

A DETERMINED CHURCH FOR DIFFICULT TIMES

State Pastor's Address
2020 Virtual General Assembly Meeting
November 7, 2020

REV. MARK K. RICHARDSON, STATE PASTOR



Thanks for Your Support & Service

THE LORD FOR HIS FAITHFULNESS

FIRST CHURCH OF GOD, ST. JOSEPH

THE CHURCH OF GOD IN MICHIGAN

- DR. BILL JONES
- BECKY ADAMS
- GOLDIE KURTZHALS
- REV. JERRY LYON
- CONNIE GRAHAM
- REGIONAL PASTORS
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- TEAM LEADERS & MEMBERS
- OUR CONGREGATIONS AND PASTORS



2020: a Stretching Year!

COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Devastating the culture in many ways

Virtual General Assembly Meeting

Our Churches & Services Affected

Our Major Connect Events Cancelled

Uncertainty Going Forward

UNREST IN THE CULTURE

Killings, Protests, Riots, Looting, etc.

Affecting the Church

VERY DIVISIVE ELECTION SEASON

Fueling further division in the culture

Impacting Relationships

Changing the landscape going forward

NATURAL DISASTERS

Storms across the land

Wildfires devastating the West

Flooding causing incredible loss



IN REALITY, 2021 WILL BE HERE
IN LESS THAN 60 DAYS,
BUT WE ENTER INTO IT WITH
UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT THE
PANDEMIC, THE CULTURE,
THE ECONOMY, POLITICS, ETC.

BUT, WHAT A GREAT TIME FOR REVIVAL!!!!

WE HAVE THE POWER OF GOD

WE HAVE THE TRUE MESSAGE OF HOPE

WE HAVE A TESTIMONY TO TELL

WE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES ALL AROUND

WE HAVE A CALL TO BE SALT, LIGHT, LOVE

WE HAVE WHAT THE CULTURE CRAVES

WE HAVE THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE



WE HAVE A CHALLENGE TO BE:
A DETERMINED CHURCH FOR DIFFICULT TIMES



Hebrews 12:1-3 (NKJV)

Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³ For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.



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THE CHURCH MUST INTENTIONALLY INVEST FOR REVIVAL

WE HAVE A CLOUD OF WITNESSES TO THE LIFE OF FAITH

**HOW THEN WILL WE, THE CHURCH OF GOD IN MICHIGAN
INTENTIONALLY RUN TOWARDS REVIVAL
IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES?**

LET ME RECOMMEND 3 CHALLENGE STEPS



A DETERMINED CHURCH FOR DIFFICULT TIMES

UNBURDEN TO RUN UNHINDERED

“...let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares *us*...”

DEAL WITH OUR CONFLICTS
CONFRONT OUR PREJUDICES
COMMIT TO UNITY IN THE BODY
WORK WITH OUR LEADERS
DETERMINE TO LIVE OUT GC-2
MODEL CHRISTLIKENESS



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EXPECT TO RUN FOR ENDURANCE

“... and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us ...”

LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS

- TIME, TALENT, TREASURE, TESTIMONY
- RELATIONSHIPS
- OUR MISSION FIELDS
- THE INTEGRITY OF THE MESSAGE IN FACE OF CHALLENGES



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FOCUS ON THE FINISH LINE OF CHRIST'S "WELL DONE..."

"... looking unto Jesus, the author
and finisher of *our* faith ..."

KEEP THE END RESULT IN FOCUS
DETERMINE TO REINVIGORATE
WE ARE CARRYING THE BATON
KEEP STRIVING FOR UNITY
INVEST IN THOSE FOLLOWING US
RESIST THE FEAR OF CHANGE



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INVESTING FOR 2021

A BUDGET BASED ON 2019 WITH SOME ADDED INVESTMENTS

- A NEW GENERATION OF ISL
- REINVIGORATE KEY MINISTRIES
- FOCUS ON CHURCH PLANTING
- DEVELOP CROSS-STATE CONNECTIONS
- LAUNCH NEW INITIATIVES
- ENHANCE DISCIPLESHIP INITIATIVES
- DEVELOP STRONGER ONLINE PRESENCE
- DEVELOP CROSS-CHURCH CONNECTIONS
- INVESTMENTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE



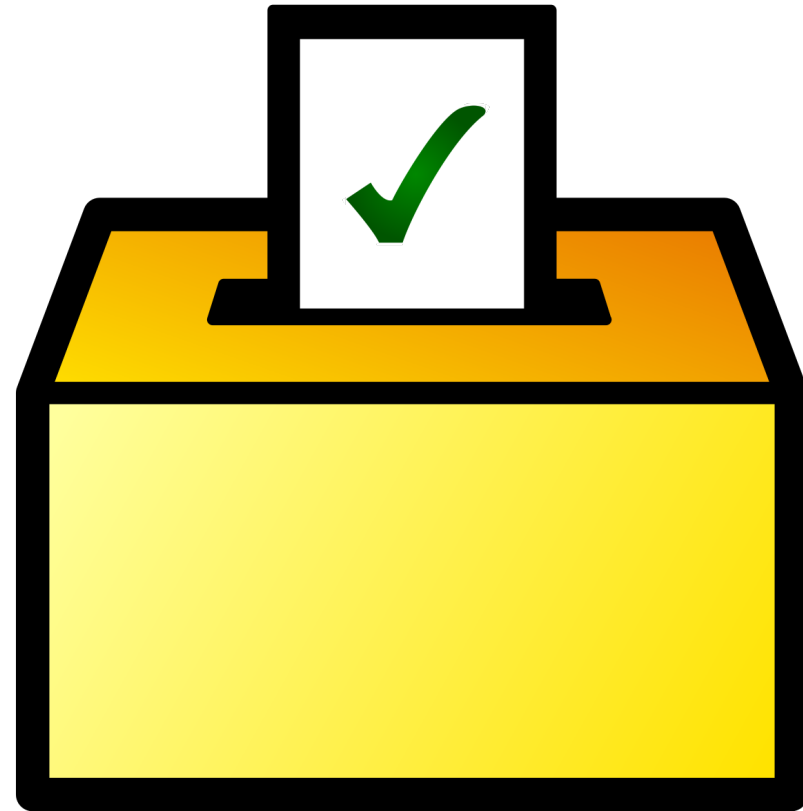
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INVESTING FOR 2021

A BALLOT THAT OFFERS SOME
QUALITY PEOPLE TO STEP INTO
OPEN POSTIONS ON THE STATE
TEAMS

6 NEW CANDIDATES WHO HAVE
WORKED HARD TO COMPLETE
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
ORDINATION

6 NEW LICENSED MINISTERS WHO
ARE WORKING ON LEADERSHIP
FOCUS TOWARDS ORDINATION



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SOME GOOD NEWS

WE ARE IN A GOOD PLACE WITH
OUR FINANCES

WE HAVE GREAT LEADERS AND
TEAMS IN PLACE

WE HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO
BRING IN & DEVELOP NEW
PASTORAL LEADERS ACROSS THE
STATE

WE HAVE A WONDERFUL
OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE
THE POWER AND PURPOSE OF
THE LORD IN THESE TIMES OF
GREAT CHALLENGE



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WE NEED YOU TO CONTINUE TO PARTNER WITH US

IN PRAYER

IN SERVICE

IN CONNECTION

IN GIVING

IN DISCIPLE MAKING

IN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

IN TRUST



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND
YOUR ATTENTION AS WE WORK
THROUGH THIS VIRTUAL
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING.
MAY THE LORD CONTINUE TO
RICHLY BLESS US AS WE
ENDEAVOR TO SERVE HIM.



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