

Running the Race With Patience and Persistence



Hebrews 12:1-4 (NLT) ¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up, And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us. ²We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. ³Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people, then you won't become weary and give up. ⁴After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin.

103rd General Assembly

November 10-11, 2023

General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan
November 10-11, 2023
Lansing, Michigan

Schedule

Friday - November 10, 2023

- 9:00 a.m.
Worship-Sarah Scharbrough McLaughlin
Message- Rev. Mark K. Richardson
Ballrooms A, B, C, D, and E
- 10:45 a.m.
Pastor's Wives Tea with Rev. Flynn
Reo Room
Pastor's Husbands Coffee with Rev. Sheppard
Hotel Restaurant
- 10:45 a.m.
Call to Order First Business Session-
Chuck Nebus, Vice-Chair
Welcome and Presentation of Agenda
Introductions and Appreciation
New Pastors, Associates, Visitors, and Guests
Statement of Voting Membership
Minutes of 2022 General Assembly
State Pastor Report- Rev. Mark K. Richardson
Finances and Budget Proposal
Credentials Candidate Videos
Those completing terms of service
for our Assembly
Credentials Candidate Videos
Ballot Presentation and Ratification-
Rev. Mike Potter, Business Committee Chair
- 12:00 p.m.
Recess until 8:30 a.m. Saturday
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
Sponsored by Servant Solutions
Rev. Jim O'Bold and Rev. Mark Senseman
- 1:15 p.m. Conference
"Giving Glory to God in the Church"
Ephesians 3:20-21
Rev. Dr. Horace W. Sheppard, Jr.
Ballrooms A, B, C, D, and E
- 2:45 p.m. Conference
"Pastors, You are Not Alone"
Matthew 11:28-30
Rev. Jeannette Flynn
Ballrooms A, B, C, D, and E
- 4:00 p.m.
Free Time - Dinner on your own

- 7:00 p.m.
Worship- Sarah Scharbrough McLaughlin
Message- Rev. Dr. Horace W. Sheppard, Jr.
Ballrooms A, B, C, D, and E

After Service: Dessert Time Meet and
Greet Fellowship - Sponsored by
Crowne Plaza Lansing West Hotel

Saturday - November 11, 2023

- 8:00 a.m.
Continental Breakfast
Ballrooms A, B, C, D, and E
- 8:30 a.m.
Call to Order Second Business Session-
Chuck Nebus, Vice-Chair
Church Health Minister Report -
Rev. Jerry Lyon
2024 Proposed Budget Vote-
Rev. Mike Potter, Business Committee Chair
Presentation of Awards-
Rev. Mark K. Richardson
Lifetime Achievement
Rev. Mary Hirakis
Revs. Shelton and Chariese Matthews
Outstanding Service Award
Rev. Dr. Julián Guzmán and
Iglesia Vida Plena
Rev. Dale Turner
Rev. Julie Wiseman
15 years serving in the same congregation
25 years serving in ministry in Michigan
Credentials Presentations-
Rev. Joshua Brandt, Credentials Chair
In Tribute Recognition
Dedication of Ordination Candidates
- 9:45 a.m.
Adjourn Business Session-
Chuck Nebus, Vice-Chair
- 10:00 a.m.
Worship- Sarah Scharbrough McLaughlin
Message- Rev. Jeannette Flynn
Ballrooms A, B, C, D, and E
- 11:45 Dismissal

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General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan Statement of Membership

- A. The pastor of each congregation within the state of Michigan.
- B. The members of all the recognized ministries and committees of this organization.
- C. The associate pastors/ministers called by each congregation on a full-time or part-time basis.
- D. One layperson chosen as an official representative by each Michigan Church of God congregation with an average weekly attendance to 100; two laypersons from each congregation with an average weekly attendance of 101–500; three laypersons from each congregation with an average weekly attendance of 501–1000; and four laypersons from each congregation with an average weekly attendance of 1,001 and above.
- E. All others who are registered in the current Yearbook of the Church of God or have served as past chairs of the Michigan General Assembly, and who reside in Michigan and worship in Church of God congregations in Michigan.
- F. One delegate as appointed by each recognized Camp Meeting Association within the state.

Rev. Jeannette Flynn



Jeannette was born and raised in NE Ohio. Married to Charles, they have two grown children and four grandchildren. She grew up in the Church of God in Ohio, holds a degree in Education from an Ohio state university, a degree from Mid America Christian University in Theology, and a Master of Divinity from Anderson Theological Seminary.

Jeannette has served in pastorates in the states of Indiana, Washington, and Florida and as interim pastor in Indiana and Ohio. She served at the Florida state level as a middle judicatory as well as the national offices in Anderson, Indiana. From 2011 until March 2023, Jeannette served as the developer and Executive Director for Leadership Focus, the North American training program for Credentialing in the Church of God.

Her greatest passion is the clear and compelling proclamation of God's word, investing in the development of leaders, and assisting congregations in discovering and fulfilling their calling, mission, and vision as the Body of Christ.

Rev. Dr. Horace Sheppard, Jr.



Rev. Dr. Horace W. Sheppard, Jr. is the senior pastor of Bethesda Christian Fellowship Church of God, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has been in pastoral ministry for forty years.

He is a graduate of Mid America Nazarene University and is the recipient of an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree from the Southern California School of Ministry.

Dr. Sheppard is the founder of Shepherd's Voice Ministries, a 501(c)(3) non-profit ministry, committed to supporting, pastors, serving churches, and developing ministers and leaders.

He and his wife, Linda have been married for forty-five years and are the proud parents of three sons and one daughter, the delighted grandparents of twelve grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Mrs. Sarah Scharbrough McLaughlin



Sarah Scharbrough McLaughlin is a world-class performer, songwriter and worship leader, whose music has taken her around the globe. Her soulful, eclectic sound combines a rich tapestry of influences, including her classical and jazz training, and a broad spectrum of experiences in gospel, pop, and country music.

Sarah has released six original studio albums, the most recent of which is a collection of lullabies and love songs, entitled *Rêverie*. Her interpretations of classics breathe fresh life into time-honored favorites, and her original songs express both the depth of her musical gift and a soulful honesty that sets her apart as a rare treasure to Central Indiana and the world.

An Indiana native and Anderson University graduate, Sarah's voice can be heard on local and national commercials and radio jingles for brands like New Balance, the Indianapolis Colts, Cedar Point Theme Park, and many more. She has been featured on two Emmy Award-winning TV shows: *Artrageous with Nate*, and *Cook and Belle's Playhouse*. She has collaborated and performed with Grammy Award-winning artists Bill and Gloria Gaither, Sandi Patty, Kurt Elling, as well as The Wright Brothers, Josh Kaufman, Alanna Story, Jon McLaughlin, Cook & Belle, Jennie Devoe and countless others.

She regularly performs across Greater Indianapolis, and was featured most recently as special guest with the Carmel Symphony Orchestra at The Palladium and also with the Indianapolis Children's Choir. She packs out the Jazz Kitchen during her annual Christmas concert series. Also a highly respected worship leader, Sarah currently serves at Grace Church in Noblesville, Indiana.

Sarah is the co-host/founder of the *Momnesia* Podcast which serves to preserve the hilarious, mundane and heartbreaking stories of motherhood. Currently wrapping up season two, *Momnesia* has been charting on Apple, Spotify and other streaming services since its launch.

In 2001, Sarah married her college sweetheart, Jeff McLaughlin, who is a music educator at Westfield High School and highly respected performer. The McLaughlins have put down their roots in Noblesville where they reside with their five children.

New Pastorates



Josie Sposito
Stefano Pizzi and Josie Sposito
Sears Church of God, Sears



Melissa Daniel
Farmington Hills Church
of God, Farmington Hills



Caleb Claybaugh
Heather and Caleb
Hillcrest Community
Church, Cedar Springs



Brent Beggs
Brent and Heather
Hope Crossing Church,
Sterling Heights



Brian Fee
First Church Eau Claire
Campus, Saint Joseph



Dwight Fontenot
Argenis and Dwight
Riverside Park Church
of God, Livonia



Michael Gilbert
Mike and Kathy
First Church of God,
Monroe



Kenny Seidler
Family Worship Center,
Grass Lake



Andrew Thompson
Vandalia Church of God,
Vandalia

New Associate Pastorates



Josh Brainard
Josh, Heather, Ava, and Alydia
Clarkston Community Church,
Clarkston

Jeff Stackman
From top left: Christina, Jeff, Izaiah, Izaak,
Annalynn, and Ilijah
First Church Eau Claire Campus,
Saint Joseph



Minutes | 102nd General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan

Annual Business Meeting Session 1; November 4-5, 2022

9:00 am Welcome: State Pastor Rev. Mark Richardson who opened the 102nd General Assembly.

Worship: Rev. Dr. Leslie Barnes and Worship Team.

Message: State Pastor Rev. Mark Richardson
"Reinvigorating Our Roots to Grow Richer Fruits" Luke 13:6-9 NIV

Worship: Rev. Dr. Leslie Barnes and Worship Team.

Benediction: Rev. Mark Richardson, State Pastor.

Annual Meeting Session I

10:46 am Chair, Minister Sheila Granger, called the first business meeting to order and welcomed members of the 102nd General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan.

The Chair prayed over the meeting.

The Chair presented the agenda, which was printed on the inside cover of the 2022 Annual Report.

The Chair read the Statement of Membership, voting members from Article IV of our By-laws, which was found on 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, which were printed on the back cover of the annual report.

The Chair called Rev. Mark Richardson to the

podium for introductions of the speakers for the General Assembly. The following were selected as speakers by the Program Committee.

Rev. Mark Richardson, State Pastor
Rev. Jeremy Dixon, Lead Pastor, Center of Hope, Inglewood, California
Rev. Dr. Kimberly Majeski, Executive Director, Christian Women Connection

Rev. Mark Richardson also shared his appreciation for the following in their contributions to the State Assembly:

Rev. Dr. Leslie Barnes, Worship
Becky Adams, State Office
Goldie Kurtzhals, State Office
Jake Seaton, Audio and Video Tech Team
Rev. Jim Blake, Audio and Video Tech Team
Rev. Dr. Bill Jones, Legacy State Pastor
Staff at the Crowne Plaza Lansing West

The minutes from the 101st General Assembly were certified (page 6).

Rev. Mark Richardson, State Pastor, gave his state pastor's report. The finance and budget review was completed (pgs. 31-38).

Rev. Richardson then talked about the vendors that were available.

- Brian Stone, Full Strength Network - provides 12 counseling sessions and coaching sessions for members of the state
- Ministry to Ministers- State would reimburse up to \$120.00 for 12 sessions of counseling
- Servant Solutions - Rev. Jim O'Bold and Rev. Mark Senseman (who also were sponsoring the lunch meal on Friday)
- Jim Walters - Vision Ministry (Barbados)
- Tim and Kelly Schate - St. Louis

Campground

- Dick and Ken Foresman - Michigan Singers
- Scott Bale - Warner Camp
- Roland Daniels - Wesleyan Investment Fund (who also sponsored the dessert refreshment time Friday night after Service)
- Rev. Dr. Nathan Willowby (Anderson University, Dean of the School of Theology and Christian Ministry) working on the development of Cyber Security for Churches Program

The hope for the State of Michigan Church of God is that we have the desire to honor/exalt Jesus into unity and holiness.

Lessons learned - presented by Rev. Mark Richardson.

- The State had 12 churches seeking pastors which have now been reduced to seven
- Discussion of better focus, time management, and organizational skill needed for Rev. Mark Richardson
 - To help will need to reduce out-of-state initiatives
 - Better care of overall personal health
 - Prepare for an infrastructure change for 2023/24
 - Revamping the Church Health function
 - Adding an associate state pastor (proposal to be submitted to GA 2023)
 - Leadership opportunities for growth
 - Spoke about the need for better communication and integration
 - The need for more resources for our churches
- Like financial literacy
- Build a pipeline for our churches
- Recognizing younger people that have a call to ministry
- Assist with supporting that call
- Mentoring our younger leaders (It is a need)
- Key Investments in 2023

- Academy of Servant Leader (ASL)
 - How-to rules of engagement
 - Development of course curriculum
 - Two Tracks
 - Pastor and Key Leaders
 - Church of God Doctrine
 - 1st Module looking to start by the end of 1st Quarter of 2023
 - 2nd Module is still being developed due to the pending changes in the Theological Statements consolidation.
- Talked about the establishment of the Midwest Multiplication Initiative
 - Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Western PA
- Full Strength Network
- Coaching/mentoring for mature pastors, for younger pastors (implement again)
- Focus on pastors under 50
- Women pastors
- Laity
- Resources for youth that experience a call to ministry
 - Trellis - A development program for young people in the ministry
- Financial Literacy – Outreach ministry in the churches of the State

Budget/ Finance Report

- Explained where we are now
- Info in the budget report are numbers through Sep 22
- Actual through Dec 22 is tracking the same as in years past and we should make budget if giving continues
- The State is close to closing on the sale of the Mt. Pleasant property, which should show a net gain of \$240,000
 - In addition, the Nevitt grant check will come in at \$75,000
 - This means the State will have a net gain of \$330,000 to the budget
- Discussed the Ameriprise Money Market

Minutes | 102nd General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan - continued

Account

- The State has set aside \$50,000 to complete the roof replacement on the State Office, which ended up costing only \$30,000, which left a savings of \$20,000, which will in turn be set aside for the drainage replacement project at the State Office
- Money Market Accounts have taken a beating
 - Bonds and Market are down 17 to 18%
 - Market is down 9% and the State accounts are only down 7%
 - Income/Salaries/COLA is up

11:41 am Rev. Mark Richardson turned the meeting back over to the chair.

- Celebrate the faithful giving within the State

General Assembly viewed the Candidate videos for:

- Jamie Cervantes
- Veronica Roesly
- Andrew Thompson

Attention was drawn to page 10/11 in the Annual Report.

- New Pastors/Associates
- Families that support them

Attention was turned to page 25 to those that are completing their terms of service.

Acknowledgment of the Pastoral candidates was made.

11:56 am Chair called Rev. Mike Potter, Chair of the Business Committee

- He presented the ballot to the General Assembly
- Asked the General Assembly to mark ballots at 11:58 am

12:00 pm Recess Business Session 1 (adjourn until 8:30 am on Sat Nov 5th with prayer led by Chair and a time of silent pause for 45 seconds).

1:15 pm Conference

- Reinvigorated Roots ... Richer Fruits for Ministry Conference Rev. Jeremy Dixon and Rev. Dr. Kimberly Majeski
 - Always a work in progress
 - It reminds us of where we came from
 - It is important to know the stories of where we come from
 - We are free to dream and get out of the box

Annual Meeting Session II

8:30 am Chair, Minister Sheila Granger called the second business meeting to order and welcomed members of the 102nd General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan.

8:31 am Chair called Rev. Jerry Lyon to give his report

- Leadership 360 will be March 18, 2023
 - Theme is Seek to Save (The Son of Man has come to Seek and Save the Lost – Luke 19:10
 - Focusing on evangelism, witnessing, and sharing the Gospel
- Mission 120 is completed
 - 23 Churches engaged
 - Disciple-making
 - Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Illinois were all involved
- Connect Church in Big Rapids was launched 17 Sep 22
 - Rev. Jerry Lyon called for Rev. Mark Robb to come and share about the Big Rapids Plant – Connect Church
 - He offered his thanks to Rev. Mark

Richardson and Rev. Jerry Lyon

- Honored to bring the Church of God back to the Big Rapids community
- Diversity is key
- Thanked wife Heather for the support
- Asked the State for continued prayers and support
- Asked the State to continue its financial support
- Heather Robb stated it has been wonderful to build relationships within the community of Big Rapids
- Church plant number two is in the works
- We are a family
- Eagle Ridge is working on new things
- Sanford community is looking to launch a Cultivate Coffee Ministry
- There will be a redefinition of the Church Health Program

Chair called Rev. Mike Potter, Business Committee Chair

- Asked us to rejoice in moving forward
 - Asked members to mark ballots at 8:44 am; ballots were collected
 - All candidates were approved for ordination

Presentation of Ratification of Ordination

- Rev. Joshua Brandt, Credentials Chair

Rev. Dr. Bill Jones came to offer a prayer and to anoint Rev. Mark Richardson with oil

- Prayer consisted of praying for better time management, refreshed/renewed spirit, to give guidance on what to do and what not to do

8:51 am Rev. Mark Richardson's comments

- Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Awards
 - Rev. Dick Latham - Pennway and Sears Church of God
 - Servant Solutions Gift Card of \$200.00

- Rev's Leo and Janell Robinson – Good Church (formerly Holbrook Avenue Church of God) in Flint, Michigan
 - Servant Solutions Gift Card of \$200.00
 - Janell comments: Are we old? Know the Latter Days will be better than the past days. We need to remember we are in authority and under authority. Thanked God for the Church of God in the state. Visionary in children's ministry.

◦15 Years at One Church

- Rev. David Colp
- Rev. Jerry Lyon
- Outstanding Service Award
 - Rev. Carl Baker (New Creation Church, Flint)
 - Held Church together and it continues to grow

▪Rev. Jaime Cervantes

- Implemented a powerful Celebrate Recovery Program at Benton Heights Church of God
- God has done exceedingly more than imagined
- Best is yet to come
- Rev. Dave Perry
 - Considered to be a community pastor
 - Edgewood Church of God, Ithaca
 - Ministry is a partnership
 - The world is my parish (Share the Love)
 - Trust God for those that are young in ministry

Budget was approved.

Chair called Rev. Joshua Brandt to pay tribute to those that we have lost over the year

- Rev. Philip Palmer - Rev. William Miller
- Rev. Dr. Gerald Nevitt - Rev. Paul Pakizer
- Rev. Jerry Webb - Rev. F. Herbert Smith
- Rev. Philip Darling - Rev. Richard Mitterling
- Rev. Helmut Holts - Rev. Dr. Robin Riggs

Rev. Joshua Brandt stated that the Credentials Committee is the gatekeeper and internal affairs of the Church of God. He also talked about how best to love pastors and churches. He petitioned the state assembly by telling the state that we need to ordain up to 15 pastors a year to keep pace.

Dedication of the pastoral candidates:

- Jamie Cervantes
- Veronica Roesly
- Andrew Thompson

Candidates will have their own ordinations services. Candidates came forward and were prayed for by the assembly. Prayer conducted by Rev Joshua Brandt.

Chair pledged to keep praying for the candidates. She also wanted to share a thank you for allowing her to serve as the Chair. Additionally, she wanted to remember Rev. Robert Dulin and Rev. Dr. Herbert Banks.

Chair prayed a prayer of adjournment at 9:54 am.

Humbly Submitted by Rev. John (Tad) Mellish, Acting Secretary

Minutes Read and Certified by: Rev. Cathy Ganus, Rev. Al Grant, and Rev. Rob Tramel



MAN TO MAN MEN'S RETREAT 24'

LINCOLN LAKE CAMP
MARCH 22-24, 2024

WORSHIP IN THE CHAPEL

GAME ROOM

GUN RANGE AND OPEN GYM

MARCH MADNESS WATCH PARTY

PIE NIGHT ON SATURDAY

Join us for 1 night - \$85
or for both nights - \$100



Rev. Matt Stone (616) 232-5520 pastor.mattstone@gmail.com

Save the Date 2024

**Youth Winter Retreat
January 5-7, 2024**

**Ministers Retreat
January 29-31, 2024**

**Academy of Servant Leaders
February 3, 2024**

**Michigan Student
Leadership Institute (MSLI)
March 1-2, 2024**

State Pastor's Report - Rev. Mark K. Richardson



Welcome:

On behalf of the Church of God in Michigan, Sharon and I welcome you to this 103rd meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan. It is amazing how fast four years

have come and gone since I came aboard. The role of State Pastor for this great assembly is both a privilege and an honor. I am thankful for you, your leaders, and your congregations. The work you do is changing lives across the state and beyond. The Church of God in Michigan enjoys a great reputation across the Church of God, and that is because of you. Again, thank you and praise God for you.

A Look Back at 2023:

This year has been a good one overall in our assembly. There are many wonderful things to celebrate, like new pastoral leadership in several places, outreach ministries launched and growing with great success in many of our congregations, the Academy of Servant Leaders taking shape, and opportunities for new ministry efforts emerging. During this year we celebrated a fresh expression of the Kingdom of God in Sanford, as a Cultivate Coffee Shop opened in the downtown area that was so ravaged by the flood of 2020. On September 16th, we celebrated the one year anniversary of Connect Church, the church plant led by Rev. Mark and Heather Robb. Over 100 people gathered to honor God's faithfulness there in Big Rapids,

including a baptism service in the park where the service was held. On October 22nd, we celebrated the addition of a fourth location (a third satellite site) of the First Church of God in St. Joseph, Michigan. This weekend we celebrate four persons who have successfully completed the requirements for Ordination in the Church of God. There are so many other things and people worthy of our celebration. While there are challenges we face, and there will probably always be some, we can surely say that the Lord God has been good to us.

2024: Running the Race With Patience and Persistence

This theme, based upon Hebrews 12:1-4, is our rallying cry of determination for 2024 and beyond. It shouldn't be a news bulletin that we are in a race to the finish line of glory with the Lord Jesus Christ. He set the course, and He enables us to faithfully run toward Him. We are exhorted through this scripture to keep our eyes on Jesus and keep stepping. This requires patience and persistence, the determination to press to the finish line. At the finish line is the prize of His welcome and well-done. During the General Assembly Sessions I will share plans for 2024 and beyond, including some exciting initiatives which are developing, like our Academy of Servant Leaders. You will see in the proposed 2024 budget the plan to bring in an Associate State Pastor as well as an additional office staff person. The goal of these additions is to help better resource our congregations across the whole state and insure coverage of all functions in situations of downtime for any staff person.

To kick off this exciting year ahead, we have some well-known and very gifted leaders to share with us this weekend. Rev. Jeannette Flynn has served in many key leadership roles in the Church of God over several years. She is a very gifted preacher, teacher, leader, mentor, coach, and innovator who has blessed many throughout her ministries. Rev. Dr. Horace W. Sheppard, Jr. is also a very gifted preacher and teacher of God's Word, as well as a long-time Pastor and mentor, and a highly sought after Evangelist. Sarah Scharbrough McLaughlin is a world-class performer, song-writer, and worship leader who has gone around the world sharing the Gospel in music. Her anointed music ministry is a true gift to the Church. All three well represent the history, heritage, and blessing of the Church of God. We are delighted that they are here to share what the Lord has laid upon their hearts for us. We hope you will be blessed by the services, conferences, and our General Assembly Sessions. We also hope that you will take the time to connect with as many people across the state as you can during this General Assembly gathering.

Heartfelt Thanks:

Being your State Pastor is wonderful because of you. I am very grateful for the love, encouragement, prayers and blessings you extend on so many occasions. Thank you to all who serve our congregations, our state teams, and our campgrounds. Thank you for all that you do and your consistent and greatly appreciated giving to the state's ministries. The impact of your support goes across Michigan and beyond. Again, thank you! The great support staff that we have continually goes above and beyond the call of duty to serve. Specifically, I offer heartfelt thanks to Becky Adams, our Finance and Media Director, for the incredible and tireless work she

does for us all. Also, thank you to Goldie Kurtzhals for continuing to serve the Church of God in Michigan through her excellent administration of the Credentialing and Leadership Focus processes, as well as the coordination of this General Assembly venue. She also helps with special projects through the year. Thank you to Rev. Jerry Lyon, our Church Health Minister, and Connie Graham, who retired in May of this year as our Director of Youth Ministry. Thank you to Rev. John Mellish, Rev. Jim Horn, Rev. David Colp, and Rev. Al Grant, our Regional Pastors. They help to connect our congregations with the ministries of the Church of God in Michigan. Thank you to all who have served on teams through the past years, especially those whose service terms are expiring. You are a blessing. Finally, thanks to our Board and all our state team leaders for the wonderful work you do for our pastors, congregations, and the state ministries. We are better because of you.

I hope you are enriched through this General Assembly and encouraged to press into a truly successful 2024, as we Run the Race With Patience and Perseverance.

With Love,
Pastor Mark

Academy of Servant Leaders

February 3, 2024

Webinar
micog.org/asl

General Assembly Finances

Revenue

Unrestricted	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
General Budget	340,000.00	345,656.16	340,000.00	256,874.07	75.55%	340,000.00
Interest - CDs, MM, etc.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Loan Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Total Unrestricted	\$340,000.00	\$345,656.16	\$340,000.00	\$256,874.07	75.55%	\$340,000.00

Temporarily Restricted	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
Benevolence/Disaster Relief	0.00	6,817.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Michigan Kingdom Builders	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Regional Pastors	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Youth Ministry	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Church Multiplication	8,000.00	16,602.30	8,000.00	7,818.44	97.73%	8,000.00
Ministry to Ministers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Transformations	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00	0.00%	7,000.00
Other Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	0.00%	0.00
Lifelong Learning	3,500.00	4,500.00	3,500.00	2,400.00	68.57%	\$3,500.00
Total Temporarily Restricted	\$18,500.00	\$35,119.30	\$18,500.00	\$22,218.44	120.10%	\$18,500.00

Investments	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
Land Contract principal	275,036.01	21,900.36	6,156.08	249,512.66	4053.11%	6,422.87
Land Contract Interest	2,224.24	2,224.24	2,224.24	1,500.96	67.48%	1,701.73
Revolving Loan Fund Endowment Interest	245.00	48.35	245.00	0.00	0.00%	245.00
Promissory Notes Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
General Budget Investments	10,000.00	-38,149.09	10,000.00	-2,703.72	-27.04%	10,000.00
Total Investments	\$287,505.25	\$-13,976.14	\$18,625.32	\$248,309.90	1333.18%	\$18,369.60

Total Budget Revenue	\$646,005.25	\$366,799.32	\$377,125.32	\$527,402.41	139.85%	\$376,869.60
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Registrations	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
360 Ministry Leadership Conference	12,000.00	7,039.75	12,000.00	6,146.86	51.22%	12,000.00
Ministers Retreat	2,000.00	4,495.00	4,000.00	3,340.00	83.50%	4,000.00
Ministry Wives Retreat	4,000.00	3,260.00	4,000.00	2,824.00	70.60%	4,000.00
Youth Winter Retreat	40,000.00	23,258.00	40,000.00	23,647.50	59.12%	40,000.00
State Youth Convention	16,000.00	16,550.48	16,000.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
MI Student Ldrshp Institute	4,000.00	1,330.00	4,000.00	2,583.91	64.60%	4,000.00
Annual General Assembly	40,000.00	38,448.60	40,000.00	22,180.06	55.45%	40,000.00
Other Events/Registrations	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,750.00	137.50%	3,000.00
Total Registrations	\$120,000.00	\$94,381.83	\$122,000.00	\$63,472.33	52.03%	\$107,000.00

Property Management	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
Gain/Loss Sale of Property	0.00	0.00	0.00	180,302.16	0.00%	0.00
Cash receipts church dissolutions	0.00	29,109.46	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Property Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Total Property Management	\$0.00	\$29,109.46	\$0.00	\$180,302.16	0.00%	\$0.00

Endowments	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
B. Gale Hetrick Memorial	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Ministry Renewal	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
New Works Fellowship	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Ann Arbor Fund	0.00	405.00	0.00	425.00	0.00%	0.00
Older Adult	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Pastoral Family Enrichment	0.00	75,550.55	0.00	230.00	0.00%	0.00
Revolving Loan Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Revolving Loan Principal	3,200.00	601.65	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Endowment Investments	20,000.00	-87,684.46	20,000.00	19,631.34	98.16%	20,000.00
Life Insurance Annuity	0.00	561.36	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Total Endowments	\$23,200.00	-\$10,565.90	\$20,000.00	\$20,286.34	101.43%	\$20,000.00

Designated Assets	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
B. Gale Hetrick Memorial						
Endowment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Ministry Renewal Endowment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
New Works Endowment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Revolving Loan Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00%	0.00
General Fund Investments	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Total Designated	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$20,000.00	0.00%	\$0.00

Total Revenue	\$789,205.25	\$479,724.71	\$519,125.32	\$811,463.24	156.31%	\$503,869.60
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Expense

Church Health Ministry	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
Academy of Servant Leaders	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00	5,941.25	148.53%	6,000.00
Transformations	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Healthy Growing Churches	10,000.00	10,000.00	12,500.00	12,500.00	100.00%	12,500.00
Mission 120	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Church Health Admin.	1,000.00	253.68	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Church Health Minister	5,000.00	6,472.01	5,500.00	6,158.52	111.97%	0.00
Total Church Health	\$29,500.00	\$23,725.69	\$30,000.00	\$24,599.77	82.00%	\$18,500.00

Pastoral Health Ministry	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
Lifelong Learning	2,000.00	7,294.16	2,000.00	1,500.00	75.00%	2,000.00
Spiritual Direction	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00%	250.00
Scholarships	2,500.00	1,615.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00%	2,500.00
Pastoral Health Admin.	1,500.00	1,490.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%	500.00
Total Pastoral Health	\$6,000.00	\$10,399.16	\$6,000.00	\$1,750.00	29.17%	\$5,250.00

Youth Ministry	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
Children's Ministry Task Force	2,000.00	1,541.90	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Youth Camp Scholarships	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	100.00%	3,000.00
MI Singers Honorarium	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00	100.00%	3,000.00
Student Scholarships	1,500.00	890.00	1,500.00	930.00	62.00%	1,500.00
Youth Ministry Development	1,800.00	808.21	1,800.00	738.39	41.02%	1,800.00
Youth Ministry Admin.	1,700.00	2,018.63	1,700.00	1,131.23	66.54%	1,700.00
Total Youth Ministry	\$13,000.00	\$11,258.74	\$13,000.00	\$8,799.62	67.69%	\$11,000.00

Credentials Ministry	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
Ministerial Dvpm Seminar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Background Checks	1,000.00	1,026.53	1,000.00	406.14	40.61%	1,000.00
Leadership Focus	5,000.00	1,500.00	5,000.00	2,150.00	43.00%	5,000.00
Credentials Administration	3,500.00	1,772.13	3,500.00	2,120.39	60.58%	24,300.00
Total Credentials Ministry	\$9,500.00	\$4,298.66	\$9,500.00	\$4,676.53	49.23%	\$30,300.00

Assembly Operations	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
Ministry Promotion	5,000.00	6,024.92	5,000.00	4,512.70	90.25%	5,000.00
Benevolence/Compassion	1,000.00	15,330.85	1,000.00	1,510.27	151.03%	1,500.00
Regional Pastors	40,000.00	37,498.61	40,000.00	25,390.63	63.48%	30,000.00
Legal Services	4,000.00	2,608.38	4,000.00	5,172.77	129.32%	5,000.00
Audit Review	9,500.00	8,950.00	9,500.00	8,950.00	94.21%	9,500.00
Books/Supplies	1,000.00	350.07	1,000.00	436.85	43.69%	500.00
General Assembly Admin.	16,500.00	24,259.34	16,500.00	14,981.33	90.80%	20,000.00
Bad Debt Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Total Assembly Operations	\$77,000.00	\$95,022.17	\$77,000.00	\$60,954.55	79.16%	\$71,500.00

Personnel	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
Salaries						
State Pastor	65,922.00	65,922.00	75,110.00	62,591.70	83.33%	73,960.00
State Pastor Housing	35,125.00	35,125.20	36,850.00	30,708.40	83.33%	38,000.00
Associate Pastor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	80,000.00
Associate Housing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	-
Church Health Minister	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	7,500.00	75.00%	0.00
Office Staff	20,000.00	13,104.00	14,520.00	10,890.00	75.00%	20,800.00
Finance/Media Director	57,910.00	57,909.96	64,164.00	48,123.00	75.00%	66,217.00
Total Salaries	\$188,957.00	\$182,061.16	\$200,644.00	\$159,813.10	79.65%	\$278,977.00
Benefits						
Pensions-Admin	11,200.00	11,115.12	12,320.00	9,236.70	74.97%	21,120.00
Pensions-Clerical	6,400.00	6,370.08	7,060.00	5,293.53	74.98%	8,950.00
Social Security Admin.	9,600.00	9,094.20	10,100.00	8,397.00	83.14%	17,300.00
Employer's FICA Expense	4,500.00	4,430.04	4,920.00	3,681.36	74.82%	6,670.00
Disability Ins-State Pastor	1,500.00	1,830.50	1,500.00	1,098.30	73.22%	1,500.00
Professional Development	6,000.00	896.00	6,000.00	774.14	12.9%	9,500.00
Total Benefits	\$39,200.00	\$33,735.94	\$41,900.00	\$28,481.03	67.97%	\$65,040.00

Office	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
Office Supplies	3,000.00	2,808.12	3,000.00	1,424.35	47.48%	3,000.00
Mobile	1,200.00	1,217.10	1,200.00	773.92	64.49%	2,000.00
Postage	1,500.00	1,170.76	1,500.00	731.59	48.77%	1,500.00
Information Technology	7,000.00	4,611.19	7,000.00	3,549.21	50.70%	15,000.00
Hospitality Supplies	3,500.00	487.77	3,500.00	843.77	24.11%	2,000.00
Total Office	\$16,200.00	\$10,294.94	\$16,200.00	\$7,322.84	45.20%	\$23,500.00

Overhead	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
Insurance	6,000.00	5,902.31	6,000.00	5,168.50	86.14%	8,000.00
Utilities	4,000.00	3,212.16	4,000.00	2,509.44	62.74%	4,000.00
Building and Grounds	25,000.00	32,324.56	25,000.00	10,048.78	40.20%	25,000.00
Vehicle Maintenance	2,500.00	4,090.49	3,500.00	1,668.22	47.66%	5,500.00
Fuel Purchased	3,000.00	4,403.78	4,000.00	2,777.85	69.45%	6,000.00
Total Overhead	\$40,500.00	\$49,933.30	\$42,500.00	\$22,172.79	52.17%	\$48,500.00

Property Management	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
Big Rapids Property	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Other Property	0.00	4,799.58	10,000.00	6,179.30	61.79%	10,000.00
Total Property Management	\$0.00	\$4,799.58	\$10,000.00	\$6,179.30	61.79%	\$10,000.00

Total Budget Expenses	\$419,857.00	\$425,529.34	\$446,744.00	\$324,749.53	72.69%	\$562,567.00
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Registrations	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
360 Ministry Leadership Conf.	17,000.00	16,593.34	17,000.00	14,221.20	83.65%	17,000.00
Ministers Retreat	14,000.00	19,030.87	16,000.00	18,115.61	113.22%	17,000.00
Ministry Wives Retreat	4,000.00	6,346.09	4,000.00	2,879.95	72.00%	2,500.00
Youth Winter Retreat	40,000.00	24,006.99	40,000.00	22,679.12	56.70%	40,000.00
State Youth Convention	16,000.00	14,916.67	16,000.00	737.86	4.61%	0.00
MI Student Ldrshp Institute	4,000.00	1,325.86	4,000.00	2,132.32	53.31%	4,000.00
Annual General Assembly	60,000.00	70,807.89	60,000.00	4,554.09	7.59%	60,000.00
Total Registrations	\$155,000.00	\$153,027.71	\$157,000.00	\$65,320.15	41.61%	\$140,500.00

Designated Assets	Annual 2022 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '22 (100%)	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '23 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2024 Budget
Ministry Renewal Endowment						
- CPE Scholarship	1,500.00	1,000.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%	1,500.00
- Ministerial Marriage Enrichment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	3,500.00
- Ministry to Ministers	6,000.00	8,040.00	6,000.00	3,207.51	53.46%	6,000.00
- Ministry Renewal Endowment	2,000.00	3,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00%	2,000.00
- Ministry Wives Retreat	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00%	3,000.00
General Budget Investments						
- Church Transformations	35,000.00	21,220.70	35,000.00	27,719.04	79.20%	35,000.00
- Church Multiplication	111,000.00	90,021.82	101,000.00	69,605.47	68.92%	80,000.00
- Vehicle Purchase	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	25,000.00
Total Designated	\$158,500.00	\$123,282.52	\$148,500.00	\$100,532.02	67.70%	\$156,000.00

Total Revenues	\$789,205.25	\$479,724.71	\$519,125.32	\$811,463.24	156.31%	\$503,869.60
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Total Expenses	\$733,357.00	\$701,839.57	\$752,244.00	\$490,601.70	65.22%	\$859,067.00
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General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan-Investments

2023	Balance as of January 1	Fund/Transfer/ Withdraw	Balance as of September 30
General Budget Account	165,492.98		162,789.26
Revolving Loan Fund Account (core endowment principal: \$231,785.92) 2022 Revolving Loan principal payments reinvested \$0.00	221,671.01	(50,000.00)	170,549.76
Total with Ameriprise Financial, Inc.	\$387,163.99	(\$50,000.00)	\$333,339.02
B. Gale Hetrick Memorial Endowment (core endowment principal: \$67,087.49)	65,657.37		67,845.12
Ministry Renewal Endowment (core endowment principal: \$200,000.00)	223,490.10		231,455.46
New Works Fellowship Endowment (Multiplication) (core endowment principal: \$126,786.30)	120,652.23		125,235.67
Older Adult Endowment (core endowment principal: \$50,000.00)	48,846.46		51,181.40
Pastoral Family Enrichment Endowment (Annuity) (core endowment principal: \$100,000)	10,356.01		0.00
Total with Aspirean Wealth	\$469,002.17		\$475,717.65
	Balance as of January 1	Fund/Transfer/ Withdraw	Balance as of September 30
Checking (General) non-interest	118,240.23		381,984.83
Money Market (Endowments)			
B. Gale Hetrick Memorial Endowment	975.36		1,691.96
Ministry Renewal Endowment	18,583.86		20,627.43
New Works Fellowship Endowment	16,540.42	12,000.00	29,461.35
Total Money Market (Endowments)	\$36,099.64		\$51,780.74
Total with PNC Financial Services Group	\$154,339.87	\$12,000.00	\$433,765.57
Total Cash and Investments	\$1,010,506.03	(\$38,000.00)	\$1,242,822.24

2023 Endowment Expenses

B. Gale Hetrick Memorial	
Ministers Retreat	14,775.61
Ministry Renewal	
CPE Scholarship	0.00
Ministerial Marriage Enrichment	\$0.00
Ministry to Ministers	3,207.51
Ministry Renewal Endowment	0.00
Ministry Wives Retreat	0.00
Total	\$17,983.12
New Works Fellowship	
Church Transformations	27,719.04
Multiplication	69,605.47
Total	\$97,324.51

Endowment Funds Available for Granting Monies at PNC Bank Money Market Account

September 30, 2023 | \$51,780.74

B. Gale Hetrick Memorial - \$1,691.96

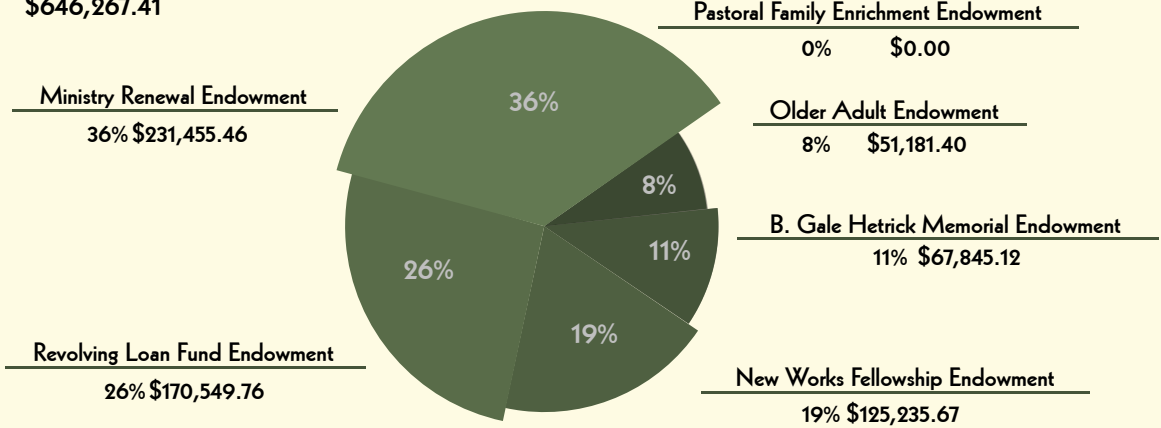
Ministry Renewal - \$20,627.43

New Works Fellowship - \$29,461.35

General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan - September 30, 2023

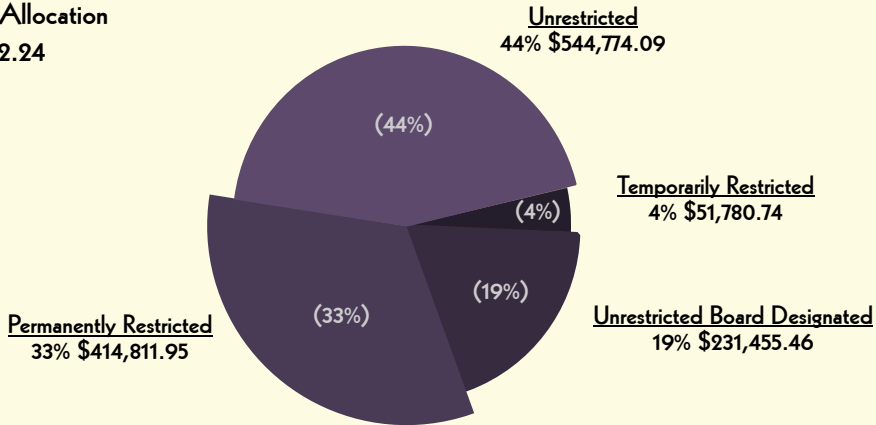
Endowment Investments

\$646,267.41

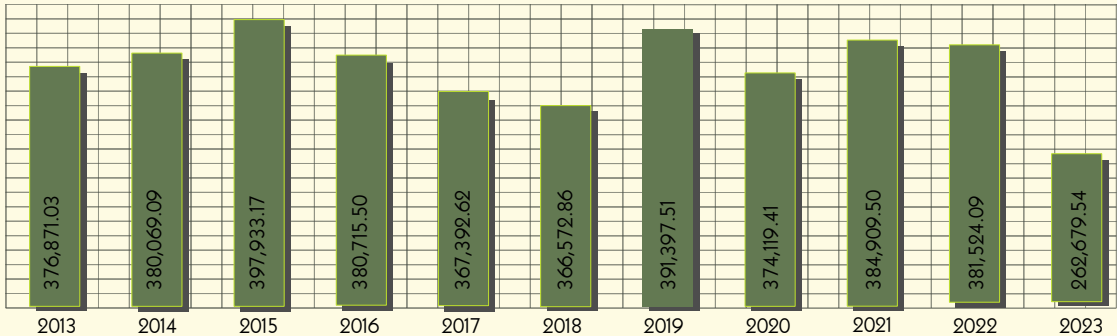


Asset Fund Allocation

\$1,242,822.24



Congregational Giving



**Statements of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis
For the Years Ended 2018-2022**

Statement Of Financial Position

December 31	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Assets					
Current Assets	1,568,531	1,532,955	1,570,895	1,557,588	1,322,545
Property and equipment	73,872	76,359	67,560	79,670	96,311
Property-multiplication	0	0	0	0	0
Prepaid Expenses	9,735	8,042	5,205	10,595	9,310
Total Assets	\$1,652,138	\$1,617,356	\$1,643,660	\$1,647,853	\$1,428,166
Liabilities & Net Assets					
Liabilities:					
Current payable	7,131	7,689	666	666	666
Other payable	9,052	20,699	3,213	2,041	28,410
PPP loan payable	-	-	41,100	-	-
Registration deposits	-	-	-	12,305	12,230
Total Liabilities	\$16,183	\$28,388	\$44,979	\$15,012	\$41,306
Net Assets					
Without donor restrictions, undesignated - available for current operations Without donor restrictions,	884,166	849,356	832,273	833,584	511,868
designated - quasi-endowment funds	195,544	189,687	201,102	201,665	200,975
Without donor restrictions, designated - other funds	15,553	8,896	22,565	48,037	49,660
Total net assets without donor restrictions	\$1,095,263	\$1,047,939	\$1,055,940	\$1,083,286	762,503
With donor restrictions	540,692	541,029	542,741	549,555	624,357
Total Net Assets	\$1,635,955	\$1,588,968	\$1,598,681	\$1,632,841	1,386,860
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,652,138	\$1,617,356	\$1,643,660	\$1,647,853	\$1,428,166

This financial information was extracted from the reviewed financial statements of the General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan. This does not include all disclosures normally associated with financial statements prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The complete financial statements for the General Assembly, including footnotes and the report of our accountants at Maner Costerisan are available to review upon request by email, micog@micog.org.

Credentials Ministry Report - Rev. Joshua Brandt, Chair



Do you remember the first time you met with your Credentials Team? Or can you recall when a pastor shared their nervousness as they prepared to meet about their Theological

Statements? Each year, leaders of all ages and experience walk into the Ministry Center or log on to Zoom for a meeting with the Credentials Team. They are often a little nervous and concerned that their work will fall short.

On the other side of the table is a team filled with hope. Leaders who believe the best about the candidate who is introducing themselves. Pastors who believe the best days of the Church of God are yet to come. I listen joyfully as questions are asked, testimonies are revealed, and the decision is made to license and ordain.

When the Credentials Team meets around the table, I am surrounded by 200 years of ministry experience. I am privileged to work with Terry Bernard, Bob Confer, Chariese Matthews, Ron Nuckles, JJ Perry, Emily Sparks, and Mark Richardson (State Pastor, non-voting ex-officio member). Carl Baker had a change to his schedule, which caused him to step away from

the team. We miss his thorough minutes, grace-filled stories, and deep care for our candidates.

The Credentials Ministry is recommending four individuals for ordination by our General Assembly this year. In addition, we have 27 individuals currently in the credentials process.

In addition to our work with credentialing pastors, we work to ensure that the leaders and churches in Michigan are living up to their commitments. Sometimes, this means investigating to see if there needs to be reconciliation. Other times, we welcome independent churches into the Movement as they seek deeper affiliation and accountability.

We are also responsible for ensuring our pastors and churches maintain their connection to the Church of God in Michigan and the wider Movement. Recently, we learned that only 60% of our churches and pastors are registered. We understand there are many reasons for this. Please check your registration in Atlas as soon as possible. Registration is not the only way we keep connected, but it is an important step.

If you have any questions about credentials, the ordination process, or how you can be involved in coaching emerging leaders, please get in touch with me at jbrandt@chog.org.

Leaders Currently in the Ordination and Licensing Process

Chance Adams (I)
Martonio Backstrom
Brent Beggs (I)
Caleb Claybaugh (I)
Billy Cornstubble (I)
Patrick Gilbert (I)
Sheila Granger (I)
Rachel Green (O)
Jesse Hargett (O)

Cleveland Howell III (O)
Stephen Ivy (I)
Kevin Keeder (I)
Mike Mazurek (I)
Cecil Mickens
Trevor Moody (I)
Patricia Norvell
Jonathan Oldham
Jared Rider

Miosha Robinson
George Schwemle (I)
Linda Seatts-Ogletree
Michael Severn
Josie Sposito (I)
Jon Wallace (I)
Derek Whitacre (I)
Jaqueline Williams
Alexander Young (O)

O = Presented to the General Assembly for Ordination

I = Licensed

Ministers Who Have Completed the Requirements for Ordination



Rachel Green
Joseph and Rachel
Worship Director, Front Desk Administration,
First Church of God, St. Joseph



Jesse Hargett
Youth Director, Clarkston
Community Church, Clarkston



Cleveland Howell III
Esther and Cleveland
Executive Pastor, Southwestern
Church of God, Detroit



Alexander Young
Lead Pastor
Calvert Park Community Church of God,
Burton

Licensed Ministers Placed in the Process for Ordination



**Caleb Claybaugh
Heather and Caleb
Hillcrest Community Church,
Cedar Springs**



**Patrick Gilbert
Wendy and Pat
North Avenue Church of God,
Battle Creek**



**Sheila Granger
Ypsilanti Community
Church of God, Ypsilanti**



**Kevin Keeder
Kristi and Kevin
NorthernLight Church, Cadillac**



**Mike Mazurek
Crossroads Church of God,
Howell**



**Trevor Moody
Hope Community, Niles**



**Josie Sposito
Stefano Pizzi and Josie Sposito
Sears Church of God, Sears**

**Jon Wallace
Burlington Church
of God, Burlington**



2023 Leadership Directory



Tad Mellish
Chair

Board Of Directors

Tad Mellish, Chair; Charles Nebus, Vice-Chair; James Matt, Secretary; Joshua Brandt, Theresa Cross, Jeff Eckman, Cathy Ganus, Doug Irving, Emily Potter, Wendell Thompson, Edwin Whitaker, Mark Richardson, Sheila Granger, ex-officio.

Credentials Ministry

Joshua Brandt, Chair; Terry Bernard, Robert Confer, Chariese Matthews, Ronald Nuckles, JJ Perry, Emily Sparks, Mark Richardson, staff.

Pastoral Health Ministry

Jeffrey Eckman, Chair; Tim Broyles, Marc Danapilis, Portia Davis-Mann, Mary Lockley, Carron Odokara, Sheryl Thompson, Jerry Lyon, Church Health Minister, and Mark Richardson, staff.

360 Ministry Conference Task Force

April Crump, Erin Glezman, Cameron Kreager, Debb Lyon, Jerry Lyon, Sharon Richardson, Mark Staton II, Robert Tramel, Mark Richardson, staff.

Audit Committee

Robin Cook, Mary Hirakis, Vance Kupisch, Jaela McQuillan, Paul Myers, Mark Richardson, staff.

Business Committee

Michael Potter, Theron Kersey, Matthew Stone, Robert Tramel, Julie Wiseman, Mark Richardson, staff.

Michigan Student Leadership Institute (MSLI)

Ben Kreider, Chair, Kathy Jo Kindy, Jim Sirks, Kevin Tippin, Connie Graham, Mark Richardson, staff.

Youth Ministry

Emily Potter, Chair, Jesse Hargett, Trevor Moody, Heidi Rysko, Veronica Roesly, Mark Staton. Ex-officio members: Ken Forsman-MI Singers, Scot Bale-Warner Camp, Ben Kreider-MSLI Task Force, Connie Graham- Winter Retreat Task Force, Adam Rentas, Youth Convention Task Force, Mark Richardson, staff.

Personnel Committee

Alruthus Dulin, Greg Gordon, William Jones, Jerome Willis, Mark Richardson, staff.

Program Committee

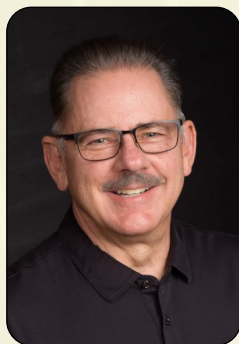
Charles Nebus, Chair; Dwight Fontenot, Nathanael Lyon, Erin Taylor, Mark Richardson, staff.

Youth Convention Task Force

Adam Rentas, Chair, Ralene Dungan, Jenny Salas, Brian Spitters, Jessica Staton, Jim Sirks, Mark Richardson-Staff.

Youth Winter Retreat Task Force

Connie Graham, Chair, Tony Casey, Krystal Kotesky, Mike Mazurek, Alex Merren, Mark Richardson, staff.



Charles Nebus
Vice-Chair



James Matt
Secretary

2024 Honoring Ministry/Committee Members Completing Terms and Ballot

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair:	
Tad Mellish	2023
Vice Chair:	
Charles Nebus	2023
Members:	
Doug Irving	2023-2

MINISTRIES

Credentials Ministry:	
Carl Baker	2023-1
Pastoral Health Ministry:	
Portia Davis-Mann	2023-1
Mary Lockley	2023-2
Sheryl Thompson	2023-2
Youth Ministry:	
Jesse Hargett	2023-1
Mark Staton II	2023-2

COMMITTEES

Business Committee:	
Mike Potter	2023-2
Matthew Stone	2023-1
Robert Tramel	2023-1

2024 BALLOT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vice Chair – Ratification for one for one year term:
Dale Turner
Members – Ratification for one for three year term:
Mark Staton II

MINISTRIES

Credentials Ministry – Ratify one for three-year term:
JJ Perry

Pastoral Health Ministry – Ratify three for three-year term:
Erin Glezman, Mike Harris, Portia Davis-Mann

Youth Ministry – Ratify three for three-year term:
Rachel Bird, Jesse Hargett, Michael Mazurek

COMMITTEES

Business Committee – Ratify three for three-year term:
Chris Slosser, Matthew Stone, Robert Tramel

2024 Biographies

Dale Turner - Board of Directors, Vice-Chair

Pastor Dale Turner is the lead pastor at Lighthouse Community Church. She has served the Church of God at the local and state levels. Serving as the Youth Director of the Greater Detroit Metropolitan Fellowship, overseeing youth rallies for the Detroit Metropolitan area. A Member of the Church of God in Michigan, Credentials Ministry Team, Workshop presenter, Interim pastor, and Ministry Coach.



Mark Staton II - Board of Directors

Pastor Mark A. Staton II is the Lead Pastor of New Creation Church of God in Flint, Michigan. He is the proud husband of one incredible wife, Jessica Staton (affectionately known as “Lady J”) and father of two amazing children, Mark Andrew III and Madilyn Rose. Pastor Mark is known for his passion for God’s people and God’s word. He utilizes a blend of humor, insight and illustration, to practically communicate sound biblical instruction. His diverse experience of over 20 years in the human services sector has fostered a unique ability to connect with individuals from all walks of life. Assisting individuals struggling with homelessness, addiction, and mental health has given him a passion for all of God’s people. With an approachable demeanor, and common-sense approach to Kingdom living he seeks to reach the lost, while inspiring the found. He enjoys swimming, reading, and spicy food, but not all at the same time. That could be dangerous.



JJ Perry - Credentials Ministry

JJ is excited to be a Michigander once again. His wife and family moved to Millington, Michigan in October 2022 to take the position of Lead Pastor at the Millington Church of God. JJ was ordained in 2015 in Indiana and proudly served at Madison Park and North Webster churches of God as a youth pastor. While in Indiana, JJ served as both a member and a chair for one of the credentialing committees. His leadership is built upon both a love for people and God’s word. JJ believes the church is at its best when it loves its community well and finds ways to be a part of the fun. When it comes to the church and its pastors, he loves to be a place of encouragement and help.



Erin Glezman - Pastoral Health Ministry

Erin retired in 2020, after 20 years of service at Whirlpool Corporation as a Marketing Manager. She is a graduate of Kendall College of Art and Design with a Master’s Degree in Innovation Design Thinking Management, and Leadership Development from Harvard University. She currently sits on two nonprofit boards and has spent the last eleven years serving the local church in technology, administration, and children’s ministry. She has been married for twelve years to her husband Rhyen Glezman, Senior Pastor at Community Church of God, in Clio, and they have one son.



Portia Davis-Mann - Pastoral Health Ministry

Rev. Portia Davis-Mann is an ordained minister through the Church of God. She is currently the Senior Pastor of Community Church of God in Ypsilanti, Michigan after 12 years as Associate Pastor of the Christian Education and Youth Ministries.

Portia has a 25 year background in Ministry Music within the United States and abroad as a part of her work in Anderson, Indiana and evangelistic efforts within various communities. She also has a passion for education for underserved teens and youth with 31 years in Educational Leadership and Management, supporting student academic achievement at WSC Academy, Anderson University, Everest University, and Ross Medical College.

Her educational background includes degrees in Criminal Justice, Business Management, and continued Masters level work in Theology at the Anderson University School of Theology.

Portia is married to Jerome Mann and they both serve in ministry together in the community and in their church. Portia's personal motto is to "Make Impact." She believes that "Every.One.Matters." which is this year's theme for the Community Church of God.



Michael Harris - Pastoral Health Ministry

Rev. Mike Harris and wife, Angela, have been married for nearly 33 years and have three adult children. Mike and Angela live in the Holt, Michigan area. Mike is a Licensed Professional Counselor and employed by Focus on the Family Hope Restored which works with married couples in crisis. He has served in ministry for nearly 30 years in various roles; these include associate pastor, youth and children's pastor, hospice chaplain, hospital chaplain, and pastor. Most recently he served as pastor at Crossroads Church of God in Howell, Michigan for more than 15 years before moving into counseling full time with Focus on the Family. He is also a veteran of the US Air Force.

Rachel Bird - Youth Ministry

Rachel is the NextGen Pastor at Pennway Church of God in Lansing, and also works as a project manager at Automattic, a fully-remote tech company. When she is not working, Rachel enjoys writing, playing with her dogs, training for and racing triathlons, and traveling whenever she gets the opportunity. She has a passion for helping the next generations not just know about God, but personally experience God in their daily life, and she cannot wait to see what God will do in generations to come.



Jesse Hargett - Youth Ministry

Jesse grew up in Clarkston, Michigan regularly attending Clarkston Community Church. Through being involved in a very active youth ministry, Jesse built relationships with the youth pastor and mentors that eventually guided Jesse to his calling of vocational ministry. Jesse then attended Anderson University where he received a bachelor's degree in youth ministry, with a minor in Bible and Religion. During his time in college, he stepped into two different intern opportunities. First of which is where he spent a summer at Salem Church of God near Dayton, Ohio. The second opportunity is where Jesse was an intern at New Life Christian Fellowship in Fortville, Indiana. During his senior year of college, Jesse transitioned from being an intern to being the youth pastor. In the Fall of 2019, Jesse received an opportunity to become the youth director at his home church, Clarkston Community Church. When Jesse moved back to Michigan, he then followed God's calling to complete the ordination process.



Mike Mazurek - Youth Ministry

Mike Mazurek along with his wife, Bobbie, live in Howell, Michigan and have four children, Gabe (20), Abby (18), Catherine (15) and Megan (12). Mike has been serving as the Youth Pastor at Howell Crossroads Church of God since 2015. He is a member of the Youth Winter Retreat Task Force.

Chris Slosser - Business Committee

Pastor Chris Slosser is the lead Pastor of North Euclid Church of God in Bay City. Pastor Chris has been at North Euclid Church of God in Bay City for four years now, and prior to coming to Bay City Pastor Chris had served five and a half years as Lead Pastor at Beaverton Church of God. Pastor Chris has also served at the State level on the Church Health Ministry Team for three years. Pastor Chris is married to his beautiful wife of 33 years, Cindy, and they have a 20 year old son named Joshua. Pastor Chris and Cindy have also been involved in short term mission work in Guatemala, traveling there five times to serve in that capacity. Pastor Chris says, "his greatest joy in life is serving God and His people, and sharing the gospel of Jesus that so radically changed my life and I want that to happen desperately for every person I meet, as well."



Matthew Stone - Business Committee

Matthew Stone, 37, is currently the Lead Pastor at First Church Of God in Greenville, Michigan. He has served the congregation there since April 2010. As a minister, Matt is passionate about sharing the hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ, fostering healthy relationships within the faith community and the community at large, worshipping God through music, and organizing events that serve and benefit the community of believers (men's retreats, leadership retreats, luncheons, church celebrations, etc.). Matt and his wife, Kristin, love extending hospitality to others. Matt's love of cooking (and good taste) make him the chef of the house. Conversation, coffee, and games are staples at Stone get-togethers. Matt and Kristin truly consider any member of the church as their family member. As such, laughter, lengthy conversations of a wide variety of topics, burden sharing, and prayer are ever present.

Matt grew up in Midland, Michigan attending Floyd Church of God and Bullock Creek Schools. Matt completed his degree (B.A. Ministry and Bible) at Cornerstone University in 2009. His first ministry job was serving Faith United Church of God as youth minister from March 2007-April 2010. Matt has an enthusiastic personality. He enjoys working out and loves sports (particularly U of M football).



Robert Tramel - Business Committee

Rob Tramel is the Lead Pastor at Crossroads Church of God in Howell, Michigan. Rob worked many years in Law Enforcement and the Criminal Justice field. In 2015 God called him into ministry. The next six years were spent working as a bi-vocational associate pastor at North Avenue Church of God in Battle Creek and as a Special Agent for the Michigan Department of Attorney General. In March of 2022 he resigned from both of those positions to answer the call to be the full time Lead Pastor at Crossroads.

He has also served on the Board of Directors at Calhoun Christian School in Battle Creek, Michigan and was an instructor on faculty at Kellogg Community College.

Rob has earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Siena Heights University and a Master of Theological Studies (MTS) from Liberty University.

Rob and his wife Margo have three daughters: Paisley, Chloe and Sophie, two son-in-laws: Sam and Jay and a grandson, Everett. He enjoys being active, bicycling, camping, reading, fishing, coaching basketball, playing bass guitar, spending time with family, and being a servant of God.

Church Health Minister Report - Rev. Jerry Lyon



Our General Assembly theme, ***"RUNNING THE RACE WITH PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE!"*** (Hebrews 12:1-4), is speaking loudly to many as they are emerging from difficult seasons; reimagining, rebuilding and reestablishing ministry in their local contexts.

The most encouraging experiences a congregation can have come from seeing new faces amongst their fellowship, new salvations, and the baptisms that follow! We're hearing about and seeing more of these stories as Church of God congregations from around the state of Michigan have remained diligent, faithful, prayerful, and continue to seek the leading of the Spirit of Christ. ***Keep up the good work! Keep running the race! Remain patient and persist!***

An annual event which has persisted and has become a mainstay for the MICOOG family for over a decade, is our **360 Ministry Leadership Conference**. Held on March 18th, 2023, it was deemed outstanding by most of our attendees. A great "Thank you" to the 2023 **360 MLC Task Force**: Sharon Richardson, Debb Lyon, Tom Bader, Rhyan Glezman, April Crump, for their excellent planning and execution of this day!

Our mission: Provide a full array of ministry training and instruction for local church leadership. A one-day, 360 degree offering of encouragement, motivation, equipping, networking, and resourcing of the COG in MI.

- Some high points of the 2023 conference:
- 350+ in attendance (looking towards 500 next March!)
 - Nearly half our MICOOG congregations participated.
 - Great excitement and energy in our opening and closing gatherings, with a great sending commission.
 - Sessions were well received - informative, inspiring, and engaging.

Comments from attendees:

"Best 360 yet!" -- "This was my first one and I can't wait for next year's!" -- "Want more time for worship!" -- "MORE!" -- "Needs to be a 2-day event so we can really soak it up!" -- "Just love being with all my MICOOG brothers and sisters!" -- "Can we do this again in six months?" -- "I'm so glad I didn't miss it!" -- "I'm grateful I was asked to be a presenter. This was a fantastic day!" -- "Just...WOW!"

Date, Theme, Location for 2024 –
Saturday, March 16th – South Church, Lansing

KING JESUS - His reign in our hearts & churches!

Points of focus: Jesus as King over our ministries / **King of Kings** adored in our worship / **Kingdom Impact** in our communities, **Kingdom of God in Contrast** to the issues of the world / being **Kingdom People**, principles and practices **Kingdom Warfare**, and more!

The size of your congregation, whether larger or smaller, will benefit in so many ways from this day. Mark it on your calendar – **SAVE THE DATE! See you again @ South Church, Lansing, March 16th, 2024!**

CONNECT CHURCH, Big Rapids, is a reality and just had its first birthday - Pastor Mark and Heather Robb and congregation celebrated a full year of their ministry, together, on Sat., September 16th. With over 100+ in attendance at a local park, they worshiped the Lord, heard the word, had baptism in the nearby river, and ate cake! This new church plant has been a labor of love for Pastor Mark Robb. The congregation ministers among "the least" in the Big Rapids community. They are growing. It's hard work. Good work. Rewarding work. Please consider giving financially to **Connect Church** as a mission-ministry. Check out their website: connectchurchbigrapids.org. Hit the donate button!

Looking forward to hearing of the exciting movements of God in your local church and at the state level.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Jerry Lyon, Church Health Minister

**360 Ministry
Leadership Conference
March 16, 2024**

**KING JESUS - *His reign in
our hearts & churches!***

South Church, Lansing
micog.org/360lc

Pastoral Health Ministry Report - Rev. Jeff Eckman, Chair



The Pastoral Health Ministry considers it a great privilege to walk alongside our pastors and their families to encourage and inspire them in the work that they do to help our Churches grow stronger and accomplish kingdom objectives.

We continue to plan and support the following events to promote the health and growth of our pastors:

- **Ministers Retreat** – The ministers retreat is being planned for January 29-31 at Gull Lake Ministries conference center. Our theme this year will be *"Balance in Life and Ministry."* We will have five sessions, each covering an aspect of a Balanced Faith Walk, and each Session will be led by a different Pastor from, or connected to, our great state of Michigan.

The sessions will be on Fellowship, Worship, Service, Study, and Prayer.

- **Ministry Wives Retreat** – The Ministry Wives Retreat was held on September 15-17 at St. Francis Retreat Center. The speaker was Rev. Veronica Roesly, and the theme was *"Watchful Stewards of God's Grace."* The Worship Leader was Minister Rachel Green, and there were 21 ladies in attendance.

These ongoing ministries still serve our pastors:

- **Lifelong Learning** – Churches can contribute \$150 (or more if they choose) per year for their pastors, and we match up to \$150. These funds can be used for training related to ministry, including the yearly Ministers' Retreat. We also consider requests from Pastors who are in nontraditional ministries or in transition to apply to contribute to this fund directly. Each application such as this will be considered on a case-to-case basis by the Pastoral Health Team as an exception to

our base policy. As more of our ministers serve in nontraditional ministries we believe that it is still important to support them in this way, as long as they strive to maintain a connection to the Church of God in Michigan.

- Ministry to Ministers – The ability to get confidential counseling for our pastors and their families has made a huge impact in the health of our pastors and their families. Last year, we added a partnership with Full Strength Network (www.fullstrength.org) which allows us to purchase licenses for our credentialed pastors and ministers, and a spouse or teens living within the home. It includes online access to fully accredited counselors and coaches in a fully confidential manner.
- Ministry Renewal Endowment Grants – We have not had any applications for these grants in the past year.
- Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Programs – These programs offer training that is vital to Pastors seeking to do a better job Caring for people whatever they might be going through. Funds are available to those who apply and meet the criterion and are disbursed based on several criterion. Pick up a CPE Brochure from the state office for more information.

Rev. Dr. Carron Odokara will be facilitating the start of a “Pastoral Circles” opportunity to better connect pastors with each other. By gathering in small groups or “circles,” we can build a ministry community to engage with one another across congregations. These groups will focus on prayer, encouragement and the sharing of thoughts and ideas. Circles will be designed to meet monthly for a year by primarily online meetings (unless a group happens to have people close enough to meet in person). Circles

are self-guided by the group with a facilitator recruited through an online questionnaire to help with gathering the group. We are very excited about this new endeavor and hope that it will provide much needed friendships and partnerships between pastors and churches.

We have also decided to add funds into our budget this year to promote marriage retreats for pastors, utilizing the Focus on the Family retreats (Which Rev. Mike Harris works with), and possibly other formats in the future as well. We will try and target two-three couples in the coming year.

The Lifetime Achievement Awards for this year will be awarded to Mary Hirakis, and Shelton and Chariese Matthews. The Outstanding Achievement Awards will be awarded to Rev. Julie Wiseman, Rev. Dr. Julián Guzmán and Iglesia Vida Plena, and Rev. Dale Turner.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastoral Health Ministry
Rev. Jeff Eckman (Chair),
Rev. Dr. Carron Odokara (Vice-Chair),
Rev. Tim Broyles (Secretary),
Rev. Sheryl Thompson, Rev. Marc Danapilis,
Rev. Portia Davis-Mann, Rev. Mary Lockley,
and Rev. Mark Richardson-State Pastor

Ministers Retreat January 29-31, 2024

Balance in Life and Ministry

Gull Lake Ministries
Hickory Corners, Michigan
micog.org/ministersretreat

Youth Ministry Report - Rev. Emily Potter, Youth Ministry Team Leader



As we reflect on 2023 as a Board, we have seen periods of adjustment and recalibration. Change is never easy, but the partnership of those who care about our state's youth has been strong, even in the midst. Several members have moved from

our area, leaving gaps that others stepped in to fill. God has continued to call those with a heart for our young people to invest their time, effort, and imagination into what will be the future of ministry in Michigan. As we read in Isaiah 43:19, "See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up, do you not perceive it?" May we be open to where God leads!

We are extremely thankful for the investment Connie Graham has made in the work for the youth of our state, and while we are sad to see her retire from the position as Youth Administrator, we are excited for her to be able to enjoy more time with her family. She will continue to volunteer with the Winter Retreat Task Force through 2024. There are no words that can adequately express the gratitude we have for Connie's persistence, determination, and love for Michigan's youth.

Over the years, we have offered many opportunities for youth and their leaders to attend events throughout the state. Unfortunately, due to multiple challenges and dwindling participation at some of those events, we have discerned that we must relinquish some programs to bring fruit from those that remain. To implement these changes, we will not host a

State Youth Convention every year, starting in 2024. Due to IYC's alternating years, as well as the NIYC's schedules, we want to eliminate groups having to choose between which events to support. One of the most challenging aspects of this evaluation period is realizing that if a youth group wanted to attend all the events offered by both state and national youth programs, it would mean that not only would the groups be constantly fundraising, but they would be attending five events over seven months. This is overwhelming, especially considering that many of our churches do not have full-time youth pastors—many are part-time or volunteers. Add in the costs, manpower, and travel to and from these events, and both leaders and youth are overcommitted.

Michigan Student Leadership Institute (MSLI) has gained some steam, with participation increasing. Ben Kreider continues to lead this event, and Pastor Mark Staton and New Creation Church have graciously opened their church facilities to host it for years to come. I am



encouraged by the investment and mentorship that continues to grow from this program, which is one previously considered to be nearing its end of life. If God's not done, He's not done!

In conclusion, I must express my deep appreciation for those who give of themselves to ensure that our youth are being reached for Christ. Whether that be helping consolidate our current offerings to youth and their leaders, breathing new life into programs, the prayer warriors who spend time in their prayer closets on behalf of our youth, or developing concrete resources to better equip parents, leaders, and teens, thank you. Your investment has a generational impact and will last long after we are gone.

"Your testimonies are my heritage forever, for they are the joy of my heart." Psalm 119:11 ESV

In His Service,
Pastor Emily Potter



The theme for IYC2024 is *ORIGINS*.

Based on Psalm 145:4-7

Psalm 145 is about remembering who God is, what God has done, and believing that those things will continue to be true into the future. It is a Psalm that encourages us in the present, and encourages us to continue to tell the story of God and God's activity to future generations.

Christian Women Connection - Theresa Cross, Chairperson



Hello everyone, we have all had some challenges this year. I was hopeful that we would make some decisions in reorganizing the way the Michigan chapter has been operating. I am happy that we have made some progress. We voted in

April to change to a committee format. We have had several women step up to take positions on the committee. We are also changing the State Convention for 2024 to a single day event to be better stewards of what the Lord has provided. Our new event coordinator is excited, and we are expecting great things for 2024.

The CWC auction this year at St. Louis Camp was a great success. We were able to raise \$1664.50 for Bobby and Jenny Mihsill, our missionaries in Cote d'Ivoire West Africa. We are also pleased to announce that the children we sponsor through the Children of Promise program are fully funded for 2024.

The Lord is doing great things through His people.

Thank you and may God bless and keep you,
Theresa Cross

Lifetime Achievement

Rev. Mary Hirakis

Mary Hirakis spent her entire life at North Avenue Church of God in Battle Creek, where she now serves as Executive Pastor. After retiring as Staff Accountant for the City of Battle Creek, she heard God's call to ministry in the area of business. Mary went through Leadership Focus credentialing process and was ordained in March 2018. In addition to serving North Avenue Church, Mary is called to help other churches around Michigan. Her ministry now is state-wide in helping boards meet legal, financial, and ethical standards. She is organized and detail-oriented, and she offers a lifetime of experience in leadership roles within her community and congregation.

Mary has served the state on the Board of Directors and is currently on the audit committee.

Mary and her late husband, Phillip, have two children, five granddaughters, and three great-granddaughters. She enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren, traveling, and reading.



Rev. Mary Hirakis

Revs. Shelton and Chariese Matthews



**Revs. Shelton and Chariese
Matthews**

Pastor and First Lady Matthews were married in 1977, and began in ministry together under the leadership of Dr. Lawrence P. Wyatt, at the Southwestern Church of God in 1978. Pastor Matthews started working with the convalescent ministry and driving the van for the church until he and Sis Matthews were called to lead the Youth Department in 1981. Bro. Matthews served as Associate Minister at Southwestern until 1988, when the first pastoral assignment was accepted, with Zion Church of God.

After a year and a half, the Matthews' were called to pastor The Southside Church of God, in Pontiac, Michigan.

Pastor Matthews served as Vice-Chairperson of the Greater Detroit Metro Ministerial Fellowship for four years and then as Chairperson of the Fellowship for seven years. The next assignment accepted was serving as Chairperson of the Oakland County Ministerial for two years. During most of this time the Matthews owned a Building Management Company and pursued their theological degrees. Attending William Tyndale Bible College, receiving Associates Degree, Wayne County Community College, Tabernacle Bible College, and Southern Cal School of Ministry. First Lady Matthews receiving an Associates Degree, Bachelors of Theology and a Masters in Ministry.

Pastor and Lady Matthews have been bi-vocational throughout their ministry and have been honored to serve God's people with their whole heart, serving the church for the past 40 years in ministerial capacity. The Matthews reside in Pontiac Michigan, have three adult children and nine grandchildren of whom they are very proud.

Outstanding Service Award

Rev. Dr. Julián Guzmán and Iglesia Vida Plena

Julián Guzmán joins the Church of God in 2016. After receiving his degree in geology in the Dominican Republic, Guzmán then received two Master of Arts degrees from Grand Rapids Theological Seminary—one in ministry leadership and one in interdisciplinary studies. He also holds a Doctor of Ministry in urban Hispanic ministry from Western Theological Seminary.

For eight years, Guzmán served as a bishop for the council of Missionary Churches in Christ Inc., overseeing 12 Hispanic congregations in four different states. He has also served as an associate pastor at Missionary Church of Christ in Wyoming, Michigan. He has also been an academic mentor at Grand Rapids Theological Seminary and currently serves on the Board of trustees for Cornerstone University.

Guzmán is currently the director of the Urban Church Leadership Center, located on GRTS' campus. He is also the founder and lead pastor at Iglesia Vida Plena. He lives in Wyoming, Michigan with his wife. They have three wonderful children and five grandchildren.

Rev. Dale Turner

Pastor Dale Turner is the lead pastor at Lighthouse Community Church. She has served the Church of God at the local and state levels. Serving as the Youth Director of the Greater Detroit Metropolitan Fellowship, overseeing youth rallies for the Detroit Metropolitan area. A Member of the Church of God in Michigan, Credentials Ministry Team, Workshop presenter, Interim pastor, and Ministry Coach.



Rev. Dr. Julián Guzmán



Rev. Dale Turner

Rev. Julie Wiseman

My name is Julie Allen Wiseman, Pastor Julie to the people of Eagle Ridge Church of God. I am originally from Dayton, Ohio, and graduated from a Christian college in Illinois. I later moved to Michigan and have been there for most of my adult life. I was ordained in 2000 and am currently the Associate Pastor of Administration and Worship at Eagle Ridge Church of God in Midland.

I have three children and their wonderful spouses along with seven beautiful grandchildren.

I am also blessed with three step children and their wonderful spouses. I have the great privilege to call their eight children my grandchildren also.

Several years ago I became involved with the TAPP, Tumaini (HOPE) AIDS Prevention Program ministry alongside our missionaries to Uganda, Tim and Colleen Stevenson. This program provides training, home based care, income generating projects, education and social support to Ugandan communities.

Locally, I serve as Chairperson for the Midland Regional Human Trafficking Task Force. We are a community-wide group consisting of local agency partners, government, and concerned citizens, dedicated to human trafficking prevention and intervention.

At Eagle Ridge, I am challenged to constantly be on the look-out for who God was bringing up into the church. I love to give young people in our church the opportunity to develop the gifts that God has given them.



Rev. Julie Wiseman |



We provide a cost effective retirement plan for churches and ministry organizations.

Twenty-Five+ Years Serving in Michigan

Pastor Andy and his family immigrated to the USA from Germany in May of 1997 to pastor the Washington Ave. Church of God in St. Joseph, Michigan. It wasn't the first time the Hannich family moved thousands of miles.

Let me explain: Remember the Jesus people in 60ties and 70ties. Their movement and songs caught the attention of some young people in Germany and Easter 1976 Andy became a Christian and began following Jesus. A group of teenagers in Andy's hometown of Marburg began organizing regular meetings, prayer breakfasts, and many came to know Jesus.

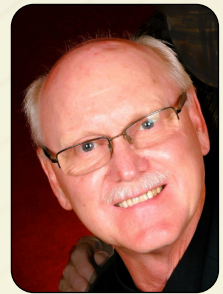
After high school, Andy felt led to study at the Bible School of the Church of God in Fritzlara, Germany for four years. There a Canadian math teacher, Ingrid, caught his eye, and she became the love of his life.

He moved to Canada, got married (1981) and ministered in Edmonton, Alberta. The German Church of God in Flourtown, Pennsylvania in the suburbs of Philadelphia gave them a call and they moved over 2,000 miles east. In the city of brotherly love sons Jeremy and Michael were added to the Hannich gang.

After five years, the church in Edmonton called them back because they needed help with the younger generation transitioning from a bilingual 'German' church to a 'community' church.

After eight intense years of battling the culture wars with Pastor Fritz Lenk on his side, it was time to take a sabbatical and move again thousands of miles to give the rest of his family a taste of Germany. During their time in Canada, Andy finished his Bachelor of Arts and Ministry at Gardener Bible College, and God added Jonathan (Jo = God + Nathan = gift) to the family.

In Germany Andy joined his parents in running a nursing home located beside the castle back in Marburg where he was born. His oldest son even had a teacher that had also taught his dad. Andy took advantage of the practically free enrollment



Rev. Andy Hannich

as a student of theology and studied Hebrew, Greek, and Philosophy at the University of Marburg. The family enjoyed traveling all over Europe, giving their sons a chance to experience a different culture with lots of castles, history, soccer, and the occasional Wiener Schnitzel.

While eating dinner in the cafeteria of the nursing home, they received a beautiful bouquet of flowers with a ticket to Chicago from the Washington Avenue Church of God. Wow! After three years of trying to adjust to the German culture, the Hannich family was ready to speak, eat, and breathe the American way of life again.

Packing everything up again and moving back over 3,000 miles was a logistical nightmare. But with the help of congressman Fred Upton and a persistent church, we legally immigrated to the USA. You may understand that our sons kindly requested to stay in St. Joseph for a while, at least until they finished high school. That was 26 years ago. It didn't take long for the Hannich family to fall in love with the church, the area, and the people of Southwest Michigan.

As you may have guessed, Andy and Ingrid enjoy traveling (they have visited over 50 countries), hanging out with their family including eight grandchildren, walking along the bluff in St. Joseph, and most of all our risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Fifteen Years Serving at the same Congregation



Rev. Stephen Burrow

My wife Leslie and I have been in ministry with the Church of God for 30 years, I have served in three congregations. My first congregation was with Decatur Church of God, my second congregation was with Cornerstone Church of God, and now I serve at the Otsego Church of God for the past 15 years and. I have four children which are all grown up and doing well....I feel that the hand of the Lord is with me as I continue to share the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.and I am anticipating what God has for me in the future.



Rev. William Greiner

Bill was born and raised in Springfield, Ohio by Robert and Donna Greiner with two older sisters, Nancy and Polly. Bill earned a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Biblical Studies from Anderson College in Indiana. With a desire for a more extensive theological training, he moved to Pasadena, California where he completed a Master's of Arts degree in Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary. His ministry experience began as a volunteer leader in Young Life at Anderson High School in Anderson, Indiana. During his career, Bill has served as a youth pastor for 20 years and the senior pastor of Eagle Ridge Church of God for the last 15 years.

Bill has been married to Robin for over 30 years and has three children. Robin is currently working for MyMichigan Health as a therapist. They live in Midland with their youngest son, Dietrich, who attends Delta College planning to transfer to Grand Valley State University. Their adult daughter, Hannah lives near Chicago where she raises funds for schools and teaches swimming. Their oldest son, Josiah, lives in Los Angeles where he teaches at school assisting special needs students.

Bill ministers to his community outside the church by coaching JV Tennis at Midland High School and can frequently be found in various fast-food joints around town working in the community he loves. He serves as chairman of Cultivate Coffee and Tea a non-prophet ministry in Midland and Sanford, Michigan and has served on the Board of Directors for Warner Camp in Grand Junction, Michigan.



Rev. Ben Kreider

Ben is a graduate of Asbury University and has served as Youth Pastor at Alma Church of God since 2008. Ben loves being a dad and working in ministry with students and their families. His greatest passion is inviting others to encounter Jesus within their own life and story, especially through small group discipleship. Ben Kreider resides in Ithaca, Michigan with his son and daughter and their golden retriever, Harvey.



Rev. David Perry

Pastor Dave Perry has been the Pastor of the Edgewood Church in Ithaca, Michigan since 2008.

Dave married Jeannie Taylor Perry in 1979. They have wonderful three sons (two are CHOG pastors), three beautiful daughter-in-law's, seven of the most adorable grandkids in the world and a really cute Yorkie Terrier named "Rosie."

Dave is a graduate of Anderson University and was ordained in 1983. Since 1981, Dave and Jeanie Perry have served congregations in

Washington State, Oregon, and Michigan. Together they have served in and have led Youth camps, marriage retreats and camp meetings. Dave has served on many levels of leadership in ministerial and community groups and in State leadership in two states for the Church of God.

From 2005 until 2021, he served as a Regional Pastor, being a "pastor to pastor's" and serving lay leaders and congregations in the Church of God in Michigan.

As a speaker, Dave loves to share stories, humor and a practical application of the Bible for everyday life.

Dave has a passion for Cross Cultural Mission Work Camps and has participated in work camps in the last 40 years within the United States and in Brazil and in Guatemala and Haiti. Dave serves on the Board of Directors for "Helping Hands in Motion" – <https://helpinghandsinmotion.org/>

My understanding about being a Christian is this =

"Following Jesus is a relationship that is marked by Joy, Passion, and Generosity!"



Rev. Greg Prather

Greg Prather is an Associate Pastor and Worship Arts with the Church of God. He began in ministry in 1985 and was ordained in 1998 by the Church of God in Oklahoma. During his time in ministry, Greg has served congregations in Vincennes, IN, Oklahoma City, OK and in St. Joseph, Michigan. Currently, Greg is a bi-vocational Associate Pastor at Washington Ave Church of God in St. Joseph as well as a public school music teacher.

In Tribute to Michigan Church of God Ministers



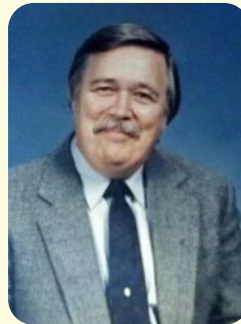
Dr. Wayne M. Warner
December 28, 2022



Rev. Henry V. Schwartz, II
February 4, 2023



Rev. Raymond N. Abbey
February 26, 2023



Rev. Gerald St. Cin
March 13, 2023

Regional Pastors



Southwestern Regional Pastor - Rev. David Colp

david.c@myfirstchurch.com; 269-983-1524 (Church); 269-519-8319 (Mobile)

First Church of God, Allegan
North Avenue Church of God, Battle Creek
Crystal Springs Church of God, Benton Harbor
First Church at Benton Heights, Benton Harbor
Burlington Church of God, Burlington
First Church of God, Cassopolis
South Cochran Church of God, Charlotte
Cornerstone Community Church, Colon
First Church of God, Decatur
First Church at Eau Claire Campus
Family Worship Center, Grass Lake
New Horizons Community Church, Jackson

Grace Harbor, Kalamazoo
Pennway Church of God, Lansing
West Lansing Church of God, Lansing
First Church of God, Niles
Hope Community Church, Niles
Otsego Church of God, Otsego
Centre Avenue Church of God, Portage
First Church of God, Saint Joseph
Washington Avenue Church of God, Saint Joseph
First Church of God, South Haven
The Anchor Church of God, Stevensville
First Church at Stevensville Campus
First Church of God, Three Rivers
Vandalia Church of God, Vandalia



Northeastern Regional Pastor - Rev. Jim Horn

pjhorn@att.net; 810-240-2528 (Mobile)

TriPoint Church of God, Alpena
North Euclid Church of God, Bay City
Eagle Ridge Church of God, Beaverton Campus
Calvert Park Community Church of God, Burton
Community Church of God, Clio
Hilltop Church of God, Flint
Good Church, Flint
New Creation Church of God, Flint
West Court Street Church of God, Flint
Living Word Church of God, Flint

New Hope Community Church of God, Hope
Gateway Family Worship and Outreach, Kawkawlin
Eagle Ridge Church of God, Midland
Floyd Church of God, Midland
Mount Haley Church of God, Midland
Millington Church of God, Millington
TriPoint Church of God, Mio
The Hub, Owosso
First Church of God, Saginaw
Meridian Church of God, Sanford



Southeastern Regional Pastor - Rev. Albert Grant

revalgrant@gmail.com; 414-795-8806 (Mobile)

Clarkston Community Church,
Clarkston

Chippewa Valley Church of God,
Clinton Township

Church of God Gospel Mission -
Agape Fellowship, Detroit

Church of God of Detroit, Detroit
Greenfield Avenue Church of God,
Detroit

Joseph Campau Avenue Church of
God, Detroit

Metropolitan Church of God, Detroit
Southwestern Church of God,
Detroit

Wisconsin Avenue Church of God
Second, Detroit

Zion Church of God, Detroit

Farmington Hills Church of God,
Farmington Hills

Warner Memorial Church of God,
Ferndale

Crossroads Church of God, Howell
Riverside Park Church of God,
Livonia

Arabic Evangelical Alliance Church,
Madison Heights

First Church of God, Monroe

Eastside Church of God, Pontiac

Lake Street Church of God, Pontiac

Southside Church of God, Pontiac

Lighthouse Community Church of
God, Redford

First Church of God, Romeo

Bethany Church of God, Sterling
Heights

Hope Crossing, Sterling Heights

Evanswood Church of God, Troy

Community Church of God, Ypsilanti



Northwestern Regional Pastor - Rev. John Mellish

jmmellish@hotmail.com; 231-942-1438 (Mobile)

First Church of God, Alma

Barryton Church of God, Barryton

New Hope Church of God, Belding

Connect Church, Big Rapids

NorthernLight Church of God,
Cadillac

Hillcrest Community, Cedar Springs
Community Church of God,
Charlevoix

Freedom Way Church of God,
Crystal

First Church of God, Edmore

Faith United Church of God, Grand
Rapids

Orchard View Church of God, Grand
Rapids

First Church of God, Greenville

Edgewood Church of God, Ithaca

Ithaca Church of God, Ithaca

New Covenant Community Church
of God, Kentwood

Church of God United, Muskegon

East Muskegon Church of God,
Muskegon

First Church of God, Saint Johns

Sears Church of God, Sears

Pine Grove Ministries and Church,
Traverse City

Iglesia Vida Plena, Wyoming

Sunset Park Church of God,
Wyoming



Mission Statement

Equipping local congregations to extend the Kingdom of God.

Vision Statement

A growing family of healthy, accountable Church of God congregations producing visionary leaders who are extending the Kingdom of God in Michigan.