

104th General Assembly

November 1-2, 2024

A large group of diverse people, including men and women of various ethnicities, are shown from the chest up. They are all smiling and have their arms raised, with their hands reaching towards the center of the frame. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the collective action in the foreground. The overall mood is one of joy, unity, and shared purpose.

Living Out Our Claims for Unity, Holiness, and Fellowship

²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."

John 17:22-23 (NRSVue)

General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan
November 1-2, 2024
Lansing, Michigan

Schedule

Friday - November 1, 2024

- 9:00 a.m.
Worship-Rev. Chad Harlan
Message- Rev. Dr. Leslie Parker Barnes
Ballrooms A, B, C, D, and E
- 10:45 a.m.
Ministry Women's Tea
Reo Room
Pastor's Husbands Coffee
Hotel Restaurant
- 10:45 a.m.
Call to Order First Business Session-
Chuck Nebus, Chair
Welcome and Presentation of Agenda
Introductions and Appreciation
New Pastors, Associates, Visitors, and Guests
Statement of Voting Membership
Minutes of 2023 General Assembly
Credentials Candidate Videos
Mission and Vision Presentation
Credentials Candidate Videos
State Pastor Report- Rev. Mark K. Richardson
Finances and Budget Proposal
Those completing terms of service
for our Assembly
Credentials Candidate Videos
Ballot Presentation and Ratification-
Rev. Rob Tramel, Business Committee Chair
- 12:00 p.m.
Recess until 8:30 a.m. Saturday
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
Sponsored by Servant Solutions
Rev. Mark Senseman
- 2:45 p.m. Worship Service
Rev. Mitchell Burch
Sarah Scharbrough McLaughlin
Ballrooms A, B, C, D, and E
- 4:15 p.m.
Free Time – Dinner on your own
- 7:00 p.m.
Worship- Sarah Scharbrough McLaughlin
Message- Rev. Dr. Leslie Parker Barnes
Ballrooms A, B, C, D, and E

Saturday - November 2, 2024

- 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, Chair
2024 Proposed Budget Vote-
Rev. Rob Tramel, Business Committee Chair
Presentation of Awards-
Rev. Mark K. Richardson
Lifetime Achievement
Rev. Timothy Foreman
Rev. Brian Hansen
Outstanding Service Award
Rev. Albert Grant
Rev. Steve Gulick
15 years serving in the same congregation
25 years serving in ministry in Michigan
Credentials Presentations-
Rev. Joshua Brandt, Associate State Pastor
Rev. JJ Perry, Credentials Chair
In Tribute Recognition
Dedication of Ordination Candidates
- 9:45 a.m.
Adjourn Business Session-
Chuck Nebus, Chair
- 10:00 a.m.
Worship- Sarah Scharbrough McLaughlin
Message- Rev. Mitchell Burch
Ballrooms A, B, C, D, and E
- 11:45 Dismissal

After Service: Dessert Time
Meet and Greet Fellowship

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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.

LIVING OUT OUR CLAIMS FOR UNITY, HOLINESS, AND FELLOWSHIP

¹⁵ I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶ They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁷ Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸ As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

²⁰ "I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

John 17:15-23 (NRSVue)

Rev. Dr. Leslie Parker Barnes



Dr. Leslie Parker Barnes is a native of Akron, Ohio. She graduated from Akron Public Schools and continued her education at Bowling Green State University. After receiving an Associate Degree in Applied Business she furthered her education at the McCreary Center for Black Religious Studies receiving a diploma in Black Religious Studies. She then went on to obtain a Master of Divinity degree from Ashland Theological Seminary and received her Doctorate in Worship from the Robert Webber Institute for Worship Studies in June of 2017.

Leslie Parker Barnes, Founder and Executive Director of Youth Excellence Performing Arts Workshop, has been with YEPAW since 1990, encouraging youth, through the arts, to pursue lifestyles of excellence. In 2006, she was the recipient of The Akron Beacon Journal's Extraordinary Woman Crystal Award in recognition of her service to youth. She is a graduate of the 2008 class of Leadership Akron. In 2010, she was recognized by the Women's Endowment Fund for her extraordinary commitment to social justice through her service to thousands of youth. In 2012 she received the Margaret Clark Morgan Impact Award for Imagination in her service with youth. In 2014 she received the Harold K.

Stubbs Humanitarian Award for Social Action.

Dr. Barnes is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. and serves as the Minister of Praise & Worship Arts at Arlington Church of God in Akron. Leslie is married to Ted Barnes and they have four children, Rochelle, Rachel, Theo, Kimberly and a grandson, Trey Immanuel Barnes.

Rev. Mitchell Burch



Pastor Mitch Burch has served in full-time Christian ministry for 44 years. He has served churches in Kentucky, Washington, Ohio, and West Virginia, and he has served as the State Pastor of West Virginia Ministries. His preaching ministry has traveled to every state and on five of the seven continents of the world. He served with the Slingshot Group as a Senior Leadership Ministry Coach and as Church Health Coach. He is certified in the following areas of ministry: Strategic Leadership, Stewardship Development/Fundraising, and Church Health Assessment. His passion for the Word of God and the proclamation of the Gospel is contagious and powerful. He is a graduate of International University and Seminary with postgraduate studies at Asbury Theological Seminary and Southern Theological Seminary.

Currently he serves as Senior Pastor of the Buffalo Church of God and as State Pastor of WV Ministries and as an At-Large Evangelist in the Church of God.

He and his wife Missy live in Buffalo, West Virginia, and have three adult children and five grandchildren.

Rev. Chad Harlan



Chad Harlan is currently the Lead Worship Pastor overseeing the multi-campus worship ministry of the First Church of God in St. Joseph, Michigan and has been serving there since January of 2012. Previously, he served the First Church of God in Marion, IL for 7 years as Worship and Visitation Pastor. He along with his wife, Tracey were both ordained in the Church of God in July of 2005 and have had the pleasure of being on staff together. They have been blessed with three grown children who are also musically inclined. Chad has been serving the Church of God in worship ministry for over 20 years.

Chad has played the piano for over 40 years and has been a studio session musician and has had the opportunity to share the stage with various Country and Southern Gospel artists. God has allowed Chad to minister through camp meetings and conferences throughout the United States each year. In 2020, Chad developed the Worship Leader Roundtable affinity group for the Church of God nationally which helps to disciple and encourage worship leaders throughout the Movement. Chad enjoys building relationships with and leading people into a meaningful time of worship. Because of his love of coaching people, Chad launched his own coaching business, Team Powered Coaching in 2023. In his spare time, Chad enjoys working outdoors and driving classic cars.

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



Michael Helmick
Mike and Lucinda
Nehemiah and Ezekiel
Ithaca Church of God, Ithaca



Jon Wallace
Burlington Church of God,
Burlington



Kevin Keeder
Kevin and Kristi
NorthernLight Church, Cadillac

New Church and Pastorate



José Luis and Karina Larco
Martina Larco Delgado
Danna Patricia Larco Delgado
Neuvo Pacto Church of God AI, Grand Rapids

Minutes | 103rd General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan

Annual Business Meeting Session 1; November 10-11, 2023

9:00 a.m. Welcome: State Pastor Mark Richardson, opened the 103rd General Assembly.

Worship: Sarah Scharbrough McLaughlin and team led the assembly in worship.

Message: State Pastor Mark Richardson delivered the message from Hebrews 12:1-4 from the New Living Testament, "Running the Race with Patience and Persistence."

Worship: Sarah Scharbrough and team.

Benediction: State Pastor Mark Richardson.

10:45 a.m. Pastor's wives tea with Rev. Flynn and Pastor's Husband coffee with Rev. Sheppard.

10:50 a.m. The Vice Chair Charles Nebus, Covering for the Chair Tad Mellish, called the first session/meeting to order.

Special thanks to Sarah Scharbrough and State Pastor Mark for a great worship and message.

10:51 a.m. Vice Chair prayed over the meeting and events.

10:52 a.m. The vice Chair, presented the agenda and program booklet for all the activities and reports found in the booklet for 2023 Annual Meeting.

10:53am The vice Chair read the vision and mission statements found on the back page of our booklet. The vice Chair also gave special thanks to Jeannette Flynn, and Dr. Horace Sheppard Jr. to Sarah Scharbrough and her family, to Jake Seaton and his team in the sound, and to Becky and Goldie in the State office.

10:56 a.m. The vice Chair presented to the membership the New Pastorates and Associates found on page 7 & 8 of our booklet with recognition.

10:57 a.m. The vice Chair read the statement of voting membership found on page 4 of the booklet, according to Article IV of the by-laws, and that a quorum was present and achieved.

The vice chair brought attention to the previous minutes, and the minutes from pages 9-13 of the 102nd General Assembly were accounted for, accepted and certified.

10:58 a.m. The vice Chair, called the State Pastor Mark Richardson to the podium.

Mark Richardson gave special thanks to the following people:

- Jim O'Bold and Rev. Mark Senseman from Servant Solutions
- Jim Walters for Vision Missions
- Rev. Lynnette Gillett for St. Louis Camp work.
- Scot Bale from Warner Camp.
- Dick and Ken Forsman and the Michigan Singers.
- Nathan Willowby who is the Dean of Anderson Seminary.
- Richard Fields in the Helping Hands in Motion.
- Jay and Laura Laffoon and the Marriage Seminars
- Pauline Neal from the Church of God registrations, with the hopes of finishing and completing 100% registration of our churches.
- Steve Starks Pastor of the First Church of God in South Haven for the work on teaching about End Times.

11:05 a.m. State Pastor Mark Richardson shared 4 things to accomplish and celebrate for 2024 and beyond;

- That we have a diverse contingency, and yet there is still a real need to plant a church in the upper north region.
- The Church of God in Michigan has a rich history.
- This is the 103rd General Assembly in Michigan and going strong.
- In 2024 we will celebrate 100 years of youth ministry for the state.

Also Mark shared that in 2022 that we had to close a church, and this was a tough lesson.

The Church of God had at one time 2200 churches and now we have roughly 1900 congregations, so the number is reducing.

Mark Shared that part of the joy is celebrating with churches like Crystal Springs Church of God in Benton Harbor and their 100 year Anniversary celebration. Mark apologized for missing the recent Hymn Sing Celebration yet, we have much to celebrate.

Mark shared about the return on investment and his prayer is that we as a body with intentionally and passionately exalt Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

11:12 a.m. State Pastor Mark Richardson reviewed his State Pastor's Report found on page 14 & 15 with a look back at 2023.

- Mark shared that he is still working on his health and time management, which he is doing better, but still is a work in progress and he is thankful for all the prayers.
- On Sept 16th they celebrated one year with Rev. Mark and Heather Robb and the connect church.
- Celebrated the Sanford Cultivate Coffee shop and Eagle Ridge Church.
- Mark also shared another success in the Eau Claire Satellite Church along with the Bethlehem Temple Church.
- The Anchor Church in Berrien County with their Community work. Building a separate building to house supplies and over 1000 people served in their community over the last two quarters.
- A testament to the wonderful things happening in the State.
- Mark Shared that we have six new Pastors in the State, where we originally had 12 open positions for pastors, we now have 3 open slots.
- Mark shared information regarding the Winter Youth Retreat.
- The 360 conference was a success with nearly 400 people attending.
- Mark shared about the Academy of Servant leadership with the first session featuring- Karl Vaters and the second session featuring Bob Moss.
- Mark shared that the MSLI will be at New Creation Church in March of 2024
- Mark also talked about the many connections events and the excitement available to all.

State Pastor Mark, bridged into sharing about the Midwest Multiplication Initiative, which is a joint initiative between Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana.

Mark shared about the 120 people involved in the support of the MML, who participated in the Mission 120, with 26 of those in Michigan.

Mark turned our attention to the Launch 32- and the excitement surrounding the 32 new expressions of the church in all four states over the next five years. We have already launched two this year.

Mark talked about the Midwest Hispanic Church Planting Initiative between Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, and Western PA- and the work of the Gomez family as consultants working with the five states to plant Hispanic Congregations.

Mark focused on how 15 couples from 5 states with 4 in Michigan are part of the Midwest Hispanic Planting Initiative, and how the Orchard View Church of God in Grand Rapids has made space available for a Hispanic Church Plant in 2024.

Mark talked about the planting of a church in Flint also, as West Court Street Church of God has agreed to host a Hispanic congregation in the future.

Mark then shared the excitement over 4 people ready for ordination who will be presented to the assembly later in the meeting.

11:25 a.m. Mark turned our attention to the 2024 vision for the State Offices, where there is a specific need for a part time office staff to assist in the ongoing work, and his vision for an Associate State Pastor. The specific needs are designed to keep the functions of the State office running without everything left in the hands of one person, and then the Associate State Pastor to help Mark extend the reach of the State office to congregations across the state.

Mark shared about the Academy of Servant Leadership and upcoming Zoom meeting on February 3, and the May and Sept. meetings would be in person.

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Mark shared about the 7 Theological Statements which Joshua Brandt would elaborate about later, with the working particulars.

Mark share about some of the resources to the Ministers; including the Mental Health and Counseling through the Ministry to Ministers program which the State office would cover the \$120.00 co-pay of the sessions, up to 12 sessions. Mark also shared about the Full Strength Network with coaches and counselors.

Mark shared about the opportunities to develop and train coaches for the Pastors and the State office is looking for those who would desire to get involved.

Mark shared about Mission Insight, where for the Church of God in Michigan investing \$500.00 all of our churches can utilize the demographic studies to help target and develop missions and ministry with a specific focused core group.

Mark shared about Retreats, including those for Women, MALU, and the Wesleyan Retreats.

Mark turned his attention to the Ministry for the Youth.

- No State Youth Convention next fall.
- There will still be the IYC and NIYC.
- The team is working on restructure and providing resources, instead of just having retreats, where the emphasis has been too many in one year.
- The idea is to develop Youth and a focus on the developing potential new Pastors for those sensing the call into ministry.
- The state is looking for Youth and what is the plan to develop the future leaders.
- Trellis is a development plan or program for the youth to answer the call to ministry.
- Mark also shared about Financial Literacy-Outreach Ministry to the churches in the State and that we are still seeking funding for this program.

11:40 a.m. Mark talked more about the staffing needs and the visual graphics to share with the state assembly, of the

current status, the 2024 status, and the future state. The visual graphics provided details on the breakdown of job duties along with functions and roles with each position.

11:44 a.m. Budget and Finance Reports

Mark shared the budget report found on page 16 and following of our Booklets.

- Mt. Pleasant church land contract sale finally closed.
- We are currently \$400,000.00 above the budget
- Some of the expenditures included supplemented the many events throughout the year.
- Final results will come later, but we are on track to be under budget.
- The roof work on the state office came in \$20K under budget.
- The parking lot work was only \$8K and is working okay so far.
- 2024 the plans are to replace the glass works on the offices to make a more secure entryway.
- Nothing stands out at this point.
- The new positions such as the State Associate Pastor will generate expenses due to technology cost and supplies.
- Please review the rest of the budget provided in the booklet and let Mark know of any questions or concerns that you might have.

11:51 a.m. Mark turned the meeting back over the Vice Chair Charles Nebus.

11:52 a.m. Vice Chair Charles Nebus introduced two videos from Cleveland Howell III, and Rachel Green, both candidates for ordination from page 25.

12:00 p.m. Charles Nebus gave a special thanks to those completing terms of service found on page 28 with a round of applause.

12:01 p.m. Charles Nebus introduced the videos for Jesse Hargett and Alexander Young from page 25 the final two ministers for ordination.

12:07 p.m. Charles Nebus acknowledged all the candidates.

12:08 p.m. Charles Nebus turned the meeting over the Rev. Mike Potter the Chair of the Business Committee.

Mike Potter shared the presentation of the Ballots passed out to the General Assembly. Mike asked the voting members of the General Assembly to please mark their ballots and turned them into the tellers for counting. It was noted that prior to the General Assembly Meeting some of the ballots were prepared via electronically. If anyone has reservations please mark the ballots accordingly and with reasons.

Mike Potter turned the meeting back over to Charles Nebus the Vice Chair.

12:10 p.m. Charles Nebus introduced two videos, one about the MSLI and the other regarding the Winter Youth Retreat.

12:13 p.m. Charles Nebus acknowledged Servant Solutions, Reverend Jim O'Bold, and Mark Senseman for sponsoring the lunch today at the General Assembly. Charles Nebus prayed over the lunch.

12:14 p.m. The 103rd General Assembly Meeting is adjourned until Saturday November 11th at 8:30am.

General Assembly Annual Meeting- Second Session

8:33 a.m. Vice Chair Charles Nebus called the second session of the 103rd General Assembly to order.

8:34 a.m. Charles Nebus opened with a word of prayer.

8:35 a.m. Charles Nebus led the assembly in a special tribute to the Veterans on this Veterans Day Celebration, asking the veterans both past, present along with anyone currently serving and anyone who has family in active service, to stand and be acknowledged. Chuck also offered a moment of prayer and a moment of silence for those who have given their lives and the families left behind.

8:36 a.m. Charles Nebus announced that all of the candidates on the ballot have been fully ratified.

8:37 a.m. Charles Nebus turned the meeting over to Jerry Lyon the Church Health for his report. Jerry asked the assembly to review his report on page 33

- Jerry shared his excitement regarding the 360 conference, and this is his fifth year of working with the conference. Jerry wanted to recognize those helping on the team, with 2024 goal of 500 in attendance;
 1. Mark Staton II.
 2. Cameron Kreager.
 3. Rob Trammel.
 4. Erin Glezman.
 5. April Crump.
 6. Sharon Richardson.
 7. Debb Lyon.
- Save the date and mark the calendar with the special flyer passed out the assembly.
- Theme is King Jesus taken from Daniel 7:14b, King of Kings Jesus

8:47 a.m. Rev. Jerry Lyon turned the meeting over to Mark and Heather Robb to share about their good news story. Mark and Heather shared about the Big Rapids story, along with the 1year anniversary at Connect, and the offer to help fund the church plant to keep the church plants alive and vibrant with funding and prayer.

8:49 a.m. Rev. Jerry Lyon shared information about the National Discipleship forum and there will be more information to come about the forum. Charles Nebus introduced Mike Potter the Business Committee Chair.

8:51 a.m. Rev. Mike Potter shared about the budget ballot and asks the General Assembly to please mark your ballots, folding once and turn them into the tellers.

8:54 a.m. Charles Nebus turned the meeting over to the State Pastor Mark Richardson. Mark turned the General Assemblies attention to pages 38 & 39 of the General Assemblies package to share about recognitions.

Minutes | 103rd General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan - continued

Mark shared about the importance of the Lifetime and Outstanding recognitions, along with 15 years at the same congregations, 25 years in Michigan, and the partnership with Servant Solutions who provided a \$200.00 gift card to each.

Page 38, Mark shared about Mary Hirkis and the Lifetime Achievement Award along with her work, not only at North Avenue COG, but within the COG in Michigan.

Page 38 Revs. Shelton and Chariese Matthews for the Lifetime Achievement Award for over 34 years at South Side COG Pontiac, and over 40 years in the State. Mark shared 3 outstanding service Awards.

1. Rev. Dr. Julian Guzman for his work on Raising Hispanic Ministry and the work in Grand Rapids.
2. Rev. Dale Turner and her work at Redford Lighthouse Community Church.
3. Rev. Julie Wiseman and her work at Eagle Ridge and the Mission work in Uganda.

Mark now shared about those who have served 15 years at one congregation.

1. Rev. Greg Prather at Washington Ave. Church.
2. Rev. William Greiner at Eagle Ridge Church.
3. Rev. David Perry at Edgewood Church in Ithaca.
4. Rev. Stephen Burrow at Cornerstone Church in Otsego.
5. Rev. Ben Kreider at Alma Church of God.

State Pastor now shared those who served 25 years in Michigan.

1. Rev. Dale Turner at Lighthouse Community Church of God in Redford.
2. Rev. Andy Hannich at the Church of God St. Joseph.

9:16 a.m. With the technical issues resolved with the videos, Charles Nebus introduced the video concerning the 360 conferences.

9:17 a.m. Charles Nebus turned out attention to the video regarding the Music and Worship Coaching Initiative and Team Power Coaching.

9:19 a.m. Charles Nebus announced the passing and overwhelming approval of the 2024 budget from the General Assembly.

9:20 a.m. Charles Nebus turned the meeting over to Joshua Brandt, the Chair of the Credentials Committee for his report found on page 24 of the Assembly Package. Joshua shared the recognition and Tribute to Pastors we have lost over the last year.

1. Dr. Wayne Warner.
2. Rev. Henry V. Schwartz.
3. Rev. Raymond Abbey.
4. Rev. Gerald St. Cin.

Joshua Called for the Assembly to Pause and remember, followed with a prayer.

Joshua brought recognition to the team for their dedication and work,

1. Terry Bernard
2. Bob Confer.
3. Chariese Matthews.
4. Ron Nuckles.
5. J.J. Perry.
6. Emily Sparks.
7. Mark Richardson, State Pastor.

Joshua shared that we have 27 leaders in the Credentials Process with 4 moving on to ordination.

Joshua shared the importance of moving from 16 theological statements to 7 Theological Commitments, and some would call this less work, but this is actually their work, and not less but focused work.

Joshua shared about the work of Women in leadership Advocate

The goal is not perfection, but better.

He celebrated the 4 leaders moving on to ordination;

1. Rachel Green.
2. Jesse Hargett.
3. Cleveland Howell III.
4. Alexander Young.

Joshua Brandt invited all the candidates to the front of the General Assembly, along with family, church members and leaders to surround anoint and pray with the candidates, then Joshua Brandt closed with Prayer

9:48 a.m. Charles Nebus turned the meeting over to our State Pastor Mark Richardson who shared applause for the candidates.

Mark shared the recognition of the Hispanic Church Plant with the General Assembly, asking Jose and Patricia Gomez, the Hispanic Planting Consultants to stand.

9:49 a.m. State Pastor Mark Richardson shared that the MALU from the greater Detroit area has been going strong since 2018, with purpose, and opportunities to prepare for service, along with an upcoming Mass Revival in 2024, and finally Charles Nebus introduced the video from MALU.

9:54 a.m. Charles Nebus recognized the General Assembly Program Committee members and asked the Assembly to give them applause for their great work. Charles Nebus introduced the new incoming Vice Chair Dale Turner who closed the 103rd General Assembly with a word of prayer.

9:56 a.m. Charles Nebus Formally called for a close to the 103rd General Assembly
All agreed and the Assembly was closed.
Respectfully submitted:
James Matt

Minute proof readers: Melissa Daniel, Sheila Granger, and David Mulherin



jesusisthesubject.org/convention-2025





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

Welcome:

On behalf of our great assembly, Sharon and I welcome you to this 104th gathering of the General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan. The role of State Pastor for our assembly a privilege and honor, and I am amazed at how quickly five years have gone by. I greatly appreciate you, your leaders, and your congregations. The work you do is changing lives across the state and beyond. The Church of God in Michigan continues to enjoy a great reputation across the Church of God, and much of that is because of you. I praise God for your diligence in pressing forward the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the power of Holy Spirit.

A Look Back at 2024:

2024 has been a whirlwind of activity, ministry, successes and challenges. Through it all, we can give God glory for the wonderful work being done in our midst. We celebrate many achievements this year. For example:

- Continued growth of the Academy of Servant Leaders with our fifth session recently concluded
- The celebration of many congregational and pastoral anniversaries spanning two years to 138 years of ministry
- The planting of a new Hispanic congregation, Iglesia de Dios Nuevo Pacto (New Covenant Church of God) being launched at the Orchard View Church of God facility in Grand Rapids under the leadership of Jose and Karina Larco Delgado
- The addition of two new staff persons, Rev. Joshua Brandt as Associate State Pastor and Karen Gunter as a Staff Support Specialist. They both are making a big impact on our success
- Stories of many successful outreach ministries across the state, which are often shared across the Church of God, which bring glory to the Lord Jesus Christ
- The planned ordinations of eight candidates who have worked diligently through the process of ordination

There is so much more to celebrate, and we hope that the fellowship here will offer the opportunity for us to share with each other the great things the Lord is empowering us to accomplish. While there are yet challenges we face, we can surely say that the Lord God has been and will be good to us.

2025: Living Out Our Claims for Unity, Holiness, and Fellowship

This theme, based on the High Priestly Prayer of Jesus Christ, is our theme for 2025 and beyond. We should always be determined to live theses out in our lives and ministries. This scripture exhorts us to be holy, unified, and in good fellowship as evidence that we are Disciples of the Lord. Intentionality and love to make this a reality among us. During our time in the GA sessions we will recap many of the wonderful things accomplished this year, and we will share the exciting and compelling new vision, mission, and core values for the Church of God in Michigan. This will steer us forward over the next several decades to introduce the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the transforming power of Holy Spirit to every household in Michigan. We are extremely excited about this, and we hope that you will be impassioned to join us in this great opportunity for Jesus Christ.

As we gather to celebrate and vision together, we have a wonderfully exciting time planned. Rev. Dr. Leslie Parker Barnes and Rev. Mitchell Burch, two very gifted preachers and leaders, will be our speakers for the weekend. We will also be blessed by the anointed worship ministries of Rev. Chad Harlan leading a Heritage Hymn Sing on Friday morning and Sarah Scharbrough

McLaughlin leading us into worship Friday afternoon, evening, and Saturday morning. This year's assembly will be different in that we will have an afternoon worship service instead of the conferences of previous years. We desire the Lord to meet us there in a powerfully anointed set of services around the General Assembly sessions of Friday and Saturday mornings. We also hope that you will take the time to fellowship together and visit each of our guests who will have displays that can provide resources for you.

Heartfelt Thanks:

Once again, I am incredibly 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. I am very thankful for the great support staff we have which continually goes above and beyond the call of duty to serve. Specifically, thanks to Becky Adams, our Finance and Media Director, who does so much to keep things moving well in the state. Goldie Kurtzhals continues to serve the Church of God in Michigan through her diligent administration of the Credentialing and Leadership Focus processes, as well as the coordination of this General Assembly venue. I again mention how blessed we are to have Rev. Joshua Brandt and Karen Gunter on board, as they help to extend the services and resources of the Church of God in Michigan. There is more to come with what they are doing in the ministry, which you will hear about and experience at this gathering. 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 this General Assembly gathering will be a rich experience for us all and charge our batteries to do great things for the Lord. As we go forward, let us do so living out our holiness, unity, and fellowship. The Lord has a wonderful way of rewarding those who are faithful.

With Love,
Pastor Mark



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Associate State Pastor Report - Rev. Joshua Brandt

Over the last eight months, I have driven to and through parts of Michigan I never expected to visit. Everywhere I go, I am struck by the beauty of our state. Each city and town is full of people seeking the best for their lives and families. Each gas station and coffee shop is a reminder of miles driven, conversations, and possibilities for the future.

I am honored by the pastors, leaders, and churches who have shared their stories with me. Over lunch, I hear their successes and pain. As we sit at board tables, I am aware of the struggles they face. Each email asking for help reminds me that ministry in our modern world is changing rapidly. Each baptism is an even greater reminder that God is still at work!



Church Health

The conversations at Academy of Servant Leaders (ASL) about bylaws and policies created “on-ramps” for church health conversations. Often, I am invited to discuss Bylaws and policies, but we end up discussing the health of the church and the next steps towards reaching their community with the good news about Jesus. Please contact me if your church wants to review bylaws and policies.

- **NewThing/Exponential.** In May, we partnered with NewThing, a part of Exponential. I am learning what they call the “Movement System.” The plan is to see when and where this can help churches in Michigan network together on mission. I meet twice a month for training and conversation. Our first pilot network will launch in the next few weeks.
- **360 Ministry Conference.** The 360 Conference is scheduled for Saturday, March 15. We will share more details and ask for your input during General Assembly.

Credentials

The work of credentials is vital to our church health, leadership development, and multiplication efforts. This team is responsible for the recognition and credentialing of pastors and churches. The credentials team meets at least nine times a year. Each agenda is full and allows the opportunity to speak into the lives of leaders. We are doing good work with our candidates and churches. We also are committed to doing even better.

- **JJ Perry.** Over the last several months, we have transitioned the credentials chair to JJ Perry. JJ has experience with leading a credentials team in Indiana. He is committed to our candidates, churches, and the importance of credentials. I am thankful that this trusted leader has agreed to take this on.
- **Melissa Daniel.** Melissa agreed to take my seat on credentials. She will finish the term I vacated. Melissa brings a wealth of ministry experience to the team. She also served with credentials in Western Pennsylvania. Her joy, wisdom, and compassion are evidenced in our meetings.
- Thank you to Bob Confer and Terry Bernard, who are both finishing two terms with credentials! Their walk with Jesus, wisdom, and care for our candidates was evident in every meeting.

Youth

Our youth team has not met regularly this year. When we met, concerns were expressed about how many of our events have become disjointed and siloed. While several of our churches are seeing a resurgence in youth ministry, few have dedicated youth pastors. Our youth ministry team and event planning were designed when many churches had youth pastors and several youth groups across the state were large.

In 2025, we plan to reorganize the team to meet current youth ministry needs across the state. In addition, our youth ministry events will align with our renewed mission and vision for state ministry. I will work closely with our event teams (Winter Retreat, MSLI, 360, etc.) to develop a multi-year plan with a unified focus, dates, and speakers.

- **Youth Winter Retreat.** Winter Retreat (January 3-5) is being planned by Adam Rentas, Trevor Moody, and Jesse Hargett. This team is entrusted with planning, promoting, and evaluating the Winter Retreat.
- **Michigan Student Leadership Institute (MSLI).** MSLI is scheduled for February 28-March 1. Ben Kreider and his team are working to ensure that MSLI aligns with the student leadership initiatives across the state.
- **Intern Academy, Trellis, etc.** I am developing relationships with the leaders of programs designed to equip the next generation of pastors and leaders. These initiatives across the Church of God are seeking to partner with young leaders as they explore their call.

Leaders Currently in the Ordination and Licensing Process

Chance Adams (O)	Kevin Keeder (O)	Juan Ruiz
Martonio Backstrom (L)	José Luis Larco	Kim Salyer
Brent Beggs (O)	Karina Larco	Linda Seatts-Ogletree
Caleb Claybaugh (L)	Nygil Likely	Michael Severn (L)
Jeanie Conner-Fontenot	Cecil Mickens	Josie Sposito (L)
Patricia Dotson	Bryan Millender	Jeff Stackman
Brian Fee	Trevor Moody (O)	Jon Wallace (O)
Patrick Gilbert (O)	Patricia Norvell (L)	Derek Whitacre (O)
Sheila Granger (O)	Jonathan Oldham (L)	Jaqueline Williams (L)
Mykel Hall	Scott Rees	Keywana Wright-Jones
Michael Helmick	Jared Rider	
Stephen Ivy (L)	Miosha Robinson (L)	

O = Presented to the General Assembly for Ordination L = Licensed

360 Ministry Conference
March 15, 2025
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 27-29 at Gull Lake Ministries conference center. Our theme this year will be “The Resilient Pastor”. John Opalewski of Converge Coaching will be our speaker, and Kim Salyer of Farmington Hills will lead worship.
- Ministry Women’s Retreat – The Ministry Women’s Retreat was held on September 13-15 at St. Francis Retreat Center. Jessica Cyriaque-Staton from New Creation Church of God was the

Speaker and Sister Kim Salyer from Farmington Hills Church of God, Led the Worship, and the theme was “Expand.”

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 counselling for our pastors and their families has made a huge impact in the health of our pastors and their families. Two years ago, we added a partnership with Full Strength Network but sadly this network folded due to the difficulty of finding Counselors. We do, however, still offer the traditional support through counseling as we have in years past.
- Ministry Renewal Endowment – We approved two applications for 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.
- The Pastoral Circles kicked off this year, and it is our hope that many meaningful relationships and connections will be made to support the pastors who chose to be a part.
- Marriage Retreats are now being offered by Focus on the Family free of charge for our pastors and their spouses. Pastor Mike Harris has been instrumental in making this connection for us and can provide more information on these retreats.

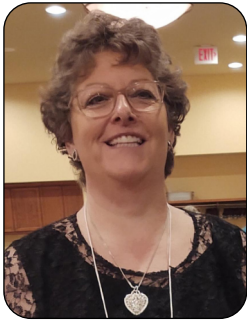
The Lifetime Achievement Awards for this year will be awarded to Brian Hansen and Tim Foreman. The Outstanding Achievement Awards will be awarded to Steve Gulick and Albert Grant.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastoral Health Ministry

Rev. Jeff Eckman (Chair), Rev. Portia Davis-Mann, Rev. Mike Harris, Erin Glezman, Rev. Marc Danapolis, Rev. Tim Broyles (Secretary), and Rev. Mark Richardson, State Pastor (Rev. Dr. Carron Odokara served well as a part of our team until she moved to Pennsylvania)

Christian Women Connection - Theresa Cross, Acting President



This year has been difficult for the Christian Women's Connection in Michigan. We met in Lansing on September 21 to decide if we would continue the Michigan chapter.

We have been operating for the past three plus years with only four officers, the secretary, treasurer, event coordinator and an interim president. Our attendance is shrinking. The last state convention was so small that we recorded a loss after paying for the facility.

As members grow older and are no longer able to attend, we are not attracting young members who want to carry on the dream of our founder Nora Hunter. At the meeting in Lansing, we discussed changing from officers to a committee type organization since we had several people express interest at the 2023 convention at the Midland Holiday Inn. However, we have not had enough people committed to showing up for meetings. The last two meetings consisted of myself,

Penny Ream the Treasurer, and Janet Redman the Event coordinator.

However, we have decided to move forward. We are contacting members to see if they would like to be a committee member. We are hoping that a committee format will be more attractive to younger members and will allow for more people to feel they are making a difference.

We support the Children of Promise and our Living Link Missionaries, the Mihsills, as well as many other projects, our decision will affect these programs.

Please be praying for the Lord's hand in these matters.

Thank you,

Theresa Cross, Acting President, Michigan Christian Women's Connection

Ministers Retreat 2025

January 27-29, 2025

The Resilient Leader

Luke 3:21-22

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



John Opalewski
Faciliator



Kim Salyer
Worship Leader

General Assembly Finances

Revenue

Unrestricted	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
General Budget	340,000.00	337,164.50	340,000.00	255,782.73	75.23%	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	\$337,164.50	\$340,000.00	\$255,782.73	75.23%	\$340,000.00

Temporarily Restricted	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
Benevolence/Disaster Relief	0.00	0.00	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	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Church Multiplication	8,000.00	10,190.71	8,000.00	6,970.70	87.13%	8,000.00
Ministry to Ministers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Transformations	7,000.00	0.00	7,000.00	0.00	0.00%	7,000.00
Other Income	0.00	12,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Lifelong Learning	3,500.00	3,450.00	3,500.00	2,250.00	64.29%	\$3,500.00
Total Temporarily Restricted	\$18,500.00	\$26,140.71	\$18,500.00	\$9,220.70	49.84%	\$18,500.00

Investments	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
Land Contract principal	6,156.08	3,017.13	6,422.87	4,411.33	68.68%	6,422.87
Land Contract Interest	2,224.24	1,968.52	1,701.73	1,682.12	98.85%	1,701.73
Revolving Loan Fund Endowment Interest	245.00	0.00	245.00	2.76	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	16,405.46	10,000.00	13,682.19	136.82%	10,000.00
Total Investments	\$18,625.32	\$21,391.11	\$18,369.60	\$19,778.40	107.67%	\$18,369.60

Total Budget Revenue	\$377,125.32	\$384,696.32	\$376,869.60	\$284,781.83	75.57%	\$376,869.60
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Registrations	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
360 Ministry Leadership Conference	12,000.00	6,146.86	12,000.00	10,003.00	83.58%	12,000.00
Ministers Retreat	4,000.00	3,340.00	4,000.00	3,610.00	90.25%	4,000.00
Ministry Wives Retreat	4,000.00	2,824.00	4,000.00	4,260.00	106.50%	4,000.00
Youth Winter Retreat	40,000.00	23,647.50	40,000.00	41,190.00	102.98%	40,000.00
State Youth Convention	16,000.00	16,175.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
MI Student Ldrshp Institute	4,000.00	2,583.91	4,000.00	3,615.00	90.38%	3,000.00
Annual General Assembly	40,000.00	39,965.16	40,000.00	19,410.00	48.53%	40,000.00
Other Events/Registrations	2,000.00	2,750.00	3,000.00	3,275.00	109.17%	3,000.00
Total Registrations	\$122,000.00	\$97,432.43	\$107,000.00	\$85,390.00	79.80%	\$106,000.00

Property Management	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
Gain/Loss Sale of Property	0.00	150,302.16	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Cash receipts church dissolutions	0.00	18,750.10	0.00	25.00	0.00%	0.00
Property Sale	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Total Property Management	\$0.00	\$169,052.26	\$0.00	\$25.00	0.00%	\$0.00

Endowments	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 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	425.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Older Adult	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00%	0.00
Pastoral Family Enrichment	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Revolving Loan Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	997.24	0.00%	0.00
Revolving Loan Principal	00.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Endowment Investments	20,000.00	72,634.12	20,000.00	70,875.24	354.38%	20,000.00
Total Endowments	\$20,000.00	\$73,059.12	\$20,000.00	\$72,372.48	361.86%	\$20,000.00

Designated Assets	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 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	0.00	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	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00

Total Revenue	\$519,125.32	\$724,240.13	\$503,869.60	\$442,569.31	87.83%	\$502,869.60
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Expense

Church Health Ministry	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
Academy of Servant Leaders	4,000.00	7,688.11	6,000.00	1,008.40	16.81%	4,500.00
Transformations	7,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Healthy Growing Churches	12,500.00	12,500.00	12,500.00	12,500.00	100.00%	12,500.00
Church Health Admin.	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Church Health Minister	5,500.00	6,387.43	0.00	192.28	0.00%	0.00
Total Church Health	\$30,000.00	\$26,575.54	\$18,500.00	\$13,700.68	74.06%	\$17,000.00

Pastoral Health Ministry	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
Lifelong Learning	2,000.00	2,212.50	2,000.00	3,131.81	156.59%	2,000.00
Spiritual Direction	0.00	400.00	250.00	0.00	0.00%	250.00
Scholarships	2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,526.90	101.08%	3,000.00
Pastoral Health Admin.	1,500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%	16,000.00
Total Pastoral Health	\$6,000.00	\$2,612.50	\$5,250.00	\$5,658.71	107.78%	\$21,250.00

Youth Ministry	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
Children's Ministry Task Force	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	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	930.00	1,500.00	555.00	37.00%	1,500.00
Youth Ministry Development	1,800.00	738.39	1,800.00	489.03	27.17%	1,800.00
Youth Ministry Admin.	1,700.00	1,131.23	1,700.00	113.66	6.69%	1,700.00
Total Youth Ministry	\$13,000.00	\$8,799.62	\$11,000.00	\$7,157.69	65.07%	\$11,000.00

Credentials Ministry	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
Ministerial Dvpm Seminar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Background Checks	1,000.00	406.14	1,000.00	291.83	29.18%	1,000.00
Leadership Focus	5,000.00	4,050.00	5,000.00	1,400.00	28.00%	6,000.00
Credentials Administration	3,500.00	2,799.76	24,300.00	19,035.08	78.33%	24,820.00
Total Credentials Ministry	\$9,500.00	\$7,255.90	\$30,300.00	\$20,726.91	68.41%	\$31,820.00

Assembly Operations	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
Ministry Promotion	5,000.00	4,889.66	5,000.00	3,988.53	79.77%	6,000.00
Benevolence/Compassion	1,000.00	1,785.02	1,500.00	604.45	40.30%	3,000.00
Regional Pastors	40,000.00	32,635.43	30,000.00	21,306.04	71.02%	14,000.00
Legal Services	4,000.00	5,404.02	5,000.00	3,638.50	72.77%	6,000.00
Audit Review	9,500.00	8,950.00	9,500.00	9,400.00	98.95%	9,500.00
Books/Supplies	1,000.00	517.95	500.00	2,721.38	544.28%	700.00
General Assembly Admin.	16,500.00	26,338.80	20,000.00	37,304.62	186.52%	40,000.00
Bad Debt Expense	0.00	47.58	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Investment Expense	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Total Assembly Operations	\$78,000.00	\$80,568.46	\$71,500.00	\$78,963.52	110.44%	73,200.00

Personnel	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
Salaries						
State Pastor	75,110.00	75,110.04	73,960.00	55,470.06	75.00%	76,759.00
State Pastor Housing	36,850.00	36,850.08	38,000.00	28,500.03	75.00%	38,000.00
Associate Pastor	0.00	0.00	49,500.00	25,319.00	51.15%	45,000.00
Associate Housing	0.00	0.00	30,500.00	21,350.00	70.00%	37,000.00
Church Health Minister	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	2,500.00	0.00%	0.00
Office Staff	14,520.00	14,520.00	20,800.00	12,133.38	58.33%	21,320.00
Finance/Media Director	64,164.00	64,164.00	66,217.00	49,662.72	75.00%	67,872.00
Total Salaries	\$200,644.00	\$200,644.12	\$278,977.00	\$194,935.19	69.88%	\$285,951.00
Benefits						
Pensions-Admin	12,320.00	12,315.60	21,120.00	14,370.01	68.04%	21,650.00
Pensions-Clerical	7,060.00	7,058.04	8,950.00	6,433.60	71.88%	9,175.00
Social Security Admin.	10,100.00	10,076.40	17,300.00	11,757.30	67.96%	17,725.00
Employer's FICA Expense	4,920.00	4,908.48	6,670.00	4,761.81	71.39%	6,850.00
Disability Ins-State Pastor	1,500.00	1,098.30	1,500.00	1,433.78	95.59%	1,500.00
Professional Development	6,000.00	818.99	9,500.00	1,260.01	13.26%	9,500.00
Total Benefits	\$41,900.00	\$36,275.81	\$65,040.00	\$40,016.51	61.53%	\$66,400.00

Office	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
Office Supplies	3,000.00	2,434.96	3,000.00	1,189.57	39.65%	3,000.00
Mobile	1,200.00	1,161.50	2,000.00	1,140.88	57.04%	2,000.00
Postage	1,500.00	911.55	1,500.00	984.94	65.66%	1,500.00
Information Technology	7,000.00	4,583.79	15,000.00	8,330.15	55.53%	15,000.00
Hospitality Supplies	3,500.00	972.80	2,000.00	1,716.77	85.84%	2,000.00
Total Office	\$16,200.00	\$10,064.60	\$23,500.00	\$13,362.31	56.86%	\$23,500.00

Overhead	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
Insurance	6,000.00	6,483.50	8,000.00	6,592.45	82.41%	8,000.00
Utilities	4,000.00	3,195.85	4,000.00	2,224.42	55.61%	4,000.00
Building and Grounds	25,000.00	16,198.74	25,000.00	14,653.98	58.62%	25,000.00
Vehicle Maintenance	3,500.00	3,755.01	5,500.00	4,157.47	75.59%	6,000.00
Fuel Purchased	4,000.00	3,699.33	6,000.00	5,683.23	94.72%	7,000.00
Total Overhead	\$42,500.00	\$33,332.43	\$48,500.00	\$33,311.55	68.68%	\$50,000.00

Property Management	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
Big Rapids Property	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
Other Property	10,000.00	6,961.40	10,000.00	10,883.36	108.83%	12,000.00
Total Property Management	\$10,000.00	\$6,961.40	\$10,000.00	\$10,883.36	108.83%	12,000.00

Total Budget Expenses	\$447,744.00	\$413,090.38	\$562,567.00	\$418,716.43	74.43%	\$592,121.00
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Registrations	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
360 Ministry Leadership Conf.	17,000.00	14,221.20	17,000.00	17,896.87	105.28%	18,000.00
Ministers Retreat	16,000.00	18,115.61	17,000.00	15,638.19	91.99%	17,000.00
Ministry Wives Retreat	4,000.00	4,906.95	2,500.00	3,337.81	133.51%	2,500.00
Youth Winter Retreat	40,000.00	22,679.12	40,000.00	41,206.42	103.02%	40,000.00
State Youth Convention	16,000.00	14,905.78	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00
MI Student Ldrshp Institute	4,000.00	2,132.32	4,000.00	3,027.90	75.70%	3,000.00
Annual General Assembly	60,000.00	76,044.07	60,000.00	1,403.41	2.34%	60,000.00
Total Registrations	\$157,000.00	\$153,005.05	\$140,500.00	\$82,510.60	58.73%	\$140,500.00

Designated Assets	Annual 2023 Budget	Actual YTD Dec 31 '23 (100%)	Annual 2024 Budget	Actual YTD Sept 30 '24 (75%)	Percent of Budget	Proposed 2025 Budget
Ministry Renewal Endowment						
- CPE Scholarship	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%	1,500.00
- Ministerial Marriage Enrichment	0.00	0.00	3,500.00	0.00	0.00%	3,500.00
- Ministry to Ministers	6,000.00	4,557.51	6,000.00	1,461.61	24.36%	4,500.00
- Ministry Renewal Endowment	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	100.00%	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	50,958.50	35,000.00	14,830.36	42.37%	35,000.00
- Church Multiplication	101,000.00	70,148.17	80,000.00	45,216.57	56.52%	80,000.00
- Vehicle Purchase	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	27,402.00	109.61%	0.00
Total Designated	\$148,500.00	\$125,664.18	\$156,000.00	\$90,910.54	58.28%	\$129,500.00

Total Revenues	\$519,125.32	\$724,240.13	\$503,869.60	\$442,569.31	87.83%	\$502,869.60
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Total Expenses	\$753,244.00	\$691,759.61	\$859,067.00	\$592,137.57	68.93%	\$862,121.00
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General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan - Investments

2024	Balance as of January 1	Fund/Transfer/ Withdraw	Balance as of September 30
Ameriprise Financial, Inc.			
General Budget Account	181,898.44	(80,000.00)	115,580.63
Revolving Loan Fund Account (core endowment principal: \$231,785.92) 2022-2024 Revolving Loan principal payments reinvested \$0.00	224,188.21		248,109.66
Total with Ameriprise Financial, Inc.	\$406,086.65	(\$80,000.00)	\$363,690.29
Aspirean Wealth			
B. Gale Hetrick Memorial Endowment (core endowment principal: \$67,087.49)	72,048.35	(7,000.00)	71,603.76
Ministry Renewal Endowment (core endowment principal: \$200,000.00)	245,690.64	(56,000.00)	213,073.68
New Works Fellowship Endowment (Multiplication) (core endowment principal: \$128,020.02)	132,989.44	(10,000.00)	133,356.19
Older Adult Endowment (core endowment principal: \$50,000.00)	54,352.26		60,995.89
Pastoral Family Enrichment Endowment (core endowment principal: \$100,000.00)	0.00		0.00
Total with Aspirean Wealth	\$505,080.69	(\$73,000.00)	\$479,029.52
PNC Financial Services Group			
	Balance as of January 1	Fund/Transfer/ Withdraw	Balance as of September 30
Checking (General) non-interest	318,933.19		183,451.05
Money Market (Endowments)			
B. Gale Hetrick Memorial Endowment	1,691.99	7,000.00	8,692.35
Ministry Renewal Endowment	20,627.94	20,222.88	40,853.14
New Works Fellowship Endowment	29,462.10	0.00	29,464.38
Total Money Market (Endowments)	\$51,782.03		\$79,009.87
Total	\$370,715.22	\$27,222.88	\$262,460.92
Total Cash and Investments	\$1,281,882.56	(\$125,777.12)	\$1,105,180.73

2024 Endowment Expenses

B. Gale Hetrick Memorial

Ministers Retreat \$12,028.19

Ministry Renewal

CPE Scholarship \$0.00

Ministerial Marriage Enrichment \$0.00

Ministry to Ministers \$1,461.61

Ministry Renewal Endowment \$2,000.00

Ministry Women's Retreat \$4,873.19

Total **\$20,362.99**

New Works Fellowship

Church Transformations \$14,830.36

Multiplication \$45,216.57

Total **\$60,046.93**

Endowment Funds Available for Granting

Monies at PNC Bank Money Market Account

September 30, 2024 | \$79,009.87

B. Gale Hetrick Memorial

\$8,692.35

Ministry Renewal

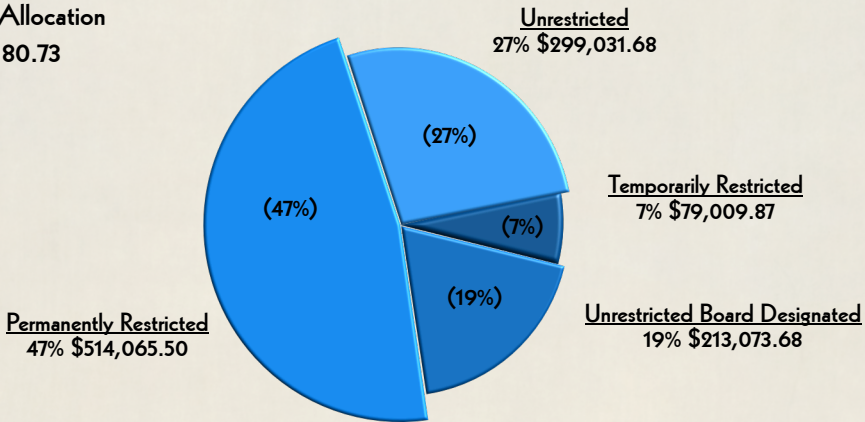
\$40,853.14

New Works Fellowship (Multiplication)

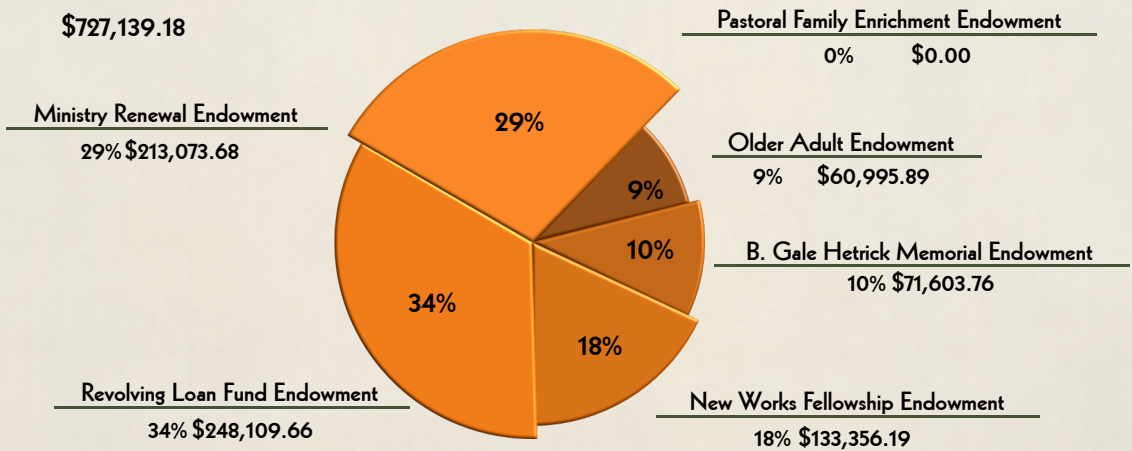
\$29,464.38

General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan - September 30, 2024

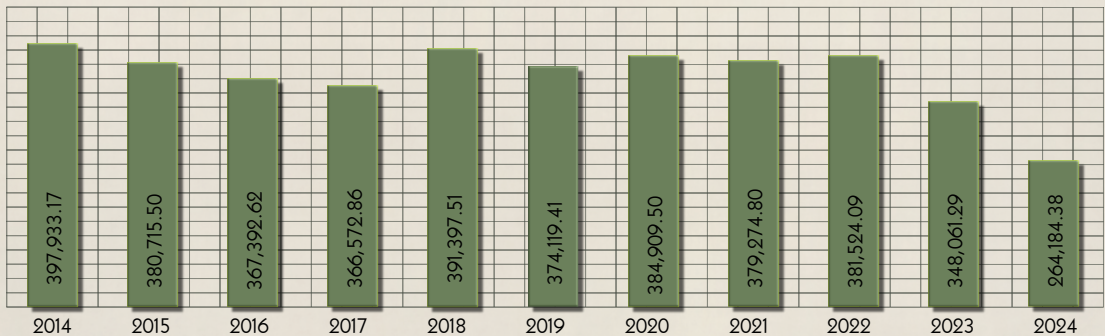
Asset Fund Allocation \$1,105,180.73



Endowment Investments \$727,139.18



Congregational Giving



Statements of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis
For the Years Ended 2019-2023

Statement Of Financial Position

December 31	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<u>Assets</u>					
Current Assets	1,532,955	1,570,895	1,557,588	1,322,545	1,350,755
Property and equipment	76,359	67,560	79,670	96,311	88,871
Property-multiplication	0	0	0	0	0
Prepaid Expenses	8,042	5,205	10,595	9,310	9,815
Total Assets	\$1,617,356	\$1,643,660	\$1,647,853	\$1,428,166	\$1,449,441
<u>Liabilities & Net Assets</u>					
Liabilities:					
Current payable	7,689	666	666	666	666
Other payable	20,699	3,213	2,041	28,410	5,539
PPP loan payable	-	41,100	-	-	-
Registration deposits	-	-	12,305	12,230	31,335
Total Liabilities	\$28,388	\$44,979	\$15,012	\$41,306	\$37,540
<u>Net Assets</u>					
Without donor restrictions, undesignated - available					
for current operations	849,356	832,273	833,584	511,868	523,370
Without donor restrictions,					
designated - quasi-endowment funds	189,687	201,102	201,665	200,975	201,692
Without donor restrictions, designated - other funds	8,896	22,565	48,037	49,660	59,760
Total net assets without donor restrictions	\$1,047,939	\$1,055,940	\$1,083,286	762,503	784,822
With donor restrictions	541,029	542,741	549,555	624,357	627,079
Total Net Assets	\$1,588,968	\$1,598,681	\$1,632,841	1,386,860	1,411,901
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,617,356	\$1,643,660	\$1,647,853	\$1,428,166	\$1,449,441

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.

Ministers Who Have Completed the Requirements for Ordination



Chance Adams
First Church of God,
Saint Joseph



Brent Beggs
Brent and Heather
Hope Crossing Church,
Sterling Heights



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



Sheila Granger
Community Church
of God, Ypsilanti



Kevin Keeder
Kristi and Kevin
NorthernLight Church,
Cadillac



Trevor Moody
Hope Community, Niles



Jon Wallace
Burlington Church of God,
Burlington



Derek Whitacre
Derek and Deanna
Fresh Start Community Church
West Branch

Licensed Ministers Placed in the Process for Ordination

Martonio Backstrom
Martonio, Teresha
Makhi, Amyia, Martonio Jr., Marenee,
and Melanie
Good Church, Flint



Stephen Ivy
Stephen and Carrol
Heart of God Ministries of Detroit, Detroit



Patricia (Trish) Norvell
Maggie, Victoria, Trish, Dan, Charlie
The Anchor Church of God, Stevensville

Jonathan Oldham
Theodore, Jonathan, Bella, Christina, and Sophia
First Church of God, Stevensville Campus



Miosha Robinson
Peter, Zion, Miosha, No'el, Leo, Jo'el, and Leo III
Good Church, Flint



Michael Severn
Nora, Mike, Beth, Oliver, and Roxy
Millington Church of God, Millington

2024 Leadership Directory



Charles Nebus
Chair

Board Of Directors

Charles Nebus, Chair; Dale Turner, Vice-Chair; James Matt, Secretary; Joshua Brandt, Theresa Cross, Jeff Eckman, Cathy Ganus, Emily Potter, Mark Staton II, Wendell Thompson, Edwin Whitaker, Mark Richardson, Tad Mellish, 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, 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.



Dale Turner
Vice-Chair

360 Ministry Conference Task Force

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

Personnel Committee

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

Audit Committee

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

Program Committee

Dale Turner, Chair; Dwight Fontenot, Nathanael Lyon, Erin Taylor, Mark Richardson, staff.



James Matt
Secretary

Business Committee

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

Youth Convention Task Force

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

Michigan Student Leadership Institute (MSLI)

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

Youth Winter Retreat Task Force

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

2024 Honoring Ministry/Committee Members Completing Terms and Ballot

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair:		
Charles Nebus	2024	
Vice Chair:		
Dale Turner	2024	
Members:		
Cathy Ganus	2024-1	

MINISTRIES

Credentials Ministry:		
Terry Bernard	2024-2	
Robert Confer	2024-2	
Pastoral Health Ministry:		
Jeff Eckman	2024-2	
Carron Odokara	2024-1	

Youth Ministry:		
Mike Mazurek	2024-1	
Emily Potter	2024-2	
Veronica Roesly	2024-1	
Heidi Rysko	2024-1	

COMMITTEES

Audit Committee:		
Paul Myers	2024-1	
Business Committee:		
Theron Kersey	2024-1	
Personnel Committee:		
Jerome Willis	2024-2	
Program Committee:		
Erin Taylor	2024-2	

2025 Ballot

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vice Chair – Ratification for <u>one</u> for one year term:	
John Davey	
Members – Ratification for <u>one</u> for three year term:	
Timothy Foreman	

MINISTRIES

Credentials Ministry – Ratify <u>three</u> for three-year term:	
Jeff Eckman, Julián Guzmán, Ronald Nuckles	
Pastoral Health Ministry – Ratify <u>three</u> for three-year term:	
Marc Danapilis, Bill Greiner, Christine Walker	
Youth Ministry – Ratify <u>four</u> for three-year term:	
Jeremey Byers, Matthew Chesney, Krystal Kotesky, Jessica Staton	

COMMITTEES

Audit Committee – Ratify <u>one</u> for three-year term:	
Mike Stone	
Business Committee – Ratify <u>one</u> for three-year term:	
Sheila Granger	
Personnel Committee – Ratify <u>two</u> for three-year term:	
Patrick Gilbert, William Jones	
Program Committee – Ratify <u>four</u> for three-year term:	
Crystal Colp, Dwight Fontenot, Cameron Kreager, Nathanael Lyon	

2025 Biographies

Rev. Dr. John Davey - Board of Directors, Vice-Chair

John Davey. Son of Pastor Fred Davey and brother of Pastor Jim Davey and editor Kathleen Beuhler. 1976 graduate of Anderson University with a bible and religion major, 1981 graduate of Anderson School of Theology with MDiv. 2007 graduate of Anderson School of Theology with DMin. Worked with Youth for Christ six years, Associate of Youth and pastoral care in Wichita, Kansas - seven years. Pastor of a renewal work in Huntsville, Alabama 2 years. Planted a church in Fort Wayne, Indiana - five years. Pastored Edgewood Church of God in Ithaca, Michigan - 13 years and Pennway Church of God, Lansing, Michigan for 13 years. Presently working with TIPS (Transitional Interim Pastors) with assignments in Hartford City, Indiana and St. John's 1st Church of God, St. Johns, Michigan.



Rev. Dr. Timothy Foreman - Board of Directors



Across many arenas Timothy Foreman has been a servant leader, coach, connector and developer. Likely he is most known for his pace setting ministry with the Otsego church. He came there as a young pastor and served for 25 years. He was widely celebrated for his catalytic leadership building up the church and bringing churches together in unity and service in the Otsego—Plainwell area. He is the founding partner of Christian Neighbors which has become an incredible model of service helping thousands each year with food, financial assistance, education, mentoring and more. For this reason and many others he is the proud holder of the Key to the City of Otsego.

He has always been a champion of missions leading the Otsego church to give more than a million dollars to missions at home and across the globe. He has participated in several mission ventures.

He has long been a champion of youth camping and served twenty years as the energetic director of Church of God youth camps at Warner Camp leading to significant growth.

He earned the Doctor of Ministry from Anderson University School of Theology. Most recently he has served the Cass church. He is married to Linda Kay a pre-school teacher and early childhood specialist. She was a founding partner for the Ministers Wives Retreat. They have three married sons Paul, Mark and Andrew – a web designer, doctor, and school principal. They also have seven grandsons and two granddaughters.

After a long hiatus Foreman will return for a fourth stint on the board of directors he first jointed nearly four decades ago. He brings experience and wisdom to serve the church in challenging days desiring to foster community, trust, empowerment, vision and journey. He is grateful for the opportunity to serve again with leaders in Michigan.

Rev. Jeff Eckman - Credentials Ministry



Tori and Jeff Eckman

Pastor Jeff Eckman grew up in Howell, MI, and attended the Wright's Corners Church of God (Now the Crossroads Church of God) He met his wife to be, Tori Dendel, in the Michigan Singers and they were married shortly before attending Warner Southern College in Lake Wales, Florida. They both graduated from Warner in 1993. The Eckmans have five children and five grandchildren.

Pastor Jeff served churches in Elwood, Indiana and Defiance, Ohio before returning home to Michigan where he pastored the Floyd Church of God in Midland for over 12 years. In May of 2013 he accepted the call to be the Lead Pastor at the North Avenue Church of God in Battle Creek where he currently serves.

He has served the Church of God in Michigan on the Business Committee, as Vice Chair and Chair of the General Assembly, as Vice Chair and Chair of the Board of Directors, on the Church Health Ministry, and the Pastoral Health Ministry as Chair. He has also served on Boards and committees for St. Louis Camp and is currently serving on the Board for Warner Memorial Camp.

Pastor Jeff's hobbies include playing guitar, coaching (any sport his kids are playing), camping, basketball, photography, video editing, and web design.

He is first and foremost a follower of Christ, second a husband and father, and third a Pastor and Worship Leader.

Rev. Dr. Julián Guzmán - Credentials Ministry

Julián Guzmán joins the Church of God in 2016, two years after planting a new church in Wyoming, Michigan. 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 degree 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 served as an associate pastor at Missionary Church of Christ in Grand Rapids, 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 the Cornerstone Theological Seminary 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. Dr. Ronald Nuckles - Credentials Ministry



I am retired from the U.S. Air Force Reserves as a Wing Command Staff Chaplain, Lt. Col., and from the Michigan Department of Corrections as a chaplain. My life's ministry has been spent reaching the unreachable for God. I have earned my Bachelor Degree, Master of Divinity, and Doctor of Ministry from Anderson University, Anderson, Indiana.

I enjoy spending time with family, golfing, teaching playing golf with my grandson, spending time with all ten of my grandchildren, and enjoying our summer cottage. I've been married to Kimme, my wife, for 47 years. We have three daughters, three sons-in-law, and ten grandchildren at this time. My greatest joy is serving my Savior and sharing His Gospel with others. I currently continue to preach and teach.

The greatest answer to prayer in my life is when Jesus touched my wife and healed her completely. She was at the door of death and Jesus stepped in and let me have her for many more years. I truly serve a great and wonderful Savior and want everyone to know Him as I do.

Rev. Marc Danapilis - Pastoral Health Ministry



Marc Danapilis is the senior pastor at the Anchor Church of God in Stevensville, Michigan. Marc has been married to his wife, Nicki, for 18 years. They have four children together: Madison, Ryley, Abigail, and Brooklynn. Marc has a Master's Degree in Theology from Liberty University. He has been at the Anchor Church for almost seven years. Two years ago, the Anchor Church started Berrien County Mission. This is a place where those in need can come to get clothing and household items.

Rev. Bill Greiner - Pastoral Health Ministry



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 16 years.

Bill has been married to Robin for over 31 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.

Christine Walker - Pastoral Health Ministry



Brad and Chris Walker

Both Chris Walker and her husband Brad were raised in the Church of God and have attended the West Court Street Church of God in Flint for 44 years. She has served in several roles over the years including choir member, Stephen Leader, Leadership Team member, Sunday School teacher and Worship Leader among others. Her newest role is that of Pastor's Wife.

Chris' personal statement is "I love God and believe He has the best for all of us. I also believe we are meant to live and worship in Community and that includes caring for the shepherds who care for us."

Chris is retired after working for 31 years in local government as Deputy Treasurer. She and Brad have been married for 47 years and have two adult children. They live in Davison, Michigan.

Jeremey Byers - Youth Ministry



I grew up in Rural Tennessee where I learned to value community & hard work. At the age of 19 I moved to Indiana where I attended Calvary Chapel Bible College. It was here he and Christy (now my wife) met. Not long into our marriage God called us to a small town in Florida. In this small town I served at one church as Elder and another as Pastor. While an elder at Edgewater Alliance Church in Florida I served in a leadership role with one of the largest youth ministries in the country. We served (at its highest) 300-350 students. It was also in this small town that my three children were born. In 2017 my wife and I followed God's call with our kids to serve in Detroit, Michigan with a Christian nonprofit called Detroit Love. We helped lead short term mission trips with high school students from around the country in the inner city of Detroit. In November 2023 I said yes to God's call to serve at New Creation Church as Pastor of Student Ministries.

Rev. Matt Chesney - Youth Ministry



Melissa and Matt Chesney

Matt Chesney currently serves as the Director of Student Ministries and Outreach at Eagle Ridge Church of God in Midland. He is a former high school teacher and principal who heard a strong voice from God to resign his position and become a youth pastor. He and his wife, Melissa, moved from southern Michigan to Midland in August of 2017 with their children. As the Director of Youth, Matt works with Midland area teens from 6th to 12th grade sharing the Gospel and discipling them. As Director of Outreach, Matt helps launch new expressions of the church that can reach the lost through intentional relationships and discipleship.

Rev. Krystal Kotesky - Youth Ministry



It takes a special person to be called into youth ministry. Despite the short attention spans, goofy squirrel costumes, endless dodgeball or gagaball games, and creating interacting messages, God has used me and my creative, but scary, brain to do His work. I'm the associate pastor at Anchor Church in Stevensville, Michigan, where I work with Pastor Marc Danapolis and love where God has me serving! I can put that creative mind to work! God also has given me a job at Costco where "part time" is 40 hours a week, but no matter where I'm at, it turns into a mission field! I live with my dog, Huntlie, and we enjoy going on hikes together on my free time. Thanks for the opportunity of working with the Church of God throughout the years joining the task force team for Youth Winter Retreat, being ordained a few years back, and it's exciting for what God has for me next!

Lady Jessica Staton II - Youth Ministry



Jessica Cyriaque-Staton serves with her husband, Pastor Mark Staton II, at New Creation Church of God in Flint, Michigan and is grateful for NCC's legacy of love and community support. She is the mother to Mark Andrew (14) and Madilyn Rose (10) and considers motherhood her first ministry and greatest work. Jessica credits her strong family connection to her mother and grandmother who were phenomenal women, and the foundational church family that she had in her youth.

Jessica has served as a counselor, program manager, and non-profit director seeking equity and resources for those impacted by trauma and abuse. She provides advocacy, comfort, and empowerment as a Chaplain, Consultant, and Trauma Practitioner within Wayne, Macomb, Oakland Counties. Currently, Jessica volunteers as a family advocate and group facilitator for local organizations and consults as an Associate Director for Revive Community Health Center in Flint, Michigan. She also holds multiple positions on local and national Executive Boards and Taskforces.

Jessica accepted her call to ministry under the leadership of Pastor Lawrence and Sis. Artelia Wyatt in 2002 at Southwestern Church of God in Detroit, and has worked to bridge generational and cultural gaps within the Body of Christ. She has over 20 years' experience in Human Services in areas of career counseling, mental health, homelessness, trauma and abuse. In October 2018, Jessica launched The Good Fight, providing Family Advocacy and Trauma-Informed Care to communities in crisis.

Finally, if there is any hope for the future outside of Christ alone, "Lady J" (so affectionately called) seeks to leave a legacy of love and kindness for others to follow. She prays that her life will reflect a portion of the wisdom that has been poured into hers, and that her children are able to attest to her love for them and her family, her Lord, and His People.

Mike Stone - Audit Committee



I attend the Floyd Church of God where I am currently treasurer and facility manager. Previously I have served on the Audit and Personnel Committees for the state. I am married to my wife Dottie, 50 years this year in September. We have two children, Rachel and Matt, and six grandchildren.

Sheila Granger - Business Committee



Sheila Granger is a passionate servant who loves to inspire transformation through God's word. This passion is drawn from Psalm 119:18 "Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law." She earned both her Bachelor and Master of Science degrees from Central Michigan University and holds a degree in Christian Leadership from the Christian University of Southern Indiana. She completed studies at the Geraldine Marvell Miller Wright Institute for Women in Ministry and now serves on the Alumnae Association board.

Her ministry assignments have included Chair of the General Assembly Church of God Michigan, Pulpitree at Joseph Campau Avenue Church of God, Executive Board member of Ministers and Laity United (formerly Greater Detroit Metropolitan Area Ministerial Fellowship) and

President of the Michigan State Ushers of the Church of God.

Rev. Granger currently serves under the leadership of Pastor Portia Davis Mann at Community Church of God where she preaches with boldness, teaches with clarity and disciples with authenticity. She is also blessed to serve the church at large as the Spiritual Resource Coordinator for the National Association of the Church of God Ushers.

Her testimony is this "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service." -1 Timothy 1:12

Patrick Gilbert - Personnel Committee

I was raised in Gladwin, Michigan. I was the second youngest in a family of seven. My sister Sandy took me to church for my first time at age 12. A couple months later, during Sunday school at an Assembly of God Church, I gave my life to the Lord. Upon graduating high school, I attended Albion College and received a Bachelors degree in economics and management. I married my high school sweetheart, Wendy, in 1987. We moved to Coldwater, Michigan and started my work career in the financial industry with Prudential. In 1990, I took a management position with Prudential in Battle Creek, Michigan. We started attending North Avenue Church of God in 1990 and have attended there since. I started my own business as a Financial Advisor in 1995. In February 2020, I had a powerful experience with Lord that led me into ministry. My wife Wendy and I have been married for 37 years and have three children and seven grandchildren. I enjoy golfing, spending time with my family.



Rev. Dr. William Jones - Personnel Committee



Jalene and Bill Jones

Dr. Jones has served the Church of God in Michigan for over 18 years as State Pastor. During his tenure he has restructured the State's Organization and spearheaded the focus on helping Church of God congregations in the state move from decline and plateau to growth. His heart's desire is to see every Church of God congregation changing its community through the love and message of Jesus Christ. Nationally, he has served on the Reconstituted Board of Directors of the Church Extension and served as Chair of the Regional Pastor Association of the Church of God. Dr. Jones has had the privilege to teach and preach in many countries around the world including, Great Britain, Germany, Canada, Trinidad and Tobago, and Honduras. He presently serves on the Board of Directors for Missouri Ministries and is President of the Michigan Council on Alcohol Problems.

Bill has served the Church of God in Michigan as Senior Pastor of the Sears Church of God and the Mio Church of God. At both churches he was instrumental in leading the congregations in both numerical and spiritual growth. He is past Chair of the General Assembly in Michigan, and has also served on the state's Youth Ministry Board, as well as chairing both the State Program Committee and Business Committee. He is past chair of the National Regional Pastors Association of the Church of God.

Academically, Dr. Jones is a graduate of Anderson University with a B.A. in Mathematics and Education; Anderson School of Theology with a Master of Divinity; and Grace Theological Seminary with Doctor of Ministry Degree. However, most of all he has the heart and calling of a pastor. His primary spiritual gifts are exhortation, pastor and leadership.

He is married to Jalene; his wife of 49 years. They have two grown children, Jaela who is married to Nick along with their grandchildren Sylvie and Arlo, from Ionia and James who is married to Christy, along with their three grandchildren, Dock, Charlie, and Etta who live in Holland. Dr. Jones is now retired from full-time ministry and now serves the Church as a Minister at Large; preaching, teaching and mentoring. He presently sits on the board of Missouri Ministries of the Church of God and is State President of MICAP (Michigan Council on Alcoholic Problems).

Rev. Crystal Colp - Program Committee

Crystal Colp is a wife, mom, speaker, teacher, writer, and ordained minister in The Church of God. She serves on staff at the First Church of God in St. Joseph, Michigan, where she is the Pastor of Adult Discipleship. She married her husband, David, 33 years ago, and they have two grown boys. Caleb is 29 years old, and Jacob is 26. As a couple, David and Crystal have been in full-time ministry for their whole married life. At present, they serve the First Church of God in St. Joseph, Michigan, where David is the Lead Pastor. Crystal has a burden to see individuals value God's Word as applicable to everyday life. Discipleship, soul care, and leadership development are her heart. She sees herself as a work in progress on a journey to look more like Jesus every day and totally dependent on Him.



Rev. Dr. Dwight Fontenot - Program Committee



The Rev. Dr. Dwight L. Fontenot is the pastor of Riverside Park Church of God, Livonia, Michigan. Rev. Dr. Fontenot grew up in the church and always knew there was a call to ministry on his life. He previously led the academic retention efforts of the University of Michigan through the Comprehensive Studies Program, and was the Associate Pastor of Worship for the Community Church of God, Ypsilanti, Michigan. Rev. Dr. Fontenot is married to Dr. Argenis R. Conner-Fontenot and together they minister to churches, marriages, families, relationships, and those seeking marriage through their Amazing Love Ministry. They are the parents of two adult sons and grandparents to three.

Rev. Cameron Kreager - Program Committee



My name is Cameron Kreager and I'm an Associate Pastor (Worship Arts) at Pennway Church of God in Lansing, Michigan. I married my sweetheart, Jennifer, following receiving my degree in Music & Worship Ministry from Mid-America Christian University in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. We moved to Lake Charles, Louisiana a few weeks later and I served as the Worship & Youth Pastor there for five years. During that time, my wife gave birth to both of our children, Avery (10) and Noah (8), and we moved shortly after Noah's birth to Poplar Bluff, Missouri and served there as Associate Pastor (Worship & Youth) for five years. We moved to Lansing in 2022 and are serving together as a family in multiple capacities within the church. Looking forward to many more years!

Rev. Nathanael Lyon - Program Committee



Rev. Nathanael O. Lyon is an ordained pastor with the Church of God (Anderson, Indiana). He serves as the Lead Pastor at Hope Community Church in Niles, Michigan as well as on numerous regional and national leadership teams within the broader Church of God. Nathanael has been married to his wife, Kimberly, for 11 years and are raising three sons. He loves Seattle Sports, vinyl records, and a good cup of coffee.

Lifetime Achievement - Rev. Timothy Foreman and Rev. Brian Hansen



Rev. Timothy and Linda Foreman

Across many arenas Timothy Foreman has been a servant leader, coach, connector and developer. Likely he is most known for his pace setting ministry with the Otsego church. He came there as a young pastor and served for 25 years. He was widely celebrated for his catalytic leadership building up the church and bringing churches together in unity and service in the Otsego—Plainwell area. He is the founding partner of Christian Neighbors which has become an incredible model of service helping thousands each year with food, financial assistance, education, mentoring and more. For this reason and many others he is the proud holder of the Key to the City of Otsego.

He has always been a champion of missions leading the Otsego church to give more than a million dollars to missions at home and across the globe. He has participated in several mission ventures.

He has long been a champion of youth camping and served twenty years as the energetic director of Church of God youth camps at Warner Camp leading to significant growth.

He earned the Doctor of Ministry from Anderson University School of Theology. Most recently he has served the Cass church. He is married to Linda Kay a pre-school teacher and early childhood specialist. She was a founding partner for the Ministers Wives Retreat. They have three married sons Paul, Mark and Andrew – a web designer, doctor and school principal. They also have seven grandsons and two granddaughters.

After a long hiatus Foreman will return for a fourth stint on the board of directors he first jointed nearly four decades ago. He brings experience and wisdom to serve the church in challenging days desiring to foster community, trust, empowerment, vision and journey. He is grateful for the opportunity to serve again with leaders in Michigan.



Rev. Brian Hansen

In 1973, Brian Hansen responded to a call to ministry and with his wife (Luella Joslin Hansen) and two small children (Matthew Hansen and Jennifer (Hansen) Hughes) moved to Houston, Texas to attend Gulf Coast Bible College (now MACU).

Upon graduation and ordination, he served the following churches in Michigan and Indiana:

1977-1980 Big Lake Church of God, Columbia City, Indiana

1980-1986 Eastwood Church of God, Kalamazoo, Michigan

1986-1990 First Church of God, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan

1993-1996 Mission Church/bi-vocational minister to Remus Church of God, Remus, Michigan.

1996-2020 Pulpit supply/interim assignments to churches in Michigan.

In 1990 he was given an invitation to serve as a healthcare administrator of a small, volunteer hospice program in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. With a lot of help from healthcare professionals in the community he was able to achieve Medicare/Medicaid/BCBS certification.

Subsequent hospice employment in SE Michigan/Metro-Detroit with Mercy Health Services provided Brian and Luella with opportunities to serve in several short term pastoral (interim) assignments.

Upon retiring, Brian and Luella returned to their hometown of Muskegon, Michigan. With great grace and peace, Luella passed away on 6/6/2021. Brian remains active in end of life support groups through hospice program and in support of the church he currently attends. He is the proud grandpa of Christian Hansen, Katie Hansen and Brenna (Hughes).

Outstanding Service Award - Rev. Albert Grant and Rev. Steve Gulick

Rev. Albert Grant

Reverend Albert Grant, husband of Wendy Grant, accepted his call to ministry at the age of 30 under the mentorship of the late Reverend Dr. Sandy Johnson in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In 1980, he was ordained as a minister in the Church of God.

Over the years, Reverend Grant has served in various impactful ministries:

- Pastor of Faith Church of God in Racine, WI for 18 years.
- Director of Fund Development at Church Extension of The Church of God.
- Director of Outreach and Urban Ministry at Church of God Ministries from 2000 to 2006, both in Anderson, IN.
- Pastor of the Church of Detroit since 1914, a position he continues to hold today.

Reverend Grant is also the Vice President of Minister and Laity United (MALU), an organization that fosters unity and collaboration among member congregations in the Metro Detroit area. MALU focuses on corporate service, ministry, worship, fellowship, and leadership development for ministers and congregational members.

His ministry has taken him across the globe, providing opportunities to travel extensively to Ghana, India, Korea, Ethiopia, and Guyana, South America. Reverend Grant has facilitated leadership conferences for:

- Garner College Centre for Christian Studies, Camrose, Canada.
- The Billy Graham Training Center, Asheville, North Carolina.
- West Middlesex Camp Meeting.
- Anderson Camp Meeting.
- The Delaware CDP district of the Church of God.
- Church Builders Plus Conferences in the United States and Canada.

Reverend Grant has received professional training from:

- The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA.
- Trinity Theological Seminary in Newburgh, Indiana.
- Indiana University's Centre on Philanthropy.

Recently, Reverend Grant earned his Chaplaincy and Clinical Pastor Education certification from Saint Camillus Campus in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

He is currently a student in the master's program at Anderson University School of Theology and Christian Ministry, continuing his lifelong commitment to learning and ministry.



Rev. Steve Gulick

Pastor Steve Gulick was called by God from the Farm to the pulpit beginning in the year 2000. Steve has served as Youth Pastor at Fraser Road Church of God for five years. After five years of Youth ministry, God called Steve to be the Senior Pastor at Edmore, First Church of God where he served for 10 years. After 10 years at Edmore, God called Steve to Floyd Church of God where he has been serving now for six years. It has been an amazing journey with God over the last 24 years.

Steve lives in Wheeler, Michigan with his wife Kim. He and Kim have three children and five granddaughters.



Twenty-Five+ Years Serving in Michigan

Rev. Bill Greiner



Bill and Robin 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 16 years.

Bill has been married to Robin for over 31 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. Michael Heflin

Rev. William Hill, Sr.

Rev. Richard Latham



Dick and Floretta Latham

Rev. John Mellish

I am thankful for the many opportunities the Lord has blessed us with during my 45 years of ministry. The Church of God in Michigan has been good to me, giving me many places to serve. In addition to pastoral ministry in Barryton, Hastings and Cadillac, it's been a blessing to serve on the General Board of Directors and Credentials Ministry.

God has allowed us to work in the lives of so many precious people who've come to know our Lord Jesus Christ. Looking back through the years, this includes 14 dear people who accepted the call to ministry and 5 who became missionaries around the world. Such a blessing to be part of their ministries.

I thank God for His gracious blessings on my life and for my wife Marsha, who has been my greatest asset. I also thank my family for their continued support. Thank you General Assembly of the Church of God in Michigan, for allowing us a place of service in the Kingdom of our Lord.



John and Marsha Mellish

Fifteen Years Serving at the same Congregation

Rev. Jack Perkins

Installed as Pastor of Southwestern Church of God, January, 2009.

Former Pastor of Front Street Church of God, Hamilton, Ohio for 24 years.

He has a Master of Divinity from Almeda University.

He has been married 51 years to Ruby Perkins.

They have three children and six grandchildren.

He retired from Ford Motor Company after 30 years as a Supervisor.

He is now in his 15th year as the Senior Pastor of Southwestern Church of God.



Jack Perkins

In Tribute to Michigan Church of God Ministers



Rev. Sally Horton
September 10, 2022



Rev. James Leslie Sparks
December 21, 2023



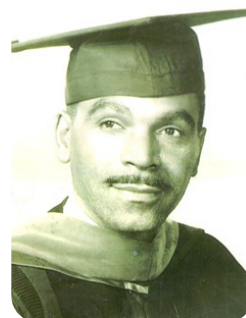
Rev. Jacob Moses Kakish
January 27, 2024



Rev. Susan Meeks Sparks
March 2, 2024



Rev. Levi Undrea Cyrus
March 18, 2024



Rev. Matthew Moses Scott
April 26, 2024



Rev. Mary Louise Ruckle
May 1, 2024



Rev. Theron "Bill" Kersey
June 8, 2024



Rev. Rachel Woods
October 10, 2024



WINTER RETREAT

Timber Wolf Lake
Jan. 3rd - 5th

COME ALIVE





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.