

**CHURCH OF GOD
HEARTLAND REGION
SERVING KANSAS AND OKLAHOMA
2016 – 2018**

Minutes and Handbook

**October 7, 2016
Southern Hills Church of God
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma**

CHURCH OF GOD

INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Tim Hill
Raymond F. Culpepper
J. David Stephens
David E. Ramirez
John D. Childers

General Overseer/Presiding Bishop
First Assistant General Overseer
Second Assistant General Overseer
Third Assistant General Overseer
Secretary General

HEARTLAND REGIONAL TEAM LEADERS

Stan Holder
Ernie Wright
Alfonso Arreola
Teresa Holder
Michelle Wright

Regional Administrative Bishop
Director of Youth and Discipleship
Hispanic Ministries Coordinator
Women's Discipleship President
Ministries Coordinator

REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF

Linda Riddle

Administrative Assistant

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

International Offices
P. O. Box 2430
Cleveland, TN 37320
423/472-3361
Website: www.churchofgod.org

Regional Office
P. O. Box 31686
Edmond, OK 73003
405/428-0388
FAX: 405/548-5222
Email: heartlandcoginfo@gmail.com
Website: www.heartlandchurchofgod.com

Church of God Heartland Region

2016 – 2018 Boards & Committees

Regional Council

James Jones
Bucky Sitsler
Ken Angel
Thomas Mitchell
Gerry Dupuis
Robert Peterson
John Mark Smithson
Kevin Bartley
Lorenzo Jackson
Kenneth Adams

1st Alternate: Chauncey Biby

2nd Alternate: Mark Ingram

Youth and Discipleship Board

John Donnelly

Nathan Gauwitz
Matthew VonWald
Mark Ingram
Johnny Gray
Jim Estep

1st Alternate: Chad Bernard

2nd Alternate: Carlos Jorge-Vasquez

Ministerial Development Board

Thomas Mitchell, Chair (Credentialing Liaison to AB)

Ron Nelson
Bucky Sitsler

Examining Board

Ron Nelson, Co-Chair
Leroy Kerbo, Co-Chair
Arnold Jones
Paul Hughes

Ministerial Internship Program Board

Thomas Mitchell, Chair
Gerry Dupuis
James Douglas
Kevin Bartley

Calling and Ministries Studies Board

Bucky Sitsler, Chair
Ken Kerbo
Greg Garvie
Carlos Jorge-Vasquez

USA Missions

Robert Peterson, Chair
Al Arreola
Greg Garvie
Vernon Carter

Ministry to the Military

Paul Hughes, Chair
Lorenzo Jackson
Calvin Eastham

Men/Women of Action

Vernon Norris, Coordinator
Mark Ingram

World Mission Committee

James Douglas, Chair
Robert Killman
Greg Garvie
Thomas Mitchell
Ex-Officio – Larry Odom
Ex-Officio – Terrell Brinson

Prayerborne Commission

Carl Murphy, Coordinator
All Retired Ministers/Widows

Property and Loan Committee

Kenneth Adams, Co-Chair
Vernon Norris, Co-Chair
James Jones
Calvin Eastham
Chad Bernard

Ministerial Care/Spirit Care

Kenneth Adams, Coordinator
William Vance

Intercessory Prayer Team

Robert & Paula Peterson, Coordinators
Al & Rachel Arreola
Gerry & Barbara Dupuis
Margaret Hatchett
Carl Murphy
Brian and Lori Wade

Trustees

Kenneth Adams

Arnold Jones
William Vance
James A. Jones
Tommy Mitchell
Vernon Norris
(any combination of 3 may sign)

Girls Ministry

Sonya Donnelly Christi Ingram
Sarah Gauwitz Angela Gray
Samantha VonWald TaJuana Estep

Women's Discipleship Board

Beverly Jones Paula Peterson
Stephanie Sitsler Reba Smithson
Twila Angel Melissa Bartley
Angela Mitchell Martha Adams
Barbara Dupuis

Regional Music Committee

Teresa Holder, Chair
Darrin Brown
Brock Barrett
Gena Barrett

Church of God Heartland Region

**2016 – 2018
Handbook/Manual**

Based on Decisions at the
2016 Regional Ministers' Meeting
and Previous Meetings

Statement of Purpose

The Minutes of the Heartland Region (Kansas/Oklahoma) 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 Heartland 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 Heartland Region, declare these Minutes of the 2012 Regional Ministers' Meeting to be the official standing guidelines and policies for the Churches of God in the Heartland 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 Heartland Region 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 is authorized to edit and arrange the Minutes in a systematic, orderly format.

2016 – 2018 Heartland Regional Goals

We will challenge ourselves to rise to the FINISH Commitment by setting the following Regional Goals.

- Because we understand that if we do not plant new churches and revitalize existing churches we will die, we will plant 12 new churches in our region for the ensuing two-year General Assembly period and provide pastoral training and tools vital to local church revitalization.
- We will challenge each district in the Heartland Region to plant a new life-giving church. We will accomplish this by establishing a Heartland Regional Task Force on every District in the Heartland Region with an Antioch mindset for passionate evangelism. These Task Force members will be empowered to:
 - IDENTIFY church planters, pastors and congregations desiring to plant life giving churches and /or desire revitalization.
 - SPECIFY strategic cities and towns ripe for a new church plant in the Heartland Region.

- EDIFY new church planters, pastors and congregations by networking with the Administrative Bishop, the Heartland Regional Office and Para-church organizations, training events and venues.
- QUALIFY leadership through the ACTS model for church planting / revitalization of Assessment, Coaching, Training and Serving.
- We will become intentional in our regional meetings to assist pastoral leadership in revitalization. In doing so, we will RESPECT the past, ASSESS our current reality, REVISION for future generations, RETOOL our local leadership and CREATE momentum for sustained growth.
- We will challenge ourselves to move to AAA status by setting increase goals of 10% in Membership, Tithing, World Missions giving and Harvester giving over the next two-year General Assembly period.
- We will IDENTIFY spiritual intercessors in our region in order to begin a strategic prayer initiative to combat the spiritual warfare that is holding back church growth in our region.
- We will establish a Prayerborne chapter in every congregation in the Heartland Region for intensified prayer committed to REVIVAL in every Church of God in the Heartland; REVITALIZATION in every Church of God in the Heartland in need of new vision and new direction; and RESTORATION of the Biblical principles of local church ministry (evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, service, tithe & giving and prayer), Doctrinal fidelity and Practical holiness.
- We will establish 12 Pastoral Covenant Groups (PCG's) in the Heartland Region for Connection, Confidentiality and Trust, Accountability and Care.
- We will provide opportunity for pastors to receive Coaching and Consulting by networking with the Church of God Center for Pastoral Excellence and the Natural Church Development Model.
- We will provide C.A.R.E. for the Heartland Region by demonstrating:
 - COMPASSION
We will partner with Operation Compassion and Community Service Chaplaincy to provide relief and care for the hurting.
 - AFFIRMATION
We will affirm our retired ministers and widows by providing care, support and assistance as needs arise.
 - RESPONSE
We will mobilize Men and Women of Action and Disaster Relief Teams from the Heartland Region to respond to crisis as they arise.
 - EDUCATE
We will teach our congregations to FIND a need and meet it; FIND a wound and heal it; FIND a soul and save it; and BATHE it all in the

unconditional love of God.

10. As Ambassadors of Reconciliation, we will be intentional about building bridges to the vast multi-cultural harvest places at the door of the Heartland Region.

- We will continue to demonstrate support and assistance to our Hispanic Coordinator, Al Arreola.
- We will work to identify Hispanic congregations in our region desiring to partner with the Church of God.
- We will implement the Hispanic harvest in our church planting efforts.
- We will continue to look for ways to make inroads into the Native American communities of the Heartland Region.
- We will educate our congregations on the cultural diversities around us and respect the uniqueness while celebrating our common ground.
- We will utilize cultural diversity in regional programs as a sign of unity and harmony.
- We will seek to become peacemakers as Christ has commanded.

ENGAGING THE MISSIONAL MANDATE IN THE HEARTLAND

Lifting up the Church of God Core Values of
PRAYER, THE GREAT COMMISSION and TRUST

OUR VISION:

To build healthy, growing, praying ministers who build healthy, growing, praying churches.

CHURCH OF GOD MISSION STATEMENT:

The mission of the Church of God is to communicate the full Gospel of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28, 19, 20) in the Spirit and power of Pentecost (Acts 2:1 – 4, 6, 13 – 18), through specific attention to and emphasis upon . . .

- The centrality of God's Word
- World evangelization
- Ministerial development
- Christian discipleship
- Lay ministry
- Biblical stewardship
- Church growth

- Church planting
- Family enrichment, and
- Servant leadership

REGIONAL PROGRAM

Basis of Our Vision:

Our vision arises from our understanding of what the sovereign God purposes to do for and through His church in the Heartland Region. We are . . .

- A movement committed to the authority of Holy Scripture for faith and direction
- 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
- A body that is directed by the Spirit, and fully understands that baptism in the Holy Spirit is both a personal blessing and an endowment of power for service
- A people who hunger for God experience the presence of God and stand in awe of His Holiness as He changes believers into conformity with Christ
- A New Testament church which focuses on local congregation where the pastor nurtures and leads all members to exercise spiritual gifts in ministry
- 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
- A movement that evidences love and concern for hurts and loneliness of the unsaved through aggressive evangelistic, discipling, and nurturing ministries.

Mission Statement

The Heartland Church of God Regional Office and staff serve pastors and ministers through training and resourcing, thereby facilitating the expansion of the Kingdom of God

Commitments to Our Mission and Vision

These items reflect the core values of both the Church of God internationally and the Heartland Church of God in regard to fulfilling our mission and vision.

- Prayer
- Pentecostal Worship
- World Evangelization
- Church Planting
- Leadership Development
- Care
- Interdependence

Purpose and Policy:

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

Elections/Boards

I. REGIONAL BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

A. ELECTION PROCEDURES

1. That election procedures shall be as follows: Nominations shall be made from the floor by ballot. The nominating ballot shall be cast for the number of members on the respective board. If any person shall obtain 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 have been duly elected. Nominees may be eliminated from the ballot by majority vote after the first electing ballot has been cast. No minister shall be eligible to serve on more than one elected board simultaneously. (This does not apply to alternates.) Alternates for the Regional Council (3 alternates) and Youth and Discipleship Board (2 alternates) are the members receiving the highest vote, in order, after the last member is elected. These alternates shall be used in order of selection to fill vacancies on said Boards. Should more than three vacancies occur on the Council or more than two vacancies on the Youth and Discipleship Board, the Regional Administrative Bishop shall be authorized to submit the names of the two runners-up to the ministerial body for a vote.

When a member fills a vacancy for less than one year, it shall not count against this eligibility. This applies to all elected boards.

2. To be eligible for any elected or appointed boards or committees all church reports for senior pastors and ministerial reports for all ministers be current and up-to-date at the time of election or appointment.

- That a listing of all Exhorters, Ordained Ministers, and Ordained Bishops shall be provided for the body previous to the Regional Ministers' Meeting.

● Regional Council

Election Guidelines

- That a Regional Council consisting of ten (10) Ordained Bishops be elected biennially during the ministers' meeting. Furthermore, that the election for the Regional Council should work within the framework that no fewer than four (4) Ordained Bishops from either Kansas or Oklahoma be elected to serve on the elected Heartland Regional Council.

C. Regional Youth and Discipleship Board

- The Youth and Discipleship Board of six (6) ministers shall be elected for the current General Assembly term. The board may consist of either Ordained Bishops or Ordained Ministers. Each member is to serve for two years and no person is eligible to succeed himself/herself for more than one term.
- The records of votes for the Youth and Discipleship Board shall be kept on file. The next two persons receiving the highest number of votes shall be designated as alternates to the Youth and Discipleship Board. In the event of a vacancy, the first alternate will become the replacement member, and the second alternate will become the first alternate. The replacement alternate shall complete the remaining term.

D. Regional USA Missions Committee

- The USA Missions Committee shall be appointed by the Administrative Bishop for the current General Assembly term.
- The duties of the board shall be outlined per the current minutes of the General Assembly.

IV. REGIONAL POLICIES AND PROMOTIONS

• FINANCIAL REPORT

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

• HANDBOOK/MANUAL

The Regional Council recommends that the minutes of the ministers' meeting be compiled into a "Handbook" and distributed to every credentialed minister in the region within 90 days of the conclusion of the ministers' meeting in digital or hard copy format.

• REGIONAL MEETINGS

That we plan and conduct annual Camp Meetings and Prayer Conferences to include all geographical areas of the region.

- **SERVICE RECOGNITION AWARDS**

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

- **AGED MINISTERS (REFORMATION SUNDAY OFFERING)**

The Pastor of each local church shall set aside annually Reformation Sunday (last Sunday in October) in honor of aged ministers, for the purpose of raising special love offerings. The offering is to be sent to the Int'l Secretary-General. Also, the church Treasurer shall notify the Regional Office by indicating on the monthly report form the amount of the offering.

- **MINISTERS' RETIREMENT**

All ministers are encouraged to participate in the Ministers Retirement Program through the Church of God Benefits Board.

- **CHAPLAINS COMMISSION AND MINISTRY TO THE 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.

More information can be obtained by writing Stateside Ministry to the Military, P.O. Box 3330, 900 Walker Street NE, Cleveland, TN 37311

2. 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. More information can be obtained on how to become a volunteer chaplain by writing Church of God Chaplains Commission, P.O. Box 3330, 900 Walker Street NE, Cleveland, TN 37311.

3. Church of God Chaplain's Week

Each local church is encouraged to emphasize this special week as an opportunity to honor the more than 300 Church of God chaplains who serve around the world in prisons, military, jails, hospitals, rescue missions, homeless centers, and domestic violence agencies. The dates are to be announced.

- **CHURCH MUSIC MINISTRY**

- That each church be encouraged to take advantage of the resources (publications, training conferences) provided by the music department to assist the local church with music ministry.
- That each local church be encouraged to set the second Sunday of November as Musicians Appreciation Sunday to recognize and show appreciation for the local church musicians.

- **CHURCH REPORTS**

- **Explanatory Statement:** Faithfulness in reporting is as important for the local church as it is for the individual minister. When a local church, for whatever reason, has difficulty in meeting its reporting responsibilities, this measure will help to handle the matter before it becomes a serious problem. The measure also provides a process for clearing up delinquencies which did not occur under the administration of the current pastor.
- All reports are to be checked and approved by the Pastor of the church and so designated by his initialing each report, and that the proper names are on the report.
- All checks coming to the Regional Office are to be made payable to the HEARTLAND CHURCH OF GOD REGIONAL OFFICE.
- Reports will be considered delinquent that are not postmarked by the 5th of each month. Treasurer's reports sent in without appropriate funds will be considered delinquent. The pastor will be subject to the International General Assembly ruling applying to delinquent ministers and treasurer's report.
- The ruling shall be carried out in our churches which reads, "...no person or member who is a wage earner, or who otherwise has an income, and is not a tithe payer, be used in an official capacity."
- **Recommendation Adopted by General Assembly**
- Consistency in Reporting

The principle of local churches giving a tithe of their tithe for worldwide ministry has been a part of Church of God practice from its earliest days. As a scriptural principle (Genesis 14:18-20; 28-20-22; Malachi 3:10; Luke 11:42; I Corinthians 9:6-9; 16:2; Hebrews 7:1-21) and an approved program of the General Assembly, it provides a way for each local church to have a part in contributing to the worldwide ministry of the church. Through faithfulness and consistency in this practice, the local church extends its ministry far beyond its own borders and releases God's blessing in the same way that a church member's practice of tithing brings blessings into his personal life.

Where there is delinquency in local church reporting (reports and/or finances), the following procedures are recommended:

- When a church is two months' delinquent in reporting, the Regional Administrative Bishop shall meet personally with the pastor relative to correcting the matter.
- When the church is three months' delinquent, a financial review committee shall be appointed to investigate and make recommendations.
- Should the delinquency continue, a regional board shall be appointed to consider the filing of appropriate charges.
- Where the foregoing investigation has proven fault on the part of a pastor, that he not be considered for any appointment or position until proper disposition has been made for payment of the delinquent funds.

(b) Accumulated Delinquent Funds

That the Regional Administrative Bishop fully inform any pastoral candidate of the current financial condition of the prospective church prior to finalization of said candidate's appointment.

Where there has been an accumulation of delinquent funds from a local church for which the present pastor is not responsible, the following procedures are recommended:

- That the Regional Administrative Bishop or a committee appointed by him shall meet with the current pastor to study the situation and make recommendations for an appropriate resolution of the problem according to one of the following options:
 - a. Immediate payment
 - b. Payment plan
 - c. Partial payment and partial assistance
- Full assistance be given when the above options have been exercised and it is beyond the ability of the local church to satisfy the delinquent debt within a maximum of twelve months.

NOTE: There is no provision for forgiveness of ministry money owed. However, assistance may be provided through funds being made available by (1) an individual, (2) another local church, (3) the regional office, (4) international headquarters, or any combination of the above.

(2) When all other sources for payment of the delinquent amount have been exhausted, the Regional

Administrative Bishop shall have the right to appeal to the General Secretary/Treasurer with a proposal providing for mutual participation in the payment of the accumulated funds. Further, that a standing committee of action chaired by the General Secretary/Treasurer be appointed by the General Overseer to consider and make final disposition of such proposals.

- **CHURCH PROPERTIES**

- Property Guidelines Handbook**

- That we adopt the Property and Loan Guidelines Handbook for the purchase, construction, or loan acquisition of local church properties.

- **DISTRICT WORK**

The office of the district overseer has been a very vital part of the growth of the Church of God. Many believe that we have not maximized the potential of this office. The International Executive Committee is committed to enhancing the role of the district overseer by providing training, empowerment and requiring accountability.

According the Minutes of the International General Assembly, the district overseer is appointed by the Administrative Bishop. The members of the International Executive Committee are calling for district overseers to come into a covenant relationship with the Regional office and the pastors/ministers on his district. This new initiative will require a commitment on the part of those appointed as a district overseer.

- Job Description

- The district overseer's job description is an effort to utilize the talents and ministry gifts of the district overseer and to create a ministry team with the ministers on each district, thus enhancing ministry in the local church, on the district and Regional level.

- To fulfill all the responsibilities outlined in the Minutes of the International General Assembly.
 - To be an example of prompt reporting – both the personal ministerial report and the church's report.
 - To serve as a mentor/coach to the ministers and their families on the district.
 - To serve as a pastor to the ministers and their families on the district.
 - To attend training conferences for district overseers.
 - To monitor the progress of all the churches on the district.
 - To attend all regional meetings (camp meeting, prayer conference, ministers' meeting).
 - To promote the Regional programs on his district, plan district meetings,

and assist the Administrative Bishop in planning an evangelistic and training ministries on his district.

- To use every possible method to encourage the ministers on the district to attend Regional meetings.

- District Overseer's Offering

When the District Overseer visits the churches on his district on business, it shall be the duty of the Pastor to receive an offering to help defray his expenses.

- All District Overseers shall notify the Regional Overseer of any serious illness or death of a member of a ministerial family on his district. In case of death, the Regional Overseer will notify every District Overseer, who shall in turn notify all ministers on his district.

- Request for Financial Aid

All requests or applications for financial aid shall be made to the Administrative Bishop through the District Overseer, along with a six-month financial statement.

- Compensation

Compensation for district overseer of \$25.00 per district event (up to \$100 per year from regional funds).

L. LOCAL CHURCH POLICY

- That each local church, where possible, have a **Finance Committee**, composed of the clerk and two other members. The duty of said committee shall be to receive, count, record and prepare for deposit all funds of the local church. Further, that all Women's Ministries monies are to be disbursed as outlined in the General Assembly Minutes. That, where practical, local church books are to be kept at the church. Further, that an adequate bookkeeping system is to be used in all churches.
- We recommend that each church create a "**Pastor's Travel Expense Fund**" using whatever means approved by the church and pastor to build and maintain said funds. This fund is to be used to pay the expenses of the pastor attending state, regional, national, and international meetings required by regional and international offices. All departments of the church should be encouraged to help build and maintain said fund.
- That each church be encouraged to follow the General Assembly suggestion that where funds are available, the local church pay the pastor's hospital insurance, Church of God Minister's Retirement Plan contributions, and at least

on-half (1/2) of his Social Security.

- Since the ministry is mentally and physically taxing, time should be taken periodically by each minister to relax and refresh himself so a positive attitude may be projected to the congregation. Therefore, the Regional Overseer recommends that each church insist that the pastor and family take two (2) weeks of vacation annually, not to include church related activities. Further, that every effort be made to assist the pastor financially, including full salary and additional funds to defray vacation expensed; and that a letter be sent out annually by the Regional Overseer to each Clerk encouraging him to see that the church assists its pastor with his vacation expenses. A copy of the letter is to be sent to the pastor.

M. DEPARTMENT OF LAY MINISTRIES

- That the state/regional bishop appoint a member of the state/regional council as the state/regional Lay Ministries and LifeBuilders director. Further, that the state/regional administrative bishop appoint a regional Lay Ministries and LifeBuilders board to consist of no fewer than five (5) prominent laymen.
- That each willing local church begin a disciple-making ministry to men through organizing, reorganizing or reactivating a Church of God LifeBuilders Men's Ministry Program.
- That each state/region sponsor an annual LifeBuilders Men's Convention to motivate, inspire, disciple and train men.
- That each state/region sponsor an annual Men's Resurrection Breakfast to help win lost men to Christ.
- That each state/region sponsor a Laity Alive Equippers conference to help mobilize, train and equip laity and lay leaders for ministry in the 21st century.
- Each local church is encouraged to participate in the "Pastor Appreciation" program sponsored by the Department of Lay Ministries.
- Each Region shall schedule, plan and promote a Life Builders Men's Conference. This men's-only event will include motivational speakers and teachers to promote Christian manhood.
- Encourage each pastor to establish a Pastor's Prayer Partner team in each congregation. The benefits of having such a team behind the pastor are without question. We can point to congregations that have thrived as never before since they have organized lay people to pray.
- Encourage each local church to appoint a Local Church Lay Coordinator (LCLC). These persons assigned to help the Pastor in organizing the lay ministries in the local church including, but not limited to, the following:
 - Life Builders Men's Ministry
 - Lay Witnessing
 - Outreach Ministries
 - Pastor Appreciation Day
 - Pastor's Prayer Partners
 - Personal Visitation
 - Altar Workers

N. DIVISION OF EDUCATION

- Ministerial Development
 - The Ministerial Internship Program shall be instituted in the Heartland Region for the benefit of the ministers seeking to advance in ministerial work.
 - This program is open to persons entering the ministry as well as to those already in the ministry who could benefit from such a program. Further, that we implement the General Assembly Resolution requiring participation in the Ministerial Internship Program (or its equivalent) before advancement from the level of Exhorter to Ordained Minister.
 - Each minister and local church is encouraged to assist the MIP program through their monthly reports by making a contribution of \$5.00 per month. These monies would be used for enrichment of the MIP program, to help defray MIP expenses to commencement in Cleveland and tuition to those that need assistance, etc.

- 2. Lee University

We urge the ministers and laity in our region to make themselves aware of the ministry training opportunities offered by Lee University.

- 3. Church of God School of Ministry

In order to provide more in depth personalized ministerial training, the School of Ministry and the Office of Ministerial Development have developed the Certificate In Ministerial Studies (CIMS) for all Church of God ministers and ministerial prospects. Be it therefore resolved:
That all ministers be encouraged to avail themselves of the educational opportunities offered by the Church of God School of Ministry, and that all ministers be encouraged to complete the personal and confidential Minister's Education Survey Form and return it to the School of Ministry.

O. HEARTLAND HARVESTER PROGRAM

- We shall participate in the **HEARTLAND HARVESTER** program in order to raise funds for the various ministries of the Church of God in the Heartland Region.
- That every Pastor cooperatively leads his congregation in the **Heartland HARVESTER** program by being an active participant in giving each month.
- This program will allow us to:
 - Advance the Kingdom of God in the Heartland
 - Plant new churches
 - Strengthen small churches
 - Camp Meetings & Conferences
 - Provide ministerial training

Assist in reaching the Hispanic Harvest
Retired Ministers

- We encourage each minister, church and laity to contribute \$20.00 per month (**Harvester**), if possible, to assist us in caring for others.
- The month of November be designated as **HEARTLAND HARVESTER** Promotional Month. That each pastor encourages their congregation to participate in a regional or local service on behalf of the **HEARTLAND HARVESTER** ministry.

P. MINISTERIAL EXAMINING BOARD

- The Regional Ministerial Examining Board shall meet three times a year or as needed. All ministerial candidates shall, before examination, have the opportunity to procure appropriate study manuals for testing purposes.
- All applicants for ministry must give consent to a professional background check before testing for credentials.
- In addition, it is understood that all ministerial applicants must have a record of at least six months of faithfulness in church attendance and tithing at their local Church of God and that a financial credit check be made of said applicant. Further, that each candidate shall be evaluated on their own merit with great care to be given to the privacy of the candidate. Any exception must be approved by the Administrative Bishop.

Q. OFFICE OF MINISTERIAL CARE

- Recognizing the immense stress placed upon the ministerial family, we affirm our support for the Office of Ministerial Care.
- Each local church and Pastor is encouraged to contribute to the Office of Ministerial Care through their monthly report.

R. MINISTERIAL BENEVOLENCE FUND

We encourage each minister and their spouse to actively participate in the Regional Benevolence program which provides the following:

- Each Minister and spouse who wishes to participate in this plan contributes twenty dollars (\$20.00) to this fund. (This is \$20 per person or \$40 per married couple).
- Upon the death of either minister or spouse who has contributed to this fund, surviving spouse (and/or minister's designated beneficiary) would receive all the proceeds from the fund.
- Upon the disbursement of funds, all participants would be notified and requested to contribute twenty dollars (\$20.00) to replenish the fund.
- When the minister leaves the region, they forfeit their contribution.
- That the Administrative Bishop appoints someone to oversee the Benevolence program.

T. REGIONAL MEETINGS

- Camp Meeting

Camp Meeting is normally scheduled Tuesday through Friday in June of each year.

- Prayer Conference

Prayer Conference is normally, scheduled for Thursday through Friday during the month of February or March of each year.

- That a projected budget for both the Camp Meeting and the Prayer Conference (totals only) be provided to all Pastors of the Church of God in the Heartland Region 30 days prior to conducting these two meetings annually.

V. YOUTH AND DISCIPLESHIP

- **ORGANIZATION**

- Selection

- Youth and Discipleship Director shall be nominated by the Administrative Bishop and elected by the Regional Council prior to the General Assembly, if possible. He shall carry on his administrative functions under the direction of the Administrative Bishop.
- His term shall be two years and he can be appointed to succeeding terms in accordance with the General Assembly minutes.

- Records

All permanent records and files shall be kept at the Regional Office and he shall be responsible to file such records that pertain to the Youth and Discipleship.

- Regional Youth and Discipleship Board

- The Regional Youth and Discipleship Director shall serve as chairman of the Regional Youth and Discipleship Board.
- That each church and district be encouraged to use the services of the Regional Youth and Discipleship Director and the Regional Youth Board members in district and church training seminars, rallies and revivals. That these meetings should be coordinated through the Regional Youth and Christian Education office. Where possible, that honorariums be given to the individuals doing the conference.
- That Heartland Region shall have a Regional Youth and Discipleship Board.

- That the Board shall consist of six (6) members with two (2) alternates.
 - The Board shall be elected by the ministers of the Region biennially.
 - The Board shall consist of either Ordained Bishops or Ordained Ministers.
 - In the event of a vacancy, for any reason, the first alternate will automatically be placed on the Regional Youth and Discipleship Board, etc.
- Duties and Authorities
 - The Board shall meet at the discretion of the Regional Director and/or Administrative Bishop.
 - The Board shall counsel with and assist the Director and / or Administrative Bishop in drafting and implementing programs of Youth and Discipleship.
 - The Board shall, with the Director, plan and conduct Youth Camps and youth activities.

- **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 investigate options for Sunday school, including the new Sunday School Plus strategy, facilitated by the International Youth and Discipleship and Pathway Press.
- 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 available curriculum such as the PFC Boys Ministry and other resources. That we also encourage parents to encourage their children to become members of the Church of God at a young age.
- That each local church conduct a Fall and Spring Sunday School Enlargement Campaigns.
- That each church develop an accurate record system and strive for faithful follow-up on all visitors and absentees.
- That each church participate in the annual Christian Education Workers' Recognition Sunday.
- That each Sunday School Superintendent be encouraged to subscribe to the Sunday School Superintendent's Idea File, and that the local Sunday School provide this if funds are available.
- That each local church be urged to utilize the Sunday School Ministries Resource Planner to evaluate and plan the Sunday School Ministry.
- That each church endeavor to make definite strides in Christian Education organization, equipment, facilities and methods during each church year.
- Resolution on Sunday School

WHEREAS, the Sunday School has proven to be the most effective teaching tool of the church in implementing Jesus' command to "teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you"; and

WHEREAS, according to Deuteronomy 31:12-13, God instructed Moses to gather the people so they could hear, learn and observe to do all the Words of the Law; and

WHEREAS, teaching the Word of God protects our people from doctrinal error and deception which leads to spiritual captivity and destruction; and

WHEREAS, during the reign of Josiah the Book of the Law was found in the house of the Lord and spiritual renewal came when the people were assembled for the reading of it (II Kings 22 & 23);

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Church of God reaffirms our commitment to the ministry of Sunday School; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we continue to implement new methodologies of imparting God's Word as it relates to the daily life of the believer in changing times.

- **CHURCH TRAINING**

- That each local church, where possible, establish a director of training, who will use the AIM/CTC program as an ongoing enhancement of the knowledge and skills of youth and Christian education leaders and teachers with special emphasis on the current AIM/CTC Book of the Year.
- That January be adopted as Advance In Ministry month.

- **LOCAL DISCIPLESHIP**

- That each church be encouraged to receive at least one (1) bundle containing five (5) copies of the **Leadership Magazine** to enhance local Christian Education personnel.
- That inasmuch as the local Christian Education leaders and teachers definitely exert an influence on the lives of those that attend our Sunday Schools and Family Training Hour services, and inasmuch as the scripture requires exemplary living on the part of the leaders, that the same qualifications that apply to the church clerk and pastor's council as set forth in the Minutes of the General Assembly, be used as a guide for the selection of officers and teachers in the Sunday School And Family Training Hour.

- **FAMILY TRAINING HOUR**

- That each church place an emphasis on discipling every member and be urged to plan a discipleship training program for each age level to be conducted through Family Training Hour.
- That every church establish a Family Training Hour planning week in the summer or early fall.
- That local Family Training Hour leaders utilize the Family Training Hour Annual Planner to evaluate and plan the Family Training Hour Ministry.

- **YOUTH MINISTRY**

- That the Youth Ministry Certification program be used as a developmental tool for excellence in Youth Ministry in our local churches.
- That each church participate in “A Covenant to Nurture Our Children” by using the parental and pastoral guidance offered in “Developing Pentecostal Teens”.
- That each local church encourage their youth to attend the annual Frontier Winterfest (Arlington, TX) or Ozark Winterfest (Branson, MO).
- That each local church give its youth opportunity for membership.
- That each local church Youth Leader be encouraged to join the Church of God National Youth Leaders Association.
- That we encourage every church to have youth revivals, special emphasis services, etc. to win and disciple their youth for Christ.

- **YOUTH CAMP**

- That each pastor and youth worker promote and encourage young people to pre-register and attend Youth Camp.
- That each pastor encourage cooperative, effective laymen and women to work in at least one (1) camp each year.
- That each camp worker attend the precamp training seminar.
- That the date and place of the Youth Camp be set by the Regional Youth and Discipleship Director along with his Board.

- **TEEN TALENT**

- That each pastor and youth leader encourage their teens to enter as many divisions of the Teen Talent Program for which they qualify.
- That all Regional Teen Talent winners who receive a rating of “Excellent” or better be eligible to represent the Heartland Region in the International Teen Talent Competition, and that this information be included on the Teen Talent Application.

- **JUNIOR TALENT**

- That each pastor and youth leader encourage their juniors to enter Junior Talent Music, Art, Creative Writing, and Bible divisions.
- That each local church youth leader encourage their youth to become involved

in "See You at the Pole" annually.

- **YOUTH WORLD EVANGELISM ACTION (Y.W.E.A.)**

- Purpose

- To educate youth in their role in reaching the world for Jesus
- To train youth in early commitment to the support of World Missions.
- To give youth an understanding of other countries, their cultures and needs.
- To raise money for those needs through fun activities and service projects.

- That each church involve its young people in World Missions through the Youth World Evangelism Action Ministry (YWEA).
- That we encourage the youth of every congregation to participate in the annual YWEA project as announced through the International Office of Youth and Discipleship.
- That local churches use the provided promotional materials: YWEA video, brochure, poster and coloring book. The Vortex banks, change banks and coin folders can be used for fundraising.
- That we strive for 100% involvement in YWEA each year.
- The YWEA Rallies / COI's will be in November each year.

- **PIONEERS FOR CHRIST AND ROYAL RANGERS**

That every church sponsor a club ministry program for boys in their local church and community. That consideration be given to the review of the Pioneers for Christ boys club curriculum, a curriculum written by Church of God men or the Royal Rangers curriculum, a curriculum approved by Church of God leaders. (A review packet can be obtained by calling the International Department of Youth and Christian Education at 423-478-7225.)

- **GLOBAL EXPEDITION**

That we encourage every young person and young adult to consider participating as Global Expedition Partner on either an international or a stateside experience.

The new International Global Expedition brochure is available upon request with information regarding all Division sponsored trips.

M. VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

That each church conduct a Vacation Bible School, Kids Crusade or similar program during each church year if possible.

N. HARVEST FESTIVAL

That each church receive a free-will offering during the Fall of each year (October 1 through Thanksgiving) for a specific commodity for the Home for Children, and that this offering be sent directly to the Church of God Home for Children, PO Box 391, Sevierville, TN 37862.

- **CHURCH OF GOD COLLEGES**

That pastors encourage high school juniors and seniors to attend College Day or equivalent at our colleges.

- **GRADUATES RECOGNITION SUNDAY**

That each church honor their high school and college graduates by holding an annual Graduate Recognition Sunday.

- **CHILDREN'S MIISTRY**

- That each local church place priority on Children's Ministry and on planning a comprehensive program.
- That local children's leaders utilize the Children's Ministries Resource Planner to evaluate and plan Children's Ministries.
- That each local church use the Covenant to Nurture Our Children materials which are designed to bring all our children to salvation, sanctification, the baptism of the Holy Spirit, water baptism, church membership and discipleship by age 12.
- That we encourage those individuals who are called to children's ministry to accept the call and challenge and that we support them and assist them with preparation and training. (Reaching, Teaching, and Pastoring Kids is a certification program used for training local children's workers. Those completing Level II and III can be certified through the National Children's Leaders Association.)
- That we encourage each local church to send representatives to the forthcoming Youth and Children's Leaders Conferences, both regional and national.

- **SPECIAL PRAYER DAYS**

That on Youth Awareness Sunday, each local church pray for the ministries of Youth and Discipleship around the world.

- **SINGLES MINISTRY**

- That each local church give ministry attention to Single Adult members in the congregation.

- That each local church observe Single Adult Emphasis Sunday to be held in the Fall of each year.

VI. USA MISSIONS

• PLEDGE OF SUPPORT

- Recognizing that America is now the third largest mission field, we pledge to join with the Division of World Evangelization/USA Missions in fulfilling the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20.
- We pledge our support to the Prayer, Fasting and Save our Cities initiatives sponsored by USA Missions.
- We pledge our support to the USA Missions Church planting Initiative and the goal of planting life-giving.

• REVIVALS

- Each church shall pray for revival and every effort be made to bring the church to a point of revival.
- The development and implementation of programs and ministries in soul-winning, church planting and church growth shall assist the local church to reach and reap the harvest of the 21st Century.
- Each church shall endeavor to have at least four revivals or special evangelistic weekend efforts per year.
- 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.
- Where possible, revivals shall not be canceled by Pastor or Evangelist without giving at least a 30-day notice except in an emergency. If a revival is canceled with less than a 30-day notice, a letter of explanation will be submitted to the Regional Office. Where possible financial consideration should be given to the Evangelist by the local church in the event of an emergency cancellation.
- Revivals shall be reported to the Regional Office. These reports should be included with the monthly Treasurer's report.
- That each church be encouraged to participate in the National Revival Thrust. A nine-week emphasis beginning on Palm Sunday and continuing through Pentecost Sunday.
- That each church encourage members to participate in the Family Revival in November of each year in order to bring our children and members of our extended families to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

• EVANGELIST

- The Administrative Bishop shall be given full cooperation in implementing programs and suggestions made available by the general department.
- When possible, regional retreats and seminars for Evangelists shall be

conducted.

- We recommend that the Administrative Bishop promote the position of Evangelist by providing each pastor an Evangelist Bio Sheet with a Pastor's Recommendation Form.
- The Administrative Bishop shall make available to the Pastors the names and telephone numbers of state, national and international evangelists.
- Each full-time Evangelist shall be given a copy of Benefits for Full-Time Evangelists.
- The Regional Board, with the approval of the Administrative Bishop, shall establish a program of financial assistance for Regional Evangelists. Areas of consideration for financial assistance shall include:
 - provision of housing or monthly allotment,
 - assistance at Christmas,
 - assistance for camp meeting,
 - assistance for General Assembly, and
 - assistance for other meetings, retreats, etc., if Evangelists are expected to be there.

- **SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY**

- Each local church shall develop a senior adult ministry using the resources of the department.
- Each local church, where possible, and each region shall develop a Prayerborne Division for retired ministers and senior adult laity according to the guidelines set up by the prayer commission.
- Our region shall promote and actively participate in the National Senior Adult Conventions and other senior adult activities.
- Each region shall conduct a Senior Adult Day annually and that, where possible it be scheduled at a time other than the national convention.
- Senior adult couples (ministerial and laity) and a senior adult single shall be chosen on local and Regional levels to coincide with the program sponsored by the general department of evangelism and home missions at each national convention.
- Each local church is encouraged to set aside the fourth Sunday of September as Senior Adult Day and make use of the materials available from the general department.

- **E. RETIRED MINISTERS**

A Christmas banquet shall be hosted in honor of all retired ministers and widows of ministers, and they be given an honorarium.

- **NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY**

- Native American Ministries shall be presented to the people through use of promotional materials available from the general department.

- 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.
- Each church is encouraged to recognize and participate in Native American Ministries Day the third Sunday in November each year by receiving a love offering for the Native American Ministries and sending that offering to the general department. These funds will be used solely for Native American Ministries.
- Each church, where possible, shall become a regular contributor to Native American Ministries.
- Due to the fact that the Heartland Region has a large population of Native Americans, in our region and each local church shall endeavor to develop a strategy to reach the Native American Harvest.

H. JAIL AND PRISON MINISTRY

- Each church is encouraged to establish a jail or prison ministry using guidelines available from Turning Point Ministries of the general department.
- Churches involved in jail and prison ministry shall report monthly to the Regional Director's office.
- The region shall promote literacy ministry using the brochure provided by the general department.
- Each church is encouraged to become involved in a local literacy center providing Christian volunteers to these existing facilities and that where possible this ministry be incorporated into the jail and prison ministry of the church or provide the foundation for beginning such a ministry.
- Each local church is encouraged to begin a Prison and Jail Ministry wherever possible.
- Volunteer prison workers are encouraged to attend the National Jail and Prison Conference, held in March of each year. Turning Point Ministries offers resource materials for prison workers.
- Each church is encouraged to recognize and participate in the
National Jail and Prison Awareness Sunday the 4th Sunday in February each year by receiving a love offering for the National Jail and Prison Ministry and sending it to the International Offices with your monthly clerk's report.

I. PLANT NEW CHURCHES

- 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.

- Church planting is the New Testament way of extending the gospel. Trace the expansion of the church through Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth, and you will see that the church planters led the way. We can scarcely feel that we are obeying God if we fail to plant churches and plant them intentionally and aggressively.
- Church planting develops new leadership. New churches open wide the doors of leadership and ministry challenges, and the entire body of Christ subsequently benefits.
- Church planting means denominational survival. One of the absolutely essential ingredients for reversing the decline in our own denomination is vigorously planting new churches.
- In church planting, the real battle is a spiritual battle; therefore, realizing we are in spiritual battle, we pledge to pray and fast and work toward planting new churches in the Heartland Region.
- That each District Overseer with the pastors on the district strive to start one new church biennially in an area on the district or support a regional project as presented by the USA Missions and the Administrative Bishop.
- Each district is encouraged to support new church projects with prayer, fellowship and finance.
- That we use different approaches to church planting in the Heartland Region and different methods of training church planters.
- That we set a Regional goal of organizing six new churches in this General Assembly period.

J. Strengthening Small Churches

We shall endeavor to use all available material from the general department to strengthen our small churches and that, where possible, assistance be given to small churches, under 100 in average attendance, in attending conferences and seminars relating to church growth.

K. New Members

- That each church set a goal of membership increase of at least 10 percent per year.
- That each local church be encouraged to participate in the Regional Membership Emphasis during the month of May and November of each year.
- That each pastor is encouraged to conduct local church membership classes during the church year and it is suggested that the following material be used:
 - Church Membership Brochure – Regional Office
 - You and Your Church – 1-800-553-8506
 - Added to the Church - 1-800-553-8506
 - New Believers Packet – 1-423-478-7287

L. Outreach Ministry

Each church is encouraged to incorporate outreach in their local ministry. This can come in many forms such as nursing homes, hospitals, street witnessing, etc.

VII. WORLD MISSIONS

- **Local Missions Committee**
- Each Pastor is asked to appoint a Local Missions Committee for his church. The chairperson will serve as the Local Missions representative. The Representative's name should be sent to World Missions. Information may be obtained from the Regional Missions Representative
- Selection: The local church Pastor shall appoint the Local Church Missions Committee.
- Duties and Responsibilities
 - Shall have primary responsibility for assisting the Pastor in establishing and maintaining a World Missions program in the church.
 - Shall distribute Save Our World magazine and other mission's publications.
 - Shall make a periodic report of missions activity within his church.
 - Shall maintain a missions bulletin board or interest center in the church using material and suggestions sent by the Regional Missions Representative, missionaries or World Missions.
 - Shall keep missions prayer requests before the church.
 - Work with the Pastor in emphasizing missions at least one Sunday each month.
 - Shall cooperate with the Sunday School, the Family Training Hour and other church department leaders to insure constant missions emphasis within their programs.
 - Shall perform any other missions-related task assigned by the Pastor.
- **World Missions Promotion**
- 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 (usually in December). 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
- Each church is encouraged to participate in the "Love the World Sunday" (Sunday before Valentine's Day in February each year). 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.
- Each church is encouraged to participate in the "Humanitarian Sunday" (first

Sunday of June each year). Support materials will be supplied by 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 available upon request.
- Each church is encouraged to set an annual World Missions goal of an amount equal to one month's average tithes.
- Each church is encouraged to pray for unreached people groups and where feasible to adopt one as a prayer focus. Also, pray regularly for missionaries and for those around the world who are suffering.
- Each state is encouraged to conduct a state or regional missions conference. The Mission Field Representative liaison can assist with the arrangements.
- Short-term missionary trips should be encouraged to inform and inspire persons about World Missions.
- **Recognition for World Missions Contributions**
- Recognition shall be given to churches that excel in World Missions contributions by category on a per capita basis, exclusive of mission contributions through other departments.
- Recognition shall be given to Pastors and District Overseers who excel in the promotion of the World Missions program. The Regional World Missions Board shall be responsible for making the awards.
- The Administrative Bishop and the Regional Council shall approve the budget.

VIII. **WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**

- **Director**
- The office of Church of God Director of Women's Discipleship [at the state level] shall be filled by the wife of the Administrative Bishop.
- The purpose of this office shall be to provide leadership for the Women's Ministries [at the state level] in cooperation with the International Division of Adult Discipleship program.

B. Girls Club Coordinator

The office of Church of God Girls Club Coordinator [at the state level] shall be filled by the wife of the Youth Discipleship Director.

- **Regional Women's Ministries Board**
- The Regional Women's Discipleship Board and all committees, composed varying numbers according to need, shall be appointed by the State Director and approved by the Administrative Bishop.
- All members are responsible to the Regional Director and Administrative Bishop for their performance. Each member should acquaint herself with the policies,

programs, and ministries of the International Women's Discipleship Division. Each member appointed to the Women's Discipleship Board is to serve a term of two years and will be eligible to be re-appointed to a second term of two years. No person is eligible to serve more than two consecutive terms.

D. District Women's Discipleship President

The wife of the District Overseer shall serve as the District Women's Discipleship President who will assist in the promotion and development of the Women's Discipleship on the district. In the event the District Overseer's wife is unable to serve, the District Overseer should make recommendations to the Administrative Bishop for a replacement.

- **Local Church Women's Ministries**

- Each church shall seek to provide a program designed to unite and nurture women in the faith and the work of the Lord, using the Church of God Women's Ministries Resource Manual as an organizational guide.
- That the women of each church be encouraged to equip themselves for ministry by visiting the Church of God Women's Ministries website at www.womensministries.cc, by attending state and national Church of God women's retreats and conferences, and by availing themselves of appropriate educational opportunities, books, and materials.

- **Prayer Emphasis**

Each local Women's Ministries group shall encourage women to commit to a prayer covenant, Bible study and family and/or private devotion.

- **Ministry to Young Ladies and Girls**

- Each local Women's Discipleship group shall participate in evangelism, personal and spiritual growth and leadership developing activities.
- Whereas, the teaching training and nurturing of our girls and young ladies (According to Titus 2:3-5) in the churches and communities are a vital importance, that we adopt, stress and encourage every church to organize a Little Sweethearts Club for girls ages 2-5, a Bluebelle Club for girls Grade 1-3, a Joy Belle Club for grades 4-6 and a YLM Club for grades 7-12.

- **World Missions**

Each local church shall support the efforts of our International Discipleship Division to translate and publish the Women's Discipleship material and sponsor the Women's Discipleship mission thrust for the yearly WWAM (Women with a Mission) Project.

- **Home for Children**

The ladies of each church shall support the Church of God Home for Children by devising a system for collection of soup labels and designated box tops, climaxing their effort on Mother's Day. Each lady is encouraged to give at least \$5 per quarter.

- **Home Missions (“Heartland Harvester” Program)**

Each local church shall be given the privilege to support the “Heartland Harvester” program of the region. Monies are to be used here in the Heartland Region. Award to be given on awards day to the largest amount given from one Women’s Discipleship. All monies need to reach the Regional Office by May 5th.

- **Silver Belles**

Each local Women’s Ministries group is encouraged to participate in evangelism to senior adult women by promoting and establishing the Silver Belles Club to encourage spiritual growth and personal development as well as mentoring the younger women.

- **Freda Elliott Recognition Award**

This award will be presented annually to a lady recommended by the local church Women's Discipleship for outstanding service to the Women's Discipleship Program during the present church year. A form will be sent to each local church prior to the Annual Women's Retreat. This form must be completed, listing the services rendered to the local church Women's Discipleship, thus qualifying the individual selected. Once the form is completed it must be submitted to the Regional Director. The Regional Women's Discipleship Board will determine the recipient of the award from the forms submitted. The recipient will be given a scholarship to the Women's Retreat for the year as well as being presented an award of recognition at the retreat.

IX. REGIONAL MUSIC COMMITTEE

Refer to Minutes/follow GA Minutes with the addition of the following:

- **Selection Procedure**
- That each state/region have a State/Regional Music Committee
- That the committee and committee chairperson be appointed biennially by Regional Overseer.
- The committee consist of no less than three (3) members, and should consist of Ministers, Ministers of Music and qualified laymen. That the committee meet as

- often as the Regional Overseer and the chairperson deem necessary.
- That the Regional Youth and Discipleship Director serve as liaison to the Regional Music Committee.

- **Duties and Responsibilities**

- To promote the ministry of music in the Heartland Region.
- To implement and supervise, under the direction of the Regional Overseer and the Regional Youth and Discipleship Director, the musical programs promoted by the National Music Committee.
- To lead and coordinate the music for the worship services of the Regional Prayer Conference.
- To lead and coordinate the music for the worship services of the Regional Camp Meeting as well as other Regional events as called upon by the Administrative Bishop.
- To assist local churches in establishing and improving their musical programs.
- To assist in the placement of church musicians when called upon.
- To periodically study the musical needs and interests of the churches in the state.