

Church of God in Michigan
Minutes from the 104th General Assembly Annual Meeting
Friday November 01-2024
Session 1

- 9:00 a.m.** Welcome: State Pastor Mark Richardson, opened the 104th General Assembly.
Worship: Chad Harlan led the assembly in worship.
Message: Rev. Dr. Leslie Parker Barnes.
Benediction: State Pastor Mark Richardson.
- 10:33 a.m.** The Vice Chair Charles Nebus called the first session/meeting to order.
Charles Nebus Opened the meeting with a word of Prayer.
- 10:35 a.m.** Charles Nebus reviewed the presented the agenda found on page 2 of the General Assembly Booklet.
Charles Nebus gave an introduction and thank you for those participating in the 104th General Assembly:
- Chad Harlan.
 - Rev. Dr. Leslie Parker Barnes.
 - Sarah Scharbrough McLaughlin.
 - Rev. Mitchell Burch.
 - Those behind the scenes Jim Blake, and Jack Seaton on controls.
 - Goldie Kurtzals.
 - Becky Adams.
 - Karen Gunter.
 - All the vendors, sponsors and also the Crowne Plaza Hotel.
- 10:38 a.m.** Charles Nebus Introduced the New Pastors for the State of Michigan found on pg 7 of the booklet, including:
- Michael Helmick.
 - John Wallace.
 - Kevin Keeder.
 - José Luis Larco.
- Charles Nebus asked that all the new pastors' stand and the General Assembly welcomed them with applause.
- 10:40 a.m.** Charles Nebus asked the General Assembly to review with him the Statement of Membership found on page 3 of the package.
- Charles Nebus read the Statement, and so let the minutes reflect that we have a quorum present for the 104th General Assembly.
- 10:41 a.m.** Charles Nebus shared with the General Assembly the previous minutes found on pages 8-13, and that the previous minutes have been reviewed and approved prior to the General Assembly meeting.

10:42 a.m. Charles Nebus gave an introduction to the General Assembly of the eight candidates that are ready for ordination, from page 28 of the booklet, with the presentation videos of the first three.

1. Chance Adams.
2. Sheila Granger.
3. Derek Whitacre.

10:53 a.m. Charles Nebus turned the meeting over to our State Pastor Mark Richardson and the Associate State Pastor Joshua Brandt.

State Pastor Mark Richardson:

- Mark Richardson shared a good new story about the Church of God in Michigan.
- The vision and structure has served the Church of God in Michigan well.
- Moving forward-what will the next 30 years in the COG look like?

Mark Richardson turned the meeting over to the Associate State Pastor Joshua Brandt.

Joshua Brandt took the General Assembly through the mission and vision.

- Joshua joined the as the State Associate at the end of December 2023.
- Joshua shared the mission and vision found on the back page of the booklet.
- Joshua Brandt shared with the State Pastor Mark Richardson the very question will the Church of God in Michigan be willing to invest in a mission and vision that he is likely not going to see come to pass, and may take 20-30 years to complete.
- State Pastor Mark Richard gave the affirmation of yes!
- Joshua confirmed that the decisions made will effect generations to come.
- Joshua Brandt shared two major questions:
 1. What are out pastors in Michigan experiencing?
 2. What are the church experiencing?
- Joshua now had the flyers passed out to the General Assembly carrying the new logo with the mission.
- Joshua shared that on this flyer it contains the idea that every household hears the good news of Jesus and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.
- Joshua shared the vision to expand and build 300-500 new churches.
- Some would ask how-Joshua said ask a different question.
- Joshua shared the reality is, "How many know Jesus?"

Joshua turned our attention now to the core values found on the back of the flyer.

1. Jesus is Lord: and no one else.
2. Witness: of the Word and Spirit.
3. People: matter to God and they matter to us.
4. Unity: looks like something.
5. Uncommon: called to be holy and set apart.
6. Table: the breaking of bread and our best.
7. Story: we will share the good news.

Joshua shared the questions of, “How do we do this?”

- Some answers are still be fleshed out.
- Truth is we don’t have all the answers

Joshua now talked about the processes and systems; we must be unto to something.

- Pastoral health
 1. Minister’s retreats and ministers wives.
 2. Pastoral coaching initiative, Converge Coaching.
 3. Ministers to minister.
- Church health, transformation and Multiplication
 1. Planting together.
 2. New thing movements.
 3. MissionInsite.
 4. Your dreams to multiply and plant.
 5. Credentials have 8 candidates now, this fall 9 entering in the licensing process, and what happens when we are expecting 40?
 6. Academy of Servant Leadership, (ASL).
 7. Intern Academy, trellis, and the work with our universities.
 8. Pathways for all called to ministry will be streamlined.
- Advancement and development will need funding, as this will incur costs.

11:24 a.m. Joshua Brandt turned the meeting over to our State Pastor Mark Richardson.

- State Pastor Mark confirmed the conversation from Joshua, and noted that he sees the people writing and being called to the Lord, and we need to ensure that the COG works to streamline and helps others prepare for ministry.

11:25 a.m. State Pastor Mark Richardson turned the meeting over to Charles Nebus.

Charles Nebus shared page 28 and the next three candidate videos from the Credentials.

1. Brent Beggs.
2. Trevor Moody.
3. Jon Wallace.

11:37 a.m. Charles Nebus now turned the meeting over the State Pastor Mark Richardson.

11:38 a.m. State Pastor Mark Richardson led the General Assembly through his State Pastor Report and budget.

- Mark shared that the COG in Michigan is determined to lead the way.
- Mark talked about partnering with the COG.
- Mark shared a special thanks to all:
 1. Servant Solutions-they are the best
 2. Jim Walters.
 3. Sandy Turk and Nancy Beecher St. Louis Camp.
 4. Dick Foresman.
 5. Scott Bale-Warner Camp.
 6. Jason Barner-Anderson School.
 7. Richard Fields-Helping Hands.

8. Steve Starks and Larry Brown.
9. Jan Adams.

- Mark talked about the things he hopes for in the Church of God in Michigan.
- Mark shared page 14 with a look back at 2024 and a look at 2025.
- Mark shared his thanks for 2024:
 1. How do we let the Holy Spirit be known in our lives?
 2. We need to learn and leverage.
 3. We have a rich heritage of leaders.
 4. Mark shared about the goodness of the Lord.
 5. We need to invest in leadership development.
 6. 2024 we added staff, including Joshua and Karen
 7. Karen has become a great resource for registrations and demographics.
 8. Academy of Servant Solutions.
 9. Midwest Multiplications.
 10. Planting together.
 11. Ministry to ministers.
 12. Youth winter retreat.
 13. MSLI.
 14. The need to invest in young men and women.
 15. Mark is working on a grant for financial planning resources, and to develop retreats.

Going Forward:

- Mark Richardson celebrated the core values and new input for social media.
- Mark talked about the mission and visions.
- Mark shared that they are working on videos, pod cast and a series.
- Mark talked about workshop for training.
- New Initiatives.
- Long term growth.
- The need to invest in infrastructure.

- 12:05 a.m.** State Pastor Mark now shared the financial report found on pages 20-27.
- Mark shared the need to supplement the budget through endowments.
 - Mark share the budget is still on track.
 - Page 24 Mark talked about the additions of Joshua and Karen to the staff.
 - Mark shared the need to invest in the state offices.
 - The building will need more upgrades.
 - The investments are tracking very good to date.
 - Mark shared that the COG in Michigan made 3 investments totally 15k to 3 places.
 - Next year the coaching initiative
 - Overall budget is 1k less than the 2024 budget.

- 12:10 a.m.** State Pastor Mark Richardson turned the meeting over to Charles Nebus.

- 12:11 a.m.** Charles Nebus ask the General Assembly to give a round of applause to our State Pastor Mark Richardson and his wife Sharon, also to our Associate State Pastor Joshua Brandt and his wife Laura.
- 12:13 a.m.** Charles Nebus share the final candidates for ordination videos from page 28.
1. Patrick Gilbert.
2. Kevin Keeder.
This concludes the all the candidates for ordination with their videos.
- 12:22 a.m.** Charles Nebus turned the meeting over to the Business Committee Chair Rob Tramel.
Rob Tramel led the General Assembly to ballots located on each table.
Rob shared that this is a ratification ballot only and it is on the blue and white ballots.

Ron Tramel identified the tellers for the General Assembly as:
1. Matt Stone.
2. Chris Slosser.
3. Sally Reynolds.
Rob directed the ballots to be marked and the tellers will be around to pick them up.
- 12:25 a.m.** Rob Tramel turned the meeting over to Charles Nebus.
- 12:27 a.m.** Charles Nebus shared the appreciation for Servant Solutions and providing the lunch for the General Assembly today.
- 12:28 a.m.** Charles Nebus led the General Assembly in prayer and adjourned the meeting until Saturday November 2nd at 8:30am.
Meeting adjourned.

General Assembly Annual Meeting-Second Session November 2, 2024

- 8:31 a.m.** Vice Chair Charles Nebus called the second session of the 104th General Assembly to order.
- 8:32 a.m.** Charles Nebus opened with a word of prayer.
- 8:33 a.m.** Charles Nebus turned the meeting over to the Business Committee Chair Rob Tramel.

Rob Tramel shared about the ballots on the table and voting.
- Rob indicated that the assembly vote also for the 2025 budget.
 - Rob noted for the minutes that all members on the 2025 ballot have been ratified and approved, by the General Assembly.
 - Rob also noted that all 8 candidates for ordination have been approved by the General Assembly.
 - Rob noted that we had 15 members voting online and all 15 members also approved the budget and ballots.
 - Tellers to collect the ballots on the tables.

- 8:36 a.m.** Rob Tramel turned the meeting over to Charles Nebus.
- 8:37 a.m.** Charles Nebus turned the meeting over to our State Pastor Mark Richardson.
- 8:38 a.m.** State Pastor Mark Richardson shared about those receiving awards and that so many are deserving of these awards, but the State offices had chosen 2 for the Lifetime Achievement Awards and 2 for the Outstanding Service Awards.
- State Pastor Mark also indicated that with the awards Servant Solutions is also presenting each award recipient with a \$200.00 gift.
- 8:40 a.m.** State Pastor Mark Richardson Presented the two Lifetime Achievement awards to the following:
1. Brian Hansen, who is out ill and cannot attend, but Mark read a letter from Brian to the Assembly.
 2. Tim Foreman and his wife Linda.
- State Pastor Mark Richardson presented the two Outstanding Service Awards to the following:
1. Albert Grant.
 2. Steve Gulick.
- 8:50 a.m.** State Pastor Mark Richardson, presented those with 25 years at the same congregation and those with 15 years at the same congregation recognition.
- Those with 25 years are the following:
1. Mike Heflin, who could not be present.
 2. William Hill Sr.
 3. Richard Latham
 4. Bill Greiner, who could not be present.
 5. John Mellish
- Those with 15 years are the following:
1. Jack Perkins
- 8:52 a.m.** State Pastor Mark Richardson turned the meeting over to Charles Nebus
- 8:53 a.m.** Charles Nebus turned the meeting over to our Associate State Pastor Joshua Brandt to pay tribute and recognition to those lives who served the Church of God in Michigan.
- 8:54 a.m.** State Associate Pastor Joshua Brandt shared about the impact of those lives who served the Church of God in Michigan and are now home with the Lord. Joshua led the General Assembly and read each name listed on page 45 of the package, asking the Assembly if our lives have been touched by these individuals please stand as their names are read.
- 8:56 a.m.** Associate State Pastor Joshua Brandt led the General Assembly to stand in a prayer of remembrance, and Joshua prayed.

- 9:00 a.m.** Associate State Pastor Joshua Brandt turned the meeting over to the new Credentials Chair JJ Perry.
- 9:10 a.m.** JJ Perry asked the General Assembly to turn to page 31, and he shared with the General Assembly the Credentials team, and then asked for recognition of the team.
- JJ Perry shared the list of candidates found on 28 and as the names were called would each candidate come to the front.
 - JJ Perry acknowledged the work that each candidate had completed.
 - JJ Perry then asked all the candidates and family, and friends to come and join then for prayer.
 - JJ Perry led the General Assembly in prayer over the candidates.
 - JJ Perry then asked all the candidates to come together for a picture.
- 9:17 a.m.** JJ Perry turned the meeting over to the Associate State Pastor Joshua Brandt.
- 9:18 a.m.** State Associate Pastor Joshua Brandt shared the MSLI video and shared the QR. code to download on our phones.
- 9:22 a.m.** State Associate Pastor Joshua Brandt shared about the 360 conference and also shared the QR. Code with the Assembly.
- State Associate Pastor Joshua shared that the Winter Retreat in being held Jan 3-5th 2025.
- 9:24 a.m.** State Associate Pastor turned the meeting over to Charles Nebus.
- Charles Nebus recognized the General Assembly Program Committee members and asked the Assembly to give them applaud them for their great work.
 - Charles Nebus shared that the 2025 budget has been approved, by 100 percent vote, and the minutes to reflect that approval.
- 9:26 a.m.** Charles Nebus introduced the new Vice Chair of the Assembly, Rev. Dr. John Davey.
- 9:27 a.m.** Rev. Dr. John Davey led the General Assembly in a closing prayer.
- 9:28 a.m.** Charles Nebus Formally called for a close to the 104th General Assembly All agreed and the Assembly was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:
James Matt.

Minute proof readers: Rachel Bird, Kenny Seidler, and Mark Staton II