

CHURCHRIGHT

Convention
Edition

Call to Convention

Dear Conference Member:

Issuing this Call to Convention is one responsibility I dearly look forward to every two years. My delight is no doubt motivated by the images convention evokes: gathering of old friends, like an unending family reunion; exciting fellowship; rich worship, featuring our best preaching and teaching; workshops and seminars; meal functions and afterglows; the recasting of vision; ministry highlights and business sessions. These are reasons I'd attend biennial conventions even if our bylaws didn't require it.

Therefore, I am pleased to extend this official invitation to the members and friends of the General Conference to attend the 2011 Biennial Convention, July 18-23, at the Pheasant Run Resort and Spa, St. Charles, Illinois (about 45 miles west of Chicago).

This central location, accessible through Chicago's O'Hare and Midway airports, and the hotel's family-friendly facilities (beautiful grounds, gardens, golf courses, and other amenities) were selected to make this convention accessible, affordable, and enjoyable. Restaurants and shopping outlets within walking distance, area attractions, and planned outdoor activities are yours to enjoy at this unique venue.

Using the theme "Amazing Love," the Planning Committee is putting together a rich variety of activities and events for you and your family, a weeklong program you won't want to miss. This calls to mind the familiar verse "He has brought me to his banquet hall, and his banner over me is love" (Song of Solomon 2:4, NASB), anticipating a week of banqueting in St. Charles, under the banner of love.

Doing conventions right. The General Conference is blessed with a polity that allows every voting member of the Church to participate in its business sessions, a privilege that should not be taken for granted. One item to be voted on in July is the frequency of conventions. Should we continue to meet biennially or move to a triennial or quadrennial sequence? This and other items of similar importance slated for the agenda deserve broad input and should not default to a handful of attendees.

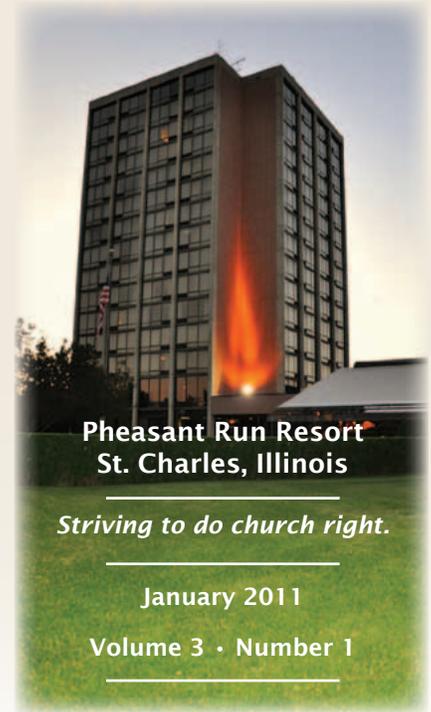
In addition, the last two conventions have operated at a financial loss due to low attendance, mainly triggered by the economy. This negatively impacts our faithful stewardship of Conference funds, so the current Planning Committee is taking careful measures to ensure a better outcome this time around. But only you can do your part. If you attended the Overland Park and Corpus Christi conventions, thank you and welcome to St. Charles in advance. If you missed either or both of the last two, I especially urge your attendance this time. Let's "do conventions right" by maximizing attendance, closing the books in the black, and continuing a cherished tradition.

To help you plan effectively, this issue of *Churchright* is mostly dedicated to convention information. I look forward to seeing you in St. Charles and welcome you on behalf of the Planning Committee and Board of Directors.

— *Whaid Rose*
General Conference President



General Conference
Church of God (Seventh Day)





Registration

What you can expect



General Conference Convention

July 18 -23, 2011

Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Illinois

Early Bird (<i>before June 20, 2011</i>):	<i>After June 20, 2011:</i>
Adults: \$50	Adults: \$80
Youth: \$40	Youth: \$65
Children: \$20	Children: \$30

For registration forms, please call (303) 452-7973, e-mail convention_info@cog7.org, or visit convention.cog7.org.

Register at the CoG7 convention site or by regular mail **first**, then register for the hotel room. For room reservations, follow the link on our site to ensure you get the convention rate (\$85/night), or call Pheasant Run directly at 800-999-3319. Be sure to ask for the Church of God in July.

- Morning workshops that will **equip** you for ministry. Choose from tracks on Ministry Within the Home, Ministry Within the Church, and Ministry Within Our World. These workshops will give you biblical foundations and practical applications so you can more effectively minister when you return home.
- General sessions that will **excite** you. The Church of God (Seventh Day) has a lot to offer to our communities and our world. General sessions will remind us of the exciting opportunities before us and why we are a part of this church.
- Afternoon business meetings that will **engage** you. You have the unique opportunity to be a part of the business of this church. Come and participate. Don't leave the decision-making to someone else!
- Evening services that will **encourage** you. Come expecting revival! Evening services will focus on God's Amazing Love, coming down to us through the gift of His Son and transforming us for a life of holiness and service.
- Reunions, fellowship, and relaxation that will **energize** you. See the sights, play some golf, or relax by one of three pools. Leave convention ready to do the work God has called you to do!

Our hope is that during this time together we can examine and feel God's amazing love in both old and new ways. We want to explore not only what His love looks like as it reaches down to us but also what it looks like when it transforms our lives. This Amazing Love calls us to holiness and service. It is this kind of love that allows families to blossom, past hurts to heal, torn churches to unite, and ordinary individuals to do extraordinary things!

Hope to see you there!

— *Elroy Jr. (Nugget) and Sue Gold*
2011 Convention Co-Directors

Memory Bank

I began attending campmeetings in Stanberry and Denver as a child. They grew to General Conference Conventions, and I believe I've attended most — if not all! When I was a child, we got to “take a trip” and meet family from California in Denver. We visited Red Rocks and Tiny Town together. Conventions had a great children's program, and my Auntie Rose Dais used to lead the children's choir. After we attended SVA, convention was the best place to meet our friends and relatives during the summers.

As adults, we always look forward to attending conventions. We have learned a lot about the business side of the General Conference and appreciate having a voice by voting. The seminars we've attended have helped our personal lives. I think of Mary Jean Knoll presenting “Love and Logic.” We were awed by her presentation and looked forward to using the principles she shared.

— *Elizabeth Carlin Keim*

There is something special about conference friendships, especially when you develop those friendships as children. At the 1987 and 1989 conventions in Denver, Colorado, Catherine Keim Falvey, Kiley Dais Bliss, and I bonded as we punctuated “I Am a C” with jumps into the pool, played cards on the balcony, and explored the hotel together.

— *Amber Mann Riggs*

Dad and Mom made it a point for our family to attend each convention. We thoroughly loved when convention time came around. It was an opportunity to interact in various set-

tings with a very large group of youth, and it really encouraged me. It was an opportunity to connect with young people from all over the country, and those friendships remain today.

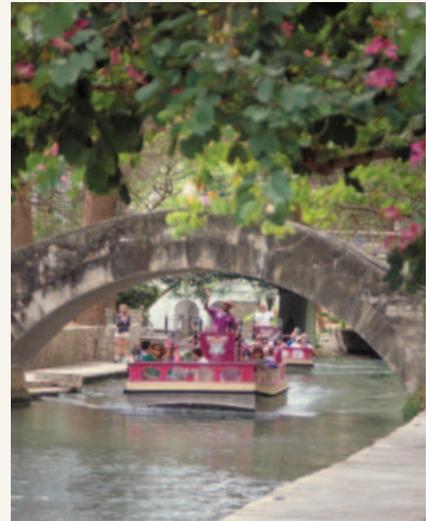
Now, as an adult, I enjoy the added effects of ministry and business at conventions, to see firsthand how the local church affects the Church on a district and national levels.

Conventions are a welcome encouragement to me. They have now become important to my children.

— *Dennis O'Banion*

I remember about 1963 when there was a huge thunderstorm at the old campground in Denver. Our shoes were floating in the tent after service. That year I bought a Bible from Leroy Dais at the bookstore. I still have it. Rose Dais was the children's choir director, and as a kid, I sang on Sabbath for everyone.

— *Harold Ogren*



This photo was taken at a past G. C. Convention. Can you name the location?

What do you remember about past conventions? Go to convention.cog7.org and click on Convention Memories. Also read the full text of these memories and others.



Planning Committee and support staff. Back row (L to R): Ken and Elizabeth Keim, Whaid Rose, Charles Carr, Elroy (Nugget) Gold, Vona and Harold Ogren, Dennis O'Banion. Middle row (L to R): Marjolene Rose, Sue Gold, Natasha Bobcombe, Natalie Garcia. Front row (L to R): Ray Bobcombe and Miguel Garcia. Not pictured: Abe Endecott

Conference-wide Prayer and Fasting Annual Prayer Initiative



January 15 – February 5, 2011

Prayer Guide distributed to local churches with this issue of Churchright. Also available at <http://cog7.org/>.



Visit *www.pheasantrun.com* to see all that Pheasant Run Resort offers. But remember, use the link from our site to actually register.



North American Women's Ministry

Helping women effectively fulfill their roles in the life and ministry of the Church.

January is NAWM Emphasis

Support Women's Ministry, strengthen the G. C.