

## **Minutes | 101st General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan**

### **“Pursuing Christ and Demonstrating Unity”**

9:00 am Welcome: State Pastor Rev. Mark Richardson opened the 101<sup>st</sup> General Assembly.

Worship: Alma First Church of God and Millington Church of God.

Message: State Pastor Rev. Mark Richardson, “Going Forward Together”, Ephesians 4:1-7

Worship: Alma First Church of God and Millington Church of God.

Benediction: Rev. Mark Richardson, State Pastor

### **Annual Business Meeting Session 1; November 5, 2021**

10:46 am The Chair, Rev. Dr. David Auckerman, called the first Business Session to order and welcomed the members of the 101st General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan.

The Chair presented the Agenda printed on the inside cover of the 2021 Annual Report. He noted that any proposed changes to the Agenda must be made to the Business Committee.

The Chair read the Statement of Membership for voting members from Article IV of our By-Laws and page 3 of the Annual Report. 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 called attention to the Bylaws Revision Resolution on Meetings on Page 17 of the Annual Report. These two proposals would allow online or virtual General Assembly meetings and voting. They are submitted to the General Assembly for approval tomorrow during the second Business Session.

The Chair introduced this weekend's Conference speakers, State Pastor Mark Richardson, Rev. Jim Lyon General Director of Church of God Ministries, and Bishop Timothy J. Clarke. Their biographies are on pages 4-5 of the Annual Report.

The Chair recognized former State Pastor Rev. Dr. William Jones; Regional Pastors Rev. David Colp (Southwestern), Rev. Jim Horn (Northeastern), Rev. Al Grant (Southeastern), and Rev. John Mellish (Northwestern) on pages 38-39; former Regional Pastor Dave Perry; Rev. Jim O'Bold and Jeff Jenness of Servant Solutions who are sponsoring today's lunch; and encouraged the Assembly members to visit the Ministry booths in the Lobby. The booths include Warner Camp, St. Louis Camp, Michigan Singers, Cultivate, Children's Ministry, Vision Ministries, Servant Solutions, and Anderson University.

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

The Chair noted the Minutes of the 2020 General Assembly on pages 4-5 of the Annual Report, which have been peer reviewed and submitted for approval. **M/S/C Review Committee/Rev. Kevin Tippin/**Approved the 2020 General Assembly Minutes.

The Chair ceded the floor to Rev. Mark Richardson, State Pastor.

Rev. Richardson directed the Assembly to the State Pastor Report on page 9 of the Annual Report. Heartfelt thanks were extended to the staff members Rev. Jerry Lyon, Becky Adams, Goldie Kurtzhals, and Connie Graham; the current Regional Pastors, and past Regional Pastors Rev. Dave Perry, Rev. Dr. John Davey, and the late Rev. Dr Herbert Banks; the Board of Directors, Committees, Teams, Pastors, and Congregations of the Church of God in Michigan.

State Pastor Richardson highlighted the need for investment in leadership through the new Institute for Servant Leadership, Leadership Focus, Trellis support and potential hub-church site in Michigan, and church planting. Big Rapids Church Planters Rev. Mark and Heather Robb were introduced.

State Pastor Richardson called attention to the 2022 Ballot and Biographies as well as honoring those Ministry/Committee Members completing their terms on pages 18-25 of the Annual Report.

State Pastor Richardson reviewed the General Assembly Finances including the proposed 2022 Budget. The financial condition of the Church of God in Michigan is strong. Congregational giving has remained strong throughout the covid pandemic.

The proposed 2022 Budget was submitted to the General Assembly for approval tomorrow at the second Business Session.

State Pastor Richardson thanked previous State Pastors Rev. Dr. William Jones and Rev. Dr. Gerald Nevitt. He also recognized Rev. Bill Miller, retired Pastor and Church of God in Michigan staff, who passed away this morning.

The State Pastor ceded the floor back to the Chair.

Video were presented for each of the five Credentials Candidates who have completed the requirements for ordination and noted on page 35 of the Annual Report. They are David Johnson, Teaching Pastor at New Creations in Flint; David Mulhern, Pastor ay Hilltop Church of God, Flint; Keli Oldham, Missionary, Commerce Township; Emily Potter, Youth Minister, TriPoint Church of God, Alpena; and Suhailah Talibah, Pastor at Lake Street Church of God, Pontiac.

The Chair introduced the new Pastorates and Associate Pastorates listed on page 7 of the Annual Report and asked that the Assembly recognize them. They are Joshua and Laura Brandt, Penway Church of God, Lansing; Nathanael Lyon, Hope Community Church, Niles; and Madonna Snyder, First Church of God, Three Rivers.

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

Brother Lockley introduced 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.

Brother Lockley introduced the candidates being presented for ratification on the ballot as listed on page 18 of the Annual Report. Their biographies appear on pages 19-25 of the Report. Ballots were distributed to the voting members and then collected by the tellers for counting.

Brother Lockley ceded the floor to the Chair.

The Chair offered a prayer for the Servant Solutions sponsored lunch to follow.

12:00 pm The Chair dismissed the Business Meeting until it reconvenes tomorrow, Saturday, November 6 at 8:30 am.

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### **Annual Business Meeting Session 2; November 6, 2021**

8:30 am The Chair, Rev. Dr. David Auckerman, called the second Business Session to order.

The Chair ceded the floor to Rev. Jerry Lyon, Church Health Minister for his Report on page 10 of the Annual Report. Rev. Lyon prioritized being "make disciples who make disciples".

- 360: Attendance was 200+ at the Fall 360 Leadership Conference at Clarkston. 360 will return to its Spring format at South Church in Lansing on March 19, 2022.
- Mission 120: Looking for a few more churches who want to participate.
- Big Rapids Church Plant: Rev. Mark and Heather Robb were introduced and will be at the Registration table to discuss the new work there.

Rev. Lyon ceded the floor back to The Chair.

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

There were no questions regarding the 2022 Budget proposal submitted to the General Assembly during the first Business Session. The ballots were cast by the voting members and collected by the tellers. The 2022 Budget was approved.

There were no questions regarding the Bylaws resolution on Page 17 of the Annual Report to allow online or virtual General Assembly meetings and voting. The ballots were cast by the voting members and collected by the tellers. The Bylaws revisions were approved.

There are five Credentials Candidates who have completed the requirements for ordination and noted on page 35 of the Annual Report. They are David Johnson, Teaching Pastor at New Creations in Flint; David Mulhern, Pastor ay Hilltop Church of God, Flint; Keli Oldham, Missionary, Commerce Township; Emily Potter, Youth Minister, TriPoint Church of God, Alpena; and Suhailah Talibah, Pastor at Lake Street Church of God, Pontiac.

The voting members were asked to cast ballots to either approve the ordination of 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 candidates were approved.

The following Ministers who are licensed and have been placed in the process for ordination are listed on pages 36 of the Annual Report: Jesse Hargett, Youth Director, Clarkston Community Church, Clarkston and Alexander Young, Associate Pastor, Calvert Park Community Church, Burton.

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 candidates were approved.

100+ Year Anniversary Celebration:

- Retired State Pastor Rev. Dr. William Jones reviewed the history of the Church of God in Michigan including past State Pastors & staff. Equip the local congregation to extend the kingdom of God. Equipping, encouraging, supporting, and protecting.
- State Pastor Rev. Mark Richardson reviewed the solid foundation of the Church of God in Michigan including its' reputation and influence in the Church of God movement.

State Pastor Mark Richardson recognized the following achievements in ministry as noted on page 34 of the Annual Report:

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Rev. Dr. William Jones and Rev. Theron Kersey who represent nearly 100 years of ministry in the Church of God in Michigan.

Becky Adams was recognized for her outstanding service to the Church of God in Michigan.

The Outstanding Service Award was presented to Rev. Leo Robinson II, Rev. Mark Staton II, and Rev. Erin Taylor for their work in their congregations and communities.

25 Years of Ministry in Michigan: Rev. Dr. John Davey, Rev. David Lunn, Rev. Gregory Prather, Rev. Lori Woodmore, and Rev. Steven Starks.

15 Years Serving at the same Congregation: Rev. George Villarreal

Rev. Mike Harris was recognized for this service as Senior Pastor at the Howell Church of God. He is leaving pastoral ministry to become a counselor at Focus on the Family in Greenville.

State Pastor Mark Richardson ceded the floor to Rev. Michael Harris, the Chair of the Credentials Ministry.

In memorium, the Assembly recognized the Ministers who served the King of Heaven have passed away in the last year, listed on Page 34 of the Annual Report: Rev. Mary Dorothy Gillespie, Rev. Roger Christiansen, Rev. Dr. Herbert Banks, Rev. Sarah Palmer, Rev. Robert Hazen, and the Rev. Dr. Donald O'Leary. While remembering each, Rev. Harris asked that

those who were impacted by their ministry and service stand in their honor. Rev. Harris then asked for a moment of silence and then offered a prayer in memory of them.

Rev. Harris recognized the members of the Credentials Ministry.

Rev. Harris recognized Jesse Hargett, Youth Director, Clarkston Community Church, Clarkston and Alexander Young, Associate Pastor, Calvert Park Community Church, Burton who are licensed and have been placed in the process for ordination.

Rev. Harris invited the five Credentials Candidates, noted earlier, who have completed the requirements for ordination to come forward for anointing and prayer.

Rev. Michael Harris ceded the floor Church Health Minister Rev. Jerry Lyon. Rev. Lyon introduced a video from MALU, which adjourned the second Business Session of Assembly at 9:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Salisbury, Chair Emeritus and Acting Secretary