



2023 Biennial Report

General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day)
Convention in Covington, Kentucky, July 10-15



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Welcome to Convention!



*Loren Stacy
Conference
President*

Thank you for attending the 2023 Convention of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day)! We were forced to cancel our 2021 convention because of the pandemic. But – praise God! – our church remains and prospers, and we can gather again. We continue to strive to be a vibrant twenty-first century church: Christ centered, Spirit formed, Bible based, distinct yet inclusive, Sabbath celebrating, passionate in worship, compassionate in service, engaged in witness, united in fellowship, and committed to discipleship. We continue to transform that vision into reality. We continue to focus on Jesus and follow His plan.

Since our last convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 2019, we have emphasized evangelism and discipleship. Three teams have been developed, and each is providing training to our members and congregations across the United States. We are learning how to share the gospel of Jesus Christ relationally, how to develop and maintain effective small group ministries within our congregations, and how to become welcoming churches – churches that know how to attract, embrace, and include new believers. The theme for this Evangelism/Discipleship initiative is “Come and See.” We have chosen to use that theme for our 2023 convention as well.

May God bless you and each of us attending this convention with a wonderful week of worship, fellowship, learning, and spiritual growth. Will God grant us that blessing? Come and see!

From the Executive Director



Jody McCoy

So much has changed since our last convention in 2019. Nine months after our final prayer, the entire world was locked down in a global pandemic. We’re grateful that many churches were already live-streaming their services. This enabled our IT team to quickly create a central directory. Within a few weeks, thirty-plus churches were partnering with the General Conference, providing worship services remotely for everyone. While the pandemic spread, that number grew to fifty churches.

As technologies emerged, the board of directors conducted its meetings via Zoom, as did the Conference president and executive director with the superintendents. Artios also led a number of seminars via Zoom. It was a different world, and a difficult one with loss and heartache, but God provided in so many ways through it.

As churches reemerged from masks and mandates, many faced struggles with lingering fears and loss of momentum. In 2021, the General Conference conducted a survey of all its pastors and leaders regarding the key factors limiting church health and growth. That survey identified outreach as a key factor, both in helping those outside the church and in helping heal those inside as they helped others.

These survey responses were the genesis of the Evangelism Initiative. Today we have three active teams assisting churches in their role to help individuals share and grow in Christ: Personal Evangelism, Family Groups, and Welcoming Churches. This 2023 Convention joins these three teams in the unifying theme: Come and See!

From the Chairman

Welcome to our 2023 Biennial Convention!

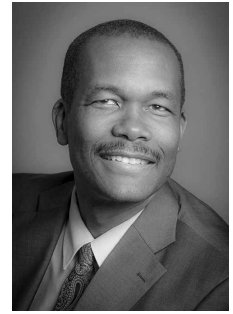
The Conference board is pleased to welcome members and friends as we gather after missing our last convention due to a worldwide pandemic. We pay tribute to and remember those who are no longer with us. For those who are new to the Conference or attending their first convention, we are grateful you have joined us this week for our meetings.

Our conventions provide members with the opportunity to shape our future governance and polity for expanding the kingdom of God. We do this during our business sessions. This year, we have an expanded number of directors to elect. Special thanks to the directors who have served our Conference over the past four years, and particularly those who agreed to serve until their successors are elected.

When the pandemic hit, our board quickly adapted to conducting all business remotely. We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of staff located in our Denver offices to support our Conference operations. We could resume our in-person meetings this past February, by the grace of God.

This convention gives us the opportunity to worship and fellowship as we renew our commitment to go make disciples who make disciples.

It has been a joy to serve on the board since 2005. I have every confidence that the best is yet to come. God has greater days ahead of us!



Samuel Holland

From the Treasurer

The General Conference board of directors is thankful to report that over the past four years since our last convention (our 2021 convention being cancelled due to COVID), the ongoing financial support through friends, members, churches, and districts has been strong. This is despite great challenges, including many months of not gathering in local churches, per our custom, due to pandemic restrictions. We also praise God that the General Conference has been blessed during this period with unexpected sources of financial support.

Through your giving and with the support of every member, church, and district within the General Conference, our organization has thrived in the ongoing work of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world. We have done this in word and deed and by financially supporting others who labor in God's vineyard. At the same time, we strengthen our individual members and our local churches.

The board of directors and our entire executive team (President Loren Stacy and Executive Director Jody McCoy), plus all our district superintendents, remain committed to the mission of the Church. We also remain dedicated to future generations through continuing support, financial commitment, and investment in Artios Christian College. The board believes that our future rests in a biblically literate laity, a biblically sound clergy, and a well-equipped, purpose-driven church.

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

On behalf of the General Conference, we are grateful for the Lord's provision through your faithful prayers and financial support of the Church of God (Seventh Day). Thank you!



Gregory Lincoln

Artios Christian College



Loren Gjesdal
Co-Director

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 twenty-first century church. Through flexible, financially responsible courses and other focused resources, Artios lays biblical foundations so all God’s people can effectively do His work.

Artios classes equip men and women, pastors and non-pastors, to fulfill God’s calling to use their gifts in the body of Christ for God’s glory. Worship leaders, youth leaders, prayer leaders, church administrators, and those who just want to know God and His Word more deeply will find helpful classes at Artios. Classes are flexible, accessible, and affordable. Learn more at www.artioscollege.org.

Don’t want to take a class for credit but still want to be better equipped to serve? The Artios Center for Vibrant Leadership takes the equipping ministry of Artios beyond the classroom and into the church through seminars, weekend events, customized coaching, and other not-for-credit resources tailored for local congregations, leadership teams, boards, and pastors. Learn more at www.center.artioscollege.org.



Makayla Ross
Co-Director

Cumulative ministry impact

Since 2009, nearly 600 individuals have earned credit through Artios. Over 200 have graduated from an academic program, including over half of currently licensed NAMC ministers and dozens of other General Conference leaders.

Since the 2019 Convention, over 300 students have registered for more than 1,100 classes. About 50 of these have completed an academic program and will be recognized at the graduation commencement to be held at convention.

Over 1,000 have profited from the Artios Center for Vibrant Leadership’s online webinars and seminars. Local churches have heard a “Big Vision for Small Churches” at Envision Next events, while Church leaders have received personal coaching through the Center. The Center has also produced a *CoG7 Pastoral Services Handbook* in partnership with the Bible Advocate Press, and has initiated translation of *Vibrant Church* into the Spanish and Filipino languages!

Artios snapshot today

Artios offers 27 courses. About 80 students are currently enrolled in an academic program, while roughly 25 percent of Artios’ students are not seeking a degree but equipping in a specific area of interest. Our student body is diverse, representing all age ranges – from teens to senior citizens – and all seven districts in the US and Canada, as well as a few international students. Sixty percent of our students are prospective pastors, 40 percent take classes in Spanish, and 20 percent are women.

Partnering with Artios

Your assistance is vital to the continued fruitfulness of Artios Christian College. Please pray for staff, faculty, and students regularly. Your faithful giving also allows us to offer tuition below actual cost so as many students as possible can attend. Please consider a gift this year to continue the work of the center and the college!

Mexico, Central, and South America. CoG7's growth in this part of the world continues under the strong leadership of zone reps Walter Apen (Guatemala) and Gustavo Hulgren (Argentina). Cristo Viene has funded six missionaries here and added a worker in Brazil in 2022. SHINE completed a medical and dental mission in Chiapas, Mexico (November 2019), helping grow churches in this country. A visit was made to Lima, Peru (August 2019), to encourage and build up the congregation planted there following SHINE's mission to Peru in 2018. Furthermore, the biennial meeting of Zone 2 took place in San Cristobal, Mexico (March 3-5, 2023), with the theme "May They Be One." Jorge Gillig (Argentina) passed away in 2022 after faithfully serving as Zone 3 - South America representative (2007-2022).

Africa. Now represented in nineteen countries and with contacts in eight more, the Church on this continent, led by zone rep Robert Crawford (England), is experiencing much growth and opportunity. Significant orphan and widow ministries continue in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia. Sustainability projects, such as agriculture, business training, and higher education, economically sustain the Church and ministries' long-term growth here. We have supplied *This We Believe*, *Bible Advocate*, and Sabbath school quarterlies to train leaders and introduce the Church to new contacts. In November 2022, the church in Togo was established, with more than 20 members now baptized. This coming November 13-18 the International Ministerial Congress will hold its quadrennial meeting in Port Harcourt, Nigeria, with the theme "Equipped for the Global Mission."

Asia and Oceania. Under the leadership of Jacob Rao (India) and Phil Kordahi (Australia), significant work has taken place in this region. Orphan and widow ministries continue strong in Pakistan and Myanmar. Sustainability projects include sewing education and equipment for widows (Pakistan). Since 2017, more than 250 women have been trained and started their own sewing businesses. In Yangon, Myanmar, a three-story building has been completed where a growing number of orphans currently reside, having opportunity to grow in the Church and gain a strong education. The facility is also used for periodic training for pastors, leaders, and workers. We have assisted India with bicycles for pastors/evangelists. Thanks to Cristo Viene, sponsorships for 80+ pastors in India, Pakistan, and Indonesia receive ministry support. Bible seminaries were completed in Faisalabad, Pakistan, with 60 graduates, and a second in Karachi with nearly 150. Phil Kordahi, Zone 6 representative (2007-2022), passed away (October 2022). John Klassek replaces him.

Europe and North America. With the leadership of Paulo Coelho, Zone 7 representative, the Church is being organized in France, and the congregations in Spain and Italy are being strengthened. The Zone 1 leadership team (Whaid Rose, Karrell Wilson, Al Haynes, and the late Calvin Burrell) has provided strong support to the Church in North America and the Caribbean. This includes regular Zoom meetings with leaders and members for encouragement, training, and planning.

GC Missions' training seminar, Family Groups for the Growth of the Church, is now available as part of the GC "Come and See" Evangelism Training initiative. It has been completed in Dallas and Houston, Texas, thus far. Official visits were made by GC Missions to Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Nigeria, Togo, Myanmar, and the Philippines.



Bryan Cleeton
Director



Bible Advocate Press



Keith Michalak
Co-Director

It has been four long years since our last convention report. During that time, the Bible Advocate Press produced nearly 264,000 BA magazines. The online version was read by people in 180 nations. In January 2022, we created the AudioBA, thanks to the volunteer efforts of Tabitha and Isaac Overman.

Besides our bimonthly magazine, the BAP added a French translation to the English and Spanish Bible Studies for Adults. Over 160,000 Sabbath school quarterlies were mailed in North America since the last convention, while digital copies were shared with 65 CoG7 conferences around the world. We continue to publish and distribute thousands of Bible tracts in print and online.

With the addition of a black and white quarterly and teacher's guide in large print, our new digital press, purchased in 2020, has averaged 1.1 million digital copies per year. It has the capability of producing books up to 180 pages, like these: *Transforming Vision into Reality* (2017-2019); *The Ministry of Reconciliation* (2020); and the two-quarter *This We Believe* series (2022). With the help of the Literature Committee, our plans are to update and translate a number of out-of-print BAP books: *Making Sense of Scripture*, *How We Got the Bible*, and other titles.



Jason Overman
Co-Director

Since acquiring the digital press, we have been productive with collaborative projects. We partnered with Artios Christian College to create the *Pastoral Services Handbook* and with GC Missions on the *Family Groups Training Manual*. Most recently we collaborated with Moises and Peter Capetillo in developing *The Art of Being a Welcoming Church* manual.

These accomplishments are just the highlights of a fruitful period of publishing. We thank God for this and for His tender mercies and provision. Our goal remains to honor Christ in all we do, especially in the wise use of the resources He has given so we can spread the gospel even further in print and online – and even in video through social media!

We could never do this without the hard work of our small but dedicated BAP staff: Jason Overman, editor and Publications co-director; Sherri Langton, associate editor; Martha Muffley, translation coordinator; Kyle Michalak, print and online maintenance; Keith Michalak, graphic designer and Publications co-director.

A heartfelt thanks to those who contribute articles, write quarterlies, help translate and proofread, and donate financially so we can continue producing quality material for the kingdom of God.



Communications

In August 2022, the Communications Department was added to the CoG7 administration. Our main purpose is to be a liaison among the Church, GC Ministries leaders, and community. We serve the executive team, Publications, Artios, GC Missions, North American Ministerial Council, Convention Committee, and board of directors.

Because of the importance of communication today, the department made assessments of the General Conference as a whole and of each Ministry. From these, we created specific and adequate strategic plans to have more presence inside and outside the Church core. In this process, we have strengthened some areas:

Social media (Facebook and Instagram). We now have a consistent, daily schedule of what is going on with our GC Ministries and Initiatives and have added Instagram to address a younger audience.

Monthly news from the Conference. Every second Thursday of the month we send the highlights or important news from our Ministries and the General Conference.

Prayer email. Every two weeks, we send an email with our brethren's prayer requests from all over the world.

Website updates. Three of our websites (NAMC, GC Missions, and CoG7) have been under the care of Communications, undergoing significant improvements and changes.

Online resources. The department developed resources for Lord's Supper, presentations, posters of events, postcards, logos, and many other things.

Video content. We have written and produced over 50 videos to promote events, Ministries, initiatives, Lord's Supper, and more to keep our brethren informed.

We not only create content but also measure if the content is effective. Therefore, we are essential partners for upcoming plans for Artios, GC Missions, and Publications. Together we develop the correct strategy for their web presence, videography, public relations, promotion, advertising, media relations, and more.

At the same time, Communications has trained and assisted district media ministries, like those for the Southwest, West Coast, and Central districts. These are starting to serve the churches under their respective superintendents. Our goal is that CoG7 leadership is congruent, transparent, and accountable at all times.

Communications is working on many other areas of development, such as podcasts, a CoG7 app, animation, education videos, and media ministries in the remaining districts. We have more ground to break in this new department, but we are grateful that we are working on a network of opportunities for the next generation of faithful servants.

Thank you to those who have supported our efforts through your prayers, funds, and sharing our content. Let's continue to work for His glory! You can send your suggestions to cog7media@cog7.org.



Jamin Teran
Director



Northeast District



Heber Vega
Superintendent

The Northeast District has twenty-four congregations in Connecticut, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. They are English- and Spanish-speaking (50-50). There are twelve documented ministers and twelve lay leaders pastoring these churches. The collective weekly Sabbath attendance is 1,833, and 1,179 of them are baptized members. Since our last convention, 215 new members were baptized.

Forty-seven former members entered their rest and await resurrection day.

In the last five fiscal years, \$940,145.42 from the Northeast District income was forwarded to the General Conference; \$835,981.85 represented 15 percent of tithes received. The rest (\$104,163.57) represented the offerings our members earmarked for Artios, Bible Advocate Press, *Bible Advocate*, Cristo Viene, Disaster Relief, Free Literature, General Conference, IMC, Missions, Pakistan, Rwanda church, SHINE, Sol de Justicia (Colombia), Spring Vale, Widows and Orphans, and Widows to Freedom.

Here's how our financial system works. Tithing: If you earn \$100, you give \$10 to the local church. The local church keeps \$7.50 and sends \$2.50 to the district. The district keeps \$1 and sends \$1.50 to the General Conference. Offerings: One hundred percent of the local offerings stay in the local church. Any earmarked offering is forwarded by the church to the district, which then forwards it to the General Conference.

Monthly Zoom meetings and biannual in-person meetings every spring and fall allow the district board to stay on track and strengthen their relationships. The team consists of Wilmer Arias, Victor Brown, Andrew Fernandez, Jose Marin, Rex Miller, Marna Renteria, Amado Reuto, Esther Winchell, and Tom Winchell. Dawn Wayman is the accountant. Superintendent Heber Vega leads the team. All serve according to their gifts.

The district Women's Ministry is led by Director Esther Winchell. The annual Women's Ministry Day in March allows the district ladies to minister locally. Many churches are blessed with the men taking care of the fellowship meal that day. The Prayer Shawl Ministry blesses many around the nation with a handmade shawl. It is shipped to their home, reminding them of God's healing hand upon them.

Our spring Pastor's Retreat, funded by the district, will be reinstated in 2024. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for our pastors to gather for relaxation, fellowship, worship, and instruction.

Four pastors are currently employed full-time by their congregations. Our dream is to have many more full-time pastors. Some current pastors would gladly leave their secular jobs and spend the rest of their lives serving the Church. God willing, that will happen soon. Young men are being called, and we want to be ready to hire them as soon as they graduate from Artios.



Southeast District

The Southeast District is composed of 46 churches and mission churches located in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina.

Our current area representatives/district board members are Walter Apen, Sam Wiley, Eliezer Medrano, Jonathan Unzueta, and Wayne Hrenyk (ministerial representative).

The district ministerial coordinators are Zahida Hrenyk (Women's Ministry) and Walter Apen (Men's Ministry Committee chairman). Recent leadership changes were made to our Youth Ministry program with the appointment of Jonathan and Elizabeth Unzueta, music director Cesar Medrano, and administrative coordinator Allison Krome. This was announced in March during our Youth Leaders Conference, held in Adrian, Georgia.

At that conference, we prepared for our youth retreat, to be held in December in Parrish, Florida. We are expecting 200+ youth to attend.

Our annual District Leaders Conference will be held in August at the Drury Conference Center in Valdosta, Georgia. With the theme "Marriage in the Ministry," we will deal with the unique challenges church ministry brings to marital and family relationships. As had been our policy for the last nine years, there is no charge for Church leaders and their wives to attend this event.

Our Women's and Men's Ministry retreats have been extremely successful over the years, with an average attendance of approximately 150+ at each event. Both retreats will be held this year at Camp Adrian, with the women meeting in September and the men meeting in November.

The district has grown in both size and programs offered during the last several years. It has been my honor to serve the district and work with our area representatives and ministry directors – truly the backbone of the district. Our goal is to find more talented members who are willing to step up and take charge of our district and help it to grow even stronger.

As in the past, I continue to enjoy working with the various General Conference leaders, Ministries directors, office staff, and district superintendents who work tirelessly to make our church the best it can be. I am excited to see where we are going and what our future looks like.



*Steve Krome
Superintendent*



Central District



Ronald Rousseau
Superintendent

Twelve states make up our district: Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Illinois. This district's borders touch a part of the other six districts. Because we're in the heart of it all, travel to councils, conferences, and other meetings is a bit easier. Therefore, the Central District is usually well represented.

Staff

Our district board consists of the following area directors: Gabe Zaragoza, Miguel Gonzalez, Arno Galvez, Oscar Mata, and Tim Steinhauer. Each director represents six or seven local churches and/or missions. Specialists on the board are Steve Kyner and Juan Arzet, ministerial representatives, and David Nienhuis, finance. In addition to the board, Maria Rousseau serves as administrative assistant and coordinator of district ministries. Dawn Wayman is our treasurer.

New ministries

Central District Media Team focuses on publishing events and activities in the district through print, email, and social media.

Central District Worship Team works on elevating worship in local churches, forming worship teams, and composing original works.

Central District Prayer Team focuses on praying, collecting prayer requests, and motivating its members to pray faithfully for the needs of the Church.

What Are You Reading? is an effort to motivate study of extra-biblical books that reinforce biblical teachings.

Our focus

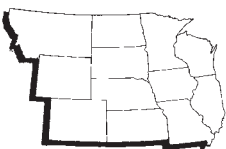
District ministries: In 2022, the Central District adopted a new vision statement, "On a Journey to the Kingdom." A summary of this vision is the four Ps:

Pro-active spirituality (Philippians 3:14). Elevating the opportunities to find spiritual nourishment, this P is based on the premise that Christ is first. Christ goes ahead of our best planning and execution, as our goal is to enter into the kingdom.

People (Psalm 29:11). This vision point accentuates the focus on people and our calling to minister to each person in our care and each group, mission, and church as part of the body of Christ.

Purposeful communication (Ephesians 4:29). We must seek the most effective method of communication.

Poverty (Psalm 23:1-6). We must find where our congregants are collectively suffering and collectively pray for holy discernment and unity.



Southwest District

The Southwest District serves in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

Staff

The district administration is composed of the board, ministry directors, office staff, and leadership schools directors.

Board members: Ivan Villeda, Clarence Ullrich, Nef Hernandez, Gilbert Walker, Manuel Salazar, Frank Arroyos, Misael Ibarra, and Daniel Flores. **Ministry directors:** Ismari Garcia (children), Sammy Davila and Judith Salazar (youth), Chris and Yared Banda (young adult), Pete, Jr. and Claudia Capetillo (marriage), Jessica Salazar (women), Sergio Alfaro (men), Thomas and Jaxel Childers (seniors), Victoria Capetillo (media), David Burrell and Martin Ramirez (HOPE), Kirk Grant (GC Initiatives), and David Vazquez, director of DART (Disaster Assistant Response Team). **Office team:** superintendent Chip Hinds, assistant superintendent Manuel Salazar, treasurer Joyce Gold, accounting consultant Pam Strozier, information update specialist Apolonia “Paula” Melendez, and administrative assistant Mary Hinds. The **SWD Leadership Schools** are served by oversight director and Lower Rio Grande Valley director Noe Reyes, Greater Dallas/Fort Worth Director Francisco Javier Ramirez, and Greater Houston Director Jhabel Chagollan. A host of pastors and other ministry partners complete the Southwest District leadership team.



Chip Hinds
Superintendent

Insight and direction

The General Conference provides districts with purpose, vision, and mission compatible with the Great Commandment, the New Commandment, and the Great Commission. This helps us stay unified for the Master’s work. The district pursues being a vibrant church that walks in the direction established by the GC Initiatives. To do that, the district shares one motto: “Focus on Jesus and follow His plan.” That motto is understood to mean 1) Love God above all else and love our neighbor, including our enemies, as we love self; 2) Love one another in the family of God, as Christ loved and loves us; and 3) Make disciples, according to the Great Commission.

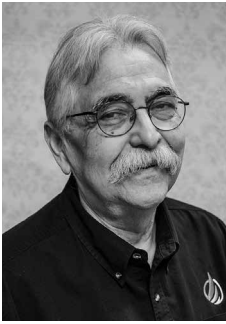
Accountability is established by insisting each leader develop an administration consistent with “Come and See,” as identified in the GC Initiatives. All event and project themes in some way connect with “Focus on Jesus and follow His plan.” The GC Initiatives training has been done or is in process of being offered to each area of the district for 1) personal relational evangelism, 2) small group / family group development, and 3) becoming a welcoming church. The district’s area directors and ministry directors are in charge of their respective ministries as long as they 1) understand and abide by their positional job description and 2) direct their administration in cooperation with the vision and direction of the General Conference.

Emphasis and gratitude

The district superintendent’s goal is to facilitate district leaders to be highly successful in their area of ministry, knowing true success is realized only in the quality of one’s relationship with Jesus Christ. It is a privilege to be a ministry partner with you in the cause of Christ.



West Coast District



*Larry Zaragoza
Superintendent*

The West Coast District includes Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Alaska, and Hawaii. It currently serves approximately 60 churches and has recently welcomed seven newly affiliated congregations.

Each year our Christian camp ministry services approximately 400 campers with the help of about 200 staff. God has richly blessed this ministry, resulting in numerous baptisms each year. Camps are provided for junior youth and youth, and retreats for young adults, men, women, and senior adults. This past fall, our senior adult retreat was maxed out, including RV campers and even some staying in nearby bed and breakfast locations.

Several West Coast District areas have received and continue to receive Personal Evangelism training. Some are beginning the Welcoming Church training.

It is a pleasure to work with the district board, a hard-working and vibrant team of men. Some of the district regions require many hours from these dedicated men who faithfully volunteer their time for the good of God's church.

Local pastors/leaders are greatly appreciated as they serve local congregations in the West Coast District. Some areas also hold periodic regional leadership meetings to plan regional Super Sabbaths and other events.

The passing of Elder Calvin Burrell and Elder Nephtali Retana, faithful servants, is noted. It has been a pleasure to serve the West Coast District.



Eastern Canada District

Out of the six provinces in Eastern Canada (Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland/Labrador), the Church of God (Seventh Day) exists in only two: Ontario (two congregations) and Quebec (one). A number of former members are scattered in some of the other provinces. We hope to develop the necessary “touch points” so these individuals feel a part of the wider church family and so we can develop local congregations in those areas.

The three churches and leadership teams are as follows:

Etobicoke CoG7, Brampton, Ontario (northwest of Toronto)

Pastored by Brother B. Williams / Leeroy Williams and Rohan Tummings

Access Community Church, Hamilton, Ontario

Pastored by Richard Nicholas Palmer

Laval CoG7, Quebec

Pastored by Obed Valladares



Aubrey “Bill”
Williams
Superintendent

Update since 2019 Convention

The district underwent a change in leadership in 2022, when pastor Leeroy Williams was forced into retirement due to health concerns. All three churches survived the pandemic, and for that we are eternally thankful to our heavenly Father.

Our churches, however, suffered somewhat financially. The reduced funds may have caused some belt-tightening. Still, each church continued meeting and sharing the gospel through technologies like Zoom and YouTube. Although congregations had to modify their schedules, timing, and content of services, the pandemic did not prevent the message from going out. Technical teams in each church collaborated so the district could have two joint fellowship services on Zoom and YouTube.

The first service in December 2021 was titled “There is No Stopping Us Now,” indicating that under no circumstances were we allowing COVID 19 to prevent the church from praising God. The second joint fellowship service, held in November 2022, celebrated “A Church for Such a Time as This.” Pastor Whaid Rose was our guest speaker, along with Jamin Teran and Conference President Loren Stacy in various presentations. In one we paid tribute to Pastor Leeroy Williams on his retirement from the district superintendent position.

All three churches report stable membership and, in some cases, growth in membership. All are open for worship – maybe not all day, every week, but we see services and churches getting back to some form of normalcy, for which we thank God.

Leadership in the various churches remains stable. We thank God for leaders willing to stand, in all seasons, to carry out God’s mandate on their lives.

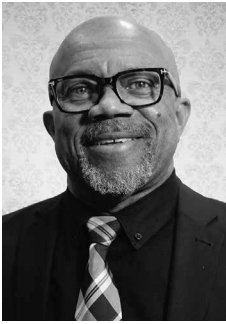
Ministry

I am happy to report that all three churches are back on the mission field where the various ministries are back up and running. For this we can only say, “Thanks be to God!”

The pandemic hit hard, but as we said in our first joint fellowship, there is no stopping us now. We’re on the move for Christ, reflecting our calling to purposely present Him to the world.



Western Canada District



Orville Rose
Superintendent

The Western Canada District stretches from British Columbia in the west, covering Alberta and Saskatchewan, to Manitoba eastward. Our three congregations are concentrated in Alberta, with a wide distribution of members-at-large in all the district provinces.

Staff

Our district is served by Orville Rose (superintendent); Elder Robert Grabinsky (assistant superintendent and Acme rep); Justin Shapitka (Parkland rep); Hector Renderos (Calgary rep); Renay Grabinsky (district secretary/treasurer); and Sandra Shapitka (Women's Ministry coordinator). Deacon Sergio and Alex Martinez, along with Frank Bean and Gordon Feil, fill out the preaching assignments within the district.

Highlights and focus

Having gone from three to two Super Sabbaths per year, we strive to encourage and maximize these efforts. With pastors Jason Overman and Ash Khalil as guest speakers at our most recent mass gathering, we've capitalized on the district's efforts to strengthen its parishioners. The passing of the pandemic has allowed us to continue having hybrid services every Sabbath, reaching our scattered members-at-large across the province. This is coupled with bi-weekly Bible studies and weekly prayer meetings via Zoom.

These district-sponsored outreach efforts, along with congregational members opening their hearts and homes, have resulted in significant growth in the membership of our congregations as God works within our communities in adding daily to His church. Despite the distractions and challenges of the past year, our district is well poised for growth of its shallow leadership pool. The district sponsored some 19-plus students to attend Artios, some of whom have taken multiple courses.

As we continue our commitment to the General Conference, we have ramped up our membership drive, updating the GC database. We encourage the congregations to remain financially and bylaw compliant in accordance with the General Conference's objectives.



Financial Report 2021-2023



*Dawn Wayman
Accountant*

4/1/2021 — 3/31/2022 Profit / Loss

	Income	Expenses	Net Profit/Loss
General Conference Operations	\$821,298	\$666,318	\$154,980
Bible Advocate Press	359,712	384,556	<24,844>
Missions Ministries	116,807	113,679	3,128
Artios Christian College	224,442	206,108	18,334
			\$151,598

4/1/2022 — 3/31/2023 Profit / Loss

	Income	Expenses	Net Profit/Loss
General Conference Operations	\$819,495	\$723,055	\$96,440
Bible Advocate Press	395,372	405,326	<9,954>
Missions Ministries	118,608	173,912	<55,304 >
Artios Christian College	213,162	229,797	<16,635>
			\$14,547

These are the results of our operating activities for each of the last two fiscal years. The results were an overall profit for both years. In addition, we were once again blessed to receive special one-time gifts that allowed us to invest in special projects and increase our reserves for future needs.

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 for specific projects, such as Disaster Relief, Cristo Viene, SHINE, and the Widows and Orphans Fund. Ninety percent of the gifts received with such a designation is tracked in an account separate from our operating funds and released only for the purpose the giver specifies. Careful consideration to the safety of the funds and matching 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 made worldwide with these funds, and how the gospel has been shared!



Financial philosophy

Funding sources

Churches	Tithes / offerings from members and district assistance
Districts	10 percent of tithes from churches, 85 percent of tithes from at-large members, and direct offerings
GC Operations	15 percent of tithes from churches and direct offerings
GC Ministries	25 percent of tithes from GC 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 monthly financial statements are available on our website:

<https://cog7.org/resources/reports/MonthlyReport.pdf>

Copies of our biennial audited financial statements are available on our website or upon request to dawn.wayman@cog7.org.

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



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