

# **CHURCH OF GOD DELMARVA-DC**

## **MINISTER/CHURCH HANDBOOK**

### **2020 – 2022**

#### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The Minutes of the Delmarva-DC Region Minister's Meeting comprise the permanent program for the region, subject to Church of God General Assembly actions as outlined by the supplement to the *Minutes*.

We the ministers of the Delmarva-DC Region do fully support and subscribe to all measures adopted by the General Assembly of the Church of God. Further, we the Ministers of the Delmarva-DC Region, declare these Minutes of the 2020 Regional Ministers' Meeting to be the official standing guidelines and policies for the Churches of God in the Delmarva-DC Region. Future Regional Ministers' Meetings shall only concern themselves with additions, deletions or other items deemed appropriate by the Regional Administrative Bishop, Regional Council and the Motions Committee.

The Regional Office shall send a copy of the additions, deletions and other items deemed appropriate by the Regional Administrative Bishop and the Regional Council, to all ministers seven (7) days prior to the next Ministers' Meeting.

#### **EDITORIAL PRIVILEGE**

Whereas, the Delmarva-DC Regional Ministers' Meeting continues to grow in magnitude and size as well as business, which requires the attention of the ministerial constituency, all items and programs planned on a yearly basis should be so stated and at the end of the two-year program be automatically deleted from the Minutes. The Administrative Bishop and Regional Council are authorized to edit and arrange the Minutes in a systematic, orderly format.

#### **MISSIONS STATEMENT**

*The Delmarva-DC Church of God Regional Office and staff serve pastors and ministers through training and resourcing, thereby facilitating the expansion of the Kingdom of God.*

## **PROCEDURAL POLICY**

That we establish Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised Edition, as procedure for all business.

## **SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARDS**

That the Regional Administrative Bishop and Council provide a means to recognize ministerial service at five-year increments.

### **I. REGIONAL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**ELECTION PROCEDURES:** Nominations shall be made from the floor by ballot. The nominating ballot shall be cast for the number of members on the respective board plus the first and second alternates. If any person shall receive a majority of the votes cast on the nominating ballot, he shall be declared duly elected. Successive ballots shall be cast until positions on the board and alternates have been duly elected. Nominees may be eliminated from the ballot by straw vote after the first electing ballot has been cast. No minister shall be eligible to serve on more than one elective board; this does not apply to alternates. A first and second alternate shall be elected for each elected Regional Board by virtue of the highest votes received following the last member elected. These alternates shall be used in order of election to fill vacancies on said boards. The names of all persons receiving less than ten votes for an elected board or committee shall not be read to the ministers.

*Because of the uncertainties of the Covid-19 pandemic and, following the precedent of the Executive Committee concerning the cancellation of the 2020 General Assembly and appointment freeze of Administrative Bishops and Youth Discipleship Directors, the following motion was adopted by the Delmarva-DC Regional Council on July 16, 2020:*

- 1. That we freeze the elections of the Delmarva-DC Regional Council and Youth Discipleship Board until the 2022 regional ministers meeting.*
- 2. That these two years not count toward the four-year limitation for election to these boards.*
- 3. That should a vacancy come available on either board, that the Administrative Bishop appoint an eligible replacement should no alternates be left from the 2018 election.*
- 4. That the Administrative Bishop hold a virtual ministers meeting in the fall of 2020 to promote the theme and ministries of the region for the ensuing 2020 – 2022 church calendar.*
- 5. That standing boards and committees be reappointed since they do not require the election of the ministers.*

**A. REGIONAL COUNCIL**

The Regional Council shall consist of ten (10) members and two (2) alternates. Alternates will serve only if a seat is vacated during the two-year period. Council members must be eligible Ordained Bishops, elected to serve for a period of two years. Any member having served two consecutive terms shall be ineligible to serve for a period of two years.

**Election Results  
2020-2022 Regional Council**

<u>Hugh Bair</u>	<u>Mike McDermott</u>
<u>Tim Shawyer</u>	<u>Greg Morris</u>
<u>Jon Lowery</u>	<u>Harold Bowman</u>
<u>Steven Hall</u>	<u>David Sulcer</u>
<u>Ivan Ackermen</u>	<u>Carlton Cannon, Jr.</u>

**Alternates:** Rick Felton                      Stephen Lowery

**B. REGIONAL YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP BOARD**

The Regional Youth and Discipleship Board shall consist of seven (7) members and two (2) alternates. Alternates will serve only if a seat is vacated during the two-year period. Board members must be Ordained Bishops or Ordained Ministers elected to serve for a period of two years. Any member having served two consecutive terms shall be ineligible to serve for a period of two years.

**Election Results  
2020-2022 Youth and Discipleship Board**

<u>Tiffany Izzard</u>	<u>Tony Bledsoe</u>
<u>Sharon Jones</u>	<u>Joshua Robinson</u>
<u>Mike Ferrante</u>	<u>Scott Matthews</u>
<u>Jimmy Shreve</u>	

**Alternates:** *There are no available alternates for the 2018 election. The Regional Council has authorized the Administrative Bishop to make appointments if necessary.*

**C. STRATEGIC TASK FORCE**

**1. CHURCH PLANTING AND REVITALIZATION TASK FORCE AND TRAINING CENTER**

**a. Leadership**

That the Administrative Bishop appoint biennially, a **Strategic Church Planting and Revitalization Task Force and Training Center** of not less than five Ordained Ministers or Ordained Bishops to:

- Coordinate an ongoing church planting and revitalization strategy in Delmarva-DC.
- Coordinate and implement a recruiting strategy to build a team of church planters, identify Delmarva-DC churches in need of revitalization and lead pastors in need of coaching and mentoring.
- Coordinate an ongoing church planter and revitalization training and coaching process that encompasses prelaunch, launch and post launch aspects of a new church plant and implements systems of health for churches in need of revitalization.
- Coordinate a network system for both church planters and pastors in the revitalization program in order to provide support and supervision.

**b. Financial Support**

Because Delmarva-DC Church of God has made a strong commitment to church planting and church revitalization, we, the Regional Council of Delmarva-DC recommend that the 1% Fund be continued for the ensuing two-year period and that those funds be utilized solely for church planting, church revitalization and Training. Also, that the Administrative Bishop give the USA Missions Director and the Strategic Task Force oversight of the disbursement of the 1% Fund to ensure that Church Planting, Church Revitalization, and Training are prioritized and that churches engaged in the Natural Church Development Program fit the criteria of Revitalization as determined by the Strategic Task Force.

**2. STRATEGIC BENEVOLENCE TASK FORCE**

That the Administrative Bishop appoint a **Strategic Benevolence Task Force** of not less than five Ordained ministers or Ordained Bishops to:

- Develop a comprehensive benevolence strategy for “Reaching people at the point of their need”.

- Provide training for food distribution, English as a Second Language, mentoring, counseling, GED preparation, etc.

**D. REGIONAL MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD**

The Regional Ministerial Development Board shall be appointed biennially by the Regional Bishop and approved by the Regional Council. The Board shall be comprised of Ordained Bishops, not more than six (6) or less than three (3).

**E. REGIONAL LAYMEN'S BOARD**

The Regional Overseer shall appoint, biennially, a Regional Laymen's Board which shall consist of not less than three (3) laymen who shall function as a service body to aid the region in planning and promoting of lay ministries.

**F. REGIONAL WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP BOARD**

The Regional Women's Discipleship Board shall consist of at least five members to be appointed by the Regional Bishop. The Regional Women's Discipleship Director shall serve as Chairperson of said board.

**G. REGIONAL MUSIC BOARD**

The Regional Music Board shall consist of not more than seven (7) and not less than three (3) members. The Board and Chairman shall be appointed by the Regional Bishop. We shall utilize the Regional Music Board in planning music for regional meetings.

**H. WORLD MISSIONS BOARD**

The Regional Bishop shall appoint a World Missions Board. Any member having served two consecutive terms shall be ineligible to serve for a period of two years.

**I. REGIONAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Regional Bishop shall appoint a Regional Board of Trustees of not less than three members as directed by the Church of God General Assembly *Minutes*.

## **II. COMMITMENTS TO OUR MISSION AND VISION**

These items reflect our core values in regard to fulfilling our mission and vision.

### **A. PRAYER**

We commit ourselves to making prayer the highest priority of the church demonstrated by:

- Every local church becoming a house of prayer for all nations.
- Emphasizing communication with God as the highest privilege and greatest responsibility of every member.
- Modeling by all church leadership of an active and effective prayer life.
- Uniting with other believers in corporate and intercessory prayer.

### **B. PENTECOSTAL WORSHIP**

We commit ourselves to gather regularly as the local expression of the Body of Christ to participate in Pentecostal worship that exalts God, engages the heart, mind, and soul, and challenges to deeper commitment and discipleship. This commitment will be demonstrated by:

- Assisting local churches in planning and preparing for meaningful, anointed worship.
- Equipping pastors and other worship leaders to lead authentically expressed, spiritually alive worship.
- Modeling varying styles and forms of worship that glorify God and encouraging outreach and service.
- Emphasizing the importance of biblical stewardship and the centrality of God's Word as elements of worship.

### **C. WORLD EVANGELIZATION**

We commit ourselves to intentionally reaching the unconverted, baptizing them in water, and leading them to unite with the church. This commitment will be demonstrated by:

- Viewing all the nations of the world as our mission field.
- Encouraging our local churches to adopt and intercede for an unreached people group. Resource materials will be provided by the Ministry of World Missions.
- Asking all national churches of the Church of God international to adopt and implement measurable steps to evangelize and disciple unreached people groups inside and outside of their own regions (Matthew 28:18-20; Romans 15:19-24; Revelation 5:9).
- Encouraging every local church to increase a minimum of 10% per year through conversion growth.
- Cultivating a genuine passion for the lost that will compel members to personally communicate the gospel of Jesus and demonstrate His love to those outside the faith.
- Discipling new believers and passing on our faith to the next generation.

- Practicing lifestyle evangelism.

#### **D. CHURCH PLANTING**

1. We commit ourselves to identifying, training, and resourcing God-called church planters and to intentionally plant new life-giving churches. This commitment will be demonstrated by:
  - Focusing designated resources of the local church, state/regional offices, and the international offices for planting new churches.
  - Starting the number of church plants equal to a minimum of 3% of the total number of churches in a state/region/nation annually.
  - Developing a certified training program in our Ministry of USA Missions and educational institutions for church planters and home missions.
  - Emphasizing the health and viability of new church plants as well as the number of churches planted.
  - Affirming the different models of church planting for different situations.
  - Recognizing church planting as an apostolic ministry for our day.
2. That we commit to the *20/20 Vision* for church planting:

#### **Church Planting Goals**

- 20 new churches organized
- 20 new missions operational
- 20 new church planters identified

#### **E. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

We commit ourselves to identifying and developing individuals whom God has called and given leadership gifts and challenging them whom God has called and given leadership gifts and challenging them to become servant-leaders. We will demonstrate our commitment by:

- Creating an environment in which men and women with ministry gifts are developed to serve as servant-leaders.
- Equipping, empowering, and releasing lay leaders to serve as ministry partners both inside and outside the local church.
- Providing relevant resources and training opportunities for both clergy and laity.
- Encouraging pastors to lead through vision, to communicate the vision to the congregation, and to organize the body and each of its ministry groups so the vision can be realized.

#### **F. CARE**

We commit ourselves to the challenge of being a church that genuinely cares for one another and for those who are lost, hurting, and needy. We will demonstrate our commitment by:

- Building loving, caring relationships within families, between members, and within the communities we serve.
- Obeying the Care Commission of Christ in Matthew 25.
- Cultivating compassion and showing mercy to the unloved, the undesirable, and the unreached of our society.
- Establishing in each local church some type of outreach ministry that demonstrates our genuine concern and love for the disadvantaged or oppressed.

**G. INTERDEPENDENCE**

We commit ourselves to the principle of interdependence, acknowledging our interconnectedness and dependence on all the members of the Body of Christ. We will demonstrate our commitment by:

- Reaching out to others in the Body of Christ for collaboration, resource sharing, and learning opportunities.
- Encouraging local churches to build relationships with like-minded and like-hearted churches in their communities to work together to reach the lost.
- Involving clergy in the processes of mentoring, coaching, and consulting on the local, state, regional, national and international levels to increase the level of trust and support among ministers.
- Engaging in dialogue and partnership with local, national, and international organizations who seek to fulfill the Great Commission of Christ.

**III. STATEMENT OF PLEDGE**

Whereas the office of the pastor is continually evolving and,

Whereas the role with its complexities and nuances are adding greater stress and angst to the individuals who are pastors and,

Whereas the goal of the leadership of the Church of God is to “build healthy, growing, praying pastors who build healthy, growing, praying churches,”

Be it therefore resolved that we the leadership of the Church of God in the region of Delmarva-DC pledge ourselves to the following:

1. Continual assessment of current ministries to determine their viability and effectiveness.
2. To develop ministry models that enhance the responsibilities and role of the pastor.
3. To resource the pastor through training that improves leadership and confidence.
4. To provide encouragement through mentoring and connectivity that creates interdependence.



5. To provide seminars and meetings that inspire, challenge, and support the pastoral position.
6. To raise the level of the pastor through accountability vehicles that lifts the quality of the pastorate.
7. To create an atmosphere of loving, caring, spiritual relationships that enhance overall ministry effectiveness.

#### **IV. THEME: “FINISH”**

**A. Theme: “FINISH Commitment”** as outlined by the General Overseer of the Church of God.

F - Find  
I - Intercede  
N- Network  
I - Invest  
S - Send  
H – Harvest

**B.** The sub-theme for the Delmarva-DC region shall be: **“Reaching People at Their Point of Need”** – John 5:6

1. Purpose – to deliver an initiative of Evangelism to reach the unchurched in Delmarva-DC at their point of need.
2. Vision – to endeavor to be:
  - a. A movement committed to the authority of Scripture for faith and direction.
  - b. A fellowship whose worship brings God’s power into the life of the church and extends that power through the lives of believers into the marketplace of life.
  - c. A body that is directed by the Spirit, understanding the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a personal blessing and an endowment of power for witness and service in fulfilling the Great Commission.
  - d. A people who hunger for God and His Presence.
  - e. A New Testament church which focuses on the local congregation where the pastor nurtures and leads all members to exercise spiritual gifts in ministry.
  - f. A church that loves all people and stands opposed to any action or policy that discriminates against any group or individual because of race, color, or nationality.
  - g. A church that exercises love and concern for the hurts and loneliness of the unsaved through aggressive evangelistic, discipling and nurturing ministries: ***Reaching People at Their Point of Need***
3. Phase I – Community Outreach

- a. Benevolence Ministries
    - i. Food
    - ii. Clothing
    - iii. Ministry to Homeless
    - iv. Ministry to Children
      - i. Alter School Tutoring
      - ii. Back Pack “Back to School”
      - iii. School Supplies
  - b. Special Events
    - i. Block Parties
    - ii. Children of the City
    - iii. City Vision Week
  - c. Training for Community Outreach Awareness
4. Phase II – Equipping
- a. Equipping Shepherds
    - ii. Two tracks: Urban and Rural
    - iii. Continuation of Vision and Challenges
  - b. Equipping Saints – Each October be designated for a church wide “TOOLS” Conference in all aspects of church ministry.
  - c. Equipping Outreach and Community Ministry
    - i. After school tutoring
    - ii. GED
    - iii. Crisis Counseling
    - iv. ESL Program Training
5. Phase III – Strategic Evangelism
- a. Implementation of strategic evangelism that strengthens existing local churches and plants new works.
    - i. Urban Missionaries
    - ii. Un-reached People Groups
    - iii. Divorce Care
    - iv. Grief Care
    - v. Overcomer’s Outreach
    - vi. Celebrate Recovery
    - vii. Community Service Chaplains
    - viii. Campus Missionaries

**C. Resourcing the Delmarva-DC Spirit Care**

1. That January be designated as “Forward 7 - 1 – 1”
  - a. 7 - Days of prayer and fasting
  - b. 1 - Day of Worship – Intercession/Celebration (Formerly “Concert of Prayer”)
  - c. 1 – Day of Harvest Giving to:
    - R** - esourcing
    - E** - stablishing
    - A** - ssisting
    - C** - onnectivity
    - H** - elping

**D. Delmarva Initiative Goal – 50,000 – Last Sunday in January**

**V. COVENANT COMMUNITY GROUPS**

"We are laborers together with God" - I Cor. 3.9

We will support the Covenant Community Groups concept as presented by the Church of God International Offices.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Covenant Community Groups is to empower team members to collaborate and concentrate resources on specific ministry projects including leadership development, evangelism, ministerial training, church planting, strengthening of existing churches, helping mission states to become self-supporting, where possible, and participating in world mission projects with the shared ministry vision of winning the world for Christ.

**VI. GENERAL AND REGIONAL MEETINGS**

**A. REGIONAL MINISTERS' MEETING**

1. The Regional Ministers' Meeting shall be held biennially on the Assembly Year for the election and appointment of boards and to make necessary changes in our regional program.
2. The agenda for the Delmarva-DC Ministers' Meeting shall be mailed to each minister at least one week prior to the actual time of the meeting. Further, a list of all Ordained Bishops and Ordained Ministers should accompany this agenda.
3. All resolutions pertaining to the Delmarva-DC Ministers' Meeting Agenda shall be presented, in writing, to the Regional Bishop prior to beginning of the afternoon session. Further, at each Ministers' Meeting

the Regional Bishop shall appoint a committee to receive and evaluate motions for presentation, if possible, when the official agenda is completed.

**B. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Administrative Bishop and Regional Council present a biennial budget report to the ministers for the discussion and approval. In the addition, a detailed financial report is available upon request. The annual is made available to all ministers upon request.

**C. REGIONAL CAMP MEETING**

Delmarva-DC Regional Camp Meetings shall consist of up to four regional conventions for the purpose of worship, fellowship, encouragement, and training. Dates and locations to be announced.

**D. CONFERENCES**

We shall conduct an annual Ministers Conference to emphasize prayer, training and fellowship. The date and location shall be decided by the Regional Bishop.

**VII. DISTRICT ORGANIZATION AND PROMOTION**

Delmarva-DC recognizes the basic function of the District Overseer as outlined by the General Assembly Minutes. However, in an attempt to improve the role and due to the continuing complexities and time constraints on pastors, we would offer a newer model.

Delmarva-DC therefore recognizes the model of Cluster Elder. This will retain the basic functions of the District Overseer and expands and improves the relationships and interdependence of the ministers of their cluster.

Utilizing the unique gifts and experience of primarily retired pastors, these men will be appointed by the Regional Bishop and confirmed by the ministers of our region.

They are first and foremost encouragers and mentors to the pastors and ministers in their cluster. They will with various means attempt to raise the spiritual level of the congregations in their cluster. Further, they will assist the Regional Bishop in other capacities when called upon.

The Regional Administrative Bishop shall appoint District Overseers to work with Cluster Elders to advance the Kingdom of God. Duties and responsibilities shall be defined by the Regional Administrative Bishop.

**VIII. MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT**

- A.** A program of ministerial development be implemented for the purpose of training, accountability, affirmation, and continuing education of the ministers of

Delmarva-DC. The program of ministerial development shall be under the direction of the Regional Bishop and coordinated by the Ministerial Development Board. Ministerial Development is to encompass four specific areas:

1. ***CAMS / MIP (Ministerial Internship Program)***

The chairmen of the CAMS (Calling and Ministry Studies) and MIP (Ministerial Internship Program), along with those working with them, are responsible for implementing the CAMS and Ministerial Internship Programs for the region.

2. ***Ministerial Licensing***

- a. The chairman of ministerial licensing, along with those working with him, is responsible for implementing the formal licensing process for all applicants for ministry for the region.
- b. Regional Ministerial Examining Board - The Regional Bishop shall appoint, biennially, a Regional Ministerial Examining Board which shall consist of not less than five Ordained Bishops. This board will meet at designated times to interview ministerial candidates and to administer oral and written examinations to those eligible to take said tests.

3. ***Ministerial Care***

The chairman of ministerial care, along with those working with him, in conjunction with the International Office of Ministerial Care, is responsible for implementing the regional ministerial care program. The chairman and committee, along with the Regional Bishop, shall work to develop a relationship of affirmation and support within the regional ministerial family.

a. **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

We shall prayerfully support and be actively involved in the ministry of the Office of Ministerial Care. Further, we encourage financial support through monthly contributions with the Ministers' and Treasurer's Reports and through special designated gifts.

b. **SPIRIT CARE MINISTRIES**

1. Organize or reaffirm a retired ministers' organization.
2. Establish a regional association of retired ministers/widows
3. Spirit Care Committee - The Regional Bishop shall appoint, biennially, a Regional Spirit Care Committee which shall consist of three (3) or more members who function as a service body to aid in providing ministry and care for the retired ministers, spouses and widows.

4. Make provisions to secure an accurate and complete list of retired ministers and ministers' widows in our region.
5. Explore with pastors the possibility of adopting a retired minister or widow who is certified to be in critical need as a Spirit Care project for their church
6. Designate at least one special occasion during the year when retired ministers and ministers' widows should be honored and affirmed by the region.
7. Pastors and regional leaders seek to identify, encourage and make use of the talent of retired ministers and their spouses through every means available.

c. **PASTORS SABBATICAL PROGRAM**

In a time when the pressures of being in the ministry have caused a great number of pastors and their wives, to both physically and spiritually burn out; and knowing that a number of outstanding couples have left the ministry and in some cases each other, because of such pressures; and knowing, that too often pastors feeling their need for change and renewal, have chosen the way out by changing churches; an alternative shall be made available to the pastors of Delmarva-DC in the form of a Sabbatical Program. Details are to be worked out by the Regional Bishop and Regional Council.

4. ***Ministerial Education***

The chairman of ministerial education, along with those working with him, is responsible for all general areas of education in the region. As a means to establish a pattern of life-long learning, the chairman and his committee work to develop, promote and implement educational programs.

a. *School of Ministry*

Delmarva - DC establish School of Ministry Distance Learning Centers (DLC) at strategic locations to make the Certificate in Ministerial Studies (CIMS) classes available to the ministers of our region.

We encourage the ministers of our region to enroll in the CIMS classes offered by the School of Ministry and pursue completion of the CIMS certificate by taking classes at the DLC, through study on the Internet, and/or by proficiency.

b. *Church of God Pentecostal Theological Seminary*

(1) Statement of Purpose

The Church of God Pentecostal Theological Seminary is the premier graduate school for training ministers and laity. It is recognized as the Church's center for preserving the propagating of the holiness-Pentecostal doctrines and practices, and is committed to supporting the various regional and local ministries by providing:

- Thursday Only and intensive J-Term (January, June and July) extension, and on-site programs for busy pastors and laity (e.g., the annual Seminar on Ministry), and
- Masters' degrees which integrate Biblical, historical, doctrinal and practical ministerial areas along with special Masters' degrees which concentrate on ministerial leadership, counseling, missions, pastoral ministries, youth ministry, missions (urban and world), clinical pastoral training, chaplaincies, and other specialized ministries, and
- A proposed Doctor of Ministry program which will be designed to produce pastoral leaders who can mentor others in ministry.

(2) We remember the Church of God Pentecostal Theological Seminary in our prayers and encourage young men and women to attend the Pentecostal Theological Seminary, a seminary fully committed to the spiritual, doctrinal, and ministerial emphases of the Church of God.

(3) We promote and encourage attendance at the Annual Seminar.

(4) Where and when possible, we shall involve students, faculty, staff and administration in regional and local services and seminars.

**B. AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK**

Pastors and laypeople shall be encouraged to visit local schools during American Education Week in November, and each pastor shall be encouraged to take a close look at the curriculum being taught in the public schools in their area.

**C. CHURCH OF GOD EDUCATION WEEK**

We encourage the observance of Church of God Education Week in every church during May. Further, in keeping with the General Assembly *Minutes*, an offering be received in May for the General Education programs; said offering is to be sent to General Headquarters with the May report.

**D. CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Every pastor shall make their people aware of the "at home" education opportunities offered by the Church of God Continuing Education Program. Further, every minister shall be encouraged to further their training by taking advantage of such opportunities.

**E. CHURCH RELATED COLLEGES**

1. We reaffirm our commitment to our church related colleges by praying regularly for the administration, faculty, and students and by actively participating in their recruitment efforts.
2. Each local pastor shall encourage alumni attending their local church to actively participate in regional alumni activities.

## **IX. WORLD MISSIONS**

### **INTRODUCTION: Statement of Ministry**

Church of God World Missions affirms the biblical truth that God is a missionary God. The Triune God acts for the redemption of man. The Father ordered the plan of salvation, the Son actuated it and the Holy Spirit executes it. The Father sent the Son; the Son gave His life in obedient sacrifice; and the Holy Spirit draws mankind to salvation.

The authority for ministry in Church of God World Missions resides in the Holy Spirit, who equips and empowers; in the Word, which commissions and guides; and in the church, which structures and supports.

The vision of World Missions is:

- Proclamation:** To lead Church of God congregations in World Evangelism with every local church proclaiming His message to all peoples of the earth by every available means.
- Planting:** To establish a Biblical church in every nation of the world and among every ethnic group in which God opens the door for us.
- Preparation:** To provide resources and opportunities for the training and mentoring of leaders in every nation and cultural group.
- Partnership:** To partner with the local Church of God congregations in order to assist them in fulfilling the global visions that God has given them.

Building on this understanding of the nature of God, Church of God World Missions seeks to be the embodiment of His sending and seeking, finding its missions statement in Romans 16:25, 26: “Now to Him who is able to establish you by my Gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey Him - to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ, Amen” (NIV, italics added).

The Church of God vests its missions ministry in Church of God World Missions. The heart of World Missions ministry is the implementation of a global strategy of evangelism, church planting and training. World Missions is available to assist any local church in fulfilling its Biblical mandate to reach the world with the Gospel. To support its ministries, World Missions devises a budget and raises funds through the efforts of department personnel and appointed missionaries. The World Missions staff performs



editorial, public relations, financial and administrative functions for missionaries on the field and for constituency of the North America church.

### **WORLD MISSIONS – “SEND THE LIGHT TO THE CITIES”**

That we accept the challenge of Church of God World Missions to “Send the Light to the Cities – A FINISH Strategy.” Further, we adopt the city of Tokyo, Japan and commit to:

- Praying the light to shine in every corner of Tokyo . . . beaming to all of Tokyo and Japan.
- Praying for the leadership of World Missions, Field Director Andrew Binda and church planters in Tokyo.
- Teaming with our World Missions Representative to reaching the goal of \$250,000.00 for the next two years in order to finance the church plants and ministry centers in Tokyo.
- Engaging this project with on-site participation as God allows us to pray, work and share our light.

#### **A. REGIONAL WORLD MISSIONS BOARD**

1. Selection

Delmarva-DC shall have a regional World Missions Board. The board and board chairman shall be appointed biennially by the Regional Bishop. The board shall consist of not more than five and not less than three members. Said board shall consist of ministers and laypeople who have shown strong support for world evangelization. The board will meet as often as the Regional Bishop and chairman deem necessary.

2. Duties and Responsibilities

The duties and responsibilities are to promote world evangelization in the Church of God in the region; promote regional, and local world missions conferences, seminars, banquets, and so forth; and to assist with the scheduling of field representatives and missionaries on furlough.

#### **B. LOCAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE**

Each pastor is asked to appoint a local missions committee for their church. The chairperson will serve as the local mission’s representative. The representative's name should be sent to World Missions. Information may be obtained from the regional mission’s representative

1. Selection

The local church missions committee is appointed by the local church pastor.

2. Duties and Responsibilities

The local church missions committee shall: have primary responsibility for assisting the pastor in establishing and maintaining a World Missions program in the church, distribute *Save Our World* magazine and other missions publications, make a periodic report of missions activity within the church, maintain a mission bulletin board or interest center in the church using material and suggestions sent by the regional missions representative, missionaries or World Missions, keep missions prayer requests before the church, work with the pastor in emphasizing missions at least one Sunday each month, cooperate with the Sunday School, the Family Training Hour, and other Church department leaders to insure constant missions emphasis within their programs, and perform any other missions-related task assigned by the pastor.

3. Designated Offerings

Each local church shall be encouraged to participate in the various special offering emphases. Promotional materials will be provided by the World Missions department.

**C. UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUPS**

Each church is encouraged to pray for unreached people groups and where feasible adopt one as a prayer focus. Also, each church is encouraged to pray regularly for missionaries and for those around the world who are suffering.

**D. SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TRIPS**

Short-term missionary trips should be encouraged to inform and inspire persons about World Missions.

**E. CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY OFFERING**

Each church is encouraged to participate in the "Christ's Birthday Offering" which is used for the "Hunger and Disaster Relief Fund" of World Missions. Each family is encouraged to contribute a minimum of \$20.00 as a Christmas gift to assist with demands for funds created by famines, emergencies and disasters which occur regularly around the world. Support materials will be supplied by World Missions.

**F. LOVE THE WORLD SUNDAY**

Each church is encouraged to participate in the "Love the World Sunday". Members of the congregation should be encouraged to join the "Dollar-A-Week Program" which supports missionaries on the field. Support materials will be supplied by World Missions.

**G. HUMANITARIAN SUNDAY**

Each church is encouraged to participate in the “Humanitarian Sunday”. Support materials will be supplied by World Missions.

**H. SHARE WORLD MISSIONS**

Each pastor is encouraged to share with his/her church the ministries of World Missions on a regular basis. Printed and video resources are available upon request.

**I. WORLD MISSIONS GOAL**

Each church is encouraged to set an annual World Missions goal of an amount equal to one month’s average tithes.

**X. LEGAL CONCERNS**

**A. GENERAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

All legal documents forwarded to the International Offices are to be signed by the General Board of Trustees.

**B. CHURCH PROPERTY**

See Church of God *Minutes*, S44. CHURCH PROPERTY, I through VIII, and S-47-APPROVAL OF CONSTRUCTION, PURCHASE, OR REMODELING PLANS FOR LOCAL CHURCH. All property deeds, forms, etc. are to be done exactly as stated in the Church of God General Assembly *Minutes* under these sections.

**C. LEGAL SEMINAR**

Each pastor and treasurer should attend a legal seminar sponsored by the Regional Office. (Anyone involved in taxes, finances or record keeping in the local church should be encouraged to attend.)

**XI. MEDIA MINISTRY**

**A. AVAILABLE MEDIA**

Our churches, pastors and evangelists shall be encouraged to take full advantage of radio and television in communicating the gospel and promoting the work of Christ.

**B. SUPPORT TO MEDIA MINISTRY**

We shall pray and support the international media ministry of the Church of God.

1. Support the Department of Media Ministries where possible through sponsorship of *Forward in Faith* and *Alcance* radio programs.
2. All ministers are encouraged to subscribe to the Ministers Tape Service by contributing \$5.00 or more with their monthly reports.

**XII. PUBLICATIONS**

**A. AVAILABLE PUBLICATIONS**

1. We recommend that each church order at least one (1) roll of the *Evangel* monthly and that every minister be encouraged to become a personal subscriber.
2. Each church should encourage local Christian Education leaders to subscribe to *Leadership* magazine for all local workers.
3. Each church is encouraged to use New Life curriculum from the Church of God Pathway Press in its Sunday school. This material will reinforce the teaching of the doctrine upon which our church is built.

**XIII. CHAPLAINS AND MINISTRY TO THE MILITARY**

**A. REGIONAL COORDINATOR**

This person will be responsible for actively supporting all efforts of the Stateside Ministry to the Military Department to promote and establish military ministries in his region. These duties include coordination of the region's Military Contact Church program, distribution of On Guard and other literature, dissemination of Ministry to the Military information at Camp Meeting booths and other special functions.

**B. MINISTRY TO THE MILITARY DAY**

This special Sunday (observed in May) has officially been designated as a day for recognizing those who are serving and have served in our country's military. Pastors are urged to develop a special worship service that honors these dedicated people and to receive a special offering for the support of Ministry to the Military. Special speakers may be obtained by contacting the Chaplains Commission, 900 Walker Street, N.E., Cleveland, Tennessee 37311.

**C. MILITARY CONTACT CHURCHES**

Churches near military bases should be aware of the opportunity to become recognized as an official Military Contact Church which is a church near a military installation with a sincere desire to reach out to those in uniform. This program offers assistance to churches that want to develop this ministry.

**D. VOLUNTEER CHAPLAINS**

The Church of God Chaplains Commission officially recognizes and endorses many ministers who dedicate their time to hospitals, prisons, nursing homes or other agencies. These volunteers are unique people who are taking the Gospel where many cannot or will not go.

**XIV. CHURCH MUSIC MINISTRY**

In cooperation with the Department of Music Ministries, Delmarva-DC will assist and support the local church music and musician's work through offering:

- A.** Jointly sponsored regional music conferences and worship experiences.
- B.** An annual National Music Explosion/Worship Conference for music ministers, praise leaders, singers and instrumentalists (The last week of February, in Cleveland, TN).
- C.** Music ministry tools (manuals and books, teaching videos, and CD/CASS demonstrations of choir and praise and worship music) through SpiritSound Music Group, the music publishing arm of the church.
- D.** A music review service titled SpiritSound VIP Music Review, a service provided for all denominational musicians offering print and recorded music product along with effective music ministry tips and techniques.
- E.** A complete recording opportunity for local church choirs, praise teams and ensembles. State-of-the-art digital recordings produced by department personnel at a local church site or in the SpiritSound studios.
- F.** An annual Musicians Appreciation Sunday to recognize and appreciate local church musicians (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of November).

**XV. AGED MINISTERS**

**REFORMATION SUNDAY**

The last Sunday in October shall annually be set aside as Reformation Sunday in honor of aged ministers. A special love offering shall be raised for them on these days.

**XVI. CHURCH OF GOD MINISTERS RETIREMENT PLAN**

**A. MINISTER’S RETIREMENT PLAN**

Each local church treasurer and pastor's council shall be notified that all pastors are expected to participate in the Minister's Retirement Plan and the local congregation is to contribute an amount equal to 5% of the Pastor's salary for his/her participation in the Minister’s Retirement Plan (MRP).

**B. APPLICATIONS FOR RETIREMENT**

Applications may be secured from the Department of Pensions, P. O. Box 2430, Cleveland, TN 37320-2430.

**XVII. REPORTING**

**A. ALL REPORTS MAILED BY 5TH OF EACH MONTH**

All reports are to be mailed by the 5th of each month. Reports not received or postmarked by the 5th will be considered late and will be designated "delinquent" in the *Getting Connected* statistics.

**B. PASTOR'S SIGNATURE**

All reports are to be properly completed and each pastor shall review the church reports before signing the report each month.

**C. CHURCH CHECKING ACCOUNTS**

All church bank accounts shall have at least two signatures, one of which is the pastor's.

**D. EVANGELISTS REPORTS**

Pastors and Evangelists shall report to the Regional Office results of each revival on forms provided. Said revival reports should accompany regular monthly reports.

**E. MORTGAGE PAYMENTS REPORTED**

Pastors shall be responsible for reporting to the Regional Bishop any mortgage payment or other church payment over one month in arrears.

**F. LOCAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Each pastor desiring a pastoral change shall be required to submit to the Regional Bishop a local church financial statement showing all obligations up to date, including the Treasurer's Reports to General and Regional Headquarters with

designated monies. Further, the request for a pastoral change shall be submitted in writing

## **XVIII. LOCAL CHURCH**

### **A. STATEMENT OF PLEDGE**

WHEREAS, the Church of God was conceived in a spirit of prayer and revival, and

WHEREAS, the Church of God has been nurtured through the years upon the infallible truth of God's Word, and

WHEREAS, the Church of God has been empowered by the Holy Spirit and commissioned to share the full gospel message to a lost and dying world, and

WHEREAS, the Church of God stands at the threshold of the eminent return of our Savior,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that we, the ministers and laity of the Delmarva-DC area, pledge to give ourselves the next two years to a more dedicated life of prayer, fasting, Bible study, and Godly living in order to bring revival to individual hearts, families and churches throughout this area.

### **B. MINISTRY**

1. Each local Church Treasurer and Pastor's Council/Elders shall be notified that all pastors are expected to attend and to represent the local church at the Regional Ministers' Meeting, Prayer Conference/Minister's Retreat, Camp Meeting and the General Assembly. We encourage local churches to assure that their pastors are properly cared for at such meetings. Each church is encouraged to set up a Pastoral Expense Fund. The following procedures for establishing such a fund shall be considered:

- a. A special offering each month.
- b. A set amount per week from the General Fund.
- c. A percent of all Sunday morning and Sunday evening offerings, (the amount to be determined by the local church and council/elders), unless such offerings are designated for some other purpose than for the support of the local church.

d. The tithing of Sunday school offerings. The surplus tithes, where available.

2. Where funds are available, each church shall provide a parsonage (including utilities) or an adequate housing allotment for their pastor,

and the church shall designate a portion of his/her income as housing allowance.

**C. ADVERTISING**

1. Churches are encouraged to avail themselves of all advertising media, such as: newspapers, highway signs, listings in the yellow pages of telephone directories, hotel directories, etc.
2. Each church shall display suitable identifying and directional signs.

**D. BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES**

Each pastor shall see that church properties are properly maintained, identified and insure

**E. TRAINING**

We shall provide training opportunities for local churches in the area of church administration, budgets, pastors compensation plans, tax considerations, etc.

**F. CHURCH GROWTH AFFIRMATION**

That we continue to focus our attention, resources and energies on the fulfillment of the Great Commission, believing that the gospel can overcome any and all barriers—geographical, cultural, social, racial, and religious—as we engage the missional mandate.

Further, that we intentionally strategize to plant life-giving churches in those communities and areas where there is no Pentecostal witness.

Strategies for Evangelism & USA Missions will be developed to strengthen church growth with joint meetings of the Regional Council and Evangelism and USA Missions Board.

Churches will be recognized in publication form annually that attain at least a 10% increase in 2 of the following categories:

- Morning Worship Attendance
- Membership
- Tithes
- Home Missions Giving
- World Missions Giving



## **XIX. PRAYER INITIATIVE**

- A. The Delmarva-DC Region shall have a Prayer Commission to be appointed by the Administrative Bishop to meet at his discretion for the purpose of training and mobilizing regional intercessory prayer. They shall provide prayer ministry resources and regionwide prayer events such as, but not limited to, Prayer Summits, Prayer Advances, Prayer Encounters, Prayer Convocations and training opportunities. Further, they shall coordinate regionwide prayer emphasis and a prayer website. Every church shall endeavor to participate in a designated week(s) of 24/7 prayer emphasis.
- B. That the Delmarva-DC region designate “ONE” day per week as a day of Prayer and Fasting and that our churches be open to fulfill that purpose.

Prayer – the Heartbeat of the Church (Churchwide Prayer Initiative)

### **Covenant**

- We verily believe that God has divinely commissioned the Church of God to be a champion for truth in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. That He has instituted prayer as a direct source of power from Him to embrace the mandate, to effectively expand His Kingdom, and to live the abundant life in Jesus Christ.
- We will therefore:

***Make*** prayer a priority in fulfilling the mission and vision of the Church of God.

***Recognize*** that prayer is the direct channel to connect with the presence, promises, and power of God.

***Endorse*** the outlined prayer emphasis set forth by the leadership of the Church of God.

***Participate*** in Great Days of Prayer, January Churchwide Prayer Study, and Wednesday Morning Prayer time.

- We believe these statements with our heart and confess them with our mouth and boldly stand on the eternal truth of God’s unchanging Word to fulfill them. Be it so! Amen!

## **XX. YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP**

### **A. STATEMENT OF PLEDGE**

Whereas we the Youth and Discipleship Board, as a duly elected board by the ministers of the Delmarva–DC Region, have been elected to serve as leaders in this region to bring “*effective change*” in ministry.

Be it therefore resolved, that we seek to consistently reevaluate the youth ministry of the Delmarva-DC region. We are committed to provide a viable, workable plan to effectively reach this generation as disciples of Jesus Christ. This commitment is to bring about a radical change in how youth ministry is to function. We desire to “think out of the box” eliminating non-viable models of ministry while embracing concepts that are practical and applicable. May it be assured, that we do not seek change for change sake, but to become an effective and efficient resource.

To accomplish this objective

1. We will analyze all present models of ministry and determine their value and viability.
2. We will seek to offer meaningful events to impact this generation; not just clutter the calendar.
3. We will invest our time, talent, and treasure in responsible ways as it pertains to reaching the lost.
4. We will commit ourselves to resource our leaders in the field knowing that we are only as successful as the local church ministry is successful.
5. We will not strive to build a regional program; but to build youth and children’s ministers and assist them to build the youth and children they serve.

Be it further resolved, that this is our vision, our mission, and our passion as we minister to this generation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **B. TRAINING**

#### **1. DEVELOPING LEADERS**

Local churches shall endeavor to continually train and develop youth and children’s leaders through the local, regional, and national conferences.

**2. TEEN & JUNIOR TALENT**

- a. The Regional and International Teen Talent Program shall be promoted during the off assembly year. Each local church shall encourage the dedication of talents to the Lord by its youth and encourage them to enter the Art, Bible, Drama, Music and Writing divisions.
- b. Teen Talent program shall be promoted on the off Assembly year to enhance and train students in the specific areas of participation.
- c. Junior Talent program shall be promoted on the Assembly year to enhance and train students in the specific areas of participation.

**3. GIRLS MINISTRIES**

- a. Girls Ministries is a vital ministry of the Youth and Discipleship Department. Each local club is a part of a larger body of girls throughout the world. The Girls Clubs Ministries of the Church of God has a strong and vital history that emerged in the late 1960's.
- b. The Girls Clubs Ministries program includes programming and curriculum for girls from pre-school age through high school. The focus of girls' ministries is to foster the discipleship and development of girls into God-centered, Holy Spirit-filled ladies.
- c. It is therefore recommended that every church sponsor a Girls Club Ministry. Information and guidance on establishing the Girls Club ministry in the local church is available through the Regional Girls Clubs Coordinator.

**4. BOYS MINISTRIES**

- a. Ministry of Men to Boys is vital. The focus is on building men through long-term discipleship of boys and *equipping men for fathering their own children* as well as children who do not have a father present in their lives.
- b. It is therefore recommended that every church sponsor a club ministry program for boys in their local church and community. An information packet can be obtained by calling the International Department Youth and Discipleship at 423-478-7222.
- c. Local churches are encouraged to attend and/or plan a yearly retreat focused on men mentoring boys for the purpose of building strong leadership for the next generation.

**5. YOUTH MINISTRY**

- a. Each local church shall designate an individual to give oversight to its youth ministry.
- b. Each local church shall endeavor to equip its youth leaders with training and resources and provide an ongoing progressive youth ministry.
- c. Each local church shall be encouraged to attend the annual Premier Winterfest retreat held in Ocean City, Maryland.
- d. Each local church leader shall be encouraged to join the Church of God National Youth Leaders Association.
- e. A Regional Youth Leaders Association shall be sponsored by the Regional Youth and Discipleship Director and his board.
- f. Each local church shall reaffirm its commitment to our Pentecostal distinctive by placing special emphasis on the Baptism of the Holy Ghost through study and by giving its youth opportunity to receive the Holy Ghost. Each local church shall give its youth opportunity for church membership.
- g. Since Youth Camp is one of the church's strong arms of youth evangelism, each local church is encouraged to support the summer youth camp program by sending campers and enlisting workers to serve.
- h. Each local church shall be encouraged to conduct a yearly emphasis focusing on the importance of sexual abstinence until after marriage.
- i. We shall encourage regional youth to evangelize their school campus by organizing or participating in a Christian Bible Club / Organization.
- j. Local churches are encouraged to participate in the Lee University “Lee Day” experience whereby potential students can become better acquainted with school features and programming. We also encourage local churches to conduct a special recognition emphasis for all graduates.

**6. TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

We shall encourage local youth and children’s leaders to participate in Regional Youth and Children’s Leaders Training held annually to enhance and develop their skills of ministry.

**C. OUTREACH**

**1. SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY**

We resolve to reaffirm our commitment to discipleship, with the understanding that this can be accomplished through a variety of Christian education ministries including Sunday school, small groups, midweek ministries and mentoring/coaching.

That we encourage churches to encourage their children to attend the Kidfest event, when it is held in their area. Furthermore, because of the need to disciple children and teach them the doctrine of the Church of God, we encourage church leaders to train their children by teaching them the Declaration of Faith, using curriculum available from Pathway Press. That we also encourage parents to encourage their children to become members of the Church of God at a young age.

**2. DISCIPLESHIP**

Each church shall place an emphasis on discipling every member and be urged to plan a discipleship-training program for each age level to be conducted through the Family Training Hour, small groups, and/or other viable Discipleship experiences.

**D. FAMILY MINISTRY**

Each local church shall endeavor to establish ministries and programming specifically designed to encourage and develop families. Local churches are encouraged to plan special events that promote family togetherness.

**E. ALPHA AND OMEGA CAMPUS MINISTRY**

Whereas, each year our sons and daughters enter colleges to find that they are away from their parents and disconnected from their local church.

And Whereas, statistics say that churches lose between 89-93% of these high school graduates never to return to their Christian roots.

And Whereas, the students that walk from their faith and our churches fall prey to the lure of: secure culture; scorn of religious faith by university professors; a lack of Christian community on campus; and a personal weakness of skin deep faith.

And Whereas, this time in college is one of the most influential times in a young adult's life where bad decisions have long term consequences.

The International Youth and Discipleship Department with passion and determination is strategically attaching this potential loss of a generation by focusing intentional efforts to combat the above facts through Alpha Omega Campus Ministries.

Alpha Omega Campus Ministry has been established to reach and nurture Church of God college students and to mobilize and train them to put their faith into action through evangelism efforts on campus and benevolence ministries in

their community as well as intentionally building a support network of certified campus churches and endorsed campus pastors.

We resolve to confirm our commitment to reach, nurture, and mobilize our college age students during this crucial time of their life. Furthermore, we commit to help connect college students to Alpha Omega ministry. With great intention we also commit to encourage churches near universities to become certified Alpha Omega Campus Churches as well as encourage leaders to be trained to become endorsed Campus Ministry Chaplains.

**F. SINGLES MINISTRY**

Each local church shall give ministry attention to single adult members in the local congregation. We encourage single adult members to participate in Local, Regional, and National single adult events and retreats.

**G. YOUTH MISSIONS**

1. STEP

- a. Each pastor and youth leader shall encourage youth and young adults to participate in Short-term Training and Evangelism Partners (STEP).
- b. Each pastor and youth leader shall encourage youth groups to participate in Stateside STEP and assist in the planning of a stateside STEP in the local area.

2. YWEA

Each local church shall lead, involve, and encourage students of all ages to participate in YWEA ministries each year to train and develop them in missions giving and to reinforce world evangelization principles. Further, local churches shall make church members aware of special project designations each year.

3. THE CITY VISION EXPERIENCE:  
BALTIMORE AND WASHINGTON D.C.

Motivate and encourage students to converge and work in Washington D.C. and Baltimore for one week during the summer serving in urban missions. The City Vision week of ministry will be organized and planned through the regional vision guided by the youth and discipleship department. This effort will encompass reaching people at their point of need by touching them body, mind, soul and spirit through the power of Jesus Christ and the presence of the Body of Christ in the community (incarnation)

**H. CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES**

1. Each local church shall be encouraged to place priority on children's ministries and on planning a comprehensive program.
2. Local children's workers and leaders shall be encouraged to attend the National Children's Leaders Conference.
3. Each local church is encouraged to sponsor a Vacation Bible School (VBS), Kids Crusade or some special outreach to children each year.
4. Each local Children's Church Leader shall be encouraged to join the Church of God National Children's Leaders Association (NCLA).
5. We shall encourage those individuals who are called to children's ministry to accept the call and challenge and we shall support them and assist them with preparation and training. *Reaching, Teaching and Pastoring Kids*, is a certified program used for training local children's workers. Those completing Levels II and III can be certified through the National Children's Leaders Association.
6. Each church shall recognize the importance of children by hosting an annual children's day.  
i.e. Promotion Sunday, Back to School blessings, etc.
7. We encourage each local church to subscribe to *Youth and Discipleship Leadership* magazine for all the members of their Discipleship staff.
8. We encourage each local church to attend and support the annual Premier Kidfest held in Ocean City, Maryland.

**I. SUMMER CAMP**

1. The mission of Camp is to be a partner with parents and local Churches in Providing wholesome activities for youth with positive moral and most of all spiritual connotations. Teaching the next generation to be good followers and leaders, accept responsibility, and to practice values as directed by the Bible.
2. Camp allows youth leaders to practice skills of mentorship, patience and Compassion under the guidance of loving leadership. Camp also allows to communicate one with another in encouragement and the sharing of ideas. It allows ministers from all over the state to develop relationships that can build camaraderie within our denomination
3. Camp allows young people to escape the cares of this world and focus on Their spiritual path. As the noise from a loud and boisterous generation fade over the days, our next generation of Pentecostal ministers and laymen for which the Church of God (Cleveland, TN) is built on.

**XXI. EVANGELISM AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

**A. STATEMENT OF URGENCY**

**North America is the only continent where Christianity is not growing.** Look what is happening in the American home and with our children and teens:

- The marriage rate is down 43% in the last 40 years.
- 60% of America’s children do not grow up in families with two biological parents.
- 80% of long term poverty in the U.S. is among children from broken or never formed families.
- 400,000 teens attempted suicide last year.
- There are 50,000 gangs with half a million members.
- 75% of teenagers have engaged in some type of psychic/witchcraft related activity.
- 61% of teens are engaging in sexual activity while in high school.

Look at what is happening in America:

- America has 235 million lost souls and is considered to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest mission field in the world.
- Only 17% of Americans attend church and 15% of those who regularly attend say that God is the top priority in life.
- Half of all churches in America did not add a single member by conversion last year.
- Only 35% of Christians say they believe that God expects them to be holy.



- 63% of the general population does not know what John 3:16 even refers to.
- Membership in Protestant churches declined 10% in the past 10 years.

For the Church of God in Delmarva-DC to effectively evangelize and minister to the mosaic of people within the ever-changing region we must:

- Develop a Kingdom mentality and move away from being territorial. The mission of the Region is to reach people for the Kingdom of God.
- Commit ourselves to a continual process of evaluating, changing and adapting our methods and ministries by which we resource local church as they communicate the timeless Gospel of Jesus Christ.

**A. MISSION STATEMENT**

"To develop and implement programs and ministries in soul winning, church planting and church growth that will resource the local church to reach and reap the harvest of the *21st century*."

**B. CHURCH PLANTING**

1. A vigorous strategy shall be implemented to plant 10 new life-giving churches during the next two years and to develop these new churches to their full potential. This strategy will:
  - a. Identify those communities currently without a Church of God congregation;
  - b. Identify those communities with a need for additional churches, especially new churches for unreached people groups;
  - c. Identify independent churches that would affiliate with the Church of God under the guidelines adopted by the International General Assembly. Brochures "Are You Covered?" are available from the USA Missions Department.
  - d. Identify, access, train, and mobilize prospective church planters
  - e. Make various resources available to every pastor and any minister who demonstrates an interest in church planting.
  - f. Encourage all prospective church planters to attend the National Church Planters Office Training Labs. That financial assistance be given to Church Planters if necessary.
2. The New Testament offers a model for establishing new churches.
  - a. Statistics demonstrate that the most effective method of church planting is through the Mother-Daughter relationship. That renewed emphasis be placed on the Mother-Daughter concept of church planting. Consideration be given by the USA Missions

Board to sponsoring a forum on Mother-Daughter Church Planting.

- b. Satellite churches - after the Gospel grew greatly in the City of Antioch, the church "called out from among them" men to go into surrounding communities and establish new churches.
  - c. Each church is encouraged to promote Church Planting and involve the local congregation at some level of planting a new Church of God in an area designated by the Regional USA Missions Director.
  - d. Each church is encouraged to avail itself of the church planting resources available in the Evangelism and Home Missions Department at the International Offices.
  - e. That each Cluster meet in January of each year to discuss planting a new church on their cluster. Below is a suggested model:
    - January – Select Mother/Daughter Church Planters
    - February – Select Ten Prayer Partners
    - March – Launch the Mother/Daughter Mission
    - April & May – Training/Labs/Bible League/etc.
    - June – Selection Location for Daughter Church
    - July – September – Birthing the Mission
3. We support and cooperate with our Covenant Ministry Team's efforts in church planting.

**C. SOULWINNING MANDATE**

1. The Great Commission is the last command of Christ, apart from the related order not to begin the Great Commission without divine power, to wait in the Upper Room. The command is simple. Tell the story. Get the message of Christ's coming – His life and message, His death, burial and resurrection, His ascension and enthronement – to every city and nation, every tongue and tribe (Mark 16:14-18; Luke 24:44-49; John 20:19,23; Acts 1:4-8). Understanding the urgency of the hour we, the pastors, ministers and laity of the Delmarva-DC region recommit ourselves to personal soul winning.
2. Understanding that Christ's mission to earth was to find and redeem lost mankind (Luke 19:10) and that every Christian is to become personally involved in the Lord's mission (John 20:21; Acts 1:8), effective soulwinning classes and strategies should be offered in every church throughout the year. Further, every church should implement an on-going soulwinning program and host annual evangelistic outreach ministries.
3. By emphasizing revival, we shall:
  - a. Emphasize the necessity of travailing prayer and fasting for revival.
  - b. Make an intensive effort to reach the lost, to nurture new converts and to relocate migrating members through local church revivals.

- c. Encourage every church to participate in the **National Revival Thrust**, a nine-week renewal emphasis beginning on Palm Sunday and concluding on Pentecost Sunday.
  - d. Request each church to encourage its members to participate in **Family Revival** during November (or other suitable month) of each year in an effort to bring our children and extended family members to the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.
4. We shall promote consistent daily Bible reading in the local church by using Every Day with the Word. (Available from the Regional Office)
  5. Since tracts provide an inexpensive yet effective method of witnessing, we encourage every church to consider implementing an active tract ministry as part of its overall soulwinning program.
  6. We set a goal of 24,000 souls won to Christ for the ensuing two years.
  7. The Regional Director of USA Missions shall be given full cooperation in implementing programs and suggestions made available by International USA Missions.

**D. EVANGELISTS**

1. Recognizing the gift of Evangelist as one of the fivefold ministry gifts for the church (Ephesians 4:11-13) we renew our promotion of the ministry of and enhance the position of the Evangelist.
2. The Regional USA Missions Director shall make available to the pastors the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the regional, national and international evangelists.
3. We support the various seminars and/or programs for Evangelists scheduled by the International USA Missions.
4. Each pastor, in planning for a revival, shall make a special effort to see that the evangelist's offerings are at least equal to the pastor's weekly salary, expense allotment, and housing. In the event of emergency cancellation, where possible, financial consideration should be given to the evangelist by the local church. Further, the evangelist should give special consideration to the local church before canceling a preaching engagement.
5. The Regional USA Missions Director and the regional evangelism board, with the approval of the Regional Bishop, shall continue the development of the regional evangelists program. Responsibilities and financial assistance shall be determined by the Regional USA Missions Director and regional evangelism board, with the approval of the Regional Bishop.

**E. CHURCH GROWTH EMPHASIS**

Ministers and laity shall be encouraged to attend annual Delmarva-DC conferences and seminars related to church growth.

**F. INTERNATIONAL WOMEN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE**

Every female minister in Delmarva-DC shall be encouraged to participate in the annual Women Ministers' Conference sponsored International USA Missions.

**H. NEW MEMBERS**

Each church shall set a goal to increase membership at least ten percent per year. Every Pastor should use available resources to implement an intentional, systematic plan of awareness and training to increase local church membership.

That we designate the months of December and May as “Connection Months” for church membership in the region.

**I. SENIOR ADULT MINISTRIES**

1. Each local church is encouraged to develop a senior adult ministry. Resources are available through the Regional Senior Adult Committee and the USA Missions/World Evangelism Division.
2. The region shall promote and actively participate in the National Senior Adult Conventions and other senior adult activities.
3. The local church shall be encouraged to set aside the fourth Sunday of September as Senior Adult Day and make use of the materials available from the general department.
4. A region wide Senior Adult Day(s) shall be held annually for the purpose of fellowship, fun and competition.
5. Regional winners will qualify for the National Senior Adult Talent at the National Senior Adult Convention.

**J. LAY MINISTRIES**

1. The Regional Laymen’s Board shall work with the USA Missions Director in planning and implementing methods to train, equip, and mobilize the laity within our region.

2. Each church is encouraged to appoint a Local Church Lay Coordinator (LCLC) to assist the pastor in organizing lay ministries in the church including, but not limited to:
  - Life Builders Men's Ministry
  - Lay Witnessing
  - Outreach
  - Lay Leadership Development
  - Altar Worker Training
  - Visitation
  - Pastor's Prayer Partners
3. That each willing local church begin a disciple-making ministry to men through organizing, reorganizing or reactivating a Church of God Life Builders Men's Ministry program, or comparable ministry group.
4. Ministers and laity are encouraged to support and participate in the annual Men's Retreat and/or Celebration Breakfast(s).
5. Each church shall honor its pastor by hosting an annual Pastor Recognition Sunday. Resources are available through the USA Missions - Personal Evangelism.
6. Every local church should explore opportunities for ministry to blind, deaf, and hearing-impaired persons and families affected by such physical challenges.
7. That each local church is encouraged to develop a Men/Women of Action ministry.

**K. JAIL AND PRISON MINISTRY**

1. Each church shall be encouraged to establish a jail or prison ministry, using guidelines available from Turning Point Ministries and World Evangelism Division.
2. Churches involved in jail and prison ministry shall report monthly to the regional director's office on forms provided by the Evangelism Department.
3. Each church shall be encouraged to become involved in a local literacy center by providing Christian volunteers. Where possible this ministry shall be incorporated into the jail and prison ministry of the church or provide the foundation for beginning such a ministry.
4. Prison workers shall be encouraged to attend the annual National Jail and Prison Conference.

**L. "LITTLE BROTHER" PROJECTS**

Church and Missions Adoption Program

That, where possible, local churches select a small church or mission as a 'little brother', after consultation with the Regional Director of USA Missions, which is the New Testament pattern for planting and nurturing the body of Christ. The following are suggestions whereby this goal can be accomplished:

1. Take a personal interest in the Pastor and his/her family.
2. Pray for the success of the program.
3. Worship interaction by joint services on special occasions and pulpit exchanges.
4. Financial support by one or several of the following methods:
  - a. Monthly cash offering
  - b. Surplus tithes
  - c. Gifts from specialized auxiliaries such as:
    - i) Women's Ministries
    - ii) Men's Fellowship - Men of Action Projects
    - iii) Family Training Hour

**M. NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES**

1. The Native American Ministries shall be presented to the people through use of promotional materials available from International USA Missions.
2. Churches shall be informed that any contributions sent to USA Missions for Native American Ministries will receive home missions' credit for the local church and region.
3. Each church shall be encouraged to recognize Native American Ministry Day the third Sunday in November each year by receiving a love offering for the Native American Ministry and send it to the International USA Missions.
4. Each church, where possible, shall become a regular contributor to Native American Ministries.

**N. CHILD EVANGELISM**

1. Local Church programs of child evangelism -VBS, Kids' Crusades, etc. – should be implemented using the latest available resources.

2. Each church should consider sending delegates to the national child evangelism conference.

**O. REACHING PEOPLE AT THE POINT OF THEIR NEED**

Based on the strength of our collective efforts, we will conduct an ongoing regional ministry entitled “**Reaching People at the Point of Their Need**” for the purpose of supplementing the following objections to fulfill Church of God Delmarva-DC mission:

- a. Community outreach and awareness (Benevolence, school supplies, etc.)
  - b. Church planting (Reach the 7.4 million people in the Delmarva-DC harvest).
  - c. Special events (Block parties, community surveys, etc.).
  - d. Equipping (GED preparation, English as a second language, Mentoring, crisis counseling, Celebrate Recovery, etc.).
  - e. Shepherding (Ministry to the shepherd).
2. “**Reaching People at the Point of Their Need**” will be sub-divided in the following areas for specific focus:
    - a. Washington, DC and the surrounding areas.
    - b. Baltimore, MD and the surrounding areas.
    - c. Western Maryland
    - d. Eastern Shore
    - e. Wilmington, DE and the surrounding areas.
  3. Annual Commitment

The Regional USA Missions Director and Board shall organize an annual commitment plan including, but not limited to, banquets, rallies, District and/or Regional meetings, designated Sunday(s), etc. to enlist the participation of all ministers and members in prayer for and financial contributions to the “**Reaching People at the Point of Their Need**” ministry.

    - **R**-esourcing
    - **E**-stablishing
    - **A**-ssisting
    - **C**-onnectivity
    - **H**-elping
  4. Annual Goal

Our goal is to enlist 500 individuals who will contribute \$20.00 each, per month to “**Reaching People at the Point of Their Need**” with an aggregate goal of \$120,000.00 per year.
  5. Program
    - a. Each person who enlists in this shared ministry will be designated a “**Reaching People at the Point of Their Need Partner.**”

- b. A monthly newsletter will be published of the “**Reaching People at the Point of Their Need**” ministry. The newsletter will highlight activities of the ministry.
- c. The projection of annual goals, projects and designation of receipts shall be left to the discretion of the Regional USA Missions Director and Regional USA Missions Board, after consultation and approval from the Regional Bishop.
- d. Each church is encouraged to participate in the “**Reaching People at the Point of Their Need**” ministry with a monthly allotment to be sent in with the Treasurer’s report, where funds are available:
  - We encourage every “*Discovery*” Church (1-50) in morning worship to commit \$25.00 monthly.
  - We encourage every “*Discovery*” Church (51-100) in morning worship to commit \$50.00 monthly.
  - That every “*Vision*” Church (101-250) in morning worship to commit \$75.00 monthly.
  - That every “*Vision*” Church (251-350) in morning worship to commit \$100.00 monthly.
  - That every “*Challenge*” Church (351-500) in morning worship to commit \$125.00 monthly.
  - That every “*Challenge*” Church (501 and above) in morning worship commit \$150.00 monthly.
- e. Each minister is encouraged to participate in **Reaching People at the Point of Their Need** by sending with their report their monthly personal contribution.
- f. Total potential yearly contributions:
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Individuals	\$120,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Churches	81,600.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Ministers	55,200.00
<b>Potential</b>	<b>\$256,800.00</b>

**XXII. WOMEN'S DISCIPLESHIP**

**A. REGIONAL WOMEN’S DISCIPLESHIP BOARD**

The Women’s Discipleship Board will be appointed by the Administrative Bishop, not to exceed five members. Each member’s term shall not exceed four consecutive years. Member’s duties shall be as follows:

- 1. To promote and encourage full cooperation from all pastors’ wives and their local Women's Discipleship groups.
- 2. To assist local Women's Discipleship groups where possible.
- 3. To be responsible for sending news items to the Regional Women's Discipleship Director.



**B. WOMEN’S DISCIPLESHIP ACTIVITIES**

**1. MEETINGS**

Conduct regularly scheduled meetings according to a schedule established by the local WD group including prayer and scripture.

**2. REPORTING**

Send in local reports to the Regional WD Director by choosing monthly or quarterly reporting by the 5th of the month.

**3. SERVICE COMMITMENTS**

Prayer Ministry

*Outreach/Servant Evangelism – Suggestions include: Christian literature distribution, Kids Klubs, Kids Crusades or VBS, food pantry, clothes for the needy, fundraising for local, regional and international projects. Also, encourage visitation to hospitals, nursing homes, prisons, residences, telephone calls, and other forms of visitation.*

*Spiritual Growth Emphasis – Participating in the following: seminars, retreats, family devotions, soulwinning, discipling, self-improvement (formal education, correspondence classes outside of church, etc.), MIP (if appropriate), social action projects, Sanctity of Human Life.*

*Bible Study – which includes group study and individual participation in the R.E.A.D. Initiative (committing to reading the Bible in a year) Discipleship Training, Mentoring.*

*Conferences/Retreats – Delmarva-DC Women’s Discipleship shall support the International Office and Regional Office’s retreats and conferences.*

**4. STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENTS Children  
of the City (Delmarva-DC Region)**

Church of God Orphanages – SMCH; New Life (Nogales, Mexico); Kibera, Kenya, Africa; SOW (Servicing Orphans Worldwide)

Iris B. Vest Widow’s Ministry Center; Ministry to Israel; Literature Translation; Covenant Sisters

### **XXIII. CENTER FOR MINISTERIAL CARE**

*"Servants to the servants of the Servant"*

#### Mission Statement

The Center for Ministerial Care exists to serve the needs of active and retired ministers and their family members through equipping them with practical tools for successful life management, undergirding and encouraging them during times of personal and ministerial crises and helping to restore them if they cross scriptural, moral or ethical boundaries.

#### **A. Ministry Goals**

1. To provide competent, confidential counseling services to ministers and family members
2. To maintain a 24-hour telephone "careline"
3. To conduct seminars and retreats relating to pertinent ministerial and family needs
4. To establish a network of retired ministers and ministers' widows in each state and territory.
5. To develop procedures for discovering and quickly responding to needs among both active and retired ministers and their family members
6. To appoint a ministerial care representative in each state, territory and country, as practical
7. To meet crises needs through effective intervention and referral
8. To provide written, audio and video care and counseling resources
9. To generate a network of qualified Pentecostal caregivers for referral purposes
10. To discover ways of utilizing the vast resource potential in retired ministers
11. To partner in ministry events with other departments of the church offering sessions on ministerial care, enrichment and intervention
12. To ascertain the needs of ministerial families through interaction at the grass roots level
13. To establish procedures which will assure effective follow-up in the crises situations

#### **B. Ministry Projections**

1. To work with other church agencies in the expansion of a ministerial placement service
2. To develop an in-depth treatment program to be conducted in a retreat setting and geared primarily to rehabilitation and restoration, but also aimed at prevention
3. To organize resources to provide for a pastoral sabbatical program
4. To assist in the establishment of ministerial care centers in other countries

**XXIV. EASTERN SHORE CAMPGROUND**

The Regional Council shall be empowered as a Committee of Action to develop and implement a Master Plan for the Eastern Shore Campground to address immediate needs and expansion not to exceed \$300,000.00 and a long-range plan for the future of the Eastern Shore Campground shall be developed. A report shall be given periodically to the ministers of the region.

**XXV. RESOLUTION – DELMARVA-DC MINISTERS' MEETING*****Resolution: MARRIAGE AND FAMILY***

WHEREAS, the first recorded spoken words of mankind were those of Adam who said: "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:23, 24); and,

WHEREAS, over 4,000 years later Jesus defined Biblical marriage by saying: "Have you not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder" (Matthew 19:4-6); and,

WHEREAS, God's creation of man "in His image" specifically referred to the creation of man as male and female, as seen in the words: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:27); and,

WHEREAS, God's first commission to man was: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth" (Genesis 1:28); and,

WHEREAS, the fulfillment of this divine charge, to populate and have dominion over the earth, is impossible except by the uniting of a man and a woman in a relationship that the Bible refers to as "one flesh," in seven distinct places (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:5, 6; Mark 10:8; 1 Corinthians 6:16; and Ephesians 5:31); and,

WHEREAS, the Law clearly recognized the role of both the man and the woman in a family relationship by directing all children: "Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you" (Exodus 20:12, NIV); and,

WHEREAS, the New Testament church clearly affirmed marriage as being a covenant relationship between a man and a woman, and of the family as being comprised of a father, a mother, and children (Ephesians 5:21-6:4; Colossians 3:18-21);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, once again “the Church of God unequivocally affirms that marriage is a covenant relationship between a man and woman and rejects all attempts to redefine marriage in terms of same-sex unions and behavior” (Minutes, 2004, p. 66); and,

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, once again, “we encourage our members to help preserve marriage as a sacred union between man and woman by living lives that model commitment to the Word of God, exemplify devotion to moral purity, and celebrate family responsibility” (Minutes, 1996, pp. 64, 65); and,

THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT, the Church of God strongly declares that a Biblical marriage is a threefold covenant relationship between one man, one woman, and one God who externally exists in three persons as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

## **XXVI. RESOLUTION – DELMARVA-DC MINISTERS’ MEETING**

### ***Resolution: CHRISTIAN MARTYRDOM***

WHEREAS, there is a rapidly growing tragedy of Christian martyrdom and intense persecution throughout the world especially in the countries where extreme Islamic fanaticism or atheistic political dictatorships are prevalent, and

WHEREAS, in many of these same regions Christians and their families are fleeing their homes to save their lives and are often left homeless and destitute as refugees with no place of security and safety, facing hunger, cold, heat and hostility from the elements and surrounding populace, and

WHEREAS, it is evident that these same people have committed no crimes or posed any threat to their homeland but are persecuted for the reason of their Christian faith and testimony of Jesus Christ, and

WHEREAS, the persecution so violently perpetuated upon these Christians include imprisonment, starvation, maiming, beatings, beheadings and genocide on an infamous scale that rivals or exceeds the greatest times of religious persecution in all of human history;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that we, the International Executive Council of the Church of God, deplore and protest the persecution and genocide movements against Christians throughout the world, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commit ourselves to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ who are undergoing this persecution and struggle for the preservation of their lives and those of their families and pledge to use our influence and every means we have available to express ourselves and our feelings regarding these issues to world leaders and governments to put an end to this tragedy.

## **XXVII. RESOLUTION – DELMARVA-DC MINISTERS' MEETING**

### ***Resolution: PEACE IN ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST***

WHEREAS, given the special place of the Jewish people in salvation history (Rom. 3:1-2; 9:4-6) as the chosen people of God through which the Messiah would come and all nations of the world would be blessed, including the blessing which accrues to the people of God through the Abrahamic covenant (Gen. 12:1-3; Gal. 3:7-9); and,

WHEREAS, the Holy Scripture and the Messiah, whose life and mission bless all nations, point to the Jewish heritage of the Christian faith (Mt. 1:1; Jn 1.17; Gal. 3.16; Heb. 1:1-2) and,

WHEREAS, as the followers of Jesus we ought to be ‘witnesses to Him in Jerusalem, Judea, and Samaria, and the ends of the earth’ (Acts 1:8); and,

WHEREAS, our God, the God revealed in Scripture, extends his grace to all people, that God causes his rain to fall and sun to shine upon the evil and the good alike (Mt. 5:45), and that Paul prays for salvation of all, not just for the Gentiles but also for the Jews (Rom. 10:1); and,

WHEREAS, the land of Israel has for many years been home to the descendants of Abraham; and,

WHEREAS, numerous Palestinians and people throughout the Middle East are devoted followers of Christ, brothers and sisters who have suffered owing to their faith (Jn 15:18-25; 16:31-33); and

WHEREAS, since the foundation of the world, God’s intent for his creation is shalom (peace) and Jesus, the Prince of Peace, exhorts us to pray ‘thy kingdom come thy will be done’ (Mt. 6:10), and the author of Hebrews commands that we pursue peace with everyone (Heb. 12:14), and the Old Testament commands all to pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps. 122:6); and,

WHEREAS, Jesus promises blessing on those who are peacemakers (Mt. 5:9) and commands that we should love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us (Mt. 5:44); and,

WHEREAS, throughout its history this region has been torn apart by intensive suffering, oppression, and violence; and,

WHEREAS, modern Israel is a democratic state whose constitution guarantees the rights of all its citizens regardless of race, ethnicity, religious commitment or lack thereof, and that God instructs the Israel of scripture that ‘You must follow exactly the path that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live, and that it may go well with you, and that you may live long in the land that you are to possess’ (Deut. 5:33);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that, we affirm our support of a political solution that ensures all the inhabitants of Israel and its neighbors’ peace and security; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we recognize the right of Israel to exist as a sovereign nation and pray for its peace and safety; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that though decades of violent tension in the Middle East has brought intense suffering to Christians and Jews, we encourage and pray for the protection and security of all parties; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we stand with and pray especially for our Christian brothers and sisters, throughout the Middle East including many Jewish and Arab Christians, who have suffered and are suffering greatly in this conflict; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the work of Church of God ministries in the region involved in peace, justice and reconciliation. We also support the active proclamation of the ‘gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek’ (Rom. 1.16); and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we call upon all nations of the Middle East to change their restrictive laws with regard to religious conversion; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we oppose any form of prejudice including anti-Semitism, racial segregation, and religious discrimination against any and all citizens of Israel.

## **XXVIII. RESOLUTION – DELMARVA-DC MINISTERS’ MEETING**

### ***Resolution: “FINISH” – The Great Commission 2020-2022***

WHEREAS, the Church of God has accepted the FINISH Commitment to fulfill the Great Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Delmarva-DC Region is committed to obeying the Great Commission of Christ to make disciples of all nations; and

WHEREAS, it is our desire to commit to the mandate as adopted and implemented by the International General Assembly to FINISH the Great Commission in the Spirit and Power of Pentecost; and

WHEREAS, over the next two years as Delmarva-DC churches embrace the FINISH Commitment as

F – Find the Lost

I – Intercede through prayer and worship

N – Network leaders of all generations

I – Invest our resources

S – Send out Disciples

H – Harvest of the Kingdom,

Harvest will come due to the fact we will *Reach People at their Point of Need* (John 5:6); and

WHEREAS, the accomplishment of this task will require that under the leadership of our Regional Office, we partner together with one another, realizing that united we can do more to FINISH the Great Commission;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we pledge and commit ourselves to fulfilling the Biblical mandate and mission of the Church in finishing the Great Commission given to us by our Lord and Savior in Matthew 28:19-20.

## **XXIX. RESOLUTION – DELMARVA-DC MINISTERS’ MEETING**

### ***Resolution: AGAINST THE DISCRIMINATION OF CULTURAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS***

WHEREAS, the DELMARVA-DC Region acknowledges that scripture teaches against discrimination in any form (1 Timothy 5:21) as it relates to cultural and ethnic groups of any kind, and is a sin against God and humankind; and

WHEREAS, On the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-2, we see that all the walls were broken down between nations, languages, sexes, and social classes and that, additionally, Pentecost is an intercultural agent throwing a bridge across the troubled waters

between cultures that otherwise may never meet, we seek to reclaim our inter-racial and multi-cultural roots and not display any discrimination; and

WHEREAS, God has made from one blood every nation of humanity to dwell on all the face of the earth and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings (Acts 17:26); and

WHEREAS, discrimination against cultural and ethnic groups is a divisive tool that maligns individuals and nations, (Romans 10:12); and

WHEREAS, discrimination against cultural and ethnic groups has a demoralizing effect, encumbering spiritual development and ministry advancement, and creating alienation (Galatians 3:26-27); and

WHEREAS, every individual is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27) and has their origin in Adam, who is the Father of all humankind; and

WHEREAS, we celebrate the unity of heaven and diversity of earth (Colossians 3:11); and

WHEREAS, all people need a saving transformative relationship with God through Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:9);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, we, the DELMARVA-DC Region, repent of past and present discriminatory practices towards any ethnicity, nationality, and culture and do affirm the worth of every individual (Psalms 139:14) and pray for those who have not surrendered to the Word of God in like manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we uphold publicly and privately biblical human value, dignity, and equality of the individual (Jeremiah 1:5) and we oppose any form of discrimination against cultural and ethnic groups and we commit to connecting, appreciating, representing, and understanding all cultures and ethnic groups;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, the DELMARVA-DC Region meticulously seeks a proportional ethnic representation of our regional demographics within our appointed boards, committees, programs, and services (Galatians 3:28).