

Church of God in Michigan

Minutes from the 105th General Assembly Annual Meeting

Friday, November 07, 2025

Session 1

- 9:00 a.m.** Welcome: State Pastor Mark Richardson, opened the 105th General Assembly (GA).
Worship: Rev. Chad Harlan and the Worship Round Circle led the assembly in worship.
Rev. Portia Davis-Mann read the GA scripture found on page 4
Rev. Ryan Glezman led the GA in prayer
Message: Rev. Erin Taylor brought the message and the word of the Lord.
Rev. Char Harlan and the Worship Round Circle closed the message with worship
Benediction: State Pastor Mark Richardson.
Closing prayer by Rev. Al Grant.
- 10:52 a.m.** Chair Dale Turner called the first session of the 105th General Assembly meeting to order.
Chair Dale Turner welcomed everyone and then led with a word of Prayer.
- Dale reviewed the agenda for the upcoming schedule on page 2 with the GA.
 - Dale also gave a word of thanks to the following people;
 - Goldie
 - Becky
 - Audio Video Team
 - Worship Round Circle
 - Reverend Erin Taylor
 - Reverend Handel Smith
 - Dale Recognized the new Pastors and Associate Pastors found on page 11 of the GA Package
 - Rev. Roy and Heather Angel
 - Rev. Brent and Heather Beggs
 - Rev. KC and Diana Graves
 - Rev. Cameron and Jennifer Kreager
 - Rev. Patricia Norvell

- Rev. Jon and Katherine Wallace
- Rev. Jacqueline Williams
- Rev. Valerie Gehrke-Associate

10:55 a.m. General Assembly Chair Dale Turner asked the GA to review with her the Statement of Membership found on page 3 of the GA package, and asked that it was recorded for the voting membership.

- Dale Turner turned to pages 12-17 and shared with the GA the previous minutes and that the previous minutes were reviewed and approved prior to the GA meeting.

10:57 a.m. General Assembly Chair Dale Turner gave an introduction to the GA of the seven Candidates that are ready for Ordination, from pages 34-35 of the package, with the presentation videos of the first two.

1. Martonio Backstrom.
2. Caleb Claybaugh.

11:04 a.m. General Assembly Chair Dale Turner turned the meeting over to our State Pastor Mark Richardson and the Associate State Pastor Joshua Brandt.

State Pastor Mark Richardson:

- Mark shared the good news found on pages 18-19, giving a special thank you to the Program Committee for the GA, recognizing:
 - The Program Committee directed by Rev. Dr. John Davey.
- Mark shared about the experience and connection with God through:
 - Worship
 - Fellowship
 - Preaching
 - Prayer
 - Vision and Mission
 - Through the assembly business
- Mark took the time to look back over 2024 and the new mission and vision per the cards placed at every table for the GA's review.
- Mark shared one of the highlights is "every household hears the good news about Jesus and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit."
- Mark shared that it is very important to understand this vision and mission is going to take time, possible thirty plus years, but it is very important.
- The new mission and vision is in the infancy stages:
 - Starting with the rebranding

- Communicating
- Sharing with the GA, Congregations and Ministers
- The resources are in place
- Need to build a pipeline of new Pastors and Ministers
- We have thirty-four going through that process now.
- Seven new Candidates for Ordination
- But we need to grow the pipeline
- 2025 the time is moving quickly

Accomplishments:

- Mark shared about Pastoral Coaching and that by the end of 2025 the COG in Michigan will have ten Certified Coaches completed through the training.
- Mark shared about two church plants:
 - Connect Church - Big Rapids is now self-sustaining
 - Hispanic Church - is now meeting at Orchard View
- Mark shared these are awesome turnarounds from decline to growth and are positive examples for us and the GA.

Connections:

- Mark shared about the upcoming Winter Youth Retreat and the details surrounding the event.
- Mark shared about the upcoming Minister's Retreat in 2025 with Rev. Monté Dillard as the Guest Speaker and Rev. Cameron Kreager as the Worship Leader.
- Mark shared that MSLI will be at New Creation Church in Flint.
- Mark talked about the 360 Conference's move to the fall and it was a powerful time.
- Mark alluded to the current GA and how great it has been thus far.
- Mark shared about the Academy of Servant Leadership with the next session focused on conflicts, policies, and by-laws.
- Mark shared about the seven Candidates for Ordinations and the blessings of growth in the state.
- Mark shared that we have three churches celebrating 100 years.
- Mark shared about the MissionInsite Outreach and the impact.

2026 Challenges and Objectives:

- Mark shared that it is important to finish the rebranding
- We need to utilize technologies, for ease and functionality

- Mark shared we need to continue to develop Pastoral Coaching, and by the close of 2026 to have twenty Coaches, and by 2027 to have forty Coaches.
- Mark is working hand-in-hand with Joshua to continue the work for restructure of the mission and vision for the Church of God in Michigan.
- Mark talked about the importance of conditional deeding and how it is protective for the churches, not controlling.
- Lastly, Mark shared the importance of developing resources, as the work in the State Office will require funding.

11:45 a.m. State Pastor Mark Richardson turned the meeting over to the Associate State Pastor Joshua Brandt.

Associate State Pastor Joshua Brandt took the GA through his report.

- Joshua is excited about what is going on in the state.
- Joshua shared about the re-vision for the Church of God (COG).
- Joshua shared about a renewed commitment.
- Joshua shared about the passion for reaching Michigan for Jesus and that he and Mark have a consorted effort to help that succeed.
- Joshua shared about the cost of this new effort, and the churches must think about a new way of giving.
- Joshua shared about how we see our giving:
 - Is there a gap
 - We have ninety-four churches in Michigan
 - We have an average attendance of ninety-eight people per Sunday throughout all the ninety-four congregations.
 - Joshua shared the stats of average giving at \$2,262 per person per year.
 - The average annual giving is \$9,212 per year
 - With the annual giving state wide of \$22,837,544 total.
 - Joshua shared that if the churches gave 5% to the COG in Michigan, that would be \$1,041,877 total to the State Office.
 - Annual giving to the State Office has remained virtually flat at \$360,000 per year.
 - Do we have a gap?
 - There is a gap
 - This is not begging by any means
 - This is not calling for a “per member fee”
 - This is also not a “fee-per-service” base

- The call is for every church to move towards a giving base of 5% of their budgets every year to the work in the State Office for the advancement of Jesus.

11:58 a.m. Associate State Pastor Joshua Brandt turned the meeting over to our State Pastor Mark Richardson.

- Mark confirmed the conversation from Joshua, and noted that the need is real and the work takes financial resources
- Mark turned the attention to the Financial Budget.

Financial Budget:

State Pastor Mark Richardson asked the GA to turn to pages 26-33 of their packages as he reviews the highlights of the Financial Budget.

- Mark shared that the giving has been consistent over the years.
- Typically, the State Office spends more than the annual giving in order to cover and supplement the events and activities.
- Mark shared that this is generally covered with the help from the endowments.
- Mark also shared that going forward this is not a sustainable path any longer.
- Mark shared that just about every category in the Financial Budget is structured less this fiscal year.
- In 2025, we are projected to spend \$100,000 less than the estimated Financial Budget.
- In 2026, the Financial Budget is estimated to be \$60,000 less than the estimated Financial Budget.
- The only increases are in salary and benefits and the bulk of that being in the COLA, which was approved by the Finance Committee for a 2.5% increase, which is a total of \$10,000.00
- Mark shared that the total budget for 2026 is \$811,834.00 on page 30.

12:02 p.m. State Pastor Mark Richardson asks the Audio Video Team to share three more Candidates videos.

12:03 p.m. Three Candidate videos shared from the Credentials Team.

1. Stephen Ivy.
2. Trish Norvell.
3. Jonathan Oldham.

12:14 p.m. State Pastor Mark Richardson turned the meeting over to the General Assembly Chair Dale Turner.

12:15 p.m. General Assembly Chair Dale Turner ask the GA to turn to page 38 and review those completing their terms of service and to give them applause for their work.

12:17 p.m. General Assembly Chair Dale Turner asked the Audio Video Team to share the last two videos of our Candidates for Ordination.

1. Josie Sposito
2. Jacqueline Williams

12:25 p.m. General Assembly Chair Dale Turner turned the meeting over to the Business Committee Chair Rob Tramel.

- Rob asked the Business Committee to stand and be recognized
- Rob asked the GA to find ballots located on each table.
- Rob shared the pink ballot is for the Candidates for Ordination
- The blue ballot is for the ratification of the Candidates for Offices
- Rob shared that this is a ratification ballot only, and then asked the GA to pause for prayer.

Rob directed the ballots to be marked and the Tellers will be around to pick them up.

12:28 p.m. Business Committee Chair Rob Tramel turned the meeting over to General Assembly Chair Dale Turner.

12:29 p.m. General Assembly Chair Dale Turner shared the appreciation for Servant Solutions and providing the lunch for the GA today.

12:30 p.m. General Assembly Chair Dale Turner led the GA in prayer and adjourned the meeting until Saturday, November 8th at 8:30am.

Meeting adjourned.

Church of God in Michigan

Minutes from the 105th General Assembly Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 08, 2025

Session 2

8:33 a.m. General Assembly Chair Dale Turner called the second session of the 105th General Assembly to order.

8:34 a.m. General Assembly Chair Dale Turner opened with a word of prayer.

8:35 a.m. General Assembly Chair Dale Turner turned the meeting over to the Business Committee Chair Rob Tramel.

Business Committee Chair Rob Tramel shared about the ballots on the table and voting.

- Rob indicated that the GA vote also for the 2026 Financial Budget.
- Rob noted for the minutes that all members on the 2026 Ballot have been ratified and approved, by the GA.
- Rob also noted that all seven Candidates for Ordination have been approved by the General Assembly.
- Tellers to collect the ballots on the tables.

8:36 a.m. Business Committee Chair Rob Tramel turned the meeting over to General Assembly Chair Dale Turner.

8:37 a.m. General Assembly Chair Dale Turner 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 Office had chosen two for the Lifetime Achievement Awards and one for the Outstanding Service Awards.

State Pastor Mark Richardson 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. Rev. Jim Horn, and his wife Vicky, who has been at Clio for thirty-six years, a regional pastor and also an Interim Pastor at Alma with a combined forty years of service.
2. Rev. Jack Perkins and his wife Ruby, who have been at Ohio for twenty-five years, under the leadership of Wyatt and Massey, spent thirty years at Ford Motor, and currently at

Southwestern Church of God. He has a burden for the people and the community.

State Pastor Mark Richardson presented the one Outstanding Service Award to the following:

1. Rev. Jon Wallace, who has been at Burlington Church of God, where Jon has led growth and he is sold out for service.

8:51 a.m. State Pastor Mark Richardson, presented those with twenty-five years at the same congregation and those with fifteen years at the same congregation recognition.

Those with twenty-five years are the following:

1. Rev. Jeff Eckman, North Avenue Church of God.

Those with fifteen years are the following:

1. Rev. Ronald Peterson
2. Rev. Kevin Tippin
3. Rev. Bill Ferguson
4. Rev. Dr. David Aukerman

8:58 a.m. State Pastor Mark Richardson turned the meeting over to Associate State Pastor Joshua Brandt.

8:59 a.m. Associate State Pastor Joshua Brandt paid tribute and recognition to those who are no longer with us.

9:00 a.m. Associate State Pastor Joshua Brandt led the GA to stand in a prayer of remembrance, and Joshua prayed.

9:03 a.m. Associate State Pastor Joshua Brandt turned the meeting over to the Credentials Team Chair JJ Perry.

9:04 a.m. Credentials Team Chair JJ Perry asked the GA to turn to page 34-35, and he shared with the GA the Credentials Team, and then asked for recognition of the Credentials Team.

- JJ confirmed the Candidates for Ordination and that he was proud of the Church of God.
- JJ shared the list of Candidates found on page 34-35 and as the names were called would each Candidate come to the front.

- JJ acknowledged the work that each Candidate had completed.
- JJ then asked all the Candidates and family, and friends to come and join then for prayer.
- JJ asked the teams to pray for the Candidates.
- JJ led the GA in prayer over the Candidates.
- JJ then asked all the Candidates to come together for a picture.

9:25 a.m. Credentials Chair JJ Perry turned the meeting over to the General Assembly Chair Dale Turner.

9:26 a.m. General Assembly Chair Dale Turner shared what a great GA this has been.

- Dale announced that the Financial Budget passed.
- Dale mentioned that we need to celebrate the work of the State Pastor Mark Richardson and Associate State Pastor Joshua Brandt.
- Dale called the new Chair of the GA, John Davey, and the Vice Chair David Colp.
- Dale invited State Pastor Mark Richardson up for some closing remarks

9:27 a.m. State Pastor Mark Richardson gave thanks to Becky, Goldie, and Karen; as well as John Mellish and Al Grant who were the Regional Pastors. Mark thanked the Program Committee, the Audio Visual Team and Rev. Joshua Brandt for a great job well done.

9:30 a.m. Rev. David Colp led the GA in a closing prayer

9:31 a.m. General Assembly Chair Dale Turner formally called for a close to the 105th General Assembly
All agreed and the GA was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:
Rev. James Matt

Minute proof readers: Melissa Daniel, Pat Gilbert, and Cameron Kreager