

Constitution and By-Laws
Of
The GENERAL COUNCIL
CHURCHES OF GOD, (Seventh) DAY, Inc.,
Headquarters Meridian, Idaho

ARTICLE I
Authority

This Constitution and By-Laws are established and have been adopted by the authority of the Articles of Incorporation of **The GENERAL COUNCIL CHURCHES OF GOD, (Seventh) DAY, Inc., Headquarters Meridian, Idaho**

ARTICLE II
Name and Location

The name of this corporation is and shall be **The GENERAL COUNCIL CHURCHES OF GOD, (Seventh) DAY, Inc., Headquarters Meridian, Idaho** and the headquarters shall be at Meridian, Idaho.

ARTICLE III
Definitions

Church- An organization of churches is **The GENERAL COUNCIL CHURCHES OF GOD (Seventh) DAY, Inc., Headquarters Meridian, Idaho.**

General Council- The General Council consists of all members of the Church who are in good standing.

Members in Good Standing- Members are considered to be in good standing who are baptized into Jesus Christ and devoted to the Christian faith, and who have registered and have either physically been present in a congregation of the Church, or who have financially contributed to the Church in the past five (5) years.

Maranatha College- *Maranatha College is the official name of the Bible College of the General Council.*

Daughters of the King- *Daughters of the King is the official name of the women members' organization of the General Council consisting of Sisters of the Church sixteen years and older.*

Sisters- *Sisters are female members of the General Council.*

The Christian Youth- *The Christian Youth is the official name of the young people's organization of the Council consisting of all members of the Church between the ages of thirteen and thirty.*

The Board of Directors- *The Board of Directors shall be elected by the General Council and shall serve as the body responsible for overseeing the daily operation of all General Council approved activities and functions when the General Council is not in session.*

The Board of Education-The Board of Education shall be elected by the General Council and shall serve as the administrative body responsible for overseeing the daily operation of Maranatha College.

Ministerial Council-The Ministerial Council consists of four credentialed ministers that are elected by a majority of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV

By-Laws Amendment Procedures

These By-Laws may be amended at any regular session of the General Council by a two-thirds vote of those voting, subject to advance notification. Advance notification will be made by: (a) Discussion at the previous annual business meeting or (b) Printed notice in two (2) issues of the ACTS magazine prior to camp meeting, to be printed and mailed within *three* (3) months of camp meeting.

ARTICLE V

Objectives (delete and Purposes) of The General Council

The objectives of *the General Council* shall be to unite the different state councils, congregations, and isolated members of our faith, into one cooperative group for the purpose of advancing the gospel message and promoting the general welfare of the Church as a whole. Such affiliation will not in any way deprive the individual church groups of local autonomy or affect the control of local property or funds. *To aid in carrying out its objectives and purposes, the General Council supports a centralized effort at headquarters that shall be administered by the Board of Directors. To support the centralized efforts of the General Council, all congregations are encouraged to contribute at least ten percent of locally collected funds to headquarters.*

ARTICLE VI

Powers of The General Council

The *General Council*, when convened, shall have the power, by majority vote, to make plans and arrangements for the progress of the work, and to promote the general welfare of the Church. *The General Council is authorized to hire staff, set budgets, adopt annual and long range plans, administer contracts and programs, evaluate progress, construct and maintain buildings and related facilities, purchase printing and other necessary equipment, and conduct all activities necessary for the work of the Church.*

In addition, the General Council shall have the authority to authorize the issuance of license and credentials to ministers properly recommended in unorganized states and territories, under its jurisdiction, and to issue credentials to ministers in organized states and territories, upon recommendation of the local organization having jurisdiction. An organized state is one in which there is a local congregation affiliated with the Council. An unorganized state is one in which there is no local congregation affiliated with the Council. Licenses issued by the General Council shall be honored for one year, and may be revoked by the Ministerial Council at any time for just cause.

Credentials shall be honored for two years, expiring thirty days after the close of the General Council session. Credentials may be revoked *by the Ministerial Council* for any conduct that might have resulted in the withholding of such credentials at the time of their issue.

The General Council may also appoint special committees and *(delete receive) accept* or reject the reports of such committees by a majority vote.

ARTICLE VII

Officers of the General Council

The officers of this corporation shall be those named in Article IV of the Articles of Incorporation; namely, President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The President and Vice President shall be elected by a majority ballot of *(delete the qualified)* members *in good standing* of the General Council at the annual meeting. *The President and Vice President shall be elected for a term of two years, and they shall automatically become members of the Board of Directors.* No individual shall hold the office of President for more than two successive terms.

(Note the next sentence is deleted and should be covered under Article X, Board of Directors).

It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the *General Council* or the Board of Directors, and to exercise such powers and duties as are usual for such an officer.

It shall be the duty of the Vice President to exercise the powers and duties of the President in the event of his absence or disqualification. *If the President becomes unable to perform due to long-term illness and resigns, or due to death, the Vice President shall become President until the next annual meeting of the General Council. In such case, the Board of Directors shall select a temporary Vice President to serve until the next annual meeting.*

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors and shall serve for a term of three years.

The *(delete Secretary-)* Treasurer shall keep a faithful account of the business transactions of the *General Council*, and of the Board, and shall give a faithful account of all moneys and property of the *General Council*, and make such reports as may be required from time to time by the *General Council* or the Board. The *(delete Secretary-)* Treasurer shall dispense the funds of the *General Council* only in accordance with the direction of the Board. The *(delete Secretary-)* Secretary shall *also* furnish bond in an amount sufficient to satisfy the Board, and securing the moneys and properties of this *General Council* which come within the individual's possession.

The Secretary shall keep an accurate written record of all meetings of the General Council and the Board of Directors. A copy of the records of said meetings shall be provided to Members upon written request. The Board of Directors shall review and approve the records of each prior meeting.

ARTICLE VIII *General Council Procedures*

(NOTE: The format has been changed for this Article that had numbered Sections. This is unnecessary and a little confusing. I suggest not using Sections and have made this change here.)

The President shall open the General Council Annual Meeting with Scripture reading and prayer.

The President (delete He) shall appoint a committee who shall register, and present to the Board of Directors prior to the first session, the names of all members in good standing of the General Council who desire to be voting members of the General Council. Voting privileges shall be restricted to those members who are sixteen years of age or older. The current Board of Directors members present shall automatically be considered registered and approved as voting members of the General Council and with a two-thirds majority vote of Board of Directors shall vote on acceptance of registered names collected. They shall keep the books open for further registration, and shall report at the beginning of each session thereafter additional names that have been registered. Additional names must be approved by majority vote of previously approved members. Only registered members who have physically been present in a congregation of the Church (delete within the last five years), (delete or) and have financially contributed within the last five (5) years, may participate in the deliberation and voting of the General Council.

The President shall report on the work of the Board (*executive committee deleted*) for the year just closed.

The Ministerial License and Credential Committee shall consist of five members, and shall be elected by a majority ballot of the General Council. At least three members shall be credentialed ministers. Members shall serve terms of two years which shall be staggered so that no more than three committee persons are elected each year. (*Question: Why can't the Ministerial Council serve as the License and Credential Committee?*)

Minutes of the preceding session shall be read by the Board Secretary at the beginning of each session. The minutes of each General Council meeting shall be published in a supplement to the official publication of the church, and a printed copy, together with a copy of the constitution and by-laws, shall be presented to each member of the General Council at the succeeding General Council meeting at the time of registration.

A resolutions committee may be appointed by the (*deleted chair*) President or elected from the floor by majority vote (*deleted as may be determined by*) of the General Council.

A report of committees may be called for by the President or General Council at any time.

Any special committees that may be found to be necessary to the proper functioning of the work of the General Council may be established (*deleted created*) by appointment of the President or majority vote of the General Council in a manner and for such purpose as may be deemed necessary.

Election of officers may be held at any time the *General Council* may decide. *(deleted after it is organized with a working membership)*

Rules common to the accepted parliamentary practice shall govern the *operating* procedures of *(deleted this) the General Council*.

The Board of *Directors* shall appoint a Program Committee of three who shall *develop (deleted arrange)* a program for camp meeting services. No member of this committee shall be a minister. *(Comment: Why should ministers be excluded? I suggest that at least one member be allowed to be a minister.)*

ARTICLE IX ***Annual Meeting of the General Council***

There shall be an annual meeting of the *General Council* each year, and the date of such meeting shall be fixed at least six months in advance of the date thereof by the Board of Directors. Notice to the members shall be given by regular mail, by printing notice of the meeting in the regular publication of the *General Council* that is printed and mailed to the members by the *General Council* from time to time. In the event such a meeting is not held in any one year, then arrangements shall be made to hold said meeting at the earliest possible date, and the officers shall in that event continue to exercise their duties until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified.

Additional meetings of the general membership may be held at any time upon call by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X ***Board of Directors***

The Board of Directors of this corporation shall consist of seven members, two of whom shall be the President and Vice President as herein before set forth. The remaining five members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by a majority ballot of *(delete the qualified)* members *in good standing* of the *General Council*, and shall serve terms of three years which shall be staggered so that no more than two Directors shall be elected each year.

The (Delete This) General Council recognizes that it is best for the ministers to devote their time and effort to the ministry of the gospel and not to serve on the *(Deleted Executive) Board* unless, in the opinion of *General Council* in session, certain ministers, who are gifted in government, could serve without harming their own spiritual efforts.

This entire article is **to be read at each *General Council Session* Immediately prior to the election of the Board.** *(Is the provision of not encouraging ministers to be on the Board still necessary? It seems to me ministers or elders (especially who are not pastors) should be allowed and encouraged, not discouraged, from serving in these positions of leadership. The Board is involved in spreading the Gospel. I recommend deletion of this paragraph or a change to permit up to three or four members of the Board to be ministers.)*

The *(Deleted Council) Board of Directors* shall exercise all powers and duties of the *General Council* when the *General Council* is not in session, except the power of changing the Articles of Incorporation or By-Laws of the *General Council*.

ARTICLE XI **Directors' Meetings**

The Board of Directors shall meet at least semiannually. *One meeting shall be held during the annual meeting of the general membership.* The President shall call the other semiannual meeting, and in addition, special meetings may held at any time upon the call of the President or *by any three Directors.*

ARTICLE XII **Impeachment**

Any officer or Director of the *General Council* may be impeached for malfeasance in office, or moral turpitude, but *(delete he) the individual* shall be tried in open *General Council* and, if and when found guilty, shall be dismissed from office. It shall require a two-thirds vote of those voting to convict in cases of impeachment. Impeachment charges may be brought only at a meeting of the members of the *General Council*. (**Comment:** *If impeachment charges were made against an individual shortly after the annual meeting of the General Council, that person could continue in office until the next annual meeting unless there was a special meeting of the General Council, which would not be practical. Perhaps there should be a special committee elected by the General Council that would be authorized to act on their behalf between annual meetings or delegate that authority to the Board?)*

ARTICLE XIII **Ministerial Council**

A Ministerial Council shall be elected by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. The Council shall consist of four credentialed ministers and elected for a term of three years. The Ministerial Council shall be involved in the licensing and credentialing of ministers as prescribed herein. (What other duties, responsibilities, authorities does this Council have?)

ARTICLE IX **Ministerial License and Credentialing Procedures**

Any person (deleted Anyone) desiring to affiliate with the General Council (deleted The General Council of the Churches of God (7th Day) Inc. with headquarters at Meridian, Idaho) as a licensed or credentialed minister, may request an application form from the General Council Secretary or from a member of the Ministerial License and Credential Committee.

Copies of the completed application shall be sent by the Council Secretary to each of the committee

(deleted men) members no later than October 15 or three (3) weeks prior to the ministerial retreat, whichever is later. *The applications (Deleted and)* shall be reviewed by the *Ministerial License and Credential Committee* at a semi-annual meeting held in conjunction with the winter ministerial retreat.

A list of applicants shall be mailed no later than May 1 to all ministers currently licensed or credentialed by the General Council requesting additional information (*on the applicants?*)

The Committee shall post a list of all applicants in a designated location at the beginning of camp meeting allowing ample opportunity for any individual to voice their recommendation or disapproval of any applicant under consideration.

The Committee shall submit their recommendation of each applicant to a session of the Ministerial Council at the General Council camp meeting giving advance notice of the material to be considered. A two-thirds vote of the Ministerial Council in session shall be required for approval.

All applicants approved by the Ministerial Council shall be submitted for final approval by the Board of Directors. In the event of disapproval, a minimum of four dissenting votes are required by the Board. (*Comment: To give the Board final approval appears to be overkill to me. In other words, unnecessary red tape. Is this really necessary? I suggest deleting this provision. In addition, it seems unnecessary to have a Ministerial License and Credential Committee.*)

A list of all applicants approved shall be posted stating whether they are approved for “license” or “credentials” before the end of the camp meeting.

In the event a local congregation or an isolated small group submits for consideration the name of a person not normally considered qualified for full recommendation as a licensed minister but who is the recognized leader of their group, a “provisional license” may be granted. *The “provisional license” (deleted which)* shall be valid only as long as the applicant remains in the same area working with group designated on the license.

Provisional licenses shall be issued for one year, renewable upon approval of the *Ministerial License and Credential Committee*, the Ministerial Council, and the Board.

In the event a situation demands immediate action, the Ministerial License and Credential Committee with the approval of the Board may issue a provisional license valid only until the next normal licensing schedule.

ARTICLE XV

The Christian Youth (*Deleted Young People’s Organization*)

The official name of the young people’s *organization (delete Department)* of the General Council (*delete long name and location as redundant*) is **The Christian Youth**.

The Christian Youth shall be recognized as a permanent part of the General Council, to be directed by

a committee of seven, with an *additional member acting as Secretary-Treasurer*. *The Christian Youth Committee (delete Their)* shall be elected to serve terms of two years, which shall be staggered so that no more than four committee members shall be elected each year.

The members of The Christian Youth shall consist of all members of the Church (*delete of God, as Church is defined*) between the ages of thirteen and thirty. The *Christian Youth Committee (delete of seven, as redundant)* shall be elected by the qualified members of The Christian Youth at their annual meeting to be held in conjunction with the General Council. (*Comment: I would suggest reconsideration of the age bracket. To mix those in their twentys with 13-year olds doesn't seem appropriate as their interests are often very divergent. I suggest thirteen to nineteen. Has the Council received or requested any input from the young people on this?*)

The selection of the Committee shall be subject to the approval of the General Council Board of Directors.

The Committee members (*delete seven and men*) shall select one member to act as Chair (*delete Chairman*) and to preside over all business meetings of The Christian Youth for one year.

The minutes of the business sessions of The Christian Youth shall be the property of the General Council and shall be filed with the Secretary of the Council at the close of the annual meeting. The seven Committee members shall be voting members, but the Secretary-Treasurer shall act in an advisory capacity only.

The Christian Youth (delete This department) shall have and exercise such powers and duties as may hereafter be provided by the General Council or Board of Directors, together with such other powers and duties as may properly be assumed in process of their meetings when not conflicting with the Articles or By-Laws of the Council. The Christian Youth (*delete The National youth organization*) shall encourage each local assembly to organize their own local Christian Youth organization with officers. As in *accordance with the General Council belief and practice*, such affiliation will not in any way deprive the individual church groups of local autonomy or affect the control of local property or funds.

ARTICLE XVI

Daughters of the King

The Daughters of the King shall be recognized as a permanent part of the *General Council*, to be directed by officers consisting of a President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and two committee members (*delete Women*), whose terms of office shall run concurrently with that of the President of the General Council. The members of the daughters of the King shall consist of all Sisters of the Church (*delete of God*) sixteen years and older. The officers shall be elected by the (*delete active*) members of the Daughters of the King at their annual meeting to be held in conjunction with the General Council meeting. The officers shall be voting members throughout the year.

The Daughters of the King (delete This organization) shall have and exercise such powers and duties as may hereafter be provided by the General Council or Board of Directors, together with such other

