

**Atlanta Bible College /
Church of God General Conference
McDonough, Georgia**

**Constitution
and By-Laws**

(As amended July, 2009)

PREAMBLE

The Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference is an association of churches united by a common understanding of Scripture, a commitment to ministry, and a desire to work together to teach and preach the good news of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, leading to the conversion of the lost and the nurture of all believers. It is a not-for-profit organization. Delegates and interested members of the Church of God will meet at a designated place and time to confer in all matters pertaining to the spiritual life and business of the churches.

ARTICLE I

Time and Place of Conference

Section 1. The general offices of the College/Conference shall be incorporated in the State of Georgia.

Section 2. The General Conference shall meet once each year at such time and place between April 1 and August 31 as may be determined by the Conference or its Board of Directors. Announcements of the time and place shall be made by the Board of Directors at least six months in advance by publications of the General Conference or other means of general communications available to the General Conference. The General Conference may be called at such other times as may be necessary, and may convene upon consent of a majority of the member churches.

ARTICLE II

Delegates

Section 1. Each member church which has held at least twenty-four services during the year, and which has made a financial contribution to the operating budget of the College/Conference, shall be entitled to one delegate for each fifty of its active members or fraction thereof. Delegates named shall be active members of the Church of God.

Section 2. A member church is a Church of God which adheres to the Statement of Faith contained in this document, and which has on record at headquarters a Statement of Affiliation with the General Conference.

Section 3. These shall be delegates at large:

- a) The Board of Directors and one delegate from each State or District Conference;
- b) The following licensed or ordained ministers authorized under the auspices of the General Conference License Board: one who is actively pastoring a church; a full-time employee of the College/Conference; those who have met either of the above qualifications and have reached retirement age.

c) The Chief Administrative Officer of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference, President of Atlanta Bible College, and Director of Church/Pastor Services.

Section 4. An individual member who has attended at least thirteen services and who has made a financial or service contribution during the year is considered an active member at his church. These shall be considered as minimum requirements only.

Section 5. A credentials committee shall be appointed by the chairman of the College/Conference before every Conference, and the committee shall have the power to confirm or disqualify any delegate according to the terms of this constitution. Any delegation thus disqualified may appeal to the Conference.

Section 6. Each church shall certify to the secretary of the College/Conference the names of its delegates or delegate and alternates; this certification shall be accompanied by a list of the names and addresses of the active members to be represented. No delegate will be recognized in any Conference session without having been recognized by the credentials committee. If any delegate is absent from any Conference session, an alternate who has been approved by the credentials committee may be appointed to act.

Section 7. Any church which cannot send a delegate or delegates to the annual Conference may appoint a delegate or delegates from the general active membership of the Church of God. However, any delegate appointed under this section shall have only one vote, and under no circumstances can any delegate represent more than one church or state or district conference. A notice must be sent to the secretary of the College/Conference containing a statement of the intentions of the church and the names and addresses of its active members to be represented, at least fifteen days before the Conference convenes.

Section 8. Each delegate shall have one vote.

ARTICLE III Business Sessions

Section 1. All matters of College/Conference business shall be open to the discussion of all members present, but only delegates may vote or introduce motions.

Section 2. Resolutions, major motions, or recommendations should be submitted to the Board of Directors no later than four months before the Conference business session convenes. Resolutions, major motions, or recommendations may originate with individuals, churches, Conferences, or the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will receive and review the items for publication in the summer *Progress Journal*. Resolutions, major motions, and recommendations may also be submitted from the floor at the delegate session, but they may not be voted upon until the next Conference. The resolutions, major motions, and recommendations submitted from the floor will be published in the summer *Progress Journal* prior to the next Conference.

Section 3. A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of fifty percent of the recognized delegates in session at that Conference. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern all questions of parliamentary procedure not covered by this Constitution and By-laws.

ARTICLE IV Officers of the Conference

Section 1. Seven directors shall be elected in General Conference delegate sessions; said directors shall constitute the Board of Directors of the College/Conference. The Board of Directors shall organize by the election of necessary officers at the first meeting following each annual Conference election.

These officers shall be a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and treasurer, and three board members. The term of office of a director shall begin at the close of the Conference in which said director is elected.

Section 2. No elected director shall be a paid employee of the College/Conference for a period longer than two months in any one year.

Section 3. The qualifications of each director shall be those given in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, and such other scriptures as teach the qualifications of church leaders. A director may be either male or female.

Section 4. Nominations for the Board of Directors of the College/Conference may be submitted by: State or District Conference Boards of the Church of God; Churches that are members of the General Conference; Ministerial Association of the Church of God General Conference. Name(s) of nominees and resumes will be submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer of Atlanta Bible College/General Conference at least three months before the meeting, and will be published by the most effective means of general communications at least one month before the meeting.

Section 5. Nominations printed in the *Progress Journal* will be brought to the floor of the business session by the Chairman at least one day before the day set for the election. Additional nominations will be received from the floor, and shall not be closed with fewer than one more nomination than the number of directorships.

Section 6. Nominations shall be made from the floor; but voting shall be done by ballot, and no nominee shall be elected unless he receives a majority of the votes cast. The total list of all nominees shall be submitted to the delegates for election. If no majority is reached in the first balloting, the list of nominees shall be reduced to the three receiving the highest number of votes. When no majority is reached with the list of three nominees, the one receiving the fewest votes shall be removed from the list. Of the two remaining nominees, the one receiving the majority of votes is elected. If other directors are to be elected, all names, except the one(s) previously elected, shall be resubmitted, and the same election process repeated until all positions are filled.

Section 7. The term of office for all College/Conference directors shall be for four years. No director shall succeed himself for a second term.

Section 8. Any director who may become inactive through sickness, resignation, prolonged absence, or death, shall be replaced for the unexpired term by election at the next annual conference. Temporary appointment of such directors may be made by the Board of Directors.

BY-LAWS OF ATLANTA BIBLE COLLEGE/CHURCH OF GOD GENERAL CONFERENCE

ARTICLE I

Purpose of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference

Section 1. The Church of God General Conference, through partnership with conferences and local Churches of God, assists them and their members in the performance of their commission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. The Conference serves as an advocate of the Church of God to the world.

Section 2. Atlanta Bible College which was established by the Church of God General Conference, August 8, 1939, as Oregon Bible College, exists to educate men and women for Christian ministries on the collegiate level through Biblical and Theological studies, provide for general education in the arts and sciences, and professional studies in pastoral ministry and church vocational areas deemed desirable.

Section 3. The Board of Directors and employees shall walk in a manner worthy of the calling wherewith they are called, “with all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” They shall unite to edify the body of Christ by proclaiming the following Biblical truths:

Statement of Faith

A. **GOD.** We believe that only one person is God, and that He is a literal corporeal being—almighty, eternal, immortal, and the Creator of all things.

B. **JESUS CHRIST.** We believe that Jesus Christ, born of the virgin Mary, is the sinless and only begotten Son of God. He existed only from his birth.

C. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.** We believe that the Holy Spirit is God's divine power and influence manifest in God's mighty works and in the lives of His people. It is not a person.

D. **THE BIBLE.** We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, given by divine inspiration. It is the only authoritative source of doctrine and practice for Christians.

E. **MAN.** We believe that man was created innocent, but through disobedience to God fell under condemnation of death—the cessation of all life and consciousness. All persons, being both sinful and mortal, are in need of salvation.

F. **SALVATION.** We believe that salvation is by the grace of God, through the atoning blood of Christ. It consists of God's forgiveness of sin, the imparting of His Spirit to the believer, and finally the gift of immortality at the resurrection when Christ returns. The steps in the gospel plan of salvation are:

- 1) Belief of the things concerning Jesus Christ and the Gospel of the Kingdom;
- 2) Sincere repentance and confession of sins;
- 3) Baptism—which is immersion—in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;
- 4) Indwelling of the believer by Christ through God's Spirit;
- 5) Growth in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

G. **THE CHURCH OF GOD.** We believe that the Church of God is the Scriptural name for that body of people who have been called out from among all nations through obedience to the gospel plan of salvation. Christ is the Head of the Church; and the nature, work, and government of the Church are set forth in the New Testament.

H. **THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.** We believe that the Christian life is primarily a life of consecrated discipleship to Jesus Christ as Lord, Savior, and Teacher. It will be exemplified by love, prayerful dependence on the fruit of the Spirit, stewardship, and tithing. The Church will recognize those members who, because of their religious convictions, claim exemption from military service.

I. **ISRAEL.** We believe that "Israel" is the name of the literal descendants of Abraham through Jacob. As God's chosen nation, Israel was given the land of Palestine, but because of disobedience they were scattered throughout the world. In accordance with God's covenant with them, they will be restored to Palestine as the head of the nations in the Kingdom of God.

J. **RETURN OF CHRIST AND KINGDOM OF GOD.** We believe that the Kingdom of God will be established on earth when Christ returns personally and visibly to reign as King in Jerusalem over the whole earth, with the Church as joint-heirs with Him. His millennial reign will be followed by the final judgment and destruction of the wicked, after which will be established "new heavens and a new earth" wherein there will be no more death and God will be all in all.

ARTICLE II

Duties of the Officers

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the chairman to call and preside at all meetings of the General Conference and of the Board of Directors of the College/Conference and to perform all other duties properly belonging to the presiding officer, not otherwise provided.

Section 2. It shall be the duty of the vice chairman to assist the chairman when called upon to discharge the executive duties, and to act in the chairman's place in case of the absence or disability of the chairman.

Section 3. It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep the minutes of all meetings of the Board of Directors, to keep a record of the activities and accomplishments of the Conference, to report such minutes and records to the General Conference when requested to do so, and at any other time when called upon by the chairman or Board of Directors.

Section 4. It shall be the duty of the treasurer, or of his representative as authorized by the Board of Directors, to receive all monies, to disburse the same, and to keep an accurate account thereof. It shall be the duty of the treasurer to keep safely all funds in the possession and control of the Conference, to make a complete annual report of the receipts and disbursements to the annual conference and to the Board of Directors upon request, to submit such reports for publication, and to see that the accounts of the Conference are kept so as to show its financial standing at all times. The treasurer shall furnish surety to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors.

Section 5. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to transact and administer the business of the Conference in accordance with these by-laws and Article I above. Meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held at the call of the chairman or at the call of two or more members of the board, notice having been given of the date and place of meeting a reasonable time in advance. Notice by mail, telephone, telegram, by publication in *The Restitution Herald* and/or the *Progress Journal*, or in person, shall be deemed sufficient. The Board of Directors shall have power to devise ways to accomplish the objects of the Conference as set forth in Article I, Section 1, above.

Section 6. The Board of Directors is empowered:

- (A) To acquire and hold real property and personal property.
- (B) To sell or otherwise dispose of property.
- (C) To raise money by subscription.
- (D) To receive gifts, donations, and bequests.
- (E) To receive and hold monies in trust as foundations or endowments, the profits of which shall be used in maintaining the work of the Conference.
- (F) To fill temporarily by appointment any elective office that may become vacant through sickness, resignation, prolonged absence, or death of any incumbent, until the next annual conference, when the vacant office shall be filled by regular election.
- (G) To take action regarding the admission, discipline, dismissal, and restoration of member Churches in the Church of God General Conference.
- (H) To employ a Chief Administrative Officer who shall be responsible to the Board of Directors for administering the day-to-day business of Atlanta Bible College/General Conference, for personnel, for planning, and for such specific matters of business as shall be assigned to him. The Chief Administrative Officer shall meet the qualifications given in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, and such other Scriptures as teach the qualifications of church leaders. The Chief Administrative Officer may be either male or female.
- (I) To do any other necessary act for the establishment, prosecution, and accomplishment of the business of the College/Conference.

ARTICLE III

Quorum for Doing Business

Section 1. A quorum of the Board of Directors for transacting business shall consist of five members.

ARTICLE IV
Financial Policy of the Church of God General Conference

Section 1. The financial policy of the College/Conference shall be based upon the principle of giving of tithes and offerings by all members, both churches and individuals. The Board of Directors of the College/Conference shall be governed in the work undertaken by the unified budget adopted by action of the delegates at the annual General Conference session.

ARTICLE V
Amendment of the Constitution and By-Laws

Section 1. The constitution and by-laws of the College/Conference may be amended, altered, or revised by a two-thirds majority vote of delegates present at any General Conference meeting, notice having been given of the proposed amendment or revision in at least three consecutive issues of *The Restitution Herald* and/or the *Progress Journal*, the first appearance thereof to be at least thirty days prior to the convening of the conference by which it is to be considered. Said notice shall plainly state the nature and purpose of the amendment or revision. Publication in *The Restitution Herald* and/or the *Progress Journal* shall be deemed sufficient notice.

Section 2. Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Board of Directors by a member church, a member Conference, or the Board of Directors, in sufficient time to be properly published.

ARTICLE VI
Auditing of the Books of the Conference

Section 1. The chairman shall appoint a competent auditor whose duty shall be to examine the books and other financial records of the treasurer and to make a full report of their condition in writing to the General Conference at its annual meeting, or at such other time or times, as may be required. Said auditor shall in no case be a member of the Board of Directors, or an employee of the College/Conference.

ARTICLE VII
Dissolution Clause

Section 1. In the event of the dissolution of Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference, the Board of Directors, after paying or making provision for payment of all of the liabilities of the Corporation, shall dispose of all of the assets of the Corporation by distributing those assets exclusively to organizations qualified as exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) and which are in agreement with the Statement of Faith contained in this document.