

## Resolution 12

### ORGANIZATIONAL ASSISTANCE

- 1 WHEREAS, Despite the best efforts of pastors, leaders, and members in a local General  
2 Council church to follow principles of conflict resolution such as those found in  
3 Matthew 18:15-17, irreconcilable differences sometimes continue to disrupt the  
4 necessary harmony and health of the assembly; and
- 5 WHEREAS, The history of many General Council churches includes hurt and confusion in the  
6 wake of unhealthy actions by parishioners, board members, and/or ministers  
7 which can result in the departure from the local church and from the Fellowship  
8 at large by stable pastors, members, and family units who wonder why there was  
9 no decisive outside intervention by spiritual authority; and
- 10 WHEREAS, General Council Bylaws Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 4, paragraph c, page  
11 109, refers to “organizational assistance” made available by a district council in  
12 dealing with church problems via an invitation from the pastor, a majority of the  
13 official church board, or a petition signed by 20 percent of the voting members;  
14 and
- 15 WHEREAS, The term “organizational assistance” can be interpreted in a variety of ways with  
16 a variety of implications, especially in times of heightened conflict, distress, and  
17 pressure; and
- 18 WHEREAS, Healthy intervention by the district in response to an invitation from the local  
19 church may only be achieved, in many cases, if the district leadership has been  
20 empowered to make decisions with authority; and
- 21 WHEREAS, Temporarily reverting a General Council assembly to district affiliated status  
22 allows the leadership of the district to act with clarity and authority; and
- 23 WHEREAS, Our Fellowship recognizes the scriptural mandate for and historical blessing of  
24 acknowledging and partnering with proper spiritual authority at all levels of  
25 church leadership; and
- 26 WHEREAS, The practice of reverting a General Council assembly to district affiliated status  
27 is well established since scenarios for reverting a church from General Council  
28 status to district affiliated status already exist whenever a General Council church  
29 fails to maintain the criteria for General Council affiliation, as per General  
30 Council Bylaws Article VI, Section 5; and

1 WHEREAS, Parameters already exist to guide a district in giving effective aid to a local  
2 assembly in a situation where a pastor is causing a major offense (see the  
3 description of disciplinable offenses in General Council Bylaws Article X), but  
4 parameters are not given in the General Council Constitution and Bylaws  
5 providing a clear avenue of strength from which the district can aid a local pastor  
6 when non-credentialed church members and leaders are causing the major  
7 offense; and

8 WHEREAS, General Council Constitution Article XI. LOCAL ASSEMBLIES, Section 1,  
9 paragraph e, provides safeguards to a General Council affiliated church from any  
10 possible abuse of this prerogative by a district through an appeal to the Executive  
11 Presbytery, and ultimately, the General Presbytery when there is a question  
12 whether or not the assembly has received proper help from the district; therefore,  
13 be it

14 RESOLVED, That General Council Bylaws Article VI. ASSEMBLIES, Section 4.  
15 Relationships Between Churches, District Councils, and the General Council,  
16 paragraph c. Organizational assistance, page 109, which reads:

17 **c. Organizational assistance.** The services of both the General  
18 Council and district council are available to assist the General  
19 Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either  
20 internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the  
21 official board of the church or a petition signed by 20 percent of the  
22 voting members.

23 Be amended to read:

24 **c. Organizational assistance.** The services of both the General  
25 Council and district council are available to assist the General  
26 Council affiliated church in dealing with any of its problems, either  
27 internal or external, when requested by the pastor or a majority of the  
28 official board of the church or a petition signed by 20 percent of the  
29 voting members. When district officers receive such requests, they  
30 shall respond by investigating problems and, if necessary,  
31 recommending remedial actions to the responsible district governing  
32 entity, (e.g., district presbytery or district executive presbytery). At

1 its discretion, that governing entity may act to bring the church under  
2 district supervision, and, when necessary, revert it from General  
3 Council status to district affiliated status until the governing entity  
4 considers the problem resolved.

Sponsors: Ohio District Council  
Appalachian District Presbytery  
Indiana Executive Presbytery  
Michigan District Presbytery  
Northwest District Presbytery

Presented \_\_\_\_\_  
Amended \_\_\_\_\_  
Referred \_\_\_\_\_  
Adopted \_\_\_\_\_  
Lost \_\_\_\_\_