

**Report of the  
Questions  
&  
Subjects  
Committee**  
to the  
**119<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**  
of  
**The Church of God**  
July 28 - August 2, 2025

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*REPORT OF THE*  
**QUESTIONS AND SUBJECTS COMMITTEE**  
*TO THE*  
*119<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD*  
*2025*

**Introduction:**

We, your Questions and Subjects Committee, bring greetings to the delegates of this 119th Annual World-Wide Assembly of The Church of God.

We would like to express our appreciation to all those who have taken the time to pray for this Committee throughout the year, for without God's direction, we could not adequately fulfil the responsibility placed on us to serve The Church of God. We endeavor to address all submissions to the committee in a timely manner, and as a committee, we are conscious of our limitations, and as such we seek God for wisdom before responding to each question or subject submitted to us.

This Committee would also like to express our love and appreciation for the leadership of our General Overseer, Bishop Pimentel, and for his wife, Sister Pimentel.

**Section 1: INFORMATIONAL REPORT - COMMITTEE PROCEDURES**

**RATIONALE**

This report was last presented to the General Assembly in 2018, but we feel it is necessary to remind the Assembly of its content. We believe that some of the letters received could have been resolved at a local/state/regional/national level before being sent to this committee. Therefore, we would like to encourage you to follow the committee procedures accepted in the 89th General Assembly of 1994, which is as follows:

## RECOMMENDATION(S):

*Whereas our committees endeavor to carefully answer questions and subjects submitted for consideration, we recommend the following procedure: Members having questions or subjects should counsel with the one directly over them in the Lord on the local, district, state or general level to determine if answers or recommendations were given by previous Assemblies, or to obtain satisfactory answers if possible. When the Assembly is not in session, members should feel free to submit unresolved questions or subjects to the Ways and Means/Questions and Subjects committees. All correspondence and proposals submitted to these two committees should contain detailed information along with one's signature and return address. The two committees do not recognize questions or subjects submitted without a signature. When the Assembly is in session, members who have questions or subjects for the Ways and Means/Questions and Subjects committees should first request a hearing with the Counseling Committee for a determination to present the inquiries to the proper committee. The Moderator at his discretion may introduce matters of an emergency nature which are not included in the official report" (89<sup>th</sup> AM, 1994, p13, Section 1, Item 2; QSC).*

## Section 2: DISBANDING OF LOCAL CHURCHES

### RATIONALE

Although no official recommendation has been passed by the General Assembly concerning the disbanding of local churches, we have made reference over the years to what was stated in the General Overseer's address in 1947, which was never adopted as a recommendation. The said section of the General Overseer's address on this subject has served the Church well for 78 years as timely and wise instructions, and it has been a source of cautionary guidance for leadership as to how the disbandment of a local church should be handled.

We therefore recommend the following, bearing in mind changes that have been made concerning the transfer of individual members to a local church where they feel most comfortable.

## RECOMMENDATION

It is not the business of the Presbytery to disband any work that is properly organized and functioning according to General Assembly rulings. It is necessary to disband a church when the members move away or become scattered and there are not enough to carry on services, or a local church becomes unfaithful to the doctrine and/or government of The Church of God. Where possible, the Overseer should consider merging the church with another local church. No church should be disbanded by anyone other than the State/Regional/National Overseer in conjunction with the General Overseer.

Before disbanding the church, special care should be given to members, and they should be contacted to find out how they feel and if/where they want their membership transferred. This will be resolved in a business conference where possible. Before the church is disbanded or all members transferred out, a decision should be made regarding the disposition of all existing property and funds as recommended in: (94<sup>th</sup> AM, 1999, pp 38-39, QSC, Sec. 2) and in line with the local Church's Dissolution Resolution plan, where such is in place (Church Business Guide section 962).

Prior to the church being disbanded, the members should be transferred to the church where they are most comfortable and where they can best serve the Lord and the Church. We should always keep in mind that their membership should be at a local church near enough to their residence that they can attend regularly.

If there are members who are disloyal, they are to be notified in writing, if possible, that the church is being disbanded. The letter should outline what actions will be taken if a response is not received. Special attention should be given to disloyal members. If it is possible, try to pray them through before the final notice is given. However, if disloyal members refuse to be reconciled and come under the government of the Church (*Obey them that have the rule over you...* Hebrews 13:17), then their church membership will come to an end in effect by the disbanding of the local church. *"Disbanding a church by the presbytery has the same effect upon those members who have not been transferred as the action of a local church*

*disfellowshipping a member in business conference*" (71<sup>st</sup> AM, 1976, pp 134-135, QSC, Sec 3, Church Business Guide section 967). This does not dissolve the covenant one has made with God. A disloyal member would be someone who is unfaithful in church attendance over a period of time, joined another congregation, propagating false doctrine or unfaithful to the government of the church, etc.

If members feel that due process has not been followed, then they do have the avenue of appealing to the Counselling Committee. *"In the event that a local church, a local minister or a local member is dissatisfied and feel they have not had a proper hearing according to the Word of God before the presbytery they shall be referred on to the standing Counselling Committee who shall determine if there is scriptural cause to ask the presbytery to review their decision."* (92<sup>nd</sup> AM, 1997, p40, QSC, Sec. 16).

An accurate written record should be kept throughout the process which should be given to the Counseling Committee when/if they become involved in the process. In the interest of transparency, members of the Counseling Committee should recuse themselves if related to the State/Regional/National Overseer or member of the local church being disbanded as in Section 16 Revised. (92<sup>nd</sup> AM, 1997, pp39-40, QSC).

If a church has been incorporated, there must be an authorized representative present to act on behalf of the incorporated body before it is disbanded. If an authorized representative should be unavailable, then the Presbytery would seek for legal counsel.

### **Section 3: LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR BISHOPS AND DEACONS**

#### **RATIONALE**

While going through the section "Change of License Status" in the 2023 General Assembly, it was suggested that the qualifications of the license for Bishops and Deacons be reviewed and brought forward to a future General Assembly.

The church recognizes the importance of these two offices of Bishops and Deacons. Jesus was declared as Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. This points out the high calling of these ministries in The Church of God. Therefore, it is imperative that we follow the Word of God concerning the qualifications found in the scriptures. The following scriptures clearly outline the qualifications of Bishops and Deacons, which the church has followed over the years.

*<sup>1</sup>This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. <sup>2</sup>A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; <sup>3</sup>Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; <sup>4</sup>One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; <sup>5</sup>(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) <sup>6</sup>Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. <sup>7</sup>Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. <sup>8</sup>Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; <sup>9</sup>Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. <sup>10</sup>And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. <sup>11</sup>Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. <sup>12</sup>Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. <sup>13</sup>For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 3:1-13).*

*<sup>1</sup>For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; <sup>2</sup>But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; <sup>3</sup>Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers” (Titus 1:7-9).*

Our past rulings do contain some information regarding specific age, educational and basic qualifications that have been addressed in previous General Assemblies for both aforementioned offices. These can be found in the 2020 Church Business Guide section 836 on Deacons and section 845 on Bishops. These sections are quoted

from the 99<sup>th</sup> AM, 2004, pp 45-47, Q&S report, Section 4:D.

While we have the Scriptural references pertaining to the qualifications (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:7-9), it is felt by some that these qualifications needed to be clarified. We therefore give the following definitions of the qualifications outlined in the above scriptures.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

### **Qualifications of Bishops:**

**Blameless:** Those who cannot be justly accused of wrongdoing before the people of God and the community. (Psalms 15:2)

**Husband of one wife:** In order for a man to qualify, he must be presently married to one wife at the time of ordination. A man who is a bishop is not disqualified if he marries again after the death of his wife if the new wife is saved, sanctified, filled with the Holy Ghost, and a faithful member of The Church of God. If she does not meet these requirements, then his license will be demoted to that of a permanent evangelist. (1 Cor. 7:2)

**Vigilant:** Watchful, alert, aware of, sober, circumspect, etc. (Mark 13:37)

**Sober:** Safe, sound in mind, self-controlled, discreet or temperate. (2 Timothy 1:7)

**Good behavior:** Proper or polite conduct, not disorderly, modest. (2 Thessalonians 3:7)

**Given to hospitality:** Fond of guests, warmly generous, love of strangers, lovers of hospitality. (Rom. 16:2; 1 Pet. 4:9,10)

**Lover of good men:** A champion or supporter of righteousness; encouraging good in others. (1 John 1:7; 2 Cor. 6:14; 1 Thess. 5:11)

**Apt to teach:** Able to instruct others. Skillful in teaching. (2 Timothy 2:24)

**Not given to wine:** Total abstinence from consuming alcohol or any intoxicating beverages. (Proverbs 20:1)

**No striker:** He should never lift his hand in anger. Non-violent, not inflicting physical violence. (2 Timothy 2:24,25)

**Not greedy of filthy lucre:** Not given to greed or dishonest gain. (1 Timothy 6:5,6)

**Patient:** Able to accept or tolerate circumstances without becoming annoyed or anxious. (1 Thessalonians 5:14,15)

**Not a brawler:** Not contentious, not argumentative, one who is gentle or shows meekness. (James 4:1)

**Not covetous:** He should not long for with envy. One who does not desire to possess what belongs to others. (Hebrews 13:5; 1 Timothy 6:5,6)

**One that ruleth well his own house:** One who presides over and is able to manage his own household. (Titus 1:6; Joshua 24:15)

**Having his children in subjection with all gravity:** If he has any children they must be under control with complete dignity, seriousness. (Titus 1:6)

**Not a novice:** Not a new convert, not young, not inexperienced, not a babe in Christ, not unskillful in the word. (Hebrews 5:13; 1 Corinthians 3:1)

**Must have a good report of them which are without:** Having a good name and a good spiritual reputation in the community not only among the Church or fellow Christians. (Acts 22:12; 3 John 1:12)

**Not self-willed:** Not Self-pleasing, not arrogant, not prideful, not stubborn. (2 Timothy 3:2)

**Not soon angry:** Not hot-tempered, not having the tendency to be easily angered, patient. (Proverbs 16:32; James 1:20)

**Just:** Behaving according to what is right, keeping the commands of God, approved or acceptable unto God, holy, righteous. (Isaiah 56:1)

**Holy:** Undeified by sin, free from wickedness, dedicated to righteousness, untainted by evil, sinless. (Hebrews 12:14; 1 Peter 1:16)

**Temperate:** Strong, robust, having power over, mastering, controlling, restraining. (1 Pet. 1:13)



## **Qualifications of Deacons:**

**Grave:** Serious, prudent, honorable, venerable. (Ephesians 5:15,16; Titus 2:11-13)

**Not double tongued:** Not saying one thing to one and something else to another, or saying one thing but mean another according as their interest leads. (Psalm 5:9, 12:2, 50:19; James 3:10)

**Not given to much wine:** Total abstinence from alcohol or any intoxicating beverages (Proverbs 20:1)

**Not greedy of fifty lucre:** Not given to greed or dishonest gain. (1 Timothy 6:5,6)

**Holding faith in a pure conscience:** He must believe the whole gospel without wavering and live it. (Acts 24:16; 2 Tim. 1:3)

**Be proved:** Not a novice, not a new convert, not young, not inexperienced, not a babe in Christ, tried and tested, skilful in the word. (Hebrews 5:13; 1 Corinthians 3:1)

**Blameless:** Those who cannot be justly accused of wrongdoing before the people of God and the community. (Psalms 15:2)

**Husband of one wife:** In order for a man to qualify, he must be presently married to one wife at the time of ordination. A man who is a deacon is not disqualified if he marries again after the death of his wife if the new wife is saved, sanctified, filled with the Holy Ghost, and a faithful member of The Church of God. If she does not meet these requirements, then his license will be demoted to that of a permanent evangelist. (1 Cor. 7:2)

**Ruling their children and their house well:** If he has any children they must be under control with complete dignity. One who presides over and is able to manage his own household (Titus 1:6; Joshua 24:15)

### **The wife of a bishop/deacon must be:**

**Grave:** Dignified and respectable. Making good judgements (Prov. 31:10-31; 1 Pet. 3:1-6)

**Not slanderers:** Not making false statements against or about another, especially with the intent of damaging another person's reputation, in any form. (Prov. 31:10-31; 1 Pet. 3:1-6)

**Sober:** Safe, sound in mind, self-controlled, discreet or temperate. (Prov. 31:10-31; 1 Pet. 3:1-6)

**Faithful in all things:** To be loyal, true, or steadfast in your support of someone or something. (Prov. 31:10-31; 1 Pet. 3:1-6)

Paramount to all the above, she must be saved, sanctified, filled with the Holy Ghost, and a faithful member of The Church of God.

#### THE QUESTIONS AND SUBJECTS COMMITTEE (2024-2025)

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