

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD

Standing Rules: Verbiage Clarification

Motion: To add, ‘which does not impact the General Bylaws’ following the words, “main motion” in number 10 of the General Convention standing rules of order for business (Page 122).

10. Motions Submitted in Writing: Members of the assembly approaching a microphone who wish to offer a main motion, *which does not impact the General Bylaws*, or a substantial amendment shall submit the motion in writing to the chair on pre-printed forms available to the assembly immediately after making the motion.

Rationale: To clarify and align standing rule 10 with standing rule 9, which states: “All resolutions for consideration by the General Convention (other than those processed through the General Board) must be processed by the respective district board. In order to be considered by the General Convention, all proposed resolutions from district boards must be received by the General Secretary’s office by January 1 of the convention year. All resolutions shall be made available electronically to all ministers by March 1 of the convention year.

Submitted: General Board

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD

Unfinished Business: Resolutions Referred

2019 Resolution #4

Resolution: To change the General Bylaws of the Pentecostal Church of God (Page 39: Article IV – Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage; Section 3. Divorced and Remarried Ministers) by adding Paragraph D to this section as follows:

D. The divorce that does not meet the criteria in A, B, C (listed above) shall be given consideration only upon full confession and repentance by the applicant for the divorce, and no applicant attempting to justify the divorce shall be given consideration (1 John 1:9; John 8:36); A minimum three (3) year probationary waiting period shall be required from the time of the divorce to the time of the application, and the application shall include a written essay confirming the applicant’s Biblical beliefs as it relates to marriage and divorce (Matthew 3:8; Matthew 7:20).

Submitted: Tennessee District Board.

Rationale: Due to the magnitude of debate and discussion concerning the topic of divorce and/or divorce and remarriage, we do assert our firm belief that divorce is not the plan of God, but we do also believe and agree with the exceptions made in the current General Bylaws of the Pentecostal Church of God (paragraphs A, B, and C as follows).

Page 39, Article IV, Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage. Section 3. Divorced and Remarried Ministers. No divorced and remarried Christian shall be granted Credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God except in the following cases:

A. The divorce occurred prior to the applicant's initial understanding and acceptance of salvation evidenced by faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and further the applicant did not demonstrate a lifestyle consistent with devotion to Biblical principles. We recognize annulment as a marriage that never legally occurred (2 Corinthians 5:17).

B. The divorce was for the cause of fornication or sexual immorality on the part of the applicant's former spouse (Matthew 5:32; 19:9), where the applicant was faithful to the marriage vows during the marriage.

C. The divorce occurred when an unbeliever departs from a believer (1 Corinthians 7:15). It must be determined that every effort was made personally and legally to save the marriage, and said divorce occurred against the will of the applicant.

D. ***Proposed resolution verbiage would be added here upon approval as follows:*** The divorce that does not meet the criteria in A, B, C (listed above) shall be given consideration only upon full confession and repentance by the applicant for the divorce, and no applicant attempting to justify the divorce shall be given consideration (1 John 1:9; John 8:36); A minimum three (3) year probationary waiting period shall be required from the time of the divorce to the time of the application, and the application shall include a written essay confirming the applicant's Biblical beliefs as it relates to marriage and divorce (Matthew 3:8; Matthew 7:20).

And so, on purpose and with intent, we give no other excuse for divorce, we give no other reason for divorce, and we give no other justification for divorce; and yet with the same purpose and with the same intent, we believe that God will and does forgive divorce; and maintain that any individual who has had a divorce, but has also humbled themselves, repented, and received God's forgiveness, may still be used in active ministry; assuming they will subject themselves to the authority of their respective general and/or district board, commit themselves to fulfill any and all necessary ministry requirements and submit themselves to the doctrine of the Pentecostal Church of God.

Motion: To refer Resolution Number Four to a committee for study and bring it back to the next convention. MSC

Referral Committee: Chairman Lonnie Cox; Bishop Phil Redding; Rev. Scott Long; Rev. Cindy Wermuth; Rev. Gwen Minor

Committee Response: Concerning the divorce resolution, the majority of the committee stood opposed. However, if the resolution moved forward, a simple majority favored amending the resolution to a TEN (10) year ineligibility period, even though the ideas of a generation, season, and decade in the Bible seemed arbitrary.

Amended Motion (by Tennessee District): D. The divorce that does not meet the criteria in A, B, C (listed above) shall be given consideration only upon full confession and repentance by the applicant for the divorce (1 John 1:9), and no applicant attempting to justify the divorce shall be given consideration (Proverbs 29:1). This divorce will have a mandatory *nine (9)* year ineligibility waiting period (Revelation 2:5), followed by a minimum *one (1)* year probationary waiting period which shall be required from the time of application to the time of processing (Matthew 7:20). **Ten years total.** The application shall require a written essay confirming the applicant's Biblical beliefs as it relates to marriage and divorce (Matthew 3:8). Finally, the applicant's District Board shall be required to thoroughly investigate the applicant's Scriptural standard of living/teaching (Galatians 6:1), and any applicant who has proven to have met these criteria may be approved (Romans 11:29) and authorized to hold ministerial credentials with the Pentecostal Church of God (John 8:36).

Amended Rationale: Due to the magnitude of debate and discussion concerning the topic of divorce and/or divorce and remarriage, we do assert our firm belief that divorce **is not** the plan of God, but we do also believe and agree with the exceptions made in the current PCG Bylaws (pre-Salvation, Fornication, Abandonment). And so, on purpose and with intent, we give no other excuse, reason, or justification for divorce; and yet with the same purpose and intent, we believe that God will and can forgive any divorce. We further maintain that any individual who has had a divorce, but has also humbled themselves, repented, and received God's forgiveness, may be restored and used in active ministry; assuming they will subject themselves to the authority of their respective general and/or district board, commit themselves to fulfill any and all necessary ministry requirements, and submit themselves to the doctrine of the Pentecostal Church of God. This resolution will shorten the divorce applicant's ineligibility from lifetime to 10 years.

2019 Motion from the Floor

Motion: Victims of physical abuse be allowed to apply for credentials.

Motion: To refer the previous motion to the same committee studying Resolution Number Four. MSC

Submitted: From the General Convention Floor

Referral Committee: Chairman Lonnie Cox; Bishop Phil Redding; Rev. Scott Long; Rev. Cindy Wermuth; Rev. Gwen Minor

Committee Response: Concerning the physical abuse motion, the committee could not agree. The initial motion referred to the committee only referred to physical abuse and not other forms of spousal abuse. If the 2021 Convention desires to expand the scope beyond "physical abuse," once the motion is reintroduced, then that would certainly remain its prerogative. However, the committee did agree on the following:

The Bible does not support abusive behavior in any form. Forgiveness is not permission to repeat abusive behavior. Violence against women, men, or children is never justified. Leaning primarily on the writings of Paul, the Scripture records:

1) 1 Cor. 13:4-8, “Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails.”

2) Eph. 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,” NKJV

3) Eph. 5:28-29, “So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.”

There is ample corroborating testimony from other Christian organizations that, “No person is expected to stay in an abusive marriage.”

PENTECOSTAL CHURCH OF GOD

New Business

RESOLUTIONS:

Resolution #1

Motion: To establish Global Missions as the umbrella embracing all aspects of the mission’s emphasis of the Pentecostal Church of God both domestically and internationally. All the current functions of the American Indian Missions Department, National Missions Department and the World Missions Department would come under the umbrella of GLOBAL MISSIONS with the exceptions of Men’s Ministry and Civil Chaplaincy. It is our suggestion that Men’s Ministry become a fully functioning ministry department such as Women’s Ministry and that the Civil Chaplaincy be placed under the direction and leadership of the Military Chaplaincy. The following changes that would be made to the General Bylaws are in bold italics. (Article X, Sections 4-7, p. 51)

Section 4. Global Missions Board

GLOBAL MISSIONS BOARD:

The Pentecostal Church of God, being cognizant of the great need for missionary work in the United States and the nations of the world, does hereby establish a Global Missions Board, which shall be under the direction and supervision of the General Council and the General Board. The membership of this board shall consist of the following:

Global Missions Director

World Missions Director

American Indian Missions Director

Director of Global Disaster Relief
Director of Compassion Missions
Director of Global Education

Nine (9) members at large elected for a two-year term or until successors are elected

Should a vacancy occur in one of the elected positions on the Global Missions Board, the General Board shall elect a successor for the remainder of the two-year term. The Global Missions Board shall be responsible for the budgetary management and procedural areas of the mission effort of the Pentecostal Church of God.

Section 5. Global Missions Director

The Director of Global Missions shall have general supervision, direction and management over all undertakings, business, and operations of missions *both domestically and internationally* and shall be responsible to the General Bishop, the General Council, the Global Missions Board, and the General Board.

- A. The director shall devote his full time to, except as approved by the General Board, the work of his office for the purpose of promoting greater interest in and support of *global* missions.
- B. The director shall be granted a place on the General Board and shall be chairperson of the Global Missions Board and the World Missions task force. The director shall be paid a salary from the Global Missions fund, the amount to be stipulated by the General Board. *The Global Missions Board shall provide for and approve through the budget process all travel expenses made necessary by the business of the Global Missions Director.*
- C. A World Missions task force shall be appointed by the World Missions Director *in coordination with the Global Missions Director* and the General Bishop. The World Missions task force shall assist the *World Missions Director* in fulfilling the *international missions' emphasis of the Pentecostal Church of God.*

Section 6. National Missions (would continue to function with its ministries under Global Missions or the General Bishop's office, etc.) but this section would be stricken from the General Bylaws.

Section 7: American Indian Missions (would become Section 6 and remain the same with one modification below.)

- E. An American Indian Missions task force shall be appointed by the General Bishop in coordination with the *Global Missions director* and American Indian Missions director. The American Indian Missions task force shall assist the director in fulfilling the outreach mission of the PCG throughout the nation.

Submitted: Director David Petty, American Indian Missions
Director Andy Hunt, National Missions
Director Virgil Kincaid, World Missions
Global Missions Board
General Board

Rationale: God has one mission on His mind—to reach the lost, and one movement on this planet—the Church of Jesus Christ, and the PCG is committed to the harvest until the whole world hears! In the spring of 2013 while in preparation for the General Convention in June of 2013, Directors Hunt, Petty, and Kincaid finished a planning session, and when Director Kincaid thanked Director Hunt and Director Petty for their diligent work, Director Hunt replied, “That’s no problem at all because after all we are just one mission.” From that day forward the three mission’s departments actively promoted ONE MISSION. In the summer of 2017 at General Convention in Valencia, California, the Pentecostal Church of God chose a new General Bishop, Dr. Wayman Ming, Jr. Following his election, he addressed the convention with a new directive which he felt that God had impressed upon his heart for the future of the Pentecostal Church of God, “ONE MISSION—ONE MOVEMENT.” Directors Hunt, Petty, and Kincaid sensed an immediate connection. Therefore, the Directors of the American Indian Ministries Department, National Missions Department, and the World Missions Department believe the integration of their departments from three departments into one mission will create a more concerted effort as they work together toward One Mission—One Movement and engage in a greater effectiveness together through evangelism, discipleship, church planting, and compassion ministries such as relief work from natural disasters and medical missions.

Departmental Observations:

1. World Missions: The World Missions Department would continue to function as it is currently functioning with the addition of adding Ethnic U. S. Ministry to its priorities.
2. American Indian Missions: It is the intent under this proposal to develop regional assistant directors (task force) who would be responsible for AIM in their region. An AIM construction coordinator would also be implemented to direct current and future construction projects for AIM. These assistant directors and construction coordinator would report directly to the American Indian Mission’s director and Global Missions Director. The stipend and/or travel expense for these assistant directors and construction coordinator would be met through the current budget compensation for the AIM Director.
3. Global Disaster Relief: It is the intent under this proposal to combine domestic and international disaster relief under one director. Rather than have separate appeals for disaster relief going out for domestic tragedies or international tragedies our efforts would concentrate on one relief fund. This would not necessarily mean that the director would have to travel to international destinations when a disaster occurred but would be responsible for coordinating an appropriate response with the help of PCG leaders in that area. The director would also provide inspiration and training for both domestic and international relief workers.
4. Compassion Missions: This department emphasis would cover Inner City Missions, Evangelists, and other outreach ministries. The budgets for both Domestic Missions and Global Disaster Relief would be met through the current budget of National Missions.
5. Global Education: The Director of Global Education would provide leadership for our educational emphasis for ministerial training and discipleship training internationally. Currently, our Global Education Missionary is a missionary appointment by the Global Missions Board. She is responsible for our Veritas International School of Theology and is directing our current effort in partnering with Global University in providing Christian Life and Christian Service curriculum to all our international partners. She is fully funded by PCG World Missions donors.

General Observations:

1. Under this proposal the Global Missions Director and World Missions Director would be one and the same. At some point in the future should finances allow and the General Board approve, the positions of Global Missions Director and World Missions Director could be filled by different persons.
2. The current Administrative Staff for the three missions' departments are hired and supervised by the Directors. Under this proposal, the Administrative Staff would be hired and supervised by the Global Missions Director.
3. The names for Directors, other than the World Missions Director, for the various emphases under the Global Missions umbrella would be submitted by the Global Missions Director to the General Bishop and General Council and approved by the General Board. The National Missions Director and Indian Missions Director would no longer serve on the General Board.
4. The proposal would also create more streamlined budgets with less operational expenses for greater effectiveness.

Resolution #2

Motion: To delete from the General Bylaws the following: “with five dollars being placed in the benevolent death benefit fund to be applied to death benefits only.” (Article IX, Section 5, p. 48)

Submitted: General Board

Rationale: This practice has not occurred for many years. Currently, the death benefit fund is financed by the general operating fund of the Pentecostal Church of God.

Resolution #3

Motion: To include the following bold-face wording to Article IV, Section 3, Letter C, p. 43.

C. The divorce occurred when an unbeliever departs from a believer (1 Corinthians 7:15), ***including any divorce resulting from an unbeliever committing the unloving act of spousal abuse (1 John 4:8)***. It must be determined that every effort was made personally and legally to save the marriage, and said divorce occurred against the will of the applicant.

Submitted: Tennessee District Board

Rationale: This amendment would allow for physical abuse and other forms of spousal abuse.