



January 2015

General Council OF PASTORS AND ELDERS QUARTERLY NEWS

Church of God in Christ, Inc.



VOLUME VI

General Council of Pastors and Elders
Church of God in Christ
P O Box 15365
Chicago, IL 60615

Special points of interest:

- * The Shepherds' Conference
- * The Chairman Speaks
- * The Pastor's Sabbatical is a Blessing
- * Order the GCPE Handbook
- * Anointing and Pinning Ceremony

Inside this issue:

The Chairman Speaks	1
The Shepherd's Conference	2
Register Today on ICAS	
GCPE Introduces Council Wear	2
GCPE Election Protocol	3
5 Reasons The Pastor's Sabbatical Blesses Everyone	4
GCPE Judiciary Review Committee	5
Catching the Shift - Ministry to a Multi-Generational Congregation	6
Court Tells Pastor, You Are No Longer in Charge	7
Election Protocol for Jurisdictional Pastors and Elders Councils	8

The Chairman Speaks

"One Body United – Manifesting the Kingdom's Power on Earth"

(Judges 6:2-6, 11-16; 1 Corinthians 12:7, 12-14)

The General Council of Pastors and Elders' objective is to promote a vision of ministry from a fresh perspective, unfolding the spiritual principle, that the fulfillment of our INDEPENDENT DESTINIES as churches and individuals, are interlocked through our UNIFIED PARTICIPATION with our international church and Presiding Bishop. Our cooperation together will ACTIVATE A MANIFESTATION of unprecedented and unforeseen impact, benefits and favor.



WHY ONE BODY UNITED? WHAT IS THE PURPOSE?

- To PROMOTE AND SUPPORT the endeavors of the Church of God in Christ globally
- To ASSIST LOCAL CHURCHES in achieving maximum health and growth
- To UPGRADE leadership in pastors and elders wholistically
- To ENCOURAGE MINISTERIAL GROWTH through continued education
- To MOTIVATE local ministries to impact communities with the Gospel message

The focus of the GCPE is on the BIGGER and GREATER good that can be achieved collectively, when pastoral and jurisdictional leadership work together to accomplish those things more quickly and effectively, that each could not have done ALONE.

The events around Gideon and the nation of Israel demonstrated that there existed COMMON FOES and no matter what our individual circumstances are, we must come together and work on COMMON GOALS. The oppressing nations of Midianites, Amalekites & Arabians were invading, raiding and robbing the Israelites. Judges 6:3-4 ...when Israel had sown their seed...would come up & attack...destroying the crops, leaving nothing to support life...THE ENEMY CAME FOR THE GROWING CROPS....

The Church of God in Christ has long enjoyed GROWTH and it will require an aggregation of UNIFIED leadership to preserve it. What must those involved in preserving ...THE GROWING CROPS possess? They must possess:

- | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|
| • Vision | • Spiritual Discernment | • Team Spirit | • Confidence | • Discipline |
| • Courage | • Kingdom Perspective | • Faith | • Strategic Mind | • Purpose |

The promise God made to Gideon was ...I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as ONE MAN, the Strategy God gave to Gideon was a simple one:

- **BLOW THE TRUMPETS** – trumpets are for signaling. What signals are we sending? It must signal we are at WAR...
- **SHOUT ...The Sword of the Lord and of GIDEON** – Success for a body is in acknowledging the Spirit of God and the Man of God
- **BREAK THE PITCHERS** – A shattered pitcher is used figuratively to suggest the END of a period and the BEGINNING of another
- **LIFT UP YOUR LAMPS** – Symbolic of the WORD of God and the assurance of Salvation

Gideon's obedience and the cooperative discipline of the others gained an unprecedented victory for Israel and recaptured for them all the inheritance God always intended them to experience from the beginning.



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

ATLANTA
 G E O R G I A

Register Now

GCPE Introduces "Council Wear"



The GCPE introduces its very own Custom 100% Silk Neck Tie Line. There are currently four styles available: Black, Blue, Metal Grey, and Black w/ Blue knot. Each tie displays the GCPE insignia, as shown below. These custom silk ties will be available at the Shepherds' Conference in Atlanta. If you would like to have one sooner, send \$25.00 for the two-tone custom silk tie or \$20.00 for the solid custom silk tie + \$5.95 for shipping and handling to:

GCPE Administrative Offices
 3570 W. Fifth Avenue
 Chicago, Illinois 60624
 ATTN: COUNCIL WEAR



Allow for 5-7 days delivery.

Still Available!

150th Commemorative Prayer Shawl



The 150th Commemorative Prayer Shawl is still available. Each prayer shawl was designed with the understanding that you and God would begin a special relationship. The closing of oneself in the covering of the prayer shawl was a symbolic separation from the world around the Jewish man. Now you can have your very own prayer Closet or little tent) where you can set yourself apart and focus on developing your intimate time with God.



General Council of Pastors and Elders Church of God in Christ Election Protocol

Call for Nominations

*Name of nominee Email address
Church Phone number*

Name, church and email address of person making the nomination

Nominee Qualifications

The candidate should be in good standing with the national church and the jurisdiction have a current valid credential holder card.

Any candidate running for open positions in the jurisdiction should also complete the sexual misconduct training and submit to a background check as prescribed by the national church. Upon their election in the jurisdiction and confirmation that they have met the national standards, the proper certificates will be released from the Office of the General Secretary.

Nominee Questionnaires

Every nominee must submit the appropriate nominee questionnaire in order to run for a position. Each year the Nomination Committee shall compose a questionnaire for each open position designed to elicit details of each Nominee's relevant experience.

Candidate Questions

*Name
Email Address
Phone Number*

Provide a brief biography of recent experience, associations, and affiliations relevant to serving. Please be as specific as possible.

Describe the relevance of your technical and professional experience to serve.

Are there any conflicts real or perceived that might arise should you be elected?

Describe any concerns or limitations on your ability to serve the entirety of a 4-year term.

Close of Nominations

The nomination period closes approximately 5 calendar days prior to the election. If the close of nominations would occur on a weekend, the nomination period is extended until the first following business day.

Finalizing Candidates

The Nominating Committee reviews all completed nominations to verify that the above process was followed and reviews the nominee questionnaires to determine that all nominees meet the general criteria for a membership. The minimum number of qualified candidates must total the number of seats up for each election, otherwise the nomination period will be reopened and another review held by the Nominating Committee.

Pastors and Elders Notification of Final Slate of Candidates

The Nominating Committee will send the final slate of candidates, via email to all Pastors and Elders members.

The candidate list and biographical information are also posted by email.

All candidates shall be given the opportunity to present themselves to the general membership in a brief speech on Election day.

Quorum

A Quorum is achieved by having ballots cast by at least 50% of the total voters present during Election day.

Voting

In order to vote during an Election, a Pastor's or Elder's membership must be in good standing.

Vote Counting and Results

The Nominating Committee shall tally the votes to determine the winners. If requested, by a candidate for election, they shall provide these individuals with an opportunity to view a copy of the voting log from the election.

Tiebreak

If multiple candidates receive the same number of votes for the final available open seat, those candidates names will be placed on a ballot to select a winner. The Nominating Committee will confirm the winner of the tiebreak election, who shall be declared to have won the election.

Term of Office

The term of office of the elected candidates will be four years, this initial term will expire in 2016, at which time the National Quadrennial election of officers will be held.

5 Reasons a Pastor's Sabbatical Blesses Everyone

The word “sabbatical” has different meanings, depending on the context in which it is used. It has one meaning in the academic community, another meaning in its biblical usage, and still another in many secular settings.

For the purpose of this article, I will define sabbatical in simple terms: time off for rest and/or study. The time can be a few days, a few weeks or—on rare occasions—a few months. Ideally, the church gives the pastor paid leave for rest, rejuvenation and deeper study. I would love to see churches of all sizes provide this benefit for their pastor, even if it's only for a few days.

Reasons pastors need a break

Having the opportunity to work with numerous lay leaders and pastors, I have a pretty good view of both perspectives. And I am convinced that more lay leaders need to insist their pastors take regular breaks—beyond vacations. Allow me to provide five reasons for my rationale.

1. *A pastor has emotional highs and lows that are quite unlike most other vocations.* In the course of a day, a pastor can deal with death, deep spiritual issues, great encouragement, petty criticisms, tragedies, illnesses and celebrations of birth. The emotional roller coaster is draining. Your pastor needs a break; many times, it needs to be a break free of the multiple distractions confronting every pastor.

2. *A pastor is on call 24/7.* Most pastors don't have an “off” switch. They go to sleep with the knowledge they could be awakened by a phone call at any time of the day or night. Thanks to ubiquitous cell phones and Internet communications, vacations are rarely uninterrupted. Since the pastorate can be an exhausting vocation, a sabbatical can be a welcome time to slow down.

3. *Pastors need a time of uninterrupted study.* It doesn't usually happen in the study at church or home. There is always the crisis or need of the moment. Church members expect sermons that reflect much prayer and study. The pastor's schedule often works against that ideal. The sabbatical can offer much needed, and uninterrupted, study time.

4. *Pastors who have sabbaticals have longer tenure at churches.* Though my information is anecdotal, I have observed this trend. And while I cannot prove a cause-and-effect relationship, I feel confident that pastors who have sabbaticals are much more likely to stay at a church because they are less likely to experience burnout.

5. *Pastors who have sabbaticals view such time off as an affirmation from their churches.* I have heard from many pastors who share with me this kind of sentiment: “I know my church loves me because they give me a sabbatical.” Pastors need affirmation. Sabbaticals can accomplish that goal.

The reality

I estimate that only about 5 percent of churches offer sabbaticals. Yet, for those churches who do, in almost every case that I am familiar with, the relationship between pastor and congregation is quite healthy. I think at least one of the reasons is the sabbatical.

What is your view of sabbaticals for pastors? What advantages can you see to this practice? What disadvantages? What would you add to my five reasons?

Finally, for those pastors reading this, what would a sabbatical mean for your ministry? Have you ever thought of discussing it with your congregation's leaders? What reasons would you give them for considering one? Once you have composed your list, set a time to review it with your deacons, elders or church council.

The Judiciary Review Committee



Chairman

Adm. Asst. Supt. Jerry Johnson, Sr.
Lily of the Valley Worship Center COGIC



Vice Chairman

Adm. Asst. Dr. Robert Garner
The Word of Truth COGIC



Secretary

Supt. Dr. Bruce McCoy
Bibleway Outreach Ministries COGIC



Adm. Asst L. H. Murray
Living Word Ministry COGIC



Supt. Carl Williams
Promise Land COGIC



Elder Ward A. Snow
Bessemer #1 Int'l Ministries COGIC



Supt. Jesse Lipford
Lakeview Community Temple COGIC



Supt. Rodney Douglas
Greater New Covenant COGIC



Pastor Matthew Brown
Greater Community COGIC

The Anointing and Pinning Ceremony 2014 - Newly Elected Jurisdictional Chairmen & Appointed Executive Committee Members





CATCHING THE SHIFT

Ministry to a Multi-Generational Congregation

Submitted by Pastor Dr. Astead N. Herndon

*Executive Administrative Assistant to Bishop Ocie Booker, Prelate First Jurisdiction Illinois
Adjunct Professor, Wheaton College and Trinity International University. Undergraduate degree in History from Northwestern University, Masters in Theological Studies and Doctorate of Ministry from McCormick Theological Seminary.
Author of the book, Faith Is Your Greatest Asset.*

Recent contentious dialogue about homosexuality and reports in our media about deliverance, has made me as a pastor to reflect upon our shifting society and the challenges I face reaching this generation for Christ. We are dealing with a society with shifting motives and allegiances, yet as a Prophet of God, the essence of my message and reliance on the Holy Spirit should not change. My primary role is the saving and developing of souls and I must exercise the wisdom of God in order to reach them.

Two insights emerge to me. In the book Unchristian -What a New Generation Really Thinks About Christianity... and Why It Matters by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons. The authors identify four primary generational groups: Mosaics (born between 1984 and 2002), Busters (born between 1965 and 1983), Boomers (ages 42 – 60), and Elders (ages 61 plus). These younger people see us as predominately anti and negative. They consider Christianity to be a religion of don'ts and only know us for what we are against, not for what we stand for. The danger of this is that they are not consistently hearing the good news of the gospel and the positive impact salvation has on every aspect of life. These authors cite a number of quotations and surveys that clearly indicate our children and their friends, the young people in our churches and communities have a much higher tolerance for the gay and lesbian lifestyle. The Mosaics and Busters perceive Christians as people who are critical of the lifestyle, speak negatively about homosexuals, but do nothing. The authors say there is little evidence churches are investing any resources to help people get “delivered.” As pastors who have multigenerational congregations, we have to engage Mosaics and Busters about sexuality and wholeness and provide sound Biblical perspective. Sexual wholeness is a key component of holiness and an ongoing issue in our sexually charged society. With the prevalence and privacy of pornography, even heterosexual individuals must understand and practice the benefits of sexual wholeness as a lifestyle, otherwise the ill effects will create crisis in their lives, even in marriage.

“Our society doesn’t see the need for deliverance and accepts gay and lesbian lifestyles as a personal preference.”

My second insight is that we have two polarized opinions regarding homosexuality, and it is the role of the Pastor to bring divine clarity. Our society doesn't see the need for deliverance and accepts gay and lesbian lifestyles as a personal preference. On the other hand, the Pentecostal church which accurately deems homosexuality as a sin, categorically has placed it in a separate “sin” category. It's the role of the pastor, in his strategic position to reach everyone in his community. We have done it before for those in other addictive lifestyles – pornography, sexual abuse, drug and alcohol abuse, gambling and such like. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the transforming love of Jesus Christ and his church, anyone can be permanently changed from an addictive habit or lifestyle. Mario Bergner in his book Setting Love in Order chronicles how he entered the gay lifestyle, became consumed by it and how the Lord Jesus orchestrated people and events to bring about salvation, healing, deliverance and freedom from homosexuality. As pastors we must articulate, in love, the truth of God's Word that deliverance is available to whosoever will and we must find the methods to make the truth of God's word palatable for each generation. Equally, we must build within our congregations the ministries and methods for congregants to nurture those who are struggling. Deliverance is the life transforming power of the gospel. We have to equip our members (of all ages) with the tools and scriptural prowess to positively and effectively engage their families, friends, co-workers and associates. We have to return to the message of hope in Jesus Christ, that is positive, life changing and transformative.

Court Tells Pastor, You Are No Longer In Charge

A Washington court ruled that a church's board members were not board members because the church did not follow state law in selecting them. Moreover, because the church never officially adopted bylaws in their organizational board meeting (or at any other board meeting), the procedures followed in what they thought were the church's bylaws were trumped by state law. Though the church had filed its annual report and listed its "board members," the court further ruled that even if the church filed its annual report stating its board members, they were not officially board members because the church never had an official board meeting to select its board. This meant that even the board that the church thought it had was ruled invalid. The pastor and his entire board lost their positions and the judge ordered a court supervised election of the board by the members. This happened because of two reasons.

- The church never listed its initial board of directors in the articles of incorporation. Many states do not require that they be listed, but also do not prohibit it. Regardless of what your state requires, we always recommend that you include them.
- The church never had the organizational board meeting. It is imperative that the church, upon incorporating, write bylaws and have them ratified in the organizational board meeting. **This is so important that at all of our conferences we spend a substantial amount of time teaching how to conduct a board meeting correctly, as well as how to take and format minutes.**

There is a big lesson to learn from this!

Please be diligent in dotting your i's and crossing your t's when it comes to the following:

- The procedural requirements of state nonprofit corporation law and a church's own bylaws cannot be ignored. Doing so can lead to a complete loss of the church you started.
- You must conduct the organizational board meeting during which time the new board of directors (including the pastor, as president) are elected.
- You must give sufficient notice to the board of directors according to state law, no matter how much you trust them. It is for your and their protection.

Long Distance Board Members!

One of the most difficult things that pastors of young churches have to do in the early stages of the church is to select board members. Most start a church with just a few family members and close confidants who feel led to help establish the church. At the same time, when the church incorporates and establishes itself on a legal foundation a board of directors has to be selected. **What should the pastor of a young church do** when he or she feels there is no one to choose from his or her church due to the fact that they are either too young in the faith or the pastor has not known them long enough to entrust them with such a great responsibility? The answer is to **appoint long distance board members**. When selecting board members they do not have to be official members of the church, neither do they have to live in the same state. The only current requirement is that the board needs to be balanced according to the following IRS regulation.

- The majority of the board must be made up of unrelated individuals.
- The majority of the board must be made up of uncompensated individuals.

The IRS does at times ask why the board is made up of people who do not live in the local community. The answer is simple. In selecting board members, you picked individuals who can best help further the purposes of the church. Their location is irrelevant to their ability to serve the best interests of the church. Additionally, when the church reaches a stage of maturity and growth then individuals from the local congregation may be valid options for the pastor to select.

When selecting board members, be sure to follow state law and the rules of your own bylaws. It is important to know how to balance the board and how to use the IRS definition of relationship to ensure each member qualifies to serve on the board. It would be good to know how to know what a **disqualified individual** is and how to avoid a conflict of interest situation as defined by IRS regulation.

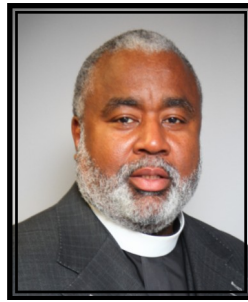


General Council of Pastors and Elders
Church of God in Christ, Inc.

Happy New Year!

**From the Desk of the
Public Relations Director**

O Give Thanks Unto the Lord



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

O give thanks unto the LORD, for *he is good*: for his mercy *endureth* for ever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say *so*, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy; And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south. They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in. Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, *and* he delivered them out of their distresses. And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation. Oh that *men* would praise the LORD *for* his goodness, and *for* his wonderful works to the children of men! For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness. Psalms 107:1-9

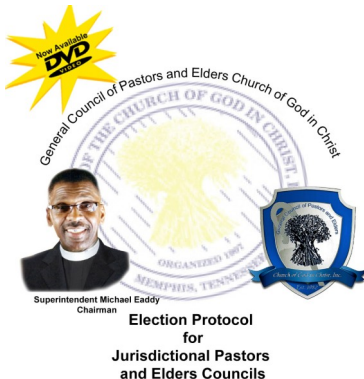
What a beautiful psalms of exhortation from David, a man of God after God's own heart. A special class of people is singled out as particular recipients of His goodness and love; namely, those **whom He has redeemed** from persecution, slavery, oppression and trouble, and brought back to the land from worldwide dispersion. While it is clear that the psalmist has Israel in view, we will not surrender these verses to that nation exclusively because we too have been bought back from the slave market of sin, and as **the redeemed of the LORD** we want to join in the anthem of thanksgiving.

There is a common behavior pattern in the lives of God's people which can be summarized as follows;

First of all people stray from the Lord, walking in disobedience to His Word. Then they suffer the bitter consequences of their backsliding. When they come to themselves, they cry out to the Lord in confession of sin. He then forgives their sin and brings them back into the place of blessing once more. It is the old story of the prodigal son and surely no story is more familiar, more relevant and true to life.

David was not a perfect man but he was a man chosen and anointed by God to fulfill a divine moment in the accomplishment of the will of God. We sometimes forget to give thanks to God and individuals that he has ordained that encourages us during life struggles. Without God and individuals led by his spirit we would feel abandoned, helpless and hopeless. We forget that we are called to suffer on behalf of his Glorious Name, "know cross, know crown". If we endure hardness without fainting in our faith, GOD has promised us total deliverance and victory regardless of our tests, trials and struggles. So my brethren count it all joy when you are faced with diver's temptations knowing full well that He which has promised is faithful. Endure the process and be of good courage for the Lord knows the thoughts He has concerning you. O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good!

Please submit inquiries to:
governorwdl@gmail.com or gcpepr@cogic.org
Visit us on Face book at:
General Council of Pastors and Elders
Follow the Chairman on Twitter:
#mister_chairman



PLACE AN ORDER FOR
YOUR PERSONAL COPY OF
THE OFFICIAL GCPE
HANDBOOK AND A COPY
OF THE CHAIRMAN'S VI-
SION FOR THE PRIMARY
ASSIGNMENT OF THE
GCPE DVD TODAY!

To order, Send \$25.00 for
handbook and \$20.00 for DVD
+ \$10.00 for shipping and han-
dling for a Total of \$55.00 to:
GENERAL COUNCIL OF
PASTORS AND ELDERS
Church of God in Christ
P.O. Box 15365, Chicago, IL
60615

ATTN: MY HANDBOOK
Please allow 7-10 business days for
delivery.

