

2024 RESOLUTION #1

Tithing

WHEREAS, the practice of tithing is an ancient and holy practice, established by God for the good of His people and for the regular and ongoing support of His ministers and ministry work (Numbers 18:21-29); and

WHEREAS, a tithe, or tenth, of everything belongs to the LORD and is holy to the LORD (Leviticus 27:30); and

WHEREAS, the practice of tithing is a biblical practice, covenantal for the patriarchs (Genesis 14:20, Genesis 28:22), codified in the Law of Moses (Leviticus 27:30), preached by the prophets (Malachi 3:10), endorsed in the Proverbs (Proverbs 3:9), affirmed by Jesus in the Gospels (Matthew 23:23; Luke 11:42), and commended by the writer of Hebrews (Hebrews 7:2); and

WHEREAS, the LORD's instructions to the Israelites required bringing the tithes into the storehouses from which the LORD's work was being administered (Deuteronomy 12:11, Deuteronomy 14:28, Nehemiah 10:37-38, Nehemiah 12:44, Malachi 3:10); and

WHEREAS, the Levites who received tithes from the Israelites as their inheritance were required to tithe, from the tithes which they themselves received, to the Aaronic priesthood (Numbers 18:25-29); and

WHEREAS, the divinely ordained practice of tithing has served well to provide resources for the work of God and the advancement of the gospel throughout the ages and even to the present day; and

WHEREAS, as ministers in voluntary cooperative fellowship with the General Council of the Assemblies of God, our local churches, the Southern Missouri Ministry Network, and the General Council function as our storehouses from which God's Kingdom authority and work flow and function; and

WHEREAS, when tithing is practiced in a faithful and timely manner in biblical fashion, both the work of God and the people of God are blessed with fresh outpouring from Heaven (Malachi 3:8-10); and

WHEREAS, the Apostle Paul taught that, in matters of supporting God's work, taking care of spiritual financial commitments is best served by being consistent and timely (1 Corinthians 16:2); and

WHEREAS, tithing in faith, obedience, humility, and gratitude is an act of joy and privilege and is not burdensome (1 John 5:3); therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Bylaws of the Southern Missouri Ministry Network, ARTICLE XVIII. FINANCES, Section 2. Manner of Remitting, Subsection A. Minister's Support of the Network, which presently reads:

A. Minister's Support of the Network. It shall be considered the standard of cooperation with Network policy that a minister contribute not less than one-half of his or her tithe, from ministerial and secular income, to the Southern Missouri Ministry Network, 528 W. Battlefield Road, Springfield, Missouri, 65807. It is recommended that remittance be made on a monthly basis, and all active ministers of the Southern Missouri Network who fail to contribute at least quarterly to the Network shall receive a letter from the Network office requiring an explanation.

Be amended to read:

A. Minister's Support of the Network. It shall be considered the standard of cooperation with Network policy that a minister contribute not less than one-half of his or her tithe, from ministerial and secular income, to the Southern Missouri Ministry Network, 528 W. Battlefield Road, Springfield, Missouri, 65807. ~~It is recommended that~~ Remittance of tithes shall be required to be made to the Network no less regularly than be made on a monthly basis, ~~and~~ All active ministers of the Southern Missouri Network who fail to contribute ~~at least quarterly to the Network as required~~ shall receive a letter from the Network office requiring an explanation.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED by the Network Presbytery

2024 RESOLUTION #2

Recommended Bylaws for General Council Assemblies, Deacons

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the Southern Missouri Ministry Network, Addendum 1. Recommended Bylaws for General Council Affiliated Assemblies, ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND REMOVALS, Section 1. Elections, Subsection D. Deacons stipulates that “Deacons may not serve more than six consecutive years”; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the Southern Missouri Ministry Network, Section 2. General Council Affiliated Assemblies, Subsection B. Procedure for General Council Affiliation states that “Qualifications shall include a minimum active voting membership of twenty persons and a scripturally qualified board of deacons of at least three members”; and

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the Southern Missouri Ministry Network, Section 2. General Council Affiliated Assemblies, Subsection A. General Council Affiliated Assemblies Described, Subsection (5) Guidelines for Minimal Membership and Minimal Number of Deacons, Subsection (b) states that “When the number of qualified persons to serve as deacons shall fall below two, the church shall revert back to Network affiliated status”; and

WHEREAS, in certain stages and seasons of the life of a General Council Affiliated Assembly it may be challenging for the Assembly to find an adequate number of members who are both willing and qualified to serve as deacons while complying with the stipulation that deacons may not serve more than six consecutive years; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Bylaws of the Southern Missouri Ministry Network, Addendum 1. Recommended Bylaws for General Council Affiliated Assemblies, ARTICLE VIII. ELECTIONS, VACANCIES, AND REMOVALS, Section 1. Elections, Subsection D. Deacons, which presently reads:

Deacons shall be nominated by a nominating committee appointed by the church board, and they shall be elected by a majority vote of those active voting members present at an annual business meeting of the assembly at which an election is to be conducted. Active voting members may recommend nominees to the nominating committee, however nominations for deacon shall not be accepted from the floor during any business meeting. Deacons shall be elected for a term of one or more years, and shall hold office until the annual business meeting at which their successor is elected. Deacons may not serve more than six consecutive years. The terms of deacons shall be rotated appropriately.

Be amended to read:

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however nominations for deacon shall not be accepted from the floor during any business meeting. Deacons shall be elected for a term of one or more years, and shall hold office until the annual business meeting at which their successor is elected. ~~Deacons may not serve more than six consecutive years.~~ The terms of deacons shall be rotated appropriately.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED by the Network Presbytery