

**Report of the  
Questions and Subjects Committee  
to the 106th General Assembly  
of The Church of God**

**INTRODUCTION:**

We, your Questions and Subjects Committee, bring greetings to the delegates of this 106th Annual World-Wide Assembly of The Church of God. We wish to express our love and great gratitude to God for His guidance throughout the year. In addition, we would like say that we appreciate each of you and our General Overseer, Bishop Stephen E. Smith, for your prayers for us. We are keenly aware of what Christ said in John 15:5, "...for without me ye can do nothing."

The Questions and Subjects Committee has sincerely sought the help of the Holy Ghost concerning the items presented to us. We humbly submit the following for your consideration:

**SECTION 1: Ministering in Other Areas**

**Rationale:** The 82<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in 1987 approved the following recommendation:

Licensed and ordained ministers have been examined and approved by the Presbytery as being duly authorized to preach in the Church of God of Prophecy. If for some reason an overseer objects to a particular minister who desires to minister within his area of supervision, the basis for his objection should be communicated directly and personally to the particular minister.

If this is done, it would not then be necessary for every minister in good standing to secure the approval before preaching in another state or nation.

Where a minister feels that an overseer's objections are unjust, the matter may be brought to the General Overseer who will either hear the case himself, or he may appoint a select committee to assist in resolving the situation. We must

endeavor always and in every way to relieve tensions between fellow licensed ministers, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (82nd AM, 1987, p. 51, QSC).

**Recommendation:** In order to foster greater unity and better communication amongst the ministry and to use terms more relevant to our present scope of operation, we recommend that the above ruling be revised to read as follows:

Licensed and ordained ministers have been examined and approved by the Presbytery as being duly authorized to preach in The Church of God. However, if a minister desires to minister in an area in which he or she is not a member, he or she should inform the state/regional/national overseer of that area in advance. If the overseer objects, the basis for his objection should be communicated directly and personally to the particular minister. If a minister feels that an overseer's objection is unjust, the matter may be brought to the General Overseer who will either hear the case himself, or he may appoint a select committee to assist in resolving the situation. We must endeavor always and in every way to relieve tensions between fellow licensed ministers, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

## **SECTION 2: Local Church Business Conference**

### Duties of District Overseers

The district overseers are to be appointed by the state overseer.

To moderate business conferences for women preachers who may be acting as pastors, and for men who may not be licensed if they are taking care of churches in his district.

To do evangelistic work in his district if he has time. If he has a district with no churches, it is his duty to evangelize and organize churches.

To hold district conventions according to the instructions of the state overseer.

To assist the state overseer when called upon in all things relating to church work and the district overseer is subject to the state overseer (63rd AM, 1968, pp. 116-17, QSC).

**Recommendation:** In order to have a clarified and written standard of what we have practiced throughout the years and to provide assistance to our local churches in unusual situations, we offer the following recommendation for your consideration:

The male pastor, who is licensed or ordained, should act as moderator of all local business meetings. If there is no male pastor who is licensed or ordained, the district overseer should moderate the local church business conference. If a district overseer is not available, the state/regional/national overseer has the authority to act, or assign a male minister who is licensed or ordained to preside. Under rare instances, when none of these options are possible or reasonable, audio or video moderation may be used. Where a male pastor who is licensed or ordained has the care of more than one church, he may arrange the business meetings for his convenience.

## **CONCLUSION**

As members of the Questions and Subjects Committee, we realize that we handle matters of eternal importance and desire to be a blessing to The Church of God. Please help us in this work by calling out to God throughout the year for the Committee as we seek God's divine direction. Please feel welcome to approach the Committee after you have prayerfully and properly considered a question or a subject.

May God bless you and may God bless The Church of God.

*Your Questions and Subjects Committee (2010-2011)*

Robert F. Strong, Sr., *Chairman*



Robert J. Hawkins, Jr., *Secretary*



E. Roger Ammons



Billy O'Dell



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