

1 RESOLUTION 1

2 Preaching Requirements for Credentialed Ministers

3 SUGGESTED GENERAL COUNCIL BYLAW AMENDMENT

4

5 **WHEREAS,** The proclamation of the Word has always held a prominent role in
6 the Assemblies of God; and

7 **WHEREAS,** Scripture sets apart those ministries with a
8 preaching/proclamation component as entrusted with the handling of the Word.
9 And Biblical ordination would seem to be reserved for such ministries; and

10 **WHEREAS,** Our position statement on ordination, as adopted in 1976 (and
11 unchanged as of 03/24/11) states that ordination should be limited to those
12 ministries that would fall into the five-fold ministry gifts, including Apostle, Prophet,
13 Evangelist, Pastor and Teacher; and

14 **WHEREAS,** There are other ministries, which do not directly involve the
15 proclamation of the gospel, for which a credential may prove beneficial; and

16 **WHEREAS,** Ministries that directly involve the proclamation of the Word
17 should be held to a higher standard as indicated in James 3:1; therefore, be it

18 **RESOLVED,** That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 3,
19 Specific Qualifications, c. Certified Minister, page 119, which currently reads:

20 (1) *General Requirements.* They shall show promise of usefulness in the
21 gospel work. They shall devote full or part time to Christian ministry and, at
22 the discretion of the district credentials committees, may remain under the
23 supervision of a pastor or a ministry coach or mentor. They shall show
24 evidence of a divine call and be actively engaged in some aspect of ministry
25 and proclamation of the gospel, except in case of ill health or advanced age.

26 Be amended to read:

27 (1) *General Requirements.* They shall show promise of usefulness in the
28 gospel work. They shall devote full or part time to Christian ministry and, at
29 the discretion of the district credentials committees, may remain under the
30 supervision of a pastor or a ministry coach or mentor. They shall show
31 evidence of a divine call and be actively engaged in some aspect of ministry
32 ~~and proclamation of the gospel~~, except in case of ill health or advanced age.

33 And, be it further:

34 **RESOLVED**, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 3,
35 Specific Qualifications, d. Licensed Minister, page 120, which currently reads:

36 Qualifications for license shall include clear evidence of a divine call,
37 character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry
38 experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's life in service to the
39 proclamation of the gospel.

40 Be amended to read:

41 Qualifications for license shall include clear evidence of a divine call,
42 character and preparation suitable for that calling, practical ministry
43 experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's life in service to the
44 ~~proclamation of the gospel~~ ministry.

45 And, be it further:

46 **RESOLVED**, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 6,
47 Official List, b. Inactive or Disabled Ministers, page 121, which currently reads:

48 (1) *Definition.* All ministers who have not been actively engaged in a viable
49 ministry and proclamation of the gospel over a period of 1 year shall have
50 their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.

51 Be amended to read:

52 (1) *Definition.* All ministers who have not been actively engaged in a viable
53 ministry ~~and proclamation of the gospel~~ over a period of 1 year shall
54 have their names placed upon the inactive list for the following year.

55 And, be it further:

56 **RESOLVED**, That General Council Bylaws Article VII. MINISTRY, Section 3,
57 Specific Qualifications, e. Ordained Minister, page 120, which currently reads:

58 Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament (1 Timothy
59 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9). In addition:

60 (1) Applicants must be 23 years of age or older.

61 (2) They must have met all the requirements in making application and in
62 completing the prescribed application form.

63 (3) No person may be ordained to the ministry until he or she has shown
64 evidence of a divine call and has held a ministry license and has been
65 actively engaged in ministry and proclamation of the gospel for at least 2
66 full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.

67 (4) *Residency requirements of applicants.* Applicants must be residents of or
68 hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear
69 before its credentials committee. District councils are required to refrain
70 from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed
71 in another district, until such licensed minister shall have been a member
72 of the district in which he or she is seeking ordination at least 1 year.
73 Applicants who have not been a member of the district where they apply
74 for ordination for 2 full consecutive years must meet the requirements and
75 secure the endorsement of the officers of the district in which they were
76 previously licensed, as well as the district of their residence.

77 (5) *Exceptions to requirements.* The General Council Credentials Committee,
78 upon request by a district credentials committee and where exceptional
79 circumstances exist, may waive the requirements for an applicant holding
80 a ministry license for 2 full consecutive years or being a member of the
81 district in which he or she is seeking ordination for at least 1 year.

82 (6) In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers shall be engaged in
83 viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel except for cases of
84 disability, retirement, or other valid circumstances as determined by the
85 general secretary.

86 Be amended to read:

87 Qualifications for ordination are outlined in the New Testament (1 Timothy
88 3:1-7; Titus 1:7-9). In addition:

89 **(1) Applicants must demonstrate an evident purpose to devote their life**
90 **to the proclamation of the gospel.**

91 (2) Applicants must be 23 years of age or older.

92 (3) They must have met all the requirements in making application and in
93 completing the prescribed application form.

94 (4) No person may be ordained to the ministry until he or she has shown
95 evidence of a divine call and has held a ministry license and has been
96 actively engaged in ministry and proclamation of the gospel for at least 2
97 full consecutive years immediately prior thereto.

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99 hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear
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101 from approving any applicant for ordination who may have been licensed
102 in another district, until such licensed minister shall have been a member

103 of the district in which he or she is seeking ordination at least 1 year.
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105 for ordination for 2 full consecutive years must meet the requirements and
106 secure the endorsement of the officers of the district in which they were
107 previously licensed, as well as the district of their residence.

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109 upon request by a district credentials committee and where exceptional
110 circumstances exist, may waive the requirements for an applicant holding
111 a ministry license for 2 full consecutive years or being a member of the
112 district in which he or she is seeking ordination for at least 1 year.

113 (7) In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers shall be engaged in
114 viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel except for cases of
115 disability, retirement, or other valid circumstances as determined by the
116 general secretary.

117

118 *Submitted by Revs. Dwight D. Dozier & Christa A. Zapfe*