2017 Biennial Report
General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day)
Convention in Springfield, Illinois, July 3-8
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Welcome to Convention!

The biennial conventions of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) are incredibly significant to us. They stand as markers in time. For those of us who remember when our conventions were called campmeetings, and then conferences, the biennial conventions serve as a quick reference to our own histories. We remember not only the year and location of each convention but also our ages, circumstances, and interests at the time we attended them. Like old songs heard on the radio, thoughts of past conventions open the floodgates of memory.

This year’s convention will be remembered as being different because our schedule calls for both morning and afternoon business sessions. Our membership made this decision during our last convention. When we were unable to complete consideration of a proposed Bylaws revision during the 2015 convention, the membership decided to devote itself almost completely to business during our 2017 convention so we would have sufficient time to finish that process. May God grant us a spirit of grace and cooperation to succeed in this effort!

Extended business sessions are not the only reason this convention will be memorable. As always, wonderful times of worship and fellowship are also planned. There will be special meals and special programs for children, teenagers, young adults, and senior adults. Additionally, we are in Springfield, Illinois — Abraham Lincoln’s hometown — surrounded by history!

I invite and encourage you to fully participate. Catch up with old friends and make new ones. Worship with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength: Worthy is the Lamb! Listen, learn, and let your own voice be heard as a member of our church. Visit the local sites! Take full advantage of the opportunities this convention provides, and it, too, will be the source of wonderful memories for the rest of your life.

From the Executive Director

God has blessed the Church of God (Seventh Day) with a rich heritage of faithful servants committed to Christ, to His truth, and to His grace. Jesus gives our lives eternal meaning through His sacrifice. His Great Commission endows us with an eternal purpose. We’re grateful for those who have led us to Christ, and we’re grateful that God is pleased to work through us to lead others to Him.

To be good leaders, we must be good followers. We follow the leading of His Spirit to participate in His sacrificial grace. The blessings are in the sacrifices. As we give His love to others, we feel His presence within us. Joy floods our hearts, deepening our passion for worship and our compassion for service.

I’m pleased to be serving our church with President Stacy and all of you as we work together to become a vibrant 21st century church.
Welcome to our 2017 Biennial Convention! We are excited to greet you here in Springfield and pray you will experience wonderful worship and fellowship.

We are grateful to God for the dedicated service of so many individuals who make our week together possible. As we gather from around the world, we celebrate the worth of the Lamb who was slain for our redemption.

Our partnership as a conference of congregations in the United States and Canada calls us to meet every two years. This biennial meeting is unique because of the resolution approved by the membership in business at the last convention. Special thanks to the various committee members who devoted their time and talents to prepare for this meeting. Everything we do this week relies on this preliminary work and would not be possible apart from the efforts of these members.

We anticipate the guidance of the Holy Spirit in every aspect of our program during this convention. Join us in prayer for a successful and uplifting time.

May our God be lifted high!

From the Board Treasurer

The General Conference board of directors is pleased to report that over the past two years, the ongoing financial support through friends, members, churches, and districts has continued to be strong. The General Conference also has been blessed during this period with some unexpected sources of financial support, for which we praise God.

These financial resources, along with the support of every member, church, and district within the Conference, have allowed our organization to continue and thrive in the ongoing work of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. They have also strengthened our individual members and local churches.

Through its ongoing financial commitment and investment in Artios Christian College, the board of directors also remains committed to the spiritual growth of its general membership — and specifically to those pursuing greater leadership in full-time ministry. The board believes that our future rests in both a biblically literate laity and a biblically sound clergy.

For your convenience, financial reports and summaries are on the General Conference’s website (cog7.org) to view and download.

The board wishes to express its enthusiastic gratitude for the Lord’s provision and for your ongoing prayers for and financial support of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day). Thank you!
During the 2015-2017 biennium, LifeSpring School of Ministry made a strategic decision to rebrand as Artios Christian College. In addition to the advantages of trademarking, the name *Artios* (a Greek word from the New Testament that speaks of equipping, training, and perfecting) reflects our unique approach to equipping leaders for a vibrant 21st century church.

Anyone who follows Christ influences others, and that makes them a leader. Artios Christian College is a college for Christians who want to influence their families, churches, communities, and workplaces to more closely reflect God's heart and plan for the world of the 21st century church. Artios equips Christians to be vibrant leaders — through flexible programs, financially responsible courses, and other focused resources that lay a three-fold foundation of biblical theology, restoration, and missional engagement.

To learn more about this transition and what it means for students, visit [www.artioscollege.org](http://www.artioscollege.org).

**Leadership training**

Artios now offers three Christian Leadership programs: a bachelor of arts in Christian Leadership, an associate of Christian Leadership, and certificate of Leadership Studies. Because our entire curriculum is curated around a three-fold framework of vibrant Christian leadership, these concepts are intentionally interwoven through every course that Artios offers.

Also new this year is an introductory course entitled LEA 111 Essentials of Vibrant Leadership. Free resources and articles are frequently made available through [artiosmagazine.org](http://artiosmagazine.org). In the past biennium, we also provided local training in both English and Spanish via Seminar Series Events and EQUIP Weekends.

**Our students**

At present, there are 126 students enrolled in Artios, with plans to double enrollment by convention 2019. Our student body is diverse, with men and women from across North America and a growing number of international enrollees. Following demographic trends in the Conference, we are now a predominantly Spanish-speaking institution, with 55 percent of students enrolled in our Spanish program and 45 percent in English. Female enrollment is up to 20 percent as we continually seek to equip every member of Christ’s body for their unique leadership roles.

Since July 2015, 35 students have graduated from one of our programs. Our graduates continue to fill the ranks of the North American Ministerial Council, with more than one out of three active CoG7 pastors having graduated from LifeSpring/Artios since 2009. LifeSpring graduates also serve at the Conference, district, and local levels as ministry leaders, board members, teachers, worship leaders, youth/young adult workers, and missionaries, as well as in numerous other capacities.

We want to thank all those who have supported Artios through prayer, financial partnership, and service. We could not do what we do without your generous support and the tireless work of our staff and faculty. Your partnership powers our mission to equip leaders for a vibrant 21st century church. Thank you!
Mexico, Central and South America: CoG7's growth in this part of the world continues under the strong leadership of zone reps Carlos Ceron (Mexico) and Jorge Gillig (Argentina). Cristo Viene funds nine missionaries here, adding a worker in Ecuador in 2016 and planning to support an evangelist in Panama.

SHINE completed two medical and dental missions in Colombia, Mexico, and Costa Rica, helping grow churches in these countries. Its next mission will be in Peru later this year.

On two different occasions, members of Pioneer Missionary Training (PMT) participated in evangelistic outreach and training in Mexico City, Mexico. It plans to return this December.

Furthermore, the quadrennial meeting of CoG7's International Ministerial Congress (IMC) took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 10-15, 2016, with 31 countries represented — a historic high. Five new member nations were admitted.

Africa: Now represented in eighteen countries on this continent, the Church, led by zone rep Robert Crawford (England), is growing. Significant orphans and widows ministries continue in Kenya, Sierra Leone, and Zambia. Projects such as agriculture, heavy equipment and business training, mills, and higher education, sustain the long-term growth of the Church and its ministries here. We also supplied our literature to train leaders and introduce them to the Church.

Recently, a church was planted in Mozambique, and we helped officially register the Church in Rwanda. A congress for Africa is scheduled for August 2018 in Ghana.

Asia and Oceania: Led by Jacob Rao (India) and Phil Kordahi (Australia), we have added new orphans and widows ministries in Nepal, Pakistan, and Myanmar. Projects have been implemented, including sewing education and equipment for widows (Pakistan), as well as fishponds and agriculture to support long-term church needs and growth (Myanmar). We assisted Jacob Rao to train new pastors in Nepal and to legally register the Church in that country. Cristo Viene sponsorships continue to India, Pakistan, and Indonesia, where 80+ pastors receive ministry support. A Bible seminary was constructed and opened in Faisalabad, Pakistan (now with 60 students), and a second has been opened in Karachi, with nearly 150 students. We continue to support the Bible seminary in Myanmar, with nine graduates thus far.

Europe and North America: With G. C. Missions assistance, the church in the Caribbean Island of Barbados was planted and registered. We helped facilitate a zone leadership meeting in Europe with representatives from seven European countries attending. Bryan Cleeton and Robert Crawford visited Poland and brethren there, representing a number of eastern European countries interested in future collaboration.

G. C. Missions assisted in planning and translating This We Believe, which has been completed in four new languages: Portuguese, French, Burmese (Myanmar), and Urdu (Pakistan). Official visits by G. C. Missions personnel (Bryan Cleeton, Brian Baker, Tom Benzen, and Calvin Burrell) were made to Myanmar, England, Poland, Argentina, Kenya, Uruguay, Zimbabwe, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.

Our G. C. Missions team includes Brian Baker (Widows and Orphans), Ernesto Frausto (SHINE), Monico and Martha Muffley (Pioneer Missionary Training), Ramon Ruiz (Cristo Viene, IMC), Calvin Burrell (associate director), and Bryan Cleeton (director).
For the past 150+ years, Publications has faithfully produced literature that has ministered to millions at home and abroad. The heartbeat behind the Bible Advocate, Churchright, Bible curriculum, tracts, and promotional materials is to meet the spiritual needs of people and help them grow in their knowledge of God's Word. And for over 20 years, our online publication, Now What?, has touched an audience that our print publications cannot reach, sharing the truths of Jesus and His power to change lives.

Our methods of publishing and distribution have changed dramatically since the early days. For example, a number of countries continue to use an electronic version of the adult quarterly lessons to print quantities that meet their specific needs.

A big change is on the horizon. Starting with the fourth quarter 2017, all quarterly orders will be made through the online bookstore at cog7.org. This change was made necessary because of unpaid invoices on the Bible Advocate Press books.

In addition to these different approaches, Publications continues to make strides. Last biennium, our children's Sabbath school curriculum completed the three-year cycle for the intermediate and primary class programs. This biennium, we can add preschool to the completed list.

Since the last convention, BA Online, Now What?, and Churchright Online have all received a much-needed facelift, thanks to Christopher Idemmili in the G. C. office. Facebook also allows the Publications staff to interact with readers and offer links to online “extras” not found in the print BA. One of those special features — the Lord's Supper Reflections — enjoyed great success online in 2016 and 2017.

This far-reaching ministry would not be possible without a dedicated staff: Jason Overman, editor; Sherri Langton, associate editor (BA, Now What?, adult quarterlies, other literature); Allan Stroupe, pressman; Martha Muffley, data entry clerk; Sylvia Corral, Spanish translation; Dana Jensen, associate editor (children and youth curriculum); Kyle Michalak, bindery and Internet maintenance.

Where will we be in the next 150+ years? No one can say. But if the Lord tarries, Publications will still be spreading the gospel through the printed and online word by whatever means available.
Our district lost one of our largest congregations, reducing the number of churches to three, with a total membership of 177. Each congregation grew steadily in membership over the period, and they all now own their own properties. Our pastors embraced the TVR vision, with a strong focus on discipleship, so I have no doubt those numbers will be changed soon.

**Financial report**

Income: $29,634.30; expenses: $28,337.46; net income: +$1,296.84.

**Events and ministries**

Our district conference was held in Kingston, Ontario, in June 2016, on the theme “One Church.” Guest speakers were President Loren Stacy and Executive Director Jody McCoy. Both spoke with special emphasis on TVR.

Special acknowledgments were given to individuals who have served the district board or other ministries in excess of ten years: Pastor Samuel Holland and wife Maria (Hamilton, Ontario) for service on the board; Pastor Baltazar Galan and wife Isabel for over 20 years of leadership in the Montreal church; and sister Marjorie McLaughlin, women’s leader (NAWM).

**New appointments**

Ministerial rep: Aubrey Williams (pastor); youth/young adult: Jaime Ward, John Onita. Area 1 has an active translating team in French/Spanish.

Various activities took place in our district, such as Super Sabbaths, Bible quiz, Seniors Day, Women’s Day, Youth Day, picnic at the park, and the men’s winter retreat. We also participated in community activities, such as a food bank, visits to institutions, a back-to-school program, and scholarship funding.

The leadership team consists of Leeroy Williams, superintendent; Verna Burnett, secretary; Carmen Mejia, assistant; Janine Williams-Ward, women’s ministry; Jaime Ward, youth/young adult; John Onita, assistant. Board members are Leeroy Williams, chairman; Daniel Urizar, Area 1; John Onita, Area 2; Monique Webb, Area 3; Aubrey Williams (pastor), ministerial rep.

**Congregational leaders**

Samuel Santos, pastor; Aldori Urizar, assistant - Quebec; Aubrey Williams, pastor - Etobicoke; Samuel Holland, pastor; Richard Palmer, assistant - Hamilton.

**Looking ahead**

Our 2018 conference is a work in progress, focusing on training and development so more ministers can meet future expansion in church planting. We want to have at least two pastors’ meetings per year so we can foster a united front in pooling ideas to help each other in congregational growth and development.
Western Canada District

The Western Canada District covers the provinces of Manitoba to British Columbia. Membership with the General Conference is primarily facilitated through three congregations in Alberta, Parkland, Acme, and Calgary, supplemented by a distribution of members-at-large across the prairies. The majority of the members-at-large are located in British Columbia.

District leaders

Superintendent: Orville Rose. Board members: Oran Shapitka - Parkland; Robert Grabinsky - Acme; Hector Renderos - Calgary; Vera Popik - secretary/treasurer; Sandy Shapitka, District Women’s Ministries

Congregational leaders

Pastor John Camero - Parkland, Alberta; Pastor Orville Rose - Calgary/Acme Alberta; Elder Hector Renderos - Calgary Spanish Church. (Retired ministers: Adolf Dietterle - Parkland; Nick Nimchuk - Medicine Hat)

Activities

Over the past two years, we have spent time finding ways to prepare and adjust to adapting the demographically oriented ministries to district oversight. To prepare us for these changes, we hosted a weekend EQUIP seminar in Red Deer, Alberta, directed by Israel Steinmetz. Our main activities are centered on the objectives of the General Conference, and our endeavor is to highlight the vibrant 21st century church, Transforming Vision into Reality (TVR).

The springboard for TVR in the district was through the Christ Centered/Spirit Formed themes at the Calgary Super Sabbath, with President Loren Stacy as guest speaker/presenter.

The district hosts three Super Sabbaths every year in the main congregations, desiring to maintain a strong sense of fellowship to build up each other.

These activities demonstrate that the Western Canada District is strongly connected to the General Conference. Messages and presentations are well received as district initiatives, along with TVR goals, encourage maximum attendance and participation. Each congregation is finding unique and challenging ways of using the TVR posters and booklets to reach the goal of being a Christ-centered church.

Looking ahead

As we continue to face the challenges and transitions in the future, the district is earmarking funds to host more seminars this coming year, budgeting for brethren to attend Artios College as a means of equipping district leadership. The waning strength of the Canadian dollar still poses challenges. Our determination to foster better G. C. relations strengthens our resolve to find acceptable solutions, some of which include, but are not limited to, inter-district activities.
The Central District is made up of twelve states and 30+ local churches. This district has again gone through some transition in the change of its superintendent. Glen Palmer asked to be replaced due to health reasons, and Kenneth Lawson was appointed as his replacement. Ken began serving May 1, 2016. This is a report of the district since that time.

Those serving

Sandra Lawson works as administrative assistant. Besides considerable office management, Sandra is the ministry coordinator for our ministries involving youth camps and young adult, men's, women's, family, and marriage retreats. These ministries are sponsored in four cluster areas of churches in the district, and of those serving in these activities, over 20 are new appointments.

The district board consists of Steve Kyner (ministerial rep), David Nienhuis, Ruben Arzet, David Babbitt, and Kevin Lewin. (Kevin also serves as our budget director.) The district has approved a new apportionment, and a new board member will be added with an election in the North Chicago area and in Wisconsin this fall.

New churches

It has been a joy for the Central District to welcome aboard several new churches and missions in 2016-17: Worthington, Minnesota; Huron, South Dakota; Des Moines, Iowa; Calumet, Rockford, and Zion, Illinois; Plainfield, Wisconsin; and one almost ready in Lexington, Nebraska. These new groups are ready to participate in the district and in the General Conference financial plan. They are certainly a bright spot in our work.

Activities and events

A notable event was a large baptism in Chicago, with 24 additions to the family of God! Super Sabbaths were enjoyed in Fargo, St. Joseph, Kansas City, Springfield, and Chicago; 530+ attended one at the Elgin local church. The district added 116 new members in 2016-17. We continue to sponsor men taking classes at Artios who are seeking pastor documentation.

Goals for 2017-18

Continue to add several new churches interested in being a part of the district, and meet the goal of a church plant in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; complete the dream of our district ministries serving our membership and their friends. Having all our local churches active in the Transforming Vision into Reality and becoming a vibrant 21st century church is at the very heart of our work.
Northeast District

The Northeast District (NED) has 1,031 G. C. members in 30 congregations in Connecticut, Indiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Sixteen churches are English speaking (eleven Anglo and five African American) and 14 Spanish speaking. Number of congregations above 250 G. C. members: one (Lanham, Maryland); above 50: four; below 50: nine; and below 25: 16. The average weekly Sabbath attendance in the NED is 1,550.

Finances

The last two fiscal years, the NED had a total income of $661,000; $408,000 was pass-through funds for the General Conference, and $253,000 was fair share funds for the district. The profit and loss for this biennium at the district level was as follows: income: $253,000; expenses: $390,000; difference: ($137,000).

Accomplishments

Introducing Transforming Vision into Reality was emphasized throughout the district in 2016, with Super Sabbaths and leadership meetings. President Loren Stacy and Executive Director Jody McCoy spent time in Michigan, New Jersey, and Maryland reaching most of our membership. As a result, 24 congregations of the 30 in the district have completed the 2016 Annual Assessment of Churches. TVR is indeed an ongoing effort throughout our district as “one church” with the rest of the General Conference and with a common thread through TVR materials, Sabbath school quarterlies, Bible Advocate, and Churchright.

Many membership applications were submitted to the G. C. office, as several were baptized throughout the NED in the last two years.

Church plant efforts in Morristown, New Jersey, and Ossining, New York, are bearing great fruit. Two small groups in Waterbury, Connecticut, are working with the NED and may become affiliated soon. A church plant effort in the Indianapolis, Indiana area was launched this year.

New church properties were acquired, renovated, and dedicated in Connecticut and New Jersey. Some existing properties have been renovated in Massachusetts, New York, and Virginia, and some congregations are acquiring new property in New York and Virginia. Some congregations are building new sanctuaries on their property in Maryland and Virginia.

Spending more than income received during the last two fiscal years was intentional. We used funds in various ways, such as paying salaries for seven people; subsidizing salary for a pastor; establishing district youth/young adult and women’s ministries; and planning events like Super Sabbaths, retreats, camps, and church development endeavors. The investment has paid off!

Leadership team

Twelve committed individuals serve the NED: Heber Vega, superintendent; Rex Miller, ministerial rep; Kirk Grant, regional superintendent for Area III; Lyle Kendrick, youth/young adult ministry director; Esther Winchell, secretary and women’s ministry director; Dawn Wayman, treasurer; and area reps Jacob Argueta, Oneil Barrett, Victor Brown, Marna Renteria, John Schott, and Tom Winchell.
The Southeast District has 42 churches and missions, from Kentucky to Florida. Since last convention, we have welcomed two new churches in Atlanta, Georgia — Grace Fellowship Ministries and NW Atlanta Church of God (Seventh Day) — and established a new mission church in Louisville, Kentucky. We have met with an additional three churches in hopes they will eventually join the General Conference.

Our area representatives are as follows: Area 1 - Kenneth Pell; Area 2 - Devon Simmons; Area 3 - Darrel Walters; Northern Hispanic - Ismael Martinez; Southern Hispanic - Jaime Reyes; and ministerial rep - Al Haynes. We welcomed new ministry directors during these last two years: Darrel Walters (men), Dorothy Ray (women), and Bani and Rachel Verona (youth).

During 2016 we held five major events. One hundred men met for three days in April at Lake Placid, Florida, for their annual retreat. Another retreat has been planned for this year in September at the same location, and we anticipate 150 men will attend. In May 2016 we held our first Youth Leader Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. Forty church youth leaders came together for three days to learn and plan for future district-sponsored youth retreats. This conference was held in Oldsmar, Florida, in April of this year.

In August 2016, we held our annual Church Leaders Conference in Jacksonville, Florida. One hundred leaders and wives came together for a weekend to hear Jody McCoy give the TVR presentation, along with the State of the District report. They also enjoyed several team-building exercises. The same event is scheduled for August this year, to be held in Oldsmar, Florida.

The women's retreat in September 2016 was the first one held in this district in over ten years. Under the direction of Dorothy Ray, over 200 women met in Oldsmar, Florida. Plans are to meet in December this year in High Springs, Florida, with the goal of over 250 women attending.

Finally, over 180 youth met in December for the first district-sponsored youth retreat in Eustis, Florida. This year they plan to meet in December in Parrish, Florida, and hope to have over 200 youth participate.

As the district and its leaders and members mature and grow together, we will see many more exciting events in the future. Some of our plans include expanded district ministry involvement and family-themed events, along with services to assist our district leaders and members. The future is bright for the Southeast District!
Southwest District

The Southwest District (SWD) is composed of more than 90 congregations in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Weekly attendance is around 4,000 people, with a membership of over 2,000. Baptisms and the addition of memberships have been consistent and continual.

About ten new congregations have been added during the last two years, and there are several active initiatives to establish new congregations.

Our 2017 operating budget is $155,872. That does not include G. C. CoG7 15 percent of tithe or designated offerings.

Special events and ministries

These include Transforming Vision Into Reality events; Regional Leadership Conferences; multi-congregational Super Sabbaths; and local/regional and district retreats for family camps. Youth, SWORD, women’s, men’s, couples, and seniors ministries keep the calendar full and provide regular congregational and member interaction. This year’s Leadership Conferences focused on SWD Media Ministry, Artios Christian College, pastors, leadership, and Transforming Vision into Reality presentations.

The SWD has added HOPE Ministries to the district ministry list. HOPE is an acronym for Homes, Opportunities, Projects, and Education. Five homes have been secured for families to this point. Numerous other projects are underway and in process of being undertaken. The district’s newest addition, Media Ministry, utilizes a web page and Facebook. We are pursuing building a children’s ministry to improve children’s education, with better trained teachers and material resources, as well as providing special children’s events. Other bright spots are the area pastors groups in most areas and the SWD leadership schools.

Leadership team

Superintendent: Clyde Chip Hinds; assistant superintendent: Manuel Salazar; treasurer: Joyce Gold; secretary: Mary Hinds. District board: Area 1 - Ivan Villeda; Area 2 - Ruben Marquez Jr.; Area 3 - Francisco Camarillo; Area 4 - Don Lawson; Area 5 - Manuel Salazar; Area 6 - Francisco Arroyos; Area 7 - Misael Ibarra; ministerial rep - Daniel Flores. SWD ministry coordinators: youth - Jason and Rose Rodriguez; SWORD - Dan and Jacqueline Melgoza; women - Rosie Davila; men - Sergio Alfaro; seniors - Allan Burlison; marriage - Joe and Claudia Acosta; HOPE - David Burrell and Martin Ramirez; media - Jamin Teran. SWD schools of leadership: Francisco Javier Ramirez, Noe Reyes/Daniel Flores, and Jhabel Chagollan.

New goals

Develop leaders sufficient to provide leadership for 400 congregations by 2026.

Continuing ambitions: Establish congregations in strategic locations so one can be reached in less than an hour; help called leaders become documented ministers to serve as pastors of local congregations; develop an empowered network of motivated leaders pursuing a common vision and united in purpose a) to fulfill their missions and b) to provide successors who can stand on their shoulders to reach greater heights.
Within the West Coast District there are currently 53 churches, Sabbath schools, or missions. Our area representatives are as follows: Area 1 - Tim Fauth (Wapato, Washington); Area 2 - Kevin Crowson (Junction City, Oregon); Area 3 - Ruben Davila (San Jose, California); Area 4 - Ruben Frausto (Sacramento, California); Area 5 - Jose Hernandez (North Las Vegas, Nevada); Area 6 - Lazaro Robles (Riverside, California); Area 7 - Reuben Zaragoza (Calimesa, California); and ministerial rep/assistant superintendent - Pastor Brian Larson (Spokane, Washington). Larry Zaragoza (Spokane) serves as the district superintendent. Treasurer Johanna Stucker and administrative assistant Vicky Zaragoza also serve the district.

There are currently 14 active licensed ministers serving churches in the WCD and eight certified local pastors. The remaining churches, Sabbath schools, and/or missions are served by dedicated laymen, some of them serving congregations of 100+. Youth and Seekers camps continue to be a main focus in the district, with annual camps in Oregon, California, and Arizona — approximately 350 campers in all. We know that these events do not just happen. Directors and other staff members provide a lot of hard work and preparation each year. They faithfully serve because they know that every year approximately 25-30 young people accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and that they are helping to prepare future leaders.

Several SWORD retreats took place in the northern and southern parts of the district, which serviced over 200 young adults this past year. The district also has an annual men's retreat, as well as a senior adult retreat.

Besides these district events, many local churches sponsor their own women's, men's, and youth retreats throughout the year for local ministry.

Super Sabbaths take place annually in the following areas: Harrisburg, Oregon (March); Lodi, California (January); Los Angeles, California (quarterly); Ontario, California (May); and Phoenix, Arizona (December). All these combined have an approximate attendance of 2,000.

New churches added to the WCD since the last biennial convention include Shoreline, Washington; Hawthorne, Nevada; Indio, Desert Hot Springs, and Riverside, California.

The Ontario, California CoG7 celebrated its 50-year anniversary this past year. Harrisburg, Oregon, celebrated its 75th anniversary, and Marion, Oregon, has an upcoming 75-year anniversary.

The district notes with sadness the passing of Elders Carl Palmer and Roy Marrs.

The WCD women's team is in the process of providing a mentoring program for women and seminars throughout the district this coming year, under the leadership of Jennifer Stucker of Marion, Oregon.

It has been a busy two years and a pleasure to serve the West Coast District.

#### 4/1/2015 – 3/31/2016 Profit / Loss

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#### 4/1/2016 – 3/31/2017 Profit / Loss

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These are the results of our operating activities for each of the last two years. While the first year was profitable, the second and most recent year ended with a loss. We were very blessed to receive special one-time gifts and a stock dividend that allowed us to fund the shortfall, as well as increase our board-designated reserves for future needs. We are anticipating improved results in the upcoming year.

#### Donor-Designated Offerings

In addition to the unrestricted income shown in the Profit/Loss statements above, the General Conference receives and distributes donor-designated offerings. These include gifts intended for specific projects, such as Disaster Relief, Cristo Viene, SHINE, and Widows & Orphans Fund. One hundred percent of the gifts received with such a designation are tracked in an account separate from our operating funds and released only for the purpose the giver specifies. No overhead or administration fees (with the exception of 3 percent of the Nyanza Orphan Project) are deducted by the General Conference. Careful consideration regarding the safety of the funds and match to donor intent is given before funds are released, and every effort is made to put the funds to use as promptly as possible once these criteria are met. Imagine the impact our church has been able to make worldwide with these funds and how the gospel has been shared!

Donor-designated funds released for use on specific projects:

- 2011-2013 $ 771,015
- 2013-2015 $ 1,084,794
- 2015-2017 $ 902,841
Financial philosophy

Funding Sources

- **Churches**: Tithes / offerings from members and district assistance
- **Districts**: Pooling churches – 85 percent of tithes / fair share churches – set monthly amount
- **G. C. Operations**: 15 percent of tithes from churches and direct offerings
- **G. C. Ministries**: 33 percent of tithes from G. C. and direct support from members, churches, and districts

As we begin a new biennium, we reaffirm our commitment to be good stewards of the tithes and offerings you generously provide to the General Conference and its Ministries. We strive to be extremely responsible with the trust you have placed in us by

- keeping administrative costs to a minimum;
- controlling expenditures within budget;
- making careful purchases or commitments for services;
- preserving the integrity of designated offerings;
- keeping a good name in the business community;
- undergoing an outside audit of our activities every two years.

In addition, because of the board of directors’ fiduciary responsibility, it has maintained the following policies that must be followed by the president and executive director:

- Proposed budgets must contain no more than a 6 percent deficit.
- Net unrestricted reserves shall not be less than $250,000.
- No single purchase or commitment over $10,000 can be made without board approval.
- Financial summaries will be regularly published on the website.

**Questions or requests for additional information are always welcome.**

Detailed financial statements are available on our website at https://cog7.org/about-us/financial-reports/.

Audited financial statements are available upon request. Copies are available at the Registration Desk.

Praise God for His provisions, and thank you for your ongoing support and participation in His work!