

# ***BUILDING A LIFE***



***BY THE WORD OF GOD***



*General Superintendent*  
*Rev. Steven Fellers, I*  
*1012 Gum Lane*  
*Baxter Springs, KS. 66713*  
*620-202-0083*



*Assistant General Superintendent*  
*Rev. John E. Myers, II*  
*2822 Ohio Ave.*  
*Joplin, MO. 64804*  
*417-529-1916*



*General Secretary-Treasurer*  
*Rev. Donna C. Ross-Brown*  
*PO Box 515*  
*Anderson, MO 64831*

*417-845-7089*  
*417-845-0223 (Fax)*

*Director of World Missions*  
*Rev. Elizabeth Major*  
*100 S. Carty St.*  
*Salem, MO. 65560*

*573-247-0497*



*General President of Youth*  
*Rev. Mike Howell*  
*10255 Sand Cut Rd.*  
*Catawissa, MO 63015*

*636-274-3289*

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<u>Page</u>
Article I - Name.....	1
Article II - Purpose .....	1
Doctrinal Statement .....	4
Article III - By-Laws.....	12
Article IV - Form of Government .....	15
Article V - General and Executive Boards .....	15
Article VI - General Officers.....	19
Article VII - Selection, Qualification, and Duties of General Officers .....	20
General Superintendent .....	20
Assistant General Superintendent.....	24
General Secretary-Treasurer .....	25
Director of World Missions .....	28
Editor of the General Official Publications ..	29
Full Gospel Ladies President.....	29
Article VIII - Committees .....	30
Article IX - Membership .....	32
Article X - General Conventions.....	37
Article XI - Official Publication .....	39
Article XII - Youth Department.....	40
Article XIII - State Organizations .....	44

Article XIV- Selections, Qualifications, and Duties of State Officers .....	46
State Superintendent .....	46
State Secretary-Treasurer .....	49
State Presbyters .....	52
Article XV - Ministers' Relations .....	53
Article XVI - Discipline .....	54
Article XVII - Local Churches .....	55
Article XVIII - Relation to War.....	57
Article XIX - Ministerial Tithes .....	57
Article XX - World Missions Dept .....	58
Article XXI - Home Missions .....	60

## *ARTICLE I*

### NAME

“FULL GOSPEL CHURCHES INTERNATIONAL”

## *ARTICLE II*

### PURPOSE

1. Our purpose is to organize a close fellowship of ministers and churches of like precious faith, free from political power or monetary advantages on the part of any person or persons. Said Fellowship is totally dedicated to winning the lost to Christ, to encourage hearts of believers, to administer to the needs of any who are distressed, to strive to be one, that we may carry out the great commission which Jesus gave us. This religious organization shall unite to forward the Gospel in every conceivable way by building churches, schools, nursing homes, develop camps, establish a foreign and home missionary department with definite goals.

2. To ordain and license ministers to the work of the Gospel as evangelists, pastors and missionaries.

3. To send them forth to fulfill these duties.

4. To own such personal property as may be necessary to carry out the above-stated goals.

5. To buy, rent, acquire by gift, to operate, maintain and use such real estate, and personal and mixed property as shall be deemed necessary by the General Board for carrying on the business of the convention and that any transaction over \$5,000.00 (Five thousand dollars) be approved by the General Convention.

6. To borrow money for the purpose of purchasing such real estate, personal and mixed property as, in the opinion of the General Board, may be necessary to properly and adequately carry on the objects, and purposes of the corporation business and undertakings, and to execute notes, deeds of trust, mortgages, and other evidence of indebtedness on behalf of the corporation for the repayment thereof: and to satisfy and release notes, deeds of trust, mort-

gages and other evidence of indebtedness, on behalf of the corporation.

7. For clarification purposes in connection with organizational business affecting church-owned properties, the respective interest in properties, both real, personal, and mixed, owned in whole or in part by Full Gospel Churches International (Incorporated), a Missouri corporation, or any of its districts, shall be construed to be interests in fee simple.

8. To maintain such relation with Local, State, Federal, and foreign governments as may be necessary for the successful accomplishments of the purposes of the organization and for the welfare of the churches, ministers, and members thereof.

9. To engage such employees as may be necessary to perform the duties involved in carrying on the corporation business.

10. To make By-Laws for the government of the corporation, not inconsistent with the constitution and laws of the State of Missouri, the

United States, other states, or foreign countries, and to alter, revise, and amend the same at will.

11. Should said organization cease to function as an organization, any properties, either personal or real, or any monies that are in the treasury, shall be transferred or given to another non-profit organization with same said goals.

## DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

1. **The Holy Scriptures.** We believe the Word of God is the only guide to happiness in this life and for the life to come, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16,17.** We also believe that all scripture is Divinely inspired of God, that it was an inbreathing of God through those who gave it to us. Men wrote not of their own will, but as they were moved upon by the Spirit of God.

**2 Peter 1:21.**

2. **The Trinity.** We believe that there are three

persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and these three are one in unity, in purpose, and in love. They cannot be separate in worship for they are one in the Godhead. **1 John 5:7, Matt. 28:19, John 14:16, 26.**

3. **Repentance.** We believe that repentance is a Godly sorrow for sin and includes conviction of sin, hatred of sin, forsaking sin and turning to God. **2 Cor. 7:10.**

4. **Salvation.** We believe that except man is born again he cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven, that new birth is a change of heart expressed in life, wrought by the Spirit of God in regenerative power, so that we become new creatures in Christ Jesus. **John 3:5.**

5. **Water Baptism.** We believe that water baptism is a type of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. By our submitting to it we identify ourselves with His death, His burial, and His resurrection. It is not a saving ordinance but is an outward symbol of an inward grace; repentance and faith on the part of the

individual being the condition to receive baptism. Our Lord commanded His disciples to teach all nations baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. We believe the above formula to be the one to be administered when baptizing. **Matt. 28:19.** Baptism, (Greek, Baptizo, to immerse) should be observed by all who have truly repented and believed in Christ as their Savior. **Mark 16:16.**

6. **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** We believe in the Baptism in the Holy Ghost. We believe that all believers should seek to know more about the Lord in His fullness of power. Jesus told us that **“when the Holy Ghost is come upon you, ye shall receive power to be witnesses unto me,”** therefore, we need the infilling of His Spirit in our lives to have the power to witness for Him. The Holy Spirit is also the comforter in the heart of the believer. He is also the one who sanctifies our lives that we might be meet for the Master’s use. By progressive

and continuous process in our lives He leads us from glory to glory until ultimately we stand by His side in a glorified body. This still being the Holy Ghost dispensation, the believer has every reason to expect His coming into their lives as in the early church. We do believe in the supernatural, physical manifestation of speaking with other tongues. **Acts 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:6.** We believe that the speaking in tongues is the initial evidence that one has received the gift of the Holy Ghost.

7. **Gifts of the Spirit.** We believe that the Holy Spirit gives His gifts unto each as He will. We believe that the Gifts of the Spirit that were manifested in the early Church are for the Church today and that they should be sought by all believers. This still being the Dispensation of the Holy Spirit. **1 Cor. 12:8-10, 14:1.**

8. **Divine Healing.** Divine Healing has been believed by the Saints of God both in the Old and New Testaments. It was the credentials of the early Church, and from the Scriptures we believe

that it is given to the Church today and until Jesus comes. The Church's ministry is one of deliverance and this is definitely a part of that ministry. Divine Healing is wrought by the Spirit of God as the administrator of the Church when we come believing and according to the Scriptures. **Mark 16:18, Matt. 10, James 5:14-16.**

9. **The Lord's Supper.** We believe that the believers in Christ, should partake of this sacrament in remembrance of the finished work of Calvary until He comes again. We do not hold closed communion, but it is open to all believers in Christ who might be in our midst, whether a member of our Church or not. Each member should examine his own heart as to whether he is doing it in remembrance of the Lord's death or just a custom. It is a time of fellowshiping of the Church as the one Body of Christ. **1 Cor. 11:28-30.**

10. **Second Coming of Christ.** We believe Jesus Christ is coming again to receive unto Himself His purchased own. It is mentioned

hundreds of times in the Scriptures. We believe that His coming will be a literal, bodily, visible return. We should seek to live and work in view of His soon coming. **Matt. 24, John 14:3, Acts 1:11, 1 Thess. 4:14-19**

11. **Heaven.** We believe in heaven, a literal place that Jesus has gone to prepare for us. It is the dwelling place of God. **John 14:2.**

12. **Hell.** We believe that all who refuse God's plan of salvation will be eternally lost and will go to hell where the worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched. This place will ultimately be cast into the lake of fire with the devil and his angels.

13. **Judgment.** We believe that everyone must meet God in Judgment some time. We believe that there are different judgments. (1) At Calvary when one accepts the plan of salvation for himself, he has had his sins judged in Christ's atoning work. (2) Self-judgment should be carried out by each believer. We should judge our acts and works in the light of God's Word. (3) Judgment Seat of Christ. We

believe that all believers will appear in the heavenlies before the Judgment Seat of Christ to give an account of the deeds done in the body and to receive their rewards for faithful service. (4) Judgment of the Nations. We believe that God will judge the nations at Armageddon for their treatment of the brethren, “the Jews.” The nations who have been faithful to them will be retained as sheep nations and the nations that have done despite to them will be cast out as goat nations. (5) Judgment of Wicked Dead. We believe that all the wicked dead will stand before God to be judged also for the extent of their wickedness, before receiving their position in the eternal lake of fire.

14. **Resurrection.** We believe in the resurrection from the dead and that there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust, that they will be raised separately; the just first unto a resurrection of life and the unjust to a resurrection of damnation. The resurrections will not be together, but will be separated by approxi-

mately a period of one thousand years. We believe that the resurrected saints who are blessed and have part in the first resurrection will be raised with glorified bodies, like unto that which our blessed Lord was raised.

15. We believe that God has commanded that no intimate sexual activity be engaged in outside of a marriage between one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman. We believe that any form of homosexuality, pedophilia, 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. **Genesis 2:24; Lev. 18:1-30; Rom. 1:26-29, I Cor. 5:1; 6:9; I Thess. 4:1-8; Heb. 13:4.** We believe that the only Scriptural marriage is the joining of one naturally-born man and one naturally-born woman. **Gen. 2:24; Rom. 7:2; I Cor. 7:10; Eph. 5:22-23**

16. **Resolution #16 Passed 1984.** "Be it resolved that due to the apparent lowering of stan-

dards and the permissiveness of society in general, we re-affirm our commitment to the scriptures opposition to extra marital sex and homosexuality.”

17. **Resolution #2007-1.** “Be it known for clarification purposes that concerning the subject of “Common Law Marriage”, Full Gospel Churches International does not recognize such, as it would involve the act of adultery.

### *ARTICLE III*

#### BY-LAWS

1. The Resolutions Committee may submit any alteration, amendment, repeal or addition to these By-Laws that it may deem proper, to the note of any General Convention by the organization, lawfully assembled, and if favorably passed upon by 2/3 vote, such alteration, amendment, repeal or addition shall become a

part thereof.

2. All By-Laws of this corporation shall conform to the constitution and charter thereof, and to the laws of the State of Missouri, the United States, and other states and foreign countries in which it may operate, and shall be null and void insofar as they fail to do so, but not otherwise.

3. After General Convention each year an informative letter detailing any changes or amendments to the By-Laws of the Full Gospel Churches International (if any are passed) shall be mailed to members of the General Board for their files.

4. Every third year from the last published Constitution and By-Laws or when the current supply has been exhausted, a new one shall be published, incorporating all of the amendments into the new edition. The new edition shall be made available to the membership. The General Board shall set a nominal fee for the new edition.

5. We believe that the word “marriage” has only one meaning and marriage is sanctioned by God. Marriage joins one man and one woman in

a single, exclusive union, as described in Scripture. We believe that God intends sexual relations to only occur between a naturally born man and a naturally born woman who are married to each other and that He commands no sexual activity outside of a marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that all forms of sexual immorality, such as adultery, fornication, pedophilia, homosexuality, bisexual conduct, bestiality, incest, pornography or any attempt to change one's sex, or disagreement with one's biological sex, is sinful and offensive to God. We believe that forgiveness and mercy is available, through Jesus Christ, to all who confess and forsake their sins. We believe that God will redeem and restore all who seek Him. We believe that everyone must be shown and treated with compassion, kindness, respect, and love. They must be treated with dignity. Hateful speech or actions and harassing behavior or attitudes directed toward any individual are to be repudiated and are not in accord with scripture nor the doctrines of FGCI.

***ARTICLE IV***  
**FORM OF GOVERNMENT**

The Full Gospel Churches International now has, and shall always maintain a representative and congregational form of government. Roberts Rules of Order adopted 2008.

***ARTICLE V***  
**GENERAL AND EXECUTIVE BOARDS**

1. A General Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday at 1:00 P.M. before the opening service of the General Convention.

2. The General Board, consisting of the following described officials, shall be the managing directors and the governing body of the organization, and its approval or disapproval of the acts of the officers, hereinafter designated, shall fully bind the corporation.

- A. General Superintendent
- B. Assistant General Superintendent
- C. General Secretary-Treasurer

- D. Director of World Missions
- E. Editor of General Publications
- F. State Superintendent from each state
- G. State Secretary-Treasurer from each state
- H. State Presbyterian from each state
- I. An Evangelist appointed annually by the General Board
- J. National Ladies President appointed annually by the General Board.
- K. General Youth President.

3. The General Youth President will be allowed to sit on the General Board with all rights and voting privileges.

4. The General Superintendent shall act as chairman and the General Secretary-Treasurer shall act as secretary at all meetings of the General Board.

5. The Executive Board:

- A. Be it resolved that the Executive Board consist of the General Superintendent, the Assistant General

Superintendent, the General Secretary-Treasurer, and at least one State Superintendent, appointed by the General Superintendent, and who is acquainted with the matter or matters before the board.

- B. The duties of the Executive Board shall be to carry out the policy of the governing body of the association. The Executive Board shall serve with the General Board when the General Convention is in session. The General Superintendent may call the Executive or the General Board into session to help resolve any business that may arise when the General Convention is not in session. Such meetings of the General Board shall not exceed one specially called meeting per year.
- C. Under no circumstances except in a moral issue for which there is no other recourse, shall a member of the Execu-

tive or General Board convene a session in an official capacity. If a moral issue arises for which no other recourse is found, written, verified notices must be sent to all General Officials, members of the Boards, Executive and General, and copies made available to the voting constituency upon request.

- D. If any question arises pertaining to license or ordination, the decision of the Executive Board shall be final unless a formal appeal is made to the General Convention.
- E. The Executive Board is authorized to establish a Memorial Fund and make available for voluntary participation a plan that would pay a death benefit to the person named by a participant in the plan upon confirmation of the death of said participant.

*ARTICLE VI*  
GENERAL OFFICERS

1. The officers designated as follows shall sign all deeds, notes, mortgages, leases, and other documents of every character and description, and shall attach the Corporate Seal to such thereof as may be necessary, for and on behalf of the corporation, and shall manage, direct, superintend, and carry on the business of the corporation, subject to the approval or disapproval of the General Board:

President

Secretary-Treasurer

2. The office of president shall at all times be filled by the General Superintendent, and his term, election or appointment shall coincide therewith.

3. The office of the Secretary-Treasurer shall at all times be filled by the General Secretary-Treasurer, and his/her term, election or appointment, shall coincide therewith.

4. All Ministers that hold any office with the

Full Gospel Churches Inter. must be a member of a local Church, whether they be voted in, or appointed by the General Board or State Board. They must support it with tithes and attendance, when they are not out ministering in other churches.

5. All evangelists that are recognized by this fellowship, must have a home church they attend, when they are not in revival somewhere.

## *ARTICLE VII*

### SELECTION, QUALIFICATION, AND DUTIES OF GENERAL OFFICERS

#### GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

1. The General Superintendent shall be elected bi-annually. He shall serve no more than two consecutive terms, after which he shall not be eligible to serve in that particular office for a period of two years. He shall be in the full-time pastoral or evangelistic ministry with at least ten years proven ministry.

He shall have been an ordained minister in our fellowship for at least five years and shall hold no ministerial credentials with another organization or fellowship of ministers.

2. He shall be elected by the voting constituency at an annual convention for a period of two years.

His election year shall alternate with the election year of the Assistant General Superintendent, the General Secretary-Treasurer, and the World Missions Director, with the General Superintendent being elected on the even numbered years.

3. Prior to the first nomination ballot, there will be a minimum of three names, provided there is no compromise to the nomination process established in the Constitution and By-laws of Full Gospel Churches International as amended, submitted by the General Board, to be included in the first nomination ballot. A 2/3 majority vote on the first, second, or third nominating ballot will constitute an election. If an election is not achieved by three nominating

ballots, the election shall then be between the two persons with the highest number of votes, with a simple majority constituting an election.

### **AMENDED 1980**

4. He shall receive no money for his service by way of salary or offerings in the associational meetings, camps, conventions, fellowships, etc., but his shall be a labor of love in the name of good fellowship for the furtherance of the Gospel.

5. Any church desiring his service shall receive an offering for him providing he is called by the church or pastor for his service. He shall not concern himself with the affairs of a church unless he is called upon to do so by the pastor in charge. In the event the church is without a pastor, he may accept a call from the church.

6. The General Superintendent shall be in charge of moderating all general meetings of the fellowship; shall work in cooperation with the constituency in setting up the camps, con-

ventions, and conferences that will be sponsored by the organization.

7. No demands shall be made on the Superintendent's time by any member of the association since his first duty will be to the church where he is pastoring.

8. Any resolution passed at an annual convention pertaining to the office of the General or State Superintendent shall not become effective until a different man be installed to fill the office of General or State Superintendent.

9. If in the future the By-Laws are altered to pay a Superintendent, General or State, an equal amount will be paid to all former General or State Superintendents.

10. All former General Superintendents in good standing shall maintain their membership on the General Board.

11. In the event that the Superintendent's office is vacated, the General Board will meet and choose a new Superintendent to finish the term.

## ASSISTANT GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT

1. The Assistant General Superintendent shall meet the requirements as set forth in the General By-Laws for the General Superintendent, and must be in the active full time ministry but shall not be required to be a member or have been a member of the General Board.

2. Prior to the first nomination ballot, there will be a minimum of three names, provided there is no compromise to the nomination process established in the Constitution and By-laws of Full Gospel Churches International as amended, submitted by the General Board to be included in the first nomination ballot. A 2/3 majority vote on the first, second, or third nomination ballot will constitute an election. If an election is not achieved by three nomination ballots, the election shall be between the two persons with the highest number of votes, with a simple majority constituting an election.

3. His term in office shall be governed by the same rules as that of the General Superinten-

dent, with the exception that he shall be elected at a General Convention held in the odd numbered years.

## GENERAL SECRETARY-TREASURER

1. The General Secretary-Treasurer shall be a member of the organization and an ordained minister with not less than six (6) years experience in the ministry, but he/she does not necessarily have to be a pastor of a church. He/she shall be elected under the same rules which govern the election of other General Officials, with the exception that the General Board shall present the nominee of which there shall be no less than three (3). His/her election will take place at a General Convention held in an odd numbered year.

2. He/she shall receive a stipulated remuneration for his/her services which shall be determined by the General Board.

3. His/her duties shall consist of keeping a clear record of the minutes of all meetings of

the General Board and General Convention, which shall be read at such meetings.

4. He/she shall have charge over all monies received or paid to the corporation except missionary funds, ladies department funds, and youth funds. Funds under his/her charge shall be deposited in such bank or banks as may be designated by the General Board, and shall pay out such funds of the corporation as may be necessary for the maintenance and operation of the corporate business as directed by the General Board; however, all checks or withdrawals exceeding \$200.00 shall be countersigned or approved by the General Superintendent.

5. He/she shall have custody of the Corporate Seal, and shall retain and keep up-to-date such books and records as shall fully and truly reflect the financial status of the corporation business at all times, which shall be subject to inspection by such auditors as may be designated by the General Board.

6. He/she shall maintain a record of ordained

and licensed ministers and missionaries, and licensed christian workers, and shall issue the necessary credentials when so instructed by the Credentials Committee of the state from which the application comes, provided however, all requirements of the General Constitution and By-Laws are fully met, and carry on such correspondence as may be required by his/her office.

7. His/her books shall be balanced at the end of the year, and he/she shall furnish such written reports and records of the activities of his/her office as may be required by it at any and all General Conventions.

8. On odd numbered years in which election for Secretary-Treasurer will take place. Said written reports and records, as well as, Funds under his/her charge Shall be prepared for transfer to the auditing committee before being transferred to the newly elected Secretary-Treasurer not more than 10 days after the first bank statement following General Conventions of said year.

## DIRECTOR OF WORLD MISSIONS

1. The Director of World Missions shall be a member of the organization, an ordained minister with not less than ten years experience in the ministry, and shall not be less than thirty-five years of age.

2. He/she shall be elected for a period of two years at a General Convention held in an odd numbered year. Prior to the first nomination ballot, there will be a minimum of three names, provided there is no compromise to the nomination process established in the Constitution and By-laws of Full Gospel Churches International as amended, submitted by the General Board to be included in the first nomination ballot. A 2/3 majority vote on the first, second, or third nomination ballot will constitute an election. If an election is not achieved by three nomination ballots, the election shall then be between the two persons with the highest number of votes, with a simple majority constituting an election.

3. He/she shall have general supervision, direction and management over all undertakings, business and operation of the Missionary Department, within the United States of America and in foreign countries subject to the General Superintendent, and the General Board.

### EDITOR OF THE GENERAL OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS

The Editor of the General Official Publications shall be a member of the organization deemed qualified for such office, who shall be appointed by the General Board, at will.

### FULL GOSPEL LADIES PRESIDENT

She shall be appointed by the General Board to have supervision of the General Ladies Program. The office shall be filled by a lady duly qualified to promote, inspire, and instruct divisional leaders in Home and Foreign Missions. The Ladies Program shall be to encourage the

organization of new ladies works, stimulate a missionary spirit in the churches, and regular contributions to both home and foreign programs such as missions, campgrounds, etc., that are sponsored by the national organization.

## *ARTICLE VIII* COMMITTEES

1. There shall be a standing **General Credentials Committee** consisting of the General Superintendent, the Assistant General Superintendent, the General Secretary-Treasurer and one State Superintendent. This committee shall review all applications for approval or disapproval. In states where there are no official state organizations, the General Superintendent may at anytime appoint an acting State Superintendent or representative to head a credentials committee for that state or district.

This committee shall interview applicants for membership in the Full Gospel Churches Inter-

national, and if the applicant is accepted by the Committee, the representative shall date and sign the application as the Credentials Board Chairman, and forward the application, the application fee, and their recommendation to the general office.

Such temporary appointments shall expire at the conclusion of the next General Convention.

2. A Campground Board shall be appointed annually by the General Board, said committee shall have the oversight of the promotion, leasing, and construction of the campground facilities. While this board is not a policy making board, it is empowered by the General Board to implement directives from the General Board and is subject to the General Board.

The board will meet throughout the year, as needed, and will meet prior to General Convention in order to prepare a report to inform the General Board of the previous year's operation of the campground facilities and also the recommendations for future operations.

The General Superintendent and Assistant General Superintendent shall be members of this board by virtue of their offices.

3. Such other committees and boards as may be necessary shall be appointed by the chairman of the General Board, which shall include Resolutions Committee, etc.

4. No motion or resolution shall be refused or destroyed by the Resolutions Committee, without approval of the author.

## *ARTICLE IX* MEMBERSHIP

1. Each applicant for membership in this organization, in case of remarriage shall be judged on his or her merits.

2. Anyone applying for credentials in a state where we have an established state organization shall present their application to the State Secretary along with a \$40.00 registration fee. The applicant will be notified of the next state

meeting where he or she will be able to meet with the State Board. After the examination the State Secretary will forward the application with the registration fee to the General Office with their recommendation. If the applicant is accepted, a renewal fee will become due April 15 of each year. Members accepted after January 1 shall not be subject to the renewal fee until the following year.

3. The renewal of fellowship certificates shall be made through the General Office annually and be accompanied by a \$40.00 renewal fee. It is required, that each minister contribute at least 2% of their ministerial income or \$5.00 a month or \$60.00 a year, whichever is greater, in addition to their renewal fees to support the Full Gospel Churches International Fellowship. Any member that has reached the age of 70 and has maintained membership in Full Gospel Churches International for 5 or more years shall not be required to pay the \$40.00 renewal fee. The \$60.00 minimum is still due.

3a. After the renewal deadline each year an updated membership list showing name, address, and credentials status such as ordained, licensed, or exhorter, will be prepared and made available to the constituency upon request. The General Board shall set a nominal fee for the membership list.

4. Membership cards will be made available in the category of Christian Worker to accommodate those who work in hospital visitation, nursing homes, prison ministry, etc. The registration fee for this card is \$40.00, the fees in #3 are also applicable. The renewal fee for the Christian Workers card is also \$40.00. The renewal date is also April 15 of each year.

5. The fiscal year of the Full Gospel Churches International begins May 1st and all renewals and church listing fees shall be in the office of the General Secretary-Treasurer no later than April 15th each year. Anyone failing to submit their renewal by April 15th will be assessed a \$5.00 late fee. Anyone who has not renewed by

June 1st, shall be assessed a \$10.00 delinquency fee and shall not be recognized as a member until he or she has met with their respective board and accounted for his delinquency.

6. If anyone leaves the fellowship for any reason, in case of reinstatement he must be approved by the State Board under which he last served.

7. All applicants, who are endeavoring to join in membership with Full Gospel Churches International, will apply for Exhorter credentials, with the exception that lateral transfers of credentials from ministers who have been previously affirmed, licensed or ordained with other full gospel fellowships of like faith, will be accepted; provided that the appropriate applications are completed, fees are paid and approval is given by the appropriate credentials committee.

8. A two-year supervisory and probationary period be established for Licensed candidates who are seeking to be ordained with Full Gospel Churches International; and a one-year supervisory and probationary period be established for

Exhorter candidates who are seeking to be licensed with the Full Gospel Churches International. In each case, the State Board will render the final judgment where the probationary and supervisory periods are concerned. In the absence of a functioning state organization or superintendent, credential referrals shall be forwarded to the Executive Board of the Full Gospel Churches International for final disposition.

9. Implementing tests starting 1/1/2010. That it be required that at each stage of credentials, (Exh., Lic., & Ord.) that an applicant take a written test before he/she meets with State Board. These tests should be in relation to the knowledge one should have based upon the level the applicant is seeking credentials for. These tests should include basic Bible knowledge, general idea of the FGCI history and a good understanding of each applicant and help them to prepare their questions for each applicant with a clearer understanding about said applicant. 1st entry into fellowship. Accepted 2009.

## *ARTICLE X*

### GENERAL CONVENTIONS

1. The Executive Board shall determine the schedule, including times, it's speakers and service leaders, for the Annual General Convention, that will begin the first full week in August, now therefore, be it RESOLVED, that the Executive Board may also determine the number of days that the General Convention may convene.

2. As the governing body of the Full Gospel Churches International, the General Board shall determine the site of the General Conventions. All General Conventions shall be held in the state of Missouri as a central location.

3. The General Superintendent shall at each General Convention appoint a committee of at least three to work with him to arrange for, prepare for, and to choose speakers for the next General Convention.

3a. This committee will also arrange for

speakers of any convention that does not have a state or district structure. When a state or district has been established, that state or district shall appoint its own Program Committee that shall arrange for speakers for its own convention, subject to the approval of the State Superintendent and State Presbyter.

4. The voting constituency shall consist of all officers of the organization; ordained and licensed, and exhorter and christian worker, ministers affiliated with the organization and their companions who have an experience of salvation, and who are registered; all accredited missionaries affiliated with the organization; and one representative or delegate per 100 membership, or fraction thereof, from each affiliated or chartered church. All the voting constituency shall be present and registered, and shall show proper credentials to the Credentials Committee, who shall pass on whether or not they shall be seated.

5. After General Convention each year an in-

formative letter detailing any changes or amendments to the By-Laws of the Full Gospel Churches International (if any are passed) shall be mailed to the members of the General Board for their files.

6. The first night of General Convention is designated as General Youth night.

## *ARTICLE XI*

### OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

1. The official publication of the Full Gospel Churches International shall be known as “ECHOES” of the Full Gospel Churches International.

2. The General Board shall appoint one Editor-in-Chief, and five (5) regularly ordained ministers, said ministers shall constitute the “Editorial Board”, who shall have charge and general supervision over all publications of the

organization, including the Sunday School literature, and such other literature and publications as may be published from time to time.

## *ARTICLE XII*

### YOUTH DEPARTMENT

1. The General Convention shall elect a General President of Youth for a term of two years. This election will take place in even numbered years. Prior to the first nomination ballot, there will be a minimum of three names, provided there is no compromise to the nomination process established in the Constitution and By-laws of Full Gospel Churches International as amended, submitted by the General Board, to be included in the first nomination ballot. A 2/3 majority vote on the first, second, or third nomination ballot will constitute an election. If an election is not achieved by three nomination ballots, the election shall then be between the two persons with the highest number of votes,

with a simple majority constitution an election.

2. The President shall be an ordained minister of the organization, male or female, not less than twenty-five (25) years of age with an evangelistic message and proven ability for leadership of young people and have been in the ministry for 7 years. Accepted 2009.

3. The Youth President and Camp Director shall be a part of the decision making in selecting speakers and workers for the National Youth Camp.

4. He shall be under the jurisdiction and supervision of the General Superintendent.

5. In each District Youth Rally an offering shall be received with one-half (1/2) to go to the District Youth Program and one-fourth (1/4) to the General Youth Program and one-fourth (1/4) to the State Youth Program.

6. A National Youth Camp Director shall be appointed annually by the General Board of the Full Gospel Churches International.

A. The Camp Director shall be at least 21

years of age with an evangelistic message, proven ability for leadership of young people, in harmony with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Full Gospel Churches International. In the event that this position is vacated, a quorum of at least four (4) members of the National Campground Committee shall immediately meet and appoint a successor.

B. The Director shall be the absolute authority for the total operation of the Youth Camp for which he/she has been appointed.

C. The Director himself shall be submitted to, and be under the jurisdiction and supervision of the General Superintendent and the National Youth Leader.

D. The Director shall be responsible for enforcing and carrying out the camp rules that have been established corporately by the General Superintendent, National Youth Leader, National Youth Camp Director, and the General Board of the Full Gospel Churches International, which reflects the spirit and purpose of the Full

Gospel Churches International Organization.

E. The Director may delegate authority to other responsible individuals who may be serving as counselors, to help enforce camp rules, to see that the camp continues to be God honoring and Christ exalting.

F. The decisions of the Director, pertaining to camp related events shall be final, pending intervention of the General Superintendent. There shall not be disruption of the lines of established authority by any other officer or minister of the Full Gospel Churches International.

G. The Director shall establish the total program of the camp, subject to the approval of the General Superintendent and the National Youth Leader.

He may acquire input from other ministers and may also appoint committees to help establish the program.

7. A National Youth Camp Secretary-Treasurer shall be appointed by the General Board.

A. Their duties shall consist of assisting the National Youth President and National Youth

Camp Director, as requested, in fulfilling their administrative duties.

B. They shall have charge of all monies received and paid to the FGCI Army Organization. Funds under their charge shall be deposited in such bank or banks as may be designated by the National Campground Committee. They shall pay out such funds as may be necessary for the operation of the FGCI Army Organization. All checks or withdrawals exceeding \$200.00 shall be countersigned or approved by the National Youth President or National Youth Camp Director.

C. They shall retain and keep up-to-date such records that shall fully reflect the financial status of the FGCI Army Organization at all times. The books shall be subject to auditing by the Auditing Committee at the General Convention.

### *ARTICLE XIII*

## STATE ORGANIZATIONS

1. Because of the rapid growth of the Full Gospel Churches International, the ministers of the separate states are urged to set up a state organization under the jurisdiction of the Full Gospel Churches International with the necessary offices to conduct the business thereof and to set up By-Laws within the state so as not to conflict with the General By-Laws of the Full Gospel Churches International and to work in full accord with the general program of the Full Gospel Churches International.

2. The election procedure for the State Conventions shall be the same as in the General Conventions. An election by acclamation shall be valid when there is no dissenting vote.

3. State offices shall be titled:

A. State Superintendent

B. State Secretary-Treasurer

C. State Presbyter

D. District Presbyter

(for each district within the state)

E. State Youth Director

Each state shall have an annual convention for election of officers and carrying on of business of the organization in the state and to encourage fellowship among the ministers and churches.

4. The State Superintendent, the State Secretary-Treasurer, the State Presbyter and District Presbyters shall serve as a credentials committee to approve or reject applicants for membership and to license and ordain ministers according to the rules set down by the General Convention.

5. In all state meetings an offering will be received, one-half to go to the state office and one-half to the general office.

An offering will be received in each district fellowship meeting with one-half to go to the district office and one-half to the state office.

## *ARTICLE XIV*

### SELECTIONS, QUALIFICATIONS, AND DUTIES OF STATE OFFICERS

#### STATE SUPERINTENDENT

1. The State Superintendent shall be in a pastoral or evangelistic ministry and have not less than ten years in the ministry, five years pastoral work with a proven ministry, shall be an ordained minister in our fellowship for at least one year and shall hold no ministerial credentials with another organization or fellowship of ministers. He shall be elected by a 2/3 vote of the organization cast at the annual convention.

2. He shall receive no money for his service by way of salary or offerings in the associational meetings, camp conventions, fellowship meetings, etc., but his shall be a labor of love in the name of good fellowship for the furtherance of the Gospel.

3. Any church desiring his service shall receive an offering for him providing he is called by the church or pastor for his service. He shall not concern himself with the affairs of a church unless he is called upon to do so by the pastor in charge. In the event the church is without a

pastor, he may accept a call from the church.

No demands shall be made on the Superintendent's time by any member of the association since his first duty will be to the church where he is pastoring.

3a. The State Superintendent shall supervise the work of the state over which he presides. He shall encourage monthly Fellowship Meetings and monthly Youth Rallies in the separate districts within the State. He shall chair state board meetings and with the board set up and plan an annual state convention, at least one Bible conference annually, and shall preside over all state camp meetings, minister retreats, etc., and shall assist pastors and churches when asked to do so.

4. Any resolution passed at an annual convention pertaining to the office of General or State Superintendent shall not become effective until a different man be installed to fill the office of General or State Superintendent.

5. If in the future the By-Laws are altered to

pay a Superintendent, General or State, an equal amount will be paid to all former General or State Superintendents.

6. In the event that the Superintendent's office is vacated, the State Board will meet and choose a new Superintendent to finish the term.

## STATE SECRETARY-TREASURER

1. The State Secretary-Treasurer shall be a member of the organization and an ordained minister with not less than six (6) years experience in the ministry, but he/she does not necessarily have to be a pastor of a church. He/she shall be elected under the same rules which govern the election of other State Officials, with the exception that the State Board shall present the nominee of which there shall be no less than three (3).

2. He/she shall receive a stipulated remuneration for his/her services which shall be determined by the State Board.

3. His/her duties shall consist of keeping a clear record of the minutes of all meetings of the State Board and State Convention, which shall be read at such meetings.

4. He/she shall have charge of all monies received or paid to the state organization except missionary funds, ladies department funds, and youth funds.

Funds under his/her charge shall be deposited in such bank or banks as may be designated by the State Board. He/she shall pay out such state funds as may be necessary for the maintenance and operation of state business as directed by the State Board.

All checks or withdrawals exceeding \$200.00 shall be countersigned or approved by the State Superintendent.

5. He/she shall retain and keep up-to-date such books and records as shall fully and truly reflect the financial status of the state organization at all times. The state books and records shall be subject to inspection by such auditors

as may be designated by the State Board.

6. He/she shall maintain a record of ordained and licensed ministers, exhorters, and missionaries of his/her state that coincide with the records of the General Office and shall carry on such correspondence as may be required by his/her office.

7. His/her books shall be balanced at the end of the year, and he/she shall furnish such written reports and records of the activities of his/her office as may be required by it at any and all State Conventions.

8. On odd numbered years in which election for Secretary-Treasurer will take place. Said written reports and records, as well as, Funds under his/her charge Shall be prepared for transfer to the auditing committee before being transferred to the newly elected Secretary-Treasurer not more than 10 days after the first statement following State Conventions of said year.

## STATE PRESBYTERS

1. The State Presbyters who shall be members of the General Board, shall be elected by the State Convention in an odd numbered year, one State Presbyter from each state. He/she shall be an ordained minister of the organization with at least seven (7) years of experience in the ministry, and not less than 25 years of age, and shall be elected in his/her respective state for a term of two years. He/she shall represent his/her state at General Conventions and General Board Meetings.

2. In the event this office becomes vacant for any reason, the State Board shall appoint some suitable member of the organization, from that state to complete the unexpired term.

3. The duties of the State Presbyters shall be to cooperate with and assist the State Superintendent; to open new fields; to assist the pastors and evangelists in evangelizing new fields.

## *ARTICLE XV* MINISTERS' RELATIONS

1. All ministers shall be free to minister as pastor or evangelist wherever they have an open door, except where it will conflict with an existing church of the Full Gospel Churches International. Where there is an existing church of the Full Gospel Churches International they shall acquire the permission of the local pastor and the District Presbyter.

2. All ministers are encouraged to promote good will and good relations among all Christians in the Body of Christ and especially among those of this fellowship.

3. When a minister desires to start a church, he/she shall seek the approval of the State Board who shall determine the feasibility of said church.

4. Each minister of the Full Gospel Churches International shall attend and fully support and cooperate with the pastor of the local Full Gospel

Churches International Church where he/she is residing when he/she is not in full time ministry.

## *ARTICLE XVI* DISCIPLINE

1. In the event of misconduct by an FGCI member, the accuser must follow the procedure as recorded in Matthew 18:15-17. If the matter cannot be settled it may then be referred to the State Board, but all charges made shall be in writing and signed by the accuser and at least two (2) other witnesses who are licensed members of FGCI or who are members of the local chartered church. Two copies of the charges shall be sent to the State Office; one copy is to be kept on file, the other copy to be delivered to the accused. The State Board, or its authorized representative, shall appoint a suitable place and time in which all parties shall be present and will assist in arbitrating their differences. All parties must voluntarily consent to the arbitration. Where there is no state organization

formed, it shall be referred to the Executive Board of FGCI. Any action taken must be in conformance with the Constitution and Bylaws of FGCI. There shall be NO enforcement of any local Constitution and Bylaws, not provided for within the Constitution and Bylaws of FGCI. In the event of a conflict in the Constitution and Bylaws of FGCI and the local church, the local church shall have precedent.”

2. Any ordained minister who is not satisfied with the decision of the State Board shall have the right to appeal before the General Board.

## *ARTICLE XVII*

### LOCAL CHURCHES

1. Each local church shall be totally responsible for all debts incurred by the pastor or congregation. The association will not be liable for any legal suit created within the local church or congregation.

2. Each local church shall be a total sovereign

body and shall elect its own pastor and officials and shall maintain its own form of government, Constitution, and By-Laws, and shall retain ownership of its own property if so desired.

3. Any pastor who is a member of said association, the church which he pastors by virtue of his membership in the association, will give his church fellowship status with the association if desired.

4. Any church applying for a charter status with the Full Gospel Churches International shall make application through the General Office, sending with the application a registration fee of \$50.00. If accepted, a renewal fee of \$50.00 shall become due April 15 of each year. A church registered after January 1 shall not be subject to the renewal fee until the following year.

5. All churches chartered with the Full Gospel Churches International shall use ministers of this organization as pastors.

6. Any church not using Full Gospel Churches International ministers as pastors

shall have their charters revoked by the State Board. Passed 1990.

***ARTICLE XVIII***  
RELATION TO WAR

Whereas we are thankful to the government of the United States of America for the freedom to worship God according to the dictates of our conscience, in time of war we shall be glad to be of service to our government.

***ARTICLE XIX***  
MINISTERIAL TITHES

We believe in the Bible principle of tithing to support the work of God and we believe the Full Gospel Churches International to be a part of the work of God in this world. It is required that each minister contribute at least 2% of their ministerial income or \$5.00 a month or \$60.00 a year, whichever is greater, in addition to their renewal fees, to support the Full Gospel Churches International Fellowship.

**ARTICLE XX**  
**WORLD MISSIONS DEPARTMENT**

1. The World Missions Board shall consist of the General Superintendent, the Assistant General Superintendent, the General Secretary-Treasurer, the World Missions Director, and the Foreign Missions Field Representative.

1a. Anyone desiring to work as a missionary in existing works or in creating new mission fields shall make application to the Missionary Board. The applicant will be notified when he or she will be able to meet with the Missions Board in session.

After investigation, the applicant will be notified of the decision of the Board.

1b. The Missionary Board shall encourage support for the mission programs from the local churches.

2. Each church is encouraged to receive an offering each month for the missions program.

3. Foreign Missions Field Representative

A. A Foreign Missions Field Representa-

tive shall be appointed by the General Board and shall be paid by freewill offerings.

B. The duties of this office shall be outlined by the General Board with the World Missions Director.

C. He shall work under the direction of the World Missions Board and make monthly reports to the Director of World Missions.

D. He shall make contacts whenever and wherever necessary in foreign lands, subject to the will of the Executive Board and World Missions Director, and assist the World Missions Director whenever and wherever needed.

E. He shall recommend worthy prospective missionaries to the Board.

F. He shall visit all churches at their invitation and promote world missions and present the needs that are on the field.

G. He shall when practical, attend state conventions and camp meetings in the U.S. and on the field on behalf of the World Missions Department.

H. He shall have the authority to set in

order and receive into the fellowship all new churches in the field.

***ARTICLE XXI***  
**HOME MISSIONS**

The continued development of the National Campground between Cuba and Steelville, Missouri shall be the initial Home Missions Project. The purposes of the National Campground are as follows:

1. To host youth camps and salvage as many young lives as possible.
2. To furnish a central location for camp meetings, seminars, conferences, retreats, and other organizational functions as may be practical.
3. To rent to other churches and organizations at a nominal fee to help in the continued campground development.

The following quotes are from a letter from the District Director of the Internal Revenue Service sent to Full Gospel Churches International.

“Based on the information supplied, we recognize your named subordinates on the list

you submitted as exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Code.”

“Donors may deduct contributions to you and your subordinates as provided in Section 170 of the Code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you or for your use are deductible for Federal estate and gift tax purposes if they meet the applicable provisions of Sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the Code.”

“You and your subordinates are not required to file Federal income tax returns as long as a tax-exempt status is maintained. But under Section 512(a)(1) of the Code, the unrelated business taxable income derived by any organization from any unrelated trade or business is subject to unrelated business income tax.”“You and your subordinates are not liable for Social Security (FICA) Taxes. However, you or any of your subordinates, in their own right, may file a certificate waiving exemption from taxes. Form SS-15, under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act. You and your subordinates are not liable for tax under the Federal Unemployment Tax Act (FUTA).”

# MEMOS

# MEMOS