



# COGO Ministries Presents

## 2021

# General Assembly October 23<sup>rd</sup>

Sponsored by  
COGO  
Ministries  
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*That all of them may be one,  
Father, just as You are in me and I am in You.  
May they also be in us so that the world  
may believe that You have sent me.  
John 17:21 NIV*



## Table of Contents

Agenda and Membership Bylaws.....	3
2020 Assembly Minutes.....	4-6
State Pastor’s Report.....	7-14
Steadfast Ministries-For Pastors.....	15
Resolution for Amendment to Bylaws .	16
2022 Budget.....	17-19
In Memoriam.....	20
Leadership Focus .....	21
2021 Ordination Candidates .....	22-25
For Clergy.....	26
Ratification Ballot Candidates .....	27-29
Start Fresh.....	30
Disaster Relief.....	31
NXTGen Ministrys .....	32-34
Partners in Ministry.....	35
Christmas Project .....	36
COGO Staff.....	37
Supporting COGO Ministries.....	38
2022 Calendar of Events.....	39
Resources .....	back cover

## COGO Ministries

EQUIPPING AND EMPOWERING FOR  
THE MISSION OF JESUS

## ~ Agenda ~

Call To Order, Welcome and Prayer  
Appointment of Tellers and Parliamentarian  
Approval of 2020 Minutes

Reports:

Board of Director Chair-Remarks  
State Pastor/Director  
Committee and Team

New Business:

Bylaws Amendment  
Financial Report & 2022 Budget Presentation  
Presentation of Ordination Candidates  
Nominating Committee Report  
Ratification Ballot  
Special Recognitions  
Announcements and Adjournment

### ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP

3.1 Members of OHIO MINISTRIES with voting privileges shall be as follows:

**3.1.1 Ministers.** All ministers who are in good standing as defined by the state's credentials committee, and are ordained, licensed, or commissioned in the Church of God (Anderson, Ind.) and fulfill any of the following qualifications and declaration thereof by Church of God (Anderson, Ind.) Yearbook registration within the last two (2) years:

- 3.1.1.1 Ministers actively engaged in ministry with Church of God (Anderson, Ind.) congregations in good standing in Ohio.
- 3.1.1.2 Ecumenical ministers actively engaged in ministry while maintaining relationship with OHIO MINISTRIES.
- 3.1.1.3 Retired ministers who maintain identity and affiliation with the Church of God (Anderson, Ind.) in Ohio.
- 3.1.1.4 State Executives and Officers of the Corporation.

**3.1.2 Lay Delegates.** Lay Delegates selected by their local congregation, under the following formula: one for every one hundred people counted in the local congregation's annualized average weekend worship service attendance published in the current **Church of God (Anderson, Ind.) Yearbook**, not to exceed 10 delegates from any one congregation; such lay members of the Assembly shall have their eligibility authenticated by a written statement (presented to OHIO MINISTRIES) from the sending congregation's lead pastor, interim pastor, or leadership board (in the absence of a pastor) before participation is allowed.

**Date:** Ohio General Assembly October 23, 2020

**Time:** 1:00 PM (Announcements & Instructions started at 12:30 PM

**Location:** Virtual Event, but streamed via webinar from Maiden Lane Church, Springfield OH

**I. Instructions and announcements started running beginning at 12:30 PM with instructions to make this meeting run smoothly.**

**II. Time of Worship**                      **Kelsey McKenzie, Creston Community Church**

**III. Welcome, Prayer and Call to Order**      **Mark Martin, chair**

Welcome and recognition to the fact that this is a virtual meeting being live-streamed at Maiden Lane. Mark thanked the many volunteers and staff working behind the scenes to make this a possible meeting.

Prayed that we would submit our hearts and mind to God and that our technology works!

Mark again thanked the many volunteers and staff working behind the scenes to make this a possible meeting. This virtual meeting was different than past GA experiences therefore the need for some flexibility. We still followed Robert's Rules as prescribed in our bylaws.

Bylaws requirement to vote or speak in Assembly –Article 3.1.1 and 3.1.2. were on page 3 in GA packet and on screen. Because of the nature of going virtual this year no guests were admitted or recognized, only members of the Assembly were permitted to be present.

Requested the Assembly to allow him to enforce a 3-minute time limit of assembly members in addressing any issue and reminded them that one may only speak once to an issue until everyone else has had opportunity to speak. Demetrius later explained how to communicate during the virtual meeting.

**Appointment of Tellers & Recognition of Parliamentarian...Mark Martin**

Tellers: Missy Potts and Chris Cottrell. In this virtual meeting the tellers handled the absentee ballots to verify the ballot as well as helped monitor the screens for persons wishing to speak. Our Parliamentarian was Steve Anthony

2019 Minutes were approved prior to this meeting, no approval needed.

**How to Vote and Ask Questions.** Demetrius gave an overview of how to vote virtually and showed examples. Those wanting to ask questions used "Chat" or the "Q&A" button. Questions and comments were monitored and given to the Chair or Director of Ministries.

**Servant Solutions.** Video Greetings from Jim O'Bold (President). Jim talked about various financial products they are offering. He discussed how much they appreciate our ministers and COGO Ministries. They will be giving all attendees a free \$10 Dollar Amazon Gift Card.

**Remarks by Chair:** Mark reminded everyone that God was not taken by surprised as it relates to the Covid-19. God will never leave his church alone. In midst of what is going on, we need to know that the mission and calling will never change. The Great Commission is not depended upon what is going on around the church. God's Church is gifted to be his servant witnesses for such a time as this. Mark said he was honored to be a part of God's witness!

**Director's Report:** This year's theme was **Mission Forward** and was the year to celebrate 60 years of ministry. However, due to the Corona Virus, we will celebrate 61 years next year. The landscape of the Church is changing drastically. COGO Ministries spends a lot of time working with our local congregations to answer the question, "How are we going to close our doors without closing our Churches? How will we keep our Churches together when we are scattered? COGO Ministries have been helping churches navigate the chaos caused by Covid-19, while at the same time, also working on racial-reconciliation (Isaiah 49:1-6).

Esther encouraged everyone to (1) Remember Your call. (2) Refuse Despair. (3) Refocus Your Vision as we go through this pandemic. These are the four core ministry efforts of COGO: (1) Leadership Development. (2) Church Transformation (3) Church Multiplication. (4) Congregational Services.

Esther showed a video on Church Multiplication; in the areas of discipleship, leadership and Churches. The video also shared the story of Anthem House, (Alton Alexander, Pastor), our newest church plant and Steve Southards (Salem Church, Pastor), regarding multiplication around Discipleship, Leader and Vision 2 Multiply (V2X) which involves planting, relaunching and work day projects. Tom Plank, from Healthy Growing Churches, facilitated this discussion.

**Goals for 2021:** (1) New office plans; Looking to purchase new office. Will go virtual until we finalize a place. (2) Hiring new positions for Children and Youth Ministries; In various discussions, we were told they did not want Camp and was not a priority, but rather invest in Children and Student Ministry consultants. (3) Ministry to Ministers; by helping our Pastors; Pastoral Care by providing Counseling them. The goal is to help our Pastors Thrive in Ministry. (4) Building bridges to Racial Unity, in the Church of God we believe in this, now is the time for action!

We have been stretched like a rubber band, but now is not the time to return

to what was normal ministry, but rather use the tension that we have built up to see the opportunity to be a light to the world that we live in. Move out of being a Church-Center, Sunday Church to being a Gospel-Center Church.

Until we see each other again, remember, it is **Mission Forward!**

**Gratitude:** Mark thanked both Esther and Demetrius for their services as he recognized it is clergy appreciation month.

**Credentials Committee Report..... Martin Johnson**

Committee is working on 2 documents (1) 5-year review. (2) Expanding on ecumenical ministry credential policy.

**New Business:**

**Reading of the Motion to Amend Bylaws..... Josh Deeter**

Discussion: Since this is a motion coming from the board there is no need for a second. Motion passed.

**2020 Budget Presentation..... Esther Cottrell**

Informed Assembly that the motion to adopt this budget has been made and seconded in the Board of Directors meeting and that the budget ratification is on the ballot. No need to call for a second.

**Presentation of Ordination Candidates..... David Guess**

Ed Green, Otis Jones, Michael Miller, Eric Smith, Nate Wilcoxon, Jeffrey Duty, Marilyn Mobley, Jennifer Peterson, Veda Ray, Stanley Williams, James Edward, Jared Mitchell, Brandon Holbrook. All were approved.

**Nominating Committee Report..... Matt Roe, Nom. Committee Chair.**

Board of Directors Chair Mark Martin was nominated. Nominated for Board members were Mark Jackson and Benjamin Wilson. Martin Johnson was nominated for member-at-large, State Credentials Committee

**Voting/Announcements:** The GA overwhelmingly voted yes on everything.

**Recognitions:** David and Barbara Miller 40 years missionaries in Latin America by Mission Team AND 50- year ordained ministers: George Jordan, John Majeski, and Claude Robold

**Adjournment.....Mark Martin**

Respectfully Submitted, Josh Deeter | Board of Directors Secretary

Readers: Steve Anthony motioned to approve, Missy Potts second, David Guess agreed

# 2021 State Pastor's Report



CHURCH OF GOD OHIO

## 2021 State Pastor Annual Report

TO: The Ohio Assembly of the Church of God  
FROM: Dr. Esther Cottrell, State Pastor and Director of Ministries  
DATE: October 23, 2021

It is a real joy to be in person this year for our General Assembly. Meadow Park Church has graciously opened their doors to make this day possible and we are thankful! For the first time in anyone's memory, the GA is on Saturday to accommodate the schedule of the Co-vocational pastor and make the GA more accessible to lay leaders.

As we continue living with the Covid-19 pandemic in America we have learned much, questioned more, and been challenged to live into our mission, *equipping and empowering for the mission of Jesus*. In these changing times fraught with anxiety, uncertainty, and social unrest the COGO staff and I are committed and eager to engage the Church of God in Ohio as we rebuild and reconnect for ministry in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Our theme this year continues **Mission FORWARD! A time to rebuild and reconnect.**



### Mission FORWARD Goals for 2021

Emerging out of this pandemic into a post-COVID world we know there is much to be done. The following foci were identified in the 2020 Annual Report.

**Develop a Ministry to Ministers.** Many pastors have shared that this season has been the most difficult time in their ministry to pastor. Stress levels are excessive and debilitating in some situations. Depression and anxiety are real threats to some of our best. A recent survey of clergy by Faithlife confirmed that mental health concerns are on the rise

among clergy. A small team of four - Angie Swonger, Donna Cox, Tim Riley and me - met to pull together a process whereby ministers and their families can get help to deal with the normal stresses of life and leadership AND the added stress of pastoring during crises. As I write this report, I am hopeful that we will have a covenant agreement with a ministry to provide quality, confidential Christian counseling for pastors and families for little to no cost to those on the approved ministerial list.

Additionally, we partnered with IL, IN, and W PA to bring a webinar in February on Soul Care, followed by a day-long virtual soul care retreat on August 26. Out of those experiences 5 groups are meeting this fall to go deeper with spiritual direction. COGO is underwriting 50% of those fees.

These ministry opportunities have been added to a new ministry concept titled **Steadfast Ministries**, opportunities for coaching, counseling, soul care and circles (peer conversations) aimed at empowering and equipping you for the mission of Jesus.

**Focus on greater race-relations unity.** The ministry staff is keenly aware of this need and seeks authentic ways to build greater diversity in our united ministry. We believe in the Great Collaboration that Jesus prayed, “that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me” John 17:21. Greater racial unity will not be accomplished with a program or conference but rather as we live and grow in community with one another and value our common Jesus given mission above all else.

**Develop networks and training for our children and youth ministry leaders in the local church.** Statistics and futurists predict that Generation Z is emerging without knowledge of the Gospel or desire to be Christ followers. The local church is the battleground for the hearts and minds of this generation.

In February Revs. Liz Hultz and R.W. Moody joined the COGO staff to develop networks among our student and kids ministry leaders in the local church to equip and empower for ministry to this at-risk generation. They hit the ground running with this assignment, creating the NXTGen umbrella for state ministry to Gen Z's, hosting monthly coffee breaks on Zoom to talk with student and kids' pastors and volunteer leaders about the challenges and opportunities, developing relationships with local church leaders at campmeetings and one-on-one conversations. Additionally, they are forming teams from persons across the state to help create and lead this focus. A leader retreat is scheduled in March '22. R.W. is also working with Andy Hoover and 3SLI to partner with IN Ministries in revitalizing this student leadership ministry. I have heard the applause from kids and student leaders saying thank you for hearing us and providing us with this great resource in the persons of Liz and R.W.

**Re-locate the COGO office to our new location.** I am happy to report that this has been accomplished! There have been many twists and turns in the process but we can now say that we are at 653 McCorkle Blvd, Suite G, Westerville, OH 43082! A big thank you goes to Bethanne Martin who tirelessly gave oversight to the multiple details that go into a re-location. To celebrate, the staff and I are planning an open house for Saturday, December 11, 2-4 pm. Please plan to join us!

## Congregational Services

### OSYC

In addition to the above-mentioned work of our NXTGen staff, OSYC is on this year!

Having canceled last year's convention, the team is eager to have a convention with the theme, Rise, November 12-14, 2021. We are grateful to the Maiden Lane Church for opening their facility and hearts to hundreds of students and leaders excited to get back. Covid protocols in keeping with the policies of Maiden Lane and any ordinances of the city of Springfield will be adhered to. Registrations are strong and we are expecting a great convention.

## **Disaster Relief**

With your generosity, Ohio raised and requisitioned for relief to Haiti over \$10,000. Additionally, the team has set in place grants to underwrite pastors and spouses leading mission trips in the US. Vernon Maddox serves as the consultant to the team and has been on the forefront of this new venture.

## **Senior Adult Ministries**

With the sharp rise of Covid this fall, our Senior Ministries team made the difficult decision to postpone our annual Fall Feasts. With great hope and faith, they are hard at work to plan a first-ever Senior Adult Convention in 2022. More details coming on this event.

## **Finance Report**

We are delighted to report that our 2020 expenses came in under budget, church income was above budget, and the PPP loan received in May 2020 qualified for approval as a grant. 2021 is turning out to be a great and lackluster year with income. We have had more than one "financial blessing" such as one-time special gifts, sale of some property, some strong returns on our investments, and insurance rebates. These have been life-giving. We are also concerned that congregational giving is behind budget, but hopeful that this last quarter will get us over the top.

## **COGO Grant**

Since our last meeting we have been able to award \$94,000 in grant monies to the national ministries of CARE and ARISE, to SEO to develop peer ministry network, to NEO for student ministry leadership development, to ethnic ministries and small churches to participate in the Mission 120 and for leadership development, and lastly, dollars were committed to help the 3SLI (leadership development program for youth jointly supported by IN, KY, WV, and OH) to restart.

### **Real Estate**

One of the sad predictions of the state of the Church in America in the aftermath of Covid-19 is that as many as 20% of the churches will close within the next 5-10 years. This is not to say that the pandemic is the culprit, simply that the pandemic has revealed churches that are at the end of their life cycle and hastened their demise. In essence the pandemic became “the last straw.”

Whenever a church closes our first option is to investigate the possibility of creating a fresh ministry at the facility. If that is not reasonable, then we seek to sell the facility to a like-minded, Christ honoring, church or non-profit.

Our last option is to sell the property to an ethical business or individual.

When COGO holds a safeguarding deed on such properties, 70% of the proceeds are applied to the Church Multiplication account and the remainder is divided evenly between Leadership Development, Church Transformation, and the General Budget. This year we were able to merge the Cedarville Church into the Hillside Church; sell the Cambridge and Greentown properties to businesses; and assist the Warren Eastside in selling their property to a growing campus congregation and then divesting the assets per their requests. I am thankful for Nancy Blankenship's diligence to oversee and care for these precious Kingdom assets.

### **Safeguarding**

We have finally been able to obtain from Church of God Ministries a reasonably accurate list of more than 20 churches in Ohio that have a conditional deed naming the Board of Church Extension as the owners of the property should a church close. Nancy Blankenship and Demetrius Booker are working together to create a path to educate boards about safeguarding, invite them into the process, and then work with the local churches to complete the safeguarding deeds.

### **DBA (Doing Business As)**

Working with our attorney, Ben Cramer, the necessary paperwork has been filed with the State of Ohio to utilize the name COGO Ministries as a DBA. Our legal, official corporation name will continue as Ohio Ministries of the Church of God, INC.

## CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

### Church Merger

The Cedarville Church passed a resolution in December of 2020 to merge with Hillside Church in Springfield as a campus. They formally launched on October 3 as Restoration Church Cedarville. Averaging 45-50 in attendance and 3 baptisms has given great hope and life to this renewed congregation. In the words of Campus Pastor Andy Shroyer, "I've never had more fun in my life than in planting this campus."

### Mission 120

Mission 120 has completed 3 waves with 52 Ohio pastors completing the 6-session experience developed to give pastors an opportunity to work with peers, coaches and Jon Wiest to imagine and blueprint a discipleship pathway for their congregation. We will offer another round of M120 early next year. Furthermore, IN, MI, and OH continue to work together to support the alumni of M120 with a follow up opportunity for coaching and further development of each church's blueprint with the goal that every church will have a vital, implemented discipleship pathway.

## LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### Start Fresh

Start Fresh was a 3-hour virtual experience on March 13, 2021. Demetrius and the planning team worked creatively to plan quality main sessions and breakout sessions to help our church lay leaders and pastors get some tools for ministry post-Covid. The next Start Fresh, a great day of training and fellowship for pastors and lay leaders is next spring on Saturday, March 12, 2022.

### Webinars

Late last year the state pastors of IL, IN, W.PA and OH decided to partner together to present webinars designed to help pastors navigate through the Covid crisis. We held 4 webinars which were aimed at encouraging the pastor and giving them some tools to lead his/her congregation through these changing times. We were pleased with the attendance which hovered around 100 each time.

### Credentials Rolls Out 5 Year Review

Demetrius Booker has worked diligently with the Credentials Committee to create a 5 year ministerial review that follows the directives of the Credentials Manual and the COC guidelines. They have created an online survey to accomplish much of the work and will simplify this huge task for the credentials teams in each district. Kim Leach has assumed additional administrative duties for Leadership Focus and the review. Persons ordained in years ending with "1" or "6" are the first *class* to participate in this process designed to encourage and remember your call.

## CHURCH TRANSFORMATION

### Coaching Certification

Demetrius has completed a year-long internship in Missional Coaching with Bob Whitesel and is a certified coach. The purpose of the internship is to train and hone coaching and consulting skills in the area of church transformation. This experience has been practical and enriching.

### Pastoral Transitions

Times of pastoral transition are often poignant moments in the life of the church and open the door for transformation and new life cycles to begin. As the pandemic winds down, we are seeing transitions occur. We know that when COGO is invited to work with the search committee from the beginning the church is able to work successfully through the transitional period.

We are thankful for pastors, when leaving a ministry, advocate for COGO involvement. This opens a door for helpful partnership between the search committee and COGO.

To aid new pastors to be change agents and to develop networks of colleagues, one of our circles being introduced in 2022 is designed for this need.



*Esther M Cottrell*

## CLOSING THOUGHTS

### Next Year Looking to the Future

In the annual Board of Directors retreat insightful conversation revolved around key ministries needed to address the needs of the local congregation as we move into a new chapter as the pandemic season subsides. There was great affirmation that the current direction of equipping and empowering for the mission of Jesus is the correct path. In this coming year we will continue to focus our efforts to resourcing the Church for the mission of Jesus in this new era of ministry and finding more effective paths of communication.

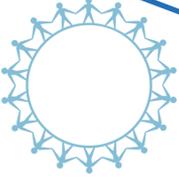
### Personal Note

As most of you are aware, the General Assembly for the US and Canada elected me to serve as the next chair of the Assembly and Ministries Council. That term begins July 1, 2022. I follow the powerful and significant leaderships of Bishop Tim Clarke and the late Dr. Diana Swoope. Those are big shoes to fill. I am humbled, honored, and in need of your prayers. The staff and I are using this year to re-arrange the ministry at COGO to make sure we are able to serve you while also serving the wider Church. We are committed to equipping and empowering you for the Mission of Jesus. I am excited to see where the Lord leads us to minister in His name in this new age. Surely it is for such a time as this that you and I have come to the Kingdom!

**Better together!**

*Esther*

## CIRCLES



Your COGO Ministries Team are excited to announce a new clergy and district partnership COGO Circles. COGO Circles are designed to provide a two hour teaching and fellowship morning ending with a meal together.

## SOUL CARE



How is it with your soul? In ministry we need to be vigilant in the care of our souls even as we care for our flocks. Soul Care is an opportunity to explore your spiritual being and to deepen your day-to-day experience of being grounded in the goodness and presence of God. Through our partnership with SoulCare.com you can be paired with a spiritual director for one-to-one sessions or join a peer group. COGO is currently able to help with soul care costs for pastors of partner churches. For more information contact [esther@cogo.church](mailto:esther@cogo.church).

## COACHING



Coaching – We all seek to minister with deep purpose, achievement, and vision. Coaching is bringing someone alongside you to teach you, challenge you, and encourage you to reach your God-given ministry goals and vision. A Coach will help you move toward specific objectives and transformation with accountability, encouragement, and practical wisdom. COGO can help you find a coach to match your ministry objectives. For more information contact [demetrius@cogo.church](mailto:demetrius@cogo.church).

## COUNSELING



Sometimes we need a safe place to talk through life's hurts and disappointments, to recover and regain balance, avoid burning out, or simply stay mentally strong and healthy for life and our ministry. The COGO Counseling Team is working with reputable Christian counselors to significantly underwrite counseling for you and your family. With a confidential system, counselees remain anonymous to COGO and any other Church of God entity. Finalized details are scheduled to be available on our website by the end of the year.

**RESOLUTION**

**Bylaw Change of Address**

The Board of Directors for Ohio Ministries of the Church of God, Inc; dba, Church of God Ohio (COGO), proposes the following amendment to the bylaws.

**WHEREAS** the current bylaws state in Article 1.2 that Ohio Ministries is located at 3438 Township Road 221, Marengo, Ohio 43334; and

**WHEREAS** the ministry moved to a new location June 1, 2021;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the bylaws and all other legal documents reflect this location change and that Article 1.2 now read, "The present location of business is at 653 McCorkle Blvd, Suite G, Westerville, OH 43082.

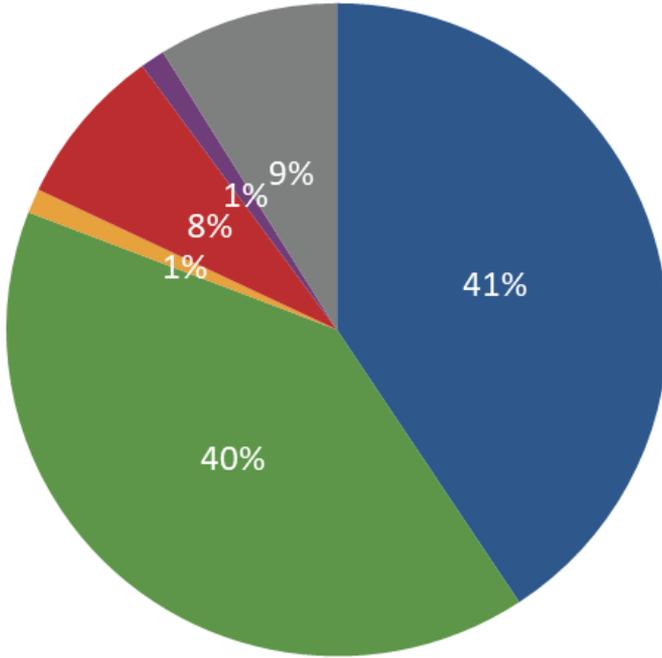


Nancy Blankenship,  
Business Admin

## COGO Ministries BUDGETED EXPENSE Comparison

Description	2022 PRO-POSED BUDGET	2021 BUDGET	2019 Actual Expenditures
Church Transformation	\$44,034	\$42,765	\$31,418
Leadership Development	\$70,690	\$44,229	\$26,615
State Operations/Administration	\$233,189	\$260,401	\$251,234
Nxt Gen Ministries	\$82,000	\$76,500	
Camp Facility and Programming			\$311,092
Congregational Services	\$180,061	\$144,240	\$161,892
Church Multiplication	\$53,144	\$39,875	\$46,683
<b>TOTAL BUDGET EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$663,118</b>	<b>\$608,010</b>	<b>\$828,934</b>

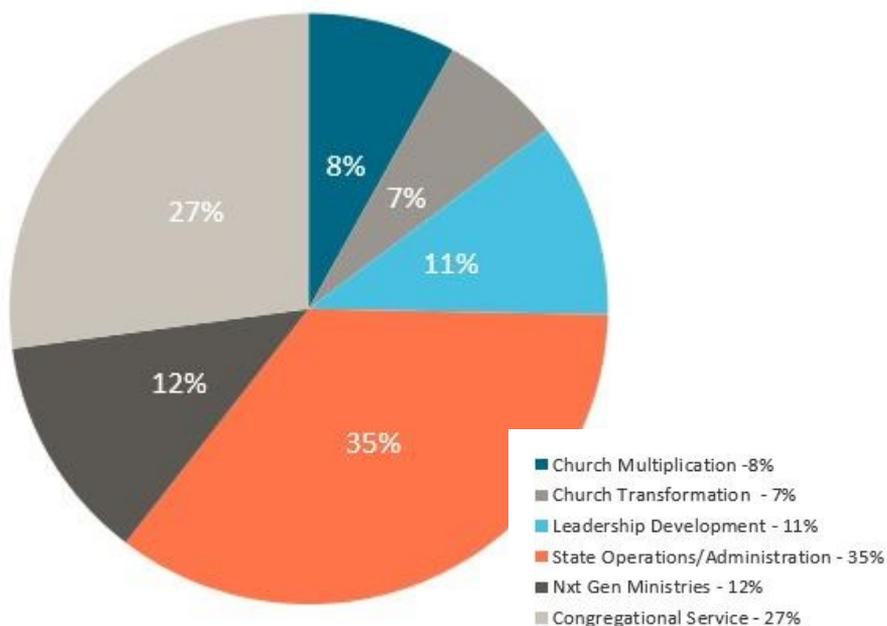
2022 Proposed Budget Revenue



- Church and Individual Contribution - 41%
- Fund Transfer - 40%
- Investment - 1%
- Registration and Fees - 8%
- Programming - 1%
- All other Receipts - 9%

## 2022 Proposed Expenses

Description	Amount
Church Multiplication - 8%	\$53,144.00
Church Transformation - 7%	\$44,034.00
Leadership Development - 11%	\$70,690.00
State Operations/Administration - 35%	\$233,189.00
Nxt Gen Ministries - 12%	\$82,000.00
Congregational Service - 27%	\$180,061.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$663,118.00</b>



\*Detailed budget sheets are available upon request.

*A Grateful Church  
Remembers*



**Rev. Woodrow A  
Crosthwaite**  
12-13-1955 to 5-20-2021



**Rev. Jo Ann  
Harris**  
2-8-1947 to 5-11-2021



**Rev. James L  
Rose**  
7-22-1924 to 9-9-2021



# LEADERSHIP FOCUS

EQUIPPING | COACHING | CREDENTIALING

## First Steps:

Step 1: Talk to your Senior Pastor

Step 2: Begin the Application Process at [www.choglf.com](http://www.choglf.com) - Click on New Credentials Candidates Registration - select Ohio in the drop downtown menu, follow the instructions to start the process. Deadlines are February 10 for Spring Sessions and August 10 for Fall Sessions.

**4 Foundational Principles based on Acts 2:42-47**

**Spiritual Formation  
Missional Commitment  
Competencies  
Community**

Leadership Focus is the credentialing tool used within the Church of God. This 3 year, 6-course curriculum is used to support the credentialing requirements in the Credentials Manual of the Church of God. It is designed to prepare leaders for ordination. Completion of this process does not guarantee ordination, but is a requirement in order to be considered for ordination.

**The Course themes explored are:**

- #1 COMMENCEMENT**
- #2 CHARACTER**
- #3 COMPETENCIES**
- #4 CONFESSIONS**
- #5 CONNECTIVITY**
- #6 CELEBRATIONS**

Spring Session is March—August  
Fall Session is September—February

**Currently in Ohio Leadership Focus**

Module	Individuals
1	11
2	7
3	7
4	12
5	6
6	13



**Rev. Kimberly Leach**  
Credentials Administrator

*Pastor Kim and her husband are TIPS Pastors. Their first assignment is in Centralia, Washington.*

*Kim can be reached through email at [credentials@cogo.church](mailto:credentials@cogo.church)*



Aaron Barkley

## Aaron Barkley

### Triumphant, Westerville — Central District

Dr. Aaron T. Barkley has served the city of Columbus and surrounding suburbs as a licensed dentist for the last 25 ½ years. He and his wife attend the Triumphant Church of God, Westerville where he has served as Deacon, Co-Youth Leader, and is currently the Praise and Worship Leader. He is also an avid cookie baker, and has used his love for baking to minister to first responders in the Columbus area. Desiring to be obedient, he awaits his next “orders” as he moves into this next level life, living, and ministry in the Kingdom.



Alisa Beisner

## Alisa Beisner

### First Church, Ansonia — Central District

Alisa Beisner is currently serving as a missionary to the U.S. with the ministry, Time to Revive, locally known as reviveOHIO. She is passionate about seeing believers grow deeply in Christ and communities shaken for Jesus! She is also passionate about her family: husband, Stuart, and 10 month old daughter, Serenna.



Rita Bullock

## Rita Bullock

### Awake Church, Shelby — Northeast District

Rita has served in a variety of roles over the last 20 years in her ongoing commitment to serve the body of Christ through the Church. She is passionate to help everyone live in their unique calling to serve God as disciples of Jesus and views a pastor’s primary role as “Equipper”. Her life verse is from Philippians 2. Rita currently serves as the lead pastor at Awake Church in Shelby, Ohio, with her husband, David. She invites anyone who would enjoy a conversation about life in ministry and discipleship in the church to connect through [awakeshelby.com](http://awakeshelby.com).



Christina Cooling

## Christina Cooling

Eaton Road, Hamilton —Southwest District

Christina Cooling recently became the Senior Pastor of the Eaton Road Church of God in Hamilton, Ohio. She is excited about following God and leading people into a deeper relationship with Jesus. She believes that the more you get into God's Word, the more God's Word gets into you. Her life has been wonderfully blessed with her husband, John, and their children, Samantha, Jessica, Jared, and son-in-law, Josh.



Kelly Daniel

## Kelly Daniel

First Church, Ansonia —Central District

Kelly Daniel is currently serving in the combined roles of Worship and Communications Pastor at Ansonia First Church of God in Ansonia, Ohio. She has a deep desire to help others discover and utilize their God given potential as well as an incredible passion for sharing the joy of Christ through His word and Music. Her husband of 13 years and their 2 children are proud to see her using her gifts and serving in ministry and are excited to see what God has ahead for them



Steven Jones

## Steven Jones

First Church, Mason —Southwest District

Steven Nicholas Jones is married to Angie and have 7 kids and 8 grandkids. He has been serving as Minister in residence at Mason Church of God for over 10 yrs. Steven is a 12 year Army Veteran, and has been in the Service industry for over 20 yrs. But the calling to serve our Lord and savior is his ultimate calling. "God's call for us to Love our Lord with ALL OUR HEART, MIND, BODY AND STRENGTH. Means everything, nothing held back. Lord, I give you my ALL".



Alisa M. Keck

## Alisa M. Keck

### Heritage Church, Maumee—Northwest District

Alisa Keck has been a member of Heritage Church of God in Maumee, Ohio for more than 30 years. Her walk with Christ has led her to be a part of worship team, VBS, youth leadership, and many other ministries, meeting the needs of the church. She and her husband Matt, of 24 years, have two amazing sons, Alexander and Nicholas. Alisa currently serves as part of senior staff at Heritage, discipling others and encouraging their growth in Christ.



Jacquelyn Mann

## Jacquelyn Mann

### Salem Church, Clayton—Central District

Jacque attends and serves Salem Church with her husband Steve as passionate evangelists. They have one son Seth (7). Jacque currently serves as the Center Director of Sylvan Learning in Vandalia, Ohio where she oversees business operations, creates effective plans for families to overcome the academic challenges they face, and inspires her staff to serve like Jesus. She is excited to embark on a new journey, assisting pastors to easily identify each church member's strengths and weaknesses, creating a simple series of next steps for each individual to take, while developing a robust mentoring network that leads to sustained life change.



Joshua McConnell

## Joshua McConnell

### Wintergreen Ledges, Akron—Northeast District

Pastor Josh McConnell and his wife, Rhonna, have been married for over 13 years, and have two children. Josh completed his academic studies at Cincinnati Christian University, where he earned his Masters in NT Studies, Bachelors in Biblical Studies, and Associates in Psychology. In January of this year, Josh began to fill the pulpit at Wintergreen Ledges Church of God in Akron, where he has been serving as Pastor since February. He and his family are very thankful and blessed to be a part of the Wintergreen Ledges family.



Gregorio MEndoza

## Gregorio Mendoza

**Iglesia Nueva Esperanza, Miamisburg—SW District**

Gregorio Mendoza is currently serving as a pastor and worship leader at Nueva Esperanza in Miamisburg OH. Since 2015, this new church plant began leading God's people into worship. His wife Reyna and Brandon (10) Rebaca (8) Jeremias (5) Danilo (3) are excited for this next chapter in their ministry.



Jesse Ralston

## Jesse Ralston

**Connection Point, Sidney—Central District**

Jesse Ralston has been serving as the worship pastor at Connection Point Church in Sidney, Ohio since 2015. He has been married to Lesly for 16 years and is father to Tyler(27), Cayla(26) and Jayce(23).

Jesse is excited for whatever God wants to do through him and humbled and honored to answer the call to serve and lead wherever God propels him.



Seth Walsh

## Seth Walsh

**Towne Blvd. Middletown —Southwest District**

Seth Michael Walsh is currently serving at Franklin First Church of God. He is passionate about teaching, preaching, evangelism, & making disciples for Jesus Christ. Seth is also serving as guest pastor at Northside Chapel CHOG (Camden, OH). Seth graduated the Leadership Focus program in February of 2021. Seth is married to his Laurel and they have one seven-year-old child together named Nolan.



We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers; Remembering without ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

## Are you new to Ohio?

- ◆ *Have you transferred your credentials?*
- ◆ *If not or are unsure contact your former credentials chair or the state office you moved from.*

## Are you moving out of Ohio?

*We will miss you, but if you must go, please:*

- ◆ *Go to our website [COGO.church](http://COGO.church) and fill out a transfer form*
- ◆ *Go to Resources | For Pastors | Credentials*

## Annual Registration?

- ◆ *Please make sure your contact information and status are up -to-date*
- ◆ *Go to Church of God website:*
- ◆ *[register.jesusisthesubject.org](http://register.jesusisthesubject.org)*

## Board of Directors — Member

### Rev. Rita Bullock

Member, January 2022-December 32, 2024

Fulfilling an unexpired term



Rita has served in a variety of roles over the last 20 years in her ongoing commitment to serve the body of Christ through the Church. She is passionate to help everyone live in their unique calling to serve God as disciples of Jesus and views a pastor's primary role as "Equipper". Her life verse is from Philippians 2, "Do nothing from selfish ambition or vain conceit but in humility count others more significant than yourselves." Admittedly this is a challenge, especially when things are going well!

Rita is currently serving as the lead pastor at Awake Church in Shelby, Ohio, with her husband, David. She invites anyone who would enjoy a conversation about life in ministry and discipleship in the church to connect through [awakeshelby.com](http://awakeshelby.com).

## Board of Directors — Member

### Rev. Ron Fowler II

Member, January 2022-December 32, 2024



Ronald J. Fowler II serves as the Executive Pastor of the Arlington Church of Akron, Ohio. He obtained an Associate of Arts in Business Management from the University of Akron, and later completed his Bachelor of Arts in Business Management from Walsh University. Ron has worked for Pepsi Cola, Aircraft Braking and Diebold Inc. In 2013 he left the corporate sector to work for the church on a permanent full-time capacity. Understanding that there was a call upon his life, he began Ashland School of Theology and was installed as the Executive Pastor of the Arlington Church. He acquired his Masters of Arts in Christian Studies, with a focus on Pastoral Studies at Anderson University School of Theology. Ron's organizational and board involvements include: The National Association of the Church of God, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Youth Excellence Performing Arts, Leadership Akron Class 34 Signature Class and Urban Vision Ministry. He continues to serve and share his gifts and passion with his local and national church organizations, as well as local community organizations in the East Akron and greater Akron area. Ron is married to Kishna and has one daughter Brooke Alyssa Fowler and one grandson Braiden Allen Harper.

**Board of Directors — Member**

**Rev. Janet Orr**

Member, January 2022-December 32, 2024  
Second Term



Rev. Janet Orr has served in many leadership capacities for forty-four years under the visionary and dynamic pastorate of Bishop Robert A. Culp, FCOG Toledo, Ohio. She presently serves as the Pastor of Preacher’s & Minister’s Ministry, Midweek Bible Study Teacher and also a Deaconess. She has been ordained since 2001; graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Political Science from Kent State University; and with Masters Degree in Biblical Studies (Summa Cum Laude) from Vision Christian Bible College & Seminary. Presently serves on the Governing Board of Directors for COGO Ministries. She also is a member of the Northwest Ohio Credentials Committee. She has been married to her wonderful husband, Broadus, since 1975. They are blessed to have four accomplished adult children, two gifted daughter-in-laws, and ten precious grandchildren.

**Board of Directors — Member**

**Rev. Jerry Webb II**

Member, January 2022-December 32, 2024



Jerry Webb has served as the Associate Pastor of Student Ministries at the Eaton First Church of God for the past four years. Having grown up in the home of a Pastor, Jerry has always felt called to serve the church in various capacities. He has served in various positions in student ministry for the past 17 years. Jerry has earned a bachelors degree in Christian Ministries and a Masters of Divinity from Anderson University. He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry in Leading Organizational Change at Fuller Theological Seminary. Having served in various capacities of leadership in the church as well as state ministry teams, he has a passion for helping others grow in their leadership capacity as we lead the church into the future. Jerry has been married to his wife, Tia, since 2004 and has four children; Kaiden (15), Hunter (13), Rylan (11), and Greyson (8).

**Board of Directors — Chair**

**Rev. Matthew Roe**

Chair, January 2022-December 32, 2024

Fulfilling an unexpired term

Matthew Roe has been the Lead Pastor of the First Church of God in Chillicothe, OH since 2011. Matt graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Organizational Management from Warner Southern College and earned a Masters in the Science of Management from Warner University. He has been in full time ministry since 1994 and has served on various boards and committees at the National, State, and District levels. Matt has been married to his wife Lori since 1992.



**State Credentials — Chair**

**Rev. David Guess**

Chair, January 2022-December 32, 2024

Second Term

David Guess is currently Pastor at the Amsterdam Community Church of God and has also pastored in PA, KY, OK, KS, and AK. He has been in full-time ministry for nearly 40 years. He serves on the NEO Board of Pastor and Church Relations, Vice-Chair of the NEO District, and Chair of the NEO Retreat Center and has served the last two years as COGO Credentials Chair. Locally he serves as Director of WEBA Food Pantry and on the Simmons Ridge Cemetery Board. He has been married to Marcy for 31 years and they have 4 adult children and two grandchildren-twin boys.





# FOR OHIO

## Spring Church Leader's Event

We are excited to announce our 2022 Theme: FOR OHIO

FOR OHIO is designed by our Start Fresh team to empower both Christian Leader and their Congregation!

**F**reedom  
**O**pportunity  
**R**esources



**F**reedom to ...

Reinvent the Ministry Philosophy of your Church  
Confront Your Sacred Cows  
Evaluate and Expand Your Ministries  
Expand Your Ministry Reach

**O**ppportunity to ...

Fellowship with new and familiar friends  
Learn and ask questions in a safe environment  
Transform your personal and Church ministries

**R**esource or Equipping your unique Call to ...

People  
Organizations

OHIO ... This leadership empowerment conference is a state function. It brings all of our districts together on one day for 300 minutes or five fast-paced hours. Next to our annual Fall Feast, it is the biggest party sponsored by COGO Ministries.

Save the date, Start Your Recruiting Now!

Rev. Demetrius Booker  
State Associate Pastor/Church Health



CHURCH OF GOD  
**OHIO MINISTRIES**  
MOVING TOGETHER

Sponsored by

Saturday—March 12, 2022

Teach the wise, and they will become even wiser;  
teach good people, and they will learn even more.  
Proverbs 9:9 NCV



**COGO**  
CHURCH OF GOD OHIO

## **DISASTER RELIEF TEAM**

### **Pastor to DR Projects:**

Pastor your COGO Disaster Relief Team wants to enable you to lead some of your people in a hands-on experience following a natural disaster. To encourage pastoral participation we wish to inform you that funds are available to assist with some of your personal travel costs to and from the worksite.

There are many laypersons who will never serve on a worship team, teach a class or be a good board chair, but they have a heart to serve with their hands in times of natural disasters. The ministry of these individuals is important to the Kingdom and some are waiting to respond to your invitation to join you in the next opportunity to serve.

#### **Tell Me More:**

Pastors or pastor couples are encouraged to tap into the heart of this portion of your congregation by signing up and helping bring a small group of volunteers together either to help meet a need sponsored by COGO Ministries or with a like minded group of volunteers with another faith based ministry who are serving an area hit by a natural disaster

**HAVE QUESTIONS:**  
Contact Vernon Maddox:  
vgmaddox@gmail.com  
or call/text 740-815-5517

### **Current Guidelines:**

1. Pastor or pastor couple, currently serving a local Ohio ChoG Congregation are encouraged to contact the COGO DR Team regarding a recovery effort in their area of interest and/or schedule.
2. Your COGO DR Team will assist you in making contact with those serving in a disaster recovery effort across the ChoG Movement and beyond.
3. The work project including travel would need to be at least six days in length and consist of put to five or six work campers. It is expected that a majority of the group would be from the congregation you serve.
4. The pastor and/or pastor couple will also interact with the community in which the project site is located.

Read more at  
[Cogo.church/ohio-ministries-disaster-relief/](http://Cogo.church/ohio-ministries-disaster-relief/)





NXTGENSTUDENTS

OSYC

**Ohio State Youth Convention**

Follow OSYC on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/ohchog/>



November 12-14, 2021  
Maiden Lane Church of God



FAMILIES AND CHURCHES OF NEO ARE WELCOME

**MORE INFO TO COME**

**16278 SHILLING RD BERLIN CENTER, OH  
44401**



Save  
the Dates

**ZOOM & COFFEE  
BREAK**

DEC 11, 2021

FEB 5, 2022

MAR 5, 2022

MAY 7, 2022



NXTGENKIDS



**ZOOM AND  
COFFEE BREAK**

December 11, 2021 • 9:30 AM-10:30AM

Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID: 822 8794 3239

Passcode: COGONXTGen

LET'S CELEBRATE TOGETHER A CHALLENGING BUT  
GREAT YEAR!



**Northeast District**

October 30th, 9am  
Ellet Church of God

**Southwest District**

January 8th, 9am  
Miamisburg First  
Church

## OSYC 2022

November  
11-13

Location TBD

# Trellis

Educating, Empowering and Equipping the next generation of church leaders. COGO will be partnering with this organization in 2022 to help those preparing for ministry to live out their God call. More details to come soon.



This is a leadership intensive event designed for high school students who sense a call to ministry leadership or who desire to lead in their school, workplace, importance of Christian character, their ministry SHAPE, spiritual gifts, and personality profile. They will be challenged to develop spiritual habits and meet other students who are passionate about Christian leadership.





# Servant Solutions

YOUR RETIREMENT & FINANCIAL PLANNING PARTNER

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**We are thankful and grateful for their many years of supporting our kingdom work in Ohio. On behalf of staff and the Board of Directors, we ask that you would support these ministry partners.**

## Christ's Birthday Observance 2021

Presented by Christian Women Connection



### The Goals:

- ◆ Focus attention and devotion on Jesus Christ, our Messiah.
- ◆ Encourage prayer support for the entire world and specifically all the countries in which the church of God exists.
- ◆ Collect an offering in support of the ministries of the Church of God worldwide.

### Seasonal Tools include:

Sermon outlines and transcripts (two for each Sunday of Advent) with PowerPoint and media for churches to utilize to make a stressful season simple for pastors.

Printed and Digital Meditation Journals for Dec. 1st - 25th

Outreach Ideas

Worship Suggestions

Adult small group, Children's and Youth Curriculum

Multiple ways to give, including offering envelopes for children and adults.

Project Prayer Guide to help congregations join the movement in a time of prayer.

[Christianwomenconnection.org/page/cbo-2021](http://Christianwomenconnection.org/page/cbo-2021)

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*"But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." Luke 2:10 NIV*

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# COGO Staff



**Rev. DEMETRIUS BOOKER**  
*State Associate Pastor  
Church Health*



**Dr. ESTHER COTTRELL**  
*State Pastor  
Director of Ministries*



**Rev. NANCY BLANKENSHIP**  
*Business Administrator*



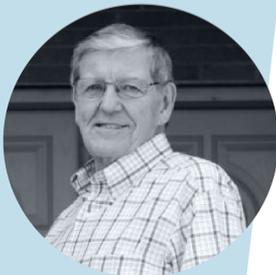
**BETHANNE MARTIN**  
*Special Events Liason*



**Rev. KIMBERLY LEACH**  
*Credentials Administrator*



**KYNA SHINDLE**  
*Administrative Assistant*



**Rev. VERNON MADDOX**  
*Disaster Relief/Special Projects*



**Rev. LIZ HULTZ**  
*NxtGen Kid's Pastor*



**Rev. R.W. MOODY**  
*NxtGen Student Pastor*

## GIVING MADE EASY

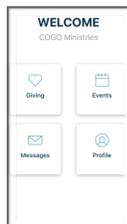
COGO Ministries created another way for those who desire to support Church of God Ohio Ministries. Though you will still be able to give by check or your banking institution sending us a monthly check, now you can go to our website, [www.cogo.church](http://www.cogo.church) and simply click on the **GIVE** button at the top right hand of your screen. The page will give you the option of "Giving Now" or "Sign In" if you desire to setup a recurring giving schedule. Once on this site, you will see how easy it is to give to any of the ministry areas listed. You can also use this sight to pay for any of your



### MOBILE APP

Download our EasyTithe [mobile app](#) to see our events and give online.

(go to app store Search for church by ministry one; Find white cross in purple circle; Get; Open find your church: COGO Ministries; click find your church - see cog with COGO Ministries name)



*We here at COGO Ministries appreciate your financial support and consider it a privilege to serve you in so many ways, on so many platforms.*

TEXT GIVE  
TO 740.227.4040

If this is your first time giving digitally, please register for an account at the link you receive via the SIGN IN tab.

For a list of active Fund Keywords, visit KEYWORDS.



### TEXT TO GIVE

In addition, we have **Text to give**, which is another secure way to give without the hassle of having to use a computer or tablet or iPad. Simply text GIVE the following numbers (740-227-4040) from your smart phone.

# 2022 Calendar of Events

January 8	COGO NXTGen District Circles-Training & Networking Miamisburg First Church
February 5	COGO NXTGen Zoom & Coffee Break
February 12	Winter Fam Jam.....Northeast Ohio Retreat Center
March 4-6	3SLI Student Ministry Event .....Dayspring Church, Cincinnati OH
March 5	COGO NXTGen Zoom & Coffee Break
March 10-12	Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy Conference ..... Grapevine TX
March 12	COGO Start Fresh.....Meadow Park, Columbus OH
March 25-27	COGO NXTGen Kids & Youth Leaders Retreat Inspiration Hills Camp, Burbank OH
<b>April 17</b>	<b>EASTER Sunday</b>
May 7	COGO NXTGen Zoom & Coffee Break
May 29-June 3	Southwest Ohio District Camp Meeting ..... Lebanon OH
June 30-July 3	IYC (International Youth Convention of the Church of God) San Antonio Texas
July 8-17	Southeast Ohio District Camp Meeting ..... Warsaw OH
July 17-22	Northwest Ohio Payne Camp Meeting .....Payne OH
July 24-30	Northeast Ohio District Camp Meeting ..... Berlin Center OH
July 31-Aug	Central Ohio Springfield Camp Meeting ..... Springfield OH
August 23	Lima Leadership Event ..... Lima OH
September 9-10	Ohio Christian Men's Fellowship (formerly called Ox Roast)
October 13-16	CWC (Christian Women's Connection) Convention..... Orlando FL
October 4	COGO Senior Adults Fall Feast Der Dutchman, Walnut Creek OH
October 11	COGO Senior Adults Fall Feast .....Der Dutchman, Plain City OH
October 22	COGO Ohio General Assembly and Ordination Service Meadow Park, Columbus OH
Nov. 11-13	COGO OSYC-Ohio State Youth Convention..... TBD

## 2022 Circle Dates

### Inner Circles (COGO Office)

Feb 1st	..... 10-Noon
Feb 10th	..... 10-Noon
March 1st	..... 10-Noon
March 17th	.....10-3 PM
Aug 16th	..... 10-Noon
Nov 1st	..... 10-Noon

### Outer Circles (District Locations)

Feb 3rd	..... 10-Noon
Feb 8th	..... 10-Noon
Feb 22nd	..... 10-Noon
March 31st	..... 10-Noon
Aug 18th	..... 10-Noon
Nov 10th	..... 10-Noon
Nov 15th	..... 10-Noon
Nov 17th	..... 10-Noon
Dec 1st	..... 10-Noon

# COGO

MOVING TOGETHER



## RESOURCES

- Annual Registration ..... [register.jesusisthesubject.org](https://register.jesusisthesubject.org)
- IYC..... <https://www.jesusisthesubject.org/iyc-2022/>
- Leadership Focus..... <https://www.choglf.org/>
- Women Clergy.....<http://www.whwomensclergy.org/conference>
- Ohio Christian Men’s Fellowship .....  
..... <https://www.facebook.com/ohiochristianmensfellowship/>



*Learn More About COGO Ministries*