



CHURCH OF GOD
GENERAL CONFERENCE

CHURCH OF GOD PROGRESS JOURNAL



Atlanta
BIBLE COLLEGE

... when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Acts 8:12

Report of 106th Annual General Conference

Pillars and Pathways was the theme of this summer's annual conference. The theme was based on Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in Yahweh with all your heart, and do not lean upon your own understanding; in all your ways be mindful of Him, and He will make your paths straight." (REV). The sermons and workshops explored the importance of a strong biblical foundation in our personal lives and as a conference of churches. They helped us to realize that upon this foundation, we can build ministries that will move us forward as we seek to follow God and advance his Kingdom. Pastors Rob Laning, Isaac Cain, and Seth Ross presented the evening messages with many others leading workshops.

There were approximately 140 who attended one or more sessions. Thirty-four delegates, five conference delegates, twenty-five pastors, and seven Board members conducted the business of the conference.

The recommendations regarding restrictions on who can serve as a director were not approved. The three changes to the statement of faith in the constitution were approved. (See previous issue of the Progress Journal for the changes that were approved).

An update was given on the relocation plans. See Seth Ross's report on page 2 for more details.

Herb Evans from the McGintytown Church in Arkansas was elected to a four-year term on the Board of Directors replacing retiring board member Talon Paul. Michael Hoffman, moderator of the Ministers Association led the installation ceremony. Following the election, the board selected Joe Myers as chairperson; Alan Cain as vice-chair; Mark Cain as secretary; and Shane Martin as treasurer. Robert Alcumbrack and Marcia Railton, along with newly elected Herb Evans, are the other directors.

The delegates approved a revised budget for 2026-2027 of \$1,321,950 with contributions needed of \$500,000; and two budgets for 2027-2028 depending on whether the Avalon property sale has been accomplished by then. With the Avalon property sold the budget is \$1,220,100. With it not sold, the budget is \$1,436,100. Contributions of \$550,000 will be needed under both scenarios. (See the previous Progress Journal for copies of the budgets which were adopted as printed).

The Ministerial Recognition Board presented plaques to four recently licensed ministers: Mark Cain, John Evans, Jon Kizer, and Wesley Riggs. The Ministers Association moderator, Michael Hoffman recognized Pastors Nathan Massie and Levi Salyers for five years as licensed ministers of the Church of God.

The Atlanta Bible College Development Foundation Board met for its annual meeting during conference. The Foundation reported assets of \$1,998,501.76 as of June 30, 2026. Fifty-five thousand dollars will be distributed to Atlanta Bible College during the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

The college alumni association met and elected Jeffrey Seiders as president and John Evans as vice president. Norma Knapp continues as secretary-treasurer. Outgoing president, Nola Jones presented Distinguished Alumni awards during an evening service to honor Pastor Stephen Bolhous (class of 1969) and deceased 1932 graduate of the Bible Training Class, Harvey U. Krogh, Jr. The association will be adopting a project to assist with the relocation of the library to Ohio.

The Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA graciously hosted the summer conference for the eighth time. Many volunteers made the conference a great success. The 2027 annual conference will be held at the Lawrenceville Church in Springfield, OH August 4-6, 2027. It will be preceded by the 22nd annual Heritage Conference August 3 and 4.

(Members of the Board of Directors l to r: Shane Martin, Bob Alcumbrack, Marcia Railton, Herb Evans, Mark Cain, Joe Myers, and Alan Cain.)



College/Conference Update

OH Property Updates

We are in the process of securing permits to begin work on the new property in Ohio. If you would like to participate in some of the demolition (taking out flooring, walls, etc.) in preparation for the renovations, please contact Alan Cain. Local church members are helping with property maintenance such as mowing, spraying, and trimming. We really appreciate all that have participated.

After a delay, the power to the property has been successfully transferred to us. Photos and paperwork are being secured as part of insuring the property. Beginning planning is underway to add student housing space.

Dedication Day for Ohio Campus

Plans for a fall Dedication Day have been revised. We will dedicate the new campus in conjunction with next summer's General Conference, which will be held in Ohio at Lawrenceville Church of God, August 4-6.

The Disciple Collective – DiscipleCollective.com

The Disciple Collective (TDC) has officially become a part of the Publishing Department. Josiah Cain and Levi Salyers continue to provide excellent leadership, vision, and execution of this ministry. There is an upcoming release for a course on the Kingdom of God. In July, they completed filming for an upcoming course about One God. There are currently 259 users. 38 volunteers have worked on this project. A couple of exciting new launches include: a new micro-course format and a merchandise store. TDC is an excellently-produced, free, and beneficial resource.

Church Builders League – Invitation to Join

Another important program that helps churches is called the Church Builders League. Twice a year (fall and spring) appeals are mailed out to those who wish to receive them. Each appeal is focused on a single church facility project.

It is a way for people in many churches to share the cost of building or repairing the facilities of a new or existing church. Two appeals are sent per year (fall and spring). People are invited to contribute at least \$25 to each appeal, and many choose to give larger amounts to bless others in the name of Jesus Christ. The Church Builders League was organized in 1957 by action of General Conference delegates. Since its inception, Church of God members have raised and given away \$1,740,000 to help churches.

Currently, over 400 people and groups participate in each Church Builders appeal. If you would like to receive appeals when they are released, send an email to info@coggc.org. We'll be happy to send you appeals and keep you in the loop.

Publishing and Marketing Directors

We have several people who joined your General Conference staff and are working part-time to support our ministries. Madison Cain (Director of Publishing) is responsible for producing and publishing content that effectively, professionally, and intentionally spreads truth. This happens through traditional print, but it also includes online content, including video, audio, and written material.

Katelyn Salyers (Director of Marketing) is responsible for developing and executing strategic marketing initiatives to enhance the General Conference's visibility, creating connections, and driving support for its mission. This role oversees the marketing efforts of all COGGC departments, offering support and coordination when possible.

Cayce Fletcher (Content Lead) supports the Marketing Department's mission of producing relevant, educational, and effective resources, content, and communication for both internal (churches, members, pastors, etc.) and external (other Biblical Unitarian groups, individuals outside the COGGC, etc.) audiences. She oversees the creation of articles, assisting in writing and editing digital and printed content, and implementing strategic content and topics based on the organization's needs.

While they each have distinct roles, their work often overlaps. Their work is already being noticed through updated curriculum (Truth Seekers), website updates, email news and newsletters, and new content on our website (see below).

New Online Articles – coggc.org

Cayce Fletcher (Content Lead) is coordinating articles for the Church of God General Conference website (coggc.org). These articles cover topics such as COGGC ministries, core doctrines, and relevant information about our history, small church ministry, and leadership. New articles will be published weekly.

Some Church of God ministers who attended the summer conference



Chairman's Message to the Delegates at the 2026 General Conference Business Session

Good afternoon. My name is Joe Myers, and I'd like to begin by expressing our sincere gratitude to Cornerstone Bible Church for hosting this year's General Conference. There is an incredible amount of work involved in hosting a General Conference—much more than most of us ever see. Long before we arrive, countless hours are spent planning and preparing. Throughout the conference, volunteers work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly. And after we've all returned home, there is still a tremendous amount of work to be done.

This conference simply would not be possible without the sacrificial service, hospitality, and dedication of the members of Cornerstone Bible Church. On behalf of all of us, thank you for your willingness to serve and for making us feel so welcome. We are deeply grateful.

For those of you who may not know me, I am a 1973 graduate of Oregon Bible College, and, since 1972, the grateful husband of Dana Eckerd Myers. Yesterday, Dana and I celebrated our 54th wedding anniversary, along with Steven and Norma Knapp, who also celebrated theirs. Steven and Norma were married at the Oregon Church of God just a few hours before Dana and I exchanged vows at the Dixon Church of God.

We have two wonderful children. Our daughter, Bethany Ligon, completed a four-year term on the Board of Directors two years ago, and our son, Sam, has served as a claims specialist with State Farm for the past fourteen years. Both Bethany and Sam, along with their families, are active members of Lakeshore Bible Church, where Pastor Levi Salyers faithfully serves.

Last year, I shared that Dana and I were the proud grandparents of three grandchildren. I'm delighted to report that our family has grown. This past March, we welcomed our fourth grandchild, Yvette Lorraine Myers, into the family, and we couldn't be more thankful.

Personally, my Christian journey began on July 30, 1970, when I was baptized by Pastor Ed Graham while attending our national youth camp, known then as the Berean Youth Conference and today as FUEL. I was nineteen years old, and I've often said that July 30 is my birthday twice over. I was born physically on that date, and by God's grace, I was born again on that same date nineteen years later.

After graduating from Oregon Bible College in 1973, the Lord gave me the privilege of pastoring churches in Lakewood, Colorado; Little Rock, Arkansas; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Tempe, Arizona; and McDonough, Georgia. It was especially an honor to serve here in McDonough from 2007 to 2012 and to have the opportunity to stand before you again today.

This marks my eleventh year of serving on the General Conference Board of Directors, including the past seven years as chairman. Lord willing, I will complete my twelfth and what I anticipate will be my final year of service at the conclusion of General Conference 2027.

Serving the Church of God in this capacity has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. I love this General Confer-

ence. I love the biblical truth for which we stand, and I love the church family that makes up this organization. It has been an honor to serve alongside so many faithful men and women, and I remain grateful for the opportunity God has given me.



Because I care so deeply about this conference and its future, I'd like to take a few moments to update you on the relocation effort that you entrusted to the Board one year ago. Twelve months ago, I stood before this assembly and shared the Board's recommendation that we relocate the Conference headquarters and Bible College to a more centralized location in Ohio. The advantages and challenges of that proposal were carefully discussed and thoughtfully debated. At the conclusion of our business session, the delegates overwhelmingly affirmed that it was in the best interest of both the conference and the college to begin the relocation process, with the goal of completing the move as promptly as possible while exercising wisdom and good stewardship.

At that time, we had no specific property or address to announce. We simply believed that the Lord was leading us to central Ohio. While that understandably caused some concern, we also believed that, in His time, God would make clear where He wanted us to establish our new home.

We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Pastor Alan Cain, who tirelessly searched for potential properties. He spent countless hours making phone calls, meeting with property owners, visiting sites, and evaluating possibilities in an effort to find the best location for both the conference and the college. Additional visits by members of the Board, Executive Director Seth Ross, and Academic Dean Dr. Michael Cisler ultimately led us to the purchase of ten acres of land in North Hampton, Ohio, for \$200,000.

And, Michael, congratulations on earning your doctoral degree this past December. We're grateful for your accomplishment and your continued leadership.

At that point, we thought our mission was accomplished. Or, so we believed. As we continued our planning, however, we discovered that what we had hoped would be a \$1.5 to \$2 million construction project would actually cost substantially more than anticipated. We owned ten acres of land, but we simply did not have the financial resources necessary to build the facilities we envisioned.

To be honest, the Board experienced a season of disappointment and uncertainty. We still believed Ohio was where God was leading us. We still desired to begin operations there in late summer or early fall of 2027. But we had no building in which to begin. Yet through it all, one truth remained unchanged: God is faithful. In fact, would you say that with me? "God is faithful."

What initially seemed like disappointment soon became an unexpected blessing. A property became available that included a church facility, classrooms, office space, a residence, and a gymnasium—all situated on five acres. It met nearly every requirement we had originally established, except for one: it included five acres instead of the ten we had hoped for.

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Then, once again, God demonstrated His faithfulness. The five acres immediately adjacent to the property also became available. That parcel included another home and a storage building. Together, the two properties provided everything we had been seeking.

And here's the exciting part. The combined purchase price for both properties was less than \$1.5 million. God has been so very good. By His grace, and should the Lord tarry, we anticipate conducting General Conference and Bible College ministries at 2404 Troy Road, Springfield, Ohio, beginning in the fall of 2027.

And let me be the first to invite every one of you to General Conference 2027. The conference sessions will be hosted by the Lawrenceville Church of God, but we'll also have the opportunity to visit our new campus together. I truly believe it will be a historic and exciting conference, one you won't want to miss.

That leaves one obvious question: What about the original ten acres of land we purchased in North Hampton for \$200,000? Were we wrong to purchase that property? Our answer is "no."

We remain convinced that the Lord directed the Board to purchase that land. The only thing that changed was our understanding of why He led us there. We believed it would become the site of our new campus. Today, we recognize that God may have had a different purpose in mind.

At this point, we do not yet know what that purpose is. We continue to pray for wisdom and seek the Lord's direction. Whether He leads us to sell the property in the near future, hold it for a season, or retain it for future General Conference ministry, we are confident that He will make His will clear in His perfect time.

We are also mindful of the financial resources needed to complete this relocation. As we continue to seek God's direction regarding the North Hampton property, we are equally committed to exercising wise stewardship with every resource He has entrusted to us.

That brings me to our Pillars & Pathways initiative. The financial generosity of our conference churches and individuals has always been essential to the ministry of the General Conference and Bible College. Quite simply, without the faithful support of God's people, these ministries would not exist.

Pillars & Pathways was developed with two distinct purposes. The first is Pillars, our short-term initiative designed to help fund the relocation and renovation of our new Ohio campus. While the General Conference owns valuable assets in Georgia, every dollar given to Pillars allows us to preserve the proceeds from the eventual sale of those properties to strengthen the long-term ministry and financial health of the General Conference and the College. This will be done by investing a portion of the sold assets. It will enable us to replace the current income generated by the leasing of offices in our 2020 Avalon building. This is essential in order to meet our current and future annual budget needs for ministry.

The second is Pathways, our long-term initiative to sustain and expand the ministries of the General Conference for future generations. As a Board, we recognize that much of

our financial support has faithfully come from individuals and families who have loved and supported this conference for decades. For that faithfulness, we are profoundly grateful.

At the same time, we believe this is an important opportunity for the next generation to carry that legacy forward. Those who have benefited from the ministry of the conference now have the privilege of helping ensure that these ministries remain strong for those who follow.

Our goal through the Pathways initiative is to enlist 1,000 new faithful monthly partners. Imagine what could happen if 1,000 new donors committed to giving just \$10, or even \$25, per month. Together, that would provide an additional \$100,000 - \$300,000 each year to support not only the ongoing ministries of the General Conference and Bible College, but to allow us to do even more ministries in an ever-expanding way.

When you think about it, \$25 a month is often less than the cost of taking your family out for dinner at Chipotle or Taco Bell. Yet when hundreds, and eventually a thousand people, join together in faithful giving, the impact can be extraordinary. I would simply ask that you prayerfully consider becoming one of those partners. Together, we can do far more than any one of us could ever accomplish alone, and together we can help ensure that the ministries of this conference continue to flourish for generations to come.

As exciting as our relocation efforts are, they represent only one part of what God is doing through the General Conference. Every day, faithful men and women are serving in ministries that are advancing the gospel, strengthening our churches, and impacting lives both here at home and around the world.

One of those ministries is North American Missions (NAM). Thanks to the leadership of outgoing Board member Talon Paul, this ministry continues to grow and make significant strides. We are seeing increasing interest from churches that desire to affiliate with the General Conference, and we are grateful for Talon's vision, leadership, and faithful service.

Our international ministry continues to thrive under the leadership of Annette Osborne and the dedicated team at Lord's Harvest International. Through their efforts, lives are being changed around the world as they faithfully oversee our mission work and partner with believers across the globe.

Our Publications Department has also experienced tremendous growth. Madison Cain and Katelyn Salyers have worked diligently to strengthen and professionalize this ministry, helping us communicate our message more effectively both within the conference and beyond. Their creativity and dedication are making a lasting impact.

We are also thankful for the faithful ministries of Steve and Young An and Sam and Sarah An, who continue to preach and teach God's Word with conviction and compassion. Likewise, we thank our Korean brothers and sisters for their faithful partnership in the work of the gospel and for the many ways they strengthen our conference family.

Congratulations as well to Josiah Cain, Levi Salyers, and their talented team for the outstanding work being done through The Disciple Collective. The videos and digital re-

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sources they are producing are reaching audiences far beyond our conference, introducing people to biblical truth and prayerfully leading many to place their faith in Christ.

Another ministry for which we are especially thankful is Turning Point Youth Ministries, which continues to make a profound impact in the lives of our teenagers and young adults.

This year, my home church had the privilege of sending four teenagers and two adult sponsors to FUEL. One of those adults, Santiago, was so deeply impacted by what God did in his life during that week that when he returned home, he gave his two-week notice at work. He is now preparing to leave Arizona and relocate to Atlanta to become a full-time student at the Bible College.

Stories like Santiago's remind us why these ministries matter. Whether through FUEL, reFUEL, the Young Adult Retreat, Indiana Family Camp, or the many other youth events held throughout the year, young people are being challenged to live lives worthy of the calling they have received. We thank God for the faithful leaders, volunteers, and churches who invest so faithfully in the next generation.

And let me not forget Christian Workers Seminar, held annually in Tennessee. For decades, this treasured retreat has encouraged pastors, church leaders, and lay members alike through biblical teaching, meaningful fellowship, and spiritual renewal. It continues to strengthen those who faithfully serve Christ and remains an important ministry of our conference.

Of course, these are only a few examples of the many ministries the Church of God General Conference supports. I hope they remind us that our conference is about far more than meetings, budgets, or even buildings. It is about people whose lives are being changed, churches that are being strengthened, leaders who are being equipped, and the gospel being proclaimed. That is why we gather each year to seek God's direction, encourage one another, and faithfully support this work through our prayers, our service, and our generosity, trusting God to continue using this conference for His glory in the years ahead.

Board member Robert Alcumbrack has often reminded the rest of us that we cannot become so focused on relocation that we neglect the many other ministries of the General Conference. As Robert likes to say, "We need to be able to walk and chew gum at the same time." He's exactly right. While relocating our headquarters and college is important, it is only one part of our mission. We must continue investing in the ministries that God has already entrusted to us while also looking for new opportunities to expand our reach and influence for His Kingdom.

As we celebrate what God is doing through our Conference ministries, we must also recognize the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. We cannot afford to stand still. The world around us is changing rapidly, and we must continue to seek new and effective ways to share the unchanging truth of God's Word.

One of those opportunities is the responsible and intentional use of digital media. We must continue learning how to use social media and other communication platforms to reach people we might never have the opportunity to meet

in person. These tools are not the mission, but they can be powerful instruments for advancing the mission.

We must also continue encouraging and challenging young men and women who are seeking a life of purpose to consider Bible college and the call to Christian ministry. Scripture instructs us to pray that the Lord of the harvest will send laborers into His harvest field. That prayer is just as urgent today as it has ever been.

While enrollment in our Korean Extension continues to be encouraging, we are experiencing a significant need for students on our main campus. Many of our pastors have served faithfully for decades and are approaching retirement. At the same time, too many of our conference churches are searching for pastors to shepherd their congregations.

We certainly hope that relocating to Ohio will make Bible college more accessible to prospective students and encourage greater enrollment. However, we would be naive to believe that relocation alone will solve our challenges. Buildings do not prepare ministers - God does. Our responsibility is to create an environment where those whom God is calling can be equipped, encouraged, and sent into His harvest.

So, let us continue to pray, not only for students to enroll, but for God to raise up pastors, missionaries, teachers, evangelists, and faithful servants who will carry the gospel to the next generation. The harvest is still plentiful, and the need for laborers is as great as ever. May we be faithful in praying, preparing, and sending those whom God calls.

Over the course of the next two days, you will be asked to make several important decisions that will help shape the future of our conference.

This year, we will be electing one member to the Board of Directors. Because our Board consists of seven members serving staggered four-year terms, every fourth year we elect only one director. We are grateful to Larry Bolhous of the Oregon Church of God and Herb Evans of the McGinty-town Church of God for their willingness to allow their names to be placed in nomination. Both men are highly qualified, and we appreciate their willingness to serve should they be elected.

You will also be asked to review and approve the proposed annual budget. Once again, I want to express our sincere appreciation to Denise Cramer for the countless hours she has invested in preparing this year's financial reports and budget documents.

In addition, four proposed constitutional amendments will be presented for your consideration. If you are a voting delegate and have not already done so, I encourage you to read each proposal carefully, discuss them thoughtfully with others, and prayerfully consider how you will vote.

Before I conclude, I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the staff of the General Conference and Bible College. Much of what is accomplished throughout the year happens quietly, behind the scenes, and often without public recognition. Your dedication, professionalism, and servant-hearted spirit are deeply appreciated.

This year marks a season of transition for several members of our staff. Robert Jones and his wife, Nola, will be

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Entering retirement and remaining in Georgia. We thank them for their faithful years of service and pray that God richly blesses this new chapter of their lives.

Denise Cramer will continue serving the conference remotely from Georgia, and we are grateful for her willingness to continue sharing her gifts and experience.

David and Lynne Krogh will also remain in Georgia. David will continue serving the conference in a role that is still being finalized, and we appreciate his continued commitment during this time of transition.

Our Executive Director, Seth Ross, and Academic Dean, Dr. Michael Cisler, will continue faithfully leading in their respective roles, and we are pleased to welcome Pastor Jake Ballard to the Bible College staff as we prepare for the relocation to Ohio.

cation to Ohio.

To every staff member, Board member, pastor, volunteer, donor, church, and individual who faithfully supports the ministry of this conference - thank you. Your service, your prayers, and your generosity make this work possible.

There is still a great deal of work ahead of us. Relocating our conference and college will require prayer, sacrifice, patience, and cooperation from all of us. But I believe the Lord has faithfully led us to this point, and I am confident He will continue to lead us in the days ahead.

So, let's roll up our sleeves and get to work. Together, by God's grace, we will continue proclaiming His truth, equipping His people, and serving His Kingdom until the Lord returns.

Minutes of the 106th Annual Church of God General Conference Delegate Business Meeting August 6-7, 2026 Cornerstone Bible Church of God McDonough, Georgia

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Myers. Opened with prayer by J. J. Fletcher.

Chairman recognized new delegates, as well as long-time delegates. David Krogh is at his 81st consecutive General Conference! Joe recognized the new pastors.

Chairman Joe Myers shared his address to the delegates. Joe thanked the Cornerstone Church for hosting. Joe gave an update on the new property and future move. He gave the history of the property search. Our purchase of 10 acres in North Hampton Ohio. We soon realized we could not afford to build new. God opened the door to purchase a property at 2404 Troy Road. This property has a church, a home, and gymnasium. We bought the property next door as well with a house, great green space, and a new equipment building. Joe addressed our new initiative of Pillars & Pathways. Pillars, to raise money for relocation and remodeling. Pathways, to gain new long time givers to the General Conference. Joe shared multiple ministries that continue to grow, become more professional as well as reach new people for the Kingdom.

Seth Ross and Shane Martin explained in more depth how this will work. Pillars goal is to raise \$500,000 (by August 2027) to help with the relocation. Seth and Shane explained the two fund system that the board has put in place. A low-risk bucket that has three years expenses (\$180k). The remainder of the sale will be in a higher yield to refill the low-risk bucket. Seth shared that Pathways has a goal to engage new givers to sustain for the future.

Melinda Cisler gave her report on the number of church delegates (33), pastors (25), board members (7) and conference delegates (4) with 69 total.

Financial reports were shared by Shane Martin and Seth Ross. For 2025-2026, \$87,00 more was spent than was received. Though giving was down, expenses were also down because departments operated efficiently.

ABCKE report by Steve An. 25 students in 2026 with three graduates. Sam and Sarah traveled to South Korea with Steve and Young An this year to encourage the work in that country. There is some persecution in South Korea. Pastor Steve An shared about various pastors and their work in South Korea.

Board of director nominees names were put into nomination. Larry Bolhous by Michael Hoffman on behalf of the Oregon Church of God and Herb Evans by Rodney Leggett on behalf of the McGintytown Church of God. A motion to close the nomination was made by J. J. Fletcher and seconded by Paul Newell. Motion passed

Larry Bolhous spoke a few minutes about why he wants to be a board director. He wants to serve the church by being a board member. Shared his transition to our faith.

Herb Evans shared his motivation to be a board member. Herb also shared his transition to the COG. He desires an opportunity to serve if the delegates want that.

Presentation of the revised proposed budget for 2026-2027.

Presentation of the proposed budget for 2027-2028. This budget has two columns based on whether or not we sell the Avalon building.

Gary Burnham presented a couple resources available from Spirit and Truth. 1. The REV translation. 2. The Restoration Commentary.

Constitutional proposals were presented: The vote will be on Friday on these constitutional amendments. Ron Macy moved that we accept this proposal, seconded by Nancy Vadnais. Discussion ensued.

Proposal 1 The Bethel Church of God (Pelzer, SC) proposes adding the following sections 9-11 to Article IV of the Church of God General Conference constitution. (Existing sections 1-8 deal with the election of officers for the board, qualifications of directors, how nominations and (continued on voting is handled, the length of term, and how to handle vacancies).

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Article IV Officers of the Conference EXISTING (Sections 1-8)

Section 1. Seven directors shall be elected in General Conference delegate sessions; said directors shall constitute the Board of Directors of the College/Conference. The Board of Directors shall organize by the election of necessary officers at the first meeting following each annual Conference election. These officers shall be a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, and treasurer, and three board members. The term of office of a director shall begin at the close of the Conference in which said director is elected.

Section 2. No elected director shall be a paid employee of the College/Conference for a period longer than two months in any one year.

Section 3. The qualifications of each director shall be those given in 1 Timothy 3, Titus 1, and such other scriptures as teach the qualifications of church leaders. A director may be either male or female.

Section 4. Nominations for the Board of Directors of the College/Conference may be submitted by: State or District Conference Boards of the Church of God; Churches that are members of the General Conference; Ministerial Association of the Church of God, General Conference. Name(s) of nominees and resumes will be submitted to the Executive Director of Atlanta Bible College/General Conference at least three months before the meeting, and will be published by the most effective means of general communications at least one month before the meeting.

Section 5. Nominations printed in the Progress Journal will be brought to the floor of the business session by the Chairman at least one day before the day set for the election. Additional nominations will be received from the floor if, and only if, there are fewer than the required minimum number of nominations, which is one more nomination than the number of open positions. Nominations shall not be closed with fewer than one more nomination than the number of open positions.

Section 6. Voting shall be done by ballot, and no nominee shall be elected unless the nominee receives a majority of the votes cast. The total list of all nominees shall be submitted to the delegates for election. If no majority is reached in the first balloting, the list of nominees shall be reduced to the three receiving the highest number of votes. When no majority is reached with the list of three nominees, the one receiving the fewest votes shall be removed from the list. Of the two remaining nominees, the one receiving the majority of votes is elected. If other di-

rectors are to be elected, all names, except the one(s) previously elected, shall be resubmitted, and the same election process repeated until all positions are filled.

Section 7. The term of office for all College/Conference directors shall be for four years. No director shall succeed himself for a second term.

Section 8. Any director who may become inactive through sickness, resignation, prolonged absence, or death shall be replaced for the unexpired term by election at the next annual conference. Temporary appointment of such directors may be made by the Board of Directors.

Proposed Additional Sections:

Section 9. No candidate for director or elected director shall have a close relative (spouse, child, parent, sibling) as a paid employee of the college/conference.

Section 10. No candidate for director shall have a close relative (spouse, child, parent, sibling) already on the Board of Directors.

Section 11. No candidate for director shall have a person from their home congregation already on the Board of Directors.

Explanation: The purpose of the proposed new section 9 is to avoid the appearance of impropriety between the Board of Directors and the paid employees of the college/conference. If the Board of Directors found it necessary to review an employee's conduct and needed to consider the dismissal of the employee, a close relative may not be able to make an unbiased decision.

The purpose of the proposed new section 10 is to avoid the appearance of impropriety among the members of the Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors who are close relatives may be perceived as a voting bloc that could pressure the decisions of the other members.

The purpose of the proposed new section 11 is to avoid the appearance of impropriety among the members of the Board of Directors. Members of the Board of Directors who are from the same congregation may be perceived as a voting bloc that could pressure the decisions of the other members.

Comments on the proposal:

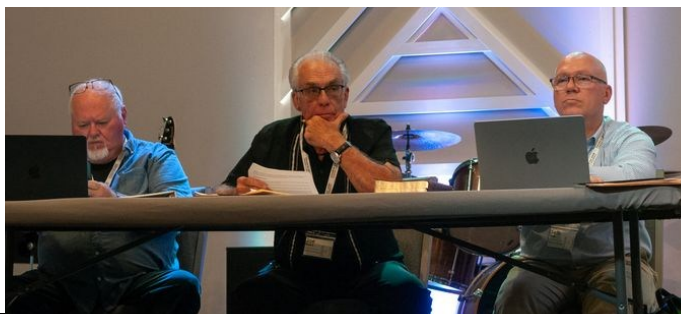
It was suggested that #9 may not be necessary because a family member could be recused. Ron Macy feels that it would be better to have it in writing to have them step aside. Some feel we don't have enough running at this time to make this work.

Comments made about how this would effect the current board. Ron feels this board would be grandfathered in and all future boards would be under this possible new rule.

There is concern that there are a lot more relationships besides the one listed in the proposal. In-laws etc. A comment that issues could be handled administratively rather than changing the constitution.

There are already conflict of interest documents for the board of directors.

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A motion was made by Nathan Massie and seconded by Michael Hoffman to accept proposal 2. Discussion ensued.

Proposal 2 After consideration by the Church of God Ministerial Association at its meeting in March, the Board of Directors proposes the following changes to the Statement of Faith.

Recommended Change #1

It is proposed to revise the wording of point A. GOD

Current: We believe that only one person is God, and that He is a literal corporeal being—almighty, eternal, immortal, and the Creator of all things.

Proposed: We believe that there is only one God, the Father alone, who is almighty, eternal, immortal, and the creator of all things.

Explanation: Remove the phrase, “a literal corporeal being,” because of the confusion caused by the word “corporeal.” Some believe the word “corporeal” recognizes God’s physical appearance in Scriptures and also allows for Him to exist as spirit. Others believe the word inhibits God’s ability to appear as spirit and contradicts the Scriptures’ assertion that God is also spirit. The inclusion of “corporeal” is unnecessarily divisive and does not add anything to the Statement of Faith that is fundamentally consequential.

It was shared that the pastors discussed all of these changes to the statement of faith at their last meeting. The MRB asked the MALT and Ministerial Association to address these issues.

Corporeal was added in 1960. It was suggested that a waiver be offered to pastors who have issues with the word. It was mentioned that corporeality means today that God is only physical and not spiritual, which is an issue as well. It was moved by Curt Rowden and Jake Ballard seconded that proposal 3 be accepted.

Proposal 3 It is proposed to revise the wording of point B. JESUS CHRIST

Current: “We believe that Jesus Christ, born of the virgin Mary, is the sinless and only begotten Son of God. He existed only from his birth.”

Proposed: “We believe that Jesus Christ is the sinless and only begotten Son of God, who came into existence at his conception by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary.”

Explanation: Including “existed only from his birth” denies his existence as a person within the womb of Mary. Recognizing his existence from conception is consistent with our understanding of human life both scientifically and scripturally, since God knows us in the womb. J.J. Fletcher moved and Amber Ballard seconded that we accept proposal 4.

Proposal 4 Proposed revisions to point G. THE CHURCH OF GOD

Current: “G. THE CHURCH OF GOD. We believe that the Church of God is the scriptural name for that body of people who have been called out from among all nations through obedience to the gospel plan of salvation. Christ is

the head of the Church, and the nature, work, and government of the Church are set forth in the New Testament.

Proposed Change: “G. THE CHURCH. We believe that the Church is the body of people who have been called out by God from among all the nations through obedience to the gospel plan of salvation. Christ is the head of the Church, and the nature, work, and government of the Church are set forth in the New Testament.

Explanation: This change broadens the reference to the church so that it is not limited to our organization, the Church of God. It acknowledges that God is working through the church established by Jesus, rather than identifying that work exclusively with our denomination. It was shared that it is important to let people know that we follow God and felt we should leave the name the same. Church is capitalized, and it was felt it shouldn’t be. Also that Jesus be added before the name Christ.

The church was called the Church of Christ, so Church of God was not the only name, and that’s what we’re trying to preclude.

It was mentioned that a delegate here came from a church that thought they were the only avenue and changing this will help others understand we are not saying we as the Church of God are the only church.

Alan Cain read the minutes. Michael Hoffman made the motion to adjourn, and J. J. Fletcher seconded. Joe Myers closed in prayer

Friday, August 7, 2026

Meeting was called to order by Joe Myers. Opening prayer was by Rob Laning

Joe Myers read a card from Joey Rohrer thanking everyone for the prayers and support following her wreck at last year’s General Conference in Kokomo, Indiana.

Melinda Cisler gave the delegate count of seven board members, 34 churches, five conferences, and 25 pastors = 71 delegates. Election of the board of director. During counting Seth Ross presented a plaque to retiring board member to Talon Paul.

The revised budget for 2026-2027 is up for discussion. A motion was made by J.J. Fletcher and seconded by Randy Overmyer to accept the budget. Motion passed.

The revised budget for 2027-2028. A motion was made by Carolyn Smead and seconded by Anne Fischhaber to accept the budget. Motion passed.

Herb Evans has been elected as the new Board of Director by a majority vote.

Madison Cain gave her report on the publishing department. Madison thanked the writers of the Truth Seekers material. She shared about the Progress Journal. Madison shared about the RESTITUTION HERALD. We are all encouraged to sign up to receive these periodicals. The Disciple Collective was explained, and we were encouraged to get involved. The Disciple Collective thanks the constituents for their support. A new ministry is being launched by the

(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8)

marketing department with articles on leadership and ministry.

Voting was begun on Constitutional Amendment #1 (see above). Yes vote means I want to change the constitution, no means you want to keep it as it is. A constitutional change requires a 2/3 majority to pass.

Annette Osborn shared an LHI report. They support translation help and training to help ministries overseas to become self-sufficient. Sarah Johnson and Moriah Railton will begin schooling on foreign missions.

Annette read a letter from Mozambique. LHI will send out monthly newsletters. You can sign up to receive these through the QR code in the packet.

Joe Myers expressed excitement over the young leaders taking over so many ministries. Proposal #1 was defeated by a 2/3 majority. 57 no, 14 yes

Proposal #2 will now be voted on. Again this takes a 2/3 majority vote to change. (2/3 is 46)

Michael Cisler gave the ABC report. Michael shared about trips the students made to our churches out west, and how amazing it was. Michael shared that the stewardship of the scholarship funds have made it possible to provide free tuition and housing for COG students. John Evans spoke for a few minutes about his transition from secular college to ABC. John shared how wonderful of an experience it was to be part of Atlanta Bible College. Michael shared ABC4U. It was shared that there are numerous opportunities for life-long learners. Jake Ballard will be the new professor at ABC and pursuing a doctorate. Scott Deane will become an onsite adjunct professor when we move to Ohio. The Fletcher family was thanked for the setting up a

fund to help with higher education for our pastors. Thanks was given to the Fletchers for the donation of Jeff's library.

Proposal 2 has passed 59 yes to 12 no for a 2/3 majority. Proposal #3 (see above) was voted on.

Talon Paul gave the North American Missions report. Talon shared that we are receiving requests regularly wanting to be a part of our ministry, and we haven't even advertised yet. Talon shared the board of NAM. Talon Paul, John Truitt, Mickey Holmes, Mark Cain.

Proposal #3 passed with a 2/3 majority. 66 yes to 5 no. Proposal #4 (see above) will now be voted on.

Seth Ross shared that next year we will be following our constitution regarding delegates. Article 2 of our COG constitution was read in part regarding delegate rules. One delegate for every 50 people or portion therefore. Each church is also required to give a contribution to the GC if you to send delegates. If we do not like that, then we need to amend the constitution. We also need each church needs to send a roster. A question of what information is needed on the roster. Names and addresses is the answer. Addresses will be protected, but our information is on the cloud in the Blackbaud system, which is very secure.

Proposal #4 has passed with 49 yes, 21 no. (70 voting 2/3 majority being 46)

Floor opened for new business.

2027 General Conference will be at Lawrenceville Ohio.

Alan Cain read the minutes. Russ Magaw moved and Jeffrey Seiders seconded that the minutes be accepted. Rachel Newell moved and Amber Ballard seconded that we be adjourned. Joe Myers closed in prayer.

Pastors Needed

Hammond, LA

New Beginnings is seeking a pastor to serve its congregation. Please contact Eliska Fauntleroy 985-320-9067 or Carola Landry 225-275-9202, carola.r.landry@gmail.com.

South Bend, IN

With our beloved pastor scheduled to move to Ohio to teach at the new Bible college campus, Timberland Bible Church is prayerfully seeking a new full-time pastor to begin serving in mid-2027.

We are a warm and dedicated congregation of believers who are committed to faithfully serving the Lord, growing together in Christ, and reaching our community with the gospel. We are excited about what God has in store for Timberland and look forward to welcoming a pastor who will join us in that mission.

If you are a pastor who desires to serve alongside a committed congregation and believes God may be leading you to Timberland Bible Church, we would love to hear from you.

For questions or to express interest in the pastoral position, please contact Jon Cheatwood at 678-357-7693 or joncheatwood@gmail.com.

Blanchard, MI

The Blanchard Church of God is pleased to announce that we have grown enough to seek the services of a pastor. We are a rural church with a multi-generational congregation. We are looking for an individual who has a passion to reach the lost of our communities. Our pastor would need to live within the community. Interested parties should contact Elder Tom Siderius at: sidtom@gmail.com.

Rockford, MI

North Kent Bible Church is seeking a Christ-centered and team-oriented associate pastor. This role is designed for a relational, dynamic leader who shares in shepherding, teaching, vision-casting, and organizational leadership. For additional information about key responsibilities, qualifications, and compensation, please see the previous issue of the Progress Journal or contact the North Kent Church. For those interested in pursuing this position, please send a resume and cover letter highlighting your interest in the job, relevant skills, experience, and motivation for applying to northkentbiblechurch.com.



Lord's Harvest
INTERNATIONAL

Annette Osborn, Coordinator
lhianne@gmail.com

There has been a lot of activity in our African churches recently. Each region has held at least one conference. Women's conferences have been especially encouraging because it shows the vital place women hold in ministry.

There have been dozens of baptisms. These new believers are mentored both before and after immersion, to firmly ground them in faith. Pastor Pacific in SW Uganda wrote a baptism teaching manual, which we plan to make available to other regions.

You have supported translation and printing of COG material. Through your generosity we have been able to send commentaries and Bibles.

Michael Cisler will again offer ABC4U Bible Basics to our pastors. This time it will audio only to reduce the air time needed.

We continue to assist with food, seeds and fertilizer in all areas and praise God the ebola and cholera outbreaks did not affect our churches.



This fall board members Moriah Railton and Sarah Johnson will begin their Master's Degrees in Missions at Fuller Theological Seminary. A legacy gift from Warren & Irene Sorenson made this possible.

After many years of service, Rebekah Martin is retiring from the board. She will continue to be a valuable resource and mentor. We are pleased to have Leslie Jones from Tennessee join us.

Should Jesus tarry, we are putting plans in place for a trip to Malawi in 2027.

Please reach out to any of our board members with questions or concerns. Thank you for blessing the work with your prayers and donations.



Atlanta
BIBLE COLLEGE



Atlanta Bible College Report
Dr. Michael Cisler
Academic Dean

The fall semester at Atlanta Bible College is well underway. We have nine enrolled this semester, with four Church of God students living in our campus housing.

Meet Santiago Ferrales Rodriguez. I asked Santiago to tell us about himself, and he responded, "Greetings! My name is Santiago, and I'm a 23-year-old born in Sonora, Mexico, and raised in Phoenix, AZ. My home church is Lakeshore Bible Church in Tempe, AZ. I had an encounter with God during my time as a member of a musical band, which ultimately led me to Christ. I have a deep passion for God's Word and a desire to reach as many people as God would have me reach throughout my lifetime." In response to what drew him to ABC, Santiago said, "A desire to 'drop my net' and follow Jesus and become a fisher of men (Matthew 4:19) was the driving force

behind my decision to attend Atlanta Bible College. I knew that in order to be an effective preacher and teacher of God's Word, I needed to develop a deeper understanding of His Word and be well-equipped to serve others and help them grow. Atlanta Bible College has already provided me with so much wisdom, vision, and meaningful connections in just my first week here." Finally, to answer the question of what he is hoping to receive from his time at ABC, he answered, "I am looking forward to receiving a foundational understanding of God's Word that will stay with me for the rest of my life. I'm also looking forward to growing in character, deepening my relationship with God, strengthening my evangelistic efforts, and prayerfully discerning God's will for where He desires to plant me and have me serve. I deeply appreciate the ABC staff and all of their support, and I'm beyond grateful for the help they have already provided me as a new Bible college student."

Please continue to pray for the ministry of Atlanta Bible College as we provide education and ministry preparation for men and women to serve in churches and ministries worldwide that are spreading biblical truth of the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your financial support of the past and future.



Atlanta Bible College Korean Extension Report



Steve An
Vice President ABC
Korean Extension

We are about to begin the Fall 2026 semester. So far, four new students have enrolled, and we are still waiting for returning students to register. We will offer six Bible, three Ministry, and three General Education classes, taught by five dedicated instructors.

The previous Progress Journal reported on our Korean mission trip, covering activities with Sam, Sarah, Young, and Steve as we visited the local churches led by Korean Extension graduates. This edition covers the latter part of our trip, focusing on our visit to Sejong Church, led by Pastor Saehyun Lee, who graduated in 2017. Pictured below is the Sejong Church: with Pastor Lee (back row, left), Steve, Young, Sarah, Caylee, Sam (front row).



Pastor Saehyun Lee enrolled in 2008 when we were at the Morrow Campus. He later returned home and served his military duty for two and a half years as an assistant chaplain. At his invitation, I visited his military base and preached the biblical truth. Following an honorable discharge, he resumed his studies and graduated in 2017.

Since then, he served as an assistant pastor with the Jeonju City Young Christian Coalition, an association consisting of the youth groups of several local churches. He invited me to their summer Bible study, where I spent about three hours introducing biblical truth.

Afterward, he was hired as an assistant pastor to lead the youth group at Sejong Presbyterian Church in Sejong City, about 80 miles south of Seoul. Although the church was affiliated with the Presbyterian denomination, he taught the youth what he had learned in the Korean Extension classrooms. After

visiting the church twice in the past few years, I realized that the young members deeply respected Pastor Lee and readily embraced biblical truth. They were thrilled to meet Sam and Sarah, who had mentored and cared for their beloved pastor during his college years.



When we visited the church on June 7, as shown in the picture at the bottom of this page, he told me the senior pastor forced him to resign and that his position would expire on June 28. However, he was subsequently hired as an assistant pastor to lead the youth group at Gunsan Joongbu Presbyterian Church in Gunsan City, about 70 miles southwest of the previous church. He will start leading the youth group service on July 5, and he said he will preach the same Bible truth at the new church as he did at the previous one. After we left Korea on June 12, he sent us a picture of his first service, as shown at the bottom of the page. He reminded me of the "Trojan Horse" from Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.

"Repent! For the Kingdom of God is near!" Through the KE classrooms, he learned that a Christ-like mission strategy focuses on finding Christians whose hearts are open to re-

pentance and receptive to biblical truth, rather than merely seeking out those whose beliefs already match ours.

We will continue to visit and encourage him, praying that God strengthens him spiritually and that he can evangelize both the youth and adult congregations, including the senior pastor.



Good News from COG-Land



From the **Minnesota Church of God Conference** – The following were elected to positions on the executive board: **Jeff Moore**, vice president; **Rachel Karl**, secretary; **Ione Veirzba**, president of the MN Mission Board. Webmaster was added as a new position on the board, and **Vivian P. Kirkpatrick** is the webmaster.

From the **Ripley Church of God in Mount Sterling, IL** – For Sharing

Sunday, **David Dyer** performed two beautiful songs, and **Kristi Laning**, **Peggy Jo Dyer**, and **Linda Brown** all shared a reading and special thoughts. **Pastor Rob Laning** has blessed the church with solos “The Rock That Is Higher Than I” and “Take Up Thy Cross,” and David played his guitar and sang “Fill My Cup, Lord” during services in May.

From the **Oregon Church of God in Oregon, IL** – **Tim Porter** has made available several bicycles that he has repaired. Eighteen people from the UP Project came to Oregon. These people came from churches in South Bend, IN, and Pelzer, SC. They worked at two church facilities, six homes, the Veterans Memorial on the courthouse lawn, The Village of Progress, and the Oregon Fire Department. They prepared and packaged nearly 200 freezer meals. Church families provided housing and meals for these guests. Thank you to the UP Project team members for their hard work and to the dozens of church people who partnered with them to accomplish so much.

From the **Bethel Church of God in Pelzer, SC** – The ladies hosted a Father-Son BBQ meal on June 19. The theme was “Iron Sharpens Iron.” There was a devotion, iron trivia, and team bonding games. Congratulations to **Logan Impson** for being named Father-of-the-Year. The mission project for June, July, and August was collecting food for the Piedmont Emergency Relief Center. Christmas in July was July 26 with Christmas attire, gift give-aways, and a soup and sandwich lunch. Christmas attire winners were **Oakleigh Impson** and **Hadlee Winner** for the children and **Gaynell Hicks** and **Carolyn Templeton** for the adults. **Libby Burkett** won the “Guess the Candy Count” contest. School supplies were given to the children.

From the **Lawrenceville Church of God in Springfield, OH** – The church hosted a car show and ice cream social on June 27 with proceeds going to support the Guatemala mission trip. **Pastor Alan Cain** and the church thank these folks who take such wonderful care of the church grounds: **Jerry Maurer** is the grass cutter; **Rick Massie** helps with the trim mowing; **Nikki Pierce** does amazing work with landscaping. On July 19 there was a church picnic at the Circle/Hedges pond. Fishing poles were provided for those who didn’t have one, and a Fishing Derby was held. Other fundraisers for the Guatemala mission team trip will be a gun raffle, sweet corn sales, and a mission auction. The Clifton Avenue Church of God thanked the church for their generosity in donating and installing two new gas ranges. The community will be much better served through their food pantry with these new ranges.

From the **Congratulations to our Graduates Department** – **Addie Thomas** (Bethel COG) graduated from Palmetto High School, and **Kenley Turner** (also Bethel COG) graduated from Easley High School. [Congratulations!]

From the **Birthday and Anniversary Department** – **Shirley Fletcher** (Brush Creek Church of God in West Milton, OH) celebrated her 93rd birthday July 13. **Joe James** (Guthrie Grove Church of God in Pelzer, SC) turned 90 on July 27. **Joyce Bolhous** (Freedom in Christ Ministries in Welland, Ontario, Canada) will celebrate her 80th birthday October 25. **Grace Dixon** (Bethel COG) celebrated her 80th birthday June 21, and **Barbara Keplinger** (also Bethel COG) turned 87 on July 26. In the anniversary department, **Loyd and Donna Cooper** (Church of the Open Bible in Farmington, MO) have been married 60 years on August 5. They have been pastoring the church for 22 years. **Steve and Joyce Bolhous** marked their 58th anniversary on August 17. August 7 was the 55th anniversary for both **Larry and Virginia Bolhous** (Oregon COG) and **Dale and Connie Ramsey** (Grace Fellowship Church in Front Royal, VA). August 5 was the 54th anniversary for both **Steven and Norma Knapp** (Garden Park Church of God in Grand Rapids, MI) and **Joe and Dana Myers** (Lakeshore Bible Church in Tempe, AZ). **Dale and Cheryl Swartz** (Brush Creek COG) had a 53rd anniversary on June 30. **Barney and Betty Owens** (Bethel COG) celebrated 66 years of marriage on July 3. **Bob and Nola Jones** (Cornerstone Bible Church in McDonough, GA) celebrated 45 years on August 8. **Jason and Marcee Turner** (Beloit New Life Church in Beloit, WI) had their 35th anniversary on August 10. Wow! What a long and impressive list! Congratulations to all of you.

Calendar of Events

Sept. 19—Women of Truth Conference: Overcoming, North Kent Bible Church, Rockford, MI
 Sept. 25-27—Women’s Enrichment Weekend at Long Lake Bible Camp near Eden Valley, MN
 Nov. 6-7—Women’s Retreat—Woven by Grace, Crafted With Purpose—Lakeshore Church, Tempe, AZ

Future Conferences:

Feb. 22-25, 2027—Annual Ministers Conference, Cornerstone Bible Church, McDonough, GA
 August 3-6, 2027—Heritage and General Conference at Lawrenceville Church, Springfield, OH

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Proofreader: Robert Jones

Editor: David Krogh

Address editorial correspondence to: David Krogh,
 dkrogh@atlantabiblecollege.com or
 2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400, McDonough, GA 30253

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NORTH AMERICAN
MISSIONS

North American Missions (NAM) of the COGGC partners with churches and conferences to promote: 1) Church Planting, 2) Church Revitalization, and 3) Leadership Development.

**Talon Paul, Director
North American Missions**

NEW Member Church

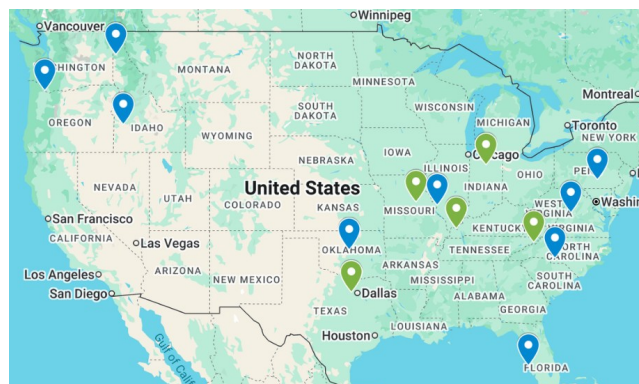
We are pleased to welcome the Four Rivers Church of God in Paducah, KY into the Church of God! They are a house-church that meets regularly from home to home, and is overseen by Pastor John Truitt. If you are interested in connecting with this group, email John at john@a2kchurch.org.

NEW Contacts

We are blessed to continually receive new contacts from people across the country who are interested in the Church of God, and some who have a passion to see a Church of God started in their area. In addition to the groups that we are already working with, we have made contact with people in the following areas this quarter:

- Soldotna, AK
- Charlotte, NC
- Central Missouri
- Coeur d'Alene, ID

If you would like to get into contact with any of our current contacts to grow their connections within the Church of God, please let us know.



**John Wincapaw,
Coordinator**

TPYM: FUEL 2026

This summer, the week of FUEL challenged our students with our theme: Burn the Ships. Throughout the week, we focused on what it means to fully commit our lives to God. Each message challenged us to surrender the things that hold us back, trust God with what lies ahead, and follow Him without keeping one foot in the past.



We packed a lot into just five days! Together, our students experienced eight sermons, eight classes, 53 worship songs, 30 dedicated times of prayer, and more than 20 hours of fellow-



ship—depending, of course, on how much they decided to sleep! The week also included Bible quizzing, a sail boat regatta, recreation activities, pastalaya—and a large bonfire that became the setting for one of the most meaningful nights of camp.

More important than everything we scheduled were the relationships strengthened, the commitments made, and the opportunities our students had to worship, pray, study God's Word, and encourage one another.

We were also incredibly encouraged to see our highest FUEL attendance since COVID, making this year's camp another exciting step forward for our ministry.

Five days can go by quickly, but our prayer is that what God began during FUEL will continue long after the week has ended and the fire has gone out.

Church News

Baptisms

Georgia

McDonough – Cornerstone – Liz Castro 8/16/26 by Gary Burnham; Isaac Whitehurst (8/16/26) by his father David Whitehurst.

Indiana

Kokomo – Maple Grove – Aaron Ramsey (8/16/26) by his grandmother Brenda Alexander and Pastors Talon Paul and Mason Ogle.

Minnesota

Brooklyn Park – Pine Grove – Max Kirkpatrick (6/11/26) by his father Jeremy Kirkpatrick at MN State Campground.

Missouri

Farmington – Church of the Open Bible – Maggie Ault and Lyla Jones (5/24/26) by Associate Pastor Ryan Cooper.

Morse Mill – Alan and Lori Boldt, Ray and Kelly Clark, Scot, Michelle, and Maddy Dunn, Sara Laidlaw, Ava Lee, Tim Silva (6/20/26) by Pastor William Dunn III of the Garden Park Church in Michigan.

Missouri Camp – Daisy Bilger, Idon Gottfriend, Myla James, Asher Olmstead, Tucker White-Maynard, and Colton Yandell (6/26/26) by Camp Director William Dunn II.

South Carolina

Pelzer – Guthrie Grove Church – Lora Porter (6/7/26) by Andy Cisneros.

Deaths

Illinois

Oregon – Randy Hall, 68, (6/26/26) life-long member. Service for him and his father David who died 5/23/26 by Pastor Michael Hoffman; Sheryl Morris, 73, (8/27/26), member by Pastor Michael Hoffman.

East Oregon Chapel – Connie Mummert, 72, (8-19-26), long-time member by her great-nephew Pastor Talon Paul.

Michigan

Wyoming – Pennellwood – Jay J. Baas, 93, (6/25/26), member by Pastor Jeffery Ransom.

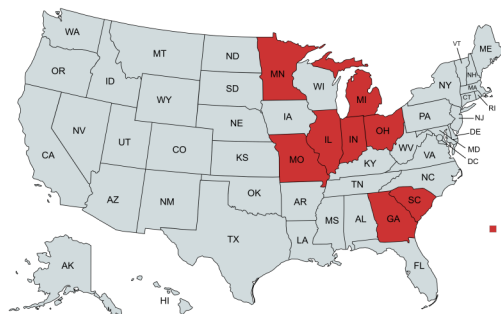
Rockford – North Kent – Donna Moore, 97, (8/24/26), former long-time member.

Minnesota

Eden Valley – Wally Thyen, 83, (8/11/26).

Ohio

Lawrenceville – Rita Walling, 66, (11/5/25), long-time member; Harriet Webb, 87, (11/8/25), long-time member; Betty Mauer, 99, (12/15/25), long-time member; Millard Rife, 81, (7/31/26), long-time member; all by Pastor Alan Cain.



Places where baptisms and deaths took place

Help Needed

Would you like to live in Carefree, AZ, a suburb of Phoenix? We have a mother-in-law fully furnished apartment available with furnished utilities, wifi, pool and jacuzzi and meals are optional. We need a single retired man or couple to help us. We need help with our desert yard, possibly pool, and driver. If a couple perhaps house cleaning or cooking, but mostly just to be here. We want COG members because Jerry has always been active in the church and would feel more comfortable with someone of our faith. Jerry's father, Roy Graham, was a COG minister. We attend the Tempe Lakeshore Bible Church, weekly Bible study with Steve Taylor. and have morning Bible reading. If interested, call Velma Graham at (480) 488-7952 or (602) 501-3365. My email is velmagee@graham@gmail.com. Thank you.

Woven by Grace, Crafted with Purpose
Women's Retreat Nov. 6 and 7, 2026
Lakeshore Bible Church, 6415 S. Lakeshore Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85283

Life is made up of seasons, moments, joys, and challenges—threads that may not always seem connected. Yet God, the Master Craftsman, is weaving them together, held beautifully by His wonderful and matchless grace.

Join us as sisters in Christ for a time of encouragement, reflection, connection, and discovering how God is weaving each of our stories into His greater purpose.

If you wish to attend this free event, please register by October 26, 2026. Accommodations are available. Scan the QR code to register or visit lakeshorebible.net.

Questions? Contact Bethany Ligon at bethanyligon74@gmail.com.

Come be part of the tapestry!



Prayer and Praise Items

October

- 1 **Pray for retired Pastor Don Ward (He is dealing with an aortic aneurysm that is leaking. He is not able to have surgery.)**
- 2 Praise God for the promise of a new heaven and a new earth in His coming Kingdom.
- 3 **Pray for Pastor Darrell and Laura Cardwell and the church called The Well in Mankato, MN.**
- 4 Pray for retired Pastor Dennis and Rachel Baldwin.
- 5 **Pray for the Board of Directors as they work with Executive Director Seth Ross on the relocation of the Conference and College to Springfield, Ohio.**
- 6 Pray for the Open Bible Church of God in Springfield, Missouri.
- 7 **Pray for a church planting vision for Church of God members.**
- 8 Pray for good fruit from evangelism efforts in several African countries.
- 9 **Pray for the youth of your local church.**
- 10 Praise God for those who are preparing for ministry.
- 11 **Pray for Seth Ross, College President and Conference Executive Director.**
- 12 Pray for retired pastor Anne Fischhaber.
- 13 **Praise God for your church family and the strength that you receive through it.**
- 14 Praise God for new contacts who are seeking the truth around the world.
- 15 **Pray for Christians in Pakistan who are suffering because of persecution and violence.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Michael and Diane Brown and their work with the Greenville, SC congregation.
- 17 **Pray for Pastor Jeffrey Seiders as he serves the Eden Valley and Litchfield, MN churches.**
- 18 Pray for Atlanta Bible College campus and online students as they study this semester.
- 19 **Pray for the college/conference staff as they serve us each day.**
- 20 Pray for Pastor Maurice and Pamela Chahilu and their work in Kenya.
- 21 **Pray for the pastor spouses and their ministry.**
- 22 Ask God to help you love Him and His Son more.
- 23 **Pray for Bob Jones and his teaching ministry at Atlanta Bible College.**
- 24 Pray for retired Pastor Vivian E. and Paula Kirkpatrick.
- 25 **Pray for the ministry of the ABC Korean Extension in Johns Creek, Georgia.**
- 26 Pray for retired Pastor Bob and Marilyn Morrison.
- 27 **Praise God for Joe and Rebekah Martin and their lifetime of ministry in many areas.**
- 28 Pray for retired Pastor Dale and Connie Ramsey.
- 29 **Pray for Pastor David and Wanda Cheatwood and the Hedrick, Indiana church.**
- 30 Praise God for His constant care.
- 31 **Pray for God to send workers into the fields that are ready for harvest.**

November

- 1 **Pray for Pastor Jeff and Terri Moore and the St. Cloud, MN Church and House Light Ministries.**
- 2 Pray for members who are isolated from one of our churches.
- 3 **Praise God for the Board of Directors who willingly serve the Church of God.**
- 4 Pray for licensed Pastor Mason Ogle as he serves as associate pastor of the Maple Grove Church in Kokomo, IN.
- 5 **Pray for Pastor Sean and Ruth Finnegan in their work at Living Hope Church in Latham, NY.**
- 6 Pray for expanding publishing opportunities for the General Conference to spread kingdom truth.
- 7 **Pray that God will raise up workers to serve in mission fields in other lands.**
- 8 Pray for retired Pastor James and Rebecca Ritch.
- 9 **Praise God for His holiness and truthfulness.**
- 10 Pray for retired Pastor Scott and Gayle Ross.
- 11 **Pray for a spirit of unity throughout the Church of God.**
- 12 Praise God for baptisms in our churches.
- 13 **Pray for retired Pastors Scott and Shelly Millard.**
- 14 Pray for recently licensed Pastor John Evans and his ministry in McGintytown, AR.
- 15 **Pray for Pastor Jon and Holly Kizer and they work with the Hedrick, IN congregation.**
- 16 Pray for Pastor Bob and Susan Collier and the work at North Salem, IN.
- 17 **Pray for God to provide you with "thankful" eyes this month.**
- 18 Pray for the boldness you need to share Christ with an unbelieving friend.
- 19 **Pray for college/conference youth events being planned for 2027.**
- 20 Pray for the outreach efforts of your local congregation.
- 21 **Praise God for a blessing He provided in your life yesterday.**
- 22 Praise God for His daily blessings of shelter, food, family, and friends.
- 23 **Pray for the opportunity to share Christ with someone this week.**
- 24 Pray for an individual you know who does not have hope of eternal life.
- 25 **Pray for retired Pastor Joe and Dana Myers.**
- 26 Praise God on this United States Thanksgiving Day for His goodness and faithfulness.
- 27 **Praise God for the churches within your state or regional conference.**
- 28 Pray for God's blessings on those recruiting new students for the Atlanta Bible College winter/spring semester.
- 29 **Praise God for the leadership of your local congregation.**
- 30 Pray for new contacts through our website.

Atlanta Bible College
Church of God General Conference
2020 Avalon Parkway, Suite 400
McDonough, GA 30253

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Prayer and Praise Items (continued from page 15)

December

- 1 **Pray for Pastor Jason and Marcee Turner and Beloit New Life, WI church.**
- 2 Praise God for your pastor for preaching the gospel.
- 3 **Pray for our missionaries all over the world.**
- 4 Pray for Pastor P. G. Coverstone and the Cool Spring Church in Browntown, Virginia.
- 5 **Pray for Pastor Kyle and Jamie McClain and the North Hills Church in Springfield, OH.**
- 6 Pray for the Lord's Harvest International Mission Board.
- 7 **Praise God for the dedicated service of the staff of our college and conference.**
- 8 Praise God for the promise that Jesus will come a second time.
- 9 **Pray for Pastor Richard and Jan Alcumbrack and the Southlawn Church in MI.**
- 10 Pray for recently licensed Pastor Mark Cain and his work with Church of the Open Bible in Bedford, OH and the Unitarian Christian Alliance.
- 11 **Praise God for the ministries of your local church.**
- 12 Pray that God would lead you in the way of righteousness.
- 13 **Pray for those who are leading the work in the Philippine Islands.**
- 14 Pray for David Krogh and his work at the General Conference and Atlanta Bible College.
- 15 **Pray for your next-door neighbor(s) today.**
- 16 Pray for churches that are looking for pastoral leadership.
- 17 **Pray for a personal hunger to know God and Jesus better.**
- 18 Thank God for His goodness to you.
- 19 **Pray for the financial needs of the Church of God General Conference.**
- 20 Pray for the Korean Church that meets in the Johns Creek, GA ABCKE campus.
- 21 **Pray for an individual you know who has not accepted Christ.**
- 22 Pray for ABC student Camden Bormes as he begins his internship at Living Faith Christian Church in Rhode Island in January.
- 23 **Pray for ABC Academic Dean Dr. Michael Cisler.**
- 24 Pray for encouragement for those who are separated from family and friends at this Christmas season.
- 25 **Praise God for the gift of His Son, Jesus.**
- 26 Pray for preparations for the new semester at ABC that will begin in January.
- 27 **Praise God for your pastor and/or elders and the ministry of your church.**
- 28 Pray for the work of native workers in Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, and Uganda.
- 29 **Pray for retired Pastor Connie Scott.**
- 30 Pray for revival throughout the Church of God in the coming year.
- 31 **Praise God for the way He has blessed you in 2026.**