

Chief Operations and Development Officer's Report

To the General Assembly of the

National Association of the Church of God

Monday August 1, 2021

Greetings in the name of our Lord.

It is an honor to serve the National Association of the Church of God.

I am deeply grateful for the excellent executive team I serve with: Presiding Elder Rev. Clifton McDowell, Chief Financial Officer Rev. James Brown, Chair of the Homeowners Association Sis. Beverly Alford, and Secretary Rev. Cynthia Thomas; along with our Board of Directors: Rev. Dr. Jeffery Frymire, Bro. Michael Copeland, Bro. Joseph Scarbrough, Sis. Donna Ravenell, Rev. Saundra McNesse, Rev. Steve Terry, Rev. Erwin Lee, Rev. Chris Conedy, Sis. Reba Fowler, Rev. Dr. Derrol Dawkins, and Rev. Dr. Miki Merritt. We have been blessed by the work of our outstanding staff, Bro. Robert Flynn, Campground Manager and Sis. Joette Gibbs, Financial administrator.

Covid restrictions required a dramatic shift to better utilize digital communications and online services to assist the work of the National Association. We thank God for the outstanding support and leadership we received from, Sis. Leah & Bro. Brandon Williams who produced and administered our Virtual Campmeetings, Min. Tatum Osbourne, who manages our website and social media presence, and Sis. Sheri Myricks who produces the National Association Community Bulletin. The creativity and excellent execution of this team of servants enabled NACOG to stay vitally connected nationally, and remain responsive to the needs of our leaders and local congregations.

The vision of the National Association of the Church of God is alive and well: "We seek to be a loving, holy, inter/trans-generational community of faith, committed to the pursuit of Biblical Truth, uniting the Church to transform the world for Christ." The mission of the National Association is to support and nurture pastors, identify, and mentor leaders, develop healthy connected churches, and empower the Saints to do the work of the Kingdom of God.

In constant dialog with our churches, we strive to maintain fidelity to our heritage and relevancy in ministry. We accomplish our mission by focusing on serving our local congregations, leveraging our connection with the wider Church of God Movement, and advancing the Kingdom of God through our united efforts.

Our national ministries (NIYC, Usher's, Women of the Church of God, National Men's Ministries, Seniors Ministry, and Youth Camp) successfully adapted and created new ways to serve their constituencies throughout this incredible season of national challenges. In 2020 we held our first-ever Virtual Campmeeting, and it was very well received. We saw both an increase in participation from all regions of the country and we had nation-wide support in the production and content of the meetings. The Virtual Campmeeting required meticulous planning and coordination and we were blessed to have the leadership of Sis. Yolanda Mitchell and Sis. Pauline Brown, serving as our Program Coordinators. To God be the glory!

We celebrate and support the growing number of National Association members serving internationally in mission fields; Phyliss Newby, Haiti; Joseph Quainoo, Guyana; Steve & Peggy Beverly, Sri Lanka; Audrey Boudreau, Haiti.

At a time when the United States is struggling with the sin of racism and social injustice, the Church of God Movement is foremost among the Holiness groups in advancing inclusivity, equality, and persevering in the pursuit of the high calling of holiness and unity.

NACOG leaders and members continue to provide significant leadership across all sectors of the Church of God. Bishop Timothy Clarke has succeeded Rev. Dr. Diana Swoope as the Chair of the General Assembly of the Church of God. Rev. Vincent Miller is a member of the Executive Committee as secretary of the Ministries Council. Also serving on the Ministries Council are Rev. Clifton McDowell, Bishop Gideon Thompson, Rev. Leslie Barnes, Rev. Paul Sheppard, and Min. Terri Montague.

We are grateful for the National Association leaders who serve with distinction in other departments of the Church of God Movement. Rev. Handel Smith serves as Executive Director of U.S. & Canada Strategy for Church of God Ministries; Rev. Arnetta Bailey is the president of Christian Women Connection; Rev. Jason McClendon is the Chief Advancement Officer of Church of God Ministries; and Rev. Mark Richardson is the new Regional Pastor for the State of Michigan. We celebrate the unprecedented number of National Association leaders who were recently elected in June 2021 to serve in national ministries of the Church of God. The slate of new officers for the Trustee Boards, Councils, Universities, Standing committees, and Parachurch organizations that serve the Church of God saw 20 African Americans included among the 74 total nominees. Sixteen African American were elected or ratified to new positions of service, joining many other NACOG members who are currently serving and leading in national ministries across the Church of God Movement.

2020 saw the first African American elected President of one of our 4 major Universities, Dr Brian Johnson, former President of Tuskegee University, is the new President of Warner Pacific University in Portland, Oregon. In 2020-2021 we also celebrated the tremendous increase in participation by National Association members in new seminary and theological training offered by Anderson University; and applauded Mid-America Christian University for the establishment of the Timothy J Clarke School for Professional Studies.

The National Association is deeply involved in credentialing new ministers. One third of the candidates currently in the Leadership Focus curriculum/process are from National Association congregations. One third of the coaches leading Leadership Focus cohorts are members of the National Association.

We celebrate the new motion brought to the General Assembly by Rev. Dr Cheryl Sanders and Rev. Dan Turner with the purpose of reinforcing the unity and connected life of the Church of God Movement. The motion established a Justice and Equity Task Force, to discover the composition, beliefs, and practices of all Church of God agencies and congregations with regard to racial justice and the equality of men and women.

The Task Force will also work in consultation with the Committee on Credentials to consider additional measures to ensure that all candidates for ordination in the Church of God, have rigorously explored the topic of ethnic diversity, racial justice and the equality of men and women.

The motion passed by a 90% vote.

Indeed, we are better together!

2020 - 2021 Key Accomplishments on Zion's Hill

Campground Water Project: Full operation of the new system has resulted in clean water and ample water pressure throughout the campground.

Maintained the health, beauty and functionality of all subsystems, buildings and grounds on Zion's Hill.

Removed many deteriorating cottages and trailers.

Cut down and trimmed many dangerous trees.

2021 - 2022 Priorities

- New Steel Roof for the Sanctuary (In process)
- New Steel Roof for the Caretaker's Home (In process)
- New Rest Room facility (In final architectural drawings)
- Re-pave Roads on Zion's Hill
- Upgrade Electrical system in the Sanctuary
- Pursue leadership development sponsorships and training
- Increase Campground Revenues through rentals
- Advocate for enrollment in Church of God Universities
- Expand participation in Servant Solutions Retirement Planning Services
- Re-institute Field Days (pilot 2 locations) increase NACOG revenues from congregations
- Improve Campground facilities and subsystems (electrical & sewage)

- Implement special committees to utilize professional skills and knowledge base within the National Association membership.
- Risk Management/ Security policies for all events
- Increase NACOG revenues from individual donors and congregations
- Expand Campground recreational facilities and fields
- On-going maintenance of a 127 acre, small city, featuring over 100 permanent, private residences, 3 dormitories, administrative and worship facilities, cafeteria, concession stands, roads, basketball & volleyball courts, playgrounds, signage, conference facilities, campus-wide lighting, private water supply, private sewage system, and private electrical systems.

Monthly and Electronic giving are a great boon in operational life and budgeting.

The “1% or more Campaign” to encourage each congregation to give 1% or more of their annual income to support our collective work, remains active. Currently, we have approximately 400+ congregations on our mailing list. We are receiving congregational gifts from about 25% of the congregations that are eligible, 55 of our congregations give on a monthly basis and 12 give electronically. We must work to increase the regularity and dollar volume of financial contributions received from congregations as we seek to increase overall revenues.

Through expanded options for receiving contributions individual giving has reached almost 40% of annual congregational giving. We are grateful for each individual giver and we will pursue the growth of individual monthly and electronic giving.

We are grateful for the continued financial support of Church of God Ministries and several sister congregations from other sectors of the Church of God movement. Their combined contributions averaged approximately 22% of NACOG revenues.

I humbly solicit your prayers and unapologetically request your active participation and monthly financial support. In Christ, our best days are ahead of us.

I thank you for the incredible privilege of serving as CODO.

“Catch the Vision and Join the Work!”

In His Service,

Rev. Dr. Charles Myricks, Jr.

Chief Operating and Development Officer

National Association of the Church of God