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GATODAY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY TODAY



THURSDAY | JULY 30, 2026

Thursday Events

Delegate Registration Hours

Thursday, July 30 – 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday, July 31 – 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

World Missions Parade of Nations Team Breakfast

Time: 7:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

Location: OCCC 314B

International Teen Talent – Art / Creative Writing

Check-in & Gallery

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: OCCC 414C

International Teen Talent – Bible Quizzing

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Location: OCCC 414AB

International Teen Talent – Bible Teaching/ Multi-Media

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: OCCC 414D

International Teen Talent – Drama

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Location: Valencia Ballroom A

International Teen Talent – Music

Time: 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Location: Chapin Theatre

World Missions Kids Club Experience

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.; 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: OCCC 204ABC

Hispanic Ministries Luncheon

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Location: Valencia Ballroom

Jamaica New Testament CoG Meet & Greet

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Location: OCCC 307ABCD

World Missions

Europe, CIS-Russia, & Middle East Field Area Luncheon

Time: 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Location: OCCC 314B

PK Hangout (teens)

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 6:50 p.m.

Location: OCCC 209ABC

(reserved seating for PKs in service)

PTS Alumni Dessert Gathering

Time: (following service)

Location: Valencia Ballroom

Children's Church (ages 3-6 potty trained)

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Location: OCCC 206

Kid's Church (Ages 7-12)

Time: 6:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Location: OCCC 205

World Missions Director's Reception

Time: (following service)

Location: OCCC 311

New York State Office Reception

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: OCCC 307 ABCD

Presenting the 2026-2028 Council of Eighteen

By Cameron Fisher



Bottom, L-R: Angel Marcial Cordero, Toby Morgan, Eliezar Bonilla, Niko Njotorahardjo, Kevin McGlamery, Loran Livingston, Rubin Adi Abraham (Indonesia). Middle: Stafford Petersen (South Africa), Miguel Perdomo, Philip Bonaparte, Tim Hill, Jerry Jeter, Jerry Madden. Top Row: Roy Notice, Maurice (Mo) Huggins, Barry Clardy, Rob Bailey, J.C. Worley, Jamie Barfield, Ryan Sharpe.

As the final item of business on Tuesday, the General Council completed elections for members of the Council of Eighteen. With thirteen of the eighteen 2024-2026 members ineligible for election due to tenure limitations, the Council was almost completely new. In addition, ten of those elected on Tuesday had never previously served on the Council.

Kevin Miles McGlamery, pastor, North Cleveland Church of God, in Cleveland, TN, was first to be elected, returning for a second two-year term and by virtue of being elected first, will serve as chairman of the body. Toby

Stephen Morgan, Administrative Bishop in South Carolina was also returned. Both were elected in the first round of voting on Tuesday. The following ordained bishops were elected by the General Council on Tuesday (in order of election); *indicates the new member's first time to serve on the Council: *Maurice (Mo) F. Huggins, Jr., pastor, Mountain West, Stone Mountain, GA; Jerry D. Madden, pastor, Praise Cathedral, Greer, SC; H. Loran Livingston, pastor, Central Church of God, Charlotte, NC; *Ryan William Sharpe, pastor, River Hills Church of God, Tampa, FL; Timothy M. Hill, Administrative Bishop, Tennessee;

—continued on page 3

Women's Ministries Marked by Faith and Fellowship

By McKayla Jacobs

On Wednesday, July 29, over 2,000 women from across the Church of God gathered for the GA26 Women's Service, which began at 9:30 a.m. in the Valencia Ballroom.

The morning opened with a warm welcome by First Lady Lori Lewis before Javaris

—continued on page 13

Five Voices: One Message

By Cameron Fisher

In a non-conventional nod to General Assembly evening speakers, tonight's service will feature five Church of God ministers who will deliver brief messages centered around the theme, "We Are Empowered."

The messengers representing various regions of the globe will take the stage following the traditional Parade of Nations, where people groups and nations will bear country

—continued on page 3

youth & discipleship

The International Youth and Discipleship Department is committed to meeting the spiritual needs of youth and children in Church of God congregations around the world by INVESTING in leaders through resources, relationships, and training that strengthen the next generation.



cogyd.org

A large crowd of people at an outdoor night event, with a stage and lights in the background.

winterfest

A collage of images for Kidfest, including a group of children making peace signs, a band performing on stage, and a crowd of people. A quote 'CAUSE YOU'VE GOT A LION INSIDE OF THOSE LUNGS' is visible on the stage image.

kidfest

A group of people sitting at long tables in a room, facing a stage where a person is speaking. A sign on the wall says 'PRAYER'.

focus

A collage of images for Nyla, including a man with his arms raised in a crowd, a group of people sitting in a room, and a man standing in a room. The word 'nyla' is written in a stylized font at the bottom right.

nyla

Presenting the 2026-28 Council . . .

Continued from page 1

*Rob Bailey, Administrative Bishop, Texas; *Miguel Angel Perdomo, Superintendent of Central America, El Salvador; Barry Anthony Clardy, Administrative Bishop, Indiana; *Jerry Jonathan Jeter, pastor, RiverLife Church of God, Bradenton, FL; *Philip M. Bonaparte, pastor, New Hope Church of God, Waretown, NJ; *Jamie Brandon Barfield, pastor, Palmetto Point Church of God, Myrtle Beach, SC; *James Clinton (J.C.) Worley, pastor, *Go Church*, Sharpsburg, GA; Niko Njotorahardjo, Gereja Bethel Church, Indonesia; *Roy Lincoln Notice, Administrative Bishop, Jamaica; Eliezer Bonilla, Sr., Administrative Bishop, Gulf Rio Hispanic; and *Angel B. Marcial Cordero (Jr.), pastor and Administrative Bishop, Minnesota.

The Council of Eighteen joins with the Executive Committee to form the International Executive Council. The 23 members are also joined by representatives from Indonesia and South Africa, forming a group of 25 leaders who will lead the Church of God for the next General Assembly period. The new Executive Council will meet for the first time this September at the International Offices in Cleveland. ♦

Special Edition of 'Between Sundays' Features Green

By Cameron Fisher

Mart Green, founder and CEO of Mardel Christian and Education and Every Tribe Every Nation, was the featured guest during a special recording of the podcast 'Between Sundays.'

Green was interviewed by General Overseer Gary Lewis and his 'Between Sundays' colleagues, Mark Williams, Loran Livingston, and David Cooper. The event took place during the General Council session on Wednesday morning.

Mardel has 37 stores in seven states and is headquartered in Oklahoma City. It is part of the Hobby Lobby group of companies. Green spoke of his family's heritage of generosity.

"My dad didn't get the preaching gift; he got the generosity gift," Green stated. "Hobby Lobby's mission statement is to 'Love God Infinitely; Live Extravagant Generosity.'" He went on to tie in ministry with giving and the miracles that have been realized through the years of operating with a generosity mindset. He also discussed the ministry of "Come and See" resources from *The Chosen*.



Mart Green, center, delivered an insightful interview to the Between Sundays special recording on Wednesday during General Council.

General Overseer Lewis launched the first installment of the podcast on March 21, 2025, debuting on Church of God YouTube and Facebook. Between Sundays has been referred to as, "offstage conversations about real life and ministry." The topics have covered virtually every aspect of leadership and ministry, and more than two dozen guests have appeared on the podcast which has been seen by millions of viewers.

The podcast features Lewis as host joined by three prominent Church of God leaders as co-hosts who offer their take on ministry drawn from decades of combined leadership. Each episode has featured a guest pastor, church planter, or leader who expounds on their ministry journey offering unique and engaging perspectives.

Between Sundays is available on Facebook, YouTube, Apple, Spotify and other popular platforms (@COGHQ). ♦

GATODAY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY TODAY

General Assembly TODAY is produced in the interest of delegates to the 80th Church of God International General Assembly. It is published daily, Monday through Friday, July 27-31, 2026.

Produced under the auspices of the General Assembly Cabinet: John Childers, chair, Ken Bell, Kevin Brooks, Scott Hager, Raymond Hodge, Anthony Pelt, David Ray, Art Rhodes. KaLea Blair, Max Reyes, consultants.

Editor

Cameron Fisher

GA Today/News Media Committee

Cameron Fisher, chair, David White, co-chair, Justin Holbrook, McKayla Jacobs, Cesia Ramos. Anthony Pelt, cabinet liaison.

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Comments or inquiries about *General Assembly TODAY* are welcomed and can be emailed to the editor, Cameron Fisher, cfisher@churchofgod.org.

Five Voices . . .

Continued from page 1

flags bringing a colorful and festive atmosphere to the Convention Center.

The special guests will bring testimonies of deliverance, restoration, challenge, and in four of the five, a generational anointing carrying family legacies into a new era of leadership. All five have received an assignment from General Overseer Lewis to bring a specific focus to their messages.



Josue Collins



Caleen Howard



Emmanuel Moodley



Sebastian Schmidgal



A.J. Velasco

The five speakers include:

Josue Collins, Youth & Discipleship Director, Southeastern Hispanic Region; **Caleen Howard**, senior pastor, Evanston Church of God (Chicago); **Emmanuel Moodley**, senior pastor, Bethsaida Ministries International, Durban, South Africa; **Sebastian Schmidgal**, Missionary to Israel; **A.J. Velasco**, senior pastor, Dasmariñas Church of God, Cavite, Philippines.

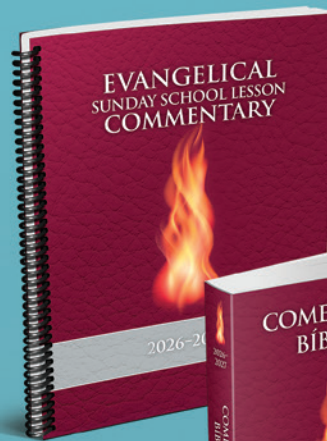
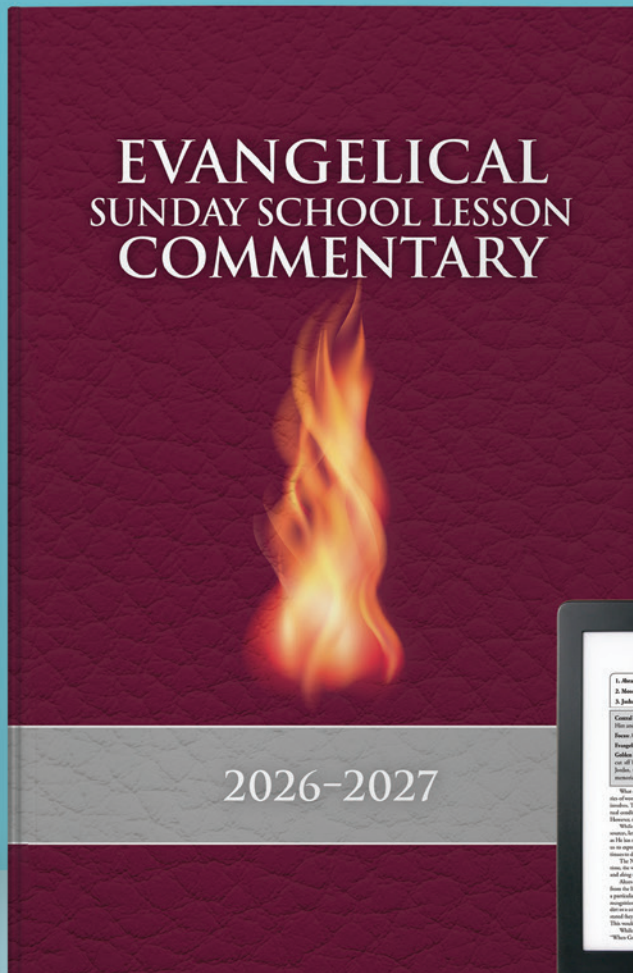
Come expecting a move of God as these five dynamic leaders proclaim, "We are the Church of God and We are Empowered to Go!" ♦

2026-2027 EVANGELICAL SUNDAY SCHOOL COMMENTARIES

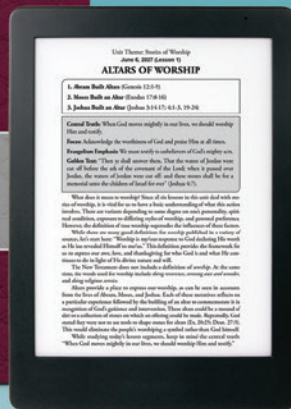
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SMCH Hosts Awards Ceremony

By Patty Higgenbottom

Hosted by Dr. Walt and Tammie Mauldin, the Smoky Mountain Children's Home (SMCH), located in Sevierville, Tennessee, celebrated two years of generosity, faithfulness, and commitment during its Awards Ceremony held July 27 at the Hyatt Regency Orlando.

During the ceremony, SMCH announced a significant gift: a \$6.25 million building donated by Betty Madison-Ogle and Dr. Steve and Cheris Madison. A major fundraising campaign has been launched to raise \$2 million to complete the interior of the facility, which will provide space for the Alpha School, therapy department, dining area, and the newly established Worship and Arts Academy.

First Lady Lori Lewis and the International Women's Council—Kaci Stewart, Shelly Dority, Sandra Kay Williams, and Charla Madden—were recognized for their support and partnership with SMCH.

The following were presented awards for their support during the 2024-2026 General Assembly period:

Representatives from states and regions sponsoring cottages on the SMCH campus were honored for their ongoing commitment. Those recognized included Texas—Rob and

Christal Bailey; Ohio—Dr. Derwood and Jean Perkins; Tennessee—Dr. Tim and Paula Hill; Missouri—Mike and Marsha Stigile; Illinois—Dr. Mike and Sonja White; Alabama—Tim and Rhonda Brown; South Georgia—Dr. Tony and Kathy Cooper; Delmarva-DC—Tim and Jodi Cushman; Indiana—Barry and Kimberly Clardy; Virginia—Rick and Letha Whitter; and Kentucky—David and Jan Jarvis. Additional ministry sponsors recognized were Magnolia Auditorium/Media, Mississippi, represented by Tommy and Jessica Powell, and Alpha School in the Heartland Region, represented by Chris and Teri Moody.

The Second Place Overall Contribution Award was presented to Ministry Center Church of God in Lebanon, Tennessee, led by Pastor Drew Eastes. The Overall Contribution Award was presented to Metropolitan Church of God in Birmingham, Alabama, led by Pastor Jason Browning. Special recognition was given to Scott Hager and Jason Browning for providing funds that allowed SMCH young people to attend Tennessee Youth Camp this year.

States and regions were invited to renovate their sponsored cottages through a \$200,000 renovation project. Awards were presented to

Continued on page 8

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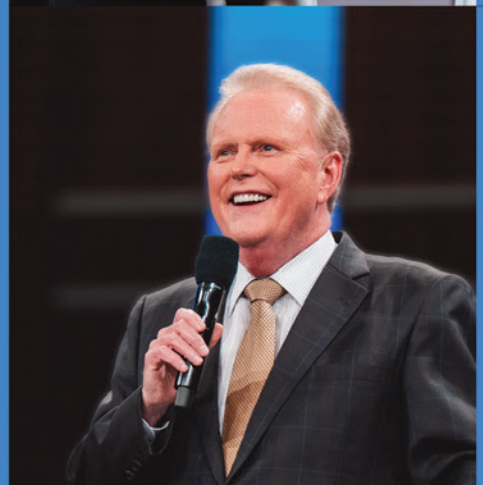
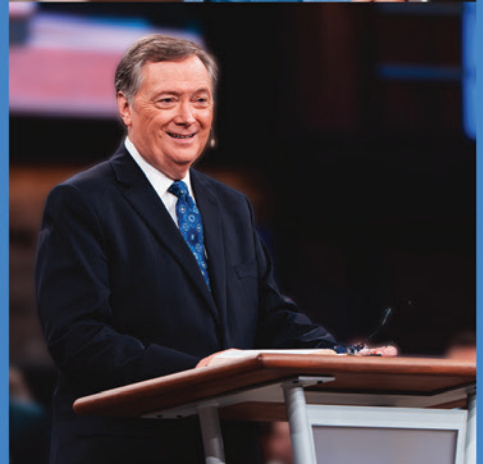


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Administrative Bishop

Travis & Kelly Gore
Ministries Coordinator

SMCH Hosts Awards . . .

Continued from page 5

those who have completed their renovations, including Delmarva-DC, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee. In addition, South Georgia and Alabama, represented by Tim and Rhonda Brown, completed fundraising efforts for their cottage renovations. In total, \$1.2 million was raised for cottage renovations.

The Christmas Offering Award honors churches demonstrating exceptional generosity. Second place award was presented to Mt. Juliet (Tennessee) Church of God, led by Pastor Brian Varnell. First place was presented to Ministry Center Church of God in Lebanon, Tennessee, led by Pastor Drew Eastes. This marks the fourth time the church has received this prestigious recognition.

The Mother's Day Offering, one of SMCH's longest-running fundraising traditions alongside the Penny March, was also celebrated. Rose Hill Church of God in Rose Hill, Virginia, led by Pastor Tillman Branson, received second place honors, while Roan Street Church of God in Elizabethton, Tennessee, led by Pastor Jody Bewley, placed first.

Awards were presented to states and regions that provided the greatest financial support to SMCH during 2024-2026:

In the B through E State/Region category, Rocky Mountain Region, Charissa Smith, received second place, and Minnesota, Lurdes Marcial, received first place. In the A State, New Mexico, Stephanie Newcomb, received second place, and Alaska, Barbara McGirt, received first place. In the Double A State category, California-Nevada, Jan Wright, received second place, and Arkansas, Jennifer Carver, received first.

In the AAA State/Region category, Indiana, Kimberly Clardy, received second place, and Missouri, Marsha Stigile, received first place. Among the Four-Star states, Kentucky, Jan Jarvis, received second place, and Virginia, Letha Whitter, placed first. In the Five and Six Star State Category, North Georgia, Ora Hart, received second place, while Tennessee, Paula Hill, was first.

The overall State and Region Award for 2024-2026 was presented to Tennessee for the highest total giving, with contributions totaling \$1,140, 235.51. This total represents the largest gift on record from a state or region.

SMCH extends congratulations and appreciation to all Church of God states, regions, local churches, and supporters whose generosity continues to provide hope, care, and opportunities for the children and families served by Smoky Mountain Children's Home. ♦



OnSocial Posts @COGGA26

Chris Kiyeah Hinneh Sr.

Glory be to God Almighty for His chosen people. Congratulations Dr. Ramirez and Ishmael Charles

Joel Barron

Excited for what God has in store for the Church of God!!

Javen Campbell

Great opening night !!
Such a #reunion seeing so many old friends and colleagues from my alma mater Lee University!

Lori Whiting

Last night Sammy Rodriguez preached on the oil and this morning Christine Caine delivered a word about not being stuck in our past but looking/stepping forward into our future. POWERFUL!

Krista Teague

Thankful for Technology!! We had church in our Den along with COG Family!! Great Music, Great word and Great Anointing!!!



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Women's Ministries Marked by Faith . . .

Continued from page 1

Wright and team led the congregation in a sincere call to worship. Sister Lewis greeted those in attendance, followed by a scripture reading from Romans 15 by Tamika L. Ledbetter and a prayer by Charla Madden, setting a spirit of veneration and expectancy.

Following a powerful time of worship led by Javaris Wright, attendees viewed a Women With A Mission (WWAM) video update featuring the KUKA Project, presented by Shelly Dority. The presentation celebrated the ongoing global impact of Women's Ministries and the lives being transformed through its outreach.

The service continued with the Advisory Council's presentation of the WWAM Awards, recognizing outstanding state and regional ministries and honoring Niki Peterson of South Africa for her faithful service. Lori Lewis also recognized Celia Mendes, Poppi Smith, and the five World Missions field areas for their dedication toward advancing the Kingdom through Women's Ministries.

After another inspiring WWAM video, Lewis unveiled a new WWAM initiative, casting

vision for the future and encouraging women to continue investing in the ministry's mission. Norma Figueroa then received an offering to support the new initiative, reflecting the generosity and commitment of the women of the Church of God.

Javaris Wright returned to lead an extended time of worship before Kaci Stewart introduced guest speaker Christine Caine. An internationally recognized author, Bible teacher, and co-founder of the A21 Campaign and Propel Women, Caine delivered a passionate message calling women to embrace God's purpose with fortitude, stay resolute through adversity, and trust His faithfulness in every season.

As the service concluded, members of the Advisory Council and Prayer Team ministered at the altar as many responded in prayer and consecration. Sandra Kay Williams closed the service with a prayer over the Women's Advisory Council, bringing to close a morning marked by worship, celebration, generosity, and spiritual renewal.

Those in attendance departed encouraged, strengthened, and equipped to faithfully answer God's call and advance His Kingdom through lives of service, compassion, and unwavering faith. ♦



Christine Caine was the keynote speaker at the Women's celebration event, bringing an inspiring word to more than 2,000 delegates. Later she brought a fiery message as the featured Wednesday night General Assembly speaker.



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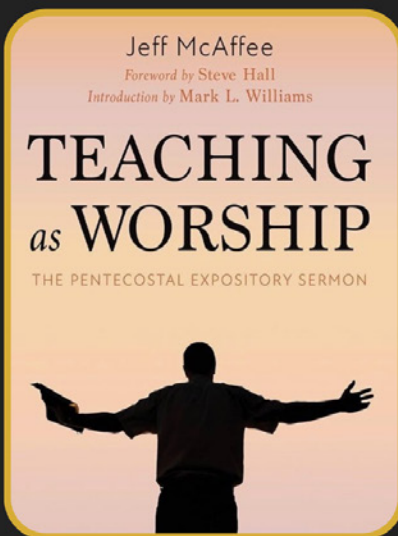
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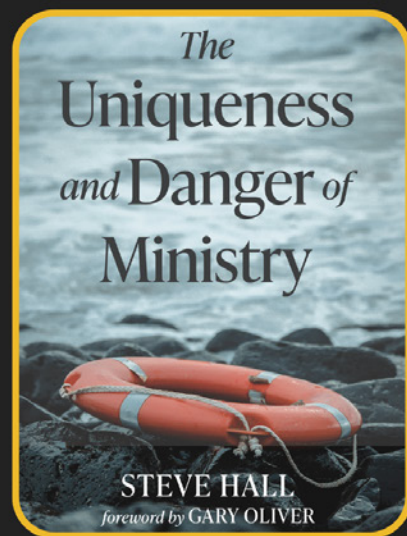


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2026 Premios al Educador Distinguido

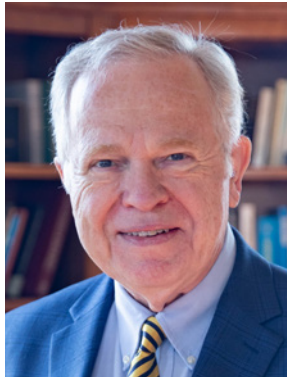
Por Blayne Waltrip

La División de Educación de la Iglesia de Dios ha anunciado la concesión de tres premios para reconocer la labor de destacados educadores. Los premios serán entregados oficialmente durante el Almuerzo Internacional de Educadores, que se celebrará el miércoles 29 de julio en el Centro de Convenciones del Condado de Orange.

Desde 1976, la Iglesia de Dios otorga los Premios al Educador Distinguido a personas que han realizado una contribución significativa a la educación en la Iglesia de Dios alrededor del mundo. Este año, se otorgarán los siguientes reconocimientos: **Premio a la Docencia** al Dr. Terry Cross; **Premio al Liderazgo** al Dr. Francisco Ortiz Ocasio; y **Premio a la Trayectoria** al Dr. Paul Conn.

El **Dr. Terry L. Cross** es decano de la Escuela de Teología y Ministerio y profesor distinguido de Teología Sistemática en la Universidad Lee. Ha sido miembro de su cuerpo docente desde 1997 y se ha desempeñado como decano desde 2002. El 1 de agosto dejará el cargo de decano después de 30 años de servicio docente en la institución.

El **Dr. Charles Paul Conn** ha dedicado más de cinco décadas de su vida profesional a la Universidad Lee. Después de ejercer



Terry L. Cross



Charles Paul Conn



Francisco Ortiz Ocasio

como presidente durante 34 años (1986-2020), asumió el cargo de canciller. Bajo su liderazgo, la Universidad Lee experimentó un crecimiento extraordinario en la matrícula, el desarrollo académico, la expansión del campus y el prestigio nacional. Además, impulsó los primeros programas de maestría y doctorado de la universidad. El Dr. Conn también es un destacado autor cuyas obras han sido traducidas a decenas de idiomas para su distribución en todo el mundo.

El **Dr. Francisco Ortiz Ocasio** es presidente de la Universidad Teológica del Caribe en Puerto Rico. En 1974 ingresó al Programa del Instituto Bíblico en Caguas, en el Colegio Bíblico Pentecostal (hoy Universidad Teológica del Caribe), donde obtuvo el Diploma Ministerial Misionero. En 1995 obtuvo una licenciatura en Artes con concentración en Estudios Pastorales en el Colegio Bíblico Pentecostal y, en 2005, la Maestría en Divinidad en el Seminario Evangélico de Puerto Rico. En junio de

2018 recibió el título honorífico de Doctor en Divinidad otorgado por el Seminario Sudamericano (SEMISUD).

En su primera iglesia, el Dr. Ortiz desempeñó diversas funciones, entre ellas la de pastor durante 15 años. También fue coordinador de Jóvenes en el Distrito de Caguas, miembro del Comité Ejecutivo del Obispo Administrativo Nacional (1999-2003), obispo del Distrito de Trujillo Alto en dos ocasiones y capellán de la Cámara de Representantes en el Capitolio de Puerto Rico. Además, dirigió la Oficina de Cuidado Pastoral de la Junta de Misiones de la Iglesia de Dios Mission Board en Puerto Rico y formó parte de varias juntas directivas. En 2006 fue nombrado presidente ejecutivo del entonces Colegio Bíblico Pentecostal. Durante sus dos décadas de liderazgo, ha guiado a la institución a través de un proceso de transformación académica, expansión física y fortalecimiento institucional. ♦

El Concilio General elige al Concilio de los Dieciocho

Por Cameron Fisher

El Concilio General de Obispos Ordenados inició su sesión el martes por la mañana, presidido por primera vez por el supervisor general Gary Lewis como moderador.

Tras un tiempo de oración de 8:00 a. m. a 8:30 a. m., Lewis invitó al primer asistente al supervisor general, Tony Stewart, para dialogar sobre el tema “Empoderados para Ir” y compartir los avances de la visión evangelizadora de la Iglesia de Dios durante los últimos dos años. Entre los resultados destacados se mencionaron la plantación de 10,000 iglesias, tres millones de personas alcanzadas para Cristo y 1.4 millones bautizadas en el Espíritu Santo. Stewart también presentó

el Proyecto 33, una iniciativa con el propósito de llevar el evangelio a todas las personas.

Lewis anunció la creación de Urban Vision Collective, el establecimiento de un Grupo de Trabajo de Visión Urbana y una estrategia de evangelización para los Juegos Olímpicos de Los Ángeles 2028. La presentación concluyó con un llamado a mantener vivo el fuego espiritual, seguido de un prolongado tiempo de oración en el altar.

Antes de iniciar los asuntos oficiales, Lewis realizó una llamada por Zoom con el Dr. Sean O’Neal, director del Ministerio de Evangelización, quien compartió su testimonio de recuperación tras una enfermedad que puso en peligro su vida. Su esposa, Shyrel, agradeció al Concilio por las oraciones ofrecidas durante su proceso de recuperación.

El primer asunto del orden del día fue la nominación para director de Misiones Mundiales. El Dr. David Ramírez, actual director asistente, y el Dr. Ishmael Charles, director de campo para el Caribe, fueron nominados para el cargo.

Posteriormente comenzó la elección del Concilio de los Dieciocho. En la primera ronda fueron elegidos Kevin McGlamery, quien continuará como presidente del Concilio, y Toby Morgan. Antes del almuerzo se realizó la primera votación formal; sin embargo, una falla técnica obligó a repetir el proceso al reanudarse la sesión.

Tras la nueva votación fueron elegidos Maurice “Mo” Huggins, Jerry Madden, Loran Livingston, Ryan Sharpe, Timothy Hill y Rob Bailey. En la siguiente ronda resultaron electos Miguel Perdomo, Barry Clardy, Jerry Jeter, Philip Bonaparte, Jamie Barfield y J. C. Worley. Con catorce miembros ya elegidos, el Concilio ajustó el proceso para cumplir con los requisitos de representación pastoral e internacional. En la ronda final fueron elegidos Niko Njotorahardjo, Roy Notice y Eliezer Bonilla, Sr. Finalmente, mediante una votación entre los cinco candidatos con mayor respaldo, Ángel B. Marcial Cordero (Jr.) fue elegido para completar el Concilio de los Dieciocho. ♦

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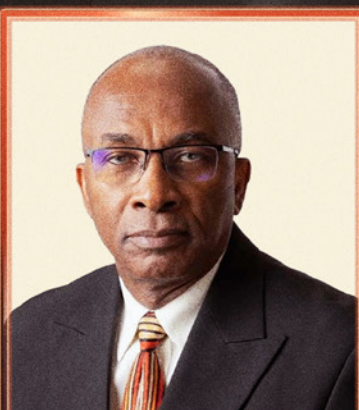
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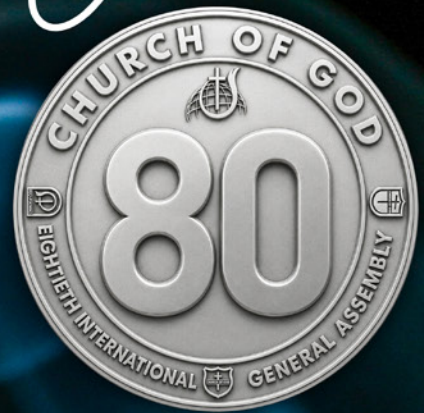
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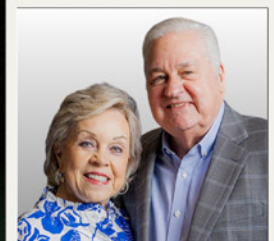
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