines of the Church of God in Christ.

8. All trustees of local churches shall be members of the Church of God in Christ. In all cases where the law requires a special mode of election of Church Trustees, that mode must be followed. Trustees of local unincorporated Churches and their successors in office shall hold title to all real and personal property, for the use and benefit of the members of the Church, as provided in subsection nine (9) hereinafter. Where, however, the law requires no particular mode of election of trustees, they shall be elected by a majority of the members of the congregation, present and voting, in a regular or special business meeting of the church. All special meetings of the church shall be announced on a Sunday preceding the date of the meeting and shall state the purpose of the call and the time and place of the meeting.

9. Real estate or other property may be acquired by purchase, gift, devise, or otherwise by Local Churches. Where real or personal property is acquired by deed, the instrument of conveyance shall contain the following clause, to wit:

“The said property is held in trust for the use and benefit of the members of the Church of God in Christ with National Headquarters in the City of Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee, and subject to the Charter, Constitution, Laws, and Doctrines of said Church, now in full force and effect, or as they may be hereafter amended, changed, or modified by the General Assembly of said Church.”

10. The Officers and Trustees of a local church shall not mortgage church property in order to pay or meet current expenses of the church.

11. No deed, conveyance, or mortgage of real estate of a local Church shall be binding on the Church of God in Christ unless the execution of said instrument has been approved in writing by the Jurisdictional Bishop having jurisdiction over said local church.

12. Trustee, Deacons, and other officers of a local church shall make an annual report to the congregation thereof.

13. A member of a local church may be licensed to preach by his Pastor

14. A licensed Minister of a local Church shall be ordained by the following procedures:

- a.) He must first be recommended by his Pastor to the Ordination Committee of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of which his Church is an affiliate, and said Pastor shall present the credentials and qualifications of the candidate to said committee.
- b.) The credentials and qualifications of the candidate shall include his moral, spiritual fitness, and attested loyalty to the Church and he shall also be required to satisfactorily complete a prescribed course of study as recognized by the General Assembly
- c.) If the Committee approves the application of the Candidate after examination and investigation of his credentials and qualification, the candidate shall be recommended for ordination to his Jurisdictional Bishop.
- d.) If the Bishop approves, he shall thereupon ordain the applicant, who thereby becomes an Ordained Elder of the Church.

15. Only an ordained Elder may administer the Ordinances of the Church.

16. All credentials and certificates shall be uniform and shall be issued by the General Secretary to the Jurisdictional Bishops.

#### ARTICLE IV - JURISDICTIONAL BISHOPS

SECTION A. Jurisdictional Bishops, formerly known and referred to as Overseers or State Bishops, shall be appointed and removed by the Presiding Bishop with approval of the General Board. A Jurisdictional Bishop shall have the following qualifications, powers and duties:

1. The qualifications of a Jurisdictional Bishop shall be as follows:
  - a.) He must be an Ordained Elder of the Church.
  - b.) He must be in good standing with the Church.
  - c.) He must be a man of integrity, and he shall be dedicated to the work and service of the Church.
2. A Jurisdictional Bishop shall have the right to appoint and ordain Elders.
3. Each Jurisdictional Bishop shall be the representative of the Church of God in Christ in respect to all church matters in his Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and shall have general supervision over all departments and Churches in the Jurisdiction.
4. A Jurisdictional Bishop shall preside over the Jurisdictional Assembly in his Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and fix and determine the time and place of its meeting.
5. Each Jurisdictional Bishop shall have the right to appoint and/or remove District Superintendents, Departmental heads and all other State officials in his Ecclesiastical jurisdiction, unless otherwise provided for by this constitution,
6. A Jurisdictional Bishop shall hold office during good behavior and until his successor is duly appointed and qualified. However, if during his term of office, a Jurisdictional Bishop should die, or should become physically or mentally incapable of performing his duties as bishop, the Presiding Bishop of the Church, by and with the consent of the General Board, shall appoint his successor.

## SECTION B - FOREIGN BISHOPS

Foreign Bishops shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop by and with consent of the General Board to preside over Churches of the Church of God In Christ located in geographical areas outside of the continental United States of America, and not designated as one of the several states of the United States. The qualifications, powers, and duties of a Foreign Bishop shall be fixed and determined by the General Board.

## SECTION C - BOARD OF BISHOPS

All Bishops shall comprise and constitute the Board of Bishops.

1. The Board of Bishops shall elect from its membership a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer and other officers that the Board shall deem necessary and proper, and their term of office shall run concurrently with that of the administration.
2. The Board of Bishops shall aid and assist the General Board in matters referred to it by the General Board and report its findings to the General Board.
3. The Board of Bishops shall establish such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary and proper for the conduct of its business not inconsistent with the Constitution, and By-Laws of the Church,

## ARTICLE V - GENERAL COUNCIL

SECTION A. The General Council of the Church of God in Christ shall consist of all ordained elders who are in good standing with their local churches in the Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions of their respective Jurisdictional Assemblies, and the General Assembly, and it shall be organized and have the following duties, to wit:

1. The Officers of the General Council shall be as follows:
    - a.) Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and such other officers as it may deem necessary and proper, according to the provisions in the constitution; and the tenure of office shall run concurrently with that of the administration.
  2. It shall consider matters that are referred to it by the General Assembly, the General Board, Jurisdictional Assemblies, or by the Department of the Church, and shall make a report of its findings to appropriate organs of the Church.
  3. It shall serve as an Ecclesiastical Council to try, hear, and determine cases and all other matters referred to it under the Constitution or laws of the Church.
  4. It shall establish such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary and proper for the conduct of its business not inconsistent with the Constitution or Laws of the Church.
- It shall exercise all other powers and duties vested in it by the Charter, Constitution, and By-Laws of the Church.

## ARTICLE VI - DEPARTMENTS OF THE CHURCH

### SECTION A - WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT

There shall be a Women's Department in the General Church and in each Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

1. The Women's Department shall be under the supervision and direction of a National Supervisor, appointed by the Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board.

Her tenure of office shall run concurrently with that of the administration

2. The National Supervisor shall have the power to appoint and remove a Jurisdictional Supervisor, who shall supervise the work of the Women's Department in the Jurisdiction of her appointment. No such appointment or removal shall be made unless the same is consented to and approved by the Bishop presiding in the Jurisdiction and by the presiding bishop of the General Church.
3. The Jurisdictional Supervisors shall have the power to appoint and remove District Missionaries in the Jurisdiction of their appointment. No such appointment or removal shall be made unless the same is consented to by the Bishop presiding in that Jurisdiction.

4. The Women's Department shall supervise the following auxiliaries coming under its jurisdiction:

- a.) The Prayer and Bible Band;
- b.) The Young Women's Christian Council;
- c.) Purity Class;
- d.) Sunshine Band; and

5. Any other auxiliary National, State, or local, that the National Supervisor and/or General Board shall deem necessary for the Women's work.

The National Supervisor shall establish a National Executive office necessary for the operation and administration of the auxiliaries listed, She shall have the authority by and with the approval of the General Board.

6. A Jurisdiction Supervisor with the consent of the Jurisdictional Bishop shall have the authority to appoint or remove Jurisdictional Officers from such auxiliaries.

The Appointment and Removal of Local Officers of such auxiliaries shall be exercised by the Local Pastor

## SECTION B - THE SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

There shall be a Sunday School Department for training and enlightening children and adults in the scriptural understanding and doctrines of the Church of God in Christ,

1. The Sunday School Department shall be under the supervision and direction of a National Superintendent appointed by the Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board.

2. The Jurisdictional Bishop shall have the power to appoint or remove a Jurisdictional Superintendent of the Sunday School Department, who shall supervise the work of the Sunday School in the Jurisdiction of his appointment.

3. The Jurisdictional Superintendent of the Sunday School Department shall organize and set up the Sunday School Department at the Jurisdictional level by establishing Sunday School Districts therein, and shall supervise the Sunday School on the State and District levels,

Local Churches shall have local Superintendents of the Sunday Schools who shall be appointed by their respective Pastors. The removal of a local superintendent shall be done by the procedure as that of any other local, officer or member of the local church.

## SECTION C - THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT

There shall be a Young People's Department which shall be called the Young People's Willing Workers.

1. The Young People's Department shall be under the supervision and direction of a National President. The National President shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board. A Financial Secretary of the Young Peoples Department shall also be appointed by the Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board. Their term of office shall run concurrently with that of the Administration. The Presiding Bishop shall have the power to remove the National President and Financial Secretary of the Young People's Department with the approval of the majority of the General Board.

2. The Jurisdictional Bishop shall have the power to appoint and remove a Jurisdictional President of the Young People's Department.

3. The Jurisdictional President of the Young People's Department shall organize and set up the Young People's Department at the Jurisdictional level by establishing districts therein and shall establish the Young People's Department on the Jurisdiction and District level for the administration of the work of the Young People's Department on these levels, and shall supervise the work of the Young People's Willing Workers in the jurisdiction of his appointment.

4. Local Churches shall have local Presidents of the Young People's Department who shall be appointed by the respective Pastors. The removal of a local president shall be the same as that of any other local officer or member of the local church.

#### SECTION D HOME AND FOREIGN MISSION

There shall be a Department of Home and foreign Missions for the spiritual and doctrinal development of Missions in underdeveloped areas in both local and foreign territories.

I. There shall be a National President, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, and Board of Directors of said Department.

The Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board shall appoint or remove the National President. His tenure of office shall run concurrently with that of the Administration,

2. The Jurisdictional Bishop shall have the power to appoint or remove the Jurisdictional officers of the Home and Foreign Missions in the Jurisdiction of his appointment.

3. Local Churches shall have a Home and Foreign Missions Department whose officers shall be appointed and removed by the Local Pastor

#### SECTION E - DEPARTMENT OF EVANGELISM

There shall be a Department of Evangelism to carry on the Evangelical work and program of the Church.

I. There shall be a National President, Executive Secretary, Treasurer, and Board of Directors of said Department.

2. The Presiding Bishop with the approval of a majority of the members of the General Board shall appoint the officers of said Department, and shall have the right to remove any officer thereof by and with the approval of a majority of the members of the General Board,

3. Each Jurisdictional Bishop shall have the right to organize and set up a department of Evangelism in his Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and to appoint or remove the officers thereof,

## SECTION F - JURISDICTIONAL AND NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

I. All Jurisdictional meetings shall consist of Convocation and one Spring Workers meeting, or conference annually within each jurisdiction there shall be one District meeting per year per district. All Jurisdictional District meetings and conventions shall convene and terminate at the discretion of the Jurisdictional Bishop.

2. All National Departments and Auxiliary Conventions shall begin no sooner than Monday and end not later than the Saturday before the following Sunday.

## SECTION G - BOARD OF EDUCATION

There shall be a Board of Education to carry on and further the educational work and program of the Church. There shall be a President, Vice-President, and Secretary of the said Board. The tenure of office of its members and officers shall run concurrently with that of the Administration.

1. The Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board shall appoint members and officers of said Board, and shall have the right and authority to remove any member and officer thereof.

2. The removal of an officer of the Board of Education must be sustained by a majority vote of the General Board.

## SECTION H - BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS

There shall be a Board of Publications which shall be responsible for and have supervisory control over the literature, pamphlets, books periodicals, notices, and all other printed matters of the Church. The term of office of the members of said Board shall run concurrently with that of the Administration.

1. The Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board shall appoint the members and officers of said Board. The Presiding Bishop shall have the right to remove any officer or member thereof.

2. The removal of any officer or member of the Board of Publications must be sustained by a majority vote of the General Board.

## SECTION I - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

There shall be a Department of Public Relations, with an Executive Director to handle public relations of the Church of God in Christ as authorized by the Presiding Bishop and approved by the General Board. His term of office shall run concurrently with that of the Administration,

1. The Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board shall appoint or remove the Executive Director.

2. The Executive Director shall select his staff, but the size of such staff must be approved by the General Board.

## SECTION 1 - PASTORS OF LOCAL CHURCHES

The Pastor is the chief executive officer of the local Church and shall have the general oversight and supervision thereof.

1. The Pastor shall have the right to appoint or remove officers, of the local church and to administer his office in accordance with the Charter, Constitution, By-Laws, of the Church of God in Christ.

2. The Pastor shall be responsible for the Spiritual and Doctrinal guidance of the local church.

## ARTICLE VII - DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

The Church of God in Christ shall have the right and power to levy assessments and dues upon all of its members in such amounts, at such times and places, and upon such terms and conditions as the General Assembly shall determine.

SECTION A. The General Assembly shall adopt such rules of procedure for the payment and allocations of all assessments and dues received, and the disbursements of the same, as may appear to it to be for the best interest of the church.

SECTION B. The General Assembly shall have the right to require all departments to submit their budgets of their respective departments to the Board of Trustees for Examination and recommendation to it for each fiscal year at such times and places and under such circumstances as it may deem appropriate.

## ARTICLE VIII - CHURCH DISCIPLINE

### SECTION A. TRIALS OF LOCAL CHURCHES

1. Offenses for which a Church may be tried are as follows:
  - a.) Persistently violating the provisions of the Charter, Constitution and Rules, Laws and Regulations of the Church of God in Christ, or its Articles of Faith.
  - b.) Sustaining and supporting a Pastor who teaches or practices doctrines contrary or repugnant to the Articles of Faith of the Church of God in Christ.
  - c.) Sanctioning immoral practices of members and failing or refusing to take steps prescribed by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Church for trial of members charged with the commission of the foregoing offenses.

2. Procedures for trial.

a.) Any member of a local church, who has just cause to believe that the Church of which he is a member has committed any or all of the offenses enumerated hereinabove, may file a charge against the Church specifically setting out the acts and things complained of. The original charge shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of which the Church is a part, or with which it is affiliated, and copies thereof shall be filed with the Clerk or Secretary of the local Church and a copy thereof shall be filed in the office of the General Secretary.

b.) The Clerk of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction shall submit the charge to the Jurisdictional Bishop, who shall appoint an Investigating Committee of not less than three (3), nor more than five (5) members to examine the facts and ascertain whether there is reasonable grounds for having the Church brought to trial.

c.) The Investigating Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Jurisdictional Bishop. If the Investigating Committee determines that there is no merit to the charge and recommends that the charge be dismissed, the Jurisdictional Bishop shall thereupon dismiss the charge and send copies of the letter or order of dismissal to the principal parties.

d.) If, however, the Investigating Committee determines that the Church should be tried, it shall submit its recommendations to the Jurisdictional Bishop, who shall appoint an Ecclesiastical Council consisting of five (5) Pastors of the Jurisdiction to determine the merits of the complaint. Said Council shall give written notice to all interested parties and to the General Secretary of the time and place of the hearing at least twenty (20) days prior to the time the Ecclesiastical Council sets the cause down for trial.

e.) The Parties shall have the right to be represented by Counsel, who shall be members of the Church of God in Christ, but said Counsel may be advised by non-members of the church.

f.) The majority decision of the Ecclesiastical Council shall be necessary to sustain the charges.

g.) In the event the charges are not sustained, the complaint shall be dismissed. But, if the charges are sustained, the Council shall render its judgment or decision as follows:

1. It may order that the Church be placed on probation; or
2. It may order or recommend that the Church be given an opportunity to repent of its evil ways and agree to conform to the government and faith of the Church, recognized the Constitutional authorities of the Church, and specifically refrain from committing, in the future, any of the acts embraced in the charges; or
3. It may order that the Church reorganize; or
4. It may order that the Church be disorganized; or
5. It may order that the Pastor be suspended or removed from office; or

6. It may make such other orders or decisions as it may determine to be for the best interest of the Church of God in Christ.
- h.) The Jurisdictional Bishop shall execute the orders and decrees of the Ecclesiastical Council.
- i.) If and in the event a Church is disorganized, its property, real and personal shall pass to the Trustees of the Ecclesiastical Assembly and the officers of said Church, or Trustees thereof, who have the legal right to convey title, shall execute a Deed of Conveyance wherein the legal title to said property shall be vested in the Trustees of the Ecclesiastical Assembly, in trust, for the use and benefit of the members of the Church of God in Christ in the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church; but said Trustees shall not dispose of said property except by and with the written consent of the Jurisdictional Bishop and the Trustees of the General Church.

## SECTION B - TRIALS OF PASTORS OF LOCAL CHURCHES

1. A Pastor may be tried for the Commission of the following offenses, to wit:
  - a.) Repeated failure to abide by the laws, rules, and regulations of the Church of God in Christ;
  - b.) Misfeasance, malfeasance or nonfeasance, in office;
  - c.) Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude in a Court of Law;
  - d.) Espousing doctrines repugnant to the Articles of Faith of the Church of God in Christ;
  - e.) Personal Misconduct;
  - f.) Misappropriation or misuse of the funds of the Church;
  - g.) Conduct unbecoming a Minister of the Gospel.
2. The procedure for the trial of a Local Pastor shall be as follow:
  - a.) When a majority of the members of the Church of God in Christ having documented evidence that a Pastor of a local church has committed any or all of the offenses enumerated hereinabove, may file charges against such Pastor specifically setting out he acts and things complained of. The original copy of the charges shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of the Assembly of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of which the Church and Pastor are a part, or with which they are affiliated, and copies thereof shall be filed in the office of the General Secretary of the Church of God in Christ at its National Headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee.
  - b.) The Clerk of the Assembly of said Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction shall submit the charges to the Jurisdictional Bishop who shall appoint an Investigation Committee of not less than three (3), nor more than five (5) members, to examine the facts

and ascertain where there are reasonable grounds for having the Pastor brought to trial,

- c.) The Investigation Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Jurisdictional Bishop, and if it reports that the charges are without merit, the same shall be dismissed by the Jurisdictional Bishop, and notice of the dismissal shall be sent to all interested parties including the General Secretary.
- d.) If the Investigating Committee finds and determines that the Pastor should be tried, it shall submit its recommendations to the Jurisdictional Bishop, who shall refer the case to the Elders Council of the respective Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and the Secretary of the Elders Council shall give written notices to all principle parties and a copy of said notices shall also be filed in the office of the General Secretary at the National Headquarters, Memphis, Tennessee, and said notices shall be given at least twenty (20) days prior to the time the Elders Council shall set the matter down for trial.
- e.) The parties shall have the right to be represented by Counsel, who shall be members of the Church of God in Christ, but said counsel may be advised by non members of the Church.
- f.) Decisions of the members of the Elders Council by a majority vote shall be necessary to sustain the charges and find the Pastor guilty of committing the alleged offenses,
- g.) In the event the charges are not sustained, the complaint shall be dismissed. But, if the charges are sustained, it shall render its decision or enter a Decree, as follows:
  - 1. It may order that the Pastor be placed on probation; or
  - 2. It may suspend the Pastor for a definite period of time; or
  - 3. It may remove him from office and declare the pulpit vacant; or
  - 4. It may render such other decisions or decrees as justice may demand or as it may determine to be for the best interest of the Church of God in Christ.
- h.) In the event a Pastor is dissatisfied with the decision or decree of the Jurisdictional Elders Council, he may appeal to the General Council by filing notice of appeal with the Secretary thereof within thirty (30) days from the final decision of the Elders Council of the respective Jurisdiction.
- i.) The General Council shall review the case and render its decision by a majority vote of the delegates and members present and voting.
- j.) The Jurisdictional Bishop shall execute the orders and decrees of the General Council.

## SECTION C - TRIALS OF JURISDICTIONAL OFFICERS.

1. The Trial of Jurisdictional Officers, except Jurisdictional Bishops, shall be the same in all respects as that of a Pastor The decision of the Jurisdictional Assembly shall be final.

#### SECTION D - TRIAL OF ALL BISHOPS

1. Offenses for which a Bishop may be tried are as follows:
  - a.) Failure to abide by the laws, rules, and regulations of the Church of God in Christ;
  - b.) Misfeasance, Malfeasance, or Nonfeasance in office;
  - c.) Conviction of a felony or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude in any Court of Law;
  - d.) Abuse of the powers and prerogatives of a Bishop;
  - e.) Misuse of the funds or other property of the Church Of God in Christ or any department thereof;
  - f.) Failure to make an accounting and report of the funds of the Church if willful or malicious;
  - g.) Espousing doctrines contrary to the Articles of Faith, Precepts, and Tenets of the Church of God in Christ;
  - h.) Conduct unbecoming a Bishop;
  - i.) Willfully failing or refusing to use means at his command to protect the property, rights, and interests of the Church of God in Christ.
2. Procedure for trial of a Bishop.
  - a.) Charges may be made in writing by the accusers specifically setting out the offenses complained of by a majority vote of the Board of Bishops or of the General Beard,
  - b.) The General Secretary shall prepare the charges on order of the Board of Bishops or General Board and copies of the accusation shall be mailed by registered letter, to the Board of Bishops and a copy thereof to the accused Bishop.
  - c.) The time and place of the hearing shall be set by the Board of Bishops and notice thereof shall be given to the Bishops and to the accusing body at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the trial.
  - d.) Trial of the charges against the Bishop shall be by the Board of Bishops (his peers), and the Chairman thereof shall preside and the Secretary of the Beard of Bishops shall take the minutes.
  - e.) The accusers shall select counsel who must be a member of the Church of God in Christ to serve as prosecutor; prepare and submit the case before the Board of Bishops.
  - f.) The accused Bishop shall have the right to select Counsel to represent him, but such Counsel shall be a member of the Church of God in Christ, but may be advised by a non member of the Church.

- g.) The Board of Bishops shall have the right to establish such rules and procedure in the conduct of hearings as will give both parties a fair trial by providing for testimony of witnesses, depositions, documentary evidence and arguments of counsel representing the respective parties.
- h.) After all proofs and arguments have been submitted to the Board of Bishops, the respective parties and their counsel shall withdraw from the Board of Bishops Chambers and shall not participate in the deliberations of the Board.
- i.) It will take a vote of the majority of the members of the Board of Bishops, present and voting, to sustain the charges, or charge. If less than a majority present and voting, fail to vote to sustain the charges, the accused Bishop shall stand acquitted.
- j.) If an accused Bishop is found guilty of the charge, or charges, against him the Board of Bishops shall have the power to determine the punishment. It may reprimand the Bishop, or it may suspend him for a definite period of time upon such terms and conditions as it may determine or it may recommend his removal from his office as Bishop of the Church of God in Christ; or it may make such other decisions as may be determined by it to be for the best interest of the Church.
- k.) The Board of Bishops shall not have the right to appeal its decisions; but the accused Bishop shall have the right to appeal an adverse decision to the General Assembly.
- l.) Notice of Appeal by a Bishop to the General Assembly shall be in writing and shall be filed in the office of the General Secretary within thirty (30) days from the date of the decision of the Board of Bishops.
- m.) A decision of the General Assembly on appeal of any case to it shall be by majority vote of the members thereof, present and voting, and its decisions shall be final.
- n.) The trial of General Board members shall be the same as that of all Bishops.

## ARTICLE IX— AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER

The provisions of this Charter may be modified, altered, or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of all registered and certified delegates to a meeting of the General Assembly As soon as the proposed alterations or amendments shall have been adopted as herein provided , the result of the vote shall be announced by the General Secretary and declared adopted by the Chairman, whereupon such alterations or amendments shall be in full force and effect.

## ARTICLE X.

Any and all provisions of the Original Charter, and prior amendments, which are inconsistent with, or repugnant to the provisions of this amendment, are hereby repealed

## CERTIFICATION

We, the Undersigned, Bishop J. O. Patterson, J. S. Bailey, S. M. Crouch, and D. A. Burton,

President, First Vice President, Second Vice-President and Secretary of the CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST Inc., a corporation chartered, organized, and existing by and under the laws of the State of Tennessee, pursuant to direction of the Board of Directors of said Corporation, hereby certify that at a meeting of the General Assembly of said Corporation, legally called and held at the Offices of said Corporation in the city of Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee, on the 13th day of April, 1972, the within and foregoing amendments to the Charter of said Corporation were adopted by an affirmative vote of the members of and delegates to the General Assembly, representing more than Two-Thirds majority of all of the members of the General Assembly to amend the Charter of said Corporation, as set out hereinabove, and said amendments were duly entered in the minutes of said Corporation.

Now, therefore, we hereby certify the fact of the adoption of said amendments by the members of the General Assembly of said Corporation for the purposes set cut to the end that this certificate may be duly recorded in the office of the Secretary of State of Tennessee.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup>Witnessed September 1st, 1972, J. O Patterson, J. S. White, S. M. Crouch, D. A. Burton, F W. White, L. H, Ford, J. A. Blake, F W. Washington, Wyoming Wells, O. M. Kelly.  
Certified by Joe C Carr, Secretary of State, Tennessee, October 30th, 1972

## **PART II**

### **AMENDMENTS**

**PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NOVEMBER, 1968 - NOVEMBER, 1990**

## **RULES GOVERNING THE GENERAL BOARD AND PRESIDING BISHOP**

Whereas, it was the intent of the Bishops, Elders, and Members of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., to maintain the Doctrine and Principles of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., as taught by Bishop C. H. Mason, our Senior Bishop and Founder now deceased.

THEREFORE, it is recommended that the following sections be adopted as rules for governing the General Board and Presiding Bishop.

### **SECTION A - THE GENERAL BOARD**

1. The General Assembly shall elect twelve bishops from among the Board of Bishops who shall comprise and be designated as the General Board. After being duly elected by the General Assembly the General Board shall conduct the affairs of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. when the General Assembly of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. is not in session, and its decisions shall be final unless the same are overruled, amended, repealed, or modified, by the General Assembly.
2. The above named members shall be sanctified through the truth and baptized with the Holy Ghost. They shall have been loyal to the church for over a period of fifteen (15) years or more. They shall not be guilty of:
  - a. Adultery or immoral character.
  - b. Smoking, drinking or any unclean habit,

If they be found guilty of the above named charges, they shall be removed from office by the Board of Bishops with the right of appeal to the General Assembly.

3. The General Board members shall be men of unimpeachable character and in good health.
4. The General Board consisting of twelve (12) members, when conducting business sessions, its quorum shall consist of seven (7) members.
5. The members of the General Board shall be elected for a term of four years. The term shall be computed from the time of installation and each member installed. Members of the General Board may succeed themselves in office.
6. In the event a vacancy in the General Board occurs while the General Assembly is not in session, the remaining members of the General Board shall serve with the vacancy until such time as the General Assembly shall be convened either in a regular or special session, at which time the General Assembly shall fill such position.
7. The General Board shall meet at least three (3) times during each calendar year- April, November and any other time deemed necessary. However, the General Board may have special meetings when and if it shall be necessary
8. The General Board shall make its report to the General Assembly, in writing during the November session of the General Assembly of each calendar year. The actions of the General Assembly shall be final.

9. The General Board shall keep in close contact with all actions of the General Church and auxiliaries and other participants of the General Church. The Board shall examine all applicants for auxiliary leaders of the General Church; they shall closely examine all persons to be elevated to the Bishopric.
10. No member of the General Board can serve at the same time as an officer of the General Assembly, General Council, the Board of Bishops or any national auxiliary of the General Church.

## SECTION B - GENERAL BOARD, PRESIDING BISHOP FIRST AND SECOND ASSISTANT PRESIDING BISHOP

1. The General Assembly shall elect from the duly elected General Board a Presiding Bishop, a First Assistant Presiding Bishop and a Second Assistant Presiding Bishop.
2. The Presiding Bishop will automatically become President of the Corporation upon election. In case of death or disability, the First Assistant Presiding Bishop shall become the Acting Presiding Bishop until the next general election. He may hold office until he reaches his 74th birthday. However, if he is in good health and has served the church well, the rules may be suspended and he may be elected for another term of four (4) years.
3. The Presiding Bishop, after being duly elected by the General Assembly, shall have power to appoint all State Bishops subject to the approval of the majority of the General Board and a majority of the pastors of said state, sign all appointments with the General Secretary after being approved by the General Board. The Presiding Bishop shall not pastor more than one church at a time during his tenure of office. All of his actions shall be subject to the approval of the General Board.

As an Executive he shall not be guilty of the following:

1. Adultery or immoral character.
2. Tyranny and absolute monarchical powers who exercises his power brutally or treats others with extreme cruelty.
3. Failing to carry out his duties as a Bishop or Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ according to its doctrinal principles
4. They shall not be guilty of smoking, drinking or any unclean habits.
5. If found guilty of any of the above named charges, he shall be removed from office by the Board of Bishops with the right of appeal to the General Assembly.
6. The Presiding Bishop shall make all appointments of State Bishops and hear all matters after the General Board has authorized him to do so. All papers of appointive and elective officers shall be signed by the Presiding Bishop and General Secretary, providing however, that the General Board has passed on them and it has been approved by the General Assembly.
7. Bishop L. Willis then amended his motion to say: That the Presiding Bishop would receive no salary, but instead a free-will offering, pastor one (1) church and maintain

his jurisdiction. The motion was seconded by Elder W. L. Porter and others, After further discussion of this document, it was then moved by Bishop Win. Rimsen of Michigan and supported by Bishop D. A. Burton of Penna., that the entire document governing the Presiding Bishop and General Board be adopted as read with the Amendment as offered by Bishop L. Willis. The motion was carried.

8. First Assistant President Bishop and Second Assistant Presiding Bishop - Qualifications and Duties. The qualifications of the First and Second Assistant Presiding Bishop shall be the same as the qualifications of the Presiding Bishop. The First and Second Assistant Presiding Bishops shall aid and assist the Presiding Bishop in discharging his executive functions and shall serve in their respective order if for any reason the Presiding Bishop is unable to serve or if the position shall become vacant. Upon the death of the Presiding Bishop in Office, the First Assistant Presiding Bishop shall become the Presiding Bishop and finish out the term of his predecessor.
9. Neither the Presiding Bishop nor any other member of the Board can serve at the same time as an officer of the General Assembly, the General Council, the Board of Bishops, or any national auxiliary of the General Church. Neither can the wives of the Presiding Bishop and the First and Second Assistant Presiding Bishop's serve as the head of any national auxiliary or department of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. Due to the question of legality of Section B-9, we, the Committee, request that this question be resolved by the General Assembly.<sup>4</sup>

#### ARTICLE VI SECTION F, CLAUSE 2.

2. ALL NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS AND Auxiliary Conventions shall begin no sooner than Monday and end no later than Sunday next following.<sup>5</sup>

#### ARTICLE IX

#### [ARTICLE VI SECTION IX]

The provisions of this Charter may be amended at any meeting of the General Assembly of a two-thirds (2/3rds) majority vote of the registered and certified delegates present and voting upon the following conditions:

A proposed amendment to the Charter shall be submitted to the General Secretary no less than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting of the General Assembly, and the proposed amendment shall be mailed by the General Secretary to each jurisdiction no less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting of the General Assembly. In the event the General Secretary shall fail, or neglect, to comply with the foregoing, the said proposed amendment may be submitted at the meeting of the General Assembly, provided that three-fourths (3/4ths) of the registered and certified delegates present agree to accept the amendment and act thereon.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>Passed 11/68. Bishop F. S. Green-Chairman, Bishop Win. Rimson-Vice Chairman, Bishop L. T Walker, Bishop W. A. Patterson, Bishop W. L. Broussard, Bishop C. C. Cox, Mother Mattie McGlothen, Elder Richard Bratton, Elder S. L. Green Jr, Elder L. A. Jordan, Elder P. L. Winbush- Secretary

<sup>5</sup>Passed 11/73.

<sup>6</sup>Passed 11/71

## **SECTION A**

### **ELECTION OF THE GENERAL BOARD**

1. The General Assembly shall elect twelve (12) Bishops from among the jurisdictional Bishops who shall comprise and be designated as the General Board. The members of the General Board shall be directors of the corporation, and shall conduct the executive functions and duties of the Church Of God in Christ the decisions of the General Board shall be subject to the will of the General Assembly.

### **ELECTION OF THE PRESIDING BISHOP**

- a.) The General Assembly shall elect a Presiding Bishop from among the twelve (12) Bishops of the General Board; The Presiding Bishop shall be president of the corporation, and the chief executive officer of the Church of God in Christ,
2. The Presiding Bishop shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Church of God in Christ and shall preside over all sessions of the General Board. The Presiding Bishop shall have the power and authority to conduct the executive functions of the Church of God in Christ with the Advice and consent of the General Board. Seven (7) members of the General Board shall constitute a quorum. A majority of those present and voting shall be necessary to approve any acts or actions taken by the Presiding Bishop.
  - a. The Presiding Bishop, immediately upon his election shall preside over the administrative and religious offices of the National Church in Memphis, Tennessee. He shall spend sufficient time in the perpetual Headquarters City of Memphis, Tennessee to enable him to perform the duties of his office.
  - b. The General Assembly shall have the authority to provide appropriate residential accommodations for the Presiding Bishop.

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

- A. The General Assembly shall elect from its membership and/or the membership of the Church of God in Christ, a National Board of Trustees.
  - (1) The minimum number of trustees shall be 15. The maximum number shall be 21, at least 3 of whom shall reside in the Tri-State area of Memphis, Tennessee.
  - (2) Of the first Trustees elected upon the adoption of this Amendment at least 7 members but not more than 10 members shall serve for 2 years; and at least 8 members but not more than 11 members shall serve a term of 3 years: thereafter all trustees shall be elected to complete the vacant term of a trustee shall serve during the balance of said term only.
- B. Each Trustee shall be a member in good standing of the Church of God in Christ. If at any time a Trustee's membership is withdrawn from the Church of God in Christ, he shall thereupon cease to be a Trustee.
- C. Election of Officers. The Board shall meet within 24 hours after the first election and 30 days after each annual election, and shall elect by ballot a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and such other officers necessary to perform their duties; each of whom shall hold office until the election and qualifications of his successor unless earlier removed by

an act of God, resignation or for cause. Vacancies in such offices shall be filled by the Board of Trustees through election by ballot.

- D. The Board shall establish an Executive Committee consisting of the elected officers and one (1) additional member of the Board who is not an elected officer, provided that such additional member reside in the Tri-State area of Memphis, Tennessee. The Executive Committee shall meet upon the call of the Chairman and shall perform the duties of the Board . All actions of the Executive Committee are subject to review and modification by the Board when it is in session.
- E. VACANCIES. Whenever a vacancy occurs on the Board, other than from expiration of a term office, the remaining trustee shall continue to meet and conduct its business until the next regular meeting of the General Assembly.
- F. BOARD MEETINGS. In addition to the meetings mentioned above, regular meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be held (semiannually) and at such other times and at such places as the Board, by a majority of its members, may determine,
  - 1. Notice of Board Meetings. Oral or written notice of each meeting of the Board shall be given each trustee by or under the supervision of the Secretary of the Board of Trustees not less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the time of the meeting but such notice may be waived by all the trustees, and appearance at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice thereof.
  - 2. Compensation. The Presiding Bishop and General Board may determine the compensation, if any, for the members of the Board of Trustees for attending any annual or special meeting of the Board of Trustees.
  - 3. Quorum. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

## **II. DUTIES OF TRUSTEES**

A. GENERAL DUTIES. The National Board of Trustees shall have and perform the following duties, to wit:

- 1. It shall hold in trust for the use and benefit of members of the Church of God in Christ property committed to it by the General Board, the General Assembly, or from any other source whatsoever.
- 2. It shall hold in trust for the use and benefit of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., any assets which shall become property of the Church without proper legal designation, either by gift, deed, or otherwise.
- 3. It shall preserve, protect, and secure and maintain all property the church, not otherwise provided for;
- 4. It shall review the budgetary needs of all national departments, units, auxiliaries, convention and operations of the Church, which shall be submitted to the Financial Secretary and shall require the approval of the Presiding Bishop and General Board,
- 5. The Board of Trustees shall have the right and power to employ a maintenance superintendent and custodial staff, who shall be under their supervision, to look after maintain, preserve and protect the National Offices, buildings, and grounds

of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. The salaries of such employees shall be approved by the Presiding Bishop and General Board.

6. The Chairman of the Board shall make a full written report annually to the General Assembly and at each meeting of the Board of Trustees.

B. General Powers. The Board shall direct the business affairs of the Board of Trustees of the General Church and shall exercise all of the powers that are conferred upon or reserved to the law, the articles of incorporation, or this constitution. The Board shall adopt such policies, rules and regulations not inconsistent with this constitution, as it may deem advisable.

1. Employment of Manager The Board of Trustees, relating to the business affairs of the church, shall have the power to employ a Business Manager, define his duties and fix his compensation Provided such authorization is first obtained from the Presiding Bishop and the General Board.
2. Bonds and Insurance. The Board of Trustees shall require the Manager and all other officers, agents and employees charged by the Church with responsibility for the custody of any of its funds or property to give adequate bonds. The Board shall provide for the adequate insurance of property for that may be in the possession of the General Church, or stored by it, and not otherwise adequately insured, and in addition adequate insurance covering liability accidents to all employees.

C. Accounting System. The Board of Trustees shall have installed and maintained an adequate system of accounts and records. At least once in a year, the Board shall obtain the services of a Certified Public Auditor or Accountant, who shall audit the books and accounts of the General Church and render a report in writing thereon, which report shall be submitted to the General Assembly annually. This report shall include a balance sheet and an operating statement for the fiscal period under the review.

#### ARTICLE V - SECTION B

##### BOARD OF BISHOPS AND GENERAL COUNCIL OF PASTORS AND ELDERS

A. The Board of Bishops and the General Council of Elders may meet jointly and review programs, procedures and organization of the Church and to promote harmony between the Bishops, Pastors and Elders.

B. At such sessions, the Chairman of the Board of Bishops and the Chair-an of the General Council of Elder's shall serve as Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. Such meeting shall be jointly convened by the Chairman of the Board of Bishops and Chairman of the General Council of Pastors and Elders.

C. Recommendations and proposals from such joint meetings may be referred to the Presiding Bishop and General Board on matters relating to the organization, procedures and programs of the Church, and the same may be presented to the General Assembly for its determination.

#### SECTION 1

##### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

3. The Public Relations Department shall formulate methods of relating the church and

churches program and its image to the public. All such plans must be first submitted to the Presiding Bishop and General Board for approval.

4. The Public Relations Department may be utilized to assist in planning, promoting, and implementing National Conventions and meetings of the Church including the housing and transportation of delegates attending the convention.
5. The Public Relations Department shall work under the direct supervision of the Presiding Bishop and General Board and shall maintain and keep accurate records concerning the total operation of the Public Relations Department.

### JURISDICTIONAL AND NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

The following National Departments and auxiliaries shall sponsor a joint national convention annually; the Sunday School, YPWW, Home and Foreign Mission, Evangelist and Music Department. The planning and the implementation of National Departments and Auxiliaries (UNAC) shall be designated as a UNAC Board.

The UNAC Board shall consist of seven persons, five of whom shall be the presidents of the respective National Departments and Auxiliaries, and Two (2) other persons who shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop and the General Board.

The Chairman of UNAC Board shall be appointed annually by the Presiding Bishop and General Board

### ARTICLE III STRUCTURE OF THE CHURCH CIVIL AND ECCLESIASTICAL

1. All subsidiary corporations and/or corporations established in the name of the Church of God in Christ for the purpose of carrying out or conducting any functions relating to the religious or business affairs of the National Church of God in Christ, shall be coordinated with the General Board. (Local incorporation of a Jurisdictional Church, and church related businesses local in nature are excepted.)
2. The General Board shall establish such corporations and shall select the initial Board of Directors of all such corporations. However, in those instances where State Law requires that a minimum number of Directors be a resident of the State of Registry or when necessary to comply with Sec. 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Act, then the Presiding Bishop and General Board shall appoint such Directors to satisfy the minimum requirement, and such Directors with all of the rights and privileges appurtenant thereto.
3. All such corporations will report quarterly to the Presiding Bishop and General Board and will render a written report for distribution at each meeting of the General Assembly.
4. The President and Board of Directors for any such corporation and shall appoint the member to such Board. The number and tenure of office of such Board member shall be determined by the Presiding Bishop and General Board.
5. The President and the Board of Directors shall render to the General Assembly, annually, a written report for each corporation which report shall include an audited financial report of said corporation.
6. All actions taken by the Officers and Board of Directors of the corporation are subject to the will of the General Assembly, and may be subject to review by the General Assembly.

7. Upon review of a corporations activities if a majority of the General Board is of the opinion that a corporation is no longer needed or is acting contrary to church policy or is otherwise no in the best interest of the Church, The General Board by majority vote may liquidate or dissolve said corporation and require that its assets be delivered to the National Board of Trustees and its duties reassigned by the Presiding Bishop and General Board. Any such action taken by the General Board shall be subject to the will of the General Assembly.
- a. The General Assembly may appoint a Review Committee to review the actions of the respective corporation. Said Committee shall consist of nine (9) persons, four (4) of whom shall be members of the Board of Bishops and four (4) shall be members of the General Elders Council. An additional member shall be appointed from the Women's Department.
  - b. All members of the General Assembly and officers of the National Department and Auxiliaries Corporation and staff are required to fully cooperate with the Review Committee in the performance of its review of any and all Church corporations.

Upon enactment of this amendment any and all corporations established prior to the adoption of this amendment, for the purpose of carrying out the religious and/or business functions of the National Church shall immediately organize its officers and Board of Directors to conform to this amendment.

#### SECTION D LOCAL CHURCHES

17. All vacancies that occur in the pastorate of a local church shall be filled by the Jurisdictional Bishop. The supervision and management of the church shall remain with the Jurisdictional Bishop or his designee until such time as a Pastor is appointed to fill such vacancy.

18. No local church shall be authorized to change or transfer its Jurisdictional affiliation unless at least two-thirds of the church's membership agree for such transfer.

Addendum to 18. - April 14, 1982. Two-Thirds of the membership must be present and voting after due notice, before authorization can be given to move the church from one Jurisdiction to another.

- a. The Pastor of the church shall notify in writing the General Secretary of the Church of God in Christ, the Jurisdictional Bishops where the church is affiliated, and the Jurisdictional Bishop where the church intends to transfer, of intent to transfer, which notice shall be given at least thirty (30) days before the local church's membership can act on said transfer. The notice shall include the following information:
  - 1. Name of Pastor
  - 2. Name and location of the Church.
  - 3. Membership enrollment.
  - 4. Jurisdiction where Church is affiliated.
  - 5. Name and address of Jurisdictional Bishop.
  - 6. Jurisdiction where Church seeks to transfer and name of Bishop of such Jurisdiction.

- b. The respective Jurisdictional Bishops or their designee where the Church is affiliated and where the Church seeks to transfer shall be entitled to be present at the membership meeting convened for this purpose.
  - c. The vote on the transfer shall be by secret written ballot. The respective Jurisdictional Bishops shall be authorized to have a representative present to observe the voting and the counting of the ballots.
  - d. The respective Jurisdictional Bishops and the Pastors of the local church shall within seventy-two (72) hours notify the General Secretary of the Church of God in Christ of the results.
19. No local church shall be authorized to petition for a transfer of its Jurisdictional affiliations but for one time each twelve (12) month period.
20. A member of a local church shall not transfer membership to another local Church of God in Christ unless the local member has the written consent of the Pastor where the member is enrolled. The pastor should give the member who is in good standing a letter of consent upon request.<sup>7</sup>

## **SECTION A. THE GENERAL BOARD, ITS ORGANIZATION, POWERS AND DUTIES**

- 1. The General Assembly shall elect from among the Jurisdictional Bishops twelve Bishops who shall comprise and be designated as the General Board and they shall be Directors of the Corporation.<sup>8</sup>

## **THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF PASTORS AND ELDERS**

- 1. All Pastors and Elders of the Church of God in Christ, who are in good standing with their local churches and in their respective Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions shall be members of the “General Council of Pastors and Elders of the Church of God in Christ, Inc.,” which may be referred to as the General Council of Pastors and Elders.
- 2. The Officers of the General Council of Pastors and Elders shall be elected by the General Council, Pastors and Elders as follows:  
  
Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and such other officers as it may deem necessary and proper, according to the provisions in the Constitution; and the tenure of office shall run concurrently with that of the administration.
- 3. It shall consider matters that are referred to it by the General Assembly, the General Board, Jurisdictional Assemblies, or by the Departments of the Church, and shall make a report of its findings to appropriate organs of the Church.

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<sup>7</sup>Passed 4/14/82. Dr. Frank Ellis, Maryland made a MOTION that Revisions #17, 18, 19 and 20 become law of the Church of God in Christ May 1, 1982. The Motion was seconded by Elder Calvin Williams, and the MOTION PREVAILED.

<sup>8</sup>Motion to delete the word “Ex- Officio” from the article, properly seconded, and the motion prevailed. Dr Frank Ellis offered a motion that the above revision become law of the Church of God in Christ, May 1, 1982. The motion was properly seconded and the motion prevailed.

4. Duties. The General Council of Pastors and Elders shall serve as an Ecclesiastical Council of the Church and may try, hear, and determine cases and matters referred to it, under the Constitution and laws of the Church.

5. The General Council of Pastors and Elders shall establish such rules and regulations as it may deem necessary and proper for the conduct of its business not inconsistent with the Constitution and bylaws of the Church.

## **AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IX**

Provided that notice of an amendment with a copy thereof shall be filed with the General Secretary and the Chairman of the General Assembly at a session of the General Assembly, if said assembly is in session. If the General Assembly is not in session, the General Secretary upon receipt of the notice and the proposed amendment will promptly send copies to the Presiding Bishop, the General Board, Jurisdictional Bishops, Chairman of the General Council of Elders and the National Supervisor within (10) days of receipt thereof. Provided, however, that except in an emergency, no amendment to the Constitution can be voted upon at the General Assembly session at which it is first offered. Such amendment shall be read to the Delegates and a copy thereof furnished to the Delegates in attendance and any proposed amendment will be debated and acted upon at the next session of the General Assembly,

The Jurisdictional Bishop will be responsible for promptly sending copies of said proposed amendment to Pastors. Ordained Elders and the State Supervisor in his Jurisdiction,

## **OFFICERS**

I. The first session of a new term of the General Assembly shall be called to order by a temporary chairman, who shall be a member of the General Council of Elders and who shall be selected by the Presiding Bishop and the General Board. A Temporary Chairman shall be the Chairman Pro-Tem and shall perform the following:

1. Convene the General Assembly;
2. Conduct the devotional period;
3. Qualify the house through the Credentials Committee;
4. Call for the reading of the minutes;
5. Open the house for the election of the permanent Chairman of the session;
6. The Chairman Pro-Tem may not be elected as Permanent Chairman for any session.

(Section B, Subsection 3, Paragraph C, D.)

- C. The Chairman of the General Assembly shall appoint such officers, administrative staff and consultants necessary to effectuate the work of the General Assembly, including but not limited to a Parliamentarian, Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms and Election Supervisor
- D. The Chairman of the General Assembly shall submit a budget to the General Board and secure funds for the cost of operating sessions of the General Assembly
2. A permanent Chairman shall be elected by the delegates to the General Assembly, present and voting, and shall hold office as Chairman for a four (4) year term, and shall preside at all sessions of the General Assembly. The Chairman may succeed himself, The Vice-Chairman shall be appointed by the Chairman of the General Assembly.<sup>9</sup>

## **JUDICIARY BOARD**

There shall be established a Judiciary Board for the Church of God in Christ.<sup>10</sup>

## **CIVIL STRUCTURE**

This Amendment is designed to put all National Corporations that are functioning and operating under the banner of the National Church under the supervision and control of the National Church through its elected officers.

The duly elected Executive Officers of the Church, to wit: the Presiding Bishop and the members of the General Board shall serve as Executive Officers of the Corporation in their comparable positions as the duly elected Executives of the Church. Each shall serve as long as he continues in his elected position; the Presiding Bishop and members of the General Board. Provision is made, however, for an Executive Director or Administrator to be maintained to ensure continuously an uninterrupted operation.

There is also a provision for an Advisory Board which can for all practical purposes operate as a Board of Directors. But, however, the General Board which will be the Board of Directors must officially approve the actions of any Advisory Board.

### **Part I - CIVIL STRUCTURE**

1. All subsidiary corporations and/or corporations established in the name of the Church of God in Christ for the purpose of carrying out or conducting any functions relating to the religious or business affairs of the National Church of God in Christ, shall be subject to the will of the General Assembly. Local incorporation of a Jurisdictional Church and church related businesses local in nature are excepted.
2. The General Board shall appoint the members of all Boards of Directors of subsidiary corporations subject to the approval of the General Assembly.
3. The Executive Officers of all such corporations shall be the Presiding Bishop and the First and Second Assistant Presiding Bishops. The Secretary and Treasurer and any and all other officers which can include an Executive Director or General Administrator, shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop and Board of Directors of the Corporation. The President, Vice-President and Board of Directors shall serve in a capacity commensurate with their respective terms as Presiding Bishop, First and Second Assistant Presiding Bishop and members of the General Board. The appointed officers of the corporation shall serve a term pursuant to terms established by Contractual agreement
4. The President and Board of Directors may establish an Advisory Board of Directors for any such corporation and shall appoint the members to such Board. The number and tenure of office of such Board member shall be determined by the Presiding Bishop and General Board.

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<sup>9</sup>A MOTION that the above revision become law of the Church of God in Christ as of May 1 1982 was offered, seconded and the MOTION prevailed.

<sup>10</sup>April 1983.

5. The President and the Board of Directors shall render to the General Assembly, annually, a written report for each corporation, which report shall include an audited financial report of said corporation.
6. All actions taken by the Officers and Board of Directors of the Corporation are subject to the will of the General Assembly.
7. Upon enactment of this amendment, any and all corporations established prior to the adoption of this amendment, which was set-up or created for the purpose of carrying out the religious and/or business functions of the National Church, shall immediately organize its officers and Board of Directors to conform to this Amendment.<sup>11</sup>

**ARTICLE III - PART II SECTION B.**  
**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

- B.) A permanent Chairman shall be elected by the delegates to the General Assembly, present and voting, and shall hold office as Chairman for a four (4) year term, and shall preside at all sessions of the General Assembly

**AMENDMENT:**

- B.) A permanent Chairman and a Vice Chairman shall be elected by the delegates to the General Assembly, present and voting. The Chairman shall hold office as Chairman for a four (4) year term, and shall preside at all sessions of the General Assembly. The Vice Chairman shall preside in the absence of the Chairman and shall carry out all assignments delegated by the Chairman. The Chairman and Vice Chairman shall hold offices until their successors are duly elected and qualified. [\*]

**SECTION C - JURISDICTIONAL ASSEMBLIES**

- Subsection 2. Ecclesiastical jurisdiction shall be determined, established and dissolved by the General Board , without regard to geographical areas or sub-divisions, subject to review by the General Assembly

**AMENDMENT:**

- Subsection 2. Ecclesiastical jurisdictions shall be determined, established, consolidated or dissolved by the General Assembly, without regard to geographic areas or subdivisions. Such actions shall be considered upon the recommendation of a majority of the General Board. The General Board shall refer its request to the General Assembly's Commission on Extensions. [\*]

\*These Amendment

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<sup>11</sup>April, 1983.

\*These Amendments were passed April 4 1990 per page 8 of the 1990 Spring Session Minutes

## **PART III**

### **RESOLUTIONS**

PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
NOVEMBER, 1968 - NOVEMBER, 1990

**RESOLUTION**  
**MAINTENANCE OF PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, we have property of great value at our National Headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee that should be kept up in its general appearance, and

WHEREAS, our grounds and buildings need constant care that will prevent rapid deterioration resulting in costly repairs,

THEREFORE, IT IS RECOMMENDED that we hire full time maintenance personnel, comprising of two men and two women.<sup>12</sup>

**RESOLUTION**  
**TENURE OF OFFICE FOR HEADS OF NATIONAL DEPARTMENTS AND**  
**AUXILIARIES AND GENERAL OFFICERS**

WHEREAS, A tenure of office has been given the Presiding Bishop, the First Assistant Presiding Bishop, the Second Assistant Presiding Bishop and the members of the General Board of four years, and

WHEREAS, All departmental heads, namely, Sunday School Department, Youth Department, Home and Foreign Mission Board, Evangelist Department, Women's Department, Music Department, Pastors and Ministers' Fellowship, Department of Education and all other National Officers which shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop, with the approval of the General Board and all other elected national officers shall have a tenure of office.

THEREFORE WE RECOMMEND, a tenure of office of four years to run concurrently with the term of the Presiding Bishop, retroactive to November, 1968. They may be removed for cause.<sup>13</sup>

**RESOLUTION**  
**CREATION OF A BUDGET COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, there is a need for a closer look at the financial needs of our church, both the income and the expenditure, and because of that, there is a need for the creation of a Budget Committee, and

WHEREAS, we have raised much money and we have steadily found ourselves in financial difficulty, there is a feeling that there should be a closer observation of the financial structure through the eyes of a Budget Committee.

THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND THE FOLLOWING;

1. That a Budget Committee be created to work with the Departments and Auxiliaries in establishing a Budget for all National Departments and Auxiliaries including the National Spring Call Meeting, the National Convocation and Schools,
2. That we would maintain the General Fund for the centralization of all monies, that an allocation of funds for the operation of all National Boards and the two National Meetings, namely, the Spring Call Meeting and the General Convocation be made from the General Fund.

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<sup>12</sup> Passed 4/69.

<sup>13</sup> Passed 4/69.

Further, that a detailed study be made to ascertain the real needs of all National Departments and Auxiliaries in order to formulate a unified budget for the National Church.

3. Further, that after all needs of the Budget have been met, a specified amount as determined by the Budget Committee be left in the General Fund and the surplus over and above the specified amount be used to establish a savings account for the Church as a special reserve fund.
4. That all funds disbursed from the General Fund and Reserve Fund will require two signatures in addition to being countersigned by the Presiding Bishop.
5. That persons handling the funds will be bonded.
6. That a Certified Public Accountant be hired by the Church.
7. That the Church would operate on a fiscal year beginning October 1 and ending September 30; an abbreviated period of nine months for the current, January 1 through September 30; and an itemized financial statement of income and expenditure will be prepared for each fiscal year and available to every delegate of the General Assembly at each November National Convocation.<sup>14</sup>

## **RESOLUTION**

### **EDUCATION- C.H. MASON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

WHEREAS, the educational level of our society is constantly rising; and,

WHEREAS, this is a day of complex institutions, and hitherto unmatched scientific and academic advances; and

WHEREAS, we are aware that human knowledge and wisdom cannot perfect God's revelation in Christ Jesus, we are also aware of Paul's admonition to Timothy-- Study to show thyself approved unto God; and,

WHEREAS, only the Church of God In Christ can teach Church of God In Christ,

WHEREAS, an educated public calls for an educated ministry; and, WHEREAS, our denomination has no seminary for the training of its religious workers;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That this General Assembly authorize the establishment, with all possible haste, of an accredited graduate school of Theology, Bible Study for the training of ministers and missionaries and religious educators: and
2. That the memory of our revered founder and father, who was one of the world's most noted teachers of the Bible, the institution would be named the Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Passed 4/69, Evening Session.

<sup>15</sup> Passed 11/69.

## **RESOLUTION**

### **EDUCATION- C.H. MASON THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

WHEREAS, Youth is one of the greatest forces in our society, and may either help to build or destroy it, the Church of God in Christ cannot afford to neglect its young people. They are vitally involved in this day and will be the church of tomorrow. Young people who take a stand for Christ need to be encouraged and supported;

THEREFORE, be it resolved:

1. That this General Assembly authorize the establishment of the “C. H. Mason Memorial Scholarship Fund”, and
2. That chapters be established through the brotherhood.<sup>16</sup>

## **RESOLUTION**

### **DIOCESE AND JURISDICTIONS**

WHEREAS, much concern has been expressed over the creation of new jurisdictions, and,

WHEREAS, much time is spent in trying to adjudicate jurisdictional disputes, and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 103 authorized jurisdictions in existence at present and 30 or more applications for new jurisdictions on file, and,

WHEREAS, there is a tremendous payroll and operating expense incurred in the administration of every jurisdiction created, and,

WHEREAS, the progressive program of the administration has been designed to enhance the dignity and status of our church by investing in such noteworthy pursuits as:

1. The stabilization of the Church’s economy by creation of adequate budgetary controls.
2. The establishment of the C. H. Mason Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary for the training of ministers and missionaries of the Church of God in Christ
3. The establishment of the hospitalization and insurance plan to accommodate the needs of ministers and members of the Church of God in Christ.
4. Such real estate improvements and building renovations requisite to the comforts and needs of delegates and all who attend meetings at Headquarters, and other worthwhile endeavors too numerous to mention, and,

WHEREAS, it is believed that there are sufficient jurisdictions to adequately accommodate the needs of our Church within the continental limits of the U. S., and,

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<sup>16</sup>Passed 11/69.

WHEREAS, we recognize the wisdom and sagacity of the Presiding Bishop, his concern and love for the peace and harmony of the Church, and can appreciate his sincere interest and deep concern for the brotherhood,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The General Assembly would go on record as endorsing the Presiding Bishop in his position of not creating more jurisdictions.
2. The term “jurisdiction” will be used to designate the territory of state bishops instead of the term “diocese” in order to standardize the terminology employed throughout the national work.<sup>17</sup>

Example: Tennessee, Second Jurisdiction Texas, Northeast Jurisdiction

### **RESOLUTION**

#### **ASSISTANT BISHOPS / ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS**

WHEREAS, some bishops find it necessary because of the tremendous work load or conditions to appoint and/or designate assistant (s) to carry out administrative duties of the jurisdictions, and

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of the state bishop to appoint persons to assist him in carrying out his duties, and

WHEREAS, bishops may be consecrated to the office of bishop only by the proper national authority, and

WHEREAS, state bishops are not authorized to consecrate one to the office of bishop,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:<sup>18</sup>

1. That those persons who were not consecrated to the office of bishop no longer use the title “Assistant to the Bishop”, “Assistant Bishop”, or “Bishop”.
2. That persons so designated as assistants will be called “Administrative Assistant's  
Examples: Supt. John Doe, Administrative Assistant Elder John Doe, Administrative Assistant

### **RESOLUTION**

#### **CHURCH PLANNING AND FINANCING BOARD**

WHEREAS, there is a need for guidance and assistance from the national church in the area of church planning and financing, and

WHEREAS, in the establishing of many of our churches, they suffer from the lack of available legal assistance, and

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<sup>17</sup>Passed 4/70.

<sup>18</sup> Passed 4/70.

WHEREAS, there is no common source of help in the area of church construction, and

WHEREAS, much difficulty is experienced in the securing of church loans,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT a Church Planning and Financing Board be established with the following sections<sup>19</sup>:

Architectural Section  
Real Estate Section  
Legal Section  
Financing Section

## **RESOLUTION**

### **ELECTION BY-LAWS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

WHEREAS, the CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST in Constitutional Convention held on the 2nd day of February, 1968, revised its Charter and By-Laws so as to clarify the executive and administrative offices and positions, and

WHEREAS, said CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST is now desirous of further establishing and defining offices and positions within the administrative department of the Church, and in particular the now existing “Board of Directors”; and

WHEREAS, it is deemed necessary and expedient to define the scope authority, duties, responsibilities, obligations, size and composition of the Board of Directors, the method of election and tenure of its members;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the General Assembly of the CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST that the By-Laws of the CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST be amended as follows:

1. That a Board of Directors composed of no less than twelve members nor more than thirty-six members be established. No less than one-third of the members of the Board of Directors shall be from the Board of Bishops. The remaining members shall be from the General Church including all the departments of the church.
2. The Board of Directors shall be charged with the responsibility to maintain the National Headquarters of the Church of God in Christ and in particular during any and all national meetings and preparatory periods related thereto. The Board of Directors shall also have the duty and responsibility to maintain the aforesaid Church property in good repair, and shall be empowered to contract for the maintenance, repair, remodeling, and expansion to existing property and buildings, subject to the approval of the Presiding Bishop, the General Board, and the General Assembly.
3. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the employing of the personnel necessary for the proper conduct of the business affairs of the National Convocation, and all meetings of the General Assembly. The personnel employed shall include those persons requested by department heads. All such persons employed shall be approved by the Presiding Bishop and the General Board

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<sup>19</sup> Passed 4/70.

4. The Board of Directors, including the Chairman, shall be elected by the General Assembly, for a term of four (4) years at the time of election of the National Officers. The members of the Board of Directors shall be recommended to the General Assembly by the Presiding Bishop and the General Board, subject to the advice and consent of the majority of the General Assembly present and voting. The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Corporation shall be members of the Board of Directors upon their election to their respective offices. However, those persons presently constituting the Board of Directors shall hold office until the election of the National Officers in November, 1972<sup>20</sup>

**RESOLUTION**  
**RIGHTS TO USING NAME "CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST"**

WHEREAS, under the present leadership and Administration, the Church is realizing a Spiritual, Economic, and Physical growth, and,

WHEREAS, the present leadership has continuously concerned itself with maintaining a unified, peaceful and harmonious working relationship within the Church of God in Christ, and,

WHEREAS, the unity, peace and harmony of the Church is threatened by a dissident group calling themselves the "Church of God in Christ, International",

NOW THEREFORE, the General Assembly of the Church of God in Christ hereby resolves as follows:

- I. That the person, persons, or group using the name "Church of God in Christ, International" shall forthwith cease and desist from using the name of the Church of God in Christ other than in the manner and form designated in the Certificate of Incorporation as filed in Shelby County, Memphis. Tennessee.
2. That any person, persons, or group who continues to use the name "Church of God in Christ International" shall be in violation of and shall be in contravention to the dictates and will of the General Assembly and the Executive authority of the Church of God In Christ, and such continued use, by such person, persons, or group shall be considered to be a voluntary withdrawing from the fellowship of the Church of God in Christ, and such persons names shall be stricken from the membership roll of the Church of God in Christ.
3. That the Executive Authority of the Church is instructed and authorized to take appropriate action to enjoin such person, persons, or group from representing themselves as belonging to or being representatives of the Church of God In Christ.<sup>21</sup>

**RESOLUTION**  
**MISC RESOLUTIONS APPROVED APRIL. 1971**

1. Resolution on withdrawal of Churches.
2. Illegal Jurisdictions- Illegal establishment of Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions.
8. Extension Fund Proposal - That no less than 10% of monies raised at the Spring Meeting and the Annual Convention be used for the expansion of Churches as well improvement of Churches.

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<sup>20</sup> Passed 4/70.

<sup>21</sup> Passed 4/70~

9. In regards to Housing Proposal for Senior Citizens, handicapped. etc., to be funded by the Federal Government, with the Church only providing a small amount of “seed money” of perhaps 17- 18 thousand dollars for a complex to cost possibly 7 million dollars. The “seed money” to be returned to the Church. The multiple units to be located in Memphis, TN.
11. September 8th be proclaimed a Special Church Holiday. This being the birthday of our late founder, Bishop C. H. Mason.<sup>23</sup>

### **RESOLUTION FEMALE DELEGATES**

One State Supervisor of each jurisdiction, one District Missionary, one Female Delegate, and one Lay Delegate from each jurisdiction.<sup>24</sup>

### **RESOLUTION BUDGET COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, the church is in need of a structure to support and maintain our National Church:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT a permanent budget committee be established to prepare and administer the budgetary needs of the church.<sup>25</sup>

### **RESOLUTION SCHOOL PRESIDENTS VOTING PRIVILEGES**

WHEREAS, the perspectives and goals of the Church of God in Christ are constantly expanding, reflecting the need for better educational facilities, and

WHEREAS, the national schools comprise an integral segment of the national church,

WHEREAS, those who are in direct contact and responsible for the smooth operation necessary to enhance the status of our schools are more familiar with the needs of same,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

That all presidents of national schools be granted voting status without references to jurisdiction in all General Assemblies of the National Church.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> By Elder G. Ross and Elder Roy Winbush

<sup>23</sup> Passed 4/71

<sup>24</sup> Passed 11/71

<sup>25</sup> Passed 11/72

<sup>26</sup> Passed 11/72,

**RESOLUTION**  
**INSTALLATION SERVICE**

Mandate calling for the installation service for those elected to serve during the four year tenure.<sup>27</sup>

**RESOLUTION**  
**DOCTRINAL HANDBOOK**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT:

WHEREAS, the points of doctrine which are now before the General Assembly for consideration are in much need of serious and attentive review, correction and perfection; and

WHEREAS, the Doctrinal Committee preparing such material for our manual has done a stupendous task and has led us to the brink of publication of our long needed manual and church discipline; and

WHEREAS, we can see that it will still take a period of time to come to the perfection and dignity of expression proper for the pure doctrine of the Church of God In Christ, as we would like to see it expressed:

WE, OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, NOW IN SESSION. DO HEREBY MAKE THE MOTION THAT:

The material now presented by the Discipline Committee be accepted and approved for print, with all corrections thus far authorized by this assembly, and that,

The Committee be hereby commended for their dedicated, untiring and seemingly unending work of gathering and forming this material for our use, and that,

The General Assembly proceeded, in future sessions, to consider and accept corrections, additions, deletions and perfection of the current document, and that,

That the following paragraph shall precede the Church Doctrine in its printed form, as it shall be provided to the ministers and laymen of the Church in the near future:

THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT OF DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST IS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED FINAL NOR FULLY COMPLETE IN THIS PRESENT FORM: IN ORDER THAT THE CHURCH MAY HAVE A TENTATIVE RULE OF ORDER AND STATEMENT OF BELIEF WE HONOR THE WORK OF OUR DOCTRINAL COMMITTEE AND ACCEPT SUCH, WITH PROVISION THAT WE SHALL BE ABLE TO AMEND, CORRECT, ADD, PERFECT. AND DECLARE FROM OUR GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT IT IS A TRUE EXPRESSION OF WHAT THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST REPRESENT.<sup>28</sup>

**RESOLUTION**  
**BOARD OF BISHOPS - THREE RESOLUTIONS**

(1) **NATIONAL TITHING SYSTEM.**

WHEREAS, the Board of Bishops has elected and certified a committee to submit a resolution to the General Assembly on Tithing, and

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<sup>27</sup> Passed 4/10/73 - By P. A. Brooks.

<sup>28</sup> Passed 4/73.

WHEREAS, after a prayerful study and deliberation on the Tithing system and,

WHEREAS, we do feel the strong need of a Tithing system in our National Church.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all Jurisdictional Bishops send to the General Church 10% of their yearly income from their Jurisdiction meeting

## **(2) FINANCIAL REPORTS.**

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has duly elected a General Board of Bishops, and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has duly elected a National Presiding Bishop, and

WHEREAS, the National Presiding Bishop has been duly authorized to appoint Jurisdictional Bishops and

WHEREAS, the Jurisdictional Bishop is the duly authorized representative of his Jurisdiction,

BE IT RESOLVED, that no individual person, other than the duly authorized Jurisdictional Bishop, or his chosen representative be allowed to make a report to the National Financial Secretary, or any other departmental head in the Church of God In Christ,

## **(3) AUTHORIZED VOTERS.**

WHEREAS, the Jurisdictional Bishop has been duly authorized to register the name of all qualified voting members from his Jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS, the names of all persons desirous of voting must be duly elected by a Jurisdictional Assembly presided over a Bishop.

BE IT RESOLVED, that no person be allowed to vote if (he or she) has not been duly elected by a duly authorized Jurisdictional Assembly, and (his or her) name appear on a Jurisdictional sheet.<sup>29</sup>

## **RESOLUTION** **RADIO AND T. V. COMMISSION**

WHEREAS, The Church of God In Christ desires to extend and project the message of sanctification and salvation to all people throughout the world; and,

WHEREAS, an out-reach program of contemporary, updated Evangelistic radio and television ministry can be a medium through which millions can hear and receive the word of God as well as be informed of the involvements, programs currently operative and those proposed, and the many wonderful works being done by the Church of God In Christ that will benefit people all over the world; and,

WHEREAS, a project of such magnitude must produce a program of such quality that the “Voice of Pentecost” will articulate the message of God The Father and our Lord and Savior in accordance with the Articles of Faith, teachings and beliefs of the Church of God in Christ;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

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<sup>29</sup> Submitted by the Board of Bishops Resolution Committee. Bishop LeRoy Anderson, Chairman, Bishop Samuel L. Green, Secretary. Bishop L. T. Blacksheard Member Bishop Esaw Courtney, Member

Bishop Theo Davis, Member. Action not indicated.

That there be established within the Church of God in Christ a Radio and Television Commission, composed of seven (7) members whose duties and functions will be as follows:

1. Establish a network of radio and television broadcasts for periodic presentation of the message of Pentecost for the Church of God In Christ.
2. To establish and approve program structure and content and format for this mass media presentation with authority to represent and serve as a spokesman for the Church of God in Christ in expressing to the world the Articles of Faith, teachings and beliefs of the Church as they relate to every segment of human life. The decisions and conclusions reached by the Commission must be approved by the Presiding Bishop and the General Board.
3. The members of this Commission shall be appointed by the Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board and shall serve for four (4) years. The term shall commence from the date of appointment. The Commission shall be authorized to elect the officers necessary to carry out its functions.<sup>30</sup>

### **RESOLUTION RECORDING COMPANY**

WHEREAS, the Church of God In Christ desires to project the image of Holiness through all forms of communication, and

WHEREAS, one of the most effective ways of projecting such an image is through the distribution of gospel music, and

WHEREAS, the Church of God in Christ has many highly talented artists with God-given gifts of singing, instrumentation and in all forms of display of gospel music, and

WHEREAS, the production of records and distribution of gospel music by records can provide additional income to the National and local church as part of fund raising efforts to carry on the Church's mission of winning souls for Christ, and

WHEREAS, various national recording companies have expressed interest in joint venturing with the Church for the production of records and dissemination of records;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Church establish a Record Company for the production, recording and distribution of records in the gospel music field of the highly talented artists of the Church.
2. Said company be incorporated under the laws of Tennessee and a Board of Directors by appointed by the Presiding Bishop with the approval of the General Board, and that said recording company be a wholly owned subsidiary of the Church,
3. Board of Directors of said Record Company be authorized to enter into such contracts with approved national recording companies that are in the best interest of the Church and project Holiness throughout the world.
4. That the said Board of Directors of the Record Company be authorized to develop a budget and

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<sup>30</sup>Passed

present it to the General Board for securing a loan from the General Church for seed money necessary to initiate the work of the Church's record company.

5. Said Board of Directors be required to report semi-annually to the General Board and annually to the General Assembly of the activities of the record company,
6. Said Board of Directors shall have the authority to adopt such by-laws, rules and regulations, and to do such other acts required by law or that it deems necessary to carry out the purposed of this resolution<sup>31</sup>

## **RESOLUTION**

### **DEFERRED COMPENSATION**

On April 18, 1974, the General Assembly of the National Church of God in Christ, Inc., a Tennessee corporation, met in open session at the Chisca Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. At that time the following resolution was, on motion duly made and seconded, after unanimously adopted.

BE IT RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the National Church of God in Christ, Inc. does hereby adopt a plan allowing all national and affiliated member churches to enter into such deferred compensation agreements with their bishops, pastors, employees, and such other personnel employed by them as they deem necessary, provided, however, that all deferred compensation agreements entered into will be in compliance with the applicable sections of the Internal Revenue Code. Providing however, that any plans, contracts or agreements be approved by the Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ or his designee with the consent of a majority membership of the General Board.<sup>32</sup>

## **RESOLUTION**

### **COGIC TOUR AND TRAVEL BUREAU, INC.**

BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. hereby ratifies the establishment by the Officers and General Board of a Tennessee corporation known as COGIC Tour & Travel Bureau, Inc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., hereby authorizes the General Board to vote the shares of COGIC Tour & Travel Bureau, Inc., to name the directors of such corporation and to generally handle all of the management and operation of such corporation, and to delegate to the directors of such corporation such duties and authority as it may deem appropriate.<sup>33</sup>

## **RESOLUTION**

### **COGIC INSURANCE AGENCY. INC.**

BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly of the Church of God In Christ, Inc. hereby ratifies the

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<sup>31</sup>Apr11 18,1974,November, 1975,Passed 4/18/74. Submitted by- Elder R. L. Winbush, Bishop Jacob Cohen, Elder Charles Blake, Bishop CL Anderson, Elder C. Brewer, Jr., Bishop German Ross, Atty. J. O. Patterson, Jr. Atty. A. W. Willis.

<sup>32</sup>Passed April 18, 1974.

<sup>33</sup>Passed November, 1975

establishment by the officers and General Board of a Tennessee corporation known as COCIC Insurance Agency Inc., to assist in the implementation of the Life Insurance Program of the Church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this General Assembly of the Church of God In Christ hereby authorizes the General Board to vote the shares of COGIC Insurance Agency, Inc., to name the directors of such corporation, and to generally handle all of the management and operation of such corporation, and to delegate to the directors of such corporation such duties and authority as it may deem appropriate.

BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly of the Church of God In Christ, Inc. hereby ratifies the establishment of the Life Trust Program, which provides the opportunity for a member of the Church to purchase insurance on his life, with the policy proceeds furthering the work of the Church and providing an endowment for the Church. To implement this program, the Church, through its officers, is authorized to establish a COGIC Building Trust which will be the owner of the policy and will receive ten percent (10%) of the policy proceeds. Fifty percent (50%) of the policy proceeds shall go to the member's local church and the remaining forty percent (40%) of the policy proceeds shall go to the National Church. This distribution of proceeds may only be altered by the affirmative vote of three- fourths (3/4) of the members of the General Assembly. The details of the program are set out in the attached brochure on the Life Trust; and the General Board, subject to the foregoing restrictions, is hereby authorized to implement, administer, and carry out all details of the program.<sup>34</sup>

### **RESOLUTION** **PROJECT AUTHORIZATION TO GENERAL BOARD**

BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly of the Church of God In Christ, does hereby recognize the need for the Church to conduct certain business activities in order to generally assist its members and does hereby authorize the General Board to implement, conduct, administer, and carry out the following projects: (a) Operation Bootstrap, a program dedicated to the recycling and restoration of used clothing, furniture, and other items for redistribution and resale; (b) National Radio Broadcast sponsored by the Church and to be known as COGIC on the Air; (c) The Pastor's Tithe Program designed to strengthen the National Church; (d) COGIC Record Production Company, which will enable members and others to hear Christ's message through recorded music and sermons; (e) COGIC Book club, which will bring religious literature to the homes of the members; (f) developing the Chisca facility into the COGIC International Downtown Headquarters for the Church; (g) a feasibility study for the establishment of a 4-year college, sponsored by COCIC properties; and (i) feasibility study for the publication of a Monthly or Quarterly National Magazine of COGIC.<sup>35</sup>

### **RESOLUTION** **GENERAL RATIFICATION**

BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. hereby ratifies all of the actions of the Presiding Bishop and the General Board taken on behalf of the Church of God In

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<sup>34</sup>Passed 11/1 2/75.

<sup>35</sup>Passed 11/12/75.

Christ, Inc., since (11/1/74) - November 1, 1974, and that this General Assembly expresses its full confidence in and support of the Presiding Bishop and the General Board.<sup>36</sup>

## **RESOLUTION**

### **GENERAL RATIFICATION**

WHEREAS the Church of God In Christ as founded by the late Bishop C. H. Mason through the divine revelation of God has touched the lives of an innumerable amount of people throughout the world;

WHEREAS the Church of God in Christ through spiritual leadership has become a positive force in recreating the character and redeveloping the lives of sinful men through the preaching of the gospel;

WHEREAS through the devotion and faithfulness of the Elders and Pastors to the promulgation of the gospel of Christ, the church has grown 3 million strong;

WHEREAS the Pastors and Elders of the Church of God in Christ are the nucleus, backbone and supporting factor of the Church bringing us thus far;

WHEREAS the Elders Council at this time doesn't have any representation on any of the Standing Committees, and for any institution to maintain its rate of progress there must be complete harmony and total representation from the bottom to the top;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Elders Council makes the following recommendation to the Rules Committee:

1. There shall be a proportional amount of representatives appointed to ALL STANDING COMMITTEES, present and future as recommended by the Elders Council.
2. There shall be appointed four Election Challengers and one alternate to work at the election booths for all elections. The five (5) Challengers shall be appointed by the Elders Council.<sup>37</sup>

## **RESOLUTION**

### **PERMANENT DELEGATES TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

WHEREAS, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason is the revered and Founding Father of the Church of God in Christ, and

WHEREAS, he has led this great Church during his lifetime until his incapacitation, and

WHEREAS, he has left an immortal legacy to more than three million followers of the largest black Pentecostal organization in the world, and

WHEREAS, many sacrifices were made by Bishop Mason and his family:

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that because of the many sacrifices made by the Founding Father and in respect to the same, that it would be only proper and fitting that Bishop Mason's children and

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<sup>36</sup>Passed 11/12/75.

<sup>37</sup>Passed 4/76. Submitted by the Elders Recommendation Committee - Elder David McDonald- Chairman,

Elder Milton Wells - Secretary Elder A. L. Baxter, Elder Charles Green, Elder N. H. Henderson.

grandchildren should be granted the privilege of being permanent delegates to the General Assembly of the Church of God in Christ, Incorporated as long as their decorum is in keeping with the doctrines and policy of the Church of God in Christ.<sup>38</sup>

## **RESOLUTION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, members of the Church of God in Christ spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in the purchase of new automobiles and the repair and maintenance of automobiles owned by over three million members,

WHEREAS, under the leadership of our beloved Bishop J. O. Patterson, Sr., The Church of God in Christ has embarked upon a program of economic development designed to help defray the cost of the Church's many programs as well as uplift the economic status of its members,

WHEREAS, from preliminary investigation and studies, it appears that the vast purchasing power of the church's members and leaders, if mobilized, can bring about savings in both the purchase and repair of automobiles aiding in the raising of money to help our church's religious activities,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Church of God in Christ begin negotiations and investigations into the possibility of:

- I. Saving its members money in the purchase of new automobiles,
2. Saving money in the repairs of presently owned automobiles,
3. Raising money to further the religious programs of the church.

Such negotiations be conducted by the Church's legal staff and other persons as may be designated by the Presiding Bishop and that the negotiation team shall report back to the General Board the results of such negotiations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Board shall have the authority to implement and authorize any such program that in their discretion provides an opportunity for the Church and its members to reach the savings and fund raising contemplated in this resolution.

We, J. O. Patterson, Sr., Presiding Bishop, and D. A. Burton, General Secretary, hereby certify that this resolution was adopted at a meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of God in Christ held in Memphis, Tennessee, on the 8th day of April, 1976.<sup>39</sup>

## **RESOLUTION CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

WHEREAS, the Church of God in Christ has witnessed a growth in its membership, an enlargement of its purpose and function; and

WHEREAS, the expansion and development of the Church of God in Christ demand that the

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<sup>38</sup>Passed 4/76. Submitted by Lay Delegate: Rosa Wilson

<sup>39</sup>Passed 4/76. Submitted by J. O. Patterson, Sr., Presiding Bishop, and D. A. Burton, Secretary.

Constitution and By-Laws as adopted by the General Assembly April 13, 1912 be amended or modified; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ as it now exists fails to specifically express the desires and will of the general membership in regard to its spiritual, administrative and financial needs; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the General Assembly that the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ shall be established as a document that will clearly express the will of the general membership:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That this General Assembly now in session hereby authorize the convening of a Constitutional Convention to be convened between April 19-21, 1977 for the purpose of receiving proposed amendments to the Constitution for approval and adoption by the General Assembly which then setting as a Constitutional Convention.<sup>40</sup>

### **RESOLUTION SAINTS CENTER**

WHEREAS, there is an opportunity to develop and establish a Saints Center as a city developed upon the Glory of God to spread the Gospel throughout the world and,

WHEREAS, certain real estate properties surrounding the Church's Chisca property are available for purchase for rebuilding and development of Saints Center which would be a shrine to our founding father Bishop C.H. Mason as well as creating an International Evangelistic Center for the Service of our Lord.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly hereby endorse and encourage the Presiding Bishop to develop a Saints Center and to encourage and solicit aid and assistance of all persons desirous to help spread the word of God to become partners in the progress by making financial love gifts which will be needed to build this Center.<sup>41</sup>

### **RESOLUTION 69th CONVOCATION TRIBUTES**

WHEREAS, The Church of God in Christ has experienced the loss of two great leaders, Bishop S. M. Crouch and Mrs. Cora Berry of Southern California, and

WHEREAS, formal recognition should be entered in the permanent official records of the Church of God in Christ,

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the minutes of this 69th Convocation, this General Assembly session shall include tributes to them to be submitted by the officers of the Southern California Jurisdiction #1. This is done so that all who shall read the official records of the church in the future may know that Bishop S. M. Crouch and Mrs. Cora Berry passed this way.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>40</sup> Passed 11/17/76.

<sup>41</sup> Passed 11/17/76.

<sup>42</sup> Passed 11/76.

**RESOLUTION**  
**SAINTS CENTER**

WHEREAS, there is an opportunity to develop and establish a Saints Center as a city developed upon the Glory of God to spread the Gospel throughout the world and,

WHEREAS, certain real estate properties surrounding the Church's Chisca property are available for purchase for rebuilding and development of Saints Center which would be a shrine to our founding father Bishop C.H. Mason as well as creating an International Evangelistic Center for the Service of our Lord.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this General Assembly hereby endorse and encourage the Presiding Bishop to develop a Saints Center and to encourage and solicit aid and assistance of all persons desirous to help spread the word of God to become partners in the progress by making financial love gifts which will be needed to build this Center.<sup>43</sup>

**RESOLUTION**  
**SAINTS CENTER**

WHEREAS, the General Assembly in November of 1976, approved the concept of Saints Center Project as proposed by the Presiding Bishop, and

WHEREAS, said General Assembly did authorize and direct the Presiding Bishop to proceed with the development and formulation of plans for Saints Center, and

WHEREAS, preliminary investigation indicates that most if not all real estate encompassed within the Saints Center boundaries can be acquired by the Church of God In Christ, and

WHEREAS, it is deemed expedient that the following and included resolutions be adopted by this General Assembly in order to assist the Presiding Bishop in his efforts to carry out the will of the General Assembly.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

In furtherance of its resolution passed during the November meeting of said General Assembly relating to development of Saints Center, that the Presiding Bishop is specifically authorized to negotiate with the owners of the property in the Saints Center Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Presiding Bishop is hereby authorized to engage in and perform all lawful activities for the acquisition of the real estate included within the proposed Saints Center Project.<sup>44</sup>

**RESOLUTION**  
**NATIONAL AND JURISDICTIONAL APPOINTEES**

We, the members of the General Assembly and the General Board believe that governments are God given institutions for the benefit of mankind. We hereby declare our loyalty to the Church and to the Constitution as it may be amended from time to time. However, as God fearing, peace loving and law

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<sup>43</sup> Passed 11/17/77.

<sup>44</sup> Passed 4/19/77.

abiding members of the Church, we feel that in order to carry on the programs and work of the Church, we must continue to obey the laws of the Church as set forth in the Constitution

WHEREAS, the Church of God In Christ filed a new constitution in the year of 1972 and,

WHEREAS, as God fearing and Saints of the Most High God, we should follow the laws as set forth by the General Assembly and,

WHEREAS, the Constitution is believed to be God given and inspired and,

WHEREAS, the General Assembly has elected twelve men from among the Bishops to serve as members of the General Board,

WHEREAS, The General Board desires to assist and help the Presiding Bishop to keep the peace and unity of the Spirit and,

WHEREAS, Part II of the Constitution clearly states the powers of the General Board and,

WHEREAS, the Presiding Bishop shall carry out all policies and action as approved by the General Board subject to the will of the General Assembly in accord with Part II of the Constitution,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT:

1. All national and jurisdictional appointments should be made by the Presiding Bishop only after the approval of the majority of the members of the General Board subject to the will of the General Assembly
2. All policies and programs brought forth by the Presiding Bishop be approved by the majority of the General Board subject to the will of the General Assembly

In the event the Presiding Bishop and a majority of the General Board cannot come to an agreement, both the Presiding Bishop and the General Board shall have the privilege of presenting their issues before the General Assembly for final disposition.<sup>45</sup>

### **RESOLUTION**

### **WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Women's Department of the Church of God In Christ esteems it a great honor to have had several offices refurbished and redecorated in a decorum which gives a picturistic atmosphere to the elect ladies of the Church of God In Christ, and

WHEREAS, a beautiful lounge for the ladies have been provided for our comfort and pleasure, and

WHEREAS, an office which reflects the poise and dignity of our revered General Supervisor, in thus, Mother Mattie McGlothen has been extremely honored.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Women's Department extend our most sincere thanks and gratitude to our most illustrious Presiding Bishop, Bishop J. O. Patterson and his committee for their administrative foresight and for making a dream come true.

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<sup>45</sup>Passed 11/16/77.

IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, we will endeavor to support the Program of the Church of God In Christ through our prayers, love and finance and pray that God will continue to lead, guide and direct us on to higher heights and deeper depths.<sup>46</sup>

### **RESOLUTION** **NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS; The National Security Committee has been an integral and necessary agency of all of our National Conventions, and

WHEREAS; this Committee has been faithfully active and responsible throughout this Convocation, and

WHEREAS; all other major Committees, Departments, Boards and agencies have been allotted office space and equipment, and

WHEREAS; the Security Commission have seemingly been overlooked and neglected in this important matter

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION BE PROVIDED OFFICE SPACE AND NECESSARY AND PROPER EQUIPMENT THAT THEY MAY BETTER SERVE YOUR NEEDS.<sup>47</sup>

### **RESOLUTION** **WOMEN'S DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the Women's Department of the Church of God In Christ under the dynamic leadership of its present General Supervisor, Dr. Mattie McClothen, has previously pledged its hearty cooperation verbally to help bring to fruition the vision of our Presiding Bishop J. O. Patterson the establishing of Saints Center in Memphis, Tennessee, and

WHEREAS, officials and the laity of the Women's Department have committed themselves since the organization of our progressive church in prayers, labors and financial commitments, and

WHEREAS, financial pledges have been made and paid by some of the dedicated handmaidens of the Women's Department, and

WHEREAS, Saints Center will serve as a monumental Outreach Ministry of Holiness and a perpetuation towards the teaching of our sainted founders, namely, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, Mother Lizzie Roberson and others, and

WHEREAS, the Women's Department has always been relied upon for its contribution spiritually, physically and financially in the building of our progressive institution, and

WHEREAS, there exists the dire need for continued exploration of new horizons in the under the leadership of the present administration,

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<sup>46</sup> Passed 11/16/77. Submitted by the Women's Department.

<sup>47</sup> 11/77 Resolution Tabled; Passed next session.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the continued support of the Women's Department be given prayerfully in every way needed respectfully and honorably, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the erection of Saints Center establishes a new set of values for our posterity and present generation in the saving of souls; for we build not just for today and for ourselves, but for tomorrow and for others.<sup>48</sup>

## **RESOLUTION** **DEPARTMENT OF MISSIONS**

WHEREAS, Missions and soul winning is God's most important business, and

WHEREAS, Missions is the very essence of the Church, and

WHEREAS, there are cries for help heard from around the world, and

WHEREAS, our Church of God In Christ is giving World wide attention and making preparations for universal thrust through Missions, and

WHEREAS, the Missions Department sees the imperativeness of vital indoctrination, general orientation and specific educational training in Missions throughout our Church,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Department of Missions be given a full day to accomplish all of the foregoing. Specifically, it is requested that the first Thursday in the November International Convocation in Memphis, from 3:00 P. M. to 11:00 P. M. be designated as "MISSIONS DAY".

## **RESOLUTION** **HOUSING**

WHEREAS, the Church of God In Christ brings thousands of delegates from all over America and the world, and

WHEREAS, we have not been able to recognize any discount on the rooms and

WHEREAS, that it appears that we pay more for rooms by using our own system, than if we registered independently, and

WHEREAS, it appears that we should get relief from paying state taxes,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

1. A committee composed of bishops, pastors, and state supervisors be appointed by the Chairman of the General Assembly with full authority to bring to past better accommodations and a lower rate.

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<sup>48</sup>Passed 11/16/77. Mother Carrie Dinwiddie-Chairperson, Mother Carrie Cantrell-Advisor, Mother Louise Perrodin, Mother Lillian Cawthon, Mrs. Jeraldine Stewart, Mrs. Elnora Austin Mrs. Eftie Frye, Mrs. Mary Anderson.

<sup>49</sup>Passed 11/16/77

2. To meet with the hotel and motel association, president and others of the Association to secure the better rates.<sup>50</sup>

## **RESOLUTION**

### **PRESIDENT OF SAINTS COLLEGE**

WHEREAS, Dr Arenia C. Mallory has served as President of Saints College for approximately fifty years, and

WHEREAS, her life has been expended in the field of education and for the promotion of the Church school, many of our children, and

WHEREAS, by action of the General Assembly the position of Commissioner of Education was created to further enhance and maintain her usefulness to the Church, and

WHEREAS, because of failing health she was unable to serve in the capacity of Commissioner of Education at a salary of \$12,000 a year, and

WHEREAS, because of her long years of service to the Church and the need for continued support, at this time of incapacitation the Presiding Bishop deemed it necessary and provided a tentative monthly allowance of \$1,000 pending action of the General Assembly, and

WHEREAS, the General Board has unanimously sustained the action of the Presiding Bishop.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT

The Presiding Bishop and the General Board recommend that this monthly allowance be provided throughout the lifetime of Dr. Mallory to sustain her during this time of diminished activity.<sup>51</sup>

## **RESOLUTION**

### **SAINTS CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

WHEREAS, The General Assembly of the Church of God in Christ did adopt a resolution authorizing the Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson to raise funds, negotiate for and purchase certain parcels of Land and Real Estate, according to his discretion, necessary for the building and establishing of &Saints Center; and

WHEREAS, Presiding Bishop Patterson has faithfully and wisely exercised the authority vested in him to do the same having contracted for more than \$1,000,000.00 worth of property of which more than \$500,000.00 worth of property has been paid for in full from funds given especially for that purpose and tithes that were authorized by the donors to be used for same, and

WHEREAS, Much of the property acquired is occupied by tenants and much of it can be remodeled to meet the needs of Saints Center, which will include an institution of higher learning; and

WHEREAS, there is always present the possibility of litigation that could endanger the financial structure of our General Church if we do not provide relief through a separate corporate structure to be formed:

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<sup>50</sup> Passed 11/16/77.

<sup>51</sup>Passed 4/19/77.

WHEREAS, Presiding Bishop Patterson needs more assistance in managing the acquired properties and the planning of Saints Center according to the will and pleasure of the General Assembly.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by this General Assembly that a 15 member board be appointed, authorized and empowered to establish a non profit corporation named Saints Center Church of God In Christ Inc. That this original board of 15 may organize and increase their number as provided by the By-laws and the Laws of the State of Tennessee. Be it further resolved that this original Board of directors be appointed as follows:

- (a) 3 from the Members of the General Board
- (b) 3 from the Members of the Board of Bishops
- (c) 3 from the Members of the Elder Councils
- (d) 3 from the Women's Department
- (e) 3 Lay Members of the Church of God in Christ

BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE HEADS and/or Chairman of the above named departments shall make the appointments from their respective departments with each chairman and/or head appointing 3 persons each with all 4 chairmen collectively appointing the 3 Lay Members,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all of the downtown real estate now owned/or to be acquired for the Saints Center Complex shall be transferred to the new corporation but shall contain language in the deeds that this property is held in trust for the use and benefit for the members of the Church of God in Christ Inc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of Saints Center shall not levy any assessments on the Jurisdictions or Auxiliaries of the Church of God in Christ, but may solicit support from Grants, Foundations and Contributions from individuals.

No funds of the General Board raised for the operation of the General Church should be used for & Saints Center unless such funds shall be authorized by the General Assembly through the Trustee Board, as provided by the present Constitution of the Church of God in Christ, or as amended from time to time<sup>52</sup>

### **RESOLUTION JUDICIARY BOARD**

There shall be established a Judiciary Board for the Church of God in Christ

### **RESOLUTION CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION**

In a duly called meeting of the Board of Bishops called to be convened in Cleveland, Ohio on June 29, 1978. The following Resolution was offered and properly passed and therefore offered to this setting of the 71st annual session of the General Assembly.

WHEREAS: the present OFFICIAL MANUAL is inadequate to meet the needs of the Church as it intended, And,

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<sup>52</sup> Passed 4/5/78.

WHEREAS: that the OFFICIAL MANUAL provides for the overlapping of positions and authority, thus leading to much confusion within our administrative borders, and,

WHEREAS: there are many other phases of the CONSTITUTION that need immediate attention in order that it *may* better serve our needs and protection, and,

WHEREAS: a CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION is the only place that these urgencies can and should be dealt with properly

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; we the members of the Board of Bishops urge the General Assembly in the November session to support the setting of a CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION:

IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the delegate/s to this CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION be elected, certified and that such delegates expenses be furnished by their respective Jurisdictions<sup>53</sup>

### **RESOLUTION** **PENTECOSTAL TEMPLE. INC.**

WHEREAS, Pentecostal Temple, Inc. Church of God in Christ is about to embark upon the building of a new sanctuary, and educational and recreational building to be located at 229 South Danny Thomas Boulevard,

WHEREAS, The Church's proposed construction will cost approximately \$2,000,000.00 of which the Church will have on hand of its own funds approximately \$1,000,000.00 and,

WHEREAS, The Church will use its funds in the first phase of the construction but will need construction funds of a balance of approximately \$1,300,000.00 and,

WHEREAS IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR THE Church to provide a guarantee for the completion of construction work in order for Pentecostal Temple to borrow the construction funds of approximately \$ 1,000,000.000,

WHEREAS, the construction will be supervised by a local architect for all labor and material,

WHEREAS, Bishop Patterson, Sr., the Pastor, the Trustees, Deacons and members of Pentecostal Temple Church of God In Christ would like for the National Church to provide the guarantee for the construction work for the benefit of

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National Church of God In Christ, Inc. does hereby agree that the Church will provide the guarantee for the construction work of the full building of Pentecostal Temple Church of God in according to the plans and specifications as prepared by William Berry Architect and as may be modified; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the First or Second Assistant, along with the General Secretary, be authorized to execute any and all documents that may be required by the lending institution as affect the guarantee agreement and do all other acts as may be necessary to carry out this resolution the expenditures will be paid by Pentecostal Temple Church of God In Christ<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>53</sup>Passed 11/78.

<sup>54</sup>Passed 4/79.

**RESOLUTION**  
**ACCOUNTANT AND MANAGERIAL SYSTEM**

RESOLVED: That the General Assembly of the Church of God in Christ authorizes and directs that, except the Presiding Bishop acting within the scope of authority granted by the Constitution, Charter and By-Laws of the Church of God in Christ and/or with the advice and consent of the majority of the General Board, no bishop, jurisdictional bishop, departmental official or employee thereof, nor any other person or entity, is hereafter authorized or empowered to enter into any contract, agreement or arrangement for the purchase or sale of any goods or personal services or real or personal property of any nature, form or description, or to, in any other manner, obligate or indebted or encumber the National Church of God in Christ or any of its departments or subdivisions, or cause same to be obligated, indebted or encumbered in any manner or amount; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the General Board, acting upon the recommendation of the Presiding Bishop, may, by passage of a written resolution, grant or delegate the authority to contract on behalf of the National Church but said authority shall be limited in writing to only that authority reasonable necessary to carry out the prescribed duty or function or responsibility for which the authority is granted; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the General Board is directed to ascertain and to implement a system of internal controls and accountability and to put same into operation as soon as the system is developed and is authorized to establish such offices or positions as are necessary to implement the accountability system; and, be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Legal Department of the Church of God in Christ is directed to provide the General Board with the necessary expertise to develop an accountability system and is specifically authorized to recommend to the General Board for its approval and hiring of those persons and to employ the services of a certified public accountant and/or managerial analysis firm to aid in the development of the desired accountability system; and; be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the General Board be expected to have such system in operation by the beginning of the November, 1980, Convocation and shall report the status of same to the General Assembly at that time.<sup>55</sup>

**RESOLUTION**  
**BISHOP CHARLES HARRISON MASON BIRTHDAY**

RESOLUTION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 8, THE BIRTHDAY OF BISHOP CHARLES H. MASON, OUR, FOUNDING FATHER, A HOLIDAY FOR THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST.

WHEREAS, the Church of God in Christ was founded and successfully led for many years by Bishop Charles H. Mason; and

WHEREAS, the Church flourished and grew under his powerful and dedicated leadership to the extent that member churches of the Church of God in Christ are found in every major city of the United States and across the oceans; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, God, in His wise providence, called our Founding Father from labor to reward; and

WHEREAS, Bishop Mason will always be revered and live in the memory of the constituency of our

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<sup>55</sup>Passed 4/79.

Church; and

WHEREAS, this administration desires to perpetuate the memory of our Founding Father for the future generations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That in honor and recognition of Bishop Mason, his birthday, September 8, will be and is hereby declared a holiday for all members of the Church of God in Christ throughout the world)’

### **RESOLUTION NATIONAL BLACK CHURCHES**

WHEREAS, the Church of God in Christ has become a viable force in the Christian community; and

WHEREAS, its influence is felt in all areas of human development; and

WHEREAS, the Church of God in Christ has found it advantageous to share with other religious organizations in the pursuit of mutually profitable goals, such as theological education, community development, political and social issues that affect the Black community; and

WHEREAS, the Church of God in Christ recognizes the need of broadening its ministries include the whole man, and social issues that affect our membership; and

WHEREAS, the Church of God in Christ has been selected and invited as one of the seven leading Black denominations in America to share in the development and pursuit of the aforementioned goals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the following persons be designated to represent the Church of God in Christ in the pursuit of these objectives in cooperation with the National Black Churches

1. Bishop G. R. Ross
2. Bishop J. D. Husband
3. Bishop Norman Quick
4. Bishop C. Hail

### **RESOLUTION HOLY WEEK**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THAT THE WEEK EMBRACING TUESDAY AFTER THE FIRST SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER THROUGH THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY BE DECLARED HOLY WEEK TO ALLOW ATTENDANCE OF THE SAINTS AT THE HOLY CONVOCATION IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

WHEREAS, the Church of God in Christ has traditionally celebrated its annual Holy Convocation beginning Tuesday after the first Sunday in November for the succeeding ten days; and

WHEREAS, the Church of God in Christ is recognized as one of the largest Pentecostal bodies of the major religious denominations in the world; and

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<sup>56</sup> Passed 4/80.

<sup>57</sup> Passed 4/80.

WHEREAS, the constituency or the Church of God in Christ is composed of all classes and professions of life; and

WHEREAS, our membership attends the Convocation annually from all over the world in order to serve God in the tradition of our Church, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the week embracing Tuesday after the first Sunday in November through the following Sunday will be, and is hereby, declared Holy Week to encourage and permit the Saints everywhere to attend the Holy Convocation at our National Headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee<sup>58</sup>

### **RESOLUTION** **NATIONAL TITHING COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS: God, Himself, has ordained a proficient and profitable system of financing His Church, i.e., through tithes and offerings; and,

WHEREAS: This system of giving is biblically verifiable and sound-and, therefore is undebatable in terms of justifications; and,

WHEREAS: God's system of giving has always proven to be an unparalleled source of blessings and favors to those who adhere to it; and,

WHEREAS: There is a dire need for the Church of God in Christ to acquire an adequate and equitable program for it's constituency in light of the inadequacies and inequities of our present reporting system; and,

WHEREAS: Our present and emerging programs of ministerial responsibility to the world mandate more consistent and substantive financial support; and,

WHEREAS: This resolution by no means attempts to legislate what God has already commanded of His people, but only to seek a method and system by which His Holy Church can comply with the command of our Lord.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Church of God in Christ General Assembly join the Board of Bishops in general and with more than seventy-five Bishops in particular in adopting a simple system of tithing adapted to undergird our church's crucial ministerial needs, to wit,

BE IT RESOLVED that initially each member of the Church of God in Christ be apprised of the essential need to tithe and of the blessings that adherence to God's system entail;

SECONDLY, BE IT RESOLVED that each local congregation or pastor set aside a tithe of tithe (10% of the weekly tithe income); complete the forms provided by the National Church; and report the accumulated tithe of tithe monthly (by the 5th of the following month) to the jurisdiction.

THIRDLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Jurisdiction receive, by the 10th of each month the accumulated tithe of tithe from each local congregation or pastor

BE IT RESOLVED, FOURTHLY, that the State Jurisdiction will send the National Church 50% of the 'Tithes and retain 50% of the Tithe in the Jurisdiction.

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<sup>58</sup>Passed 4/80.

FIFTHLY, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that non-tithing members and credential holders be assessed in amounts fixed annually by the General Assembly. And, that both the jurisdiction and National Church establish an accountability system to receive and disburse the income.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the funds received be disbursed only after a budgetary program has been formulated and approved by the General Assembly for National Funds and State Assembly for Jurisdictional Funds. The National Tithing Committee will promote, monitor, and assist in implementing the Tithing Program.

NOTE: THE ABOVE IS THE ADOPTED RESOLUTION AFTER CHANGES IN THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT PRESENTED BY THE NATIONAL TITHING COMMITTEE<sup>59</sup>

### **RESOLUTION TRUSTEE BOARD APRIL '83 - SESSION**

WHEREAS, the constitution of the Church of God in Christ provides that the National Board of Trustees of the Church shall consist of not less than fifteen (15) members nor more than thirty-one (31) members; and,

WHEREAS, since the 1980 elections of the Church, their number has been decreased, providentially, to thirteen (13); and,

WHEREAS, the Elder WARREN E. MILLER of Northern Ohio's Jurisdiction did serve in previous terms, on the Board of Trustees, as Secretary, prior to the election of the late Bishop LEE AUGUSTUS JORDAN:

BE IT RESOLVED, that we use, this method to nominate to the General Assembly, in session at this April 1983 Session, ELDER WARREN E. MILLER to complete the unexpired term of the late Bishop Jordan; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the General Assembly elect, in this session, at least, one other person to serve on this venerable Board of our Church.<sup>60</sup>

### **RESOLUTION REGIONAL MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the Lord led the Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle, J. O. PATTERSON, to organize the Church of God in Christ, Inc. into Regions for the purpose of effectively presiding over the Church of God in Christ; and,

WHEREAS, the Presiding Bishop's visit to our Regions and jurisdictions inspired growth, loyalty and brought a wealth of inspiration and information regarding the National Church to our people; and,

WHEREAS, his visit caused the National Church to correct it's deficit and through his efforts, raised better than \$ 1,000,000.00 in eleven days:

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<sup>59</sup>Passed 4/82. Submitted by the National Tithing Committee of the General Assembly. Bishop L. L. Westbrook, Chmn., Bishop I N. Haynes, Secty., Bishop J. Howard Sherman, Bishop W. L. Porter, Bishop H. Jenkins Bell, Bishop H. U. Williams, Bishop C. H. Brewer, Bishop L. A. Jordon.

<sup>60</sup>Passed 4/83.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Bishops go on record in support of the Presiding Bishop's Mission and Ministry in the matter of the Regions; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Bishops would also respectfully request and encourage the Presiding Bishop to repeat the Regional Meetings in the 1984 Convocation Year.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Bishops offer the same support to the Presiding Bishop in the matter of the Regions as do we in the matter of the Districts in our Jurisdictions.

This resolution is to commend and express our confidence in Presiding Bishop J. O. Patterson for a job well done.<sup>61</sup>

### **RESOLUTION** **MS. C. H. MASON**

WHEREAS, in the year, 1944, the founder of our Church, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason took unto himself Ms. Elsie Washington to be his wife, and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mason served faithfully with honor and distinction as his wife, and first lady of our church until the time of his demise in 1961, thereby reflecting great honor upon the Church of God in Christ, and

WHEREAS, after the death of Bishop Mason, she continued to serve the Church in the capacity of Home and Foreign Mission Treasurer Editor of the Whole Truth until removed from these positions, and

WHEREAS, the only compensation she receives from the Church of God in Christ is a meager honorarium of \$7,500.00, which is well below the poverty level, and

WHEREAS, because of the great sacrifice made by the Founder of the Church of God in Christ that opened the door for all of us to receive unprecedented blessings, be it therefore,

RESOLVED, that the Church of God in Christ give due respect to the memory of our Great Founder by honoring his widow with a decent pension of not less than \$15,000.00 annually We therefore hope that this be given in monthly installments and that the church be allowed to apply the Cost-of-Living index to same, Be it further,

RESOLVED, that in order to protect her with adequate insurance protection that the Church would provide her with cost of such coverage, Be it further,

RESOLVED, that every national convention will afford her the common courtesy and kindness of complimentary accommodations in case she wishes to attend, and that this resolution be adopted forthwith, and that it become effective immediately.<sup>62</sup>

### **RESOLUTION**

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<sup>61</sup> Passed 4/83. Unanimously. Signed by Bishops - J. L. Sherman, L. T. Walker, F. E. Perry, P. A. Brooks, L. T. Westbrook, B. R. Stewart, F. D. Macklin, H. J. Bell, W. S. Wilson, N. Jones, Jr. Supervisors - E. M. Crouch, J. V. Hearne, Sweetie Porter, C. Cantrell, McGregor Jones, C. Wallace, L. Robinson, Harris, J. O. Anderson

<sup>62</sup> Passed 11/84.

## **STATUS OF EMERITUS**

WHEREAS, the Church of God in Christ has been blessed with the faithful service of Bishop John Walter White of Louisiana for over one-half century; and

WHEREAS, Bishop White has served the Church in many capacities including that of Pastor, Jurisdictional Bishop and member of the general presidium of the Church since its inception; and

WHEREAS, he has become the victim of an extended illness from which the attending physicians give little or no hope of recovery and thereby has rendered him inoperative and unable to fulfill the strenuous duties that the many duties of his office demands; and

WHEREAS, the Church did not re-elect him to the General Board on the 14th of November in this year of our Lord and since the Constitution makes no provisions for remuneration of Board Members who either retire or become incapacitated;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Board of Elders, the Jurisdictional Supervisor and Official Family of the Western Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ in the State of Louisiana petition this session of the General Assembly to elevate Bishop John Walter White to the status of “Emeritus

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that if this cannot be effected by this resolution, that this same resolution be placed on the docket for the next session of the general assembly to provide, “constitutionally” for the emeritizing of other such Board Members who fall victim of incapacitation, so that they may also receive no less than half of the standard compensation of an active General Board Member for as long as he lives.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that no action or legislation be enacted to deprive Bishop White or any other General Board Member who may fall within the boundaries of this prevue of this honor and that this document be placed in the permanent archives of the Church at World Headquarters in Memphis, Tennessee.<sup>63</sup>

## **RESOLUTION SIXTEEN TRUSTEES**

WHEREAS THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST provides on Page 5 of Amendment No. 5, Section A, Subsection 1, that “The minimum number of trustees shall be fifteen (15). The maximum number shall be twenty—one (21) at least three (3) of whom shall reside in the Tri—State area of Memphis, Tennessee’.

AND WHEREAS a resolution was submitted and passed to the General Assembly to elect fifteen (15) members to the National Trustee Board of Church of God in Christ during the November, 1984 Quadrennial Election,

AND WHEREAS sixteen (16) members were elected to the National Board of Trustees during the November, 1984 Quadrennial Election to include three (3) Tri-State members as required by the Church of God in Christ Constitution, Pages, Amendment No.5, Section A, Subsection I.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that in order to keep the faith, harmony and maintain brotherly fellowship, the present duly elected Trustee Board unanimously recommend to the General Assembly of the Church of God in Christ, Incorporated.

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<sup>63</sup>Passed 11/15/84. Submitted by the Board of Elders, Western Jurisdiction of Louisiana, Church of

that sixteen (16) Trustee be retained on the National Board of Trustees<sup>64</sup>

**RESOLUTION**  
**WIDOWS OF BOARD MEMBERS**

**KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS .....THAT**

WHEREAS, the Church of God in Christ was founded by a group of Fathers in the Year of Our Lord, One-thousand, Nine-hundred and Seven: and,

WHEREAS, that group of Fathers chose Bishop Charles Harrison Mason to be their Leader, who served honorably and faithfully until his demise in November of Nineteen-hundred and Sixty-one; and,

WHEREAS, those Fathers sought to preserve and perpetuate our form of government and superintendency by incorporating the Church in Nineteen-hundred and Twenty-two; and,

WHEREAS, the Church has since honored the will and wishes of our founding Fathers by electing a General Board and Presiding Bishop to serve as the Executive Branch of the Church; and,

WHEREAS, since the demise of Bishop Charles Harrison Mason the Church has honored his memory and service by awarding his widow a pension that was increased to Fifteen-thousand dollars per year, plus a “Cost of Living” index, in November of Nineteen- hundred and Eighty-four; and,

WHEREAS, the Church must not imply that the widows of the other faithful Fathers and members of the Executive Branch of the Church be given cause to construe that their labor is forgotten:

BE IT, THEREFORE, RESOLVED that the widows of deceased General Board Members will be honored with an Annual Honorarium of, not less than, Three—thousand Dollars.<sup>65</sup>

**RESOLUTION**  
**SHORTEN THE NATIONAL HOLY CONVOCATION**

WHEREAS: The cost of travel and hotels have skyrocketed over the past few years, and

WHEREAS: The shortening of the convocation would represent millions of dollars in total savings for delegates, and

WHEREAS: The local church is without pastoral leadership for an extended period of time,

BE IT RESOLVED That the International Convocation shall be shortened to begin on Tuesday and end on

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<sup>64</sup>Passed 4/11/85. Submitted by National Board of Trustees, R. L. Jones, Chairman, W.E. Miller, Secr.

<sup>65</sup> Passed 4/10/85. Signed by Bishop J. O. Patterson, Bishop L. H. Ford, Bishop F O. Washington, Bishop P A Brooks, Bishop Jacob Cohen, Bishop F. E. Perry, Charles Blake, Mother St.Carrie Dinwiddie, Mother Victoria Barnes and an inaudible name.

Monday. The last day of the meeting shall be a meeting of the General Assembly<sup>66</sup>

**RESOLUTION**  
**APPOINTMENT TO NATIONAL OFFICE**

WHEREAS, Many persons in the Church of God In Christ hold several National Offices to which they have been appointed or elected by The Presiding Bishop or General Board, and

WHEREAS, There are many qualified persons that could assume some of these responsibilities and do an efficient job.

BE IT RESOLVED that no person in the Church of God in Christ hold more than one elected or appointed National Office for an example: A State Bishop may preside over a state and hold one National Office

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that action be taken immediately to relinquish all excessive offices by April, 1986.<sup>67</sup>

**RESOLUTION**  
**JURISDICTIONAL ASSEMBLIES**

Whereas, Article III, Section C. of the Constitution assumes that there will be Jurisdictional Assemblies, and

Whereas, it is impossible for Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions to comply with constitutional provision in the election of delegates to the General Assembly without a duly organized Jurisdictional Assembly, and

Whereas, it has been brought to our attention that in a number of Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions there is no Jurisdictional Assembly;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

- a. That, all Ecclesiastical jurisdictions are hereby and henceforth required to establish and maintain a Jurisdictional Assembly.

**RESOLUTION**  
**JURISDICTIONAL PASTORS & ELDERS COUNCIL**

Whereas, Article VIII, Section B. paragraphs D and F implies that there will be Jurisdictional Pastors & Elders Councils in all Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions, and

Whereas, It has come to our attention that in many Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions there is no duly organized Pastors an Elders council, and

Whereas, If charges of misconduct were brought against a pastor or elder, it would be impossible for that pastor or elder to be tried in accordance with the trial provisions of the Constitution, without a duly organized Pastors and Elders Council in that particular Jurisdiction. Therefore be it resolved,

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<sup>66</sup> Passed 11/13/85. Submitted by The Elders' Council.

<sup>67</sup> Passed 11/13/85. Submitted by the Elders Council.

- a. That, all Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions are hereby and henceforth required to establish a Pastors and Elders Council.

**RESOLUTION**  
**NATIONAL PASTORS AND ELDERS COUNCIL ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Whereas, for the past (10) years the National Pastors and Elder Council has sponsored an Annual Conference, at which workshops and seminars were held, and

Whereas, we believe the National Pastors and Elders Council according to the Constitution, is operating within its preview in sponsoring an annual conference, and

Whereas, the National Pastors and Elders Council is operating within the same frame work of the Constitution it should be allowed to hold its' Annual Conference without opposition or interferences from any other department, office or officer of the church, therefore, be it resolved:

- a. That, the General Assembly endorse the National Pastors and Elders Conference,<sup>68</sup>

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<sup>68</sup>Passed 4/90.