

**HISTORICAL LOUISIANA FIRST JURISDICTION
CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.**

**JURISDICTIONAL COUNCIL OF PASTORS & ELDERS
ELECTION PROCEDURES, PURPOSE, & OFFICER DUTIES**

OVERVIEW

Interested candidates will have until Sunday, January 25, 2026, to complete the electronic application located on our jurisdictional website at www.lafirstjurisdiction.com. Candidates will only be able to declare running for one office. The election will take place on Friday, March 6, 2026, at the Leaders and Workers Meeting in Lafayette, LA. Candidates must be present. This will be a secret ballot process.

FINALIZING & VETTING CANDIDATES

The Jurisdictional Bishop and Jurisdictional Executive Secretary shall review all submitted and completed applications to verify compliance and adherence to the process to ascertain that nominees have meet the general criteria as a candidate for office. **Prerequisite requirements:**

1. Ordained Elder for at least three years
2. Current with National Reports
3. Current with Jurisdictional Reports
4. Have an Active ARC Account
5. Completed a background check in the ARC System.
6. Completed sexual misconduct training in the ARC system.

NOTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE

The Jurisdictional Bishop and Jurisdictional Executive Secretary shall provide the Council with the approved listing of candidates for office at the conclusion of the screening process by or no later than January 31, 2026, at which time a listing of candidates will be posted on the jurisdictional website to officially announce all candidates for office.

CAMPAIGNING

Candidates are encouraged to campaign in a way that glorifies God and exudes the dignity of an Elder in the Lord's Church. A Candidates' Forum will be held virtually before the Leaders & Workers Meeting. Candidates will be allowed to give a 5-minute speech during the Jurisdictional Council of Pastors and Elders Meeting at Leaders & Workers Meeting in Lafayette, LA. All candidates will be given the opportunity to present themselves to the Jurisdictional Council membership. Campaign paraphernalia may be disseminated at the candidate's pleasure after being approved by the Office of the Bishop.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION

Notification of the election will be disseminated through the jurisdictional communication system by phone call, text message, and email.

VOTING

The 2026 Election of Officers for the Jurisdictional Council of Pastors and Elders will be held on Friday, March 6, 2026, in its regular session. All members in good standing within the jurisdiction are eligible to vote.

VOTE COUNTING AND RESULTS

The Jurisdictional Secretary and the Office of the Bishop shall tally the votes to determine the winners. Poll-watchers representing each candidate may observe the process of vote counting but shall not interfere with the process. In the event of a tie between candidates for office, candidates shall be given the opportunity to briefly address the Council for an additional 2 minutes and another vote will be taken. The Jurisdictional Secretary will confirm the winner of the tiebreak election, who shall be declared the winner of the election.

TERM OF OFFICE

The term of office for elected officers is four years. Elected officers shall assume their offices upon certification of voting results.

PURPOSE OF THE JURISDICTIONAL COUNCIL OF PASTORS AND ELDERS

The purpose of the Jurisdictional Council of Pastors and Elders is to insure and protect the rights and privileges of the Pastors and Elders of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of which they are apart, also to insure they understand the relationship between their role as Pastors and Elders with that of the Jurisdictional Bishop's authority under whom they serve in the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, this includes but not limited to their duties, responsibilities, obligations, liability and accountability.

The function of the Jurisdictional Council shall be two-fold, first to serve as the **Trial Court** for the Ecclesiastical Jurisdictions of the Church of God In Christ, Inc., and to serve as a training institute; it shall also carry out those other duties and responsibilities delegated to it by **Article V, Section B** of the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ.

The Jurisdiction Council shall meet twice (2) annually: Once during the Spring Worker's Meeting, and during the Jurisdictional Holy Convocation, and shall have one annual Jurisdictional Council Conference, it may also at its discretion, sponsor Jurisdictional seminars, workshops and training sessions as the needs demands, the Jurisdictional Council may also meet to consider those matters referred to it to expedite prompt resolution, all with Jurisdictional Bishops knowledge, and not in with any jurisdictional programs and agenda as outlined by the Jurisdictional Bishop.

The Jurisdictional Council shall upon request provide assistance to the Jurisdictional Bishop, Jurisdictional Districts, Departments, Auxiliaries, Pastors, Elders, and members of the Jurisdiction according to and in compliance with establishing policies/procedures in formulating rules and regulations for their governance, growth and discipline.

The Jurisdictional Council shall consider only those matters referred to it by the Jurisdictional Bishop, The Jurisdictional Assembly, and Departments of the Jurisdiction, Local Congregations, and Individuals; and supplying them with a formal report of its findings.

The Jurisdictional Council shall adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary for the orderly conduct of its business. Such rules and regulations shall not conflict with the provisions of the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., or any laws adopted by the General Assembly.

The Jurisdictional Council shall not engage in any activities that violate the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ, or any laws adopted by the General Assembly.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE JURISDICTIONAL COUNCIL

Article V, Section B of the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. Which was adopted and **passed April 6, 1994** provides that, "The Jurisdictional Council of the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ shall consist of ordained Elders who are in good standing with their local Churches, Districts, and the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

All members of the Jurisdictional Council should be registered with the Jurisdictional Council as well as the General Council's registrar's office.

The Jurisdictional Council by a majority vote, of those members present and voting, may authorize a registration fee and other necessary fees from its members for its operation with knowledge of the Jurisdictional Bishop.

It is the duty of each individual member of the Jurisdictional Council to support those judicial decisions rendered by the Jurisdictional Council.

It is the duty of each member to support actions taken, and activities sponsored by the Jurisdictional Council.

All members of the Jurisdictional Council have responsibility as well as a right to participate in all sessions of the Jurisdictional Council's meetings, if they are yet in good standing.

All members shall support the Chairman, who is the official representative for the Jurisdictional Council of Pastors and Elders at the National Church level, and sponsor his attendance at all General Council of Pastors and Elders National functions.

Section I: Officers

Para 1. Officers of the Jurisdictional Council shall be: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and Executive Committee Members, as well as other such officers as the Council deems necessary for its operation.

Section II: Qualifications:

Para 1. Qualifications of Elected and Appointed Officers of the Jurisdictional Council.

The qualifications for elected and appointed officers of the Jurisdictional Council of Pastors and Elders shall be the same in all respects to wit:

- a. Life must be above reproach, (not of moral failure not a convicted felon), the husband of one wife, a man of integrity, learning, industry, temperate, sensible, dignified, hospitable, apt to teach, not a drinker, not violent, not quarrelsome, but gentle and easy to get along with.
- b. Must be well versed in and have a working knowledge of the Constitution of the Church of God in Christ, Inc., Parliamentary Procedure, Robert's Rules of Order, The Judicial Code of Conduct of the Church of God In Christ, the Rules and Regulations of the General Council, the General Council's Appeal process, Ecclesiastical Law, the structure, culture, traditions and order of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. (both civil and ecclesiastical).
- c. Have a thorough working knowledge of the function of the General and Jurisdictional Church as outlined in the Policies and Procedures and any amendments to the operation of the Church.
- d. Have a thorough working knowledge of leadership, ministry, administration and church management from a biblical context coupled with current trends to accomplish harmony in the Church. Have ample time in the Church Of God In Christ, the General Council of Pastor and Elders and the Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction, thus conditioned by the spirit of this Church for service in the Church.
- e. Have an adequate record of supporting the leadership and programs of the Church of God In Christ, The General & Jurisdictional Council and insist upon the same from others.

Tenure of Office for Elected and Appointed Officers of the General Council

- a. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of the Council members (those members present and voting at the time of the election).
- b. The Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer tenure shall run current with that of the Church of God In Christ, Inc. Administration, or until the case of their elevation, resignation, removal from office, incapacitation, or death and the qualification and election of their successor.
- c. All appointed officers tenure shall run concurrent with that of the Jurisdictional Council's Administration or until the case of their elevation, resignation, removal from office, incapacitation, or death and the qualification and appointment of their successor.
- d. The Judicial Review Committee / Appeals Court Members tenure shall run for a term of four years consistent with that of the Jurisdictional Administration, or until the case of their elevation, resignation, removal from office, incapacitation, or death and the qualification and appointment of their successor.
- e. All other appointed officers of the Jurisdictional Council tenure shall run concurrent with that of the Jurisdictional Council's Administration, or until the case of their elevation, resignation, removal from office, incapacitation, or death and the qualification and appointment of their successor.

- f. Should any Elected Jurisdictional Council Officer vacate their office before the expiration of their term, the Jurisdictional Bishop & Secretary should receive written notice first before such notice is made public.
- g. Should the Office of Chairman of the Jurisdictional Council become vacant before the expiration of the term elected to serve (in the case of Episcopal elevation, resignation, removal from office, incapacitation, or death), the elected Vice Chairman will ascend to the Office of Chairman to carry out the unexpired term of the departed elected Chairman, and at the next meeting of the Jurisdictional Council an election will be held to fill the Vice Chairman vacancy, in the interim at the discretion of the newly elevated Chairman, if applicable, one of the appointed Vice Chairman will assist as Vice Chairman until the aforementioned meeting and election.
- h. Should a vacancy occur in any of the other elected and/or appointed offices/officers of the Jurisdictional Council, the Chairman following the appropriate protocol shall fill such vacancy at the next meeting of the Jurisdictional Council.

SECTION IV: The Chairman

The chief duties of the Chairman of the Jurisdictional Council of Pastors and Elders involve the facilitating of regular meetings of the Council and some degree of public relations.

The Chairman of the Jurisdictional Council is the head of the Council who has been elected by a majority vote of the members of the Jurisdictional Council; therefore, the Chairman is the highest-ranking Officer of the Jurisdictional Council and serves as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

The essential duty of the Chairman is to keep the Jurisdictional Council organized, informed and on task, and again there is some degree of public relations work involved as well.

A. Facilitate/Preside Over Meetings

The Chairman is required to "Chair," or facilitate and preside over, meetings with the Executive Committee members, the various Committees of the Council, and the Jurisdictional Council at large. More specifically, the Chairman is expected to determine the agenda of the meeting at hand, encourage discussion and participation from the membership and to relay pertinent information regarding current events, issues and matters within or pertaining to the Council.

The Chairman is also expected to present issues and matters for discussions and debates and work toward a consensus stance, upon which the majority of the Council agrees, and which can therefore be acted upon for the expected benefit of the Jurisdictional Council and the Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

B. Organizing the Council Meeting

For a productive meeting to take place, the issues and matters in question need to consist of clear presentation, and effective balance, thus including all entities of the Jurisdictional Council.

C. Spokesman/Representative

The scope and frequency of the public relations duties for the Chairman may range from practically nonexistent to a major responsibility. The spokesman responsibilities of the Chairman generally involve relaying the mission and purpose of the Council to the public, along with adequately describing to the public the policies of the Council. In times of controversy, the role of the Chairman in terms of relaying timely information to the public is highly important and possibly delicate for said Chairman. In times of crisis, he may be seen as the "face" of the Jurisdictional Council.

D. It is the responsibility of the Chairman to:

1. Manage the business of the Council and preside over its meetings;
2. Set meeting agendas by taking full account of the issues and concerns of the Council membership.
3. Ensure that Council members receive accurate, timely and clear information, about the performance of their duties, to ensure effective performance.
4. Monitor progress towards the timely and effective achievement and implementation of the objectives, policies and strategies set by the Council and of other decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council;
5. Facilitate the effective contribution of non- Executive Committee members and ensure constructive relationships and open communication, both between non- Executive Committee members and the Council at large and other entities of the Church;
6. Ensure that members of the Executive Committee understand the views of Council Members and others who have interest in the Council;
7. Promote the highest standards of compliance with Council Rules and Regulations;
8. Manage the Council's time to ensure that sufficient time is allowed for discussion of complex and/or contentious matters;
9. Ensure that new Jurisdictional Council members receive instructional program materials that are tailored and comprehensive to help them in the Jurisdiction;
10. Monitor and address the development and functional needs of individual Committees of the Council and the Council as a whole to ensure that their performance is evaluated at least once a year;

SECTION V: The Vice Chairman

The Vice-Chairman, is subordinate to the Chairman, and is elected to assist the Chairman and to serve as Chairman in the absence of the Chairman, or when a motion or matter involving the Chairman is being discussed. In the absence of the elected Chairman and Vice Chairman, after the meeting has been called to order by the elected Secretary, one of the appointed vice *chairman* (*at the discretion of the Chairman*) shall serve as *chairman pro tempore* to fill the role for a single meeting.

Para 2. It is the responsibility of the Vice Chairman to:

- a. Provide support and guidance to the Chairman;
- b. Delegate for the Chairman, as may be required by the Chairman;
- c. Be the Chairman of the Nomination Committee.
- d. The Vice-Chairman shall perform other specific duties as may be assigned by the Chairman.
- e. Be available to the Council if there are concerns which have not or cannot be resolved through contact with the Chairman, or Committee Chairmen, or for which such contact is not appropriate.
- f. Should the Office of Chairman of the Jurisdictional Council become vacant before the expiration of the term elected to serve (in the case of elevation, resignation, removal from office, incapacitation, or death), the elected Vice Chairman shall ascend to the Office of Chairman to carry out the unexpired term of the departed elected Chairman, and at the next meeting of the Jurisdictional Council an election will be held to fill the Vice Chairman vacancy. In the interim, at the discretion of the newly elevated Chairman, one of the appointed Vice Chairmen will assist as Vice Chairman until the aforementioned meeting.

Section VI: The Secretary

The duties and responsibilities of the secretary of the Jurisdictional Council, as specified in the governing documents of the Council, are diverse and numerous. A brief summary, however, may be expressed in this way.

a. The Office of the Secretary shall:

- 1. Prepare and maintain records for the Council in as accurate, thorough, up-to-date, useable, and prompt a way as possible;
- 2. Preserve the records of the Council; and
- 3. Provide service and assistance to the Council and others in a punctual, friendly, and courteous manner.

b. The Secretary shall:

As the recording officer of the Council, keep the minutes, have responsibility for the Council rosters, records, and reporting of Council statistics, oversee the archives, attest to all documents that require such signature, be the custodian of the seal of the Council, and perform other duties as prescribed by the Rules and Regulations of the Council or directed by the Chairman.

Section VII: The Treasurer

The Treasurer serves as the Council's cash manager. In this role, the Treasurer maintains custody of all Council funds and possesses responsibility for the deposit, investment and disbursement of these monies accompanied by the approval of the Council Chairman. The Treasurer must administer the Council's resources to ensure the availability of adequate liquid assets to pay obligations as they become due.

Para 1. Duties and Responsibilities of the Treasurer

- a. The Treasurer must have custody of all monies belonging to the Council and must scrupulously account for those monies. In this accounting, the Treasurer must utilize and maintain a system containing a breakdown of all receipts, disbursements, and cash balances.
- b. The Treasurer in conjunction with the Council Chairman and Executive Committee must determine the cash needs of the Council and ensure that sufficient liquid assets are available to pay current obligations.
- c. Only the Treasurer, with approval of the Chairman (and as needed the Executive Committee), shall pay out Council money. Even then, the treasurer shall only make payments upon the signature of the Chairman or officer duly authorized to approve the payment of bills.
- d. The treasurer possesses a number of specific responsibilities relating to payment of and accounting for disbursements, these include:
 - 1. Receiving, accounting for, and disbursement of all honorariums, goods and services.
 - 2. Maintaining record of request for assistance and disbursements of the same.
 - 3. Assuring compliance with the General Laws and with state and federal regulations pertaining to financial management of a Not For Profit Corporation.
 - 4. Monitoring conformity with local laws, union contracts, and civil service regulations.
- e. The Treasurer is custodian of all Council financial documents, and as such shall serve as Chairman of the Finance Committee.
- f. The Treasurer should regularly advise the Chairman and the Executive Committee of the financial condition of the Council, providing factual information upon which appropriating, and budgeting decisions may be made.

Para 2. Bonding of Treasurer

The Treasurer must obtain and maintain a performance bond, in an amount set by the Council, but not less than the minimum amount required by the Commissioner of Revenue for a Not For Profit Corporation through the publication and distribution of a Bond Amount Schedule. The Treasurer should be bonded within twenty-one days of election; if the elected Treasurer cannot be bonded his election is forfeited and the Chairman may call for another election.