

2024 Ohio General Assembly October 19



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Mon-Thurs 9-4:30 pm (740) 747-2916

Website cogo.church

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~ GA Agenda ~

Call To Order.

Welcome and Prayer
Recognition of Guests
Prayer
Bylaws Requirement
Appointment of Tellers
and Parliamentarian
2023 Minutes Approval

Reports:

Board of Director Chair Search Team Report State Pastor/Director Retired Minister's Fund

New Business:

Bylaws Amendment
Financial Report &
2025 Budget
In Memoriam
Presentation of
Ordination Candidates
Nominating Committee
Ratification Ballot
Announcements
Adjournment

COGO Ministries

EQUIPPING AND EMPOWERING FOR THE MISSION OF JESUS

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



2023 Assembly/Governing Board—Minutes

October 14, 2023

Location: Meadow Park Church

AGENDA

Prayer and Call to Order: Matt Roe

Recognition of newcomers to the Assembly: Matt Roe

Recognition of Guests: Demetrius Booker - Thank you to supporters from: Servant Solutions; Vision Ministries; Intentional Churches; and

Anderson University

Review of bylaws requirement to vote or speak: Matt Roe - Articles 3.1.1, 3.1.2

Appointment of Tellers, Parliamentarian, and Reader: Matt Roe - Tellers: Jackie Mann, Jim Childers, Stan Harmon, Jason Parker, Josh Houser, and Jim Roma - Parliamentarian: Steve Anthony - Readers: Dave Hennen and Janet Orr

Approval of 2022 General Assembly Minutes: Matt Roe- Motion to accept minutes as presented: Rex Heagy - Seconded by Debra Heagy - No Discussion; Motion passed

REPORTS

Report from State Pastor: Esther Cottrell - Review report as presented in the General Assembly packet. - Highlighted information about the survey and search for General Director of the Church of God; Start Now Go Now; Launch 32.

Reports from Credentials Committee: Demetrius Booker and Vernon Maddox

Report on Covenant Relationship - Shared the mission and introduced proactive care and covenant relationship to help churches go through conflict. See report for more information.

COGO Ministerial Retirement Fund - Introduced fund for the purpose of helping retired ministers in financial need. Can help by providing funds as a living testimony. See attachment

Report from Disaster Relief: Vernon Maddox- Over \$450,000 given in last ten years. - Gordon Garrett introduced as new chair. - Highlighted specific ways to support funds going to Ukraine.

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Report and 2024 Budget Presentation: Nancy Blankenship - Shared about giving Tuesday and goal of \$10,000. - Discussed Pastor's Ap-

2023 Assembly/Governing Board—Minutes cont'd

preciation and Safeguard Deeding. - Apologies to those churches inadvertently left off list of partner churches. - Reviewed financial report as written and highlighted key areas of change: represents a 3.5% increase year over year revenue, a 3% cost of living wage increase, and 2024 goal of partner churches giving 3-5% of their budget to COGO Ministries. - Introduced 2024 Budget proposal - Motion to accept the 2024 budget proposal from the Board of Directors. - Budget Ratification is on the ballot.

In Memoriam and Presentation of Ordination Candidates: David Guess - Recognition of 50 years in Ministry; Theodore E. Bell, Karl H. Hartmann, Gordon J. Garrett, and Lowell R. Lay. - Moment of silence for those ministers who have died this past year. - Candidates presented in the packet. - Motion to accept the candidates from the Credentials Committee. - Candidate Ratification is on the ballot.

Report from Nominating Committee: Louise Worsham - There are three ratifications on the ballot; two for the Board of Directors and one for the Credentials Committee. - Motion for ratification from the Credentials Committee. - Ratifications are on the ballot.

Ratification Ballot - The General Assembly voted yes to each item and name on the ballot.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Kyle Youngman. - Matt Roe, Chair, accepted the motion and adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted, REV. JERRY WEBB Board of Directors Secretary

General Assembly Chair Report 2024

I'm excited to report that Church of God, Ohio is strong, and there has been intentionality on the part of our state pastor, Rev. Dr. Esther Cottrell and her staff to lead this ministry to the vision of "Doing whatever it takes to effectively share the good news of Jesus, both locally and globally, so that mature disciples are made, biblical leaders are identified, and nurtured; and healthy churches are established and multiplied."

This is a time of transition in our state, with the announcement of Esther's retirement at the end of 2025. As I look back on Esther's time as state pastor, and her service in other capacities to the Church of God in Ohio and nationally, she has served with excellence, dignity, and integrity. Esther was selected as our leader and has served for such a time as this. As she prepares for this final leg in her race, as state pastor, I know she will end well and leave COGO strong and prepared to face the future God has for us. All our lives have been enriched by her ministry among us.

Along with Esther's retirement, we learned that Rev. Demetrius Booker would also be retiring in 2025. What can we say about Demetrius? In his time with us, we have grown to love and appreciate him and his ministry. We have adopted him as true Ohioan, and we recognize him as a "Buckeye!" He has helped COGO with policy and processes that were greatly needed with his unique way to approach issues. His personality, passion, and presence will be missed. Demetrius will also finish his race, with us, well. We are excited to see how God will continue to use him. Church of God, Ohio has been blessed to have been led by two extraordinary servant leaders in this season.

The Board of Directors has spent a great deal of time praying and planning as we move through this transition and the selection of the next individual who will serve us as state pastor. The Board prayerfully selected a group of well-respected servants, in our state, who will lead us through this process. We have given the Search Team a job description along with a process that will enable them to present a candidate to the Board by August of 2025. The candidate will then be presented to the

General Assembly Chair Report cont'd

Church of God, Ohio General Assembly for a vote of ratification. The Board also did a review of the State Pastor's job description to make sure it was still in alignment with our mission, vision and culture.

We ask you, as pastors and leaders, to lead your congregations to join the Board of Directors and Search Team in praying for God's will to be made known through this process. We know God has a plan for us and we are trusting Him to make the plan known. We also ask you to pray for the individual God has chosen for the position of state pastor. Thank you for your faithfulness and thank you for the opportunity to serve you as Chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. MATT ROE

Ohio General Assembly Chair



Search Committee Members

SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS











Angie Swonger, Chair

Rita Bullock

Dale French

David Guess

Dave Hennen











Janet Orr

Jenny Petersen

Tom Sothard

Steve Southards

Benjamin Wilson

SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rita Bullock
Dale French
David Guess
Dave Hennen
Janet Orr
Jenny Petersen
Tom Sothard
Steve Southards
Benjamin Wilson
Angie Swonger, Chair

Ways to Nominate:

#1 Survey deadline: November 1



https://cogo.easytitheplus.com/external/ form/740658df-d021-4622-8c6b-ab3971e98b29

#2 Direct Email to Angie Swonger TASwonger88@att.net

2024 State Pastor Annual Report



At the 2023 General Assembly we set forth the challenge to live and plan our ministry focused on our mission, equipping and empowering churches and pastors to be disciple-makers. Wherever I go, whether talking with lay persons, pastors, our national leaders, missionaries, or denominational leaders the common theme is the deep felt need for the Church to address and focus on this one thing: being the Church that makes disciples. The Church of God in Ohio must make disciple-making our priority if we are to be Kingdom worthy. With that in view there are several programs and initiatives that have been on the COGO agenda this year. In this report, with thanksgiving to God, the COGO staff and I offer the following:

Leadership Development

- I. Start Fresh, a one day conference for lay leaders and pastors, focused on disciple-making.
- The COGO Podcast, hosted by RW Moody, incorporated good disciplemaking information and guests.
- 3. 64 Ordination Candidates are currently enrolled in Leadership Focus and 10 persons are being recommended today for ordination this year.
- 4. Over 20 Gen Z persons were identified this summer as persons experiencing and investigating a call to ministry. Our NxtGen Ministry is working with 3SLI, Intern Academy, Trellis, and our colleges to develop opportunities for these newly called to develop in their calling.

Church Multiplication and Transformation

- 1. COGO hosted a one-day conference with Intentional Church in April for 8 -10 churches to train in disciple-making at the grassroots.
- 2. Start Now, Go Now ran through Pentecost. The purpose of that initiative was aimed at encouraging pastors and churches to count and celebrate our evangelistic and discipleship efforts. Approximately 20% of Ohio churches participated in reporting baptism and persons on a discipleship pathway. Average per church was 8 conversions, 14 baptisms, and 8 persons involved in an intentional discipleship pathway reported. Additionally, we continue to have reports from across the Ohio of the Lord of the Harvest working among us as the church focuses on disciple-making.

- 3. The Midwest Multiplication Team of Illinois Ministries, Indiana Ministries, the Church of God in Michigan and COGO have a shared goal to plant 32 churches in 3 years between 2023-2026. This goal is called Launch 32. Ohio committed to launch 11 new churches, replants, fresh expressions and/or missional communities. God has been faithful and we are on target to meet that goal. Our score card of 9 includes: plants- Restauración Shalom in Springfield, and Kettering House Church; restarts and campuses Liberation Church, Common House, Pyrmont, Snyder Road, and Ashland; microchurches or missional communities at Connection Point and Kingswell. We know that not all our efforts will be successful yet if we risk nothing, we will gain nothing.
- 4. Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and Texas state ministries also entered a contract with NewThing and Healthy Growing Churches to be trained and coached in developing networks focused on guiding churches and pastors to make disciples, develop leaders, plant churches, and initiate planting movements. A goal for 2025 is to create 3 networks of 3-5 pastors in Ohio.
- 5. Our partnership with Planting Together continues to be a promising opportunity. This summer 15 persons, called to plant Spanish language churches completed an intensive planting program. Some of those persons are working with Planting Together and COGO to plant in Ohio.
- 6. The Miami Valley Multiplication Network (formally called Vision to Grow-V2x) spent a day to reorganize and clarify the vision, values, and purpose to continue collaborating.
- 7. COGO is a partner supporter of the Church Multiplication Webinar Series that the School of Theology has created. The first in the series was April 16-17. We developed several watch centers around our state for pastors to gather, watch and discuss. Six watch centers and over 40 pastors and lay leaders participated. The next opportunity for you to participate in this free-to-you webinar is February 26, 2025.



A MULTIPLICATION CONVERSATION

Project F.E.E.D.

In 2025, COGO continues to focus on our mission. To focus on the mission and to address the issue of a leadership pipeline that is too thin to handle the growing need, a new initiative called Project F.E.E.D. (Find, Embrace, Equip, and Deploy) kicked off this fall. The focus of this initiative is to encourage and give handles to pastors and church leaders in the raising up and deploying of new leadership. It is designed to build on Start Now, Go Now. COGO is convinced that the path to dealing with the leadership pipeline issue is to proactively engage the Church in the identifying, calling, developing and sending leaders into the Harvest to pastor current and future churches. Will you join us?

Staff News

Sabbatical 2023 was an excellent experience. Both Chris and I were encouraged as we toured Europe to see our Church at work. Our hearts were deeply touched as we met Ukrainian refugees and heard their stories; met our German brothers and sisters who have taken these folks into their homes and churches; and seen our humanitarian aid system at work to help our brothers and sisters still in Ukraine. These were parts of the sabbatical that beyond the joy of sightseeing, have given us most meaning from the sabbatical days. Thank you for your support of this time.

Beginning in December, the Board has approved me to take the remaining 6 weeks. Using the timing of the holidays works well within the COGO calendar and the needs of the Ohio churches as well as with the national duties I hold as chair of the General Assembly.

Kyna Shindle retires at the end of this year. With more than eight years of faithful and creative service as our administrative assistant, Kyna is looking forward to camping, engaging in arts and crafts, and spending time with family. We are so grateful for her ministry among us and ask God's blessings on Kyna in this new chapter of her life.

Becky Heller joined our team in July as our new administrator assistant. She is a great choice to succeed Kyna in this role, bringing a wealth of experience and passion for the ministry. Becky has been working with Kyna this summer to learn the position as well as bringing her skills and creativity to the job. In the coming days you will see her handiwork as she owns various pieces of the job description.

And as our chair, Matt Roe, has already indicated, **Demetrius Booker informed me earlier this year that he plans to retire** in August, 2025. Demetrius has served with distinction and commitment to COGO and the Ohio churches since he joined the team in 2016. His commitment to serve us with excellence continues. I am confident that he will finish strong and well this ministry assignment.

Matt also indicated that, I have informed the board of my decision to retire at the end of 2025. After careful thought, prayer, and conversation with Chris I am convinced that this is the right time. By the end of 2025 I will have served 23 ½ years in state ministries for Ohio, 10 of those years will be as state pastor. It has been one of my greatest joys in life to serve in this ministry. I have often thanked the Lord for the privilege of working among some of His choicest servants. I will leave this ministry with a grateful heart!

As I reflect on my tenure as state pastor it is with a sense of joy and hope. Joy for the progress we have made as we have focused on equipping and empowering pastors and churches for the mission of Jesus. And hope because I see that the conversation and focus in our healthy churches and pastors is on the mission of Jesus. During my tenure we have weathered a pandemic that refocused this ministry to equip the Church in practical ways as we navigated getting online, then coming back to in-person worship, decisions and process for getting PPP, and dealing with the sense of isolation, rebuilding, etc. etc. But before and after the pandemic we walked through a lot of change with the sell of the camp and relocation, re-branding to COGO from Ohio Ministries, staffing for the mission, focusing our ministry to the 4 areas of Church multiplication, Church transformation, leadership development, and congregational services. In each of these areas we have seen great victories. Church multiplication has planted both English and Spanish language churches, replanted dying churches, opened the door for the grassroots planting, and expanded our partnership with surrounding state ministries. Church transformation gave new life to congregations seeking a new life cycle and mission focused purpose through coaching and programs like Mission 120 and Start Now Go Now. Leadership development is at the core of events such as GA, webinars, Launch 32, OSYC, and Start Fresh and Project F.E.E.D as well as the credentials ministry including Leadership Focus. And in the congregational services area attention to the

NXTGen Ministries, Disaster Relief, helping congregations with legal and financial matters all play a role in what we have been able to accomplish together.

Although this has been a difficult decision it is a good one. Chris and I are looking forward to quality grandparenting time. And with my departure, COGO is positioned to write a new chapter. I am confident that the Search Committee will serve you well and with the wisdom of our Lord to guide them, will select to present to you an anointed leader to take Ohio to a

greater level of ministry. But throughout 2025 I commit to you that my aim and goal is to finish this ministry well and ready to hand off to your next leader. To God be the glory!

Better Together!

Rev. Esther Cottrell, D.Min.





A DISCIPLE-MAKING INITIATIVE SEPTEMBER 2024 - SEPTEMBER 2025

COGO Leadership

COGO MINISTRIES STAFF

Esther Cottrell | State Pastor Demetrius Booker | State Associate Pastor Becky Heller | Admin Assistant Kyna Shindle | Admin Assistant R.W. Moody | NXTGen Pastor Nancy Blankenship | Business Admin Kim Leach | Leadership Focus Coordinator

COGO CONSULTANTS

Vernon Maddox | Diaster Relief David Bullock | Technology Tom Planck | Church Multiplication

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Matt Roe - Chair Rita Bullock Christie Cooling David Hennen Janet Orr Tom Sothard Jerry Webb II Ben Wilson

STATE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

David Guess - Chair
Chris Cottrell - Central
Charlene Moore - Northeast
Dottie Kaiser - Northwest
Jim Childers - Southeast
Scott Planck - Southwest
Tim Riley - Member at Large
Kim Leach - Credentials Admin
Demetrius Booker - COGO Advisor

DISTRICT CHAIRS

David Guess - Northeast Angie Swonger - Northwest Dave Hennen - Southeast Dale French - Southwest TBD - Central

SENIOR ADULTS MINISTRY

Claudia Triplett - Co-Chair

Richard Triplett - Co-Chair Reba Fowler Tammy Fowler Rick Humphreys Gwen Humphreys Keith Paff Ruth Paff Demetrius Booker - COGO Advisor

DISASTER RELIEF TEAM

Gordon Garrett - Chair Tom Moody Dean Butts Mark Duffy Kim Graves Jeremy Tillotson Vernon Maddox - COGO Advisor

Retired Ohio Minister's Compassion Fund



Retired Ohio Minister's Compassion Fund

This fund was established to help, during times of emergency, retired ministers needing financial assistance. COGO Ministries encourages you to honor both your present and previous spiritual leaders by contributing to this fund. May the scripture below from the Apostle John be your inspiration and guide.

"But whoever has this world's resources and sees his fellow Christian in need yet closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him. Little children, let us love, not in word or, speech but in action and truth."

I John 3:17-18

WAYS TO GIVE

Mail check to: COGO, 653 McCorkle Blvd. St. G, Westerville OH 43082 MEMO: OH Retired Minister Compassion Fund

2 Online: www.cogo.church
Go to Give Now, Select:

"OH Retired Minister Compassion Fund"



FINANCIAL

| HIGHLIGHTS January – August YTD | 2023 | 2024 |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| Contributions including Mission receipts | \$181,390 | \$186,780 |
| Property Income | -0- | \$69,000 |
| Disaster Relief | \$17,822 | \$33,662 |
| Other Receipts include Investments Gains | \$145,452 | \$149,808 |
| Total Revenue | \$344,664 | \$439,250 |
| Total Expense: Including Other Property and Disaster Relief | \$389,858 | \$451,904 |
| Net Income | \$-45,194 | \$-12,654 |

| BALANCE SHEET January – August YTD | 2023 | 2024 |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Assets | | |
| -Cash and short-term investments | \$391,912 | \$288,296 |
| -Long Term Investments | \$1,324,248 | \$1,488,017 |
| -Accounts receivable | \$199,774 | \$190,474 |
| Barrett Road - West Chester | | |
| -Fixed Assets | \$630,385 | \$630,385 |
| -Petty Cash | \$100 | \$51 |
| -Church Properties – Franklin Furnace. | | \$150,000 |
| (Deed is in process. | | |
| Not yet on the balance Sheet) | | |
| -Cedarville not listed - | | |
| Total Assets on Balance Sheet | \$2,546,569 | \$2,597,223 |
| Liabilities | \$6,314 | \$8,335 |
| -Accounts payable | | . , |
| (Credit Card and Pensions) | | |
| Total Liabilities | \$6,314 | \$8,335 |

2025 Proposed Budget Income

2025 COGO MINISTRIES OVERVIEW REVENUE COMPARISON

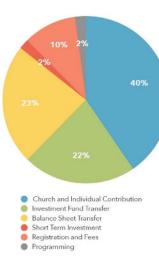
| Description | 2025 BUDGET | 2024 Budget |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Church and Individual Contribution | \$276,550 | \$283,650 |
| Investment Fund Transfer | \$150,000 | \$150,000 |
| Balance Sheet Transfer | \$159,360 | \$167,470 |
| Short Term Investment | \$13,000 | \$8,000 |
| Registration and Fees | \$70,775 | \$62,300 |
| Programming | \$14,500 | \$14,500 |
| All other Receipts | \$33,092.00 | \$27,865 |
| TOTAL Revenue | \$717,277 | \$713,785 |

Long Term Investment Gain/Loss is not figured in our budget.

Any gains are used to fund the following year budgetary needs.

2025





2025 Proposed Budget Expenses

2025 OHIO MINISTRIES PROPOSED BUDGET

| Description | Amount |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Church Multiplication | \$105,393.00 |
| Church Transformation | \$35,617.00 |
| Leadership Development | \$44,333.00 |
| State Operations/ Administration | \$271,636.00 |
| Next Gen Ministries | \$86,947.00 |
| Congregational Service | \$173,351.00 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | \$717,277.00 |

2025
Proposed Budget Expenses

15%

5%

6%

12%

Church Multiplication
Leadership Development
Next Gen Ministries

Congregational Service



Business Admin
NANCY BLANKENSHIP

Detailed reports are available upon request.

Churches contributing to the State Budget

Thank you to the following church partners.

Because of you COGO Ministries continues.

If you do not see your church listed please contact Nancy Blankenship.
Nancy@cogo.church



4 WAYS TO GIVE

- Mail check to: COGO, 653 McCorkle Blvd. St. G, Westerville OH 43082
- 2 Online: <u>www.cogo.church</u>
- **3** Text **GIVE** to 740.227.4040
- 4 Mobile App





Akron-Arlington COG Akron-Wintergreen Ledges COG Alliance First COG Amsterdam Community COG Ansonia First COG Ashtabula-First Community COG Athens-CommonHouse **Barberton COG** Bellefontaine First COG Blacklick-New Horizons Community Blanchester-Daystar First COG Boardman-Simon Road COG Bridgeport First Church of God Brookville-Pyrmont Church of God Cadiz First Church of God Camden-Northside Chapel First Canton-Eleventh Street Church Cedarville-Restoration at Cedarville Chillicothe First COG Cincinnati-Dayspring COG Cincinnati-Iglesia Nueva Esperanza Clayton-Salem Church of God Cleveland-Church of God-Union Columbus-First Church of God Columbus-Hilltop Church of God Columbus-Iglesia Renuevo Church Columbus-Meadow Park COG Coshocton Church of God Creston Community Church Dayton-Ashcraft First COG **Dayton-New Vision COG** Defiance First Church of God Dennison First Church of God **Dupont First Church of God** East Canton Church of God page 18

Giving October 2023 to September 2024

Eaton First Church of God

Elmore Church of God

Fairborn-West Enon First COG

Fairfield-Winton Rd First COG

Franklin-First Church of God

Fredericktown First COG

Gallipolis First Church of God

Germantown-First COG

Green-Greensburg COG

Grove City-Faith Community COG

Hamilton-BridgeWater COG

Hamilton-Eaton Road COG

Hartville Church of God

Hubbard-Chestnut Ridge Church

Huber Heights-Church of God

Kettering-Marshall Rd First COG

Lancaster-First Church of God

Lancaster-Pleasant Chapel COG

Laurelville Church of God

Lima-Crossroads Church of God

London First Church of God

Lorain-Great Lakes Church

Lordstown-Harvest Point Church

Mason Church of God

Miamisburg-First Church of God

Middleburg Hts-Church of the Harvest

Middletown-Breiel Blvd First COG

Middletown-Poasttown First COG

Middletown-Towne Church of God

Middletown-Yankee Rd First COG

Minerva-Great Trail Community

Monroe First Church of God

New Lexington First COG

New Philadelphia First Church

New Springfield Church of God

Newark-Rocky Fork First Church

Newton Falls First COG

Northwood Church of God

Oakwood-Auglaize Chapel Church

Ontario-Avenue Church of God

Paulding-Rose Hill COG

Peebles Church of God

Piqua-Madison Ave First Church

Ravenna-Avenue Church of God

Ravenna-Edinburg First Church

Ravenna-First Church of God

Rayland-Meadowbrook COG

Russells Point Church of God

Saint Mary's First COG

Saint Paris First COG

Sardis-Duffy Church of God

Shelby-Awake Church

Sidney-Connection Point Church

South Lebanon First COG

Springfield-Catherine St COG

Springfield-Maiden Lane COG

Springfield-Northside COG

Springfield-Restoration at Hillside

Sugarcreek-Barrs Mill COG

Tallmadge First Church of God

Toledo-First Church of God

Trov First COG

Warren-York Ave COG

Wauseon First Church of God

West Liberty First COG

Wilmington First Church of God

Wooster-Highland Church of God

Xenia-Ledbetter Rd COG

Youngstown-People's Chapel COG

Zanesville First Church of God



H Grateful Church Remembers

Rev. David Alan Storlie Sunrise November 9, 1956 to Sunset October 17, 2023



Rev. Dean Allen Armstrong
Sunrise July 13, 1957
to Sunset October 26, 2023



Rev. Arnold "Mac" McConnell Sunrise July 16, 1939 to Sunset October 30, 2023



Rev. Betty Lou Scott (Hill)

Sunrise March 18, 1939 to Sunset November 24, 2023



H Grateful Church Remembers

Rev. Karl Hartmann, Sr.

Sunrise February, 20, 1943 to Sunset March 2, 2024



Rev. Douglas MagersSunrise March 3, 1945

to Sunset May 19, 2024



Rev. Charmaine Jones
Sunrise December 16, 1951
to Sunset May 27, 2024



Rev. Dr. G. David Cox Sunrise February 8, 1931 to Sunset August 1, 2024

2024 Ordination Candidates-CENTRAL DISTRICT



Daniel Baird

Daniel Baird

Meadow Park Church, Columbus

Dan is currently serving at Meadow Park Church as a leader of a Life Group. He has a passion for encouraging, developing and equipping people. His wife Jane, and his children, Victoria and Iliana, are excited to support him as he takes the next step along the path to which God has called him.

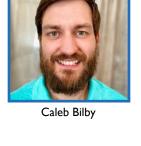
Caleb Bilby

Ansonia First Church

Caleb serves as student ministry pastor at Ansonia First Church of God in Ansonia, OH. Caleb enjoys connecting with students and pouring into them, he enjoys taking the students on trips, especially State Youth Convention and International Youth Convention. Caleb and his wife Sarah of 8 years, have 4 kids that he loves spending time with, they enjoy going hiking, swimming, puzzles and family movie nights.



Andrew has served as pastor for 4 years at Restoration at Cedarville, a campus of Restoration at Hillside in Springfield, Ohio. He is passionate about helping our neighbors find and follow Jesus Christ and making disciples for the Kingdom. He is a father of 9 children. He and his wife Andrea have served the Lord as foster parents since 2020 and are strong advocates for children in their community. Andrew and Andrea are excited about their journey with Jesus and seeing Him grow His church in Cedarville.





Andrew Shroyer

Orlen Mason

Bridgeport First

Orlen, a disciple for God, has attended a Church of God for 65 years. He has served in a variety of positions; Elder, Youth Pastor, Associate Pastor, and now Lead Pastor at Bridgeport Church of God, Bridgeport, Ohio. He has been married 46 years, has 3 sons who are married, and 15 grandchildren. Orlen enjoys fishing and watching sports.



Orlen Mason

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2024 Ordination Candidates-NORTHEAST DISTRICT

Laban Erbe

Laban Erbe

New Springfield Church

Laban Erbe currently serves as the Youth Pastor at New Springfield Church of God. He is a graduate of Grace College in 2022 with a bachelor's degree in Biblical Studies. He is passionate about training up the next generation of leaders in the church. He and his wife, Jennifer, and his two daughters, Willow (2) and Aurora (3 mo.) are looking forward to how God leads them.



Jessica has been attending the Cadiz First Church of God since 1990. She has been the Worship Leader for the last 14 years and the Associate Pastor for the last 3 years. Jessica felt the call into full time Pastoral Ministry in 2020 and is excited to share Jesus Joy with everyone she encounters.



Jessica Kerr

Mirriam Knight-Wilson

Liberation Church, Cleveland

Dr. Knight is a missionary and pastors' kid originally from a small country in Africa, Lesotho. She currently resides in Cleveland, Ohio where she serves as copastor at Liberation Church alongside her husband Pastor Benjamin Wilson and their two adopted children, Alantae and Alanna. They are passionate about developing Christ-centered leaders who are free and healed.



Mirriam Knight-Wilson

Odessa Pinkard

York Avenue Church, Cleveland

Odessa has served for twenty-five years in her local congregations as Church Administrator and Sunday School Teacher. She attends York Avenue Church of Warren, Ohio under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Eric U. Brown where she currently leads the Senior and Discipleship Ministries. Odessa also uses her past experiences in administration to assist on the church finance committee. She and her husband Joseph have two adult children and one grandson.



Odessa Pinkard

2024 Ordination Candidate-NORTHWEST DISTRICT



Tyson Nofzinger

Tyson Nofzinger Defiance First Church

Tyson has been serving as the Lead Pastor at First Church of God, Defiance, Ohio, since August of 2022. Tyson has over 20 years of experience in pastoral and parachurch ministry. He most recently served in the Free Methodist Church for the last 12 years prior to joining us. He loves helping others encounter God and go deeper in their walk with Him. He also loves spending time with his wife Bethany and their three girls.

2024 Ordination Candidate-SOUTHWEST DISTRICT



Lindsey Piccirilli

Lindsey Piccirilli Dayspring Church, Cincinnati

Lindsey currently serves as the Children's Pastor at Dayspring Church of God in Cincinnati. She graduated from Cincinnati Christian University in 2015 with a degree in Children's and Youth Ministry. Lindsey is passionate about reaching children and families, empowering them in their faith journey. Her husband Josh and their 3 children (Arabella, Silas, and Kayden) love doing ministry together and can't wait to see what is next.

Celebrating 50 Years—1974-2024



Celebrating50 Years

Rev. James L. Snyder

James Snyder entered Ministry as a Bi-vocational Pastor in 1965 where he pastored the First Church of God in Marienville, Pennsylvania.

Afterwards he pastored the First Church of God in Dayton, PA for 7 years and he was ordained while serving here. He had a short 18 month pastorate in Sharon PA at the Hermitage Church of God.



James and his wife Barabara moved to Ohio where he served at the New Springfield First Church for seven years. He then pastored the East Canton Church for 30 years.

Following his retirement, he started filling in at the Elliott Church and went on to pastor there for an additional 5 years before retiring again.

Over the years he served on several boards and committees including chairing the North East Ohio Assembly, chairing the Board of Pastor and Church Relations in Northeast Ohio and serving on the Berlin Center Camp Board for many years.



LEADERSHIP FOCUS

EQUIPPING | COACHING | CREDENTIALING

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.

Course themes explored:
ENROLLMENT
#I COMMENCEMENT
#2 CHARACTER
#3 COMPETENCIES
#4 CONFESSIONS
#5 CONNECTIVITY
#6 CELEBRATIONS

4 Foundational Principles based on Acts 2:42-47 Spiritual Formation Missional Commitment Competencies Community

First Steps:

Step 1: Talk to your Senior Pastor Step 2: Log into Atlas/Link to request an

Atlas Account: https://

www.jesusisthesubject.org/leadership-focus/ Click "request an Atlas Login" on the top of the pages. After receiving login information, click on Leadership Focus on left side and click "Register for Leadership Focus" to register.

If approved by the Ohio Assembly, you will be placed in an Enrollment course. Please Register for Atlas Account & Leadership Focus by December 15th for Spring

Session and June 15th for Fall Session to allow time to complete Enrollment Assignments.

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



Rev. Kimberly Leach Credentials Administrator credentials@cogo.church

Currently in Ohio Leadership Focus

| Course | Individuals |
|--------|-------------|
| 1 | 15 |
| 2 | 7 |
| 3 | 8 |
| 4 | 12 |
| 5 | 6 |
| 6 | 7 |

Ratification Ballot—Chairs



Rev. David Guess CREDENTIALS CHAIR Second Term—3 year term Jan. 1, 2025 to Dec. 31, 2027

David 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 over 40 years. He serves on the NEO Board of Pastor and Church Relations as an advisor. Chair of the NEO District, and Chair of the NEO Retreat Center and has served the last several years as COGO Credentials Chair. Locally he serves as Secretary of the Amsterdam Area Foundation and serves on the Simmons Ridge Church Cemetery Board where his great-grandfather taught Sunday School in the 1930's. He has been married to Marcy for 33 years and they have four adult children and three grandsons and soon their first granddaughter.



Rev. Matt Roe
BOARD OF DIRECTORS CHAIR
Second Term—3 year term
Jan. 1, 2025 to Dec. 31, 2027

Matthew is the Lead Pastor at Maiden Lane Church of God in Springfield, OH. Matt has been in full time ministry since 1994 and served churches in Illinois, South Carolina, and Ohio. In Ohio, he has served in various leadership positions, on the Warsaw Campgrounds. His leadership skills and unique gift-mix has opened doors for him to serve at the state level with COGO Ministries of the Church of God, board of directors, as secretary, vice chair and is currently the Chair. He is a visionary leader, both called and equipped to do greater works for the Kingdom of God.

He has been married to his wife Lori since 1992 and they have two adult Children. A son Tyler and his wife Ashlea, and a daughter Mackenzie. In August of 2023 Matt and Lori became proud grandparents to a baby boy named Will.

Ballot—Board of Directors Member



Rev. Rita Bullock
Board of Directors Member
Second Term—3 year term
Jan. 1, 2025 to Dec. 31, 2027

Rita is passionate about helping people of all ages discover and live into their purpose. She has experience as a pastoral coach, Board member for the local community resource center, and is on the Bylaws and Organization Committee for Church of God Ministries. Rita recently earned a Master's Degree from Ohio Christian University and is eager to apply her knowledge to her ministry and community work. Her commitment to personal growth and lifelong learning is evident in her dedication to both her family and her congregation.



Twila Butler
Board of Directors Member
First Term—3 year term
Jan. 1, 2025 to Dec. 31, 2027

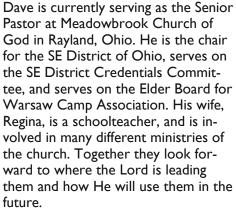
Twila is a native of Texas, and as a preacher's kid she lived in Rockport and later on the campus of Bay Ridge Christian College in Kendleton, TX. She attended the historic HBCU Huston-Tillotson University in Austin attaining a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Marketing. Later she attain her elementary teaching credentials at LeTourneau University.

Twila is creative through visual displays, special events, sewing projects, etc. and enjoys, traveling, golfing, fishing, hunting, and trying new things. At a very early age she accepted the gift of singing and it has given way to the gifting of exhortation and preaching. She uses her gifts to share in churches throughout the United States. She now serves alongside her husband Pastor Eric Butler. Sr. as a Praise and Worship Leader, and as the Ex. Dir. of Ministries at First Church of God in Toledo, OH. Their family includes Cory (Cora), Eric II, Avalon, and Cairo.

Ballot—Board of Directors Member



Rev. Dave Hennen
Board of Directors Member
First Term—3 year term
Jan. 1, 2025 to Dec. 31, 2027



Dave and Regina have 4 adult children, Cayden (26) Abby (24), Carissa (22), and Madison (20). They are also expecting their first grandchild in the spring. Dave's life verse is "For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified" (I Corinthians 2:2).



Rev. Jerry Webb
Board of Directors Member
Second Term—3 year term
Jan. 1, 2025 to Dec. 31, 2027

Jerry has served as the Lead Pastor of the Huber Heights Church of God since March of 2022. Jerry provides leadership, teaching, and visionary direction for the church. For eighteen years, Jerry served students as an associate pastor and volunteer in several different churches. Jerry and his wife, Tia, have been married for eighteen years and have raised four boys; Kaiden, Hunter, Rylan, and Greyson. Jerry loves to spend time in the outdoors hiking, exploring new places, trying new things, and is a lifelong learner.

Bringing Help—Giving Hope!



DISASTER RELIEF TEAM

C GO GO OHIO

DISASTER RELIEF RECEIVING PROJECTS 2024

Global:

Syria - Earthquake Ukraine - War

United States:

Hawaii - Fire

Logan County Tornado - Russells Point/Bellefontaine Georgia State Ministries - Floods from Helene Carolina Ministries - Floods from Helene Tennessee Ministries - Floods from Helene

Dormant Disaster Relief Account/Project

The Disaster Relief Team Chairperson and a COGO Staff Member, with the approval of the State Pastor-Director may declare any Disaster Relief Sub-Account/Project dormant after <u>6 or 7</u> months of no activity, unless there are unusual circumstances. (Unusual circumstances such as Covid, or other events that interrupt the normal activity of said sub-account and/or project.)

At which time the funds in said sub-account will be transferred to the General Disaster Relief Fund.

The individual/company charged with the book-keeping of COGO Ministries financials shall be notified of said action in writing, so as to provide a trail for future reference.

The above action was approved by the Disaster Relief Team on October 22, 2022 with a vote of $\underline{\mathbf{6}}$ to $\underline{\mathbf{0}}$ in favor. (One member: Not present at the meeting and did not respond to the email.)

October 22, 2022

Disaster Relief Team Gordon Garrett–*Chair* Dean Butts Mark Duffy Kim Graves Tom Moody Jeremy Tillotson Vernon Maddox–*Advisor*

Thank you from Pastor Mike Claypool, Regional Pastor-Carolina Ministries

We want to thank COGO Ministries for their concern and generosity to help us meet the needs in Western NC. Your gift has helped us to resource churches who are on the front lines as they minister to the communities impacted by the hurricane. Water and food have been in short supply.

Churches in Morganton, Drexel, and Asheville are distributing water. Rock Chapel in Granite Falls host work teams to help with clean up and repair of homes. Morganton First Church is distributing clothes and kerosene heaters, serving meals and praying with those without electricity, and with first responders, and power line workers; . Alta Pass Church Spruce Pine, NC is a distribution center and is prepared to host work teams.

Asheville has old water pipes that

must be replaced. It is estimated that it will take 30-60 days before water will be restored to 80% of Asheville. In the mountain communities, the power grid has been destroyed and needs to be rebuilt which is delaying power for months in some communities. Our churches are very grateful for your support! We have been amazed at how the Church of God has reached out to help in such a generous way! It has helped to meet needs and has provided many ministry opportunities. Please continue to pray that the churches will be able to have a spiritual impact as

they help meet the physical needs.

Thank you from Daniel Kihm, Missionary in Ukraine

Thank you for the gifts provided from Ohio Disaster Relief Team to Global Strategy Disaster Relief project.

Many people are living really pretty close to harm's way, serving the Ukrainian Church of God as they care for congregations that have endured unbelievable change in the past 2.5 years. Each of their congregations have lost a significant amount of believers who have fled west. Numerically they have been replaced by people who have fled west (from further east). ALL of these people have experienced tremendous stress and trauma, and continue to do so. Our pastors are not exempt from this stress and trauma, of course.

All this to say that they are thankful for the impact your prayers and generosity are having.

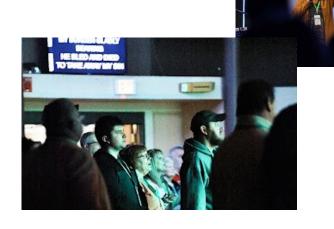


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Spring Church Leaders Event

START. FRESH

Saturday March 8, 2025 Meadow Park Church, Columbus





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

Proverbs 9:9 NCV

Rev. Demetrius Booker State Associate Pastor/Church Health

Senior Adult Ministries



2025 SENIOR ADULT EVENTS

Spring Fling

April 1, 2025 in Plain City SPEAKER Pastor Mark Jackson WORSHIP LEADER Kyle Stamper

Fall Feasts

September 30, 2025 in Plain City

SPEAKER Rev. Claude Robold

WORSHIP LEADER Rick Humphreys

October 7, 2025 in Walnut Creek

SPEAKER Rev. Arnetta Bailey

WORSHIP LEADER Rick Humphreys



NXTGEN—Kids and Youth Ministries



NXTGEN



NXTGEN ChairR.W. Moody
COGO Advisor

Student Ministry Team

Rondale Broome Micah Harmon Tim Heller Jenny Petersen

Student Leadership Team

Ella Brooks
Matt Conway
Lincoln Davis
Carson Hamilton
Evan Lockhart
Alaina Nealy
Ella Wakefield

Kids Ministry Team

Bethany Birkhead Mindy Nuhfer Jason Parker Lindsey Piccirilli



OSYC General Assembly Special Rate \$100

Promo Code: COGOGA2024





NXTGEN

2025 Dates



Feb. 28 to March 2 Dayspring Church Cincinnati

ww.threesli.org

Leaders Retreat April 25-26 Springfield Campgrounds



SAVE-THE-DATE OSYC 2025 Nov. 7-9



Partners in Ministry



www.servantsolutions.org



Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company provides property, liability, commercial auto, workers' compensation, mission travel insurance, and payroll services to ministries throughout the United States.

www.brotherhoodmutual.com



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

Church of God—Anderson IN

Let the Anderson University School of Theology and Christian Ministry be a resource for your ministry and your congregation.

Church Multiplication and Discipleship February 26, 2025





2025 Convention and General Assembly...a true mountain-top opportunity to gather as one Movement, worship God together, and further the work of the Church of God. May we set our vision toward the future, opening our hearts to the movement of the Spirit, and keeping our eyes on Jesus and His Word.

COGO Staff



Dr. ESTHER COTTRELL State Pastor Director of Ministries



KYNA SHINDLE Administrative Assistant





Rev. KIMBERLY LEACH Credentials Administrator



Rev. R.W. MOODY NxtGen Student Pastor



BECKY HELLER



Administrative Assistant



Business Administrator

Rev. David Bullock COGOTC

Rev. VERNON MADDOX Disaster Relief/Special Projects

Another way to partner with COGO



GIVING MADE EASY

COGO Ministries still receives contributions by check or through your banking institution. Now you can also go to our website, 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" 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 site to pay for any of your individual or congregation event registration.



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.



Download our
EasyTithe mobile app to see
our events and give online.
(Use QR code to download our app)



At COGO Ministries, we appreciate your financial support and consider it a privilege to serve you in so many ways, on so many platforms.

COGO Podcast

Rev. R.W. Moody
COGO Podcast Host







Podcasts for the remainder of 2024

Nov. 7 Cliff Forbes; Mentoring to Ministry

Nov. 21 Bob Hawker; Ministry Training & Mentoring

Dec. 5 OSYC 2025 Student Leadership Team; Student Leadership

Dec. 19 R.W. Moody, Jr.; Christmas Blessing

Previous 2024 Podcasts

2:20 Chip Taylor: Mentoring to Ministry

2:19 Jake Zaske: Transitions

2:18 Roger McDaniel Discusses Worship in the Church

2:17 Discover Why You Need Rest and How it Affects Your Ministry

2:16 Creating a Missional Identity

2:15 A Discussion on Growing Churches that have Great Commission Christians

2:14 Michael Thigpen, Guest Speaker at IYC 2024

2:13 Steve Chiles, Guest Speaker for the 2024 NEO Family Camp

2:12 Darryl Allen, Guest Speaker for the 2024 Southeast Ohio Campmeeting.

2:11 Jim Roma, Guest Speaker for the 2024 Payne Campmeeting

2:10 Adam Rentas & IYC and Reaching the Next Generation.

2:9 Handel Smith, Guest Speaker for 2024 SW Ohio Campmeeting!

2:8 Chip Taylor with Intern Academy

2:7 R.W. follows up with Benjamin Wilson, A Keynote Speakers at Start Fresh

2:6 Matt Roe LIVE from Start Fresh!

2:5 Update on our Disaster Relief Team with Vernon Maddox and Gordon Garrett.

2:4 Listen as R.W. and Esther Revisit Our Start Now Go Now Initiative.

2:3 Intro to Intentional Churches with Paul Strozier.

2:2 Discover Why You Need to Attend START FRESH, March 9, 2024!

2:1 A New Year's Message from COGO

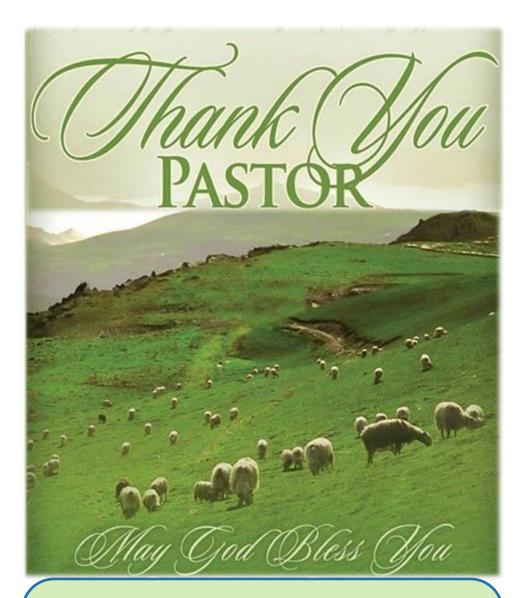
Hear More: https://cogo.church/podcast/

2025 Calendar of Events



| February 26 | | Church Multiplication and Discipleship Webinar | |
|--------------|---|--|--|
| Feb 28-Mar | 8-Mar 2 3SLI Student Ministry Dayspring Church, Cincinnati OH | | |
| March 2 | | PreacHER Sunday | |
| March 8 | | COGO Start FreshMeadow Park, Columbus OH | |
| April 1 | | Sr Adults Spring Fling Plain City OH | |
| April 20 | | EASTER Sunday | |
| April 25-26 | | COGO NXTGEN Leaders RetreatSpringfield | |
| June 8 | | Pentecost Sunday | |
| June 28-July | 1 | Church of God Convention Denver CO | |
| May 25-30 | | Southwest Camp Meeting Lebanon OH | |
| July 11-20 | | Southeast Camp Meeting Warsaw OH | |
| July 20-25 | | Northwest Camp MeetingPayne OH | |
| July 20-25 | | Northeast Camp Meeting Berlin Center OH | |
| August 3-10 | | Central Camp Meeting Springfield OH | |
| July 28-Aug | 3* | NACOG Camp Meeting (National Association of the Church of God) | |
| | | West Middlesex PA | |
| August 19 | | Leadership Event/Launch 32TBD | |
| September 5 | -6 | Ohio Christian Men's Fellowship Camp Lebanon OH | |
| September 3 | 0 | COGO Senior Adults Fall Feast Plain City, OH | |
| October 7 | | COGO Senior Adults Fall Feast Walnut Creek, OH | |
| October 25 | | COGO Ohio General Assembly/Ordination Service | |
| | | Meadow Park, Columbus OH | |
| Nov. 7-9 | | $OSYCohio\ State\ Youth\ Convention\Maiden\ Lane,\ Spring field\ OH$ | |

*tentative date Disclaimer:Dates are subject to change



Are you new to Ohio? Have you transferred your credentials? If not, contact your former credentials chair or the state office you moved from.

Are you moving out of Ohio? We will miss you, but please:
Go to:COGO.church/Resources/For Pastors/Credentials and fill out a transfer form Annual Registration? Make sure your contact information and status are up-to-date with COGO and also with CHOG Atlas/ jesusisthesubject.org

ATLAS is the National Database System for the Church of God

Interested in a free study on Wesleyan Theology, by Dr. Cliff Sanders? Check this out:

THE SCHOOL OF

Wesleyan Studies The Optimism of Grace

"And I saw more than ever that the Gospel is in truth but one great promise from the beginning of it to the end." – John Wesley (Journal, June 4, 1738)

"Unite the pair so long disjoined, knowledge and vital piety: Learning and holiness combined." — Charles Wesley



WESLEYANSTUDIES.ORG

EMAIL ADDRESS: cliff@wesleyanstudies.org

MHA

- A resource for individuals and organizations to assist in learning how a Wesleyan approach to life and Ministry adds value
- A resource of materials to investigate and educate in matters of Wesleyan Theology and its implications for life and ministry
- A forum to advance the production and distribution of materials, the facilitating of discussion, and the application of Wesleyan theology

¥

- To provide Wesleyan materials and experiences in both virtual and an in-person environments
- To be a resource for a renewed interest in what is distinctive to a Wesleyan approach of following Jesus and the practice of ministry

MOF

- Opportunities to learn and discuss Wesleyan Theology in a virtual environment, as well as an in-person environment
- Resources for distribution and use by individuals and organizations seeking to know more about the distinctives of Wesleyan Theology





Equipping and Empowering for the Mission of Jesus

2025 General Assembly October 25

