



**Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus**  
**GENERAL CONVENTION 2018**  
**Long Beach, CA**  
**November 20-24, 2018**

# **INITIATIVE PROPOSALS**

## **(2018)**



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**PROPOSED INITIATIVE  
LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION  
NOVEMBER 20-24, 2018  
Long Beach, California  
PROPOSED – INITIATIVE**

Presented by: **PROTOCOL Committee**

**Bishop Felipe Lugo** General Treasurer Apostolic Assembly

**Bishop Jose Guadalupe Zuñiga** Secretary of Christian Education of the  
Apostolic Assembly

**Bishop Daniel Sanchez** Former Bishop President

**Bishop Edward Pacheco** Corona, California

**Bishop Emeritus Abel Jiménez**, San Bernardino, Ca

**Initiative Proposal to change the Constitution:**

We propose a change to Articles 42, Clause VII, Article 43 Clause VII, Article 47  
Clause IV, Article 56, Clause I and V #9

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

In an effort to revitalize the protocol of presentation of our former and present leaders and the  
election process for elders, we propose the following changes:

**PURPOSE:** We feel that by applying the proposed changes to our constitution, the office of the  
Sector Elders will be given the proper order of presentation in our constitution, thus providing a  
system that will enhance the order of election of elders and the length of time they serve as  
auxiliary supervisors to the supervising bishop of their district.

In the event of special circumstances that could arise with regards to the need of transfer,  
removal or cessation of an active elder we would refer to Article 52, clause 1.

**OBJECTIVES**

By accepting these changes, the district convention shall be held every four years thus impacting  
the economy of our churches in a positive manner.

**Article 42: VII.**

**Presently reads as follows:**

“Each district shall have a district board of directors consisting of a supervising bishop, a  
secretary, a treasurer, and its auxiliary elders”.

**We are proposing a change to read as follows:**

**Article 42: VII.**

Each district shall have a district board of directors consisting of a supervising bishop, its auxiliary elders, a secretary, and a treasurer.

**Article 43 Clause VII.**

**Presently reads as follows:**

“Auxiliary elders shall be elected in their respective district conventions for a term of two years or until a successor is elected. They may serve in the same position for four consecutive periods provided that they are proposed and elected by the ministerial body. They may again occupy the same position after a period of two years has passed since they held four consecutive periods, unless they are appointed to another sector.”

We are proposing a change to read as follows:

**We are proposing a change to read as follows:**

**Article 43 Clause VII:**

Auxiliary elders shall be elected in their respective district conventions for a term of FOUR years or until a successor is elected. They may serve in the same position for TWO consecutive periods provided that they are proposed and elected by the ministerial body. They may again occupy the same position after a period of FOUR years has passed since they held TWO consecutive periods, unless they are appointed to another sector.

**Article 47 Clause IV.**

**Presently it reads as follows:**

“The same electoral system used for the district bishop shall apply for the election of an auxiliary elder, with the exception of the duration of their respective terms”

**We are proposing a change to read as follows:**

**Article 47 Clause IV.**

**The same electoral system used for the district bishop shall apply for the election of an auxiliary elder.**

**Article 56 Clause I.**

**Presently it reads as follows:**

“District conventions shall be held every two years at a place and date approved by the General Board of Directors. They can be conducted every two years with either delegates or with the general membership. District conventions that take place every four years will include all the general membership and delegates. “

**We are proposing a change to read as follows:**

Article 56 Clause I. District conventions shall be held every FOUR years at a place and date approved by the General Board of Directors.

**Article 56 Clause V.**

**Presently it reads as follows:**

“The program of each district convention shall proceed in the following manner: 1. Inauguration. 2. Registration of ministers and delegates. 3. Appointment of commissions. 4. District bishop’s activities report. 5. District secretary report. 6. District treasurer report. 7. Presentation of proposals. 8. Discussion of proposals. 9. Election of district bishop, secretary, treasurer, and auxiliary elders (when applicable). 10. Commission reports. 11. General business. 12. Initiation and ordination of ministers. 13. Adjournment”.

**We are proposing a change to read as follows:**

**Article 56 Clause V.**

The program of each district convention shall proceed in the following manner: 1. Inauguration. 2. Registration of ministers and delegates. 3. Appointment of commissions. 4. District bishop’s activities report. 5. District secretary report. 6. District treasurer report. 7. Presentation of proposals. 8. Discussion of proposals. 9. Election of district bishop, *AUXILIARY ELDERS*, secretary, and treasurer 10. Commission reports. 11. General business. 12. Initiation and ordination of ministers. 13. Adjournment.

# PROPOSALS

## GENERAL CONVENTION

November 19 to 23 Long Beach, CA.

## PROPOSAL INITIATIVE TO THE CONSTITUTION

By Bishop: Marco A Zacarias

I propose:

### CHAPTER II

### REQUIREMENTS TO BE A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### ARTICLE 6

#### **This is how it is currently written**

IV. In order to figure as a candidate for the other positions, it is required that the person have been a member of the General Board of Directors, a district bishop **or sector elder**, and at least hold a pastorate at the time of the election.

#### **Amend how it is in the yellow**

IV. In order to figure as a candidate for the other positions, it is required that the person have been a member of the General Board of Directors, a district bishop or **Member of the District Board** , and at least hold a pastorate at the time of the election.

#### **Explanation of the amendment:**

The treasurer and the Secretary who are key persons are eliminated and I consider that they possibly have more experience than certain elders, in other cases in certain Districts the Elders are only nominal because there are no Sectors functioning with a Work plan. I propose that this amendment be approved as fair.

## PROPOSAL INITIATIVE TO THE CONSTITUTION

By Bishop: Marco A Zacarias

I propose:

### ARTICLE 2

The Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus has been organized with the following purposes:

#### **This is how it is currently written:**

VII. To fulfill the goals of the previous clause, **the Apostolic Assembly** shall acquire and administer the necessary properties, according to the laws of each country with regards to religious matters.

#### **Amend what is in yellow:**

VII. To fulfill the goals of the previous clause, **the National must invest in offices for the Districts and the Church** shall acquire and administer the necessary properties, according to the laws of each country with regards to religious matters.

#### **Explanation of the amendment:**

For more than 70 years the churches of the Districts have been contributing to the National for several projects and the National is Fair that within their plans invest in the Districts, for an improvement of the Assembly. Example there are several Leaders of certain Districts who have commented that we are the largest Hispanic Organization in the United States and we do not have Offices in the Districts, there are no Camps, there are no Auditoriums and the District Archives of more than 70 years is not known where is it so.

## **PROPOSAL INITIATIVE TO THE CONSTITUTION**

By Bishop: Marco A Zacarías

I propose:

### **CHAPTER IX**

#### **TEMPLES AND PREDIOS**

Article 36 Temples and buildings

##### **This is how it is currently written**

VI. When a property is purchased or donated for the service of the Apostolic Assembly, the title invariably must be entitled to: "APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS."

##### **Amend how it is in the yellow**

VI. When a property is purchased or donated for the service of the Apostolic Assembly, the title invariably must be entitled to: "APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS." Exception to churches that want to join the Apostolic Assembly after December 2019 can apply for a Verbal Lease and be affiliated to the Apostolic Assembly.

##### **Explanation of the amendment:**

The National goal is to establish 200 new Churches that is to grow  
There are several pastors who have commented to me, that the reality of the present time, is no longer the same as in the 1900s, and that a person who buys and builds a temple, and puts it to the Name of the Assembly will not be very feasible. that is why there is flexibility and that it is optional to write it in the name of the Assembly. The U.P.C. And other institutions do,

##### **This is the spirit of the proposal.**



APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS  
GENERAL ELECTORAL CONVENTION  
LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

NOVEMBER 19 – 24, 2018  
Long Beach, California

Dated: July 31, 2018

Submitted by: Bishop Abel E. Rodriguez,  
East Los Angeles District, El Siloé – East Los Angeles, CA

Proposed addition to further amplify the guidelines when naming the ministers assigned to a 'study commission' when a 'proposal-initiative' is sent to a study for analysis and thesis.

**Introduction and Purpose:**

The current wording of the Constitution only states that the "study commission" is to consist of 5 to 7 ministers. There are no specifications as to who can serve on these commissions.

This proposal serves to exclude the proponent(s) of the initiative in serving on the 'study commission'.

The responsibility of the commission is to independently look at all areas of the initiative and arrive at and present a thesis of the study. To evaluate the proposal-initiative the commission must be able to do so without being constantly persuaded by the opinions of the proponent(s). The proponent only has one view of his proposal and that is a bias vote to pass the initiative. It is for this reason that this proposal seeks to exclude the proponent(s) from the study commission.

**Current Constitution Article reads as follows:**

TWENTY THIRD CHAPTER  
PROCEDURES TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION  
APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS  
ARTICLE 81 *(2017 Edition)*

**Clause VI**

When a proposal–initiative is presented at convention and passes to a study commission, the Bishop President, in the second meeting of the General Board of Directors after the convention, shall appoint a study commission comprised of 5 to 7 ministers, who shall have the responsibility of analyzing, studying, and presenting a thesis on its investigation. This study should be completed within a six-month period.

**This Proposal–Initiative would change the Article and Clause to include an additional paragraph that would make the clause read as follows:**

**Clause VI**

When a proposal–initiative is presented at convention and passes to a study commission, the Bishop President, in the second meeting of the General Board of Directors after the convention, shall appoint a study commission comprised of 5 to 7 ministers, who shall have the responsibility of analyzing, studying, and presenting a thesis on its investigation. This study should be completed within a six-month period.

*New Additional Paragraph would read:*

**The members of this study commission should consist of ministers other than the proponent(s) of the proposal-initiative. This will ensure a completely harmonious independent and unbiased study arriving to a congruous result. The proponent should be contacted, and his input, reasons and concepts can and should be considered during the study of the proposal-initiative.**

– END –

**PROPOSED INITIATIVE**  
**APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS**  
**ELECTORAL GENERAL CONVENTION**  
NOVEMBER 20 – 24, 2018  
Long Beach, California

**PROPOSED – INITIATIVE**

Presented by: **Real Estate Trust Fund Committee**

**Bishop Felipe Lugo**  
General Treasurer Apostolic Assembly

**Bishop Victor O. Prado**  
San Fernando, California

**Bishop Abel E. Rodriguez**  
East Los Angeles District

**Pastor David Martinez**  
Compton, California

**Elder Ruben D. Villegas**  
Santa Ana, California

Initiative Proposal to amend the Constitution:

PART 1 Proposed name change of Tenth Chapter.

PART 2 Re-write portions of Article 37 to be conducive to the proposed name change and the additions of Apostolic Mutual Platform and Sub-Platforms.

These changes do not change the powers of the Real Estate Trust Fund Committee and only look to add Apostolic Mutual and each of its Sub-Platforms to the Constitution. To correctly understand and analysis this proposal in whole, the Apostolic Mutual Platform and each of its Sub-Platforms must also be considered.

The following is as the current Constitution reads:

TENTH CHAPTER  
REAL ESTATE TRUST FUND  
ARTICLE 37

- I. With the purpose of having a fund for loans to finance the purchase or remodeling of church building and to support the establishment of new works within the districts, a trust fund shall be organized pro real Estate.
- II. The monies for this trust fund shall be obtained from five percent of the tithes sent by churches to the General Treasury, and from five percent of the tithes of pastors sent to district treasuries.
- III. The operation of this fund shall be administered by a committee presided by the Bishop General Treasurer with the assistance of one bishop supervisor, one auxiliary elder and two pastors. These three shall have professional knowledge in the area of finances and investments. The General Board of Directors shall appoint the last four members of this committee every four years.
- IV. The Pro Real Estate Trust Fund committee will provide a yearly financial report to the Pastoral Body, Episcopal Body and International Board of Directors. This financial report will include the following;
  - A. Names of Pro Real Estate Trust Fund committee members.
  - B. A summary of Pro Real Estate Trust Fund Account-account receivables, payables and year-end account balance for the calendar year.

- C. A summary of financial investments and investment returns, in which funds from the Pro Real Estate Fund for the calendar year were deposited.
- D. A summary of the loans granted to each local church, including the interest rate on each loan.
- E. A summary of the repayments of each local church, including their outstanding balance on the loan.
- F. Future investment plan or strategy to grow the real estate fund.
- G. Personal confidential information shall not be divulged.

The following is as the Proposed Constitution changes will read:

TENTH CHAPTER  
APOSTOLIC MUTUAL  
ARTICLE 37

- I. With the purpose of having a fund for loans to finance the purchase or remodeling of church building and to support the establishment of new works within the districts, a trust fund shall be organized pro Real Estate. **The pro Real Estate Fund shall be organized in the following Platforms:**
  - A. APOSTOLIC MUTUAL PLATFORM
  - B. APOSTOLIC MUTUAL LOAN SUB-PLATFORM
  - C. APOSTOLIC MUTUAL INVESTMENT SUB-PLATFORM
  - D. APOSTOLIC MUTUAL MISSIONARY ASSISTANCE SUB-PLATFORM
  
- II. The monies for this trust fund shall be obtained from:
  - A. Five percent of the tithes sent by churches to the General Treasury,
  - B. Five percent of the tithes of pastors sent to district treasuries,
  - C. Receivables/Interest from loans made according to the Loan Sub-Platform, and
  - D. Investment income received through the Investment Sub-Platform.

- III. The operation of ~~this fund~~ **Apostolic Mutual and each of its Sub-Platforms** shall be administered by a committee presided by the Bishop General Treasurer with the assistance of one bishop supervisor, one auxiliary elder and two pastors. These three shall have professional knowledge in the area of finances and investments. The General Board of Directors shall appoint the last four members of this committee every four years, **or by the first Joint Bishops Meeting following an election year.**
- IV. The Pro Real Estate ~~Trust Fund~~ **Apostolic Mutual** committee will provide a yearly financial report to the Pastoral Body, Episcopal Body and International Board of Directors. This financial report will include the following;
- A. Names of ~~Pro Real Estate Trust Fund~~ **Apostolic Mutual** committee members.
  - B. A summary of ~~Pro Real Estate Trust Fund~~ **all Apostolic Mutual** Account-account receivables, payables and year-end account balance for the calendar year. **This shall include the same accounting accountability for each of its Sub-Platforms.**
  - C. A summary of financial investments and investment returns, in which funds from ~~in the~~ **Apostolic Mutual Investment Sub-Platform** ~~Pro Real Estate Fund~~ for the calendar year were deposited.
  - D. A summary of the loans granted **within the Apostolic Mutual Loan Sub-Platform** to each local church, including the interest rate on each loan.
  - E. A summary of the **Apostolic Mutual Loan Sub-Platform** repayments of each local church, including their outstanding balance on the loan.

- F. Future investment plans ~~or~~ **and** strategy to grow the **Apostolic Mutual** ~~real-estate~~ fund, **as per forecasted in the Investment Sub-Platform.**

***New Clause “G”***

- G. **A summary of how funds have been disbursed and deposited within the Apostolic Mutual Missionary Assistance Program.**

***Old Clause “G” become “H”***

- H. Personal confidential information shall not be divulged.

– END –



**PROPOSED INITIATIVE**  
**APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS**  
**ELECTORAL GENERAL CONVENTION**

NOVEMBER 20-24, 2016

Long Beach, California

**PROPOSED – INITIATIVE**

Presented by: **Real Estate Trust Fund Committee**

**Bishop Felipe Lugo**

General Treasurer Apostolic Assembly

**Bishop Abel E. Rodriguez**

East Los Angeles District

**Elder Ruben D. Villegas**

Santa Ana, California

**Bishop Victor O. Prado**

San Fernando, California

**Pastor David Martinez**

Compton, California

**Initiative Proposal to amend the Constitution:**

We propose an addition to Chapter 2,

**DUTIES OF THE BISHOP SECRETARY OF FOREIGN MISSIONS**

Article 14,

The addition of a NEW CLAUSE XVII.

**PURPOSE:**

To provide a system that will help the Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions evaluate the effectiveness of those under his supervision, (ie. Missionaries, Regional Bishops and Presidents of the Apostolic Assembly in foreign countries and fields under their care. To also provide some guidelines for retirement and medical contributions, health care and benefits assistance for these same individuals based on these evaluations.

**New Clause XVII** to read:

The Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions shall use the procedures and guidelines outlined in the APOSTOLIC MUTUAL MISSIONARY ASSISTANCE SUB-PLATFORM document. This will assist him to evaluate each foreign missionary, regional bishop and presidents of the Apostolic Assembly in foreign countries and fields.

The evaluation reports completed by the Bishop Secretary of Foreign Missions are to be forwarded to the administrator of the General Treasurer before the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter who in turn begin the process of allocating funds according to the Apostolic Mutual Missionary Assistance Sub-Platform.

A summary of these evaluations shall be prepared by the office of Foreign Missions to be presented in the September Joint Bishops Meeting.

A summary of the disbursed funds deposited into the benefited accounts by the Apostolic Mutual Missionary Assistance program shall also be presented in the September Joint Bishops Meeting.

The office of the General Treasury, along with the **Apostolic Mutual Investment Committee**, shall establish the financial guidelines and qualification standards to assist member churches or individual pastors. Together both these teams will set the standards and coordination between the **Apostolic Mutual Investment** program and the **Apostolic Mutual Church Loan** program. These funds will be distributed according to the Trust Fund Interest Receipts Distribution which is outlined in the above-mentioned document.

This Apostolic Mutual Missionary Assistance document also contains the guidelines for retirement and medical contributions and assistance for these same individuals.

– END –

PROPOSED INITIATIVE  
LEGISLATIVE CONVENTION  
NOVEMBER 20-24, 2018  
Long Beach, California  
PROPOSED – INITIATIVE

**Presented by:** Pastor Jorge Lopez (CFO, Licensed Investment Advisor)

Initiative Proposal to change the Constitution:

**We propose a change to Articles 55, Clause I, Article 58 Clauses I, II, and III**

**PROPOSED CHANGE:**

To streamline the economic administration for the Apostolic Assembly, I propose that each church pay one amount per month to cover all National and District expenses, based on a percentage of the prior year's income. No additional offerings of any kind would be asked of the churches except for Flor Azul, self-sustaining programs (colleges and bookstores), and "emergency circumstances" authorized by the Board of Directors.

**PURPOSE:**

The Apostolic Assembly has grown significantly and with that growth, the current system of revenues has become very time consuming and administratively cumbersome. Also, it is virtually impossible to monitor consistent and equitable compliance among churches.

The proposed system will reduce administration on the National, District, and Local levels drastically, make it much easier to monitor and administer, and will make it equitable between churches based on a factor that applies to all. Currently each church on the average pays from about 14% to 17% in total for District and National needs (Please see the enclosed attachment: "Reporte Del Promedio de Pagos Locales al Nacional y Distrito (Anual)")

**OBJECTIVES**

The proposed system will reduce administration on the National, District, and Local levels drastically, making it much easier for local churches to comply and for the Districts and National to monitor and administer. In addition, it will compel the organization, at all levels, to implement "Best Practices" in terms of budget preparation and control of expenses.

Article 55 Clause I.

Presently reads as follows:

"District expenditures shall be financed with the monthly income tithes of pastors, evangelists working independently of established churches, and auxiliary elders, who will send their tithes to their respective district treasurers"

Article 58 Clauses I, II, and III read as follow:

- I. All ministers affiliated with the Apostolic Assembly, regardless of their position, are required to pay their tithes faithfully even when they receive support from any treasury of the Apostolic Assembly.
- II. Pastor and evangelists shall send the tithes of all their earnings to the district in which they belong.
- III. The officers of the General Board of Directors and the Supervising bishops shall send their tithes to the General Treasury for their use as Approved in general Conventions or meetings of the General Board of Directors.

We are proposing a change to read as follows:

Article 55 Clause I

“The Board of Directors in conjunction with the District Boards will assign an annual amount for each church, to be paid in equal amounts monthly based on the previous year’s income. This will cover all National and District expenses except for Flor Azul and self-sustaining programs such as schools and bookstores.

Each month, each church shall submit by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, electronically if possible, one designated amount per month to cover said expenditures, to a designated trust account that will separate and send the allocated portions to National and District by the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the following month. No other offerings may be solicited from churches except by the Board of Directors when “emergency circumstances” occur.

Reporte del Promedio de Pagos Locales al Nacional y Distrito (Anual)

Reportes de Convenciones	2014	2015	2016
Total de Ingresos	7,876,557	8,413,624	8,968,341
Flor Azul	-972,067	-928,698	-1,249,413
Colegio	-121,360	-121,139	-113,530
Educación Cristiana	-138,429	-129,207	-231,343
Misiones Nacionales	-122,785	-184,248	-237,023
Total de Ingresos	6,521,916	7,050,332	7,137,032
Total de Miembros	85,927	89,713	92,404
Pago Local al Nacional por Miembro	75.90	78.59	77.24
Al Nivel Distrital			
Miembros (ELA)	6,055	5,069	4,831
Total de Ingresos (ELA)	380,683	489,793	458,553
Misiones/Flor Azul	-73,846	-69,510	-78,519
Neto de Ingresos	306,837	420,283	380,034
Pago Local al Distrito por Miembro	50.67	82.91	78.67
Pago Local a Asamblea por miembro	126.58	161.50	155.90
ELA Promedio Miem. Loc. (30)	202	169	270
Ingresos loc. (Est) 900/miem.	181,650	152,070	243,000
Total de Egresos Iglesia local	25,547	27,288	42,094
Total Egresos Nacionales %	15,319	13,279	20,854
Total Egresos Distritales %	10,228	14,009	21,240
Porcentage Nacional/Local	8.43%	8.73%	8.58%
Porcentage Distrital/Local	5.63%	9.21%	8.74%
Total Egresos Asamblea	14.06%	17.94%	17.32%
Promedio Pago Local Mensual-Nacional	1,277	1,107	1,738
Promedio Pago Local Mensual-Distrital	852	1,167	1,770
Total de Pagos Locales Mensuales	2,129	2,274	3,508

NOTAS:

1. La idea de los diezmos de los diezmos se cumple en los pagos mensuales al Nacional y al Distrito.

Est 2. La Iglesia Metodista colecta el promedio de 10%-13% de las Iglesias locales incluso misiones. (<http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/giving-keeps-pace-with-denominations-budget1>).

3. El promedio de ingresos locales es una estimación debido a que no tengo esas estadísticas a la mano.

El promedio de ingresos de Iglesias en E.U. es \$115K con asistencia de 90 (Barna Group).

## Ejemplo de un sistema de economía para la Iglesia Apostólica

Hoy la Iglesia local paga 1. Diezmos a la Asamblea 2. Diezmos de Pastores al Distrito. 3. Flor Azul 4. Cuotas para el Distrito 5. Cuotas para el Sector

6. Ofrenda de Convención. 7. Fondo Nava 8. Ofrenda para día del Obispo 9. Ofrenda para el día de los ancianos 10. Ofrendas para la Convención Distrital 11. Ofrendas para la Convención Nacional. 12.

Programas departamentales. ESTA PROPUESTA ELIMINA TODAS ESTAS OFRENDAS Y CUOTAS.

Una Iglesia Apostólica local de 161 miembros con ingresos de \$144,930 en 2016 pagó el promedio de 14%-17% de los ingresos de la Iglesia local al Nacional y al Distrito, excluyendo Flor Azul (usando el distrito ELA como ejemplo). El promedio nacional de ingresos para una iglesia en EU es \$115,000 con 90 miembros.

SE PROPONE LO SIGUIENTE: (Que se pague el máximo de XX% de los ingresos de la iglesia local)

1. QUE CADA IGLESIA HAGA UN PAGO FIJO MENSUAL POR UN AÑO QUE REPRESENTA X% DE TODOS LOS INGRESOS.\*
2. ESTE PAGO SE REPARTE AL NATIONAL Y A LOS DISTRITOS CONFORME AL PLAN Y PORCENTAGES.\*
3. QUE LOS PASTORES APRUEBEN LOS PRESUPUESTOS Y PORCENTAGES NACIONALES Y DISTRITALES EN CONVENCIONES
4. QUE TODOS PREPAREN UN PRESUPUESTO DE LAS ENTREDAS ANUALES Y QUE SEAN RESPONSABLES DE NO EXCEDER EL PRESUPUESTO QUE SE LES OTORGO.
5. QUE NO SE LEVANTEN OFRENDAS LOCALES PARA EL NACIONAL O DISTRITAL CON EXCEPCION DE FLOR AZULO POR APROBACIÓN POR LA MEZA DIRECTIVA SOLO PARA "EMERGENCIAS".

### Las Ventajas y el Proceso de Este Sistema

Los distritos, sectores, y departamentos no necesitarían recaudar fondos. Ellos se dedicarían a lograr los objetivos de Jesucristo y la Asamblea con una asignación aprobada para sus gastos. Por ejemplo, a un Presidente de Departamento de un distrito, se le asigna una cantidad para que logre los objetivos distritales. Los departamentos serán subvenidos por el presupuesto Nacional o Distrital.

La base para aumentar fondos sería el enfoque de crecimiento de la Asamblea y sus congregaciones, no de los esfuerzos departamentales, con excepción de Flor Azul. Si la Asamblea desea hacer proyectos nuevos, que los fondos adicionales vengan del crecimiento total de la Asamblea.

Este sistema no es complicado. Un pago mensual al Nacional. Todos nos sujetamos al presupuesto que nos corresponde. Crecen las iglesias, crecen los fondos.

\*Excluyendo Flor Azul

# **General Convention-2018**

**Long Beach, California**

## **Proposed Constitutional Amendment**

**Put forth for consideration by: Bishop Misael J. Zaragoza**

### **Introduction of my presentation and proposal:**

1. Propose to add: chapter twenty-three (23), article eighty-two (82)
2. Propose to Identify a process and procedure to amend the 2017 edition of the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly of The Faith in Christ Jesus

### **Proposal to read as follows:**

1. The General Board, at a joint Bishop's meeting, may present special or urgent proposals, ideas and or recommendations that will benefit the Apostolic Assembly, not only spiritually, numerically, financially and morally, but will benefit, enhance and strengthen the organization as a whole which is deemed proper and beneficial to the Apostolic Assembly.
2. These special and urgent proposals which are presented by the General Board of the Apostolic Assembly, at a joint Bishop's meeting, must be approved by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of those qualified members in attendance.
3. Once the proposal is approved pursuant to paragraph #2 above, the proposal must be submitted for final approval via the Revisory Commission, Legal Commission and or any other committee, council or commission that is deemed necessary and or assigned by the General Board.

4. These proposals, once approved by the General Board, and the group of joint Bishop's, pursuant to paragraph #2 above will be processed in the reverse order of Article 81 and must be presented at the immediate next General Convention for approval by the majority of the Pastoral Body in attendance, whom are properly qualified to vote.
5. It is understood that these special or urgent proposals brought forth by the General Board, at a Joint Bishop's meeting, once approved by the commissions as stated in paragraph #3 above must be approved at the immediate next General Convention by a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the Pastoral Body in attendance, and qualified to vote, per paragraph #4 above.

### **Justification for this proposed amendment or proposal:**

Currently, there is no constitutional directive in place, which identifies, or when special cases arise that will benefit the Apostolic Assembly either, spiritually, numerically, financially or morally or provide other benefits that could enhance the well-being of the church and organization as a whole.

An additional benefit of this constitutional change or amendment, once approved, is to be implemented and will run its course in the reverse order of Article 81. Once presented at the immediate next General Convention and approved by a minimum of a seventy-five percent (75%) vote of the Pastoral body in attendance, whom are qualified to vote, can be implemented within one year, from the date of final approval, instead of the current moratorium of two years.



# **General Convention-2018**

**Long Beach, California**

**Proposal to change or update:**

**Mission/Church Treaty (revised 1999)**

**Submitted for your consideration by:**

**Bishop Misael J. Zaragoza**

**(Paragraphs 1 and 2 are currently read): WHAT IS A MISSION?**

1. When a New **Work** has a minimum of 20 members, who have been baptized, a committee composed of: The Supervising Bishop, Elder, and Pastor shall make the appropriate arrangements to declare a Mission.
2. This decision will be made by the group composed of the Supervising Bishop, Elder, and the Pastor to name "The Pastor in Charge", who presided over the New Work, or if it is required, an appointment will be made of another minister who will take the appointment of "Pastor in Charge".

**(Paragraphs 1 and 2 currently read): How Do Missions Operate?**

**The Mission Will assume the following responsibilities:**

1. The tithe of tithes (10% of 10%) must be sent monthly to the General Treasury.
2. In addition, the tithe (10%) of the "Pastor in Charge" must be sent monthly to the district treasurer.

## Proposal to change Paragraphs 1 and 2

### How should a Mission operate?

1. The tithes of the tithes (10% of 10%) of a New Mission must be deposited in a trust-type bank account, which has been pooled by the trustees, who will be at least the Pastor of the local Church, the new Pastor in Charge, and the Supervising Bishop of the district. The funds must be used for the operation of the new mission and for the help of the "Pastor in Charge" or the "Minister in Charge".
2. The personal tithe (10%) of the "Pastor or Minister in Charge" shall be sent monthly to the district treasurer, or to the Church in charge of such mission, or by mutual agreement of the district board of directors.

### Justification for the change:

Nowadays the operation of a new work or a mission is too expensive: for example, rent of a building, purchase of land, utilities, etc. Historically, most of our ministers who have begun to open or work a new work have been people of limited resources or limited in the same. These ministers should be given the greatest spiritual, moral and financial support.

**NOTE:** Another part of this document is Paragraph Six (Paragraph 6), which reads: **"they will choose to buy a meeting place for a temple, under the pertinent supervision"**. This is even more difficult for the "Minister or Pastor in Charge", when they are required to tithe the tithes (10% of the 10%) of the new work, and the "Minister or the Pastor-in-Charge" is limited to use resources for the use of the new work and for the extension of the gospel.

The change of the first Paragraph is supported by the eighth Paragraph (8), which mentions: **"a duly authorized local fund will be created"**.

# General Convention-2018

Long Beach, California

## Proposed Constitutional Amendment Article 22

### SALARIES AND HONORARIUM

Put forth for consideration by: Bishop Misael J. Zaragoza

**ACTUAL:** The members of the General Board of Directors shall receive a salary for the exercise of their official duties. They also have the right to receive a stipend to annually enjoy a time of vacation.

**PROPOSE CHANGE:** The members of the General Board of Directors shall receive a salary for the exercise of their official duties. They also have the right *to receive the equivalent of two weeks salary of their base pay*, each year, to be used as economic aid for their vacation.

**REASON FOR THE CHANGE:** Article 22 paragraph one does not specifies the amount of vacation pay that is given to each Board Member. This change will bring the national Board members in line with pastor vacation pay, per article 71 paragraph six, page 92, which reads,

*"Pastors have the right to receive the equivalent of a minimum two-week salary, each year, to be used as economic aid for their vacation time".*

Proposal #1  
(versión 2017)

CHAPTER TWO  
ORGANIZATION OF THE GENERAL BOARD

METHOD OF ELECTIONS

ARTICLE 4

- III. Those entitled to vote in elections are the General Board of Directors of the Apostolic Assembly, district bishops, auxillary elders, Regional Supervisors, foreign bishop presidents, and dependent missionaries of the Department of Foreign Missions, national missionaries, and a representative of each organized church, who should invariably be the pastor or the one in charge of the work...

Change to:

- III. Those entitled to vote in elections are the General Board of Directors of the Apostolic Assembly, district bishops, auxillary elders, Regional Supervisors, foreign bishop presidents, and dependent missionaries of the Department of Foreign Missions, **pastors in the international missionary fields**, national missionaries, and a representative of each organized church, who should invariably be the pastor or the one in charge of the work...

Reasons:

1. In the effort to be inclusive instead of exclusive the opportunity to those pastors that come to the conventions from the international missions fields to be part of the process seeing that they are of the same organization.

## Proposal #2

(versión 2017)

### REQUIREMENTS TO BE A MISSIONARY ABROAD

#### ARTICLE 31

- VII. Missionaries to be initiated in this task must be twenty-five years old and no more than forty-five years old, married and their spouses must equally be willing to go out, and must have good physical and mental health along with their families. .

Change to:

- VII. Missionaries to be initiated in this task must be a **mínimum** of twenty-five years old and **those older would be approved at the discretion of the General Board**, married and their spouses must equally be willing to go out, and must have good physical and mental health along with their families...

Reasons:

1. In the missionary field not only are young missionaries needed but mature missionaries that have had years of experience that would be of great impact and edification in the mission field..
2. Many who are older age, don't have children at home that would give them greater flexibility in dedicating themselves to minister together with their wives.

Steve Moran Obispo Supervisor del Caribe

# **APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY OF THE FAITH IN CHRIST JESUS**

## **Initiative Proposal to Amend the Constitution**

### **Submitted By: A.C.I.M. Members**

Bishop Joe A. Aguilar  
Bishop Arturo Espinosa  
Bishop Misael Zaragoza  
Bishop Frank Romo  
Pastor Rogelio Razo  
Pastor Joe Prado  
Pastor Jesús Martínez

Although the Constitution contemplates the character required of the man being initiated to the ministry, we recommend that specific clauses be written and placed in our Constitution, which indicate that cases of immorality or other indecency committed after baptism, disqualifies a member of the Apostolic Assembly to be initiated into the ministry, being that it is not specifically indicated in Article 60. This will establish the legal framework for the applications or appeals that will be submitted to the A.C.I.M., which was selected by the General Board and the Joint Bishops Meeting.

We propose that Clauses III and IV be added to Article 60 of the Constitution.

III. No candidate to the Initiation into Ministry should be recommended by his Pastor or approved by the Examining Commission if sins of immorality or any other moral indecencies have been proven against him, after he was baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

IV. Pastors that desire to initiate a candidate that, after being baptized, committed a sin of immorality or other moral indecencies, must submit their applications or appeals to their respective District Supervising Bishop, who in turn will submit said documents to be considered by the ACIM. The ACIM must consider the guidelines outlined in the process of said document to decide whether the candidate will or will not be approved.

### **Explanations**

The acrostic A.C.I.M. stands for: Appeals Commission for Initiation to the Ministry

### **The Dignity of Apostolic Ministry**

Apostolic ministry is a calling that God makes to man. After he has been regenerated, he may be called to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 9:15). We maintain that we serve a holy God of excellence (1 Peter 1:15-16). Therefore, the

candidate for initiation into the ministry must honor such privilege, seeing that it is a worthy and holy calling (2 Timothy 1:9; 2 Thessalonians 1:11). This calling involves commitment and integrity with regards to moral conduct. The Word of God is very explicit regarding the keeping of the standards of morality, seeing that immorality affects, not only the ministry, but also the Church (1 Corinthians 5:1; 6:13, 18; 7:2; Ephesians 5:3; 1 Thessalonians 4:3). For this reason, the evil behavior of immorality is not acceptable in Apostolic ministry.

The Apostolic Assembly maintains high ethical standards within Apostolic ministry. Said standards consist of values that are based on the Word of God. These standards help outline the proper behavior for those who have been called to this ministry. The Bible says, "...whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report..." (Philippians 4:8 NKJV). The Word of God also speaks of requirements or qualities that one who aspires to be a deacon should have. "And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless" (1 Timothy 3:8-13 KJV). Following these guidelines, we will honor our calling, and our Lord Jesus Christ, the One who called us into the Ministry.

### **Origin of the Appeals Commission for Initiation to Ministry**

The Appeals Commission for the Initiation to Ministry is basically a response to a request from Pastors and many candidates for Initiation to Ministry, who because of committing moral failure, don't qualify to be initiated. Our Bishop President John Fortino spoke to us about this in his Presidential Message. He told us that "We need to analyze the cases of men that aspire to ministry, but that don't currently qualify due to problems in their past." He added, "I believe that the time has come to make a distinction 'case by case' and seek alternatives." That's when he said that a National Committee of Restoration could be formed, which would include a group of Bishops and Pastors that would have the responsibility of judging each case separately and submitting their recommendations to the corresponding authorities.

Later, our Bishop President invited the General Board of Directors to write our thoughts in an exegesis regarding the subject of restoration. The majority agreed that access to Initiation to Ministry should be considered and re-evaluated for those who had been baptized at an early age and who later committed a sin of immorality in their youth.

A document was prepared and taken to the Joint Bishops Meeting in September 2016 with a proposal to form the Appeals Commission for Initiation to Ministry, and that it be comprised of the following: 1 member of the General Board of Directors, 1 ex-member of the General Board of Directors, 1 active District Bishop, 1 ex-District Bishop, and 3 active Pastors. The General Board of Directors and Joint Bishops Meeting selected the following that now form part of the A.C.I.M.:

Bishop Joe A. Aguilar	Member of the General Board of Directors
Bishop Arturo Espinosa	Ex-member of the General Board of Directors
Bishop Misael Zaragoza	Functioning District Bishop
Bishop Frank Romo	Ex-District Bishop

Pastor Rogelio Razo	Active Pastor
Pastor Joe Prado	Active Pastor
Pastor Jesús Martínez	Active Pastor

## **The Process**

The Appeals Commission for Initiation to Ministry received this assignment and approached this task with fear and trembling, because our thoughts at the beginning were not to open a wide door, but rather to open a small slit to include a group of candidates recommended by their pastors and bishops. Next, we find the process developed by the C.A.I.M. with the purpose of studying the cases that are submitted, on a case-by-case basis. This document shall serve as an Annex Document of the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus.

The following is the process of rules and guidelines that the Appeals Commission for Initiation to Ministry (A.C.I.M.) will use to process the application or appeal to the Initiation to Ministry.

1. In first place, the A.C.I.M. will receive from the Supervising Bishop the applications submitted by the pastors that believe that their candidates should be considered by this commission. The A.C.I.M. will study the candidate's case to either be approved or disapproved to continue with the constitutional process of being initiated into the ministry.
2. Secondly, the A.C.I.M. will receive from the Supervising Bishop the appeals from the pastors whose candidates were rejected by the Examining Commission, but that they believe can be considered by the A.C.I.M.
3. The Bishop Supervisor of the candidate's Pastor must present every application or appeal in writing to the A.C.I.M. one year prior to the District or Regional Convention.
4. The following are the cases that will be considered by this Commission:
  - a. Cases where the candidate committed a sin of immorality after being baptized and was less than 18 years old.
    - i. Note: The A.C.I.M. requests that in two years the minimum age be raised to 21 years old and under.
  - b. Cases where the laws of their state of residence would've considered the candidate as a victim of sexual abuse, due to his age.
5. Every decision of the A.C.I.M. shall be final, which cannot be appealed.
6. The A.C.I.M. will communicate their final decision to the General Board of Directors and the General Secretary will send a written communication of the final decision to the respective Bishop Supervisor and Pastor.



7. The Pastor of the candidate that was approved by the A.C.I.M. will include the letter of approval with the application for Initiation to the Ministry.
8. To be considered for Initiation to Ministry, a period of ten years should have transpired from the time of the candidate's restoration to the time of being considered for Initiation into the Ministry. The entire period of restoration must have occurred in the Church where he was restored, unless an extraordinary case exists where the candidate had to move due to work, etc.

# **Apostolic Assembly of the Faith in Christ Jesus**

## **Initiative Proposal to amend Article 46 Clauses II, III, IV, V y VI**

Proposed by the District Boundaries Commission

Bishop Joe A. Aguilar  
Bishop Abel Rodríguez  
Bishop Armando Tamez  
Bishop Misael Zaragoza  
Bishop Felipe Velazco

Article 46, Clauses II, III, IV, V and VI currently reads:

- II. The General Board of Directors has the authority to create, divide or restructure a District.
- III. The General Board of Directors shall consider the number of churches, the number of baptized members, the geographical distances between churches and the economic capacity, in view of the formation, division or restructuring of a District.
- IV. To apply any of the above, the General Board shall utilize the guidelines in the document of “Formation of Districts”.
- V. To organize a new district, the General Board of Directors must consider its territorial parameters as well as any other relevant factors.
- VI. The General Board of Directors shall determine when a new district should be established and its perimeters.

We, the “District Boundaries Commission” propose the following amendments to the following Clauses:

- II. The General Board has the authority to create new Districts in the National Missions fields. When it applies to already established Districts, the District Board of Directors shall also be included, along

with the approval of a minimum of two thirds of the pastors of the District or Districts in question.

III. For the creation or restructuring of a District, the number of churches, the number of baptized members, geographical distance between the churches, and their financial ability will be considered.

IV. For the implementation of the foregoing, the guidelines written in the document “Creation or Restructuring of Districts” will be used.

V. For the creation or restructuring of a District, the extension of the territorial area with other adjoining areas of work shall be considered, as well as any other relevant factor.

VI. In the National Missions fields, the General Board of Directors will determine when a new District with its perimeters should be created. In established Districts, this shall be done jointly with the District Board of Directors and the approval of a minimum of two thirds of the Pastors of the District or Districts in question.

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**Annex Document**  
**“CREATION OR RESTRUCTURING OF DISTRICTS”**

1. The creation or restructuring of districts shall occur in the years when District Conventions are held.
2. The General Board of Directors, in their second administrative meeting, following their election, will name a Committee of “Creation or Restructuring of Districts” that will evaluate this document and will make the necessary recommendations.
3. The Committee shall consist of five ministers with district leadership positional experience, whether they are active or retired, and in full communion. The General Board of Directors will name the president and the other four ministers of the Committee.

4. The districts created or restructured will fall under one of the following categories:

A. **“New District”**. This term applies to the creation of districts with congregations in National Missions, which have not been a part of an established district, or that are formed by a minimum of two thirds of congregations within National Missions and a minimal part from a bordering district.

### **Steps to Create a New District**

- 1) There should be a minimum of twenty-five congregations to create new districts. The economy or other factors could require a greater number of congregations.
- 2) The total census of the congregations that will form the new district should reflect a minimum of one thousand seven hundred and fifty baptized members.
- 3) In order to create a new district, you need to have the personnel that qualify for the positions required by the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly to supervise and administrate the new district. (Article 46, Clauses VII and VIII)
- 4) In order to create a new district, the boundaries outlined by this document in the “District Maps” sections must be respected.
- 5) The following are the distinctive boundaries that will be used as points of reference: infrastructure, rivers, mountain ranges, geographical boundaries, etc.
- 6) The guidelines described in the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly will be followed when all the officials of the new district are elected. (Articles 46, 47, 50, and 51)

B. **“Emerging District”**. This term applies to the creation of districts by combining congregations from National Mission with one or more adjoining districts, or the combination of congregations from two or more districts, where the majority of the congregations are from established districts.

### **Steps to Create an Emerging District**

- 1) In order to create an Emerging District, you must have a minimum of twenty-five congregations. The economy or other factors could require a greater number of congregations.
- 2) The total census of the congregations that will form the new Emerging District should reflect a minimum of one thousand seven hundred and fifty baptized members.
- 3) In order to create a new Emerging District, you need to have the personnel that qualify for the positions required by the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly to supervise and administrate the new district. (Article 46, Clauses VII and VIII)
- 4) Before modifying the boundaries of a district, an agreement must be drawn up between the Boards of Directors involved, be they from National Missions and districts or between districts.
- 5) For the creation of a new Emerging District, the new perimeters shall be configured, based on the boundaries outlined in the “District Maps” section.
- 6) The distinctive boundaries that will be considered as a reference for each Emerging District shall be: infrastructures, rives, mountain ranges, geographical boundaries, etc.
- 7) The guidelines described in the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly (Articles 46, 47, 50, and 51) will be

followed in the election of all the officials of the new Emerging District.

**C. Restructuring of Districts.** This term applies to the creation of a new district or districts using congregations from one and the same district.

### **Steps for Restructuring Districts**

- 1) Districts that decide to restructure must have a minimum of forty congregations. For this purpose, only those congregations that have been established for a minimum of three years will be considered. Those that have less time can be part of the restructuring, but will not count as part of the minimum congregations required, unless they have already been named Missions, even though they do not meet the three-year requirement.
- 2) The total census of the congregations that will form the district or districts that will be created should reflect at least a minimum of one thousand seven hundred and fifty baptized members.
- 3) The creation of a district or districts requires that there be qualified personnel for the positions required by the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly for the supervision and administration of a district. (Article 46, Clauses VII and VIII)
- 4) For the creation of a new District or Districts, the new perimeters shall be configured within the actual District that is being restructured, based on the boundaries outlined by this document in the “District Maps” section.
- 5) The distinctive boundaries that will be considered as a reference for each District shall be: infrastructures, rivers, mountain ranges, geographical boundaries, etc.
- 6) The guidelines described in the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly (Articles 46, 47, 50, and 51) will be

followed in the election of all the officials of the new district or districts.

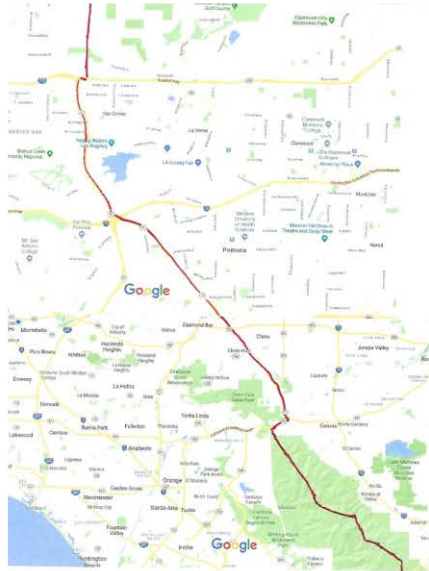
5. Process for presenting a request for the Creation or Restructuring of a District or Districts.
  - A. Without exception, every request must be made in writing using the “Creation and Restructuring of Districts” application.
  - B. Every application must be sent to the General Secretary via official regular or electronic mail. The application must be received by the General Secretariat six months prior to the District Convention of the district in question. Approved changes to districts will only be realized during District Conventions.
  - C. The application must include, but not limited the following information described in this list:
    - 1) A census of the congregations that will comprise the districts
    - 2) A report of the qualified personnel for the district positions (Articles 46, 47, 50, and 51)
    - 3) A copy of the perimeter or perimeters of the districts in question
    - 4) The P & L’s of the congregations involved.
    - 5) A copy of the district budget of the districts involved.
    - 6) The minutes of the ministerial meeting when it was agreed that the district would be restructured.
  - D. The official response from the General Board of Directors must always be provided in writing via an official resolution.
6. Article 45 will be applied if this current document and its processes in relationship to the jurisdiction and perimeters of the districts are not taken into account.

## **District Maps**

The “Creation and Restructuring of Districts” Commission recommends that, if necessary, the adjoining District Boards should meet (physical or via internet), to propose the boundaries of their districts. This information should be sent to the Secretary of the Commission, Bishop Abel Rodríguez, with a copy to the President of the Commission, Bishop Joe Aguilar. If the District Boards can’t agree, this Commission will help with the decision. Once the agreement is reached and is approved by the General Board of Directors and this Commission, it will be put into effect in the closest District Convention.

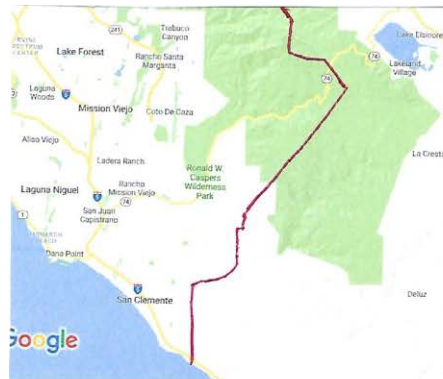


Example: East Los Angeles, Los Angeles, IDCN, and Southern California  
District Boundaries



**East Los Angeles District  
Boundaries Maps  
For Borders between  
Los Angeles and East LA  
East Los Angeles and Interior, CA  
and  
East LA and Southern, CA**

**District Boundaries  
East Los Angeles District and  
Interior, CA District**



**District Boundaries  
Los Angeles and East Los Angeles District**

**East Los Angeles District  
and Southern, CA District**



**Proposal-Initiative to modify  
the Annexed Document on Divorce**

October 11, 2018.

Presented by:

Bishop President John Fortino

Bishop Vice-president Ismael Martín del Campo

Bishop General Secretary Felipe Salazar

Bishop Armando Tamez

Bishop Marco Zacarías

**DOCUMENT ON DIVORCE**  
Approved by the Ministerial Convention of 1998

**Original Commission**

Advisor: Baldemar Rodríguez  
President: Ricardo Almaraz  
Secretary: Samuel Valverde  
Vocal: Esteban Ávila  
Vocal: David Contreras  
Vocal: Daniel Jauhalla

**New Commission for Revision**

February 6 - 8, 2018.  
Bishop President John Fortino  
Bishop Vice-president Ismael Martín del Campo  
Bishop General Secretary Felipe Salazar  
Bishop Armando Tamez  
Bishop Marco Zacarías

**Document Approved by the General Board of Directors**  
**February 22, 2018.**

**1. INTRODUCTION**

The task of the Commission that has reviewed this document was to examine new situations, questions and concerns that bishops and pastors have expressed concerning divorce. Our study sought to deepen the position of the Apostolic Assembly in relation to divorce in the ministerial body and members of the Church.

Our review will be presented to the General Board, which will present its conclusion to the Joint Meeting and then to the National Convention of Pastors.

Due to the delicate nature of this issue and because there are several opposing schools of thought (even among ourselves), we proceeded, like the first commission, to investigate the corresponding biblical text, read several new documents on the subject and decided to emphasize new elements.

**2. DOCTRINAL POSITION OF THE APOSTOLIC ASSEMBLY**

2.1. “We believe that marriage is sacred, since it was instituted in the beginning, and honorable among all people (Genesis 2:21-24; Matthew 19:15; Hebrews 13:4)”.<sup>1</sup>

2.2. “We believe that when a couple unites in marriage, they should remain united as long as both live. When either one dies, the other is free to remarry and does not commit sin if he or she

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<sup>1</sup> Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly, 2015 edition, p. 127.

remarries in the Lord (Romans 7:13; 1 Corinthians 7:39)".<sup>2</sup>

2.3. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex.<sup>3</sup>

### **3. BIBLICAL REFERENCES**

- 3.1. Genesis 1:27 y 2:24.
- 3.2. Leviticus 18:6; 20:10 y 21:7.
- 3.3. Deuteronomy 22:22-24 y 24:1-4.
- 3.4. Ezra 10.
- 3.5. Matthew 5:31 al 32 y 19:1-12.
- 3.6. Mark 10:1-12.
- 3.7. Luke 16:18.
- 3.8. 1 Corinthians 7:1-16 y 39.
- 3.9. Romans 7:1-3

### **4. SPECIFIC SITUATIONS FOR MEMBERS**

#### 4.1. Divorce before baptism.

This commission reaffirms the conclusion of the first commission: when the divorced person repented and was baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, all their sins were forgiven: 2 Corinthians 5:17, Acts 2:38 and 1 John 1: 7. In cases when the divorce occurs before water baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ, such sin should also be considered forgiven, otherwise it would be the only sin that the baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ would not forgive. "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The new man in Christ begins his new life; and must be considered free with the freedom with which Christ has made us truly free (John 8:36). The new believer can remarry, provided he does so in the Lord.

However, it is recommended that pastors advise the following:

4.1.1. That if the new believer divorced his spouse, and neither of them has remarried, try, as far as possible, to reconcile and win his previous spouse to the Lord and then remarry.

4.1.2. That, if they had family, be faithful in their moral, family, economic and spiritual duties. And always try to bring their family closer to the Lord.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Constitution p. 114.

4.1.3. That they be duly counselled, so that they may be healed from bitterness, wounds and other negative emotions.

#### 4.2. Divorce after being baptized.

4.2.1. The commission reaffirms that, according to the words of our Lord Jesus, the exception for which a believer can opt for a divorce is when his spouse has committed prohibited or immoral sexual relations: “And I say to you: whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery”. Mathew 19:9 (ESV).<sup>4</sup>

4.2.2. The word "fornication" in Matthew 19: 9, includes adultery and frees the person who did not commit adultery to divorce, unless he or she decides to follow the path of forgiveness and restoration.

4.2.3. The word "porneia" is used in the Holy Scriptures to define "prohibited sexual relations"<sup>5</sup>, 1 Corinthians 7: 2; "an illegal union"<sup>6</sup>, Matthew 19: 9; "Sexual immorality"<sup>7</sup>, 1 Corinthians 5: 1); "Prostitution"<sup>8</sup>, Jude 1:7; and by the biblical context of Matthew 5:32, as "adultery". When our Lord Jesus Christ used the word "porneia", His intention was to give us a sufficiently broad term to indicate all prohibited sexual relationships.

4.2.4. We reaffirm the conclusion of the first commission: the believer who opted for divorce, because his spouse committed sexual immorality, can remarry, provided he does so in the Lord.

#### 4.3. Incestuous marriage between close relatives.

4.3.1. The first letter to the Corinthians chapter 5 and Leviticus 18 prohibit incestuous marriage among close relatives. Pastors should not officiate marriage ceremonies between close relatives that are considered incestuous.

4.3.2. If the couple of close relations were married before being baptized, the pastor will have to weigh each case in particular, taking into account the time married, if there exists a family and the pressures, problems and circumstances that exist.

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<sup>4</sup> “Y yo les digo que, si su esposa no ha cometido ningún pecado sexual, ustedes no deben divorciarse de ella ni casarse con otra mujer. Porque si lo hacen, serán castigados por ser infieles en el matrimonio”. Mateo 19:9 (TLA). Translation: “And I tell you that if your wife has not committed any sexual sin, you should not divorce her or marry another woman. Because if they do, they will be punished for being unfaithful in marriage.”

<sup>5</sup> Translated to English from Versión TLA.

<sup>6</sup> Translated to English from Versión Dios Habla Hoy

<sup>7</sup> Translated to English from Versión Reina-Valera Actualizado 2015.

<sup>8</sup> Translated to English from Versión Dios Habla Hoy

#### 4.4. Annulment cases.

We understand that governments can allow, in extraordinary cases, the annulment of a marriage. In these cases, the Church will ensure that no biblical principle is violated.

### 5. SPECIFIC SITUATIONS FOR THE MINISTERIAL BODY

#### 5.1. Ministry and divorce before being baptized.

This commission reaffirms the conclusion of the first commission: when the divorced person repented and was baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, all their sins were forgiven: 2 Corinthians 5:17, Acts 2:38 and 1 John 1: 7. In cases when the divorce occurs before water baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ, such sin should also be considered forgiven, otherwise it would be the only sin that the baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ would not forgive. "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). The new man in Christ begins his new life; and must be considered free with the freedom with which Christ has made us truly free (John 8:36). The new believer can remarry, provided he does so in the Lord.

We recommend that pastors counsel as follows:

5.1.1. That, if the aspiring minister divorced his wife, before being baptized, and neither have remarried, try, as far as possible, to reconcile and win this previous spouse to the Lord and remarry her.

5.1.2. That, if they had family, be faithful in their moral, family, economic, spiritual and legal duties. And always try to bring the family closer to the Lord (1 Timothy 5:8).

5.1.3. That, the pastor see that these have healed of wounds, bitterness and other negative emotions.

5.1.4. The commission recommends that in these cases the pastor make sure that the aspirant to the ministry has a good testimony and fulfills his obligations, so that his past life neither affects his ministry nor the church.

5.1.5. "Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil" (1 Timothy 3:7).

#### 5.2. Ministry and divorce after baptism.

##### 5.2.1. The man who divorced after baptism and desires ministry.

The Apostolic Assembly teaches that a believer who passed through divorce after being baptized cannot be initiated into the ministry. Article 63 of the Constitution states the high commitment that he should have towards his marriage and family: *He should be active in and committed to his Christian duties. He should be proper, formal, honest, reliable, and trustworthy. He should*

*manage church resources with honesty and rectitude so as not to bring reproach upon the ministerial body. He should lead his family in the way of the Lord, being loving and considerate to his wife and a good example for his children.*<sup>9</sup>

- a) The Word of God requires from deacons in 1 Timothy 3:12-13 that “Must have one wife and guide their children and entire family well”<sup>10</sup>. Therefore, the Apostolic Assembly requires that candidates for ministry have a higher ethical standard of living.
- b) The Apostolic Assembly also teaches that, if the wife of a believer was divorced after her baptism, he cannot be initiated into the ministry.

#### 5.2.2. The man who divorced being part of the Ministerial Body.

- a) The Apostolic Assembly believes and declares in Article 63, that the minister: *“The minister must always keep in mind that his is the highest vocation on earth because of his responsibility to impress upon the believers under his care the spiritual principles that will determine their eternal destiny (Acts 6:1-3, 20:18-20; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2, 9-13; 2 Corinthians 6:4-10; 1 Timothy 4:12-15, 5:21-22, 6:11-14; 2 Timothy 2:1-4, 22-26, 5:1-5; Titus 2:7-8, 15; 1 Peter 5:1-4) <sup>11</sup>.”*
- b) Also, the Apostolic Assembly believes and affirms in article 71, paragraph I, of its Constitution that: “Pastors have been vested with the authority to preach the Word of God, to instruct, admonish and discipline members of their churches (1 Thessalonians 5:14; 2 Timothy 4:1-2). They shall require members to fulfill their Christian duties and observe the doctrine of the Lord <sup>12</sup>.”  
We believe that the minister must be free from all ties that prevent or limit the instruction and correction in the apostolic doctrine.
- c) Adding to this, Article 80, Clause 5, point 2, says:  
*“We believe that God has ordained the family as the foundational institution of human society. The husband is to love his wife as Christ loves the church. The wife is to submit herself to the spiritual Scriptural leadership of her husband as the church submits to the Headship of Christ. Children are a heritage from the Lord. Parents are responsible for teaching their children spiritual and moral values and leading them, through consistent lifestyle example and appropriate discipline, including Scriptural corporal correction.” (Gen. 1:26-28; Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:4-9; Ps. 127:3-5; Prov. 19: 18; 22:15; 23:13-14; Mr. 10:6-12; 1 Cor. 7:1-16; Ef. 5:21-33; 6:1-4; Col. 3:18- 21; Heb. 13:4; 1 Peter. 3:1-7).*<sup>13</sup>
- d) Due to what has already been presented, the Apostolic Assembly teaches that the members belonging to the Ministerial Body, who get divorced, will surrender their ministry to the corresponding authorities.

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<sup>9</sup> Constitution, p. 93.

<sup>10</sup> Translated to English from Version TLA.

<sup>11</sup> Constitution, p. 93.

<sup>12</sup> Constitution 2017, p 91-92.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, p. 101.



Due to the dignity and honor that the ministry deserves, this process must be carried out with all due respect and care.

5.2.3. The Apostolic Assembly teaches that if a member of the Ministerial Body, being single or widowed, marries a sister who divorced after her baptism, he must surrender his ministry.

## **6. COMMISSION OF APPEALS FOR DIVORCE SITUATIONS**

6.1. This commission recognizes that there are extraordinary cases that merit a deeper examination. For these cases, we propose that a Commission of Appeals for Divorce Situations be appointed (CADS).

6.2. This Commission (CADS) will be elected by the Joint Meeting, at its first meeting, after each General Electoral Convention. It shall be integrated by a member of the General Board of Directors and two pastors, who will be elected by the General Board of Directors and four Bishops Supervisors or ex-bishops, who will be elected by the body of Bishops Supervisors. This Commission will function for four years.

6.3. Appeals from church members, deacons and ordained ministers will be presented by their pastors, when they consider that there are grounds to appeal.

6.4. Pastors and Bishops may appeal directly to the Commission (CADS), requesting a process from the General Secretary in writing. He will inform the General Board of Directors of each case that is received.

6.5. This Commission (CADS) will listen to and have the authority to make final decisions on all appeals it receives from church members, deacons, ordained ministers, pastors and bishops.

6.6. Ministers appealing to the Committee on Appeals for Divorce Situations (CADS), will be automatically renouncing the appeals process according to Article 43 of the Constitution of the Apostolic Assembly.<sup>14</sup>

## **7. OFFICAL NOTIFICATION:**

**This new document will be presented for study and approval or amendments, to the Joint Meeting of March 2018. It will be presented as an Annexed Document by proposal-initiative in the General Convention of 2018. When its process is finished, if approved by the Ministerial Convention, will be the new document in force and will eliminate the previous document.**

**If approved, it will not have retroactive effect.**

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<sup>14</sup> Constitution 2017, pg. 57.