

**STATE CONVENTION COMMITTEE REPORT
TO THE 72nd ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION FOR
THE STATE OF WASHINGTON AT KENNEWICK WA., 2011**

Greetings:

we want to say that, this convention committee is not a policy making committee for the State of Washington. We are merely a vehicle which brings the ideas and suggestions given to us from those on the field and by direction of the state overseer.

We wish to thank all of those who have sent in ideas and suggestions that would make the State of Washington a better and more equipped State for ministry. After prayer and careful consideration, we submit the following for your consideration.

SECTION 1 - We recommend that the minutes of the State Convention Business Committee 2010 be reconfirmed as they appear in our current Business Acts Directory, with changes, and or additions as follows.

We recommend that section one be changed to read as follows we recommend that the minutes of the state convention business committee 2011 be reconfirmed as they appear in our current business acts directory with changes, and or additions as follows.

SECTION 2 - We recommend that all the titles, deeds and a copy of all contracts to all local church property and lots be held in the state files properly filed and recorded.

SECTION 3 - We recommend that each local church receive a state convention expense offering one month prior to the state convention. We further recommend that the state overseer notify each local church prior to the state convention

SECTION 4 - We recommend that the pastor of each local church appoint a Pastor's Finance committee consisting of at least three members. With a committee of this nature the responsibility of boosting the pastor's offerings for Assembly expenses, CBL seminars, grocery boosting, the pastor's showers and gifts for special days such as Christmas, Thanksgiving, Birthdays and Anniversaries, would not be upon

one person. The name and address of said committee chairman to be sent to the State Overseer.

SECTION 5 - We recommend that the state treasurer's auxiliary secretaries, state workers and youth camp and retreat directors pay be left to the discretion of the State Overseer and the State Finance and stewardship Committee.

SECTION 6 - we recommend that the accounting system used by churches be left to the discretion of the local churches

SECTION 7 - We appreciate the consideration given by the Finance and stewardship Committee to those ministering in new fields. This committee would like to express our appreciation for the dedication and commitment by our new field mission ministers. Only the Lord knows the sacrifice that have been made by those laboring in new field work.

SECTION 8 - It has been brought to the attention of this committee that some of our churches desire advice and assistance in the necessary transactions for borrowing money that involves real estate encumbrances. We feel that the Business Manager for the state could assist the State Overseer in this area of the work when needed. We recommend, however, that no local church execute a loan that would encumber church property in any way, without consent to be evidenced by certificate of approval signed by the State Overseer who is chairman of the State Finance and stewardship committee.

SECTION 9 We recommend a State Emergency Fund to assist in emergencies that may arise in homes of ministers under appointment. All ministers and members to pay \$1.00 per year into the treasury of the local church where their memberships are, and the local treasurer to send the Emergency Dollars as collected with the monthly report to the State Treasurer. The State Emergency funds to be disbursed at the discretion of the State Overseer and State Finance and stewardship committee as funds are available.

SECTION 10 - Since outreach is vitally important for the life of the local church We recommend that each pastor appoint an outreach minister in the local church who would be responsible for organizing visitation teams and keeping a record of all prospects for follow-up work.

SECTION 11

Realizing that the local churches in the state of Washington have a heart to take care of their pastor's housing needs. We recommend the following as an aid in assisting with this task.

1. purchase of a parsonage where applicable
2. assist the pastor in the purchase of his own home.
3. Assist the pastor with a set housing allowance.

We believe this will help promote long term pastorates.

SECTION 12 - We would like to encourage each local church to place auxiliary funds in a saving account between conventions. The interest received may be used as decided upon by the local church in business conference. A suggestion by this committee would be to place said funds received from the interest in the fund set to assist the pastor in attending the General Assembly.

SECTION 13 - We recommend pastors changing churches, who move by rental vehicles (trucks, trailers, and or private means) get at least 3 estimates, and call the State Overseer for final approval and that this cost be shared equally by the state and local church receiving them, where funds are available.

SECTION 14

We recommend that the lamplighter be placed on the church's web site. This would be published monthly, and should be read by all pastors and members as far as possible.

SECTION 15- We recommend that each pastor see to it that the local church property be adequately insured. This should include liability and medical insurance in addition to the property coverage. If assistance is needed in selecting proper coverage the State Overseer should be contacted. ADDITION We also recommend upon the advisability of the State Overseer, that the State Property Committee be available to consult with local churches regarding upkeep and

maintenance of their properties. This will help to promote safety, reduce liability, and keep our properties looking presentable. We further recommend that each pastor ensure that their church and parsonage tax exempt status is current prior to April 30th each year, and that the State Overseer send an annual reminder to pastors before the April 30th deadline.

SECTION 16 - We would like to bring to the attention of this convention that there is a channel available throughout the year through which suggestions may be submitted for consideration by the State Convention Committee. We recommend that such suggestions be submitted to the state office in writing for consideration by the State Convention Committee.

SECTION 18 - We recommend that a copy of this report be ratified at the next quarterly business conference by each local church and that it be included in the state directory, via the church website. Copies can then be downloaded by each pastor, minister, clerk, and treasurer, district overseer and members of the state staff.

SECTION 19- We recommend that the church reimburse the State Overseer the amount of .55 cents per mile for travel expense. This is not an additional income but is for tax purposes only and is in conjunction with and is part of the standard allotment.

SECTION 20 - We recommend that the location of the state convention be left to the discretion of the State Overseer, consulting with the State Convention Committee. Overseer welcomes input from the state.

SECTION 21 - With the ever increasing need for the authority of the State Overseer to be recognized by various banks and other business institutions, we recommend this State Convention body go on record in this business session as authorizing the Regional Overseer to act for the regional church and local churches where needed

throughout the year in transacting any and all business that may need his involvement.

SECTION 22

WITH A DESIRE TO KEEP A STATE OVERSEER WE THE STATE CONVENTION BUSINESS COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THAT LOCAL CHURCHES CONTINUE SENDING 2% (BASED ON THE TITHES RECEIVED) TO THE STATE TREASURER.

We recommend that section 23 be changed to read as follows. Due to the need of our region to remain financially solvent, (as per the General Assembly, Finance and Stewardship recommendation), we are recommending the following:

1. That the 4th Sunday offering be discontinued. This extra Sunday offering each month should prove helpful in raising additional funds in the local church.

2. That each local church send 4% (ie 4% based on total monthly tithes received) to the state treasurer, out of local designated funds.

These measures should help increase offerings at the local church, while helping to maintain a positive cash flow, at the state/regional level.

SECTION 23 - We recommend that all churches go to a two signature checking account or to a single signature system which has been approved by the local church. We feel this is a good business practice. This is to be implemented no later than the next quarterly business conference. We further recommend that these signatures not be from the same household.

SECTION 24 –The harvest and leadership development offering (former ministry support offering) has been established by the general assembly for the purpose of ministry education, evangelism, harvesting souls, church planting, and leadership development. This offering is to be received and then sent in full (i.e. 100%) to the state office from the local church on a monthly basis. This offering will be used to help pastors with continuing education and for new field work.

SECTION 25- Seeing the need for continuing education for our pastors.

We recommend that for pastors who request assistance, \$100.00 be made available annually when they attend either a ministry related seminar or enroll in a ministry related course, whether on campus or through correspondence. Monies for continuing education will be funded from the harvest and leadership development offering.

SECTION 26- Recognizing the need to periodically adjust the State Overseer's pay due to factors of quality of performance, level of responsibility, and cost of living.

We recommend that a state task force be selected and be comprised of those three Bishops currently serving as District Overseers. This task force will work in conjunction with the state finance and stewardship committee. We also recommend that where feasible each local church should consider implementing their own task force to help in adjusting their pastor's salary. (See 89th assembly minutes, pages 47-48)

SECTION 27 WE RECOMMEND THAT EACH LOCAL CHURCH TREASURER AND PASTOR PURCHASE A COPY OF THE CHURCH TREASURES GUIDE PROVIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL OFFICE THROUGH THE STEWARDSHIP DEPT. WE ALSO RECOMMEND THAT THEY FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THE MATERIAL

SECTION 28 we recommend that a caring and sharing be continued for the purpose of upgrading our church properties. The caring and sharing program would make matching funds available on a one time basis during a three year period to each local church of up to \$1500.00. Funds would need to be raised in advance by the local church before requesting matching funds from the state. Funds will be used solely for the repair or upgrading to the existing church building / sanctuary or components thereof. Some examples of repairs or renovation might include: repair or replacement of interior walls, repair or replacement of roof, installation of carpet or pews, purchase of a new sign, purchase of a public address system ect. Funds from the state will come from interest that has accrued on state property investments. These funds and necessary forms and guidelines will be made available in the fall of 2011.

SECTION 29- We would like to commend the people of Washington for their love and generosity in giving. We feel that the people of Washington are the best! Because of your sacrificial giving, many new souls have been added to the kingdom of God and the Church of God. Let us keep the home fires burning, and may the Lord richly bless you. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted, Frank Smith, chairman, James Alexander,
Bill Davidson, Roger Jones, Rob Judd Jr.

