

Minutes | 96th General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan

Annual Business Meeting Session 1

November 4, 2016

[10:47 am](#) **The Chair, Eric Marquardt, called the meeting to order.**

The Chair presented the Agenda on the inside cover of the 2016 Annual Report. He noted that any proposed changes to the Agenda must be presented to Harold Lockley Vice-Chair of the Business Committee today.

The Chair introduced this afternoon's conference speakers listed in the agenda. They will cover Children's Ministry, as well as financial and physical health topics.

The Chair introduced Dr. Robert Dulin as the Parliamentarian and Rev. John Miller as the Head Teller for this General Assembly.

The Chair read the statement of membership for voting members from page 2 of the Annual Report. Voting members were asked to stand and a quorum was achieved.

The Chair read the Vision and Mission Statements of the Church of God in Michigan.

The Chair introduced the new Pastorates and Associate Pastorates listed on page 7 of the Annual Report, as well as Roosevelt Baugh and Mary Lockley from Metropolitan Church of God who were not listed, and asked that the Assembly recognize them.

The Chair read the names of the Ministry Committee members completing terms of service listed on page 7 of the Annual Report and asked the Assembly to recognize them.

The Chair highlighted the ministry booths in the lobby and encouraged the Assembly members to visit them.

The Chair noted the Minutes of the 2015 General Assembly, which have been peer reviewed. This years Minutes review committee will be Pastor Bob Confer, Pastor Chris Slosser, and Tom Bader.

The Chair ceded the floor to Dr. Bill Jones, State Pastor, who introduced Layne Lechner from Warner Camp. Layne discussed the loss of Quinten Greiner and his influence for Christ with young people at the Camps. Memorial funds are still being made and will fund a high ropes course at Warner. Layne also described the ministry of Warner Camp, the IMAGINE campaign, and the 125th anniversary of Warner Camp Meeting in 2017 with Rev. Jim Lyon speaking. Brochures and information are available at the ministry booth in the lobby.

Dr. Jones directed the Assembly to the State Pastor Report on page 11 of the Annual Report. He recognized his Regional Pastors and staff. Dr. Jones discussed the ministries of the Church of God in Michigan and the vital support and high participation level of the churches of this Assembly.

The Chair ceded the floor to Harold Lockley, Vice-Chair of the Business Committee.

Harold introduced the members of the Business Committee and reviewed their responsibilities in assembling the business and ballot for the General Assembly. He reiterated that any proposed changes to the Agenda be brought to the Business Committee no later than [2:00 pm today](#).

Harold introduced the candidates being presented for ratification on the ballot as listed on page 13 of the Annual Report. Ballots were distributed to the voting members and then collected by the tellers for counting.

Harold reviewed the Bylaws revision resolution on membership from page 12 of the Annual Report and submitted it to the General Assembly for approval at the November 5 business session. The resolution was seconded by Pastor Kevin Tippin.

The Chair ceded the floor again to Dr. Bill Jones, State Pastor, to review the financial report from pages 19-28 of the Annual Report. Among the items noted were the 2015 unrealized loss on investments, the YTD September 2016 downturn in revenue, that ministry expenses were within budget, church multiplication and church transformation investments, 2017 ministry expense breakdown, 2011-2015 congregational giving, investments and endowments, fund assets available for granting, and the audited financial statement.

The proposed 2017 Budget was submitted to the General Assembly for approval at the November 5 business session. The 2017 Budget proposal was seconded by Pastor Mike Smith.

The Chair introduced Pastor James Sparks, Church Health Minister. Pastor Sparks interviewed Pastor Tad Mellish, Lead Pastor at NorthernLight Church in Cadillac. Pastor Mellish shared the lead pastor retirement transition planning their church put in place to phase him in as Lead Pastor and his father, John Mellish, into retirement. Pastor Mellish also shared how they had purchased for cash, in funds raised in a few weeks, the Wesleyan church building they were worshiping in and the blending of the people from the Church of God, the Wesleyan church, and the new NorthernLight ministry into one congregation.

Dr Bill Jones introduced Pastor Kirk Bookout from Children of Promise to share an update and a video produced recently about the ministry.

The Chair announced that lunch was being sponsored by Servant Solutions and would be available [at Noon](#).

11:55 am The Chair dismissed the Business Meeting until it reconvenes [tomorrow](#), Saturday, November 5 at 8:30 am.

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Annual Business Meeting Session 2

November 5, 2016

8:35 am The Chair, Eric Marquardt, called the second Business Session to order.

The Chair ceded the floor to **Dr. Bill Jones, State Pastor, who introduced Pastor James Sparks as the new Church Health Minister** effective November 1 replacing Pastor Demetrius Booker who is now working for the Church of God in Ohio. Pastor Sparks was selected from the multiple qualified candidates who applied and were interviewed for the position.

Pastor Sparks shared his vision for building on the work of Pastor Booker and expanding the ministry of Church Health. He noted the hard work of Dr. Jones and his role will include reducing the work load of the State Pastor.

Dr. Jones introduced Pastor Mike Smith, senior pastor of Hope Community Church of God in Niles, as the new Southwestern Regional Pastor filling the staff vacancy created when Pastor Sparks became Church Health Minister.

Dr. Jones introduced Pastor Jim Walters of Vision Ministries. Pastor Walters discussed how the ministries conducts capital fund campaigns with local congregations and their upcoming mission trip to Trinidad.

Dr. Jones introduced a new video promoting Men's Ministry Retreat.

The Chair ceded the floor to Harold Lockley, Vice-Chairman of the Business Committee.

There were no questions regarding the Bylaws revision resolution on membership from page 12 of the Annual Report and submitted to the General Assembly during the November 4 business session. The ballots were cast by the voting members and collected by the tellers.

There were no questions regarding the 2017 Budget proposal submitted to the General Assembly during the November 4 business session. The ballots were cast by the voting members and collected by the tellers.

The Chair ceded the floor to Dr. Bill Jones, State Pastor, and Pastor Steve McDaniel,

Pastoral Health Ministry Chairman.

Dr. Jones recognized Pastor Kevin Kuehne and Sandy, Youth Pastor at Clarkston Church of God, who are relocating to South Carolina after many years of leadership in Youth ministry in and across the State of Michigan.

Dr Jones recognized Paul and Niki Christiansen who are leaving their current ministry assignment at West Court Street Church of God.

Dr. Jones and Pastor Steve McDaniel, Pastoral Health Chair recognized the following achievements in ministry:

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Rev. Rachel Woods.

The Outstanding Service Award was presented to Rev. Greg Henneman, senior Pastor at Clarkston Church of God.

15 Years of Ministry at the same Church: Pastor Phil Darling; Pastor Alma Fordham, Pastor Lynnette Gillett, Pastor Michael Heflin, Pastor Jerry Johnston, Pastor Kevin Kuehne, Deb Patullo, Minister David Thomas, and Pastor Diane Tultz.

25 Years of Ministry in Michigan: Pastor Lynnette Gillett, Pastor Mary Lloyd, Pastor Harold Owens, Pastor Janell Robinson, and Pastor Lynda Soper.

The Chair ceded the floor to Pastor John Davey, Credentials Chair, was introduced and led the recognition of the following:

In memorium the Assembly recognized the Ministers and servants who have passed away in the last year: Rev. Carl Nisbet, Rev. Orida Thurman, Rev. Betty Ruth Tippin March, and Mark Haskins. While remembering each, Pastor Davey asked that those who were impacted by their ministry and service stand in their honor.

Pastor Davey described the responsibilities of Credentials Ministry and introduced the Committee members. A new Credentials Manual is in process nationally for the Church of God.

The following Ministers who are licensed and have been placed in the process for ordination: Pastor April Crump, Prayer Ministry Director, Millington Church of God, Millington; Pastor Mark Coffman, Evanswood Church of God, Troy; Pastor Crystal Colp, Ministry Liaison and Discipleship, First Church of God, St. Joseph; Pastor Matthew Derby, Youth Pastor, Edgewood and Ithaca Churches of God, Ithaca; Pastor Dwight Fontenot, Associate Pastor, Community Church of God, Ypsilanti; Pastor Bob Ingels, Associate Pastor, Berrien Community Church, Bridgman; Pastor Scott McDonald, Sears Church of God, Sears; Pastor Mark Robb, Associate Pastor, Hillcrest Community Church of God, Cedar Springs; Pastor Mark Staton II, Director of Youth Ministries,

Southwestern Church of God, Detroit; Pastor Alexandra Weeks, Middle School Director, First Church of God, St Joseph; Pastor Arlyn Willett, Calvert Park Community Church of God, Burton; Pastor Jerome Willis, Agape Fellowship Church, Detroit.

The voting members were asked to cast ballots to either approve the initiation of the ordination process for each candidate or to express their strong reservation. It is only necessary to sign the ballot if expressing strong reservation. The tellers collected the ballots for counting.

The following Ministers who have completed the requirements for ordination: Pastor Julian Guzman, Iglesia Vida Plena (Whole Life Church), Wyoming; Pastor Austin Kreutz, The Path of Allegan, Allegan; and Pastor George Villarreal, New Hope Community Church of God, Hope. Each candidate shared briefly about with the Assembly about their ministry. Each candidate was then anointed and prayed over by the Ministers in attendance.

The voting members were asked to cast ballots to either approve the calling and ordination of each Pastor or to express their strong reservation. It is only necessary to sign the ballot if expressing strong reservation. The tellers collected the ballots for counting.

The Chair requested a motion and second to adjourn the 96th General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan, which were made and the motion approved.

9:55 am the Chair adjourned the assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Salisbury
Secretary