

Minutes | 98th General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan

Annual Business Meeting Session 1; November 2, 2018

[10:40 am](#) The Chair, Joeli Ballard, called the first Business Session of the Meeting to order and welcomed the members of the 98th General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan.

The Chair presented the Agenda on the inside cover of the 2018 Annual Report. She noted that any proposed changes to the Agenda must be made to Harold Lockley, Business Committee Chair, by [2 pm today](#).

The Chair introduced this weekend's Conference speakers, Rev. Dr. Melissa Pratt and our Worship Leaders, The Messer's. Their biographies are on page 2 of the Annual Report.

The Chair introduced the afternoon's Conference speakers listed in the Agenda and on page 3 of the Report. Rev. Dr. Melissa Pratt, Rev. Dr. Herbert Banks, Rev. Kirk Bookout, and Minister Crystal Colp will lead Ministry Conferences. Rev. Jim O'Bold of Servant Solutions will lead a Conference on "Pastoral Finance Issues" following today's Lunch, which they are sponsoring.

The Chair introduced Rev. James Sparks as the Parliamentarian and Rev. Dr. 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 Rev. Dr. Melissa Pratt, Warner Camp, St. Louis Camp, Michigan Singers, Institute for Servant Leadership, Children's Ministry Task Force, Children of Promise, Helping Hands in Motion, Warner Press, CDF Capital, Servant Solutions, and Anderson University.

The Chair read the Statement of Membership for voting members from Article IV of our By-Laws and page 1 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 printed on the back cover of the Annual Report.

The Chair introduced the new Pastorates and Associate Pastorates listed on page 5 of the Annual Report and asked that the Assembly recognize them.

The Chair recognized the Ministry and Committee members completing terms of service listed on page 20 of the Annual Report and asked the Assembly to recognize them. The 2019 Ballot is also listed on page 20 of the Annual Report.

The Chair noted the Minutes of the 2017 General Assembly, which have been peer reviewed and approved. This year's Minutes Review Committee will be Rev. Brad Heiple, Rev. Bill Bridgman, and Mrs. Agnes Clark.

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

Dr. Jones reviewed the Financial Report from pages 29-33 of the Annual Report Including the 2018 Budget YTD and the 2019 Budget proposal. Among the items noted in the 2018 Income and Expenses were the payoff of the Remus property; sale of the Big Rapids parsonage; the three year extension rather than payoff of the land contract for the Mt. Pleasant property; the expenses associated with the repair of Church of God in Michigan office parking lot; and in summary 2018 Expenses are less than 2018 Revenues.

The 2019 Budget has slightly higher Expenses than Revenues due in part to the 4th quarter Salary and Benefit Expenses for both the incoming and outgoing State Pastor during the transition. There will also be severance payments for the retiring State Pastor and Office Manager under the Discretionary Severance Pay Policy. No questions were asked about the Budget at this time.

The proposed 2019 Budget was submitted to the General Assembly for approval tomorrow at the November 3 Business Session.

Dr. Jones directed the Assembly to the State Pastor Report on page 9 of the Annual Report. He discussed both the current opportunities and challenges as he enters his last year as State Pastor and helps prepare the way for the new State Pastor.

Dr. Jones introduced Rev. Dan Whiting, Future Directions Committee Chair, and ceded the floor to him. Rev. Whiting directed the Assembly to the State Pastor Position - Job Profile for the State and the State Pastor on pages 18-19. Now that this has been completed the Committee will focus on the search process. He shared the timeline for this process and recognized the Committee members who are Rev. Dr. Robert Dulin, Rev. Carron Odokara, Mr. Dante Rodriguez, Minister Alexandra Weeks, Rev. Chris Bones, Rev. John Mattern, Minister Leo Robinson II and Rev. Jerry Lyon. Rev. Whiting asked that the General Assembly keep them and the process in our prayers.

Rev. Whiting ceded the floor to the Chair, who then introduced and ceded the floor to Harold Lockley, Business Committee Chair.

Harold 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 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 20 of the Annual Report. Their biographies appear on pages 21-28 of the Report. Ballots were distributed to the voting members and then collected by the tellers for counting.

Harold Lockley introduced and ceded the floor to Rev. Dr. John Davey, Credentials Ministry Chair. Dr. Davey discussed the new Credentials Manual, which was not submitted for approval in 2017 due to several concerns about the document. Those concerns have been sufficiently addressed so the Credentials Ministry and Board of Directors are recommending that the amended Credentials Manual be adopted by the General Assembly.

M/S Dr. John Davey/Rev. Bill Bridgman that the General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan adopt the new Credentials Manual as a uniform means of licensing and ordaining new Ministers and maintaining the integrity of those ministering in Michigan. This motion will be voted upon by the General Assembly tomorrow at the November 3 Business Session; passed.

Dr. Davey ceded the floor to Rev. Jerry Lyon, Church Health Minister.

Rev. Lyon moderated discussion with leaders of two Churches to highlight their ministries. Pastor Tom Whitesel provided a video and reviewed ministry changes at the Ithaca Church of God. Lead Pastor Bill Greiner of Eagle Ridge Church of God in Midland and Outreach Pastor Matt Chesney discussed their new Coffee House ministry in the Midland Mall.

Rev. Lyon offered a prayer for the ministries of these two Churches and for the Lunch to follow. He then ceded the floor back to the Chair.

[12:00 pm](#) The Chair dismissed the Business Meeting until it reconvenes [tomorrow](#), Saturday, November 3 at 8:30 am.

Minutes | 98th General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan

Annual Business Meeting Session 2; November 3, 2018

[8:30 am](#) The Chair, Joeli Ballard, 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 ceded the floor to Rev. Jerry Lyon, Church Health Minister.

Rev. Lyon moderated discussion with Pastor Rhyan Glezman who reviewed ministry efforts at Community Church of God in Clio. Rev. Lyon offered a prayer for the ministry of Community Church. He then ceded the floor back to the Chair.

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

There were no questions regarding the 2019 Budget proposal submitted to the General Assembly during for the November 2 Business Session 1. The ballots were cast by the voting members and collected by the tellers; passed.

Harold Lockley ceded the floor to Rev. Dr. John Davey, Credentials Chair.

There were no questions regarding the motion to approve the Credentials Manual submitted to the General Assembly during for the November 2 Business Session 1. The ballots were cast by the voting members and collected by the tellers; passed.

The Chair ceded the floor to Rev. Dr. William Jones, State Pastor, and Rev. John Mattern, Pastoral Health Ministry Chair. Rev. Mattern recognized the members of the Pastoral Health Ministry on page 4 of the Annual Report.

Dr. Jones and Rev. Mattern recognized the following achievements in ministry as noted on page 37 of the Annual Report:

25 Years of Ministry in Michigan: Rev. Jerold Graham and Rev. Kelly Munger.

The Outstanding Service Award was presented to the New Creation Church of God, Flint and Rev. Dr. Herbert Banks.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Rev. Dr. Robert Otis Dulin, Jr.

The Chair ceded the floor to Rev. Dr. John Davey, Credentials Ministry Chair, was introduced and recognized the current and incoming members of the Credentials Ministry.

Dr. Davey led the recognition of the following:

In memorium, the Assembly recognized the Ministers and servants who have passed away in the last year, listed on Page 37 of the Annual Report: Rev. Rita Johnson, Rev. Fred Davis, Rev. Doug Sweeza, Rev. James Withiem, and Rev. James Rogan. While remembering each, Pastor Davey asked that those who were impacted by their ministry and service stand in their honor. Dr. Davey asked for a moment of silence and then offered a prayer in memory of them.

The following Ministers who are licensed and have been placed in the process for ordination are listed on pages 40-41 of the Annual Report: Minister Matthew Chesney, Director of Student Ministries and Outreach, Eagle Ridge Church of God, Midland; Minister Michael Rysko, Pastor, South Cochran Church of God, Charlotte; Minister Ryan Simpson, Pastoral Care, Faith United Church of God, Grand Rapids; Minister Earnest Thomas, Interim Pastor, West Lansing Church of God, Lansing; Minister JoAnn Thomas, Associate Interim Pastor, West Lansing Church of God, Lansing; Minister Robert Tramel, Director of Children's Ministry, North Avenue Church of God, Battle Creek; Minister Derek Whitacre, Young Adult leader, TriPoint Church of God, Mio.

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; all approved.

The following Ministers who have completed the requirements for ordination are listed on pages 38-39 in the Annual Report: Minister James Blake, Director of Worship, Hope Community Church, Niles; Minister Crystal Colp, Adult Discipleship Director, First Church of God, St. Joseph; Minister Matthew Derby, Edgewood Church of God and Ithaca Church of God, Ithaca; Minister Rhyann Glezman, Pastor, Community Church of God, Clio; Minister Leo Robinson II, Associate Pastor, Holbrook Avenue Church of God, Flint; Minister Brian Spitters, Youth Pastor, North Avenue Church of God, Battle Creek; Minister Mark Staton II, Youth Pastor, Lighthouse Community Church of God, Redford; Minister Alexandra Weeks, Associate Student Ministries Pastor, St. Joseph; Minister Arlyn Willett, Pastor, Calvert Park Community Church of God, Burton.

Each candidate shared briefly with the Assembly about their ministry and was then anointed by Dr. William Jones, State Pastor. They were later surrounded by family and members of the General Assembly for prayer.

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; all approved.

The floor was ceded back to the Chair.

The Chair asked the attendees to complete a survey on this year's General Assembly preferably on Survey Monkey or on the printed copies on each table.

The Chair read the following Resolution that was approved by acclamation:

WHEREAS, the General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan consistently enjoys one of the finest annual meetings in the Movement, with superb lodging facilities, and excellent speakers; and,

WHEREAS, each member receives a full and complete report on the financial and administrative programs of the Michigan congregations, along with opportunities to meet and exchange information with many para-church organizations, such as Children of Promise, Institute for Servant Leadership, Servant Solutions, Michigan Singers, Anderson University, and many others; and,

WHEREAS, a complete and informative colored booklet is prepared for the perusal of the members of the General Assembly, containing financial information, reports from all staff on the past accomplishments and plans for the future; and,

WHEREAS, this booklet is prepared at the lowest possible price; and,

WHEREAS, each registration to the assembly meeting and each hotel reservation is handled individually to meet the unique demands of every delegate; and,

WHEREAS, The Church of God in Michigan financially underwrites about half the cost of this assembly to enable wide participation to assist and encourage mutual sharing; and,

WHEREAS, this assembly continues its ministry day by day through the passionate and dedicated efforts of Dr. William Jones, Rev. Jerry Lyon, Mrs. Goldie Kurtzhals, Mrs. Becky Adams, Dr. Robert Dulin, Rev. Jim Horn, Dr. John Davey, and Rev. Dave Perry;

THEREFORE, be it resolved:

That the General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan recognize the singularly unique giftedness these persons bring into our midst to equip and enhance our personal and corporate ministry; and,

That this assembly rise in accord, support, and thankfulness of their laboratory.

RESOLVED, this Third Day of November, the year of our Lord 2018, in Lansing, Michigan.

The Chair requested a motion and second to adjourn the 98th General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan, which were made and the motion approved.

[10:10 am](#) The Chair adjourned the assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Salisbury, Secretary