



# General Council OF PASTORS AND ELDERS QUARTERLY NEWS

September/November 2014

Church of God in Christ, Inc.

VOLUME V

## 2014 ANNUAL HOLY CONVOCATION

*Church of God in Christ*

### Special points of interest:

- \* The Shepherd's Prayer Led by GCPE
- \* The Chairman Speaks
- \* GCPE Conference Couples Night Out Dinner Cruise
- \* GCPE Golf Tournament
- \* 150th Commemorative Prayer Shawl
- \* GCPE Helping Jurisdictions
- \* Pastors, Are You Alright?
- \* Order the GCPE Handbook

### General Council of Pastors and Elders leads the 'SHEPHERD'S PRAYER' at the opening of Midday and Evening Services during the Holy Convocation in St. Louis, MO

Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake's desire is for greater emphasis to be placed on spirituality and worship in our Holy Convocations. His heart and passion on this has been responded to by the leadership of the General Council of Pastors and Elders. This year an added feature will be the **"SHEPHERD'S PRAYER"**. This will be represented by Pastors and Elders from regions and jurisdictions across the nation, designated to lead the opening prayer at each midday and evening worship service. Respective regions and jurisdictions will be designated to be responsible for opening prayer of particular services. Shepherds from across America & foreign lands will enter into the auditoriums daily, adorning their **COMMEMORATIVE PRAYER SHAWLS** (Tallit) at the sounding of the **SHOFAR** and sacred music in prayer and falling on the altar of the Lord seeking his face and petitioning for his presence and a **MOVE OF GOD**.

This initiative has been joined by and embraced enthusiastically by Bishop Carlis L. Moody Sr. and the International Missions Department and Dr. Judith Christie McAllister and the Music Department.

I am appealing to all Pastors and Elders of the Church of God in Christ, as the **SHEPHERD's** of the sheep to come to this year's **HOLY CONVOCATION** and be prepared to participate daily in this most significant role for the edifying of the body of Christ and the advancement of the **KINGDOM OF GOD**. To receive more details concerning the **"SHEPHERD'S PRAYER"**, contact the administrative offices of GCPE at 773 533-6877 or email Chairman Michael Eaddy: [michaeeaddy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:michaeeaddy@sbcglobal.net). This is a defining moment in the Church of God in Christ, let us all join our Presiding Bishop in realizing a **SPIRITUAL OUTPOUR** in St. Louis, MO.

### Inside this issue:

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Sincerely

Superintendent Michael Eaddy, Chairman  
General Council of Pastors and Elders  
*Church of God in Christ*





GENERAL COUNCIL OF PASTORS AND ELDERS  
**SHEPHERDS  
 CONFERENCE  
 2015**

**Church of God in Christ**

**ONE  
 BODY UNITED**

*Manifesting the Kingdom's  
 Power in the Earth*

1 Corinthians 12:4-7,12

**Bishop Charles E. Blake**  
 Presiding Bishop  
 Church Of God In Christ

**Superintendent Michael Eaddy**  
 Chairman  
 General Council of Pastors and Elders

**Administrative Assistant David Stokes**, Conference Chairman  
**Pastor Marc Thomas**, Conference Co-Chairman

**Superintendent David Taylor & Dr. Harold Bennett**  
 Georgia Local Co-Chairmen

**HOST BISHOPS OF GEORGIA:**

Bishop Mark Walden, Northern Georgia Second  
 Bishop Norman O. Harper, South Central Georgia  
 Bishop Benjamin Collins, Southeast Georgia  
 Bishop Oliver J. Haney, Northern Georgia First  
 Bishop Joseph E. Hogan Sr., North Central Georgia  
 Bishop John Wayne Leggett, Southern Georgia Second  
 Bishop Michael Jerome Paden Sr., Metro Georgia Jurisdiction  
 Bishop Larry L. Shaw, Southern Georgia First  
 Bishop John Thomas, Western Georgia Jurisdiction  
 Bishop Adrian D. Williams

**April 27 - 30, 2015**

Renaissance Atlanta  
 Airport Concourse Hotel  
 1 Hartsfield Center Parkway  
 Room Rate \$149 per night

RENAISSANCE HOTEL

**ATLANTA**  
 G E O R G I A

THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF PASTORS & ELDERS PRESENTS...

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST • 107TH HOLY CONVOCATION

**THE SHEPHERDS'  
 PRAYER**



**CHAIRMAN EADDY IS ASKING ALL PASTORS TO JOIN  
 US IN LEADING THE CHURCH IN A TIME OF PRAYER.**

VISIT THE GCPE BOOTH FOR YOUR  
 150TH COMMEMORATIVE PRAYER SHAWL

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH - 6:45PM**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH - 12:00PM & 6:45PM**  
**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH - 12:00PM**  
**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH - 7:00PM**

**ALL PASTORS & ELDERS WELCOME**



CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC. • 107TH HOLY CONVOCATION

**GENERAL COUNCIL OF PASTORS & ELDERS  
 MEETINGS WILL CONVENE**

**THURSDAY - SATURDAY**  
**NOVEMBER 6-8, 2014**  
 5PM - 7PM NIGHTLY



**AMERICA'S CONVENTION CENTER**

701 CONVENTION PLAZA • ST LOUIS, MO 63101

Superintendent Michael Eaddy, *Chairman*  
 Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., *Presiding Bishop*





# General Council of Pastors and Elders Golf Tournament 2014

*Submitted by Administrative Assistant Jerry Johnson, Sr., GCPE Golf Tournament Coordinator*

*Greeting to you in the matchless name of Jesus Christ.*

*The Lord blessed us during our Annual General Council of Pastors and Elders Conference in Portsmouth, VA., May 5th - 8th, 2014. Chairman: Dr. Michael Eaddy led us through one of the best conferences in the history of the General Council of Pastors and Elders.*

*Thanks to Chairman Eaddy and the Conference Program Committee, the Annual Golf Tournament convened at the Sleepy Hole Golf Course, Portsmouth, VA., May 8th, 2014 at 8:00AM. This time of recreation and competition was enjoyed by fourteen (14) golfers.*

*Awards in the following categories:*

- **Longest Drive** - Pastor Gary Allen
- **Closest to the Pin** - Superintendent Jerry Johnson, Sr.

## 1st Place Team

*Bishop G.W. Hardy  
Elder Thomas Campbell  
Pastor Gary Allen*



## 2nd Place Team

*Superintendent Jerry Johnson Sr.  
Pastor Amsted Herndon  
Pastor John Grant*



## 3rd Place Team

*Elder John Sawyer  
Elder Connie Sawyer  
Elder Glen Sawyer*



*Thanks to all the participants whom made the tournament a success and we are looking forward to 2015's tournament to either retain your title or dethrone your competitor.*



# *150<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Prayer Shawl*



## *150<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Bishop Charles H. Mason Prayer Shawl*

The seven gold stars located at the base of the 150<sup>th</sup> Years Bishop Charles Harrison Mason Commemorative image denote the two Senior Bishops and the five succeeding Presiding Bishops. The six ribbons denote the six General Supervisors.

### **The main Prayer in Hebrew on the (Atara) reads in English as follows:**

Blessed are you O' Lord King of the Universe Who has fulfilled all of the law through Jesus the Messiah and Have covered us with His Righteousness.

Pronunciation of the above Hebrew prayer in English is:

BARUCH ATAH ADONAI ELOHENU MELECH HA'  
OLAM ASHER MILLA ET KOL  
HATORAH BIYASHU' HAMASHIAH IKISSA  
ET KULANU VETSEDKATO





## General Council of Pastors and Elders Helping Jurisdictions

In November 2012, Administrative Assistant Dr. Michael Eaddy of Chicago, Illinois was elected as the Chairman of the General Council of Pastors and Elders. Chairman Eaddy immediately went to work in bring continuity between the General Council of Pastors and Elders and the Jurisdictional Council of Pastors and Elders. In April of 2013 at the April Call meeting, Chairman Eaddy and the Council was able to bring to fruition its signature policy achievement;

“THE ELECTION OF JURISDICTIONAL COUNCIL OFFICERS”



Administrative Assistant  
Jerry Johnson Sr.  
West Coast Regional  
Chairman of GCPE

In May of 2014, Bishop Leon Smith of Nevada First Jurisdiction asked the General Council of Pastors and Elders to conduct a seminar on the function and procedures of the Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Council and to help with the election process. Chairman Michael Eaddy dispatched the West Coast Regional Chairman of the General Council, Administrative Assistant Jerry Johnson Sr. to help in this endeavor.

Administrative Assistant Jerry Johnson Sr. complied to the request of Chairman Eaddy and held a seminar on a Saturday with Bishop Leon Smith and approximately seventy (70) of the Pastors and Elders. The topics covered were:

1. The purpose of the Jurisdictional Council of Pastors and Elders.
2. The function of the Jurisdictional Council.
3. Membership of the Jurisdictional Council.
4. Procedures for conducting a Jurisdictional Trial.
5. Stay of Execution.

On Monday an election was held for the officers of the Nevada First Jurisdictional Council of Pastors and Elders. It was a success and Bishop Leon Smith thanked the General Council of Pastors and Elders for its help in bringing Nevada First into compliance with the National Church.

### COMMENTARY

#### READERS'

*The “Power of agreement for greater achievement” is both a powerful, relevant and insightful theme that Chairman Michael Eaddy has chosen for the 2014 GCPE Conference. How can two walk together except they agree? Our society with its multi-facet cultural, political, ethnic, financial, educational and religious challenges makes it difficult for a believer to live victoriously in this world apart from a true literal intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. If we are going to be truly successful and victorious in this life, we must resist the temptations to follow our sensual appetites; taste, smell feelings, sight and hearing. We must undauntedly rely on the power and authority of the “Spirit”-Word of God.*

## GCPE COUPLES' NIGHT OUT DINNER CRUISE 2014



Mrs. Becky McCadden  
Second Jurisdiction, VA

In May, during the General Council of Pastors and Elders 2014 Conference of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. I had the wonderful opportunity to participate in the Couples Dinner Cruise on the "Spirit of Norfolk". This culminating activity allowed couples an opportunity for relaxing, bonding and unwinding after a busy week of stimulating Christian interactive seminars, educational workshops, ministerial training exercises and uplifting worship services. I was fortunate to have been chosen to facilitate several activities that were designed to re-ignite the flame of romance that is oftentimes flickering among couples (husbands and wives) involved in the daily rigors of ministry. The backdrop was a beautiful moonlit sky observed while sailing on the Chesapeake Bay that created a romantic and relaxing atmosphere. Couples were given the opportunity to learn more about other couples, while spending quality time with each other. An activity such as this is necessary after a taxing week because it allows couples the time to unwind and spend a relaxed evening together. Positive interactions, open and honest communications among couples on a more intimate level creates unity, better understanding and stronger relationships. This often results in more cohesive working relations.

This cruise gave participants a chance to be rejuvenated before returning to their respective homes and workplaces.

An activity such as this was a wonderful wrap-up to the GCPE 2014 Conference. Thank you, Chairman Michael Eaddy and Officers of the Executive Committee.



Mrs. Richelle Green  
Second Jurisdiction, VA

On the last night of the Pastor's and Elder's Conference, the couples had a night out on the Spirit of Norfolk. We all came together and had great fellowship and good, wholesome fun. This was the time that we could all let our hair down, be comfortable and enjoy each other's company. There was a huge buffet and we dined sufficiently. We played a very nice game where the couples had to get together and describe themselves with the letters in their last name. That was a fun game and the couples were very creative. Then we all went on the top deck and sat a while as the ship was going back to the dock. What a fun night we had with our mates.





Pastor Simon Richardson  
*Gospel of Grace COGIC*

# PASTOR, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

One of the most serious problems of being a pastor in ministry is that of finding the balance between ministering to others, helping them find solutions to the problems that they are facing, and pastors having to deal with problems in their personal lives. Often times, pastors suffer because they concentrate on helping others and don't (or maybe because they don't know how) spend enough time allowing themselves to find solutions to issues that they face. Counseling others, when they themselves need counseling. Spiritual caregivers, who are in need of care and feel like there is no one available to help them. Walking wounded, looking healthy and functioning. To their respective congregations they are models of uprightness and virtue. In reality, a lot of pastors are hurting and have a need to find answers to their problems but, for fear of condemnation, guilt, and betrayal, they suffer in silence. The dilemma that a lot of pastors find themselves asking is this "Who counsels, the counselor" or where does the pastor go when he is in need of help"? In need of a Pastor?

Before we can answer these important question, it is imperative that we examine why the issue exists. Could it be that a lot of pastors have unrealistic expectations of what they can do and handle. Being a pastor who is leading a congregation that has needs and will demand his attention, and a husband and father is not only a full time job, but it also takes a person who can balance his time and energy with the ability to focus on difficult issues. In other words, he must become a master of time management and more importantly he has to be able to recognize when he needs to be ministered to.

Most pastors have received some form of spiritual formation in their development for the pastorate; at least they understand that there must be time for retreat and prayer, meditation, fasting and scripture study. This is not what we are discussing in particular with this problem. The Spiritual disciplines are a given when being prepared for pastoral ministry. And I don't dare discount the power of the Holy Spirit who ministers to His servants when there is a profound spiritual need. Neither do I say that a lot of what we call mental issues that produce emotional crisis cannot be solved by the supernatural power of God. Mercy and Grace still work!

However, we are primarily concerned with the practical aspects of a working minister in a working ministry. One who is so caught up in other folks' issues, that he has not been able to get help with his issue. Moreover, he is the one who is wrestling with some hurt, frustration, and marital problem, father-children situation that demands his attention and yet because of his pastoral duties, it has festered and become a major problem. All the while, he is still leading the church, still interceding for the church, still listening and giving counsel to the members of the church. The result of the pastor's inability to handle adequately his own problems will inevitably cause him to become depressed, to self-medicate with drugs, or worse become suicidal.

I'm sure by now if you were reading this you would be able to solve the pastor's problem. Most of us would tell our fellow brothers, that they should always take time out from ministry to "recharge their batteries". The antidote that is the general prescription for burn out is rest and relaxation. I submit that while rest and relaxation is good and reduces the stress level, it is not enough to "get away" on a vacation to help the pastor with what he is experiencing. No matter where one goes for rest and relief, one cannot run away from your own mind. Stress is produced in the mind, feelings of inadequacy are produced in the mind. Most of us take a vacation; *we get away* yet we don't rest. We don't allow our mind to rest, because we feel guilty if we have not *solved the issues* that we are wrestling with. Not being able to find solutions to the problems that we are facing causes most pastors to question their ability to pastor. Unresolved issues often cause un-characteristic behavior, which in turn will have someone asking the question, Pastor are you all right?

The question now becomes how does a pastor who finds himself in the midst of all of this regain his footing, his balance, and his direction. How does a pastor return to his "first work"? Eugene H. Peterson in his book *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity* gives us a suggestion that allows us to move forward in our vocation and still have the freedom to be human in our pursuit to be holy. He (Peterson) suggests that pastors have an accountability partner, a spiritual director. Someone that the pastor can trust to tell him truths that will help him in his walk with Christ. He states:

Spiritual direction is the aspect of ministry that explores and develops this absorbing and devout attentiveness to "the specific detail of everyday incidents," "the everyday occurrences of contemporary life." .... Spiritual direction takes place when two people agree to give their full attention to what God is doing in one (or both) of their lives and seek to respond in faith.<sup>[1]</sup>

In other words, having a spiritual director is someone that the pastor is accountable to. A person, who has the confidence of the pastor and the pastor respects and trusts this person. What pastors fail to recognize is that they are not islands unto themselves. They are not called by God to serve His people by themselves. Moses had his Jethro, and David had his Nathan. Pastors must allow themselves to be human in the sense that they can discuss with their spiritual director just what is going on with them in their pursuit of ministry. Someone who will ask the question, "Pastor are you alright?"

<sup>[1]</sup> Peterson, Eugene H. *Working the Angles: The Shape of Pastoral Integrity* (Grand Rapids Michigan) William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company 1987,150.





General Council of Pastors and Elders  
Church of God in Christ, Inc.

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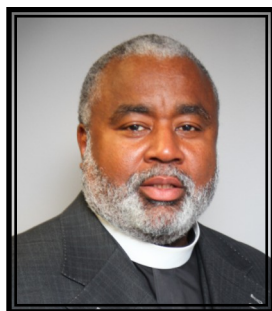


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Supt. William N. Ward, Jr.  
GCPE PR Director

## From the Desk of the Public Relations Director

### THE WORK OF THE PASTOR

Some pastors approach ministry as if they think, "Ministry is for God and I am the one trained and qualified for ministry, so then only I can carry out the job with excellence as defined by his view of God's expectations." There's a sense that God cannot use lay people as well as those who are seminary trained.

Yet doesn't God look for willingness, sometimes at the expense of excellence? Think of reluctant Moses or fearful Gideon or bumbling Peter. Throughout the Scriptures, we see God using ordinary people complete with stumbles and bumbles who are faithful. Excellence is a worthy goal, but spirit-empowered giftedness serves the even more worthy goal of faithful service for all. Christ's whole body needs to be properly involved in service to God and wise pastors allow room for the efforts of all members of that body.

(The Work of the Pastor by Victor D. Lehman, 2004 by Judson Press, Valley Forge, PA 19482-0851)

### GOVERNOR MCAULIFFE VISITS THE 2014 GCPE CONFERENCE

