

ASSEMBLY BUSINESS PROCEDURES REVISION

After several years of implementation of a proxy system as an effort to give a voice to those who were unable to attend the International Assembly, we certainly realize that these efforts to give voice have in some ways lessened the voice. Since the Bible Doctrine and Polity committee had been given authority to make procedural adjustments to the process, (ref: 93rd International Assembly Minutes 2004, page 112) in collaboration the General Presbyters, the Bible Doctrine and Polity Committee have made such adjustments that will be implemented in the 2014 International Assembly Business. It is with great hope that the historical nature of the International Assembly as the highest decision making body can be regained while allowing for global participation by the following revision below.

ASSEMBLY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REVISION

BIBLE DOCTRINE & POLITY COMMITTEE

JANUARY 31, 2014

Authority was entrusted in the Assembly Committee for Biblical Doctrine and Polity (BDP) by the International Assembly (IA) to make changes to the proxy system (ref: 93rd International Assembly Minutes 2004, page 112). Any changes to the proxy system will not require further Assembly approval, but such adjustments after consultation with the General Presbyters, will be instituted immediately as of February 1, 2014 and will be applicable to preparations for the 2014 International Assembly and all subsequent Assemblies. In the spirit of the original Assembly Policies and Procedure Document, these adjustments were made to maintain global participation and to retain the dynamic of the working of the Holy Spirit in the delegates attending the International Assembly.

- 1) Each local church should begin in January (of an International Assembly year) a review of any new recommendations coming before the Assembly. It will no longer be necessary for a selected representative from the local church for the upcoming Assembly. Instead, each local church would simply send their expression concerning pending recommendations by March 1 to the State/Regional/National office. By April 1, the overseers will submit all expressions to their respective General Presbyter (GP). The GP' submits all expressions by April 1 to the General Overseer's office for a report by the appointed liaison to the International Assembly (prior to the IA).
- 2) The process will include procedural changes following the International Assembly committees' report and recommendations. The Assembly Moderator shall lead the Assembly delegates present into a dialogue concerning the matter brought before the Assembly for decision. There will be no need for proxies, but a simple report of the expressions of the local churches. The moderator should encourage delegates during the dialogue to be mindful of the reported expressions by the local churches. The decision-making will rest upon the delegates present in the International Assembly with submission at all times to the Holy Spirit. Doctrinal matters will continue to require a one-accord agreement, while matters of policy and practice (or financial nature) will continue to be adopted by overwhelming consensus. This adjustment was required because of the difficulties of the past proxy system and to allow for more inspirational decision-making and discernment by the Holy Spirit in all of our Assembly business sessions.

IMPLEMENTATION OF BDP REVISION

This Pre-Assembly Expression process will be the local church's opportunity to declare their discernment regarding International Assembly business. These results will be tabulated and the official numbers will be presented to the International Assembly for each business item under consideration. This action will maintain the historical nature of the International Assembly being the highest decision making body while allowing for those unable to be present opportunity for expression. These expressions will serve to assist in the discussion and discernment process of the International Assembly body present.

After the reading of the business being considered the Pre-Assembly Expressions will be displayed on the screens in order for those present to see the discernment of the greater church body. The moderator will open the floor for discussion and decision. The motion to accept, along with a second to the motion will be received and the question, "All in favor" will be extended. Should there not be a one-accord expression for decision received (when one is required), the moderator will give opportunity to submit, or abstain in agreement with the approved International Assembly Business Procedures.