

# GETTING CONNECTED

# Church of God Delmarva-DC Region

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#### Stanley R. Holder

Administrative Bishop

#### Teresa Holder

Women's Ministries Director

#### **Brett Seals**

Youth & Discipleship Director

#### William A. Reid

USA Missions / REACH Director

#### **Heather Seals**

Girl's Club Coordinator

#### **Andrea Veliz**

Treasurer / Administrative
Assistant / Hispanic Ministries

#### **Betty Moore**

USA Missions Administrative Assistant

#### **Angie Sharpe**

Youth & Discipleship Administrative Assistant

#### **Katherine Santos**

Credentialing Secretary Administrative Support

#### **Regional Council**

Hugh Bair
Mike McDermott
Tim Shawyer
Greg Morris
Harold Bowman
Steve Hall
David Sulcer
Ivan Ackerman
Carlton Cannon, Jr.
Rick Felton

January - February 2022

## **Facial Recognition**

"Seek the Lord and His strength; Seek His face continually". (1 Chronicles 16:11)

Highlighting Churches of God ministries in Maryland, Delaware, DC and the Virginia Peninsu

My face unlocks my iPhone and iPad. It can be used in law enforcement, give me access to airports, and if needed, even in border patrol security. Some say that my face can break a mirror and stop a clock as well.

My face, along with many others, is one of 650,000 photos that are stored in law enforcement databases. Anytime you tag an individual on Facebook, it is stored in their database.

My family recognizes my face as well. The minute they see my face, they know it's me. When Teresa looks at my face, she knows if I'm happy or if I'm sad, feeling good or feeling bad, or even if something is bothering me. Of all the biometric measurements, facial recognition is considered the most natural of them all.

As a New Year dawns upon us, I want to encourage you to seek facial recognition with God. The very mark of the people of God in scripture was that their faces were turned toward the future and were marked by confidence and expectation. Even when the prophets predicted destruction, they had an understanding that if we turned toward God in obedience and repentance, wonderful things would come from God's Hand.

God loves to bring new things into our lives.

- The psalmist tells us of a new song that the Lord has given him. (Ps. 42:8).
- Isaiah writes of new things to be learned and a new name (Isa. 42:9; 62:2) and a new heaven and new earth (Isa. 65:17; 66:22).
- Jeremiah proclaims a new covenant and new mercies every morning (Jer. 31:31; Lam. 3:22-23).
- Ezekiel tells of a new spirit and a new heart (Ezek. 11:19; 18:31; 36:26).

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#### Youth & Discipleship Board

Tiffaney Izzard Sharon Jones Joshua Robinson Tony Bledsoe Mike Ferrante Scott Matthews Jimmy Shreve

#### Women's Ministries Board

Pat Felton LaDon Hall Sharon Jones Charlotte Music Heather Seals Sandra Shawyer Debbie Sulcer Cynthia Ackerman

#### Strategic Church Planting/ Revitalization/Training Center Task Force

William A. Reid, **Chairman**Mike McDermott
Curtis Jones
Jonathan Fuson
John Flick
Oliver Subryan
José Torres
Kevin Stanley
Lisulo Lisulo

#### Ministerial Development Board

Aaron Jones (MIP)
Steve Hall (Ministerial Health)
Keith Maxwell (Interview Bd)
Aaron Jones (Examining Bd)
Tim Shawyer (CAMS)
José Torres (Hispanic)

# Strategic Church Plant Coordinator

Mike McDermott

# Intercultural Advisory Committee

Aaron Jones, Chairman

#### Hispanic Ministries Coordinator

José Torres

Spirit Care Coordinator

Harold R. Bowman

The New Testament continues this theme.

- a new birth (1 Peter 1:3)
- a new life (Rom. 6:23)
- a new self (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10)
- a new attitude (Eph. 4:23)
- a new commandment (John 13:34)
- a new and living way (Heb. 10:20)
- a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15)
- a new heaven and a new earth (2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:1).

The life of Moses teaches us many things. One lesson is that we should never continue our life journey without God. Moses knew the necessity, the value, and the delight of God's company. He refused to move or to lead without God's presence. "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here" (Exodus 33). God agreed, "My Presence will go with you." The Hebrew translation reads, "My face will go with you."

I find that Hebrew translation very interesting. As we journey into 2022, we should remember to never travel without the face of God being with us. In a one-year Covid period, more than 4,000 churches closed, and 20,000 pastors left the ministry. A shocking fifty percent of current pastors said that they would leave the ministry if they had another way of making a living. These are tragic statistics. Without being judgmental toward these 20,000 pastors, I wonder if they came face to face with God every day. A face is an incredible thing. It speaks louder than a voice and it is more tender than a touch. God desires a face-to-face relationship with His people. When we are face to face, we can see in His face what He wills for us, what pleases Him, and what brings Him sorrow. When we are face to face with anyone, especially God himself, we have their full, undivided attention.

Teresa knows when I am not listening. When it is important to her, she wants to know that she has my full and undivided attention. On more than one occasion, I have noticed her pausing until I stopped what I was doing, looked at her, put down a book or my phone, turned away from a computer or television screen, and listened with intent at what she wanted to say. It is only then that she has the confidence that I will listen and understand. Compare that to how we approach God. Do we observe the pause? Do we give Him our full and undivided attention? Do we listen with intent and with understanding? Do we give Him the opportunity to see our countenance?

Dennis F. Kinlaw said, "In Jesus Christ, we can see the face of God, revealed by the Holy Spirit." Don't start 2022 alone. You can be face to face with God!

"The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace." (Numbers 6:24 – 26)



Bishop Stan Holder Administrative Bishop



## **Praise Announcement**

Delmarva-DC Family,

Help me celebrate with Pastor Leon Powell II and Mt. Calvary Church of God.

"In late 2019, with Delmarva-DC approval, we had a church vote about financing a project to put on an A-Frame roof for our church, which would cost us around \$86,000. We had previously saved around \$26,000, which we used as part of our downpayment towards the new roof, leaving us to finance around \$60,000. The project was delayed due to COVID, but we were able to start the roof project in the beginning of June 2020.

Due to our local givings, our childcare business, and our church financial management, it is my privilege to inform you that on December 17, 2021, Mt. Calvary Church of God is now completely debt free and the full loan for the roof has been paid off! We are excited to be able to go into this new year with no debt holding us back. Thank you for all your prayers and support!

Respectfully,

Rev. C. Leon Powell II Lead Pastor"







Thank you so much for your faithful giving during November and December. Delmarva-DC has some great churches!! If you have not given, please consider giving to these two projects. Anything you can give will be so appreciated and helpful. Those that are giving every month, please don't stop! You are making a difference in the lives of so many kids and families.

## **SMOKY MOUNTAIN HOME FOR CHILDREN – (November - December 2021)**

Chester Church of God
Christian Fellowship Church
East Baltimore Church of God
Easton Church of God
Freedom Church
Hancock Church of God
Heritage Community Church
Stan & Teresa Holder
Jennings Church of God
Kent Island Church of God
Life Builders Church of God
Life Community Church
Life Source International Church

Lifeway Church of God
Light House Church of God
Loch Lynn Church of God
Living Hope Church - Laurel
Living Hope Ministries – Phoenix
Milford Church of God
Mt. Pleasant Church of God
North East Church of God
Onancock Church of God
Rising Sun Church of God
Rockville Church of God
Walker Memorial

**TOTAL - \$9,128.63** 

## CITY OF REFUGE, BALTIMORE - (November - December 2021)

Chesapeake Christian Center Easton Church of God Stan & Teresa Holder Kent Island Church of God Rick & Jane Lairsey Allan & Jeraldine Leonard Life Community Church New Hope Fellowship Verna Wilson



# DELMARVA-DC Youth & Discipleship Department

Bishop Brett & Heather Seals Regional Youth & Discipleship Directors





TRAVIS HALL SHARO RAMKELON LIFELINE WORSHIP MIKE McGILL HEESUN LEE JOEL REYES



PETER REEVES FRVR FREE BRANDON HOLT STEVE BLOWER

## URGENT UPDATE REGARDING PREMIER KIDFEST 2022



Due to a lack in registration coupled with an uncertain projection of attendees for Premier Kidfest 2022, we have made the very difficult decision to cancel the event. This decision did not come easy and without exploring a variety of options. Though Premier Kidfest will not be taking place, please know that Premier Winterfest is DEFINITELY going ahead as **scheduled.** The registration for Premier Winterfest is strong, and we are anticipating a wonderful weekend. There is still room for you at Premier Winterfest!







Visit www.cogdelmarvadc.com click "MINISTRIES" and select
"YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP" to register for all these events!
Thank you for your continued support!











# MEN'S BREAKFAST 2022

MARCH 12

@ Heritage Community Church





