

RULES & REGULATIONS
FOR
GOVERNING
THE
GENERAL COUNCIL OF PASTORS AND ELDERS
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST



PREPARED BY: SUPT. TALBERT W. SWAN, I

ADOPTED BY:
THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF PASTORS AND ELDERS,
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Rules and Regulations for governing the
General Council of Pastors and Elders
Of the Church of God in Christ, Inc.
272 Main Street, Memphis, TN

Article I Name of Organization

1. The name of this organization shall be the International General Council of Pastors and Elders. Hereinafter it shall be referred to as the General Council.

Article II Purpose

1. The General Council shall serve as an appeals court for the Church of God in Christ, Inc., and it shall carry out those other duties and responsibilities delegated to it by Article V, Section A of the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ.
2. The General Council shall, at its discretion, sponsor national and regional conferences.
3. The General Council shall upon request provide assistance to Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Councils, in holding elections, in establishing trial procedures, and in formulating rules and regulations for their governance.
4. The General Council shall not engage in any activities that violate the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ, or any laws adopted by the General Assembly.

Article III Membership

1. Article V, Section A of the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. provides the "The General Council of the Church of God in Christ shall consist of ordained Elders who are in good standing with their local Churches in the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of their respective Jurisdictional Assemblies, and the General Assembly."
2. All members of the General Council should be registered with the General Council's registrar's office.

3. The General Council by a majority vote, of those members present and voting, may authorize a registration fee for its members.
4. It is the duty of each individual member of the General Council to support those judicial decisions rendered by the General Council.
5. It is the duty of each member to support actions taken, and activities sponsored by the General Council.
6. All members of the General Council have responsibility as well as a right to participate in all sessions of the General Council's meetings.

Article IV Officers

Section I-Officers

1. Officers of the General Council shall be Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Committee.

Section II, Office of the Chairman

1. Qualifications
 - a. The Chairman must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, sensible, dignified, hospitable, and an able teacher, not a drinker, not violent, not quarrelsome, but gentle and easy to get along with.
 - b. The Chairman must be well versed in the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., and the rules of the General Council.
2. Election and Tenure
 - a. The Chairman shall be elected by a majority vote of the council (of those members present and voting at the time of the election).
 - b. The Chairman shall serve for a term of four (4) years or until his successor is elected and qualified.
3. Duties and Responsibilities

- a. The Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the General Council, in accordance with the rules of Parliamentary Law and the rules of the General Council.
- b. The Chairman shall be responsible for implementing all decisions made by the General Council.
- c. The Chairman shall have power to appoint standing committees as are provided for in these rules.
- d. The Chairman shall have power to call special meetings of the General Council as are provided for in these rules.
- e. The Chairman shall be a Co-Signer on all official documents of the General Council.
- f. The Chairman shall serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Section III, Office of the Vice Chairman

1. Qualifications
 - a. Qualifications for the Vice-Chairman shall be the same as they are for the Chairman. (See Article IV, Section II paragraph 1. a, b, c).
2. Election and Tenure
 - a. The Vice-Chairman shall be elected by a majority vote of the General Council (of those members present and voting at the time of the election).
 - b. The Vice-Chairman shall serve a term of four (4) years or until his successor is elected and qualified.
3. Duties and Responsibilities
 - c. The Vice-Chairman shall preside over the General Council in the absence of the Chairman.
 - d. The Vice-Chairman shall perform other specific duties as may be assigned by the Chairman.
 - e. If for any reason the Office of the Chairman becomes

vacant, the Vice-Chairman shall serve out the unexpired term.

- f. The Vice-Chairman shall be ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

Section IV, Office of the Secretary

1. Qualifications

- a. The secretary must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, sensible, dignified, hospitable, an able teacher, not a drinker, not violent, not quarrelsome, but gentle and easy to get along with.
- b. The Secretary must be well versed in the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. and the rules of the General Council.
- c. The Secretary must be able to write in a legible and coherent fashion.

2. Election and Tenure

- d. The Secretary shall be elected by a majority vote of the General Council (of those members present and voting at the time of the election).
- e. The Secretary shall serve for a term of four (4) years or until his successor is elected and qualified.

3. Duties and Responsibilities

- a. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings of the General Council (or his designee).
- b. The Secretary shall be Custodian of all official records and documents of the General Council.
- c. Upon instruction from the Chairman, the Secretary shall send out notices of all meetings of the General Council (regular and special).

- d. The Secretary shall be ex-officio member of the Executive Committee of the General Council.

Section V, Office of the Treasurer

1. Qualifications

- a. The Treasurer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, sensible, dignified, hospitable, and an able teacher, not a drinker, not violent, not quarrelsome, but gentle and easy to get along with:
- b. The Treasurer must be well versed in the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. and the rules of the General Council.
- c. The Treasurer must have some knowledge of accounting procedures, and must be bondable.

2. Election and Tenure

- a. The Treasurer shall be elected for a term of four (4) years by a majority vote of the General Council (of those members present and voting at the time of the election).
- b. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of all finances received, and all finances expended.
- c. The Treasurer is required to give an annual financial report to the General Council. The report shall include all monies received, all monies spent, what it was spent for, and the outstanding balances and indebtedness if any.
- d. The Treasurer shall be a co-signer with the Chairman of all financial documents, checks, etc.
- e. The Treasurer shall be ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

Section VI, Office of the Executive Committee

1. Composition
 - a. The Executive Committee shall be composed of all elected officers of the General Council, Chairpersons of all standing Committees, the Parliamentarian, Legal Advisors, and such other persons as the Chairman may determine.
2. Duties and Responsibilities
 - b. The Executive Committee shall approve all budgets and programs.
 - c. The Executive Committee shall approve the proposed agenda for all General Council meetings.
 - d. The Executive Committee shall have power to act on behalf of the General Council between meetings, providing that such actions are not in conflict with the Constitution, and have been pre-approved by the General Council.
 - e. The Chairman of the General Council shall be the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE V COMMITTEES

Section I

1. The General Council shall establish the following standing committees:
 - a. Judicial Review Committee
 - b. Financial Committee
 - c. Resolution Committee
 - d. Rules Committee
 - e. Nominating Committee
 - f. Regional Directors
 - g. Ways and Means Committee
 - h. Educational Committee

- i. And such other Committees as the Executive Committee may determine.

Section II, Judicial Review Committee

In the past this committee has been known as the Judiciary Board, and the Judiciary Committee/Commission. In recent years the General Assembly has established a Judiciary Board which serves the Church as its Supreme Court. So, in order that there be no confusion about or between the Judiciary Board which serves as the Supreme Court and the Judiciary Board set up by the General Council, hereinafter the General Council's Judiciary Board shall be known as the "Judicial Review Committee" of the General Council.

1. Composition and Function
 - a. The Committee shall be made up of not less than nine (9), no more than fifteen (15) members.
 - b. The Committee shall have a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and a Legal Advisor.
 - c. The Judicial Review Committee shall serve as the Appeals Court for the General Council, however, its decisions must be approved by the General Council.

2. Trial Procedure

- a. All requests for an appeal hearing shall be addressed to the Chairman of the General Council.
- b. Upon receipt of the request for an appeal hearing, the Chairman of the General Council shall forward such request to the Chairman of the Judicial Review Committee.
- c. The Chairman of the Judicial Review Committee, shall send copies of the appeal document to the Legal Advisor and all members of the Judicial Review Committee.
- d. The Chairman in consultation with the Legal Advisor and committee members shall determine whether or not the appellant, in the appeals document has met all the constitutional and legal requirements, and whether or not the General Council have jurisdiction in the particular case.
- e. In the event that the Chairman, in consultation with committee members and the Legal Advisor, determines that the appellant in the appeals document has not met the constitutional and legal requirements, or that the General Council does not have jurisdiction, the committee shall recommend to the Chairman of the General Council that the request for an appeal hearing be denied. In such case, a letter, setting forth the particulars and justification for denial, would be sent to the appellant and appellee.
- f. In the event of Judicial Review Committee decides to hear the appeal, the Chairman of the committee will set the date, time and place of the hearing, and so notify, by certified mail, the appellant and appellee.
- g. After the hearing (or after hearing all arguments) the committee will make its decision by a majority vote of those members present and who participated in the hearing. The committee shall also report its findings to the Chairman of the General Council.
- h. As soon as possible after receiving the report of the committee, the Chairman of the General Council shall bring the Committee before the General Council to make its report. The General

Council shall vote the Committee's report up or down (approve or disapprove), and the Chairman of the General Council shall notify the appellant and the appellee of the General Council's decision.

3. Stay of Execution
 - a. In cases where penalties imposed could deprive a Pastor of his livelihood or otherwise do irreparable damage to this reputation and image, the Judicial Review Committee shall have authority to order a stay of execution until the appeal has been heard.

Section III, Finance Committee

1. The Finance Committee shall be composed of: Chairman, Finance Secretary, Treasurer and such other persons as the Chairman of the General Council and the Executive Committee may determine.
2. The Finance Committee shall raise offerings taken in General Council meetings and conferences.
3. The Finance Committee shall advise the Chairman of the General Council and the Executive Committee on financial matters.
4. The Finance Committee shall prepare an annual budget to be submitted to the Executive Committee for its consideration and subsequent approval by the General Council.

Section IV, Resolution Committee

1. The Resolution Committee shall be composed of nine (9) members, who shall be appointed by the Chairman of the General Council.
2. The Resolution Committee shall have responsibility for putting the General Council's legislative agenda in resolution form to be presented to the General Assembly.

Section V, Rules Committee

1. The Nominating Committee shall be composed of nine (9) members, who shall be appointed by the Chairman of the General Council, and they shall serve for a term of four (4) years or until their successors are elected.
2. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of nominees, one nominee for each position to be filled, to the General Council to be voted on, prior to each election.

Section VI, Regional Directors

1. Regional Administrators shall be an extension of or adjutants to the office of the Chairman of the General Council. Their duties and responsibilities shall be limited to the area to which they are assigned.
2. The duties and responsibilities of the Regional Administrators shall be:
 - a. To work with and among the Chairmen of the Jurisdictional Councils within the area to which he has been assigned; to encourage support for the General Council's programs.

Section VII, Regular Meetings

1. The General Council shall meet annually during the time of the annual Holy Convocation of the Church of God in Christ and it shall also hold an annual and regional conference.

Section VII, Special Meetings

1. The Chairman, with the approval of the Executive Committee, shall have authority to call special meetings of the General Council when deemed necessary.

ARTICLE VI AMENDING THE RULES

1. These rules may be amended at any regular meeting of the General Council by a three-fourth (3/4) majority vote.

APPENDIX A.

**Recommended Trial Procedures
For
Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Councils**

**Prepared By: Rev. Talbert W. Swan, I
Chairman, Judicial Review Committee,
General Council of Pastors and Elders**

**Supt. Thomas Hammonds, Chairman
General Council of Pastors and Elders**

Procedures for Conducting a Jurisdictional Trial

1. First of all, the provisions of the Constitution, of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., as provided in Article VIII, Section B, must be complied with in its entirety.
2. After the Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council receive the case on referral from the Jurisdictional Bishop, it becomes the sole responsibility of the Jurisdictional Council to conduct the trial.
3. Upon receipt of the referral from the Jurisdictional "Bishop, the Chairman of the Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council shall call a meeting of the full Council.
4. At the meeting of the Council, the Council shall establish the ground rules for the trial, set the date, time and place where the trial will be held.
5. The Council shall give thirty (30) days written notice of date, time and place of the trial to all concerned persons.
6. The Jurisdictional Bishop shall appoint one (1) or more Pastors and or Elders to prosecute the case, (to present the evidence against the defendant)
7. Pursuant to Article VIII, Section B, Paragraph 2-1, of the Constitution, the defendant has the right to be represented by counsel.
8. In Jurisdictions where there are large numbers of Pastors and Elders, it may be advisable for the Chairman of the Council to appoint a Judicial Review Committee of not less than nine (9) nor more than fifteen (15) members, who shall conduct the trial.
9. At the date, time and place scheduled, the Council shall proceed to hold the trial.
10. If the Council finds the defendant guilty, it shall set the penalty as provided in Article VIII, Section B, Paragraph 2, g-1, 2,3, and 4.
11. If the defendant is found guilty or innocent, the Jurisdictional Bishop shall execute the orders and decrees of the Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council.

12. In the event the Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council uses a Judicial Review Committee to conduct the trial, the committee shall make its decision by majority vote of the members present and who participated in the trial hearings.
13. After completing its work, the Chairman of the committee shall inform the Chairman of the Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council of its findings.
14. The Chairman of the Council shall call the full Council together to hear the report.
15. The Council shall approve or disapprove the committee's report by a majority vote of those members present and voting.
16. Any member of the Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council who serves on the investigating committee or as a prosecutor shall not have the right to vote on the guilt or innocence of the defendant.
17. If a defendant is found guilty and the penalty imposed removes him from his office as Pastor or otherwise adversely affects his livelihood, he shall have the right to a stay of execution pending appeal.

APPENDIX B.

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST. INC.
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

LEGISLATIVE

ADMINISTRATIVE

JUDICIAL

General Assembly

Presiding Bishop and
General Board (12)

Judiciary Board

1. Made up of General Board members, Jurisdictional Bishops, Supervisors, Pastors, Elders, District Missionaries and Lay Delegates.
2. With the exception of a certain class of delegates, delegates are elected by their Jurisdictional Assembly.
3. Make all laws for the church.
4. Elect national officers.
5. Approves all budgets.

1. Appoints heads of National Departments.
2. Appoints Jurisdictional Bishops.
3. Preside over the National Convocation.
4. Administer the business affairs of the church.
5. Decisions subject to the will of the General Assembly.

1. Nine (9) members, elected by the General Assembly.
2. Hears cases on appeal.
3. Renders legal opinions upon request by other governing bodies.
4. Decisions are final.

NATIONAL P&E COUNCIL

1. Made up of all Pastors and Elders
2. Serves as an appeals court.
3. Decisions are implemented by Jurisdictional Bishops

APPENDIX C.

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST. INC.
JURISDICTIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

LEGISLATIVE

ADMINISTRATIVE

JUDICIAL

Jurisdictional Assembly.

Jurisdictional Bishop.

Jurisdictional Pastors &
Elders Council

1. Composition: Jurisdictional Bishop, Supervisor, Pastors, Elders, District Missionaries and one (1) lay delegate from each district.
2. Elect delegates to the General Assembly.
3. Make laws to govern the jurisdiction.
4. Adopt rules for conducting its own business.
5. Created by the General Assembly.

1. Ordain Elders.
2. Preside over Jurisdictional Assembly.
3. Preside over convocation and spring conference.
4. Appoint District Superintendents and Department Heads.
5. Appoint Pastors.
6. Implement judicial decisions of the General Council and of the Jurisdictional Council.
7. He is appointed by the presiding Bishop and General Board

1. Serve as a trial court for the jurisdiction.
2. Considers matters referred to it by: The Jurisdictional Bishop and Departments of the Church.
3. Elects its own officers. (Pending)
4. Made up of all Pastors and Ordained Elders.