

Minutes | 97th General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan

Annual Business Meeting Session 1; November 10, 2017, 10:50 a.m.

The Chair, Rev. Kristi Rhodes, called the meeting to order and welcomed the members of the 97th General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan.

The Chair presented the Agenda on the inside cover of the 2017 Annual Report (hereafter cited as '**Report**'). She noted that any proposed changes to the Agenda must be presented to Harold Lockley, Chair of the Business Committee, by 2:00 p.m. today.

The Chair introduced this weekend's conference speakers, Rev. Dr. Edward Branch and Rev. David Colp, and our Worship Leaders, the Praise Team: Alanna Story. These biographies are on pages 2-4 of the **Report**.

The Chair introduced the afternoon's conference speakers listed in the agenda and on page 5 of the **Report**. Conferences will cover Leadership for Pastors of larger and smaller Churches, Associate Pastors and Laity, as well as Retired Ministers and Children's Ministry.

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

The Chair highlighted the ministry booths in the lobby and encouraged the Assembly members to visit them. The booths include Alanna Story, Warner Camp, Michigan Singers, Institute for Servant Leadership, Vision Ministries, Children's Task Force, St. Louis Camp, Warner Press, Guatemala and Haiti Mission Trip, Witnessing 101, Anderson University, and Servant Solutions.

The Chair recognized the Friday Lunch Conference sponsor and speakers, Jeff Jenness, Jim O'Bold and Ryan Harter, of Servant Solutions.

The Chair read the statement of membership for voting members from Article IV of our Bylaws and page 2 of the **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 printed on the back cover of the **Report**.

The Chair introduced the new Pastorates and Associate Pastorates listed on page 7 of the **Report** and asked that the Assembly recognize them (ovation).

The Chair recognized the Ministry Committee members completing terms of service listed on page 7 of the Annual Report and asked the Assembly to recognize them (ovation).

The Chair noted the Minutes of the 2016 General Assembly, which have been peer reviewed and approved. This year's Minutes review committee will be Rev. Carl Baker, Rev. Mark Coffman, and Rev. Lynnette Gillett.

The Chair ceded the floor to Rev. Dr. Bill Jones, State Pastor.

Dr. Jones recognized Rev. Bob Moss who is chairing the Project Imagine Committee. This committee was organized in Wichita at the North American Convention in June at the request of Pastor Jim Lyon, National Director. The 24 member committee was formed to review possible organizational changes to the Church of God. Updates may be followed on Rev. Moss' blog at www.jesusisthesubject.org. Dr. Jones addressed the North American Convention, expressing his concern that every State Ministry, as in Michigan, remain strong through any reorganization.

Dr. Jones recognized Rev. John Davey, Chair of the Credentials Ministry and discussed the new Credentials Manual. The Credentials Ministry will abide by the new Credentials Manual as a uniform means of licensing and ordaining new Ministers and maintaining the integrity of those ministrering in Michigan. The Board of Directors of the Church of God in Michigan has chosen not to present the Credentials Manual to the General Assembly for approval at this time while the Project Imagine Committee is completing its work. This is due to concerns about items 4 and 5 in "Expectations of a Recognized Assembly" and their potential impact on maintaining each State Ministry's integrity.

Dr. Jones directed the Assembly to the State Pastor Report on page 11 of the **Report**. He recognized his Regional Pastors, staff and leadership team. Dr. Jones discussed the ministries of the Church of God in Michigan and the emphasis on the Ministry of Multiplication as discussed on page 12 of the **Report**.

Dr. Jones spoke about the Future Directions Committee. This committee will determine the job description for the new State Pastor and then identify that person to be in place for transition with Dr. Jones in 2019. Committee members are Rev. Dr. Robert Dulin, Rev. Carron Odokara, Dante Rodriguez, Rev. Alexandra Weeks, Rev. Dan Whiting, Rev. Chris Bones, Rev. John Mattern, Rev. Leo Robinson II and Rev. Jerry Lyon. The members were introduced, anointed and consecrated with prayer.

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

Bro. Lockley reviewed the responsibilities of the Business Committee in assembling the business and ballot for the General Assembly. He reminded the Assembly that any proposed changes to the Agenda are to be brought to the Business Committee no later than 2:00 p.m. today.

Bro. Lockley introduced the candidates being presented for ratification on the ballot as listed on page 19 of the **Report**. Their biographies appear on pages 19-24 of the **Report**. Ballots were distributed to the voting members and then collected by the tellers for counting.

Bro. Lockley reviewed the proposed Bylaws revisions to Article II Section 3 to revise "election" and "elected" to "ratification" and "ratified"; and to Article II Section 5 defining the "fiscal year" as the "calendar year." These revisions are defined on page 18 of the

Report and submitted to the General Assembly for approval at the November 11 business session.

The Chair ceded the floor again to Dr. Bill Jones, State Pastor, to review the financial report from pages 25-33 of the **Report** including the 2017 Budget YTD and the 2018 Budget proposal. Among the items noted were 2018 Unrestricted General Budget Revenue (down \$10,000 vs. 2017 Budget); 2017 Actual YTD Investments are up almost \$69,000 due to Property Land Contract payments; 2017 YTD Expenses are in line with 2017 Budget Revenues excluding the additional Land Contract payments; 2018 Budget has \$287,400 in Property Land Contract principal payments expected with the payoff of the Mt. Pleasant property; 2018 Ministry Expenses are largely the same; 2018 Staff Expenses will be up due to full staffing for the year and a 2% COLA increase; 2018 Building and Grounds Expenses will be up \$30,000 due to necessary repairs to the office parking lot drain and surface repairs.

The proposed 2018 Budget was submitted to the General Assembly for approval at the November 11 business session.

Upon dismissal of the Business Meeting and prior to the Servant Solutions lunch, news updates will be shared by a number of speakers and videos. These include MALU, ISL, Youth Ministries, Men's Retreat, Spiritual Direction Ministry, Women in Ministry Conference, Vision Ministries and various Mission Trips.

11:45 a.m. The Chair dismissed the Business Meeting until it reconvenes tomorrow.

Saturday, November 11 at 8:30 a.m.

Annual Business Meeting Session 2; November 11, 2017

8:33 a.m. The Chair, Rev. Kristi Rhodes, called the second Business Session to order.

The Chair advised the Assembly that all candidates appearing on the ballot yesterday had been ratified.

The Chair announced that Hospice in the Saginaw and Tawas areas were searching for Chaplains - if anyone is feeling called toward this ministry.

The Chair ceded the floor to Rev. Dr. James Sparks, Church Health Minister, who reviewed his Report on page 13 of the Annual Report. There are five congregations currently in consultation and we can add up to three more congregations. Rev. Sparks noted the first class of coaches John Clark, Rev. Bob Confer, Rev. Dr. Robert Dulin, Rev. Carron Odakara and Rev. Jerry Webb -with additional coaches needed for training. Rev. Sparks also noted the training accomplished through Dynamic Communicators and 360 Leadership Conference.

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

The Bylaws revisions to Article II Section 3 on "ratification" vs. "election" and Article II Section 5 clarifying the fiscal year as the calendar year appearing on page 18 of the

Report were read aloud. There were no questions from the Assembly since these proposed changes were submitted to the General Assembly during the November 10 business session. The ballots were cast by the voting members and collected by the tellers. There were no questions regarding the 2018 Budget proposal submitted to the General Assembly during the November 10 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 Rev. David Aukerman, Pastoral Health Ministry Chairman. Rev. Aukerman recognized the members of the Pastoral Health Committee and promoted Pastors' Institute in January 22-24, 2018.

Dr. Jones and Rev. Aukerman recognized the following achievements in ministry as noted on page 34 of the **Report**:

15 Years of Ministry at the same Church: Rev. Bettie Holcomb, Rev. Larry Livengood, Rev. Timothy McKenzie and Rev. Marjorie Turner.

25 Years of Ministry in Michigan: Rev. Stephen Burrow, Rev. Richard Mitterling, Rev. James Sirks, Rev. James Sparks, Rev. Susan Sparks and Rev. Diane Tultz.

The Outstanding Service Award was presented to First Church of God, St. Joseph and their teaching Pastors Rev. David Colp, Rev. Chris Spitters and Rev. Kevin Perthuis.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Rev. Bettie Holcomb.

Rev. James Sparks joined Dr. Jones to present the **Lifetime Achievement Award** presented to Rev. Dr. Gerald and JoRene Nevitt.

The Chair ceded the floor to Pastor John Davey, Credentials Chair, who introduced and recognized the current and incoming members of the Credentials Committee.

Rev. Davey led the recognition of the following :

In memoriam, the Assembly recognized the Ministers and servants who have passed away in the last year as listed on page 34 of the **Report**: Rev. Rolla Timmons, Rev. Robert Meckley, Rev. Jonathan Fitzner, Rev. Elizabeth Rogan, Rev. Rick DeWard, Rev. Vernon Rayford, Rev. Richard Bartlett and Rev. Tommie Warner. While remembering each, Pastor Davey asked that those who were impacted by their ministry and service would stand in their honor.

The following Ministers who are licensed and have been placed in the process for ordination as listed on page 37 of the **Report**: Rev. Christopher Britton, Missions Director, First Church of God, St. Joseph; Rev. Marc Danapilis, Director of Student Ministries, Hope Community Church, Niles; Rev. Aaron Gross, Next Gen Pastor, Clarkston Community Church, Clarkston; Rev. Theresa Hirakis, Inreach Director, North Avenue Church of God, Battle Creek; Rev. Larry Moe, Associate Pastor, Floyd Church of God, Midland.

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 are listed on pages 35-36 in the **Report**: Rev. Sheryl Blake, Family Life Director, Hope Community, Niles; Rev. Mark Coffman, Pastor, Evanswood Church of God, Troy; Rev. Cathy Ganus, Associate Pastor, Baroda Church of God, Stevensville; Rev. Diane Hall, Associate Pastor, Holbrook Avenue Church of God, Flint; Rev. Mary Hirkakis, Executive Pastor, North Avenue Church of God, Battle Creek; Rev. Krystal Kotesky, Buchanan; Rev. Andrew Lyle, Associate Pastor, First Church of God, Cassopolis; Rev. John (Tad) Mellish, Pastor, NorthernLight Church of God, Cadillac; Rev. Stu Roy, Teacher, Worship Leader, Elder, Fraser Road Church of God, Kawkawlin. Each candidate shared briefly with the Assembly about their ministry. Each candidate was then anointed and consecrated with prayer by family members and the ordained 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 reservations. The tellers collected the ballots for counting.

The Chair requested a motion and second to adjourn the 97th General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan, which were made and the motion was approved.

10:05 a.m., the Chair adjourned the assembly.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Salisbury Secretary