

Excerpt from CGGC Administrative Council Meeting, March 11, 2014

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ed's written report was submitted and he brought to our attention the issue of same-sex marriage. Eastern Region has encouraged individual churches to place a statement in regards to the position of this issue in their constitution and/or by-laws. Included in the packet was a recommendation from the Alliance Defending Freedom organization concerning same-sex marriage language for churches to consider.

The council would like to re-affirm the position previously stated in regards to same-sex marriage which is that marriage, as God established it, is intended to be between one man and one woman. We also encourage pastors and churches to become familiar with the "Reaching Beyond Ourselves" document in regards to this issue which was adopted in 1988. That document is available by contacting the CGGC office. We would also encourage individual churches to include language in individual policy manual, constitution, or by-laws using this language as a model:

"Marriage is a Biblical institution established by God as clearly described in the Scriptures.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Church of God recognizes that marriage is the uniting of one man and one woman in covenant commitment. Accordingly, this church, its pastors and staff will only officiate marriages between one man and one woman."

**IT WAS VOTED** that Ed circulate a statement to regional and church leaders re-affirming the position of the conference regarding same-sex marriage with the recommendation that churches adopt a similar statement for individual churches for their policy manual, constitution or by-laws using suggested wording stated above.