

CHURCHRIGHT

DOING CHURCH RIGHT

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TVR Tools

Have you gotten these helpful tools to transform our vision into reality?

- TVR Posters (\$30 for a set of 7, plus shipping and handling)
- TVR Booklets (\$25 for a set of 50, plus shipping and handling)
- Adult and Youth Sabbath School Quarterlies (quarterly: \$3.95; teacher's guide: \$5.50)

All tools available in English and Spanish.

Order through the Bible Advocate Press: P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233; e-mail bap.orders@cog7.org; phone 303-452-7973.

Transforming Vision into Reality

Our Vision is Our Focus

God is blessing the General Conference with renewed energy and excitement! More and more pastors and congregations are embracing our Transforming Vision into Reality (TVR) efforts as we flood our church with the good news that we are becoming that vibrant 21st century church that God is calling us to be. They display TVR posters, use TVR booklets and Sabbath school lessons, and adopt TVR language into their vocabularies. It is incredibly encouraging to see our people working together toward this shared God-given goal.

However, TVR is only a chosen path to a desired destination. It is meant to focus us on our greater goal: representing Christ and His kingdom in this world as that vibrant 21st century church: Christ Centered, Spirit Formed, Bible Based, Distinct Yet Inclusive, Sabbath Celebrating, Passionate in Worship, Compassionate in Service, Engaged in Witness, United in Fellowship, and Committed to Discipleship. Once we reach that destination, TVR will no longer be needed because our God-given vision will be our reality.

Are you concerned about talk of transformation? Transformation indicates change. Will change be for the better or for the worse? What if I'm comfortable with the way things are and I don't want change?

Please let me encourage you. First, Christianity is all about transformation; Christ came to transform us. Our justification is granted the second we receive Jesus, but our sanctification is a process of change that continues as long as we live. Second, the transformation we seek via TVR is toward becoming, more and more completely, all ten points of our vision. This is definitely change for the better!

Please join me in embracing TVR, but let's stay focused on the vision TVR is helping us attain.

— Loren Stacy



District News



District Superintendents Meet in Denver

President Loren Stacy and Executive Director Jody McCoy met with all seven district superintendents January 29-30 in Denver, Colorado. This was the first of four face-to-face meetings of our core Executive Team planned for 2017. Our superintendents (Orville Rose, Western Canada; Leeroy Williams, Eastern Canada; Larry Zaragoza, West Coast; Ken Lawson, Central; Chip Hinds, Southwest; Heber Vega, Northeast; and Steve Krome, Southeast), led by Loren and Jody, collaborated on numerous topics. These included TVR progress, various assessment and evaluation tools, welcoming new congregations, education and continuing education issues, the proposed revised General Conference bylaws, common district concerns and challenges, and instruction in the use of Google Drive.

Monthly conference calls with the district superintendents, president, and executive director are valuable, but face-to-face meetings such as this are far better. Our district superintendents are working together as a winning team!

— Jody McCoy



Central District Retreat: About 30 young adults gathered December 30, 2016 - January 1, 2017, at Inspiration Point Camp near Clitherall, MN, to hear presentations by Jesse Hopewell (main speaker), Stephanie Kalinoski, Monica Carbajal, Monica Schlenker, Cassia Schlenker, Carissa Carbajal, Zack Staats, and Daniel Hopewell. Theme: "In the Multitude of Counselors, There is Safety."

Southwest: Catching the Vision

On February 12, 87 leaders from Area 5 gathered in San Antonio, Texas, to learn about the ministries of the district and, most important, to know the vision the Church will follow for the next three years.

Jody McCoy talked about the importance of becoming a vibrant 21st century church and explained how this plan will take effect once we understand our role in it. He mentioned the connection of each publication (see p. 1) with this vision and how to find resources for local churches in English and Spanish.

Israel Steinmetz introduced Artios Christian College as a great resource to equip leaders. Daniel Flores provided resources and pastoral guidance for leaders and pastors, and Jamin Teran talked about the media ministry she is coordinating in the district.

The Southwest District will continue to hold leadership meetings in all the five states, by areas.

— Jamin Teran





Northeast District: After an entire year of renovations, the new church building in Bridgeport, CT (above) was dedicated January 28. The district also welcomed a new congregation in Ossining, NY, with dedication services January 7. Wilmer Arias, a LifeSpring graduate, will serve as pastor.

Churchright Online: View a video of the Bridgeport, CT church dedication at churchright.org.



Northeast District: A newly purchased building in Elizabeth, NJ, has been undergoing renovations. A dedication is planned for April 22.

Eastern Canada: Two LifeSpring students were honored for their work in the fall term. Pictured: Superintendent Leeroy Williams (left) with Samuel Santos Preza, pastor from the Laval Church, QC, and a Dean's List recipient in the Diploma of Christian Ministry program. Not pictured: Keisha Higgins (Toronto, ON) achieved her Certificate of Biblical Guidance degree. She attends the Etobicoke church, West Toronto, where Aubrey Williams is pastor.



At Convention 2017, you will . . .

- meet our new General Conference president and executive director;
- visit with our board of directors and district superintendents;
- learn more about the ministries of the Church;
- meet some of the G. C. staff from the Denver office.

Over 1,100 people registered for the 2015 convention. Let's increase that number this year! Register now at www.cog7/convention/2017-info.

*Hurry! Early registration deadline is **April 30!***

CALENDAR 2017

April 2-5 - G. C. Leadership Meeting, Denver, CO

April 9 - Lord's Supper Service in all churches

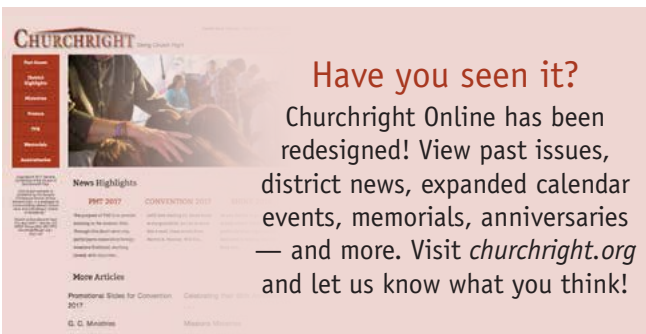
April 15 - Acme Super Sabbath, Acme Alberta

April 22 - Super Sabbath, Eagle Valley Church, Christine, ND

May 6-7 - Super Sabbath and Leadership Conference, Fort Smith, AR

May 27-29 - Spring Vale Graduation Weekend

For a complete listing of events, including those for Artios College, please visit churchright.org.



Have you seen it?

Churchright Online has been redesigned! View past issues, district news, expanded calendar events, memorials, anniversaries — and more. Visit churchright.org and let us know what you think!

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Churchright is a bimonthly newsletter published by the General Conference Church of God (Seventh Day). It is dedicated to communicating relevant Church news and cultivating a "culture of excellence."

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Conference Board of Directors Meets

The Conference board held its annual meeting in Denver, Colorado, February 19-22, 2017. Each day began with a devotional encouragement by an assigned member of the board, along with prayer.

The board reviewed its Governance Process Policies, which instruct the board about how to behave. They include a commitment to govern with an emphasis on outward vision, strategic leadership, encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, and proactivity. Also included in this area of the board's policy manual is a Code of Conduct designed to ensure its members act ethically, businesslike, lawfully, and with appropriate decorum.

The Conference president made a presentation to the board highlighting our accomplishments during 2016, and shared plans for 2017. Our Executive Team remains committed to delivering Stage 1 of Transforming Vision into Reality. Our district superintendents will have quarterly face-to-face meetings with the Conference president and executive director to assess progress and provide strategic leadership to the work at the Conference's national, district, and local levels. An annual self-assessment was provided to all pastors to help us create a baseline and track our progress. (Pastors should contact their district superintendents if they have not yet completed this brief online assessment.)

The branding of Artios Christian College was discussed, and board members were encouraged to learn that commencing in April 2017, a new five-week course format is being introduced. The General Conference website has been redesigned in collaboration with our dedicated staff in our Denver offices.

The board visited the Denver offices and saw a vibrant and remodeled reception area as you enter the building. We had lunch together with the office staff and joined in their monthly birthday celebration.

The board completed the annual performance review of the Conference president for the 2016 performance period. In addition, the board took the following actions:

- adopted budgets for the Conference for the fiscal period April 1, 2017 - March 31, 2018;

- provided instructions to the Conference president to respond to several requests and correspondence received from individuals and congregations;
- reviewed its policy on legal immigration status because of a request from the 2016 Ministerial Council meeting. After receiving legal advice, the board adopted an updated Legal Immigration Status Policy, in addition to creating a new Employment Verification Policy; and
- transferred title for a local church property back to the local church.

Our meeting concluded with a sense of encouragement for all the Lord has accomplished, and anticipation for the many ways the Lord will bless our partnership as a Conference in the months ahead.

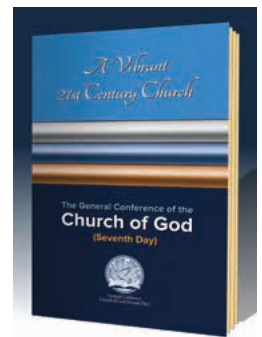
— Samuel Holland, Chairman
General Conference Board of Directors

Measuring Progress

Last year saw President Stacy and Executive Director McCoy crisscrossing the United States and Canada, preparing our church for Stage 1 of TVR. This is the first part of a three-year plan designed to help move our church from vision to reality, from where we are to actually being that vibrant 21st century church we want to be. But how will we know if we are making progress and actually moving closer to our desired destination?

Near the end of 2016, an online assessment tool was made available, both in Spanish and in English. Our pastors are asked to respond to a series of questions, most related to TVR and our Vision of a Vibrant 21st Century Church, evaluating themselves and their congregations. At the end of this year, pastors will reassess themselves and their congregations, and, by comparing the assessments, we can determine the progress during 2017. Reassessments will be completed in 2018 and again in 2019, and our TVR plans will be evaluated and adjusted accordingly.

Pastors or local leaders, if you haven't already done so, please complete and submit your online assessments right away. You are a critical link in this process! Without your response, we can't measure our progress. If you need to receive the link to the online assessment again, please contact your district superintendent.





The L & C Committee (L to R): Monico Muffley, Ken Lawson, Noe Reyes, Steve Kyner, Jhabel Chagollan, Oscar Mata, and Eddie Villalba.

License and Credentials Committee

The 2017 License and Credentials Committee (L & CC) met February 27 - March 2, in Denver, Colorado. Congratulations to those receiving their ministerial documentation, those completing their continuing education, and those renewing their document.

Elevations and new documents are for the following: Jonathon Hicks, David Ross, Santiago Chavez, Miguel Gonzales, Joshua Gutierrez, Benjamin Ramirez, David Melendez, Michael Mancha, and Ruben Beard.

The L & CC accomplished much in its four days of work. In addition to approval of new documents and elevation of ministerial documents, the committee reviewed and adjusted its calendar year, revised the Continuing Education form, and approved 79 renewals of documents and other necessary work related to its assignment from the North American Ministerial Council (NAMC).

SHINE-ing in Costa Rica

The SHINE mission to Costa Rica (December 2016) had its share of problems and obstacles, but God still manifested Himself in this work. Despite preparations ahead of time, team members encountered a few surprises when they arrived, such as the absence of health permission slips needed to operate the clinic.



The clinic opened the morning of December 28. Twenty-four SHINE team members, along with local brothers and sisters, attended to 1,108 local Costa Ricans for their medical, dental, and spiritual aid. The country faces many day-to-day problems

and expenses in certain areas. However, Costa Rica has wonderful qualities, such as not having a military presence because they believe in spreading peace.

On December 31 we finished our mission by visiting numerous local congregations and praising our Lord together in the morning. In the afternoon, we gathered at the clinic and, along with local churches and new souls, held a big church service. Our brother pastor and doctor, Jesus Mora, presented the Word of God with a message of evangelism and health, a message we feel had a big impact in Costa Rica. Approximately 500 people who attended this service were there for the honor and glory of God.

I will continue to work in this ministry as long as our God allows me to continue the growth of His kingdom.

— Ernesto Frausto, Coordinator

G. C. Bylaw Amendment

Article IV

MOVE to amend ARTICLE IV (Board of Directors) of the General Conference Bylaws by striking Section 5 (Election), B (Balloting) and replacing it with the following:

B. Balloting

1. Election shall be by approved paper or electronic ballot.
2. Balloting shall first fill the four six-year terms of membership on the Board.
3. After filling all six-year terms, abbreviated terms, if any, shall be filled.
4. A majority vote shall elect, but in the event more nominees receive a majority than there are offices to be filled, those receiving the highest vote shall be elected in descending order until all vacancies are filled.

Article VII

MOVE to amend ARTICLE VII (Meetings) of the General Conference Bylaws by inserting the new Section 6 (Order of Business):

Section 6. Order of Business

Members of the Conference who are registered for the business session but are otherwise occupied in Conference programming during the business meeting may vote absentee via approved paper or electronic ballot on the election of the Nominating Committee and Board of Directors only.

Spring into Action

District ministries have been planted and are thriving! Superintendents and area reps are tending to their work and encourage your participation.

They need your gifts of support. Contact your district leaders and get involved!



Painstaking Work



At the BA, we write and edit the gospel message one word at a time. Support our publication by responding to the BA fund raising letter in May.



Find us at baonline.org.