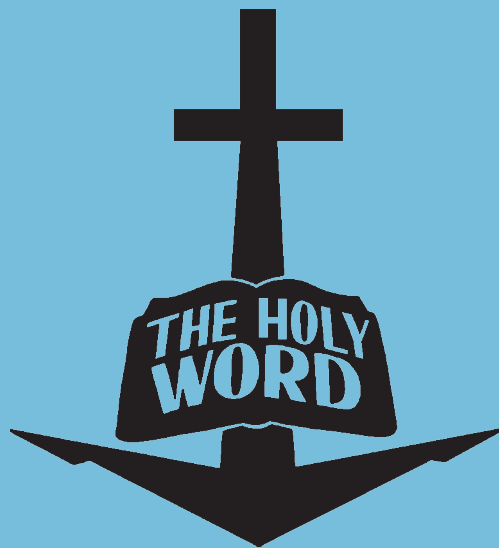


General Convention of the Churches of God (Holiness)



**SPECIAL RULES
and
STANDING POLICIES**

SPECIAL RULES

1. By motion it was established that a plurality of votes shall constitute the election of any candidate in our General Convention. (Adopted 1964)
2. Motion prevailed that in the event of a national emergency which would preclude the convening of our annual Convention, all boards and committees are authorized to be self-perpetuating until such time when Convention does meet, or Jesus comes. (Adopted 1967, Misc. Item P)
3. Motion prevailed that beginning with the 1971 General Convention, the number of Boards or Committees on which any individual can serve concurrently, which are elected by this Convention, be limited to two. (Adopted 1970, Misc. Item C)
4. Motion prevailed that an individual will be asked to serve on the first two Boards or Committees to which he is elected. Further motion prevailed that this action apply only to all succeeding elections following this election. (Adopted 1971)
5. Motion prevailed that the terms of all Board Members, excluding the Foundation Board members, be limited to three consecutive terms on the same board, and that the number of terms be designated in the Convention minutes. (Adopted 1972, Misc. Item J)
6. Motion prevailed that in the event of a vacancy in a Convention-elected Board between Conventions, that the Board be empowered to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the year until the next Convention. (Adopted 1972, Misc. Item S)
7. Motion prevailed that the Foundation Board members shall not be limited by the previous ruling (1970, Misc. item C) of serving on two boards concurrently. (Adopted 1973, Item 12)
8. Motion prevailed that those delegates who come to the Convention not having met previous deadline for sending in certificates, be required to meet the Convention Roll Committee between sessions to receive proper recognition as a delegate. (Adopted 1973, Misc. Item N)
9. Motion prevailed that if a person is elected to fill an unexpired term on a Board or Committee it is not to count against the maximum of three (3) consecutive terms he is allowed to fill on that particular Board or Committee. (Adopted 1991, Misc. Item F)
10. Motion prevailed that the Convention Roll Committee annually decide on, and give to, the Convention officers the appropriate remuneration. (Adopted 1997, Misc. Item A)
11. Motion prevailed that the Convention Chairman annually appoint members of the Memorial, Worship, and Auditing Committees. (Adopted 1998, Misc. Item G)
12. Motion prevailed that the recommended Order of Business for the 2000 Convention be the established order of business for ensuing years, with the exception that Home Missions and World Missions rotate spots. (Adopted 2000, Item 8) (Suspended for 2002-2005, Item 18B)
Further motion was passed in 2005: "That the Home Mission Board be commissioned to coordinate the progress of the Strategic Plan of the Churches of God (Holiness); "That a Strategic Planning Report be given at General Convention for each of the next three years (2006-2008); that by 2009 the Home Mission Board be prepared to lead the General Convention as we review and revise our Strategic Plan, with final revisions to be presented by 2010. These Reports and Planning Sessions would replace oral reports on the agenda."
13. Motion prevailed that a nominating committee be formed, comprised of one member from each of the following boards: World Missions, Home Missions, Publications, and Foundation. These members are to be appointed by their respective boards. The Convention Chairman will appoint one additional member, who shall serve as temporary chairman of the Nominating Committee. (Adopted 2001, Misc. Item A)

14. By motion it was established that all ministers serving on our Boards and Committees must be licensed or credentialed with the Church of God (Holiness). (Adopted 2004, Misc. Item B)
15. By motion it was established that all credentialed ministers serving on our Boards and Committees must be licensed or credentialed with the Church of God (Holiness). (Adopted 2015)
16. By motion it was established that ministers applying for credentials with the Church of God (Holiness) shall be allowed to carry dual credentials, providing such credentials are with another organization that is Wesleyan/Armenian in doctrine. (Adopted 2015, Misc. Item B)
17. Motion was made that the position of Convention Roll Secretary be designated as the nominating committee chairman. (Adopted 2019, Item 2)
18. There was a motion that the Convention disband the Credential Committee, and make it a sub-committee of Home Missions. In response to a question, the chairman advised that the members of the Credential Sub-committee would still be under the rules and regulations established by the Convention for the members of the Credential Committee. In response to another question, the chairman clarified that the members of the Credential Sub-committee appointed by the Home Missions Board could include members who are not members of the Home Missions Board. A ballot vote was taken on the motion. The motion carried with 91 Yes votes and 8 No votes. (Adopted 2022, Item 5)
19. By motion it was established that all ministers serving on our Boards and Committees must be licensed or credentialed with the Church of God (Holiness). Persons holding a local church license or credential from a Church of God (Holiness) congregation, who are not otherwise credentialed, are eligible to serve on boards and committees. (Adopted 2024, Item 3)
20. By motion, it was resolved that each elected entity of the Churches of God (Holiness) shall bring to the Nominating Committee of the Churches of God (Holiness) Convention nominees numbering at least one more than positions open for any board or committee election and that a short, pertinent biography of each nominee also be submitted to the Committee, which the Nominating Committee shall then bring to the Convention. (Adopted 2024, Misc. Item K)

STANDING POLICIES

CONCERNING CONVENTION STAND ON TELEVISION:

We, the Delegates of the Churches of God (Holiness), being assembled in the 1994 Annual General Convention of the Churches of God (Holiness) do hereby witness the following Resolution: "We affirm that (1) We are in favor of following the policy of Local Church Government and the unity of the brethren in practicing the belief in the One New Testament Church. (2) We are unchangeably opposed to the humanistic, immoral, anti-Christ, anti-Christian, anti-Church, and anti-family format of the secular radio and television schedule and its counterpart in the movie and video industry, and that we urge, encourage, and strongly recommend that the ministers of the Church of God (Holiness) pledge their honor to lend no influence toward the listening and viewing of such material. (3) This Convention shall recommend to the churches that they select their delegates on the basis of holy living, and that this recommendation be placed on the Convention Roll Certificate." (Adopted 1994, Item 3)

CONCERNING NATIONAL MORAL EVILS:

We, the Convention delegates and visitors of the Church of God (Holiness), being assembled in annual Convention in Overland Park, Kansas do hereby express ourselves in the strongest possible terms, as individuals and on behalf of the churches we represent, as being unalterably opposed to the liquor, tobacco, and narcotics traffic, and to abortion-on-demand, and the gay liberation and homosexual movement. (Adopted 1980)

CONCERNING MARRIAGE:

Resolved that we re-examine our position and restate our stand on Scriptural grounds that our church elders, overseers, pastors, evangelists, deacons, missionaries, teachers, and other leaders, by whatever title identified, shall be qualified by Bible standards, as not being guilty or appearing guilty of what is termed as "double marriage," that is, or more specifically, not married to another while a former legal marriage partner is living.

And further, that while we recognize that not all lines are clear in assessing of cause or blame in cases of legal divorce, and while we realize in an ever-increasing way that we are surrounded by multitudes of unfortunate, misguided, and hurting people who have been crippled by regrettable circumstances and choices, we affirm that we as Christian people are sympathetic and kindly disposed to those who are so situated and that we desire to help to heal their hurts and to get them to heaven, we nevertheless do not feel clear to place them in leadership positions, as above defined, in the church.

And further, that we do not approve of our ministers solemnizing marriages of those persons who have a divorced marriage partner still living. (Adopted 1999, Misc. Item B)

THE FAMILY DEFINED:

Resolved that we, the delegates of the Churches of God (Holiness), go on record as defining the word "Family" as to mean one man and one woman, husband and wife, united in marriage, and their children, if any, whether natural-born to them or theirs by adoption, as distinct from and in direct opposition to that definition of those who accept and promote the idea of so-called same-sex-union of man and man or woman and woman, and attempt to formalize and legalize such arrangements.

And further, be it resolved that we go on record as being convinced by reason and by the Holy Scriptures that those people termed sodomites in the Bible and identified in modern times as homosexuals are perverted and deviant as pointed out in Romans, chapter one and elsewhere; that theirs is a life style of sin and perversion that requires repentance and forgiveness; that we believe in the possibility and necessity of their moral recovery and that we should seek to help them to turn from their perverted ways. (Adopted 1999, Misc. Item G)

CONCERNING THE INERRANCY OF SCRIPTURE:

We, the delegates of the Churches of God (Holiness), assembled in annual Convention do hereby declare the following: We affirm that the Scriptures in their entirety are the inspired, inerrant, infallible, and authoritative Word of God. (Adopted 1980)

CONCERNING DISCIPLINE OF A MINISTER:

Resolved: that the Credential Committee shall be authorized to act in behalf of this Convention, and in the event that a licensed or ordained minister should be found to be living in flagrant violation of the Holy Scriptures, the Credential Committee shall be authorized and empowered to take appropriate measures to require of such a minister any and all papers of commendation that have been issued to him by the Church of God (Holiness); and be it further resolved that such expenses as shall be incurred shall be defrayed by the Home Missionary Board. (Adopted 1963, Misc. Item F)

CONCERNING GENERAL CONVENTION:

The responsibility for the certifying of the seating of the delegates is placed with the local churches which are sending the delegates. (Adopted 1993, Minutes page 5)

This Convention of the Churches of God (Holiness) shall not follow the previous Standing Rule of the refusal to seat as delegates those who own and/or operate television sets in their homes. (Adopted by motion 1994, Item 3)

Furthermore, this Convention shall recommend to the churches that they select their delegates on the basis of holy living, and that this recommendation be placed on the Convention Roll Certificate. (Adopted by Resolution 1994, Item 3)

Motion prevailed that the Convention Roll shall be composed of all Church of God (Holiness) elders and licensed ministers who are actively engaged in the ministry of the Church, the general Missionary Board members, and all elected from each local church.

Each ordained elder and licensed minister, as well as each member of the general Missionary Board, shall have one (1) vote in Convention.

The general Church of God (Holiness) Youth shall have a delegate of one (1) vote.

Each missionary field represented in the Convention shall have a delegate of one (1) vote.

Each recognized school of the Church of God (Holiness) is entitled to a delegate of one (1) vote.

Motion: that beginning with the 1999 Convention of the Churches of God (Holiness), the Standing Policy concerning General Convention regarding “voting strength” (Adopted 1963, Misc. Item G — see page 46 in the 1997 Convention Minutes) be replaced with the following: “Resolved that the voting strength of each congregation affiliated with the Churches of God (Holiness) be determined by the membership of the congregation being represented, each twenty-five (25) members, or fraction thereof, contributing one (1) vote. Furthermore, each church will have the option of either having one delegate (or alternate) represent their total ‘voting strength’ or listing as many delegates as their ‘voting strength’ on their Convention Roll Certificate.” (Adopted 1998, Misc. Item B)

The motion prevailed that the standing policy be that the following organizations each may have a delegate with one (1) vote each in the General Convention: the Foundation Board, the Herald and Banner Press, Home Missions, and World Missions. (Adopted 1995, Item 17C)

The motion prevailed that, in referring to the seating of delegates and churches in General Convention, we only seat those ministers recognized in the Minister’s Roster. (Adopted 1995, Item 17G. Amended 1996, Chairman’s clarification)

Be it resolved that in order to eliminate much unnecessarily wasted time in the distribution of the many written and financial reports, I do hereby move that all these written reports be submitted in advance to

the Convention Roll Committee to be compiled and made available as each voting delegate arrives at the General Convention, with any expense involved in duplication of said reports being the responsibility of the submitting department. (Adopted 1999, Misc. Item J)

The motion prevailed that (1) the date for the 2025 Convention of the Churches of God (Holiness) be changed to Thursday, June 5, 2025, and (2) that for subsequent years, each year's retiring Convention Chairman be authorized to set the date for the following year's Convention in consultation with the General Camp Committee. (Adopted 2024, Misc. Item G)

CONCERNING CHURCHES VOTING IN GENERAL CONVENTION:

Motion prevailed that any new body or church wishing a vote in the General Convention should first be recognized by the Credential Committee and the Home Missionary Board as a Church of God (Holiness), duly set in order, before presenting their Certificate to the Convention Roll Committee. (Adopted 1968, Item 9)

The motion prevailed that any self-supporting international local church sending support to the Church of God (Holiness) at large and seeking to be seated in the General Convention be given due delegation through approval by the World Missions Board. (Adopted 1998, Item 6)

The motion prevailed that the standing policy of the Convention be that a delegate is permitted to carry the delegate vote of two (2) churches, but no more than three (3) combined votes when assigned as a delegate for two (2) churches. (Adopted 1998, Misc. Item A)

CONCERNING QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONVENTION BOARD OR COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

This Convention establishes that to be qualified to be a member of a Board or Committee of the Convention, each person must meet the same requirements as a person desiring to be seated as a delegate. (Adopted 1987, Item 2)

CONCERNING AFFILIATION WITH THE CHURCHES OF GOD (HOLINESS):

The Home Missionary Board recommends that the following resolution be adopted regarding churches seeking formal affiliation with and recognition as a local church of the Churches of God (Holiness):

RESOLVED: That the church board of churches seeking affiliation with the Churches of God (Holiness) submit in writing to the Home Missions Board a formal request for affiliation, and further that said church shall have a designated person prepared to meet with the Home Missions Board to discuss matters pertinent to such affiliation at least six months before any annual Convention and that the Credential Committee shall be notified of the decision of the Home Missions Board. (Adopted 1969, Misc. Item J)

CONCERNING METHOD OF LICENSING MINISTERS:

Motion to institute the following change in our method of issuing credentials to all new ministers, including those from some other church groups applying for credentials with our churches (this action not to be retroactive):

1. That a temporary credential be issued, renewable each year for the first three years, by action of the Credential Committee, on the recommendation of the local church.
2. At the conclusion of the first three years, a permanent credential be issued by the Credential Committee, provided the candidate has maintained a creditable record and is recommended by the local church. (Adopted 1967, Misc. Item I)

CONCERNING TAX EXEMPTION FOR THE CHURCH OF GOD (HOLINESS):

I. C. Holland reported that the Church of God (Holiness) is now registered with the U.S. Government as a tax-exempt organization.

Further motion prevailed that the annual submission of a church directory to the U.S. Government to keep this recognition current be referred to the Credential Committee. (Adopted 1965, Misc. Item J)

CONCERNING OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Motion prevailed that this Convention establish an office called the “Executive Secretary of the General Convention of the Church of God (Holiness)” with the specific duty of filing all papers necessary with the Government; also that this person be appointed by the Chair and that he serve for at least five years with the possibility of serving as many terms as the Convention may desire. (Adopted 1974, Misc. Item D)

I. C. Holland was appointed, and was retained in this office in the 1979 Convention. (Adopted 1979, Misc. item D)

Motion prevailed that the Chairman appoint an assistant Executive Secretary for the purpose of learning what is involved in this office. Ivan Durkee was appointed to this position to serve concurrently with the Executive Secretary. (Adopted 1980, Misc. Item I)

CONCERNING CONVENTION FEE:

In order to provide funds to enable the Convention to meet its own expenses in publishing the minutes and other expenses entailed, such as paying the secretary, etc., a motion was presented that this Convention elect a treasurer and further that a fee be established to be paid by the churches represented or by the individual delegates at the rate of \$5.00 per vote. (Adopted 1979, Misc. Item E)

Further motion prevailed that the secretary of the Convention Roll Committee serve as treasurer of this fund. (Adopted 1979, Misc. Item E)

Motion was made to raise the convention delegate fee from \$15 to \$20 per delegate vote. (Adopted 2019, Misc. Item B)

CONCERNING GREETINGS TO MISSIONARIES AND NATIONAL WORKERS:

Motion prevailed that the Convention Secretary convey our Christian greetings to our missionaries, national workers, and churches of our respective fields, and that we give special thanks to those fields which send representatives. (Adopted 1981, Misc. Item H)

CONCERNING THE MISSION OF HERALD AND BANNER PRESS:

Be it resolved that Herald and Banner Press exists to develop and distribute Wesleyan-Arminian-based educational resources for the Churches of God (Holiness) and other theologically conservative groups, assisting those bodies to disciple their members and evangelize their communities.

To achieve this mission, Herald & Banner Press will manage the planning, designing, writing, and publishing of Sunday School curricula, devotionals, and other materials pertinent to the current needs of the churches; expand into new markets as opportunities are presented; facilitate a means of connection among the Churches of God (Holiness) (e.g., the Church Herald & Holiness Banner); and oversee the collection, storage, digitization, and dissemination of historical Churches of God (Holiness) documents. (Adopted 2024, Misc. Item L)

STATEMENT OF FAITH

(Adopted 2014, Misc. Item A)

The following comprise the Scriptural beliefs of the General Convention of the Churches of God (Holiness). This Statement of Faith does not exhaust the extent of our faith; the Bible itself is the sole and final source of all that we believe.

Section 1. The Holy Scriptures — We believe the Bible is fully inspired by God, was given without error, and is our final authority for faith and practice. God superintended the human authors so that what they composed and recorded in the sixty-six books of the Old and New Testaments is an accurate reflection of His revelation of truth. The authority of Scripture is based upon the fact that the Scriptures are the Word of God. (Ps. 12:6; 18:30; 19:7; 119:140; Prov. 30:5; Matt. 5:18; John 17:17; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21)

Section 2. The Godhead — We believe in one God — uncaused, absolute, infinite, yet personal — who is over all, creating all things from nothing and in whom all things consist. God exists eternally in three distinct persons, co-equal and co-substantial — God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit — absolutely united so as to be one God, comprising the Holy Trinity. (Deut. 6:4; Heb. 11:3; 1 John 5:7; Col. 1:16-17)

Section 3. God the Father — We believe in one holy Heavenly Father, who is loving, kind, and merciful yet demands that all come to repentance. (Ps. 103:8; Luke 11:2; John 3:16; Acts 17:30)

Section 4. God the Son — We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, became man, without ceasing to be God, having been conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might reveal God and redeem sinful men.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ accomplished our redemption through His death on the cross as a representative, vicarious blood sacrifice; and, that our justification is made sure by His literal, physical resurrection from the dead.

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ ascended to Heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God where, as our High Priest, He fulfills the ministry of representative, Intercessor, and Advocate. He is the Supreme Head of the Church. (Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Luke 1:35; John 1:1-2, 14; Acts 2:18-36; Rom. 3:24-25; 5:6-11; 2 Cor. 5:19-21; Gal. 4:4-5; Eph. 1:7; Phil. 2:5-8; Col. 1:12-18; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 2:24)

Section 5. God the Holy Spirit — We believe in one Holy Spirit who is now the representative of the Godhead on earth. (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13)

Section 6. The Total Depravity of Mankind — We believe that man was created in the image and likeness of God; but that in Adam's sin the human race fell, inherited the sin nature, and became alienated from God. Man is totally depraved and, of himself, utterly unable to remedy his lost condition. He is, consequently, in need of salvation. (Gen. 1:26-27; Rom. 3:22-23; 5:12; 6:23; Eph. 2:1-3; 4:17-19)

Section 7. Sin — We believe that sin is twofold:

- (1) Nature of Sin — As a result of Adam's sin, every human being is born with the nature of sin. This corruption of nature results in an inclination toward acts of sin. The nature of sin is rooted out or purged in the experience of entire sanctification. (Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12; 8:7)
- (2) Acts of Sin — We subscribe to the Wesleyan/Arminian view of sin: An act of sin is a willful violation of a known law of God by a morally responsible person. Acts of sin come to an end when a person savingly believes on Jesus Christ. (Jas. 4:17; 1 John 3:4-10)

Section 8. Salvation — We believe that salvation is the gift of God brought to man by grace and received by personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, whose precious blood was shed on Calvary for the forgiveness of our sins. (John 1:12; Eph. 1:7; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 1:18-19; 1 John 1:9)

We believe the following are involved in salvation:

(1) Initial Sanctification

- (a) Confession—The Scriptures inform us that salvation is only through Jesus Christ and that this fact must be confessed by the penitent seeker. (Rom. 10:9-10)
- (b) Repentance — The Scriptures declare the necessity of repentance, implying a previous conviction for sins followed by a genuine sorrow for sins. The penitent will immediately abandon the practice of sin, confess to God and those wronged, and make prompt and honest restitution of all that is due to others according to his ability. All such gracious states and experiences, constituting Scriptural repentance, etc., must be accomplished by the efficient grace of the Holy Spirit. (Isa. 55:6, 7; Eze. 33:15; Matt. 9:13; Luke 13:3; John 16:7-11; Acts 17:30-31; 2 Cor. 7:10; 1 John 1:9; 3:8-10)
- (c) Justification — Justification is a legal act on the part of God, including the forgiveness of sins and the impartation of personal righteousness, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. (Ps. 130:4; Jer. 36:3; Acts 13:38-39; Rom. 5:1; 8:16; 1 John 3:7; Rev. 19:8)
- (d) Regeneration — Regeneration is the act of the Holy Spirit which imparts spiritual life to the penitent who was dead in trespasses and sins. This act accompanies justification. (Isa. 55:3; John 3:3, 5; Eph. 2:1, 8-10; Col. 2:13; Titus. 3:5)

(2) Entire Sanctification

- (a) We believe the Bible teaches that obedient believers will become increasingly convicted of the nature of sin still remaining in them. As they walk in the Spirit, they will be led to a full cleansing from the inner nature of sin and filled with a holy love toward God and neighbor through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. We believe the Bible promises this perfecting grace, which is also called entire sanctification or Christian perfection. Entire sanctification is commanded, prayed for, and exemplified in the New Testament. Sanctification is provided for by the atoning work of Jesus Christ through the presence of the Holy Spirit. This sanctification, resulting in Christian perfection, implies neither the end of growth or progress, nor absolute perfection. It is a relative perfection in which God imparts holiness and imputes perfection to those who are governed by and who continue to develop in His holy love. All believers are exhorted to press forward and not stop short of the fullness of this blessing. (Deut. 30:6; Ps. 130:8; Eze. 36:25; 2 Cor. 7:1; 1 John 3:8; Eph. 5:25-27; Rom. 8:3-4; Matt. 5:48; 22:37; 1 Peter 1:16; Phil. 3:15; 1 John 4:17; Matt. 6:13; John 17:20-23; 2 Cor. 13:9, 11; Eph. 3:14-21; Phil. 1:4-6, 9-11; Col. 4:12; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 13:20-21; 1 Peter 5:10-11)
- (b) This work of entire sanctification, attended by the infilling of the Holy Spirit, is witnessed to directly by the Holy Spirit and not by any special manifestations or gifts such as speaking in unknown tongues. (Acts 15:8-9; 1 Cor. 14; Heb. 10:15-16)

Section 9. Spiritual Gifts — We believe that the Gift of the Spirit is the Holy Spirit himself. He is to be desired more than the gifts of the Spirit which He in His wise counsel bestows upon individual members of the Church. These gifts enable believers to fulfill their function as members of the Body of Christ. The gifts of the Spirit, although not always identifiable with natural abilities, function through them for the edification of the whole Church. These gifts are to be exercised in love under the administration of the Holy Spirit. The relative value of the gifts of the Spirit is to be tested by their usefulness in the Church and not be the ecstasy produced in the ones receiving them. (Luke 11:13; 24:49; Acts 1:4; 2:38; 10:45; 1 Cor. 12-14; Eph. 4:11-16)

Section 10. One True Church — We believe that the Church is the body of people whose sins are forgiven through the grace of God, and who submit themselves to the lordship of Christ, the Head of the Church. The attributes of the Church are unity, spirituality, visibility, and universality. (Matt. 5:14-16; 16:18; Luke 6:46; 10:20; John 13:35; 17:11-12, 20-21; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 1:2; Eph. 4:3-6; 5:23; Col. 1:14, 18; Rev. 24:9)

Section 11. Second Coming — We believe that the certainty of the personal and imminent return of Christ inspires holy living and zeal for the evangelization of the world. At His return He will fulfill all prophecies made concerning His final and complete triumph over evil. (Matt. 24:42-51; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:16-17; Tit. 2:13; Rev. 3:11; 22:7, 20)

Section 12. Resurrection — We believe that the Scriptures affirm the bodily resurrection of all men: the saved to eternal life and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment. (Ps. 9:17; Matt. 25:46; John 5:28-29; 11:25-26; Rom. 14:10; 1 Cor. 15:52-55; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 20:12, 13; 21:8)

Section 13. Divine Healing — We believe in the Biblical doctrine of divine healing, which includes the offering of both corporate and individual prayers of faith for the healing of the sick. (Luke 9:2; 10:9; Acts 4:10, 14; Jas. 5:14-16; 1 John 5:14)

Section 14. Water Baptism — We believe that the sacrament of water baptism is an outward testimony of an inward work of grace brought about by the Holy Spirit. This baptism should be practiced by believers according to Jesus' command in the Great Commission. (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:37-41; 8:35-38; 16:29-33; Rom. 6:3-4)

Section 15. Lord's Supper — We believe that the sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Communion) represents our redemption through Jesus Christ. This ordinance should be observed reverently according to the injunctions given in the New Testament. (Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:14-20; 1 Cor. 11:24-26)

Section 16. Stewardship — We believe that every Christian is a steward of all that God has entrusted to him. Faithful stewardship includes using time, abilities, and material resources wisely; practicing careful self-discipline in order to further the mission of Christ's church; and demonstrating compassion to those in need. Christians willingly, sacrificially, and cheerfully give to support the local church by their tithes and offerings, remembering that the principle of tithing is basic to the New Testament standard of stewardship. (Gen. 14:20; Prov. 3:9-10; Mal. 3:10; Matt. 23:23-24; Acts 4:34-37; Acts 20:35; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Gal. 6:6; Eph. 4:28; 5:16; 1 Tim. 5:17-18; Jas. 2:15-16; 1 John 3:17)

Section 17. Christian Sabbath (Lord's Day) — We believe that Christians have a duty to observe the Christian Sabbath as a day of worship and rest. The Christian Sabbath should be set apart and kept holy. God set the example for the Sabbath when He rested on the seventh day. The New Testament Church established the first day of the week as the Christian Sabbath in celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Gen. 2:2-3; Ex. 20:8-11; Mark 2:27-28; Luke 6:5; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:1-2)

Section 18. Human Sexuality — We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between a man and a woman. Any form of homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality, bestiality, incest, fornication, adultery, and pornography are sinful perversions of God's gift of sex. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids any attempt to alter one's gender by surgery or appearance. God's plan for human sexuality is that it is to be expressed only in a monogamous lifelong relationship between one man and one woman within the framework of marriage. (Gen. 2:24; 19:5, 13; 26:8-9; Lev. 18:1-30; Matt. 5:27-29; Rom. 1:26-29; 1 Cor. 5:1; 6:9-10; 1 Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4; Jude 1:7)

Section 19. Sanctity of Marriage — We believe that the only legitimate marriage is the joining of one man and one woman. It is not in harmony with God's Word that believers marry unbelievers. The marriage vow is to be kept sacred. We believe that God disapproves of and forbids divorce and intends marriage to last until one of the spouses dies. The act of a divorced person remarrying or the act of marrying a divorced person is regarded as adultery. (Gen. 2:24; Mal. 2:14-17; Matt. 5:32; 19:3-9; Mark 10:2-12; Luke 16:18; Rom. 7:1-3; 1 Cor. 7:39; 2 Cor. 6:14-18)

Section 20. Sanctity of Human Life — We believe that human life is a gift of God and must be respected from conception until natural death. Induced abortion, active euthanasia, human cloning, and embryonic

stem cell research are examples of violations of God's established sanctity of human life. (Ex. 20:13; 21:22-24; 23:7; Ps. 139:13-16; Isa. 49:1, 5; Jer. 1:5; 20:15-17; Matt. 19:18; Luke 1:44)

Section 21. Christian Love — We believe that we should demonstrate love for others, not only toward fellow believers, but also toward those who are not believers, those who oppose us, and those who engage in sinful actions. We are to deal graciously, gently, patiently, and humbly with those who oppose us. God forbids the stirring up of strife, the taking of revenge, or the threat or use of violence as a means of resolving personal conflict or obtaining personal justice. Although God commands us to abhor sinful actions, we are to love and pray for any person who engages in such sinful actions. (Lev. 19:18; Matt. 5:44-48; Luke 6:31; John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:9-10, 17-21; 13:8-10; Phil. 2:2-4; 1 John 3:17-18)

Updated after the 2024 Convention.