



NEW JERSEY
Church of God

STATE MINUTES 2024-2026

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General Overseer's Vision

1. WE GO!

- * Ask your pastors to give altar calls at every service.
- * Ask pastors to preach on personal soul-winning.
- * Everyone wins one.

2. WE DISCIPLE!

- * Ask pastors to schedule monthly bimonthly water baptisms.
- * Ask every church to submit a strategy for discipleship.
- * Encourage your ministers to mentor a young minister.

3. WE PREACH!

- * Promote participation in DOE1 (free w/ QR code).
- * Focus on under 35 credentialing through "Cams for Students"
- * Engage credentialed women in ministry opportunities.

4. WE CARE!

- * Promote Reformation Sunday offering.

5. WE PRAY!

- * Ask pastors to sign up their churches to pray during your state/region's week of prayer.
- * Prayerfully consider a gift toward our Global Prayer Center.

6. WE ARE EMPOWERED!

- *Thanks for all you do! I love you and I'm praying for you.

WE ARE THE CHURCH OF GOD!

In Support of the General Overseer's Vision: Administrative Bishop's Vision

WE GO!

We must go into every area of our community, bringing the Gospel beyond the church walls:

- Schools, jails, hospitals, nursing homes
- Chamber of commerce, city council meetings, school board

WE DISCIPLE!

We must systematically make disciples:

- If I stay in your church for one year, what would I know?
- How long does it take for a new convert to become a disciple under your leadership?

WE PREACH!

We must preach the Word of God, rightly divided:

- Are we preaching the Bible or clichés?
- The Truth Matters:
 - Is The sea of forgetfulness in the Bible?
 - Jesus rose on the third day with all power in His hands-scripture(s)?
 - The Gospel: 1 Corinthians 15:3-4


WE CARE!

We must actively serve those around us:

- What can I (or my church) do to help my community?
- Seek insight from community leaders:
 - Ask the sheriff
 - Ask the mayor
 - Ask the principals

WE PRAY!

New Jersey Church of God 24-Hour Prayer Week

 **June 15-21, 2025**

WE ARE EMPOWERED!

We must mentor and raise up others to lead.

**Cited General Assembly Minutes Sections & Pages are subject to the current General Assembly Minutes and Updates.*

2025 Focuses - Building Ministers & Marriages

We Care/We Disciple

Marriage Seminars (Jan-Mar 2025)

- Regional Seminars throughout New Jersey

Minister's Monday Training Webinars (Feb-Sept 2025)

- The purpose of the Minister's Monday Training Webinars is to equip and empower ministers with practical knowledge, spiritual insight, and leadership skills. These webinars provide ongoing professional and ministerial development to foster growth and excellence in fulfilling their divine calling.
- Encourage pastors and laity to participate in training sessions on various areas of ministry.
- Ministers Mondays will assist local churches in launching a training program for parents to improve relationships with their teenagers and teach positive biblical morality (as per the 61st General Assembly Minutes Resolution).

DIRECTORY OF LEADERSHIP

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- **General Overseer** – Gary Joseph Lewis
- **First Assistant Overseer** – Tony D. Stewart
- **Second Assistant Overseer** – T. Wayne Dority
- **Third Assistant Overseer** – Mark L. Williams
- **Secretary General** – Thomas Andrew Madden

NEW JERSEY STATE EXECUTIVE STAFF

- **Administrative Bishop** – Raymond Burch Jr. ext. 403 | abishop@newjerseycog.org
- **State & Women’s Ministries Director** – Lorna Burch ext. 406 | wm@newjerseycog.org
- **Youth & Discipleship Director** – Kayvon Wyles ext. 404 | yd@newjerseycog.org
- **Girls Ministries Coordinator** – Tashane Wyles ext. 408 | gm@newjerseycog.org

STATE OFFICE PERSONNEL

- **Executive State Treasurer** – Ejoke Ebowe ext. 402 | sttreas@newjerseycog.org
- **Administrative Assistant** – DongSoon Gill ext. 405 | admin@newjerseycog.org
- **Ministerial Development Coordinator** – Gwendolyn Wilson ext. 409 | credentials@newjerseycog.org
- **State Ministries Assistant** – Magdalena Plewik | stateminasst@newjerseycog.org
- **Credentialing Secretary Assistant** – Kennesha Sampson | credasst@newjerseycog.org
- **Youth & Discipleship Assistant** – Martin Sampson | ydadmin@newjerseycog.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **State Office:** (732) 765-8080
- **Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- **Closed:** Fridays and Major Holidays

WORKING MINUTES

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of these minutes is to advance the mission and commitments of the Church of God (Cleveland, TN). These minutes serve as the official operational framework for the New Jersey Church of God, subject to the decisions of the Church of God General Assembly.

Ministers of the New Jersey Church of God fully support and subscribe to all measures adopted by the General Assembly. The minutes established in this biennial meeting stand as the guiding principles for the state's churches. Future revisions shall only address necessary additions, deletions, or modifications as determined by the Administrative Bishop, State Council, and Motions Committee.

A biennial State Ministers' Meeting shall be held after each General Assembly. Additionally, a Ministers & Spouses Retreat will be scheduled in non-assembly years. The Administrative Bishop shall set the time and location for these gatherings.

EDITORIAL PRIVILEGE

Given the increasing magnitude of Church of God operations in New Jersey, the Administrative Bishop and State Council are authorized to edit, format, and systematically arrange these minutes to maintain clarity and ensure alignment with the vision of the Church of God.

MISSION STATEMENT

The New Jersey Church of God State Office and staff are committed to equipping, resourcing, and empowering pastors and ministers for effective Kingdom expansion.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The State Board of Trustees shall oversee the financial and property management operations of the New Jersey Church of God in accordance with General Assembly Minutes Section S34.

2024-2026 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Chris A. Fraley
- Philip Bonaparte
- Cecil Mullings

Duties Include:

- Ensuring proper financial oversight of state-owned properties.
- Reviewing legal contracts involving property purchases, renovations, and loans.
- Approving strategic financial initiatives for church expansion.

ELECTED BOARDS

ELECTION PROCEDURES

To ensure fairness and consistency in governance, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised Edition, shall be followed in all official business proceedings. The election process includes:

1. Nomination Process:

- Nominations shall be made from the floor via ballot.
- The number of nominees must match the number of positions available.

2. Election & Voting Guidelines:

- If a nominee secures a majority vote on the first ballot, they are automatically elected.
- If no majority is reached, a secondary ballot vote will be taken.
- Nominees may be eliminated by majority vote after the first ballot.

3. Eligibility:

- Ministers may only serve on one elected board per assembly period.
- Alternates shall be elected to replace any board vacancies.
- Only actively reporting credentialed ministers are eligible to vote and serve on elected boards.

4. Voting Regulations:

- A complete list of eligible Ordained Bishops shall be made available to the body before each State Ministers' Meeting.
- All ministers must be up to date with their personal and church reports to be eligible for election.

STATE COUNCIL

The New Jersey State Council is composed of seven (7) Ordained Bishops and two alternates, in accordance with the Church of God General Assembly requirements.

2024-2026 STATE COUNCIL

- **Chair:** Chris Fraley
- **Co-Chair:** Gary Mullings
- Steven Allen
- Ralston Denton
- Doug Adams
- Jerry Paul
- Paul Taylor

Alternates:

- Wesner Pepe
- Ritz Denton

Duties & Responsibilities

The State Council shall operate in accordance with the Church of God General Assembly Minutes Section S33, pg. 143 (2024 or most current) and oversee:

- Statewide policies and regulations.
- Ministerial development initiatives.
- Financial stewardship and church expansion efforts.

DISTRICT OVERSEERS

According to the Minutes of the International General Assembly, the **District Overseer** is appointed by the **Administrative Bishop**. District Overseers shall perform official duties within their respective districts, as outlined in the General Assembly Minutes, **Section 43 (S43)**.

2024-2026 DISTRICT OVERSEERS

- **Deptford District** – Lynford Jamieson
- **Freehold District** – Chris Fraley
- **Haitian District** – Wesner Pepe, Saint-Pierre Pasteur
- **Indian District** – Rajan Skaria
- **Lakewood District** – Jerome Robinson
- **Millville District** – Jamie Bradham
- **Ministerio Bethel Internacional (MBI) District** – Byron Straube
- **Newark District** – Clive McBean
- **Paterson District** – Donnie Anderson
- **Plainfield District** – Glen Colley
- **Trenton District** – Cecil Mullings

DISTRICT GATHERINGS

Each district designates the 5th Sunday evening of the month as a District Gathering to encourage and strengthen local churches, fostering unity and equipping members.

Additionally, a freewill offering is to be collected at both state and district gatherings. After covering any expenses incurred at district gatherings:

50% of the remaining funds shall stay within the district.

50% shall be allocated to the state Home Missions.

DISTRICT OVERSEER DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Leadership Development – District Seminars

Each district shall conduct pastoral workshops designed to:

- ❖ Inspire and motivate pastors.
- ❖ Provide orientation and valuable ministry information.
- ❖ Encourage skill development for a more effective pastoral ministry.
- ❖ Generation X (Emerging Leader Initiative)
 - District Overseers are expected to invest time and resources into the development of young ministers, specifically those 30 years of age and younger, through:
 - Mentoring, training, and equipping emerging leaders.
 - Promoting fellowship and community among younger ministers.
 - Ensuring that the Younger Generation meets at least twice per year under the direction of the Administrative Bishop.

Each pastor is strongly encouraged to attend at least one training conference per year, either at the state or general level.

- Church and Parsonage Inspections

District Overseers are responsible for overseeing the annual inspection of each local church and parsonage within their district. This inspection ensures that all properties are properly insured and well-maintained.

The Pastor must submit the inspection report to the District Overseer by August 1st.

The District Overseer must return the completed report to the State Office by August 31st each year.

Inspection forms will be provided by the State Office.

- Legal and Financial Oversight

Each District Overseer must:

- ❖ Verify the insurance status of all church properties.
- ❖ Ensure that churches maintain property tax-exempt status, Articles of Incorporation & Bylaws, and a valid State Tax Exempt number (ST5).
- ❖ Remind churches that it is illegal to use the State Office's EIN or New Jersey Sales Tax Exempt number (ST5).
- ❖ Monitor payment history for each church to ensure that bills, mortgages, insurance, and reports are paid on time.
- ❖ Check the status of church reporting and ensure that all required reports and financial contributions are submitted promptly to the State and General Offices.

DISTRICT OVERSEER COVENANT COMMITMENT

The International Executive Committee is calling District Overseers into a covenant relationship with the State Office and the pastors and ministers in their district. This new initiative requires a renewed commitment from those appointed as District Overseers, fostering stronger relationships and enhanced ministry effectiveness.

If appointed to serve as a District Overseer, I commit to the following responsibilities:

- *Leadership & Accountability*

I WILL fulfill all duties as outlined in the Minutes of the International General Assembly.

I WILL lead by example in prompt reporting of both personal ministerial and church reports.

- *Mentorship & Pastoral Support*

I WILL serve as a mentor and coach to the ministers in my district.

I WILL provide pastoral care to the ministers and their families.

I WILL lead a Covenant Care Community for the ministers within my district.

- *Oversight & Development*

I WILL monitor the progress of all churches in the district.

I WILL conduct an annual consultation with each church and pastor in my district.

I WILL attend training conferences for District Overseers.

I WILL participate in annual church training conferences provided by the State Office to receive certification as a church consultant if offered.

- *Engagement & Encouragement*

I WILL attend all state meetings, if possible (camp meetings, prayer conferences, etc.).

I WILL encourage and support all ministers in my district to attend state meetings.

By committing to these responsibilities, I pledge to serve with dedication, integrity, and a heart for ministry, ensuring the spiritual and organizational growth of the churches within my district.

YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP

STATE YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP DIRECTOR

The State Youth and Discipleship Director is nominated by the State Overseer and elected by the State Council prior to the International General Assembly. The director's duties are outlined in General Assembly Minutes Section S37, pg. 148 (2024 or current GA minutes).

2024-2026 STATE YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP BOARD

- **Director:** Bishop Kayvon Wyles
- **Chair:** Stacy Denton
- **Co-Chair:** Saida Jeudy
- Monique McBean
- Christopher Tamas
- Lloyd Robotham
- Kennesha Sampson
- Reginald Remy

Alternates:

- Corvena Francis-Denton
- Elizabeth Bright

Responsibilities

- Oversee and support youth ministries across the state.
- Develop programs for youth discipleship, mentorship, and leadership training.
- Support youth evangelism and mission outreach initiatives.

GIRLS' MINISTRIES

Overview

Girls Ministries is an outreach of the Department of Youth and Discipleship to assist the local church in mentoring girls on their journey as Christ followers. The wife of the State Director of Youth & Discipleship or a woman assigned by the State Women's Ministries Director serves as State Girls Ministries Coordinator. She is to promote Girls Ministries: YLM's, JoyBelles, Blue Belles and Little Sweethearts. The Youth and Discipleship Director shall serve as ex-officio board member by virtue of his position. The State Girls Ministries Board shall biennially be appointed by the State Women's Ministries Director and the Girls Ministries Coordinator. The Board shall consist of five women. No board member shall be eligible to serve more than three consecutive terms.

2024-2026 GIRLS MINISTRIES BOARD

- **Coordinator:** Tashane Wyles
- Lauren Elgin (JOY Church)
- Benita Daniels (Mount Bethel)
- Kennesha Sampson (New Hope)
- Gillian Wilson (Refuge House of Prayer)

Duties and Responsibilities

Girls Ministries endeavors to provide club-based curricula (and more) that employs relevant, life-applicable lessons according to God's Word. The result is thousands of young lives flourishing into spiritually pure, strong and dedicated women. That each local Women's Ministries engage in teaching the principles of scripture to girls and young women according to Titus 2:3-5 and that the State Girls Ministries Coordinator and/or the International Department of Women's Ministries Director be consulted for appropriate materials and ideas for such ministry.

A. Girls Ministries Activities and Awards

1. It is recommended:
 - a) That each church strives to promote Girls Ministries in their local church. And that each church submits a name and address to be sent to the Girl's Ministries Coordinator.
 - b) That the Girls Ministries in each church set aside a time in February to promote National Girls Ministries Week.
 - c) That a Statewide Girls Ministries Activity is to be held each year.
 - d) That Ministries and counselors be recognized at the yearly Girls Ministries event.
2. Awards that can be earned:
 - a) Translation of Literature
 - b) Girls Ministries Home Missions
 - c) YLM of the Year
 - d) Joy Belle of the Year
 - e) Blue Belle of the Year
 - f) Counselor of the Year for each Girls Ministries

DISTRICT YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP DIRECTOR

According to the General Assembly Minutes, Section 44 (S44), the District Overseer serves as the District Youth and Discipleship Director by virtue of their office. However, if the needs of the district require additional support, the State Youth and Discipleship Director, in collaboration with the District Overseer, may appoint an assistant to fulfill this role.

District Youth Gathering

Each district shall establish an annual District Youth Gathering to:

- Strengthen and encourage local church Youth Ministries.
- Foster unity among young people at the district and state levels.

A freewill offering shall be collected at both state and district gatherings. After covering necessary expenses at the district gatherings:

- 50% of the remaining funds shall stay within the district.
- 50% shall be allocated to the State Youth and Discipleship Department.

Duties and Responsibilities

The District Youth and Discipleship Director shall:

- Work closely and cooperatively with the State Youth and Discipleship Director.
- Assist the District Overseer in youth and Christian Discipleship programs within the district.
- Visit each church in the district to become acquainted with youth programs, leaders, and young people.
- Promote Evangel Magazine and other publications related to Youth and Discipleship Ministries.
- Develop and implement plans to promote state and general youth programs.
- Conduct annual district youth rallies that are:
 - Well-planned and engaging.
 - Designed to foster youth participation and enthusiasm.
 - Focused on building cooperation and fellowship within the district.
- Promote interest in Church of God educational institutions, including:
 - Lee University (Cleveland, TN).
 - Pentecostal Theological Seminary (Cleveland, TN).
- Participate in training opportunities, including:
 - State and general conventions.
 - Leadership training meetings.
 - National Youth Leaders Association.
 - Training Our Own Leaders (T.O.O.L.s) Conference/Ministers' Mondays.
 - District Director's Retreats.
- Collaborate with the District Overseer to discuss and agree on plans, projects, dates, procedures, and responsibilities.

Appointment and Cooperation

Each district shall have a District Youth and Discipleship Director, who shall be:

- Nominated by the District Overseer.
- Appointed by the State Youth and Discipleship Director.

Responsibilities & Expectations

- Special emphasis shall be placed on fulfilling the responsibilities outlined in the District Director's job description.
- The District Youth and Discipleship Director shall work in full cooperation with the State Youth and Discipleship Director to ensure the effective implementation of youth ministry initiatives.

Training & Development

- A District Youth and Discipleship Director's Conference shall be sponsored to provide training for District Directors, equipping them for more effective service.
- If additional meetings are required, they shall be subject to approval by the State Overseer and conducted under the direction of the State Youth and Discipleship Director.

YOUTH MINISTRIES

The State Youth and Discipleship Program aligns with events and programs organized by the New Jersey Administrative Bishop and the International Church of God Youth and Discipleship Director. The resources available on the Church of God Youth and Discipleship website should be the primary resource used to develop state programs.

2024-2026 STATE YOUTH MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

- Lloyd Robotham - Teen & Junior Talent, Young Adult Ministries
- Monique McBean - CAMS for Students
- Kennesha Sampson - Winterfest
- Saida Jeudy - Training & Certification
- Reginald Remy - Youth Missions Chairman
- Stacy Denton - Youth Convention
- Chris Tamas - Summer Camp/Summerfest

For more information: [Youth Ministries - New Jersey Church of God](#)

Duties and Responsibilities of Committee Assignments

Summer Camp/Summerfest

- Encourage each church and pastor to promote the summer camp ministry and inspire youth to attend.
- Each State Youth Board Member should be encouraged to volunteer for at least one week, if needed and possible. Pastors should assist the youth department in recruiting competent individuals to serve on the Youth Camp/Summerfest staff.
- When a pastor signs an application for an applicant (whether a camper or staff), it should be considered a recommendation. All staff members must undergo a background check through protectmyministry.com.
- The Youth and Discipleship Director and the State Youth and Discipleship Board, with the approval of the State Overseer, will determine the location, number, and dates of youth camps/Summerfest events.

Teen Talent and Junior Talent

- Encourage young people to get involved in Teen Talent to enhance their talents and skills for the glory of God. The state Teen Talent program should include competitions in music, art, writing, drama, and Bible.
- Provide an option for an off-year Junior and Teen Talent program to foster the development of talent in children and teens.

Northeast Winterfest

- Encourage each local church to promote Northeast Winterfest as a winter retreat activity for the youth.

NYLA (National Youth Leaders Association)

Encourage each local church to join the Church of God National Youth Leaders Association (NYLA): <http://nylaconf.com>.

- Renew emphasis on the New Jersey Youth Leaders Association, ensuring that each local church has at least one active member in the association.
- Use the Youth Ministry Certification program as a developmental tool for excellence in youth ministry within local churches.

Camp Meeting Activities

- Plan youth activities, subject to the approval of the Administrative Bishop. These activities may include: Kids' Camp Meeting (ages 6-10), Afterglows, Awards, etc.

Annual Family Day (in conjunction with Orphan Run for Hope)

- Continue to support and plan a Family Day outing for the state on the Saturday of Camp Meeting, when feasible. This event should emphasize the importance of the family unit.

Young Adults Ministries

- Encourage each church to emphasize and support single adult ministries.
- Appoint a state singles ministry committee under the supervision of the Administrative Bishop to work with the State Youth and Discipleship Director and State Youth and Discipleship Board in carrying out the state singles ministry.

Collegiate Ministry

- Encourage local churches to establish campus outreach ministries at local colleges and universities and involve students in local church ministries.
- Promote Lee University Day each spring and provide support for junior and senior high students to attend.
- Honor college graduates during Graduates Recognition Sunday each year.

Boys Ministries

- Encourage every church to sponsor a boys' club ministry in their local church and community. Consider reviewing the Royal Rangers boys' club as an option.

STATE CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

That each local church places a priority on Children's Ministries and planning a comprehensive program. Each church uses materials which are designed to bring all our children to salvation, sanctification, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, water baptism, church membership and discipleship by age twelve.

When possible, each church sponsors an annual VBS (Vacation Bible School) or Kids Crusade. And that a special plan be outlined to enroll unchurched children; and that a report on VBS be sent to the

State Youth and Discipleship Director.

That we encourage those individuals who are called to the children's ministry to accept the call and challenge, and that we support them and assist them with preparation and training. (Reaching, Teaching, and Pastoring Kids is a certification program used for training local children's workers). Those completing levels II and III can be certified through the National Children's Leaders Association.

During Camp Meeting and Prayer Conference worship services, a kids service should also be provided for ages 6-12.

STATE YOUTH MISSIONS COMMITTEE

The Youth Mission Committee will help to make sure that youth and young adults take advantage of the short-term missions' experiences offered by Youth Missions: www.cogyouth.org. The youth missions committee will ask each local church to utilize the Youth and Discipleship Video to promote the department's ministry of YWEA.

2024-2026 YOUTH MISSIONS COMMITTEE

- **Chair:** Reginald Remy
- Karon Archer
- Hannah Bradham
- Marcia Saintubert

EVANGELISM

STATE EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS DIRECTOR (USA MISSIONS)

The **State Evangelism and Missions Director** is elected by the **State Council** prior to the **International General Assembly** and serves in accordance with **General Assembly Minutes Section S38**.

2024-2026 STATE EVANGELISM BOARD

- **Chair:** Corvena Francis-Denton
- Ritz Denton
- Larue Hayden
- Patricia Bowden
- Lisa Adams

Alternates:

- Jacqueline Mullings
- Donnie Anderson

Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide training for church evangelists on soul-winning strategies.
- Identify, train, and mobilize local church evangelists.
- Helping local pastors to develop a new convert assimilation program.
- Support the Church Planting and Revitalization Task Force.
- Utilize resources from the Church of God International Ministry of Evangelism
<https://gospelmultiplicationnetwork.org/>

APPOINTED BOARDS & COMMITTEES

CHURCH PLANTING AND REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE

The Administrative Bishop shall biennially appoint a Strategic Church Planting and Revitalization Task Force consisting of five Ordained Ministers or Ordained Bishops and one member from the State Council.

2024-2026 CHURCH PLANTING AND REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE

- **Chair:** Jason Wheble
- Lynford Jamieson
- Jamie Bradham
- Axel Goehring
- Gary Mullings
- Paul Taylor

Duties and Responsibilities

- Coordinate an ongoing church planting and revitalization strategy in New Jersey.
- Implement a recruiting strategy to build a team of church planters, identify churches in New Jersey needing revitalization, and provide coaching and mentoring for pastors.
- Oversee a training and coaching process for church planters and revitalization efforts, covering pre-launch, launch, and post-launch phases of new church plants and ensuring systems of health for revitalization efforts.
- Create a network for both church planters and pastors in the revitalization program to provide support and supervision.
- Oversee church planting in New Jersey, including the distribution of funds, approval of candidates, and identification of strategic locations for church plants.

FINANCIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

The Administrative Bishop shall appoint a State Representative (Chairman) and no fewer than three (3) individuals to consult on all building projects requiring a loan and/or underwriting, including new church plants.

2024-2026 STATE FINANCIAL RESOLUTION COMMITTEE

- Doug Adams
- Phil Bonaparte
- Headley Mundell
- Hortense Carty

Duties and Responsibilities

The committee, at the discretion of the Administrative Bishop, will:

- Counsel with the local pastor and building committee on presentations to the State Council.

- Review drawings and plans for the intended project.
- Assist in the bidding process of approved projects.
- Consult during the building process of approved projects.
- Ensure adequate finances are in place before initiating a building project.

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Hospitality Committee ensures that continuous quality improvement standards are met and provides leadership for exceptional customer service to the state's special guests. The State Ministries Director, along with the State Secretary Treasurer, will brief the necessary committee members on their specific assignments. All members of the Hospitality Committee are asked to make themselves available for service at all statewide events.

2024-2026 STATE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

- Carlene Moore, State Coordinator Assistant
- Paul & Aloma Taylor, Executive Transportation
- Ralston & Stacy Denton, Executive Transportation
- Marcia Saintubert, Guest Assistance
- Jerry Paul, Stage Coordinator
- Jason Wheble, Assistant Stage Coordinator
- Daniel Wilson, Food & Beverage

Duties and Responsibilities

- Provide personal assistance to all special guests in various hospitality areas, including transportation to and from the airport, lodging, event venues, and ensuring they find their assigned seating.
- Offer all required customer services to our special guests, including accommodation arrangements, book sales, and food and beverages.

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

The team explores the best media choices available to effectively communicate the transforming gospel message to all people and cultural contexts. It empowers churches, pastors, and evangelists to fully leverage platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, radio, television, and emerging technologies to spread the gospel and promote the work of Christ.

2024-2026 MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

- **Chair:** Ritz Denton
- Savoia Buntin
- Soby Kurvilla
- Lloyd Robotham
- Corvena Francis-Denton

MWOA (MEN & WOMEN OF ACTION) COMMITTEE

Men and Women of Action (MWOA) provides an opportunity for men and women to volunteer their skills in building projects around the world. While our focus is coordinating construction teams, we also engage in disaster relief and recovery, humanitarian projects, celebration teams, and discipleship training.

2024-2026 MWOA (MEN & WOMEN OF ACTION) COMMITTEE

- **Chair:** John Pavlov, Chair
- **Co-Chair:** Lynford Jamieson
- Joe Hamblin
- Reggie Remy
- Martin Sampson
- Jason Smith

Duties and Responsibilities

- Officially organize the Men and Women of Action Ministry at the state level and encourage each church to establish the ministry at the local level in the Church of God in New Jersey.
- Encourage pastors and laypeople to give high priority to this ministry by submitting names to the State MWOA Coordinator as requested.
- Encourage each church to send delegates to the Men and Women of Action Rally and attend the rally on the designated date.

For more information, visit the Men and Women of Action website at: www.cogmwoa.org.

MWOA Objectives:

- Assist the State Office in utilizing the virtually untapped resource of men and women in the

state as volunteers, both locally and internationally.

- Make the State Office aware that MWOA belongs to the local church – it's their program and their resource.
- Encourage every state to have an active MWOA program led by a qualified construction and disaster relief coordinator.
- Appoint an MWOA State Coordinator who is already engaged in MWOA ministry in the state. We can provide a list of active, dedicated individuals who have hands-on experience and leadership training.
- Local Assistance - Assist pastors in the state with construction, renovation, and repairs on church and parsonage projects.
- For local decoration or remodeling help, please contact Vera Allen (Spotswood COG).
- For local handyman renovations, please contact Franklyn (Word of Faith COG).

MEN'S DISCIPLESHIP

That State leadership, District Overseers and all local pastors and churches in New Jersey renew their commitment to the priesthood and servanthood of all believers by seeing that the local congregation is led and directed by those whom the Holy Spirit has gifted and empowered for service.

Duties and Responsibilities

- That each church be encouraged to organize a Men's Discipleship Ministry in their local church. And that each church charters their Men's Discipleship group with the International Headquarters in Cleveland, Tennessee.
- Each church is encouraged to organize a special day each year for the Men's Discipleship Ministry, inspiring men to participate in the statewide Men's Resurrection Breakfast, held on the Saturday two weeks before Easter.
- Encourage local pastors to seek certification as community service chaplains in the local areas to evangelize men who may be in hospitals, prison/jails, mental health centers and nursing homes.

All Men's Discipleship' materials and information may be obtained through www.adultdiscipleshipcog.com.

MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT

The State Ministerial Development Board shall be appointed biennially by the Administrative Bishop to oversee ministerial licensing, training programs, and educational development.

2024-2026 MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

- **Chair: Gwendolyn Wilson**
- Chris Fraley (MIP Coordinator)
- Ann-Marie Stephenson (MIP Admin.)
- Steve Allen (Licensure Coordinator)
- Cecil Mullings (CAMS Coordinator)
- Kasey Bynes-Edwards (CAMS Admin.)
- Clive McBean (CAMSFs Program)
- Doug Adams, Mobilize Coordinator
- Lauren Elgin, Mobilize Administrator
- Kennesha Sampson (Cred. Sec. Asst.)
- Ralston Denton
- Clifford Mundell
- Headley Mundell
- Paul Taylor
- Daniel Wilson

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Overseeing Calling & Ministry Studies (CAMS), CAMS for Students, Mobilize and the Ministerial Internship Program (MIP).
- Approving ministerial licensing processes.
- Organizing training seminars for ministerial candidates.

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALING SECRETARY

The credentialing of Church of God ministers is a ministry formation process. In this process, the denomination partners with individuals to help them develop the abilities to fulfill their divine call and role in ministry.

Duties and Responsibilities

The credentialing secretary of the New Jersey Church of God works directly for the Administrative Bishop. Detailed duties and responsibilities are outlined in the job description.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR PROGRAMS

The following steps must be taken to ensure the completion and approval of the application and background check:

1. The application or registration must be completed in full, signed by the Pastor and District Overseer, and submitted on time.
2. To continue the application process, individuals seeking credentials must remit a \$150 background check fee electronically or by money order/check to the NJCOG State office.
3. Upon receipt of the application, the state office will begin processing the background check, which may take 2 to 4 weeks.
4. The application and documents are submitted to the Administrative Bishop for review and signature.
5. Applications and all required documents are forwarded to the International Offices, Division of Education (DOE) in Cleveland, Tennessee, after the applicant completes the program.

Please Note:

- **Marital Forms:** If the applicant or spouse has been previously married, additional documentation is required. The couple will also meet with the Licensure Review Committee before the background check process begins.
- **Credential/Certificate Programs:** Both the applicant and their spouse must be present for the program, as both are recognized in the application and eligible to participate, even if the spouse is not applying for credentials.
- **Program Fees:** Applicants must pay the program fees in full before advancing to the DOE.

EXAM AND APPLICATION

The New, Ordained, or Bishop Minister application, background check fee (if the background check is older than 2 years), and Local Church Endorsement form must be completed and signed by the Applicant, Pastor, and District Overseer before submission to the state office.

If there is a change in the applicant's marital status, additional forms must be completed, and the couple will meet with the Licensure Review Committee before initiating the background check.

Note: When a Pastor applies, the District Overseer must sign as the “Recommendation of the Pastor” in addition to signing as the Overseer.

(Refer to the Application Process for Programs above.)

After passing the exam, the application and all required documents, including the signed Exam Evaluation and State Examining Board signature page, are electronically scanned and emailed or mailed to the Division of Education in Cleveland, Tennessee. The documents will then be reviewed, signed by the General Overseer, and ministerial numbers will be generated. The license certificate will be printed and mailed to the NJCOG State office.

The license certificate is signed by the NJCOG Administrative Bishop, recorded at the state level, and electronically sent and recorded at the international level.

The licensed certificate is presented to the Pastor or District Overseer for signature (for new ministers only).

Please Note:

This process may take 6 to 8 weeks before the applicant receives the license certificate.

New ministers will receive ministerial reporting information, including a welcome packet and instructions on how to report.

MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

MOBILIZE PROGRAM

Program Coordinator - Duties and Responsibilities

The Program Coordinator is responsible for managing the administrative and logistical aspects of the MOBILIZE program to ensure its smooth operation. This includes handling participant enrollment, maintaining schedules, and facilitating clear communication with applicants. The coordinator oversees resource management by distributing training materials and ensuring access to the online

curriculum. Additionally, they organize seminar logistics, such as securing venues, preparing materials, and coordinating guest speakers. Regular follow-ups with participants help maintain engagement and strengthen mentorship connections. The coordinator also tracks participant progress, maintains accurate records, and submits reports to the pastor, ensuring accountability and effectiveness in the program's implementation.

Overview

Mobilize is a mentoring program that establishes a bond of loyalty and cooperation between the pastor and church members. It serves as a tool for pastors to motivate and train members for spiritual leadership and ministry. Specializations include thirteen (13) areas of ministry. The orientation and three seminars, attended by both applicants and their spouses, provide tools to help applicants determine if they are called to clergy ministry and their specialized area of ministry.

This program is designed for laity who desire to serve in the church and community but are not necessarily seeking a leadership position. It is for those who want to volunteer their time in service to God and help fulfill the Great Commission. The Local Leadership Development program is a 3-month (16-week) program with two levels: 1A & 1B. See the online curriculum information: <https://www.cogmobilize.org/training/local-leadership-development/>

- 1A - Part A: Leadership Skills – Enabling members to become leaders.
 - Part B: Character Formation – Discipling members into Christlikeness.
- 1B - Part A: Ministry Foundations and Principles – Discovering key information about their specialized ministry.
 - Part B: Ministry Skills and Practices – Acquiring abilities for specialized ministry.

Steps in the Mobilize Process

Potential students are encouraged by their pastor to participate in mobilization training before seeking the CAMS program. The pastor will contact the credentialing department at the state office to request an application.

CALLING AND MINISTRY STUDIES FOR STUDENTS (CAMSFS)

Program Coordinator - Duties and Responsibilities

The CAMSFS Coordinator is responsible for overseeing and executing the Calling and Ministry Studies for Students (CAMSFS) program, ensuring that high school and college students (ages 16-22) effectively engage in the four-phase seminar structure: Explore, Equip, Engage, and Empower. This role involves facilitating monthly seminars, and guiding participants in identifying and affirming their call to ministry. The coordinator will manage program logistics, maintain student records, and serve as the primary point of contact for students, parents, and church leaders. This position requires strong leadership, organizational skills, and a passion for equipping the next generation for ministry.

Overview

Calling and Ministry Studies for Students is designed to help high school and college students, aged 16-22, identify, affirm, and define their calling. The program consists of four monthly seminars with four phases: explore, equip, engage, and empower. This study engages the younger generation to identify the call of God and start preparation in developing a healthy self-awareness while building a

strong foundation for successful vocational and credentialed ministry in the Church of God. See online curriculum information: <https://www.cogdoe.org/ministries/cams-for-students/>

CALLING AND MINISTRY STUDIES (CAMS)

Program Coordinator - Duties and Responsibilities

The Coordinator is responsible for conducting the CAMS pre-interview, ensuring that candidates understand the purpose of CAMS. They facilitate, or designate someone to facilitate, all three seminars, including organizing venue and meal locations. Additionally, the Coordinator works closely with the CAMS Administrator to arrange exit interviews, helping to determine if the candidates are ready to move forward and test for the Exhorter's rank.

Overview

CAMS helps applicants determine if they are called to clergy ministry and provides knowledge about ministry. There are two sections to CAMS: seminars and individual study. The orientation and three seminars, attended by both applicants and spouses, provide tools to help applicants identify if they are called to clergy ministry. See online curriculum information: <https://www.cogdoe.org/ministries/calling-and-ministry-studies/>

Steps in the CAMS or CAMSFS Process

- Initial Consultation: Anyone interested in enrolling in the CAMS or CAMSFS programs should first speak with their pastor.
- Application Request: The pastor will contact the credentialing department at the state office to request an application.
- Leadership Program Requirement: YeNew Minister/CAMS applicants with limited ministerial experience may be required to complete the MOBILIZE Leadership Program under their pastor's direction before entering the Calling and Ministry Studies (CAMS) program. The decision to require the MOBILIZE program is made by the Administrative Bishop in consultation with the local pastor.

MINISTERIAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM (M.I.P.)

Program Coordinator - Duties and Responsibilities

The Coordinator works closely with the Administrative Bishop to determine the supervising pastor for the intern. They facilitate, or designate someone to facilitate, all eight seminars, including organizing the venue and meal locations. Additionally, the Coordinator coordinates with the MIP Administrator to ensure that the intern completes all online work on time, fulfilling the requirements for graduation.

Overview

All exhorters seeking advancement to Ordained Minister must complete the Ministerial Internship Program (MIP). See Church of God General Assembly Minutes S21, Applicants for Ministry II, Internship Requirements. The MIP is required to advance from exhorter rank to the status of ordained minister.

See online curriculum information: <https://www.cogdoe.org/ministries/ministerial-internship-program/>

MIP consists of three parts:

- Studies on the Bible, doctrine, and leadership.
- A supervised practicum with a pastor.
- Eight monthly seminars.

The program coursework is completed individually using either the online study platform or the DVD study platform. MIP candidates are assigned to supervising pastors who will provide knowledge about ministry and allow them to develop skills for ministry during a supervised practicum. Assignments are based on personal training needs, geographical factors, and availability. The eight monthly seminars address a range of ministry topics and complement the experience of the supervised practicum.

During the MIP, candidates and their spouses follow a daily schedule of spiritual, study, and physical assignments, including completing studies, the supervised practicum, eight seminars, and evaluations by the supervising pastor, as well as interviews at the monthly seminars.

CHAPLAINS COMMISSION

Program Coordinator-Duties and Responsibilities

The Program Coordinator for the Church of God Chaplains oversees the ministry that equips ordained ministers to serve as Vocational Chaplains and certifies training for Community Service Chaplains. Church of God Chaplains serve globally, fulfilling the Church's missional mandate by bringing the hope of the Gospel beyond the local church and into society. The Chaplain's Commission, as the official ministry of the Church of God, provides this endorsement and training. Community Service Chaplains, both men and women, are committed to providing spiritual care and support within their communities. For further details, visit www.cogchaplains.org.

Overview

For more information, visit: <https://www.cogchaplains.org/>

Community Service Chaplains are men and women dedicated to spiritual care and support within their communities.

WHERE CAN A COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAPLAIN VOLUNTEER?

- Hospitals
- Jails and prisons
- Juvenile detention facilities
- Hospice
- Emergency service agencies
- Disaster areas
- Homeless shelters
- University campuses
- Industries
- Athletic teams
- Fire departments
- Nursing homes

These are just a few examples of the many agencies, institutions, and community outreach opportunities where you can serve as a volunteer chaplain. Chaplaincy can take place wherever a need arises.

MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Church of God in New Jersey shall have a State Music Board that serve in accordance with the rulings of the **General Assembly Minutes Section S42, pgs. 150-151 (2024 or current GA Minutes)**.

2024–2026 STATE MUSIC COMMITTEE

- **Chair:** Kasey Edwards
- Larry Jules (Roselle-Haitian)
- Nicole Miller (Mt. Bethel)
- Jacqueline Mullings (Mt. Bethel)
- Mona Plantt (Abundant Life)
- Ezekiel Rusli (New Life)

STATE MUSIC SUB-COMMITTEE

- **Youth Chair:** Therendy Suffren (Roselle Haitian)
- Shanice Brown (Abundant Life)
- Solomon & Cassandra Cobbs (Freehold Church of God)
- Shenneeka Palmer (Mt. Bethel)
- Andrea Stone (Breakthrough in Christ)

The State Youth and Discipleship Director shall serve as an ex-officio member. The board shall meet as often as the Administrative Bishop and chairman deem necessary.

PRAYER COMMITTEE

Under the leadership of the State Prayer Committee Coordinator (appointed by the Administrative Bishop), each church is encouraged to commit to this vital ministry of prayer.

2024-2026 STATE PRAYER COMMITTEE

- **Chair:** Lisa Adams
- Sonia Allen
- Philip Bonaparte
- Patricia Bowden
- Joe Hamblin
- Paul Lee
- Kofi Matthew

Duties and Responsibilities – Prayer Focus and Initiatives

The coordinator will focus collective prayer efforts on several key areas: state leaders, pastors, evangelists, and ministry staff, state events, the growth and prosperity of the local church, the welfare of our country, and training local church prayer leaders to pray biblically. They will encourage participation in statewide prayer vigils, held on the first Wednesday of each month, either via Zoom or at a designated location. Additionally, the coordinator will support local churches in organizing prayer groups for men, women, and teens, ensuring that weekly study and prayer meetings are conducted under the pastor's oversight and approval, including time, place, leadership, and study materials. The coordinator will also promote the observance of the Statewide Day of Prayer & Fasting on the first Wednesday of each month, encouraging ministers and members to participate in prayer and fasting for the outreach of all church ministries. Finally, they will encourage consistent Bible reading across

local churches through the One Year Bible initiative.

Overview

The purpose of the Prayer Focus and Initiatives is to unite the Church of God community in New Jersey through focused prayer efforts and Bible reading initiatives. This program seeks to support and uplift state leaders, pastors, evangelists, and ministry staff while fostering spiritual growth within local churches and their surrounding communities. It emphasizes the importance of prayer for state events, the prosperity of the local church, the welfare of the country, and equipping prayer leaders to pray biblically. Additionally, it encourages active participation in regular prayer vigils, local church prayer groups, a statewide day of prayer and fasting, and the promotion of consistent Bible reading across all churches, aiming to strengthen the church's mission and outreach.

24-Hour Prayer Line

Need Prayer? Call the state office prayer line at (732) 765-8080 ext. 410 – available 24 hours a day to leave prayer requests.

SPIRIT LIFE COMMITTEE

In addition to the State Prayer Committee the Spirit Life Committee is to help with ALTAR CALL prayer during statewide events. Under the leadership of the Administrative Bishop or the appointed chairperson when there is a need for the laying on of hands or special prayer the Spirit Life committee should be first to assist in this manner.

2024-2026 SPIRIT LIFE COMMITTEE

- **Chair:** Leanora Colley
- Ruth Adams
- Jamie Bradham
- Lenroy Dawkins
- Curdell Denton
- Joan Hayden
- Delores Mullings
- Lee Von Wald Sr.

Duties and Responsibilities

The committee will, at the discretion of the Administrative Bishop, provide:

- Mature guidance to those at the altar through prayer and/or the laying on of hands.
- Provide guidance of how to grow in Christ once free from bondage.
- Connect individuals with the local pastor or church.

USHER COMMITTEE

The Administrative Bishop shall appoint the chairman of the Usher's Committee. The chairman is responsible for ensuring that ushers are present at every statewide event. If the committee is unavailable, the chairman is tasked with recruiting credentialed ministers to assist.

2024-2026 STATE USHER COMMITTEE

- **Chair:** Jerome Robinson
- **Co-Chair:** Alexander McKenzie
- Peter Ababio
- Winston Anderson
- Karon Archer
- Winter Bijou
- McClendon Bowden
- Robinson Cerat
- Patrick Faustin
- Shawgy Frimpong
- Larue Hayden
- Florence Henry
- Donazal Jackson
- Charles Kopack
- Headley Mundell
- Cyprian Nwodo
- Melanie Stimphil

Duties and Responsibilities

- Greet patrons and assist them in finding their seats.
- Help guests locate exits and amenities such as restrooms and concession areas.
- Assist guests with limited mobility or other special needs to and from their seats.
- Ensure that aisles, walkways, and designated seating areas remain clear, clean, and safe.
- Perform any other duties as assigned by the event coordinator.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

Overview

The New Jersey State Women's Ministries actively advance the international Women's Ministries programs, embracing the global church theme "**We Are Church of God Women.**" Local ministries support all international and state projects during the 2024–2026 General Assembly period. Additionally, the State Women's Ministries Director appoints a five-member State Women's Board every two years, with each member serving a maximum of three consecutive terms. This board, comprised of committed promoters with active local ministry involvement, operates under the director's guidance.

The purpose of Women's Ministries is to:

- Encourage spiritual growth, personal development, and leadership among women.
- Contribute to the general welfare of the home, church, community, and world.

Reference: General Assembly Minutes, Section S45, pg. 152 (2024 or most current GA minutes).

International Women's Ministries Website: cogwomensministries.com

Phone: (423) 478-7170

Women's Ministries Director

- The office of Church of God Women's Discipleship Director (state level) shall be established.
- The wife of the State Overseer shall fill this office.

The purpose of this office is to provide leadership for Women's Discipleship at the state level in cooperation with the general church program.

2024-2026 STATE WOMEN'S MINISTRIES BOARD

- **Director:** Lorna Burch
- Ex Officio: Tashane Wyles
- Tracey Bonaparte
- Deon Dawkins
- Altagrace Faustin
- Jacqueline Mullings
- ValleRae Mundell
- Support Team - Debbie Robinson (Monthly Reports) and Gwendolyn Wilson (Director Assistant)

Objectives

- To encourage each local church to organize and maintain a ministry which shall be generally known as Church of God Women's Discipleship Ministries. Where a ministry of this type is functioning under a different name, it may continue, if they so desire" (79th Edition General Assembly Minutes, 2024, pp. 168-170).
- IN AN ASSEMBLY YEAR - Women's Ministries Conference/Retreat will be held in the spring. In the fall, a one or two day conference in the fall preferably the first weekend of October if the calendar permits under the direction of the Administrative Bishop.
- IN A NON-ASSEMBLY YEAR - There will be a Spring Worship or Fellowship Event and a Fall Retreat or Conference in September/October and plan to attend the International Women's Conference event.
- That a Ministers Wives Session be added to the biennial Ministers meeting or scheduled shortly after Ministers Meeting that is facilitated to still enable the credentialed women to vote.

Go to State Webpage to find all resources needed - <https://newjerseycog.org/womens-ministries>

Contact info - State Women's Ministries - newjerseycog.org/women Phone: (732) 765-8080 ext. 406

DISTRICT WOMEN'S MINISTRIES LEADERS

That the wife of the District Overseer serves as the District Women's Ministries Leader. She is to promote the State Women's Ministries programs and be responsible for leadership in her district. In the event the District Overseer's wife is unable to serve, recommendations should be made by the District Overseer to the Administrative Bishop for a replacement.

That the District Women's Ministries Leader duties shall be as follows:

- Be knowledgeable of the Women's Ministries Programs.
- Encourage the pastors' wives in her district.
- To assist in organizing a Women's Ministry in each church.
- To promote and encourage each local Women's Ministry to support the state and international programs.
- To have one (or more) district activity per year.

ANNUAL AWARDS

That the Women's Ministries annual awards be distributed at the annual Women's Ministries seminar/convention or State Camp Meeting. The purpose of awards is to simply give recognition for exceptional participation in the following categories:

- Church of God Home for Children (Smoky Mountain HFC)
- New Jersey Home Missions
- Covenant Sisters Ministry
- WWAM (Women With A Mission) Project

That awards be presented in the following categories, based on morning worship attendance:

- Group 1 1 - 50
- Group 2 51 - 100
- Group 3 101 - 200
- Group 4 201 - 300
- Group 5 301 - UP

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

A letter of appreciation to be sent from the State Women's Ministries Department to each local Women's Ministry receiving a scoring rank. Scores will be based on the results of the Standard of Excellence Check-Up Sheet to be mailed to the State Office by date specified.

MONTHLY REPORTS

Women's Ministries reports should be processed online or be mailed to the state office postmarked by

the 5th of each month. Each local Women's Ministries be encouraged to tithe in keeping with scripture, and this tithe accompanies the report along with contributions made to any other designated area as per report form each month.

STATE OFFICE/PARSONAGE

That the Women's Ministries be encouraged to take on a Home Missions project to assist in the provision of the state office and parsonage by holding two fund raisers each year at the local level. 50% of funds raised should be sent to the State Women's Ministries Department, and 50% remain in the local Women's Ministries treasury.

INT'L WOMEN'S CONFERENCE AND/OR CREDENTIALLED WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

That the pastor's wife/credentialed female minister's, along with the women of each church be encouraged to attend, where feasible, and that the local church assists the pastor's wife with expenses, when possible. That International Women's Conference, designed to minister to the special needs of women and to help them discover their gifts to minister to this generation, has our participation; and be encouraged and promoted in the local churches.

That every female minister in the state be informed of the International Credentialed Women's Women in Ministry Conference sponsored by the International Credentialed Women's Board.

WOMEN WITH A MISSION PROJECT (WWAM)

That each women's ministry participates in the Women with A Mission Project. The 2025 Women with a Mission project is, KUKA in Mozambique, Africa Project #020-8206. THE 2026 project is to be determined. Go to International Women's Ministries website cogwomensministries.com or contact our state office for promotional materials and for more information.

BIBLE STUDY

That each local Women's Ministry conducts a monthly group Bible study, encouraging scripture memorization and personal daily Bible devotions. Please contact our state office or go to <https://www.adultdiscipleshipcog.com/womens-discipleship-1> for discipleship resources.

PRAYER AND FASTING

That each local Women's Ministry encourages one day weekly for fasting and prayer.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN HOME FOR CHILDREN

That each local church, in keeping with the scriptural mandate to care for the fatherless (e.g., James 1:27), is encouraged to regularly support the Smoky Mountain Children's Home. It is further recommended that each local church receive an offering for this cause on Mother's Day, in accordance with the Minutes of the General Assembly (79th General Assembly Minutes S14, II, pg. 93): 'Mother's Day shall be set apart as Home for Children Day, and a special offering shall be received for the Home for Children.

COVENANT SISTERS

The States and churches within the United States are divided into four Covenant Groups of 10 to 12

states. Sometimes because of a catastrophic event or a special need within a mission or borderline mission state others in their covenant group are asked to assist them. When you give to Covenant Sisters, we are helping states financially with their women's events and projects. New Jersey is assigned to 2nd Assistant General Overseer Wayne & Shelly Dority's Covenant Team which includes the following states/regions: Arkansas, Caribbean, Heartland Region, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Northwestern Hispanic, Rocky Mountain Region, New England Northern, Tennessee and Texas.

WORLD MISSIONS BOARD

The Administrative Bishop shall appoint a State Representative (Chairman) to work with no less than 3 members of the State World Missions Board shall serve in accordance with the rulings of the **General Assembly Minutes Section S41, pg. 150 (2024 or current GA minutes)**.

2024-2026 STATE WORLD MISSIONS BOARD

- **Chair: Doug Adams**
- Glandene Carroo
- Karen Collins
- Frantz Constant
- Martin Sampson

STATE EVENTS

PRAYER CONFERENCE, CAMP MEETINGS AND ALL OTHER STATE EVENTS

The scheduling of Prayer Conferences, Camp Meetings, Ministers and Spouse Retreats and other events shall be at the discretion of the State Overseer and approved by the State Council.

- The State Overseer, with the support of the State Council, shall select the speakers for these events.
- Prayer Conference and Camp Meetings shall be fully supported by all New Jersey Church of God members and ministers, who are expected to attend unless there is a conflict due to death, illness, or secular employment.
- All state functions shall be announced in local churches before the event.
- Churches will continue to hold Sunday Morning Worship Services during Camp Meetings, but all evening services shall be canceled to allow participation in state Camp Meeting services.

Deadlines for Giving Recognition at Camp Meeting

- The fiscal year for monies and records begins on September 1 and ends on May 31, creating a nine-month reporting period for recognition purposes.
- To be recognized at Camp Meeting, all monies toward state programs must be postmarked no later than June 5 of the church calendar year.

Servant of the Year Award

H.E.L.P.S. (Having Enough Loving People Serving) Servant of the Year Award

- Each church shall nominate a member of their congregation for the H.E.L.P.S. Servant of the Year Award.
- This award will be presented during Camp Meeting.
- Nomination Deadline: May 5 of the church calendar year.

Pastor of the Year Award

- During each Camp Meeting, an award for Pastor of the Year is presented.
- The recipient is selected by the State Overseer.

Criteria for Pastor of the Year Nomination:

- ✓ Timely Church Reporting
- ✓ Timely Minister's Reporting
- ✓ Participation in State Programs
- ✓ Participation in National Programs
- ✓ Church Growth

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR STATE EVENTS

To ensure that our state remains financially self-sustaining, we strongly encourage all pastors and ministers to partner financially with the state office. This financial partnership enables the State Overseer and Executive Offices to organize camp meetings, conventions, and other statewide events

with excellence, minimizing or eliminating costs for individual attendees.

Recommended Contributions for Statewide Conferences/Camp Meetings

Category	Church Membership	Recommended Contribution
#1	1-25 members	\$100.00
#2	26-50 members	\$150.00
#3	51-75 members	\$200.00
#4	76-150 members	\$300.00
#5	151-225 members	\$400.00
#6	226-300 members	\$500.00

In addition to the monetary love offering and gifts designated for the State Overseer and the Youth & Discipleship Director, these contributions are greatly appreciated. Your continued support and commitment to the guidelines outlined in our State Minutes are invaluable. Thank you for your generosity and dedication.

STATE PROGRAMS

HOME MISSIONS

To effectively reach the unchurched, revitalize our pastors, and restore church facilities, we encourage each church to demonstrate faith by making an additional 1% offering above the tithe as a monthly contribution to the state office. These funds will directly support statewide evangelism efforts.

Support Initiatives:

- All New Jersey Church of God ministers are encouraged to support Home Missions monthly with an offering sent to the state office.
- Each church is encouraged to contribute to Home Missions in alignment with our mission to: Reach | Revitalize | Restore (R3).

Your commitment to financial partnership is vital in sustaining and expanding the impact of our ministry across New Jersey.

INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES

Overview

The mission of New Jersey Church of God Intercultural Ministries is to provide intentional support by collaborating within the state to effectively reach and network with representatives of various ethnic groups in New Jersey. To provide sustainable models of ministry resources that elevate evangelism and discipleship to reach, expand and impact ethnic groups of the Church of God.

2024-2026 INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES

- Haitian Ministries Coordinator - Joseph Noncent
- Indian Ministries Coordinator - Rajan Skaria
- Hispanic Ministries Coordinator - VACANT
- Indonesian Ministries Coordinator - Harbudi Rusli

Duties and Responsibilities

Each leader should strive to support the vision of COG Intercultural Ministries: “to see all cultures experience healthy and sustaining growth through holistic ministry.” Please familiarize yourself with www.mission-northamerica.com/intercultural-ministries.

- Appoint liaisons to evangelize different cultures within the local church.
- Encourage pastors to develop an Intercultural Ministry in the local church, enhancing opportunities to reach all cultures.
- Pray for and participate in International Intercultural Ministries events.
- Promote and utilize the resources of the Department of Intercultural Ministries in state programs and ministries.

SENIOR ADULT/SPIRIT CARE MINISTRY

2024-2026 Coordinators: Bishop Ritz & Dr. Corvena Denton

Overview

The Senior Adult/Spirit Care Ministry is a ministry that touches the heart of God. It is a ministry, which is part of the Center for Ministerial Care, with headquarters in Cleveland, Tennessee. The New Jersey State Spirit Care Ministries Leaders, **Bishop Ritz and Rev. Corvena Denton** along with the entire state office team are dedicated to provide assistance to retired ministers, their spouses and widows of the New Jersey COG.

Duties and Responsibilities of Coordinators

- Plan and organize a Seniors Gathering during Camp Meeting.
- Making personal contacts to each of the retirees and widows, making sure they are doing well and to give them encouragement.
- Providing special gifts during Christmas holidays, as well as, at other events.
- Agree to pray with and 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.
- To encourage all local pastors and churches in New Jersey give full financial support to the Reformation Offering for the month of October and that pastors and state leaders seek to identify, encourage and make use of the talents of retired ministers and their spouses through every means possible.
- Organize Senior Adult/Spirit Care Ministry events for Retired Ministers, Widows and Seniors
- Providing financial assistance when needed.
- Providing adoption programs for each of our retirees and widows for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, seeing that they are greatly blessed.

- Keeping our retired ministers informed quarterly, of events taking place throughout the NJCOG and in the lives of their peers, as well as the General Church.
- During the annual Ministers' Christmas Banquet all retired ministers and widows shall be honored with a Christmas Gift Honorarium or given a complimentary ticket to attend.

Local Church Senior Adult Support

- Special attention will be given to ministers to our retired ministers in New Jersey, and we encourage our pastors to be mindful of the vast resource of wisdom and experience that our retired ministers possess. Further, each pastor is encouraged to allow these seasoned ministers to assist them when needed.
- Each church is encouraged to adopt a retired minister or minister's widow and further is encouraged to support them monthly. Further, a list of these persons will be provided to local churches.

MINISTRY TO THE MILITARY

Overview

The Ministry to the Military exists to establish and maintain CARING New Testament fellowships, in

COOPERATION with a network of like-minded groups, in order to REACH ALL PEOPLE for Christ and to TRAIN leaders for the Kingdom. The State Administrative Bishop appoints a State Coordinator for the Ministry to the Military.

2024-2026 MINISTRY TO MILITARY

- Doug Adams
- Ralston Denton
- Chris Fraley

Duties and Responsibilities

- Encourage pastors to honor Armed Forces personnel within their congregations.
- Keep members informed of opportunities for fellowship while on active duty with the armed forces (Church of God Servicemen's Centers, Pentecostal fellowship groups and military contact churches, retreats in overseas areas).
- Encourage churches to sponsor an annual Ministry to Military Day.
- Encourage churches to support Church of God MTTM-- <https://mttm.org/>

LOCAL CHURCH OPERATIONS

CHURCH BUILDING PROGRAMS

No church shall be permitted to launch a building program until the program plans have been submitted to and approved by the District Overseer, State Building Advisory Committee, and the Administrative Bishop.

Additionally, no church may initiate a building program that would obligate it to monthly installment payments exceeding two percent (2%) of its gross tithes from the past twelve months, unless specifically authorized by the Administrative Bishop and State Council.

Deeds with reversion clauses must be referred to the Administrative Bishop and State Council before construction begins.

CHURCH TREASURER RESPONSIBILITIES

- **Church Treasurer Responsibility for Lead Pastor Expense Compensation**
 - Each Church Treasurer shall ensure that funds are allocated to support the pastor's attendance at the Regional Ministers' Meeting, Prayer Conference/Minister's Retreat, Camp Meeting, and the General Assembly.
 - To facilitate this, each church is encouraged to establish a Pastoral Expense Fund using one or more of the following methods:
 - A special offering collected each month.
 - A set weekly amount allocated from the General Fund.
 - A percentage of Sunday morning and evening offerings, as determined by the local church and council/elders (unless designated for another purpose).
 - The tithing of Sunday school offerings.
 - Surplus tithes, where available.
- **Treasurer Eligibility**
 - The spouse of a pastor shall not serve as the church treasurer. However, if no other qualified individual is available within the congregation, the pastor's spouse may be appointed as treasurer **only after discussion and approval by the State Overseer and the pastor.**

CHURCH PROPERTY DEEDS

All deeds for newly acquired local church property must be submitted to the State Office for approval before they are recorded in their respective counties. Copies of the Local Church Warranty Deed forms are available at the State Office.

CONSISTENCY IN REPORTING

The principle of local churches giving a tithe of their tithe for worldwide ministry has been a part of Church of God practice since its earliest days. As a scriptural principle (Genesis 14:18-20; 28:20-22; Malachi 3:10; Luke 11:42; 1 Corinthians 9:6-9; 16:2; Hebrews 7:1-21) and an approved program of the General Assembly, it provides a way for each local church to contribute to the worldwide ministry of the church. Through faithfulness and consistency in this practice, the local church extends its ministry far beyond its own borders and receives God's blessings in the same way that a church member's practice of tithing brings blessings into their personal life.

DELINQUENCY IN LOCAL CHURCH REPORTING

Where there is delinquency in local church reporting (reports and/or finances), the following procedures shall be followed:

- Two months delinquent – The District Overseer shall meet personally with the pastor to address and correct the issue.
- Three months delinquent – The Administrative Bishop shall convene a board of inquiry to investigate and make recommendations.
- Continued delinquency – A state board shall be appointed to consider filing appropriate charges.

If the investigation determines that the delinquency is the fault of the pastor, he or she shall not be considered for any appointment or position until proper arrangements have been made for the payment of delinquent funds.

DISORDERLY MINISTERS

“...where ministers have had their ministerial credentials revoked for any cause and engage in ministerial activities in opposition to the Church of God, that our ministers and members be considered disloyal in promoting his ministerial activities.”

— *General Assembly Minutes, 79th Section 30, pgs. 122-129.*

EXCLUDING MEMBERS

Before taking any action to exclude members, the local pastor shall notify the District Overseer no less than three weeks prior to the scheduled conference. Additionally, each pastor shall obtain approval from the State Overseer before dismissing members. We must follow a scriptural approach when excluding members.

FINANCIAL AID

All applications and/or requests for financial aid shall be made to the state office through the District Overseer of the respective district. All petitions to the State Council for financial assistance shall become void at the close of each assembly period, and if desired, must be resubmitted.

FINANCIAL AID TO ATTEND GENERAL AND STATE MEETINGS

We recommend that each church earmark funds toward an offering for their pastor to attend general and state meetings. These funds may be raised through Sunday School, Family Training Hour, Women’s Ministries, special offerings, and other sources.

LEAD PASTORS

- **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF PASTORS** Pastors are responsible for reporting to the District Overseer and Administrative Bishop any mortgage payments or other church financial obligations that are more than one month in arrears.
- **FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY** Every pastor shall be reminded that he/she is personally responsible for the “tithes of tithes” and Home Missions funds coming into their church. If these funds are spent for any other purpose, the pastor may be charged with misappropriation of funds.
- **EXPENSE COMPENSATION** Each local Church Treasurer and Pastor's Council/Elders shall

be notified that ALL MINISTERS are expected to attend and represent the local church at the Regional Ministers' Meeting, Prayer Conference/Minister's Retreat, Camp Meeting, and the General Assembly.

- We encourage local churches to ensure that their pastors are properly financially supported at such meetings. Each church is encouraged to establish a Pastoral Expense Fund. The following procedures for setting up such a fund shall be considered:
 - A special offering each month.
 - A set amount per week from the General Fund.
 - A percentage of all Sunday morning and Sunday evening offerings (the amount to be determined by the local church and council/elders), unless such offerings are designated for another purpose besides the support of the local church.
 - The tithing of Sunday school offerings.
 - The surplus tithes, where available.

Where funds are available, each church shall provide a parsonage (including utilities) or an adequate housing allowance for their pastor, and the church shall designate a portion of his/her income as a housing allowance.

- **PASTOR AND FAMILY APPRECIATION DAY** In addition to the pastoral weekly compensation outlined in the Church of God General Assembly Minutes Book, each church is encouraged to participate in the general church program of pastor appreciation by celebrating Pastor Appreciation Sunday each year on a date that is convenient for the local church and approved by the pastor.
- **PASTORAL CHANGE** The Administrative Bishop is required to fully inform any pastoral candidate of the current financial condition of the prospective church before finalizing the candidate's appointment.
 - *Handling Delinquent Funds* - When a local church has accumulated delinquent funds for which the current pastor is not responsible, the following procedures are recommended:
 - The Administrative Bishop or a committee appointed by him shall meet with the current pastor to assess the situation and make recommendations for an appropriate resolution using one of the following options:
 - Immediate payment
 - Payment plan
 - Partial payment with partial assistance
 - Full assistance (only when the above options have been exhausted, and the local church is unable to satisfy the delinquent debt within a maximum period of twelve months).
 - **NOTE:** There is no provision for the forgiveness of ministry-related debts. However, assistance may be provided through funds from:
 - An individual
 - Another local church
 - The State Office
 - International Headquarters
 - Any combination of the above
 - If all other sources for payment of delinquent funds have been exhausted,

the Administrative Bishop has the right to appeal to the Secretary General with a proposal for mutual participation in the payment of the accumulated delinquent funds. Furthermore, a Standing Committee of Action, chaired by the Secretary General, shall be appointed by the General Overseer to review and make the final decision on such proposals.

- Before a pastor moves to another church, they must furnish a financial report to the State Office and District Overseer. Report forms shall be provided by the State Office.
- Furthermore, before a pastor is granted a transfer to another church, an accurate report of all outstanding financial obligations (e.g., church payments, parsonage payments, outstanding notes, tithes to both General and State offices, etc.) shall be submitted to the Administrative Bishop and the incoming pastor.
- **RETIREMENT PLAN** The church should also provide adequate funds toward the pastor's Retirement Plan through the Church of God Benefits Board. Furthermore, pastors should encourage all ministers to participate in the same retirement plan.
- **VACATIONS** The Administrative Bishop suggests that each local church grant the pastor and his/her family at least two weeks of paid vacation each year. Additionally, it is recommended that the pastor receive a love offering. When the pastor is absent, it is advised that a Church of God minister or member fill the pulpit.

LEGAL CHURCH TRANSACTIONS

Church property deeds must be recorded, and locations and plans for new church buildings, parsonages, additions, or major remodeling projects shall be submitted to and approved by the State Administrative Bishop, State Council, and District Overseers, with periodic checks by the District Bishop. The State Council will serve as the State Building Committee and will use the New Jersey State Building Guidelines when approving all building programs, property purchases, and loans.

Each pastor shall familiarize himself/herself with the laws of the state of New Jersey before negotiating property transactions, electing trustees, and buying or selling church properties. All transactions must be approved by the Circuit Court in the county or city where the transaction is taking place, as well as by the State Office.

LOCAL CHURCH EVANGELISM

Special emphasis shall be placed on church membership by all pastors and evangelists. Opportunities for church membership shall be provided at least once a month in every church, in keeping with New Testament practice (Acts 2:47). Each church shall strive to increase its membership by at least 10% annually.

- An increase in church membership shall be stimulated by:
 - Frequent opportunities provided by the pastor
 - Cultivating potential candidates
 - Efforts toward member retention
 - Emphasis during revival campaigns
 - Distribution of suitable literature

Furthermore, each church shall set a goal to achieve a 10% increase in the following areas of ministry over the next two years:

- New Converts
- Baptism with the Holy Ghost with evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance
- Reaching Prodigals
- Water Baptism
- Tithing and Giving
- World Missions Giving
- New Churches Planted
- Sunday Morning Worship Attendance
- Sunday School Attendance
- Family Training Hour (F.T.H.)
- Training and Conservation

A concentrated effort shall be launched to reduce the high attrition rate of members through:

- Visitation of inactive members
- Consistent follow-up with new members
- New convert classes
- Mentorship and care by older church members
- Sound doctrinal teaching

Each church is encouraged to provide a training course in personal evangelism each year.

Each pastor shall emphasize the value of family worship and seek to establish a family altar with daily prayer and Bible reading in the homes of all members of the congregation.

Where possible, each local church should provide new converts with Your First Steps, a comprehensive guide for new Christians, available for order from Pathway Press.

PUBLICITY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

Churches should utilize all available advertising media, such as social media, newspapers, highway signs, hotel directories, and other relevant platforms.

Each church should display suitable identifying and directional signs.

RELOCATION OF MEMBERS

Whereas some Church of God members are required to relocate for employment, and whereas commuting is often impractical, consistent and regular church attendance is imperative for a balanced and wholesome Christian character, maturity, and fruitfulness.

We recommend that members who move to a new locality for employment be encouraged by the pastor of their former church to transfer their church membership to a Church of God congregation in their new location.

When members relocate, each pastor should visit the Church of God website (www.churchofgod.org), navigate to the directory, click on local churches, and assist the relocating member in finding a

Church of God congregation near their new home.

REPORTING AND RECORDS

All churches shall have a bank handle their financial transactions, and all disbursements shall be made by checks signed by both the pastor and the treasurer.

Ministers', Treasurers', and Women's Ministries' reports shall be mailed no later than the fifth (5th) of each month. The pastor shall give special attention to ensuring that reports are mailed on time, and any reports requiring his or her signature must be properly signed.

All checks, money orders, and other negotiable instruments for the State Office shall be made payable to New Jersey Church of God. Churches are encouraged to send all special offerings or designated funds to the State Office along with the church treasurer's monthly report.

Each pastor must ensure that the 5% tithe of tithes is submitted by the fifth (5th) of each month. Furthermore, the use of 5% tithe funds for any other purpose will be considered misappropriation of funds.

REVIVALS AND SOUL-WINNING EMPHASIS

- Each church shall pray for revival and make every effort to bring the church to a state of revival through relationships and friendship evangelism events.
- Each church shall strive to hold at least two revivals or special evangelistic weekend events per year.
- Each church is encouraged to participate in the National Revival Thrust, beginning on Palm Sunday and continuing through Pentecost Sunday.
- Church members are encouraged to participate in a Family Revival in November each year, with the goal of leading our children and extended family members to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

STATE OFFICIAL EXPENSE AND HONORARIUM

When the State Overseer, State Director of Youth and Discipleship, or District Overseer makes an official visit to a church, it is recommended that an offering be received to assist in defraying their expenses and honoring their ministry.

TITHE REDUCTION MEASURE

That each church in the state continues to forward to the state office a percentage that is **1% above** the amount being sent to General Headquarters.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION IN REGARD TO PERCENTAGE OF TITHES TO THE STATE OFFICE

Whereas the Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ commits us, as a church, to the evangelization of the world, and

Whereas the Church of God in the state of New Jersey is responsible before God for the evangelization of the people of this state, and

Whereas the church is committed to this evangelization through the establishment of new churches in each community, and

Whereas evangelism is a costly endeavor, requiring the support of new churches and addressing vital concerns, and

Whereas the Church of God in the state of New Jersey is not financially strong enough to fully underwrite the work of evangelism,

Be it resolved that we, the ministers of the Church of God in New Jersey, adopt the following measure:

RESOLUTION IN REGARD TO SUNDAY SCHOOL

WHEREAS, Sunday School has proven to be the most effective teaching tool of the church in fulfilling Jesus' command to "teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you"; and

WHEREAS, according to Deuteronomy 31:12-13, God instructed Moses to gather the people so they could hear, learn, and observe to do all the words of the Law; and

WHEREAS, teaching the Word of God protects people from doctrinal error and deception, which lead to spiritual captivity and destruction; and

WHEREAS, during the reign of Josiah, the Book of the Law was found in the house of the Lord, and spiritual renewal came when the people were assembled for its reading (2 Kings 22-23);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Church of God reaffirms its commitment to the ministry of Sunday School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we continue to implement new methodologies of imparting God's Word as it relates to the daily life of believers in changing times.

RESOLUTION IN REGARD TO MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENTS

WHEREAS, the ministers of this state desire to promote unity and harmony among all; and

WHEREAS, according to Romans 12:10, we are encouraged to "love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor"; and

WHEREAS, we have engaged in lengthy discussions on promoting harmony and unity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that all credentialed ministers in the New Jersey Church of God shall adhere to the practice of notifying their Lead Pastor prior to accepting ministerial engagements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Lead Pastors should also extend the same courtesy to one another.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: Child and Youth Sexual Abuse

Lawsuits against ministers and churches related to the sexual abuse of minors are increasing. This is a critical issue that every pastor and lay leader must become more informed about.

I urge every pastor and church to immediately begin taking steps to make the church a safe environment free from child sexual abuse. Most lawsuits in these cases are based on the negligence of the church and/or pastor in screening and supervising workers.

The first step every church should take is to develop a proper application form for all church workers. It is essential that the application includes two legal questions regarding:

1. *A conviction record*
2. *A child abuse conviction*

For the protection of the church and its members, every church worker—whether volunteer or compensated—must complete a screening form. This requirement applies to:

- *Current church workers*
- *New applicants seeking to become workers in the church*

Individuals working with children and youth should undergo a more detailed interview process.

If a person has been convicted of sexual abuse of a minor, they must never be allowed to work with children or youth in any capacity.

A complete background check should be conducted for anyone seeking to work with minors. One recommended screening service is [Protect My Ministry](https://www.protectmyministry.com). <https://www.protectmyministry.com>

This background check should also include direct communication with pastors from churches where the applicant previously attended.

STATEMENT OF PLEDGE

WHEREAS, the Church of God was conceived in a spirit of prayer and revival, and

WHEREAS, the Church of God has been nurtured through the years by the infallible truth of God's Word, and

WHEREAS, the Church of God has been empowered by the Holy Spirit and commissioned to share the full gospel message with a lost and dying world, and

WHEREAS, the Church of God stands at the threshold of the imminent return of our Savior,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that we, the ministers and laity of the New Jersey Church of God, pledge to dedicate the next two years to a life of prayer, fasting, Bible study, and godly living in order to bring revival to individual hearts, families, and churches throughout this area.

