

Resolution 5

NEW MINISTER MENTORING

1 WHEREAS, Planning for the future of our Fellowship is of paramount importance, and
2 WHEREAS, Deliberate efforts have been made within the Assemblies of God to increase
3 the number of ministers under the age of 40, and
4 WHEREAS, This was a stated focus of the AG Looking Forward Committee, and
5 WHEREAS, The median age of ministers has continued to steadily increase for more
6 than a decade, and
7 WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God has boldly set a prophetic vision to expand the
8 number of churches in the Fellowship drastically through church planting
9 and revitalization, and
10 WHEREAS, The Assemblies of God will need a drastic increase in the number of new
11 ministers in order to fulfill the God-given vision set forth, and
12 WHEREAS, The statistical reports published by the Fellowship do not indicate that there
13 has been a statistically significant increase in the proportion of ministers
14 under the age of 40, and
15 WHEREAS, There is a nationally documented trend for younger ministers to have a high
16 turnover rate within a five-year period, and
17 WHEREAS, Leadership in the under 40 segment has increased disproportionately from
18 their segment as a whole, and
19 WHEREAS, Retention must now be a focus for the Fellowship, and
20 WHEREAS, Spiritual mentoring is a biblically grounded method of servant leadership,
21 and
22 WHEREAS, The current guidelines and regulations for receiving and renewing
23 credentials focus on the initial requirements and not deliberate, sustainable
24 retention; therefore be it

25 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws, Article V. DISTRICT COUNCILS, Section 2.
26 The Role of the District, pages 38–39, which reads:

Section 2. The Role of the District

28 The district is primarily relationship based. The district should facilitate a
29 network for resources and relationships and provide training for credentialed
30 ministers and local churches. The district provides ministry events to the local
31 church, such as camps, conferences, and retreats; and relates to the General

Council affiliated churches in accordance with provisions of the Constitutional Declaration, Constitution Article XI, Bylaws Article VI, and the constitution and bylaws of the respective district council. The district relates to district affiliated churches in accordance with its own bylaws and processes, and recommends ministerial credentialing and disciplines for its constituents.

Be amended to read:

Section 2. The Role of the District

a. The district is primarily relationship based. The district should facilitate a network for resources and relationships and provide training for credentialed ministers and local churches. The district provides ministry events to the local church, such as camps, conferences, and retreats; and relates to the General Council affiliated churches in accordance with provisions of the Constitutional Declaration, Constitution Article XI, Bylaws Article VI, and the constitution and bylaws of the respective district council. The district relates to district affiliated churches in accordance with its own bylaws and processes, and recommends ministerial credentialing and disciplines for its constituents.

b. The district shall be required to put in place a spiritual mentoring program in which each newly credentialed minister shall be required to be mentored for no less than five years. The district shall also put in place a required training in spiritual mentorship for mentors that serve mentees in their district. This spiritual mentor training shall occur, at minimum, once per quarter. However, it may be more frequent as deemed necessary by the district.

And be it therefore further

RESOLVED, That The General Council Bylaws, Article VII. Ministry, Section 3. Specific Qualifications, pages 48–50, which reads:

Section 3. Specific Qualifications

a. Residency requirements of applicants. Applicants for all credentials must be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make application and appear before its credentials committee.

b. Local church credential. A local church credential shall be administered by the local church pursuant to basic guidelines adopted by

1 the General Presbytery and such additional guidelines adopted by the
2 district council. It shall be nontransferable (limited to the issuing local
3 church).

4 **c. Certified minister.**

5 (1) *General requirements.* They shall show promise of
6 usefulness in the gospel work. They shall devote full or part time to
7 Christian ministry and, at the discretion of the district credentials
8 committees, may remain under the supervision of a pastor or a
9 ministry coach or mentor. They shall show evidence of a divine call
10 and be actively engaged in some aspect of ministry and proclamation
11 of the gospel, except in case of ill health or advanced age.

12 (2) *Pastoral requirements.* In the event a certified minister is
13 serving in a position as the pastor, he or she shall be expected to
14 advance to the ministry license level within two (2) years of
15 acceptance of the pastorate. This shall not apply to any minister who
16 has reached the age of sixty-five (65) or older, or whose certificate
17 has been issued on a provisional basis. Any exceptions shall be at
18 the discretion of the district credentials committee.

19 (3) *Exception for provisional issuance.* A Certificate of
20 Ministry may be issued on a provisional basis to a person who has
21 not met all the credentialing requirements but who is deemed by the
22 district credentials committee to be essential to the continuity of a
23 church or a ministry. The reason for such a provisional issuance must
24 be ministry driven, and the justification for its use is terminated when
25 the minister ceases to be involved in the ministry for which it was
26 initially granted unless the minister accepts another qualifying
27 assignment. Other limitations are:

28 (a) The ministry certificate on a provisional basis
29 will be issued for one (1) year and shall not be renewed
30 more than two times.

31 (b) A person who has been granted the Certificate
32 of Ministry on a provisional basis must meet the

1 qualifications for a ministry certificate within a three-year
2 period.

3 **d. Licensed minister.** Qualifications for license shall include clear
4 evidence of a divine call, character, and preparation suitable for that calling,
5 practical ministry experience, and an evident purpose to devote one's life in
6 service to the proclamation of the gospel.

7 **e. Ordained minister.** Qualifications for ordination are outlined in
8 the New Testament (1 Timothy 3:1–7; Titus 1:7–9). In addition:

9 (1) Applicants must be twenty-three (23) years of age or
10 older.

11 (2) They must have met all the requirements in making
12 application and in completing the prescribed application form.

13 (3) No person may be ordained to the ministry until he or
14 she has shown evidence of a divine call and has held a ministry
15 license and has been actively engaged in ministry and proclamation
16 of the gospel for at least two (2) full consecutive years immediately
17 prior thereto.

18 (4) *Residency requirements of applicants.* Applicants must
19 be residents of or hold credentials in the district where they make
20 application and appear before its credentials committee. District
21 councils are required to refrain from approving any applicant for
22 ordination who may have been licensed in another district, until such
23 licensed minister shall have been a member of the district in which he
24 or she is seeking ordination at least one (1) year. Applicants who have
25 not been a member of the district where they apply for ordination for
26 two (2) full consecutive years must meet the requirements and secure
27 the endorsement of the officers of the district in which they were
28 previously licensed, as well as the district of their residence.

29 (5) *Exceptions to requirements.* The General Council
30 Credentials Committee, upon request by a district credentials
31 committee and where exceptional circumstances exist, may waive
32 the requirements for an applicant holding a ministry license for two

(2) full consecutive years or being a member of the district in which he or she is seeking ordination for at least one (1) year.

(6) In order to maintain active status, ordained ministers shall be engaged in viable ministry and proclamation of the gospel except for cases of disability, retirement, or other valid circumstances as determined by the general secretary.

Be amended to add the following:

f. All ministers should be required to participate in a spiritual mentoring program through their district for no less than five years after the date of initial credentialing. Failure to do so will prohibit the renewal of credentials unless provisions are made by the respective district office for reenrollment into the mentoring program. This shall only apply to initial credentialing and not to an upgrade in credentialing status from certified to licensed or licensed to ordained. The length of time of mentorship may be extended at the discretion of the district credentialing committee. However, it may not be shortened to less than five years. This shall include ministers from other denominations and organizations who apply for credentials at any level within the Assemblies of God.

Sponsor: Christopher M. "CM" Rhoades

Presented	_____
Amended	_____
Referred	_____
Adopted	_____
Lost	_____