

**Report of the  
Questions  
&  
Subjects  
Committee**  
to the  
**118<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**  
of  
**The Church of God**  
July 29–August 3, 2024

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*REPORT OF THE*  
**QUESTIONS AND SUBJECTS COMMITTEE**  
*TO THE*  
*118<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD*  
*2024*

**Introduction:**

We, your Questions and Subjects Committee, bring greetings to the delegates of this 118<sup>th</sup> Annual World-Wide Assembly of The Church of God.

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

We are thankful and appreciate all those who have taken the time to pray for this Committee, for we understand the importance of having God's direction as we endeavour to fulfil the responsibility placed on us to serve The Church of God. We again encourage every member that may have a question or concern regarding the Q&S report, to do your best to respond as soon as possible. We take each submission seriously, and as a committee, we seek God for wisdom and try to respond in a timely manner. We are thankful for your kindness and patience as we respond to each question submitted to the Q&S Committee.

**Section 1: TABERNACLE ADVANCEMENT  
COMMITTEE & TABERNACLE BUILDING  
COMMITTEE**

**RATIONALE**

Now that we have purchased the land for the construction of a tabernacle, we need to have further committees in place to advance the project.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

We recommend that the two committees below be put in place with the stated remits:

## **Committee #1: Tabernacle Advancement Committee**

1. Primary responsibility is fundraising for all phases of the Tabernacle building program, from preparing the land to construction of the Tabernacle.
2. Collaborate with the Tabernacle Building Committee to identify financial requirements and priorities.
3. Set fundraising goals based on Tabernacle Building Committee priorities.
4. Coordinate with the General Treasurer and State/Regional/National Tabernacle Boosters regarding requirements, goals, and status of work.
5. Coordinate with the General CPMA Coordinator and Tabernacle Boosters during Heritage Month to promote fundraising efforts and develop/promote/run world-wide fundraising campaigns.
6. Stay engaged with fundraising efforts throughout the year.
7. Look for opportunities to involve General Auxiliary Coordinators and their specific auxiliary in Tabernacle fundraising efforts.
8. Communicate with the Ways & Means Committee as needed. Provide input on temporary or permanent changes to the church financial system to meet construction goals.
9. Create an annual fundraising plan due to the General Overseer within 30 days after the General Assembly and to provide updates to the General Overseer on a regular basis.
10. Collaborate with the media department to maintain an active social media presence and keep the Tabernacle page updated with progress.
11. Provide an update, article, or snippet of information to the Evening Light monthly prior to the 5<sup>th</sup> of each month.
12. Provide a quarterly mailing to all local churches (see Bro. Kent for due dates).
13. Work with Overseers to boost fundraising at State/Regional/National Conventions. Consider attending conventions as much as possible.

14. The members of this committee are to be appointed by the General Overseer in conjunction with the General Properties Committee and are to report annually to the General Assembly.

### **Committee #2: Tabernacle Building Committee**

1. Primarily they will be responsible for all phases of construction – from start to finish.

2. Create a master site plan for the property. Meet with General Headquarters staff and Assembly Operations personnel to aid in creating a draft plan. This plan will be our guiding document to utilize the entire property to meet the needs of The Church of God.

It will include the Tabernacle and any other facility we desire to build (example: cafeteria, housing, gymnasium, the use of the land for camping ministry, retreats/conventions, walking/bike trails, camping/RVs, etc.) The master site plan will be reviewed/ approved by the General Properties Committee.

3. Work with city/county officials to obtain necessary permits during all phases of construction.

4. Act as Project Manager for the entire Tabernacle building project.

- a. Provide accurate estimates to the General Properties Committee for review/approval and to the Tabernacle Advancement Committee.
- b. Provide fundraising priorities to the Tabernacle Advancement Committee.
- c. Create project schedule as the project develops and progresses and update the General Overseer on project start/ finish milestones.
- d. Keep detailed records.
- e. Manage costs and schedule as well as providing all receipts of expenditures to the General Treasurer.
- f. Create a monthly summary report of expenditures, tasks completed, upcoming tasks, expected expenditures and submit to the General Properties Committee.

- g. Report frequently to the General Overseer (consider monthly updates, but quarterly updates should be provided at a minimum until the project begins. Once building begins, provide monthly updates).
- h. Notify the General Overseer of any known cost or schedule overruns.

5. Communicate with the Tabernacle Advancement Committee regularly (at least quarterly) on project status so they can keep the field updated through social media and quarterly mailings.

6. Create accurate scopes of work when hiring contractors.

7. Hire qualified yet cost-effective contractors.

8. Protect the Church by providing oversight and accountability.

9. The members of this committee are to be appointed by the General Overseer in conjunction with the General Properties Committee and are to report annually to the General Assembly.

## **Section 2: PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL MINISTERS**

### **RATIONALE**

Observation from the field highlights the difficulty where Overseers, especially in nations outside of the U.S., try to go through the four correspondence books during their scheduled BTI courses. This is due to the fact that currently all members aspiring to become ministers have to complete these books.

In a bid to overcome this situation, the following recommendation was accepted during the 117<sup>th</sup> General Assembly with the proviso that it be revisited during this General Assembly to look at the clause dealing with the exceptions which could be made by State/Regional/National Overseers.

*“We recommend that the individual, prior to receiving a regular ministerial or teacher’s license, needs to complete either the three terms of BTI (since the reorganization) or the four correspondence books: The Church – “Who is She?”, Volume 1 – History of The Church of God, Volume 2 – The Church’s Unfinished Mission, Volume 3 – The Church the Fulness of Christ, and Volume 4 – Prominent Teachings of The Church*

*of God. We would highly encourage the person seeking a license to complete both BTI and the correspondence books, if at all possible.*

*State/Regional/National Overseers may make exceptions to these requirements when it is obvious that the financial status of the candidate would not permit compliance, or when the required material is not available in the language of the candidate, or when the candidate is not literate enough to meet the requirements. Where possible, finances are to be made available when the exception is due to a lack of finance. However, caution should be exercised in allowing for exceptions to the fundamental requirements, since it is clear that if one is to teach, he first must be taught.*

*Only faithful members of the Church who are filled with the Holy Ghost should be issued a certificate or license.*

*This will supersede the previous recommendations: (104<sup>th</sup> AM, 2009, p108, Sec. 4, QSC) and (92<sup>nd</sup> AM, 1997, p41, Part VI, QSC)."*

The exception due to financial reasons had already been looked at in the above recommendation. However, it is felt that there should be no exception due to illiteracy, but, that alternative provisions should be put in place. Therefore, we recommend the following:

### **RECOMMENDATION**

We recommend that the individual, prior to receiving a regular ministerial or teacher's license, needs to complete either the three terms of BTI (since the reorganization) or the four correspondence books: The Church – "Who is She?", Volume 1 – History of The Church of God, Volume 2 – The Church's Unfinished Mission, Volume 3 – The Church the Fulness of Christ, and Volume 4 – Prominent Teachings of The Church of God. We would highly encourage the person seeking a license to complete both BTI and the correspondence books, if at all possible.

State/Regional/National Overseers may make exceptions to these requirements when it is obvious that the financial status of the candidate would not permit compliance, or when the required material is not available in the language of the candidate, or when the candidate is not literate enough to meet the requirements. Where possible, finances are to be made available when the prob-

lem is due to a lack of finance. Where the reason is due to reasons of illiteracy, material should be made available in the form of audio recordings in the language of the candidate as far as possible, taking account of the availability of suitable translators.

However, there should be little or no exceptions to the fundamental requirements, since it is clear that if one is to teach, he first must be taught.

Only faithful members of the Church who are filled with the Holy Ghost should be issued a certificate or license.

This will supersede the previous recommendation from the (117<sup>th</sup> AM, 2023, pp76,77, Sec. 8, QSC).

### **Section 3: 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 77 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. No church should be disbanded by anyone other than the State/Regional/National Overseer in conjunction with the General Overseer.



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.

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).

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 (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 Counselling Committee when/ if they become involved in the process. In the interest of transparency, members of the Counselling 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 4: INFORMATIONAL REPORT–LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR BISHOPS AND DEACONS**

The Church recognizes the importance of these two offices of Bishops and Deacons. Jesus was declared as Shepherd and Bishop of our souls (1 Peter 2:25). 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>7</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>8</sup> *But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;* <sup>9</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).

We would like to remind you that additional information regarding specific age, educational and basic qualifications that the Assembly has addressed in previous General Assemblies for both aforementioned offices, can be found in our most current Church Business Guide section 836 on Deacons and section 845 on Bishops. These sections are quoted from the 99<sup>th</sup> Assembly Minutes, 2004, pages 45-47, Questions and Subjects report, Section 4:D.

**The Questions and Subjects Committee (2023-2024)**

- Philip C. Bennett, *Chairman*
- Joseph D. Hill, *Secretary*
- Billy L. Cox
- Michael nixon
- Brian R. O'Dell
- Clinton W. Pulliam

