

**Church of God of Prophecy
100th International Assembly
July 18 – 22, 2018**

Assembly Business Expression Form

This form is to be completed by May 15, 2018, online or by returning it to your national/regional/state office. Where possible, we ask that you complete this form online at www.cogop.org/assembly/business to help expedite its processing and receive an immediate confirmation. Online submissions will be verified by the national/regional/state office prior to the International Assembly. The form may also be accessed by scanning the QR code to the right.



CHURCH INFORMATION

Church ID Number: _____

Name of Church: _____
Example: Church of God of Prophecy, Harvest Worship Center

City/ST/Nation: _____

Name of Pastor: _____
First, Middle Initial, Last Name

Name of Church Clerk: _____
First, Middle Initial, Last Name

OFFICIAL PRE-ASSEMBLY EXPRESSION

Please place an "x" by the local church's selection for each recommendation:

I. Statement of Faith (Requires One Accord)

Recommendation #1: We recommend the following revised reading: We believe in one God, the Father, creator of heaven and earth, of all things seen and unseen.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

Recommendation #2: We recommend the following revised reading: We believe in one holy, universal Church, composed of all true believers in Jesus Christ, offering fellowship and calling for service to men and women of all **peoples**, nations, cultures and languages.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

Recommendation #3: We recommend the addition of a statement on water baptism as a part of the Church's commission: We believe in one baptism with repentance for the remission and forgiveness of sins (This statement will be moved to the end of article 5, and will be reworded as follows: "We believe in one baptism in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.").

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

II. Covenant Statement (Requires One Accord)

Recommendation #4: We, therefore, recommend the word “*only*” be dropped from the Spanish and any other language version of the covenant, so we can have a unified Covenant.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

Recommendation #5: We recommend all translations of the Covenant have the same content.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

III. The Office and Role of a Deacon/Deaconess in the Church of God of Prophecy (Requires Overwhelming Consensus)

Recommendation #6: We recommend that no change in the ordination process of an individual to the diaconate occur as it relates to the laying on of hands by the overseer.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

Recommendation #7: We recommend that the current policy relative to the pastor’s participation in the ordination of a deacon be amended. The parenthetical phrase “(if a bishop)” should be eliminated.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

IV. Provisional Lay Pastor Ministerial Permits (Requires Overwhelming Consensus)

Recommendation #8: Only newly appointed lay pastors (holding valid lay ministers’ certificates) may be issued provisional permits authorizing them to perform pastoral duties normally reserved for licensed ministers (to baptize, administer the Lord’s Supper, and moderate business conferences, etc.), when no licensed ministers are available to pastor a church.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

Recommendation #9: The permit will authorize the lay pastor to perform these pastoral duties only in the local church to which he/she has been appointed.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

Recommendation #10: The permit will be issued in the form of a letter, with clear limitations for validity, to extend from the term of appointment (i.e. for the convention term) to not more than two years.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

Recommendation #11: During the two-year period, the lay pastor must be faithful in reporting to the state/national/regional office.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

Recommendation #12: At the end of two years, the permit will expire and will not be renewed.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

Recommendation #13: During the two-year period, the lay pastor holding the temporary ministerial permit will be expected to complete the requirements for a valid minister's license, issued by the general overseer's office.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

Recommendation #14: Lay pastors, holding lay ministers' certificates, cannot perform marriage ceremonies. However, if a couple has been previously legally married in a civil ceremony, a lay pastor may perform a Christian ceremony to bless the marriage of that couple, if they attend his/her local church.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

Recommendation #15: If, at the end of two years, the lay pastor holding a temporary provisional permit has not obtained his permanent minister's license, he/she may continue to serve as a lay minister, but without authorization to perform the ministry of a duly licensed pastor.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

V. The Dynamics of Theocratic and Hierarchical Government Rationale (Requires Overwhelming Consensus)

Recommendation 16: The Assembly Committee for Biblical Doctrine and Polity for the Church of God of Prophecy humbly submits this document in restating the Church's position on appointment of pastors for local churches by the national/regional/state overseer.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

VI. The Sacrament of Footwashing (Requires Overwhelming Consensus)

Recommendation #17: We reaffirm the practice of the Ordinance of Footwashing as taught and commanded by Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

Recommendation #18: We recommend that it be observed as often as possible, whether after Communion or at a separate time.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

Recommendation #19: We recommend it to be observed in a spirit of humility and love toward one another.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

Recommendation #20: We recommend that this updated version of the doctrine of footwashing be taught to the members of the Church of God of Prophecy.

Accept Reject Abstain Submit

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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- Assembly Business Expression Forms may not be accepted by your state/regional/national office or online if received **after May 15, 2018**.
- Upon receipt of your Assembly Business Expression Forms, your church's data will be combined with data from the other churches in your state, region or nation. This combined data will be sent from your **state/regional/national office to your general presbyter's office by June 1, 2018**.
- Your general presbyter's office will verify the information as provided by the state/regional/national Office and will forward the information to the **general overseer's office by June 15, 2018**.

This pre-Assembly expression 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. Your local church is **KEY** to this process, giving every member a voice in business at the International Assembly.

After the reading of the business being considered, the Assembly Business Expression Form results 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.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact Shaun McKinley, Liaison to the general overseer at the International Offices by calling (423) 559-5100 or by e-mailing smckinley@cogop.org.