

PENTECOSTAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE WORLD, INC.
ANNUAL CONVENTION: DALLAS, TX

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2008

Bishop Horace E. Smith, M.D., *Presiding Bishop*

SECURING OUR FUTURE:
An Apostolic Manifesto
“Next Steps”

On March 5, 2008, we presented *Securing Our Future: An Apostolic Manifesto*, to the Executive Board in Savannah, GA. This document was adopted by the board in principle, and the Presiding Bishop was empowered to meet with leaders and other constituents across the country to present the document. These regional conclaves were designed to be inclusive, allowing a wide range of our constituents an open format, designed for information, interchange and dialogue.

Beginning in April, regional meetings presenting the Manifesto were held in the following cities: Chicago, IL, St. Louis MO., Atlanta GA., Dallas/Fort Worth TX., Washington D.C., Los Angeles CA., Denver CO., and Columbus OH. The total attendance in these meetings exceeded 5,000 delegates. They were from each strata of our constituency, from Bishops, to Suffragan Bishops, District Elders, Pastors, Ministers, Leaders, and other workers.

The meetings were enlightening and informative as we interacted with each gifted, diverse, and passionate group of Spirit-filled members of the Body of Christ. There was lively and sometimes pointed give-and-take in all of the meetings. Each one was powerful and challenging. At every venue people were excited, appreciative, and the overall climate very positive. Judging by the comments, questions, and responses during and after the meetings, upwards to 80% of the participants were positively inclined to the direction and principles presented. While the meetings were designed to inform the constituency, they helped better assess and understand the hearts and minds of God's Spirit-Filled people. Each comment was recorded and considered. Each concern heard and evaluated. While positive comments predominated, the concern several of those who had reservations had to do with the issue of our doctrine, and not the content of the Manifesto. Others expressed concern regarding the magnitude and scope of the undertaking. Quite a few while excited and hopeful, expressed doubts that any meaningful change would actually take place. A repetitive, almost universal refrain had to do with the need for setting forth God-given vision and clearly demarcated strategic goals and priorities. Another was the need and desire for greater accountability by all in leadership, from top to bottom.

Each category of concern and comment, deserves serious consideration in a diligent and disciplined manner. A framework for proper process and 'next steps,' with an action plan and timelines that are reasonable and achievable is offered:

THE MAJOR AREAS OF FOCUS WERE THESE:

1. Vision and Structure including Board and Auxiliaries
2. Leadership: Discovery, Development and Deployment
3. Finances and Funding: Structure and Control
4. Diocese: Structure and Control
5. International Missions
6. Critical Issues:
 - a. *Women in Ministry*
 - b. *Positions on Family and Sexuality*

OUTLINE OF 'NEXT STEPS'

I.

Ad-Hoc Action Committees, inclusive of all levels of our constituency should be created to focus on the six areas. This is a critical principle that was affirmed by the tremendous enthusiasm, interaction and appreciation demonstrated as each level of ministry was allowed input during the regional conclaves.

THE MAKE-UP OF THE COMMITTEES WOULD BE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Each committee would be assigned a Chairman and Co-Chairman chosen by the Presider. The chairman would be a Bishop. The Co-Chair a leader in good standing.
2. The Chairs along with the Presider and Asst. Presider will form the *Steering Committee- a total of 14 persons.*
3. Each Committee will have a total of five (5) members and two (2) alternates:
 - A. Chair---A Bishop
 - B. Co-Chair---A non-Bishop leader
 - C. Committee members (3)
 - D. Alternate committee members (2) in case any committee members cannot fulfill their responsibilities.

The Chairs will nominate to the Presider with his input the 5 total members including the 2 alternates.

4. Each committee is ultimately responsible to the Presider who has final review of plans to be presented on a regular basis to the Executive Board.
5. Each committee is ad hoc and works within its area of assignment

II.

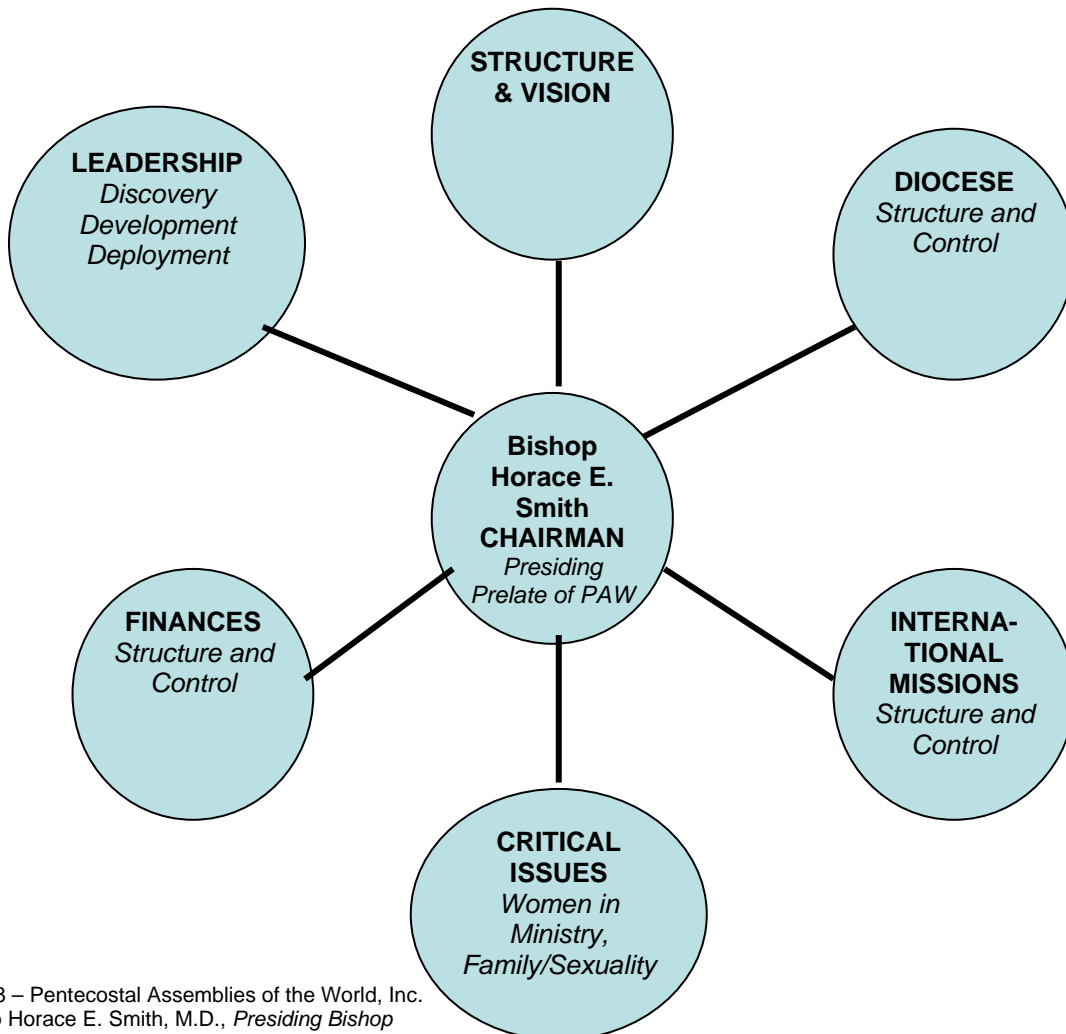
The Presider will convene a One-Day Working Retreat in Chicago at a professional conference center or other suitable venue. (Aug/Sept 08)

The attendees will be the *Steering Committee*, professional consultants and staff and the First Lady of the P.A.W.

The planned Outcomes of this meeting will include the following:

1. Clarity and oneness of vision
2. Clarity of expectations
3. Understanding of the scope of responsibility of each committee.
4. Understanding of overlaps and how the work of one group will affect another
5. Strategic plan of approach for each committee
6. Development of reasonable timelines for work and reporting
7. Report format
8. Other deliverables

THE SCHEMATIC BELOW GIVES A PICTURE OF THE FORMAT OF THESE COMMITTEES:



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

INVOLVEMENT

As the committees are formed and their areas of responsibility determined, it is critical that the entire Executive Board and other leaders give input.

A format will be formally developed and communicated, with proper forms and directions in order to encourage all Executives and other leaders to submit their thoughts and ideas to the committees.

Communication

Regular communication and updates to the Executive board and the P.A.W. constituency is paramount as the work proceeds. Tentative plans call for the first set of formal reports be made to the EBC, with the entire board invited no later than Jan 09. Written updates to the board may begin as early as November 08, depending on the progress of the work.

The Christian Outlook, the internet (P.A.W. website), mailings and other modalities will be used to involve and communicate with the constituency.

LEADERSHIP/OPEN DIOCESES

One purpose of this Manifesto is to assure that we address the issue of producing, promoting and placing the best leaders possible in the highest offices of our organization.

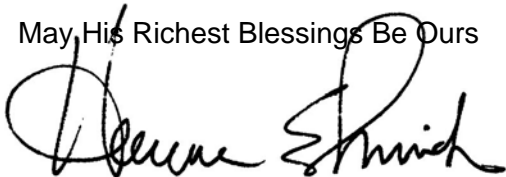
Much of this will come from the Action Committee dealing with this issue. We recommend that unless it is a dire circumstance that just cannot be met in other ways, that we pause our business-as-usual during this time of deliberation.

We should consider the need of each one on a case by case manner, and in certain circumstances await the work of the committee before filling those vacancies.

Adoption of these *NEXT STEPS* will serve as a framework for us to move forward the work of God, with vision, creativity, courage, and flexibility. Although the work is comprehensive, and critical, with the favor and grace of our Great God, it is *FULLY ACHIEVABLE!*

Let us join together as God's People of Vision and Destiny, and fulfill this great work, *Securing Our Future and that of Succeeding Generations!*

May His Richest Blessings Be Ours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Horace E. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "H" and "S".

Horace E. Smith M.D.
Presiding Bishop
Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc.