

## COUNCIL OF ELDERS AGENDA—December 2008

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### From the Chairman:

- Strategic Planning—Completion of the contracted services on strategic planning with a focus on the role of the board in monitoring and assessment.

### From the Secretary:

- Deadline for Council to endorse or decline to endorse proposed amendments.
- Approval of Executive Committee minutes.

### From the President and Home Office:

- **President's Report.**
- **Thrift Plan revision.** New government regulations regarding thrift plans necessitates the Council approving revised wording to our program.
- **Feast video.** Proposing a theme for the 2009 Feast video for Council approval.
- **Good Works program.** Review of past and current activities, and a proposal for restructuring the Good Works program.
- **Budget.** With the economic downturn, the treasurer and president wish to discuss with the Council the potential effect on the work of the Church, and how to plan in advance for various scenarios we could face.
- **Media developments and direction.** Several of the key objectives and strategies in the Strategic Plan for preaching the gospel are dependent on having a powerful Internet presence. We have asked the chair of the Web Development Task Force, David Gosse, in conjunction with home office staff, to present to the Council the potential UCG has in this field, and the plans for making it happen.
- **How do we proceed from here?** In August the Council considered three proposals for addressing facilities needs. The administration will be reporting back, as it was requested, with more information supporting the premises of the need for immersion education, along with recommendations.
- **Executive session:**
  - Ordinations and credentialings.
  - Personnel matters and potential hires.
  - Legal report from Larry Darden.
  - Appeals cases.

## From Committees:

### **Ethics Committee**

- **The Elders Forum:** Since the May GCE we have conducted a test-drive of the new proposed GCE Forum. 201 ministers have signed up and either posted or examined the new forum model. What are some of the conclusions from the test? What should we do next?
- **Report on Estes Park Council retreat November 12-13:** The Ethics Committee discussed the 1996 Problem Statement by the Council of Elders: “We, as the Church of God, have not always handled our relationships and responsibilities in a Godly manner.”
- **Process of dealing with violators of Elders Forum communications:** There is no set process of dealing with violators of Elders Forum communications. The Ethics Committee seeks authorization to develop an action plan and present it to the Council.

### **Roles and Rules Committee**

- **Assessment of the President:** The Committee has created a document “Assessment of the President” and will present it for discussion and adoption.
- **Role of the President:** The Committee has created a document “The Role and Responsibilities of the President” and will present it for discussion and adoption.
- **Committee scope and responsibilities:** The Committee has created scope and responsibility documents for the Member Appeal Committee, Elder Expulsion Appeal Committee and the Amendment Committee. The documents will be presented for discussion and adoption.
- **MAC procedure change:** The Committee will present a change in the way the MAC is structured for adoption.

### **Strategic Planning and Finance Committee**

- **How do we best serve our mission despite changes in our economy?** To identify the key financial challenges the Church faces. To develop contingency plans for identifying which areas are first to be cut back in the event there is a need, and which are last. When do we dip into the reserves? What criteria should we use?
- **Job description:** Produce a job description that reflects both jobs of the committee—strategic planning and financial.
- **The need for an Audit and Compliance Committee:** What is the job of an Audit and Compliance Committee?
- **10-week reserve:** The Council needs to discuss if other streams of income can help to maintain a 10-week reserve.

**From International Council Members Bob Berendt, Bill Eddington and Paul Kieffer:**

- **Format of the International Meeting at the GCE:** A proposal to change the format of the International Meeting at the General Conference of Elders annual meeting.

**From Individual Council Members:**

- **Bill Eddington:** A proposed amendment to Bylaw 7.5.3.
- **Darris McNeely:** Proposal to create a Media and Communication Committee.
- **Paul Kieffer:** Draft proposal to amend the Outside Speaker Policy.