

## MINUTES

### **Twenty-Eighth General Conference International Pentecostal Holiness Church**

**Wednesday, July 26, 2017**

#### **Opening Celebration**

The twenty-eighth General Conference of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church (IPHC) convened July 26-28, 2017, at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida in Exhibition Halls WA1 and WA2. The opening celebration began at 9 a.m. (EST) with a children's candle-light ensemble singing "This Little Light of Mine" (Harry Dixon Loes), followed by a parade of children who gathered near the platform and sang "He Has the Whole World in His Hands" (Obie Philpot), under the direction of Mrs. Tara Tramel Light.

The General Conference worship team, under the leadership of Rev. Greg Terry, led the congregation in singing, "How Great Is Our God" (Chris Tomlin).

The ensuing procession included the American, Christian, and IPHC flags; members of the Council of Bishops (COB); members of the World Pentecostal Holiness Fellowship (WPHF); national leaders; and IPHC missionaries carrying flags honoring their fields of service.

The General Conference Chairman, General Superintendent Presiding Bishop Arthur Douglas Beacham, Jr., welcomed delegates and guests to the 28<sup>th</sup> General Conference. He then led the congregation in singing the hymn, "Holy, Holy, Holy" (Reginald Heber), followed by the reciting of the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer and the reading of the Scriptures from 1 Corinthians 11. Members of the Council of Bishops then distributed the sacraments while the congregation sang "What A Beautiful Name" (Hillsong) and Presiding Bishop Beacham continued the opening celebration by administering the ordinance of Holy Communion as a demonstration of the "Living Lord's Supper" formed on the platform.

Prior to the sacraments being observed, the Chairman posed the question, "Has everyone been served?" Representatives from five continents responded that not everyone had been served.

Following communion, the praise team concluded the worship time with a song of praise, "The Creed" (Hillsong).

#### **Morning Business Session**

Presiding Bishop A. D. Beacham, Jr. welcomed delegates to the opening business session of the 28<sup>th</sup> General Conference and called for the Parliamentarian, Oren Simpson to come to the platform.

Bishop Ray Willis, Superintendent of the SonShine Network Conference, welcomed the delegates to the 28<sup>th</sup> General Conference and to the state of Florida. Bishop Blas Ramirez, Superintendent of Red de Ministerios SonShine, extended his greeting in Spanish.

Rev. Gregory Hearn and Dr. Harold Hunter made a presentation of the first edition of the *Pentecostal Holiness Advocate*, published May 3, 1917, Rev. George Floyd Taylor, editor. Each registered delegate received a copy of the publication in their General Conference bag.

Bishop D. Chris Thompson, Vice Chairman and Executive Director of the Evangelism USA Division, led in prayer and introduced the Chairman of the 28<sup>th</sup> General Conference, Presiding Bishop Dr. Arthur Douglas Beacham, Jr.

The Chairman called the session to order at 10:52 a.m. and proceeded to recognize the following individuals:

**Former General Superintendents:**

Bishop and Mrs. James D. Leggett

Bishop and Mrs. Leon O. Stewart

**Widows of Former General Superintendents:**

Mrs. Esther Underwood, spouse the late Bishop Bernard E. Underwood

Mrs. Nan Carpenter, spouse of the late Bishop Ronald W. Carpenter, Sr.

**Recognized the members of the Former General Executive Board by asking them to stand.**

**Recognized the members of the Former General Board of Administration by asking them to stand.**

**Recognized the Current Members of the Council of Bishops by asking them to stand.**

**Recognized the Current Members of the World Pentecostal Holiness Fellowship by asking them to stand.**

**Recognized Active and Retired Military Chaplains by asking them to stand.**

**Recognized Retired Clergy by asking them to stand.**

Reginald B. McGill, Constituent Services Director, representing the office of the Mayor of the city of Orlando, Florida brought greetings and welcomed delegates to Florida.

The Chairman recognized IPHC affiliates from Chile and Brazil.

Bishop Ray Willis, Chairman of the Decorum Committee, read the report, noting the proposed changes.

Proposed amendment to page 12, line 20: “After adoption of the Decorum Committee Report, and the completion of I.I. line 8 related to the Constitution, the next item of business shall be reading the proposed changes in the Bylaws Committee Report, with Article I – Organizational Structure – General Level being read as soon as possible.” ADOPTED

Proposed amendment to page 14, line 7: “All resolutions from the floor must bear the signatures of the number of delegates equal to the number of the members on the Bylaws Committee.” ADOPTED

Additional committee members include:

Bishop Ray Boggs  
Bishop Stuart Sherrill  
Bishop Brad Reynolds  
Bishop David Moore

The Chairman established the Bar and asked all registered and voting delegates to move within those perimeters.

W. Terry Fowler, conference coordinator, advised the delegates regarding the use of an electronic timer. A representative of the production company gave instructions regarding their use.

Bishop Tom Murray, Chairman of the Delegate Certification Committee, read the report, drawing attention to the proposed changes and the addition of a new paragraph VIII: "That onsite new registrations will be facilitated until the beginning of the afternoon session on the first day of business." ADOPTED

Delegate count for the Wednesday morning session included:

Clergy: 632  
Church: 293  
Retired: 55  
Visitors: 233

Additional committee members include:

Bishop Tim Lamb  
Bishop Adam Villarreal

The State of the Church was presented by video highlighting congregations around the world that are making a difference in their communities.

The Chairman concluded the State of the Church presentation and morning session with prayer.

The morning general session was recessed for lunch at 11:57a.m.