



Imagine
Imagining the Future

Ohio Ministers Meeting
October 14-15, 2010

Ohio State
MINUTES
2010-2012

Church of God in Ohio State Executive Offices
211 North Cleveland-Massillon Road
Akron, Ohio 44333

PHONE: 330/668-9995 ~ FAX: 330/670-1335
E-Mail info@ohiocog.com ~ Web-Site www.ohiocog.com

Office Hours: 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M. Monday - Thursday

William Isaacs, Administrative Bishop
4250 Cobblestone Drive
Akron, Ohio 44321
Phone: 330/668-9995 email: bill@ohiocog.com

J. Patrick Wright, Director of Leadership & Development
93 Lethbridge Circle
Akron, Ohio 44321
330/668-9995 email: pat@ohiocog.com

Jan Wright, Director of Women's Discipleship
93 Lethbridge Circle
Akron, OH 44321
330/668-9995 email: jan@ohiocog.com

Barbara Henderson, State Secretary/Treasurer
barbara@ohiocog.com

Doris Fuson, Administrative Assistant
doris@ohiocog.com

Jennifer Nelson, Youth & Discipleship Assistant
jennifer@ohiocog.com

LaVonne Bonin, Credentials & Receptionist
lavonne@ohiocog.com

Tina Cramer, Women's Discipleship Assistant/Campground Marketing Director
tina@ohiocog.com

OHIO MINISTERS MEETING MINUTES

2010-2012

On March 27, 2010, the ministers of Northern and Southern Ohio by near unanimous vote requested the International Executive Committee form The Church of God in Ohio merging the former two regions into one state. At the 2010 General Assembly of the Church of God in Orlando, Florida, the International Executive Committee affirmed the request of the leadership and ministers in both Northern and Southern Ohio to merge the two regions into one unified state. At the biennial Ministers' Meeting in 2010, our ministers reaffirmed the decision and we became the Church of God in Ohio. After forty years, the state is now one again encompassing the richness of the fertile farmlands, the river valleys and populations of our urban centers. The Church of God in Ohio is a mosaic of life at its very best. The people reflect God's mercy and grace and the pastors and ministers are people of great vision and courage. The Church of God in Ohio represents new dreams, new vision and a new future as God leads.

These minutes reflect the work of our ministers in called session on October 14-15, 2010 in Columbus, Ohio.

STATE PROGRAM

1. Inasmuch as the current minutes of the State Ministers Meeting is the valid ongoing program for the Church of God in Ohio, only new business and amendments need come before each subsequent Minister's Meeting.
2. Further that changes brought about by action of the General Assembly and/or General Executive Committee be automatically entered as a matter of updating the State Ministers Meeting Minutes, where applicable.
3. NEW OHIO
That we approve the terms of the merger between Northern and Southern Ohio pursuant to laws of the state of Ohio and the Minutes of the General Assembly of the Church of God. Further, that the state councils be authorized to affect all relevant documents, filings and decisions required by law. In addition, we approve the motions previously approved by the joint state councils in session on September 30, 2010 and mailed in summary to all ministers on Monday, October 5, 2010.

MISSION/VISION

1. Mission/Vision Statement

The vision for the Church of God in Ohio is to represent Jesus Christ in this world and do the work of ministry in view of the Great Commission as a cooperative community of churches, ministers and laity.

The foundations of our commitments to undergird this vision are built around four key convictions:

- **Prayer**—choosing prayer as a starting point for our community, we understand our utter dependence on God and the necessary empowerment of His Spirit to do His will and work in our respective places of service.
- **Care**—accepting that we are responsible for one another and to foster environments which inspire, encourage and heal for all we minister to and with.
- **Share**—believing our combined efforts and resources enable greater global Kingdom impact and each member of our faith community has something to contribute.
- **Prepare**—knowing that we are responsible to represent Christ and His Gospel with our very best efforts, skills and abilities.

STATE BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND TEAMS

1. Elected Boards

- a. That no minister be eligible to serve on more than one elected board simultaneously. In order for any minister to be considered eligible for election/appointment by the International Executive Committee, General Council or General Assembly, the minister must be current on both personal ministerial reports and the local church reports with required finances from the church he/she pastors (if applicable). The International Executive Committee must approve any exceptions. Further, this same measure applies to state/regional positions and boards. The state/regional overseer in writing must approve any exceptions at the state/regional level.
- b. Further, should an elected member be absent from three or more board functions and/or activities, it shall be the prerogative of the chairman of said board to replace the member with the appropriate alternate.
- c. That in order to remain eligible for serving on any board, committee or ministry team, reports must remain current through the term of the member. If an elected or appointed person is two months late on his church and or personal reporting, he is to receive a call/contact from the Administrative Bishop. If an elected or appointed person is three months late, he immediately is removed from the position and replaced with the next alternate.
- d. Constitution of the State Council

1. The State Council shall consist of 14 ordained bishops, elected biennially by the ministers of the Church of God in Ohio. Additionally, seven (7) members shall be ministers whose membership and ministry are in the region of Northern Ohio and seven (7) members shall be ministers whose membership and ministry are in the region of Southern Ohio at the time of election. 2010-12*
 - *Placed here to indicate that this recommendation will only be valid for these first two years and will be reevaluated in 2 years.*

2. Once the required number of ministers from a region (Northern or Southern Ohio) is chosen, the next four members, in order of election, whose qualifications are from that region, be alternates to fill any vacancy from that region that may occur between ministers' meetings.

3. Each member shall be eligible to succeed himself once.
 - 2010-2012 Elected Ohio State Council
 - 1- Tim Oldfield
 - 2- Barry Clardy
 - 3- Ron Martin
 - 4- Bobby Duncan
 - 5- Tony Cooper
 - 6- J. Randall Barr
 - 7- David Renfro
 - 8- Raymond Phillips
 - 9- Bruce Philippi
 - 10- David Pratt
 - 11- Rich Boll, III
 - 12- Rick Smith
 - 13- Terry McBeath
 - 14- Scott Skeens

4. For the purpose of legal authorization of the merger of Northern and Southern Ohio. After new State Council is elected, the Southern Ohio and Northern Ohio ministers will vote separately that the new State Council will also serve as their separate individual State Council until the merger is legally final. We affirmed that the newly elected State Council on October 15 will represent the Southern Ohio state office. We affirm that the newly elected State Council on will represent the Northern Ohio.

- e. Constitution of the Board of Youth and Discipleship
 1. The Board of Youth and Discipleship shall consist of 14 ordained bishops or ordained ministers, elected biennially by the ministers of the Church of God in Ohio. Additionally, seven (7) members shall be ministers whose

membership and ministry are in the region of Northern Ohio and seven (7) members shall be ministers whose membership and ministry are in the region of Southern Ohio at the time of election. 2010-12*

**Placed here to indicate that this recommendation will only be valid for these first two years and will be reevaluated in 2 years.*

2. Once the required numbers of ministers from a region (Northern or Southern Ohio) are chosen, the next four members, in order of election, whose qualifications are from that region, be alternates to fill any vacancy from that region that may occur between ministers' meetings.

3. Members shall be eligible to succeed themselves once.
2010-2012 Elected Ohio Youth & Discipleship Team
 - 1- Todd Martin
 - 2- Christopher Cramer
 - 3- Francis Burkhart
 - 4- Rodney White
 - 5- Brett Hughes
 - 6- Timothy Overly
 - 7- Justin Graham
 - 8- Robert J. Mason
 - 9- John Coyle (Scott Kazee resigned... 1st alternate assigned)
 - 10- Matthew Stull
 - 11- Donald A. Howell
 - 12- Robert Petty
 - 13- Carson Robson
 - 14- Micah Bynum

STATE OFFICES

As part of our transition, we maintain offices in Akron and Lebanon as determined to be necessary by the Administrative Bishop and State Council. The Administrative Bishop, with the approval of the State Council, shall determine the number of employees, their compensation and job description.

CAMPGROUND

That the Administrative Bishop appoint a Commission on the Campground to study the overall operation and ministry mission of the campground and report to the ministers of Ohio in one year.

FINANCIAL

1. FINANCIAL BLUEPRINT

- a. The State Council shall approve a financial budget annually. The Administrative Bishop shall outline the process and policy for creation, review and presentation of said budget.
- b. That a financial report approved by the Administrative Bishop and the State Council be provided to the ministers of the Church of God in Ohio annually. The format and delivery be left to the discretion of the Administrative Bishop.

2. IMAGINE FUND

- a. That a financial program be developed for funding ministry initiatives in Ohio called the “Imagine Fund.” An example of these initiatives could include the following: church plants, ministry seed grants, and partnership with regional communities. The schedule and presentation of the Imagine Fund be left to the discretion of the Administrative Bishop and the State Council.

STATE AND REGIONAL MEETINGS

1. MINISTERS MEETING

That the ministers of Ohio meet biennially to consider motions and items which are recommended by the State Council in keeping with the adopted mission/vision of our state. Further, the Administrative Bishop, at his discretion, may call additional meetings as needed for state business.

2. SUMMER CAMP MEETING

That the dates, location and speakers for Camp Meeting be left to the discretion of the Administrative Bishop and the State Council.

MINISTERIAL AND CHURCH PROCEDURES

1. REGIONAL COMMUNITIES

For the purpose of greater connectivity and in keeping with our vision for partnering local churches for Great Commission strategies, we recommend that our churches in Ohio be grouped in regional communities.

- a. A regional community is defined as a group of churches clustered based on one or more of the following: relationship, ministry styles, geography, ethnicity, etc.

- b. The focus of the regional communities is to bring a new sense of unity and fellowship, joint collaboration on ministry initiatives in the region and a greater investment in pastoral development and ministerial care.
- c. The Administrative Bishop and State Council shall determine the formation of the regional communities biennially.

2. REGIONAL ELDERS

In order to serve the ministers, pastors and churches in each regional community, we recommend that a regional elder be appointed biennially by the Administrative Bishop.

Purpose:

Regional Elders serve the Church of God in Ohio as leaders of regional communities of local churches for the purpose of encouragement, empowerment and equipping.

- a. **Encouragement** implies a personal relationship between the minister/local church and the Regional Elder that allows for spiritual and personal investments which mutually adds value, courage and enthusiasm to both individuals.
- b. **Empowerment** accepts as part of the relationship that one can help another to succeed and improve through the use of communication, training and personal interest. It should be the goal of each Regional Elder to identify the strengths and weaknesses of each pastor, minister and local church in his/her community for the purpose of strategizing how to enable growth and development.
- c. **Equipping** is an intentional effort to bring the participants of the regional community to environments of training, development and inspiration that serve to provide tools, techniques, and strategies that help pastors, ministers and local churches grow and make disciples in keeping with the Great Commission.

Selection:

- a. The Administrative Bishop, following input by the ministers of the respective communities, shall appoint Regional Elders for terms of two years and there is no tenure limit to the appointment. The ministers and the Administrative Bishop will do an evaluation annually.
- b. Regional Elders are to be carefully matched with the new goals, mission, and vision of Ohio and have both the skills and passion to accomplish the objectives.
- c. The Regional Elder should be a person of innovation, creativity, energy, passion and initiative that has a desire to see others grow, develop, and improve and has the ability to create the desire and discipline in others to do so.

- d. Regional Elders are to be chosen from among the Ordained Bishops.

Duties/Responsibilities:

- a. The Regional Elder is empowered by the Administrative Bishop to function as leader/facilitator for the churches in their assigned community.
- b. The primary role of the Regional Elder is **relational** with emphasis on the care, concern, blessing and development of the ministers and laity in their community.
- c. Each regional community shall conduct quarterly events/functions for the purpose of encouragement, fellowship and/or training for the ministers. It is the responsibility of the Regional Elder to strategically schedule these events well in advance and with courtesy given to the local church calendars. It is the responsibility of the Regional Elder to carefully administer a successful financial plan to make these events affordable and within budget, while still meeting the goals of encouragement, fellowship, and/or training for the ministers.
- d. The Regional Elder will coordinate an equipping strategy for the laity and ministry of his community. This coordination will be done with the *Director of Leadership and Development* and in conjunction with the identified needs of that community. Training events are to occur at least twice per church year.
- e. The Regional Elder shall coordinate the mission/vision goals of the state in his community.
- f. The Regional Elder should whole-heartedly promote, teach, cast and successfully implement the mission/vision goals of the Church of God in Ohio and his community.

3. SUSTAINING MINISTERIAL/PASTORAL EXCELLENCE

The commitment to train, equip and empower ministers for their God assignment is fundamental to the vision we have for partnership to do the work of ministry in connection to the Great Commission. Therefore we recommend that we adopt a strategy for equipping that includes:

- a. Covenant Groups
Participation in Pastoral Covenant Groups (PCGs) will be available in every regional community with options for a choice of more than one group (where possible) and that pilot projects in cooperation with the Pentecostal Theological Seminary be undertaken for other groups (staff pastors, youth/children leaders, church planters, ethnic church leaders, etc.) as developed through the *Director of Leadership and Development*.

b. Equipping Clusters

Clusters consist of groups of leaders or churches which have specific and common needs for specific training as identified by the Regional Elder and coordinated through the *Director of Leadership and Development*. Such clusters may include but not be limited to, church planting, missions, children and family ministries, stewardship, etc.

c. Mentoring/Coaching

Coaching for pastors and church leaders as part of an overall state strategy connecting leaders who can help one another learn, grow and develop their skills for greater effectiveness.

d. Freshman Pastors

For each pastor who is assigned to his/her first pastoral assignment, a coach/mentor be chosen by the pastor, in consultation and with the approval of the Administrative Bishop, for guidance and support for a period of not less than two years. These coaches serve the pastor in areas of support, encouragement and availability as required.

4. A TRUE FAMILY OF MINISTRY

As a matter of covenant, we commit ourselves to the principle that every minister is accepted, loved and valued and that this commitment be evidenced in the programs we promote, the budgeting of our funds and the relationships we foster with each other. Further, that we accept the following:

a. Bi-vocational Pastors/Ministers

We commit to a new sensitivity to the challenges of bi-vocational pastors and ministers with regard to scheduling and costs for participation in state and regional events.

b. Covenant Relationships

Strong encouragement to every minister for participation in one of the covenant groups available within each regional community for connection, fellowship, encouragement and equipping.

c. Ministerial care

1. This is the responsibility of all those in the community of faith. We accept that each of us must care for those who minister alongside us and create environments where healing is common and available.
2. We commit ourselves to provide pastoral care to all the ministers of the state and their families, we therefore recommend the formation of a pastoral care ministry team consisting of five (5) members serving with portfolio the areas of ministry shall include:
 - a. Counseling/life coaching—Resourcing and networking available agencies, resources including funding for life-coaching for ministerial families where insurance is not available/sufficient.
 - b. Spirit Care (N/S) – Providing connection and support for all retired ministers and widows.
 - c. Pastoral care – Resourcing both preventive and reactive care and training for families to address societal pressures and challenges in today’s culture.

5. District Business

- a. That all deeds and contracts of local church properties be reviewed by the District Overseer and, with the approval of the Administrative Bishop, recorded in the respective courthouse. Further, that the official church deed be used. In the event another deed form is used, it is required that the essential clauses of our uniform deed be inserted. (General Assembly Minutes)
- b. Further, that the Administrative Bishop or persons he may appoint shall approve all articles of incorporation, prior to their being filed at the State Capitol in Columbus, Ohio.
- c. That each Regional Elder review deeds for local church property and secure a copy of the deeds to be kept on file in the State Office.
- d. All requests for financial assistance must come through the Regional Elder. An application form is available.

6. Local Church Building Program

- a. That all local building programs (current standing, as well as, future buildings) be submitted to the State Building and Loan Advisory Committee for evaluation before being considered by the State Council and/or Administrative Bishop. Further, that this action be required whether or not state underwriting is being requested.

- b. That prior to granting State Office underwriting for new church construction, local churches should maintain a minimum of 75% capacity in their existing facilities, or provide evidence of extenuating circumstances to the State Council to otherwise justify underwriting.
- c. That no church be approved to obtain loans which require annual payments in excess of 25% of their total annual income, and the amount of the loan shall not exceed twice the amount of their annual income.

7. Insurance

- e. That each pastor sees that adequate insurance is carried on all church properties.
- f. That the Regional Elder, along with the pastor, annually reviews insurance coverage for all properties owned by the local church. A form to report this information will be provided by the State Office and should be accompanied by a certificate of insurance from the insurance company.

8. Death Benefit Program

- a. That upon written notification from the State Office, each credentialed minister be encouraged to contribute \$20.00 to a fund and that each local church be encouraged to contribute \$50.00 into a fund that will be given to the widow/widower of a minister who passes away. Exclusion for retired ministers/spouse to have to contribute...they are automatically eligible for the funds. This procedure will be repeated each time a minister passes away and only those widows/widowers whose spouse had subscribed to the program will be eligible to receive benefits from the fund. Further, that the State Office make contributions to the beneficiary within fifteen (15) days of the notification.

9. Vacations

- a. Each local church should give the pastor and family vacation with regular pay each year on the following recommended scale:
 - 1-10 years of ministerial service – 2 weeks
 - 10-15 years of ministerial service – 3 weeks
 - 15-20 years of ministerial service – 4 weeks
 - 20-25 years of ministerial service – 5 weeks
- b. Also, that he be given a love offering. Further, that the pastor secure a responsible person to fill his/her pulpit during his/her absence.

- c. That General Assembly, Camp Meeting, Prayer Conference, etc. not be considered as vacation time.

10. Pastor Support

- a. Each church is requested to fully support their pastor with their attendance, prayers, finance, and cooperation.
- b. Self-supporting churches are to pay their pastor in accordance with the rulings of the General Assembly.
- c. Non-self-supporting churches should endeavor to increase the pastor's income to the current percent allowed by the General Assembly through free-will offerings or other means, to an amount equal to the total compensation package approved by the General Assembly.

11. Minister's Conventions and Special Travel Assistance:

- a. That at least the actual, personal expenses of the local pastor and family be paid in attending conventions and meetings that are in the general interest of the Church of God such as General Assembly, Camp Meeting, State Minister's Meeting, Prayer Conference, State Minister's Retreats, etc. Actual expenses are to include:
 - i. Transportation
 - ii. Lodging
 - iii. Meals
- b. That each local church pay the utility bills of their pastor. Where funds are available, payment may be made from the church treasury, but where funds are not available; the local clerk is instructed to take a special offering once a month for this purpose. It is understood that the term "utilities" include fuel for heating.
- c. Each church is requested, where funds are available, to pay the 5% (effective January 1983) Aged Minister's Pension premium, hospitalization insurance premium, parsonage utilities, and one-half of the pastor's annual Social Security.
- d. We recommend where parsonages are not provided, the church allot at least \$500.00 per month for housing. Further, where ministers are provided a

parsonage, up to \$150.00 per month of his monthly ministerial income is designated as parsonage allowance for tax purposes, when allowed by IRS.

12. WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP

Women's Discipleship exists to serve the local church by empowering women through training, encouragement, connectivity and spiritual investments in the following areas:

a. My Merea

- i. As part of each regional community, the State President and board shall recommend the appointment of a "Merea" leader who will serve to provide emotional and spiritual support to ministerial spouses through resourcing, networking and connection.
- ii. The "Merea" leaders will be appointed for two year teams and will be trained under the guidance and direction of the State President or those whom she appoints.

b. Annual Book Clubs

- i. As part of the overall vision to invest in the lives of ministerial spouses and the women of local churches in Ohio, Women's Discipleship will provide annual book clubs for the purpose of discipling women in connection with biblical and thematic studies of topics of interest to the women of the state.

13. YOUTH & DISCIPLESHIP

a. OUR VISION

Our vision for Youth & Discipleship ministries in Ohio is that every young person who comes under our sphere of influence will be born again, disciplined for holy living, filled with Pentecostal power, united with the church in membership and released into kingdom service by the time they graduate from high school.

b. OUR MISSION

The mission of the Youth & Discipleship Department is to provide ministries, training, resources and consultation to the local church that will assist them with children, student and family ministry, so that the local church is strengthened and the lifestyle of true Pentecostal power is demonstrated and perpetuated until Jesus comes again.

c. OUR CORE VALUES

We will endeavor to accomplish our mission by demonstrating fiscal accountability, an attitude of servant leadership, an atmosphere of cooperation, a lifestyle of integrity, a passion for true ministry, a vision for the harvest and a fervent love for the people we serve.

d. OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES & GOALS

P – Perpetuate the life transforming power of Pentecost by promoting and making available resources, training, and materials that are doctrinally sound, culturally relevant and thoroughly Pentecostal in perspective.

E – Embrace our productive paradigms for “Reclaiming the Former Generation, Reforming the Present Generation, and Redeeming the Future Generation.” Eliminate those programs, methods of operation and models of ministry which are no longer effective in accomplishing our mission.

N – Nourish the vital relationship between the State Youth & Discipleship Department and the local church through more effective communication, personal contact with key church leaders, and increased involvement on the local level.

T – Train and equip our workers closer to the local level through the development of regional and local leadership development and worker training seminars.

E – Encourage each young person to discover and develop his/her talents and spiritual gifts through Teen and Junior Talent, Youth Camp ministry electives and the implementation of student discipleship and leadership training programs.

C – Challenge each young person to exercise their gifts and talents through involvement in community service, school Bible clubs, City Vision ministry teams, YWEA projects, Global Expedition trips and ministry opportunities within their own local church.

O – Organize and implement an effective and lasting fellowship of training and networking for our youth workers.

S – Set clear goals and objectives for Youth & Discipleship ministry within our state; always remembering that the support and affirmation of the local church’s ministry is the most important thing we do.

T – Treat all persons that we serve with equal respect and consideration, keeping in mind that people are always more important than programs.

14. CHURCH/MINISTERIAL REPORTING

- a. All reports by the ministers and churches to State and International Offices must be postmarked on or before the fifth (5th) of each month. Reports must be complete and legible. Each item on the report forms should be reviewed and if nothing is to be reported on an item, check with an “X” to show the item has been considered. Sign your name, full address, telephone number (if a minister does not have a telephone, give the number of a nearby telephone

by which he can be reached). Church treasurers should also give their telephone numbers on their monthly reports and each report filled out with ink or ballpoint pen.

- b. Ministerial reports can also be submitted on-line directly to the International Offices. Detailed instructions are outlined at <http://www.churchofgod.org>.
- c. All checks forwarded to the State Office should be made payable to the "CHURCH OF GOD STATE FUND".
- d. All reports postmarked after the fifth of the month are considered late.
- e. That each local church set a goal to increase their tithe 10% each year over the next eight years and those pastors emphasize and preach messages regarding stewardship.
- f. That pastors and ministers be encouraged to keep their respective reports current. Further, in keeping with the Minutes of the General Assembly, should any minister or pastor become delinquent in either local church or ministerial reports for three months, the Administrative Bishop will assign him/her to a Ministerial Care Committee who will meet with the minister/pastor (and clerk, if applicable) to understand the issues creating the reporting delinquency. They will work cooperatively for a strategy to enable the reports be brought current within a reasonable amount of time. In addition, the minister/pastor shall be assigned to a State Council member for a determined period to ensure compliance. Should the delinquency reoccur or reach six months, the minister/church file shall be presented to the State Council for possible disciplinary action.

15. SERVICEMEN - CHURCH CONNECTED

- a. That each pastor is urged to correspond with each serviceman from his church; send bulletins, etc. Further, that each pastor furnish a list of servicemen from their church with their addresses to the Chaplain's Commission, 900 Walker Avenue NW, Cleveland, Tennessee 37311.

MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Duties and Responsibilities of the State Ministerial Development Board

- a. To implement and supervise, under the direction of the Administrative Bishop, the educational programs promoted or suggested by the general church.
- b. To promote the Church of God Educational Institutions at the state level.
- c. To implement, promote, and supervise a cluster group program which is designed to strengthen small churches by training their pastors.
- d. To help implement the Ministerial Internship Program.
- e. To stimulate and nurture continuing education programs at all levels.
- f. To serve in an advisory capacity to churches who sponsor Christian Day Schools, Kindergartens or Day Care Centers, or who are in the process of developing such programs.
- g. To implement, promote and supervise ministries for retired ministers such as Spirit Care and Prayer Borne.
- h. To consult with the Administrative Bishop in developing annual regional workshops and seminars for the ministry in areas of Biblical theology, pastoral and personal growth, pastoral administration, counseling, preaching, and such like, in cooperation with the General Educational goals of the church.
- i. To work with the Office of Ministerial Care in meeting the needs of ministers and their families.
- j. Whereas the offices of Ministerial Development oversees particular areas of ministry to ministers, and whereas these offices desire this program to be similarly structured on the state level, we do therefore recommend that the size of the board be increased to eight (8) members with each member serving with a portfolio. The following portfolios would be instituted:
 - Credentialing Director (N/S)
 - CAMS Director (N/S)
 - MIP Director (N/S)
 - Spiritual Formation Director
 - School of Ministry Coordinator

2. MINISTERIAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

That we sponsor the Ministerial Internship Program which is open to all persons who hold their Exhorter, Ordained Minister or Ordained Bishop certificate. This should

include only those persons intending to pursue a full time ministry position such as pastors, associate pastors, full time evangelists, youth ministers, ministers of Christian Education and ministers of music. Further, that we follow the program guidelines provided by the Ministerial Development Department.

CHURCH OF GOD EDUCATION

1. Lee University

- a. Promote the continuing excellence of education at Lee University and encourage those seeking higher education to attend this Church of God institution.
- b. Support your Alumni Association

2. Church of God Theological Seminary

- a. Remember the Theological Seminary in your prayers and encourage young men and women to attend the Theological Seminary, a seminary fully committed to the spiritual, doctrinal and ministerial emphasis of the Church of God.
- b. Promote and encourage attendance at the annual Seminar on Ministry.
- c. That each minister and local church be encouraged to send a contribution with their monthly reports. (check space, "Training Ministers")
- d. Where and when possible, involve students, faculty, staff and administration in state and local services and seminars.

3. SPIRIT CARE MINISTRIES

- a. To implement a retired ministers organization and designated officers, or board with whom the Spirit Care office may correlate.
- b. To maintain and make available an accurate and complete list of retired ministers and ministers' widows.
- c. To encourage pastors to choose a retired minister or widow who is certified to be in critical need as a Spirit Care project for their church.
- d. Designate at least one special occasion during the year when retired ministers and ministers' widows would be honored and affirmed by the state.

- e. Secure an agreement that all churches will respond to the one offering received for the retired ministers and ministers' widows each year on Reformation Sunday.
- f. Agree to pray for retired ministers and widows and for Spirit Care as we seek, under God, to address the needs of our venerable retired ministers and widows.

PROGRAM PROMOTIONS

1. USA MISSIONS

- a. Recognizing that America is now the third largest mission field, we pledge to join with the Division of World Evangelization/USA Missions in fulfilling the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20.
- b. We pledge our support to the Prayer, Fasting and Save our Cities initiatives sponsored by USA Missions.
- c. We pledge our support to the USA Missions Church Planting Initiative and the goal of planting 200 life-giving churches per year during the 2010-2012 General Assembly period by developing a state strategy for Ohio that is effective, practical and sustainable and enables the resources, coaching, networking and funding that enables life-giving church plants in our state.
- d. A church planting task force be appointed consisting of church planters, pastors, and consultants and that they bring a report back to the State Council by January 2011.

2. WORLD EVANGELISM

a. State Board of World Missions:

i. Selection

That Ohio have a World Missions Board appointed by the Administrative Bishop biennially. That the board shall consist of not less than three (3) and not more than five (5) members, and may consist of ministers and/or laypersons. That the Board shall meet as often as the Administrative Bishop deem necessary.

ii. Duties and Responsibilities:

To promote world evangelization in the Church of God in the state.

To promote state, regional, and local World Missions conferences, seminars, banquets, and so forth.

To assist with the scheduling of field representatives and missionaries on furlough.

b. Regional Missions Representatives

i. Selection

That each Regional Elder or one appointed by the Administrative Bishop serve as the regional missions representative.

ii. Duties and Responsibilities

He/she shall be responsible for the promotion of World Missions programs in the churches on their region.

He/she shall meet with the pastors in their region to provide information about World Missions and to encourage participation in its ministries.

He/she shall conduct not less than one Regional Missions Rally each year.

He/she shall cooperate with the state missions representative in the promotion of World Missions.

He/she shall assist World Missions in the promotion of state and regional missions seminars.

c. Local Missions Committee

i. Each pastor is asked to appoint a local missions committee for his church. The chairperson will serve as the local missions representative. The representative's name should be sent to World Mission. Information may be obtained from the state missions representative.

ii. The local church missions committee is to be appointed by the local church pastor.

iii. Duties and Responsibilities

Shall have primary responsibility for assisting the pastor in establishing and maintaining a World Missions program in the church.

Shall distribute Save Our World magazine and other missions publications.

Shall make a periodic report of mission activity within the church.

Shall maintain a missions' bulletin board or interest center in the church using material and suggestions sent by the state missions representative, missionaries, or World Missions.

Shall keep missions prayer requests before the church.

Shall work with the pastor in emphasizing missions at least one Sunday each month.

Shall cooperate with the Sunday School, the Family Training Hour, and other church department leaders to insure constant missions emphasis within their programs.

Shall perform any other missions-related task assigned by the pastor.

That each church is encouraged to observe "Missions Heritage Sunday". The suggested date is the first Sunday in October. World Missions will supply support materials.

- iv. Each church is encouraged to participate the first Sunday in December, in the "Christ's Birthday Offering" which is used for the "Hunger and Disaster Relief Fund" of World Missions. Each family is encouraged to contribute a minimum of \$20.00 as a Christmas gift to assist with demands for funds created by famines, emergencies and disasters which occur regularly around the world. World Missions will supply support materials.
- v. Each church is encouraged to observe "Love the World Sunday". The date is to be the Sunday before Valentine's Day in February. Members of the congregation should be encouraged to join the "Dollar-A-Week-Program" which supports missionaries on the field. World Missions will supply support material.
- d. The first Sunday in March is "Day of Prayer for World Missions". World Missions will supply support material.
- e. Each church is encouraged to participate in the "Humanitarian Sunday" on the first Sunday in June. World Missions will supply support materials.

- f. Each pastor is encouraged to share with his/her church the ministries of World Missions on a regular basis. Printed and video resources available upon request.
- g. Each church is encouraged to set an annual World Missions goal of an amount equal to one month's average tithes.
- h. Each church is encouraged to pray for unreached people groups and where feasible to adopt one as a prayer focus. Also, pray regularly for missionaries and for those around the world who are suffering.
- i. Each State is encouraged to conduct a state or regional mission's conference. The Missions Field Representative liaison can assist with the arrangements.
- j. Short-term missionary trips should be encouraged to inform and inspire persons about World Missions.
- k. That a missions award system be adopted to recognize churches excelling in missions giving for the state of Ohio, and that these awards be presented at the annual State Camp Meeting. The Administrative Bishop and State Council shall be responsible for the basis of the awarding system. Further, that a list of the churches and the amounts of missions money raised for the year be published.

PUBLICATIONS

- 1. Evangel
We recommend that all churches be encouraged to order at least one roll of *Evangels*, and that each minister be encouraged to be a personal subscriber. Further, that all district overseers, pastors, and evangelists put forth a special effort to increase its circulation, and that each pastor appoint a publications committee from his local church for the purpose of promoting all Church of God Publications. (General Assembly Minutes)
- 2. Leadership - Youth and Christian Education Magazine
That each church provide its local workers with quarterly copies of this Christian Education.

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

- 1. That churches avail themselves of all advertising media, such as newspapers, highway signs, listing in the yellow pages of the telephone directories, hotel directories, etc.
- 2. That each church display suitable identifying and directional signs.

MUSIC MINISTRIES

That local churches support and promote the development of a balanced and blended local church music ministry. The International Department of Music Ministries is able to assist and support the local church music and musician's work through offering:

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRIES

That each local church emphasizes stewardship in their congregation by:

- Each local pastor establishing a stewardship strategy, which at a minimum includes:
- Creation of a stewardship leadership team or committee that is given the responsibility to develop awareness of stewardship issues in the local church in cooperation with the local pastor.
- Develop a plan to make stewardship a part of the local church's continuing communication, curriculum, coaching, and counseling
- Commitment from the local pastor to preach and teach about biblical stewardship.
- Make stewardship a part of the prayer emphasis of the local church.

1. Establishing January of each year as Stewardship Emphasis month.

- a. During the month of January (or an alternate month selected by the local pastor):
- b. At least one or more sermons will be preached related to stewardship concepts and pastors may use resources provided by the Department of Stewardship Ministries.
- c. Small group studies discussing stewardship principles provided by the Department of Stewardship Ministries should be utilized in Sunday School, Family Training Hour, and/or special breakout teaching sessions.
- d. Local churches should consider a Money Management Seminar or Estate Planning Seminar provided by the Department of Stewardship Ministries if such is feasible and appropriate.

2. Stewardship Seminar

That in order to educate and better train ministers and laity, a fund raising and stewardship seminar be conducted biennially using resource professionals.

3. Financial Planning Seminar

That a financial planning seminar be held biennially to assist pastors and church clerks in planning and implementing a local church budget, and in

reviewing accounting procedures, tax laws, and other duties outlined in the Church of God Minutes.

FINANCES

Aged Ministers

That the pastor of each local church shall set aside annually Reformation Sunday (last Sunday of October) in honor of aged ministers for the purpose of raising a special love offering, said receipts to be sent to the Church of God Secretary General with treasurer's monthly report.

Education Week Offering

That each local church receive an annual free-will offering for our Educational Institutions on the date announced by the General Education Department. Said offering to be sent to the State Office with the treasurer's report.