

Church Of God In Christ Episcopal Emeritus Protocol and Dignity Provision

Bishop Charles Blake, Presiding Bishop

The Holy Writ mandates religious leaders to advance our earthly mission through powerful and relevant initiatives that are divinely instructed, prophetically inspired, and spiritually infused. This biblical interpretation commissioned our denomination to establish an effective intergenerational protocol for transition that ensures perpetual foundational tenets and polity. Our COGIC Patriarchs and Matriarchs inculcated and imparted the denomination's articles of faith and rich heritage to their proteges with profound religious interpolation and diverse published communications.

The dignity of their sacred office and the Episcopal mandate to honor their unfeigned stewardship to our denomination affords us the privilege to perpetually celebrate their labor with "double honor" while encircling gratuitous benefits for the remainder of their earthly pilgrimage.

Moreover, we are commissioned to encapsulate their era of stellar leadership, certify vintage archives, and ensure an ongoing appreciation for their historic accomplishments through educational awareness, theological presentation, economic consideration, memorabilia preservation and oral demonstration that celebrates an intergenerational appreciation for their sanctified presence and our Pentecostal witness.

Protocol for Consideration and Determination

The consideration of "emeritus status" for a Church Of God In Christ Credential Holder may be initiated at the request of the individual, a family member or individual with "power of attorney", the local congregation, pastors within the jurisdiction, an act of the Presiding Bishop approved by the General Board, or a resolution from the General Assembly. The written petition must delineate the basis for the request and demonstrate the benefit for the candidate and those impacted. This distinction and honor should only be petitioned for leaders whose stewardship merits such recognition. A written ministry vita that en blocs honor and esteem, should be submitted prior to the scribing of The Episcopal edit. This request should not be used as a methodology for impeachment or a perfidy for disgruntled subordinates.

Additionally, only active denominational leaders in "good standing" (officers elected by the General Assembly or Jurisdictional Bishop, and/or Supervisor) may request

classification of "emeritus" status. All requests should be submitted to the General Secretary who will forward said request to the Presiding Bishop, General Board and General Assembly for consideration. The Presiding Bishop shall present all request to the General Board for dialogue and consideration. All jurisdictional request will be considered and determined by the Jurisdictional Bishop with a copy sent to the General Secretary and respective national departments (i.e. department of women, Sunday school, youth, mission, music, evangelism, adjutancy, etc.) for recording and departmental recognition.

Subsequent to General Board approval of the national officer for status reclassification, the General Board assisted by the General Secretary shall prepare the resolution for emeritus consideration to the General Assembly. Upon adoption of said resolution immediate reclassification with all honors or stipulations shall be conferred by the Presiding Bishop and General Board.

Assignment of Remuneration and Episcopal Recognition

The determination of compensation for reclassified elected national officers shall be consistent with past protocols and practices. A quadrennial review of budget consideration shall take precedence over current practices. The elected national officer shall receive up to 50% (fifty percent) of their current financial consideration bi-annually upon General Board disbursement schedules, which will be administered by the National Treasurer.

Increments of fiduciary consideration:

- a) within 1st term 10%
- b) within 2nd term 20%
- c) within 3rd term 30%
- d) within 4th term 40%
- e) 5th term and beyond 50%
- f) 10% for travel

The request shall be included in the annual budget allocation for the respective department which is reviewed by the Treasurer and Board of Trustees.

All national officers shall be permitted to be vested in their highest recognized liturgical attire. Their designation in all Episcopal processions shall be subsequent to their board and by tenure. An emeritus leader may be permitted to observe and dialogue with their board, but may not participate in executive sessions or in the actions of that board (including voting).

Denominational Declaration

The Presiding Bishop after the confirmation of reclassification shall officially declare emeritus status for the revered leader and present a written Episcopal Edit that honors the distinguished service and stewardship of that celebrated leader, with the COGIC Seal. This edit shall be recorded in the archives of the church.

Qualifying Categories:

1. Physical or certified mental challenges
2. Years of service (minimum of 20 years to COGIC)
3. General Assembly resolution

Committee Members:

Bishop Sedgwick Daniels, Chair
Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush
Bishop Nathaniel W. Wells
Bishop Frank O. White
Bishop Joel H. Lyles, Jr.