



Notice of Proposal to Amend the Bylaws of the International General Council and the International General Assembly

In accordance with the *Minutes of the International General Assembly*, the following amendments related to the Bylaws of the Church of God are being recommended by the International Executive Council to the 2022 International General Council for consideration.

PREVIOUS NOTICE

Bylaws Amendment #1 **Motions Committee - Date of Submission**

RATIONALE:

Historically, the International General Council met Monday through Friday with the General Assembly session occurring on Saturday. Under that schedule, new business from the floor had to be submitted to the motions committee by the third day (Wednesday) of the International General Council.

Under the current format, the International General Council meets Tuesday through Friday morning with the General Assembly session being held on Friday afternoon. Since new business can currently be submitted to the motions committee up until 2:00 p.m. on the third day (Thursday) of the International General Council, sufficient time is not currently given to “receive, classify, clarify, eliminate duplication, and dispatch for placement on the agenda following the completion of the printed agenda” items that may be submitted to the motions committee, and for consideration of those items by the International General Council.

We recommend:

That we amend page 62, S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, Article VI, Governing Bodies, 2. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL, Agenda, paragraph 4, by striking the word ~~third~~ and inserting the word **second.**

So as to read:

4. Any new business shall be presented to the chairman of the motions committee, which committee shall receive, classify, clarify, eliminate duplication, and dispatch for placement on the agenda following the completion of the printed agenda. Any new business presented to the motions committee shall be presented in typewritten form not later than 2 p.m. of the **second day of the International General Council.**

Bylaws Amendment #2 International General Council - Meeting

RATIONALE

Currently, it is assumed that the International General Assembly and International General Council meet simultaneously. However, the *Minutes* do not articulate that the International General Assembly and the International General Council meet in conjunction. In light of potential extenuating unusual circumstances, it is important to state polity that the two meet in conjunction.

We recommend:

That we amend page 61, S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, Article VI, Governing Bodies, 2. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL by adding a paragraph regarding “*Meeting*” following the *Members* paragraph:

So as to read:

Meeting

The International General Council shall meet biennially, convening in conjunction with the International General Assembly.

Bylaws Amendment #3

Motions Committee – Form of Submission

RATIONALE

While this is a Bylaws item, it is a simple procedural modification from “typewritten form” to current communication methods providing efficiency in presenting motions with clarity to the General Council.

We recommend:

That we amend page 62, S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, Article VI, Governing Bodies, 2. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL, Agenda, paragraph 4, by striking “~~typewritten form~~” and inserting “a legible format (print or digital)**”:**

So as to read:

4. Any new business shall be presented to the chairman of the motions committee, which committee shall receive, classify, clarify, eliminate duplication, and dispatch for placement on the agenda following the completion of the printed agenda. Any new business presented to the motions committee shall be presented in a legible format (print or digital) not later than 2 p.m. of the third day of the International General Council.

Bylaws Amendment #4

Women in Leadership

RATIONALE

During recent years, there have been calls for ordained women ministers to participate in and have the right to vote in the International General Council sessions at the General Assembly. This issue was subject to discussion in the open Global Forums conducted following the 2018 General Assembly and this provision is offered in compliance with the General Assembly’s direction that motions be formulated and brought back to the International General Council on the topics discussed.

To allow for such, a change in the bylaws is necessary. The recommendation that follows modifies the bylaws, providing an equitable method for ordained women ministers to be members of the International General Council with voice and vote authority. Under the proposed measure, only those ordained women ministers who fulfill the same age and years of experience qualifications stated for Ordained Bishops (including completing equivalency testing for General Council certification) would be eligible for participation in the International General Council. It is understood that the provisions applying to a Bishop’s wife (see *S22. ORDAINED BISHOP, II,*

Qualifications of Ordained Bishops, 7, page 102) would in like manner similarly apply to the husband of a General Council certified female ordained minister.

It is further noted that this measure only allows for full participation of ordained women ministers in the deliberations and voting in the International General Council and does not allow ordained women ministers the opportunity to be an Ordained Bishop or the additional privileges associated with being an Ordained Bishop.

We recommend:

That we amend page 61, S2. BYLAWS OF THE CHURCH OF GOD, ARTICLE VI, 2. INTERNATIONAL GENERAL COUNCIL, *Members*, by inserting after bishops of the Church of God *and General Council-certified female ordained ministers who have fulfilled the same age requirements, experience and equivalent testing of the ordained bishop credentials as contained in S22. ORDAINED BISHOP, II., Qualifications of Ordained Bishops*, who shall comprise its voting constituency.

So as to read:

The International General Council is composed of all ordained bishops of the Church of God *and General Council-certified female ordained ministers who have fulfilled the same age requirements, experience and equivalent testing of the ordained bishop credentials as contained in S22. ORDAINED BISHOP, II., Qualifications of Ordained Bishops*, who shall comprise its voting constituency.