

Minutes of the
District Council
Assemblies of God
Northern California & Nevada District Council, Inc.
May 1 – 2, 2023

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023

Morning / Church Ministries Brunch (Grace Trinity Church, Sacramento, CA)

The Church Ministries Department, under the leadership of Charla Blair, sponsored a brunch at Grace Trinity Church in Sacramento at 10:00 a.m. There were over 100 pastors, workers, and spouses in attendance. The top churches in BGMC, Speed the Light, and Light for the Lost giving in 2022, were recognized.

Morning / Women's Ministries Brunch (Destiny Church, Rocklin, CA)

The Women's Ministries brunch began at 11:00 a.m. with prayer and lunch. Women's Ministries Director Debbie Heden welcomed the over 200 in attendance.

Debbie announced that \$150,012.34 had been raised for the 2022-23 projects. She introduced the project's recipients, and each expressed sincere appreciation for the funds raised:

- SUM Scholarships - \$20,000
- Chi Alpha Davis Christian Fellowship - \$40,000
- A Taste of Home Abroad (Worldwide) - \$30,000
- Light the Way, Casa Di Refugio - \$60,012.34

The following received the top giving awards:

- Fallon, NV – Christian Life Center, Pastor Jimmy Myers (General Council) - \$20,000
- Lovelock, NV – New Life Fellowship, Pastor Verna Vetter (District Affiliated) - \$3,000

A video presentation of the 2023-24 projects was presented. Funds will be given to the following:

- A Taste of Home Abroad
- La Facultad de Teologia (Latin America & the Caribbean)
- SUM Scholarships
- Instituto Alcance (Costa Rica)

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023

TRINITY LIFE CENTER

SACRAMENTO, CA

The One-Hundredth and Fifth Annual District Council was convened at Trinity Life Center, Sacramento, California. The theme for the Council was *Empowered*.

WORSHIP – The NCN Worship Team, representing several churches under the direction of District Music Directors Jon Lugo and Ben Brown, opened the session.

Superintendent's State of the District Address

Each year, during the Superintendent's State of the District Address, District Superintendent Bret Allen begins by pointing out the diversity of geography, community sizes, approaches to ministry, cultural backgrounds, languages spoken, focuses of ministry emphases, and worship styles. All this diversity represents great strength in the District – out of diversity comes strength when unified in spirit, purpose, and mission. The unique nature of this District is two states, 61 counties, and hundreds of represented cities, towns, and communities provide the perfect setting and backdrop for the reality of this District Council's pillars – the priorities – of conduct and relationship. With our

Unity, the way we Honor one another, and the commitment each community deserves, the Assemblies of God church be a church of impact.

"I pray that they will all be one, just as you and I are one – as you are in me, Father, and I am in you. And may they be in us so that the world will believe you sent me." (John 17:21, LB)

UNITY AWARDS – Unity holds high Kingdom value. Unity is what Jesus prayed for us so that the world would know Him. Unity and our connection to God is a precursor to evangelism – that the world will know. The following were presented with Unity Awards:

- Andrew Mason (Las Vegas, NV – International Church Las Vegas)
Upon his election, Andrew Mason connected with the Sectional Presbyter and stated his desire to be involved. He also called Church Ministries Director Char Blair and offered to assist with the summer camp for the youth. Andrew has consistently practiced relationship in all the places he has served. It is wonderful to see that he has continued this emphasis in a new position as senior pastor.
- Will & Jennifer Klier (Davis, CA – Chi Alpha)
Will and Jennifer have served as the Director of Chi Alpha Davis for over twenty years. In those twenty-plus years, they have averaged 100 students actively involved in their weekly worship services, Bible studies, and discipleship groups. Will has also served as the UCD football chaplain for ten years. They have ministered to well over 2,000 students at UC Davis through Chi Alpha. They have had sixty-four UCD alumni give a year or more on the mission field locally and abroad, with forty-six serving as Missionary Associates or account holders with the Assemblies of God. An additional seven have served as AG U.S. missionaries alongside them at UC Davis. That is seventy-one total in missions-related work connected with what God has done through Chi Alpha at UCD. And over 500 UC Davis students have served on short-term spring/summer mission trips.

HONOR – We have adopted a stance of Honor in the life of our District. Honor is the bedrock of relationships. Ministry moves at the pace of relationships. Therefore, our ministries are all impacted by how we handle opportunities to honor another. We strive in this area of Honor. The following were presented with Honor Awards:

- Ken Frazier (Burney, CA – Word of Life)
Ken Frazier has been the senior pastor at Word of Life in Burney, California, for the last twenty-two years. He has also taken over, revitalized, and served as the Parent Church for the churches in McCloud, Mt. Shasta, Yreka, and Dunsmuir.
- Eric Daniel (Napa, CA – Hillside)
Eric Daniel recently celebrated twenty years at Hillside in Napa, California. The church just celebrated its 100th anniversary. Eric has assisted with revitalizing churches in Dixon, St. Helena, Rio Vista, Vacaville, and Winters.

COMMUNITY CHURCH – Not a large or small church. Not rural or urban. Not even General Council or District Affiliated. We have begun qualifying churches as a community church that:

1. Recognizes that the church has somebody to reach.
2. Looks like the community - Death comes when the community changes and the church still looks and acts the same. What impact are you making in that community?
3. Can move and respond quickly in response to needs in the community.
4. Can offer a personal and loving touch to their community.
5. Willingness to partner with other Community Churches.

The following were presented with Community Awards:

- Brenda Sandquist (Reno, Nevada)
In 2012, Brenda encountered a woman who had several areas where she was missing hair about the size of her fist, and the hair salon was putting in hair extensions to cover

those bald spots. Brenda discovered this was from rough episodes at a local brothel. At that moment, God opened her eyes to see these women differently. The fact that there is legal prostitution in Nevada only fuels the myth that these women like what they do and get what they deserve.

Xquisite began with that one encounter outside the box of conventional ministry and has grown to be a recognized resource for survivors of sex trafficking, sexual assault, and family violence in Nevada. Since then, Xquisite has served well over 200 survivors and discovered that most survivors have had a lifetime of exploitation and violence.

As a result of Brenda's willingness to serve, she has been invited to be a voting member of the state's Child Sexual Exploitation Coalition (CSEC) and a voting member of the Nevada Human Trafficking Coalition. Nominated to and graduated from the FBI Citizen Academy.

Brenda opened the doors to the Freedom Center and Drop-In Center one year ago, in April 2022, and they have served 72 new clients since then. The center is nearly at capacity and looking to expand soon. They are just getting started.

- Evan Prosser (San Francisco, CA)
Pastor Evan graduated from Harvard University and accepted Christ at a sawmill in Nevada County. His wife, April, graduated from Radcliff University, the lady's school for Harvard University back then (now part of Harvard). April was saved at the House of Prayer in Grass Valley, California. They were married in 1963, and on June 14, 2023, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

In 1994, they came to San Francisco, where they started their homeless ministry on a school bus in the streets. For seven years, they stayed on that school bus as they wanted to see what was going on and how people were living.

Now, they have a house they were given for the ministry called "Grace Healing Home." They have ten men living there, and they are discipling. These men learn to help with the ministry, cooking, cleaning, and hand help with laundry for all. They prepare all meals from this house and deliver to many around the city at different times throughout the week. The house is always open for people coming in off the street to rest, clean up, and eat. Then they go back out. There is a constant rotation of people who need a safe place to land.

Since 1994, Pastor Evan has been teaching Bible School, first for Glad Tidings Church and now for the Urbane Bible Training Center. He's been the director for ten years and truly loved his weekly time with students preparing them for the ministry.

The Homeless Church supports four home missionaries and five foreign missionaries. They only take offerings during their Sunday morning services, which go to missions. The Lord told them never to ask for money and that He would always take care of them, and God has always been faithful.

Legacy Award – Stan & Julie Wagner

Stan and Julie Wagner spent most of their ministry career pastoring rural Assemblies of God churches, receiving little or no pay. They pastored – Lewiston, Berry Creek, Weaverville, Hayfork, Loomis, and Stirling City, each with under 7,000 inhabitants. In some locales, no other church existed. However, this isn't a story about how a now-retired pastor couple, married for 58 years, are coping with poverty. Stan and Julie Wagner are both 80, but they aren't retired. They still travel

four times a year to foreign lands overseeing Northern California-Nevada District short-term mission teams on building projects connected with Assemblies of God World Missions.

Overall, the Wagner's have been in foreign lands more than 190 times after recruiting teams from around the U.S. The mission trips usually last ten days to two weeks, including 18 journeys to Fiji to construct a Bible school. "We continue taking trips until the project is done," Julie says.

Five years ago, Stan and David (their son) formed a District-affiliated nonprofit, Seed One Foundation, that has raised over \$3 million for projects. David died on October 3rd at 55, but the ministry will continue under his sacrificial parents. One of the Mission Villa homes has been named in honor of their great legacy.

Condition of the District Churches

Last year, Superintendent Bret Allen gave the following statistics. Of the 217 churches that submitted the 2021 ACMR report, the following information was gathered:

- 65 reported no salvation.
- 97 reported no baptisms.
- 112 reported no baptisms in the Holy Spirit.
- In addition, over 70% of our churches are currently plateaued or in decline.

This year, there was a wonderful increase in salvations, water baptisms, and Holy Spirit baptisms. In many of our churches, there was a dramatic increase in these areas:

Salvation:

- Pleasant Hill, CA – Oak Park Christian Center – 30 decisions in 2021; 131 in 2022
- Yerington, NV – Mason Valley AG – 9 decisions in 2021; 25 in 2022
- Milpitas, CA – Calvary Assembly of God – 0 decisions in 2021; 15 in 2022

Water Baptisms

- Los Banos, CA – New Beginnings Church – 12 in 2021; 40 in 2022
- Fernley, NV – Crosswinds Assembly of God – 1 in 2021; 17 in 2023
- Corning, CA – New Life Assembly – 3 in 2021; 15 in 2022

Holy Spirit Baptisms

- Roseville, CA – Harvest Community Church – 0 in 2021; 20 in 2022
- Waterford, CA – Assembly of God – 0 in 2021; 8 in 2022
- Hollister, CA – Sunnyslope Christian Center – 5 in 2021; 36 in 2022

That means we have the ability to say no to zero.

- No to zero salvations
- No to zero baptisms
- No to zero Holy Spirit baptisms

We must say "no to zero," increase of ministers in the pipeline!

We must say "no to zero" retirement savings!

We must say "no to zero" succession plan!

Praise the Lord for those increases in these key areas!

In addition, we are experiencing an absolute move of God's Spirit in our churches. Church after church is reporting revival in their congregations. Pastors are hosting events where congregations can linger in God's presence. The outpouring that is resulting District-wide.

As the Spirit of God moves on us and in this District – the evidence is seen in the characteristics of God being viewed in His people and His church.

- ✓ Reconciliation
- ✓ Forgiveness
- ✓ Fellowship
- ✓ Love of lost people
- ✓ Sacrifice of one for another

As the empowerment of God becomes a reality in the life of this District, we will see a new wave of unique and fresh ministries and ministry expressions. As the Spirit of God moves on congregations, they will become “unique” – unique because they are in settings, communities, and points of need – that are unique.

The word “unique” means “being the only one of its kind, unlike anything else.” There are not degrees of uniqueness. Things can not be sort of unique, very unique, partially unique. Unique is exactly that – unique, being the only one of its kind, unlike anything else.

We are in a new season. 2023 has brought an absolutely amazing move of God, from the revivals on college campuses to the revivals breaking forth in local churches. Superintendent Allen has waited his whole life for this time. The move of God is not located in a single location that people are running to; it is across the country, the world, and our District.

For all his life, he has heard about revivals of old – He has sung the songs, heard the sermons, read the scriptures, and prayed the prayers.

*“But mark this: There will be terrible times **in the last days**. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God – having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.”* (2 Timothy 3:1-5)

*“**In the last days**, God says, **I will pour out my Spirit on all people**. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.”* (Acts 2:17, NIV)

There are two pictures of the last days:

1. All the trouble, difficulties, and sinful actions of people.
2. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Between those two pictures is the guarantee of God – I will!

We get to choose which one we will focus on and give our attention to. To focus on the issues and the problems of the day is a choice, but the phrase only provides a context of time; there is something greater, bigger, and more significant to focus on – God is pouring out his Spirit. The Holy Spirit is moving in our nation, state, and region, and we get to be a part of it!

In the last days – We are there – This is the Time!

The day of conferences, where we all travel to a single place to learn how to “do” ministry and then return home and try to implant and carbon copy what we have seen and heard, those days are destined to fade in their significance. As men and women of God become Spirit-led, empowered by God, the answers to effective ministry in a community will be seen.

In the 1940s and 1950s, all Assemblies of God churches looked virtually the same. Structures were relatively the same; we sang from the same songbook and preached similar sermons, and ministries were only minor in their variance. When he grew up in the 1970s, every AG church they visited looked and sounded the same. Superintendent James Bradd commented, “In the 1950s, you could

travel from the East Coast to the West Coast, stopping at a different church in a different state each week, and we could pick up where we left off last week.”

It needed to be that way. It was that way because we found comfort and security in our uniformity, as much as the church world had a suspicious view of Pentecostals, including the Assemblies of God. But today, Pentecostal ministry, music, and preachers are sought out, valued, and admired. Thankfully, our need to be the same has diminished, and we find ourselves in a season where unique expression is encouraged and needed. We have a variety of micro-climates at work inside the boundaries of NCN. The need for unique ministry in unique settings is a must. The empowerment of God is the catalyst, the source, of our ability to minister uniquely.

The nature of God is best seen in the traits of God where He creates – uniqueness. *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”* (Ephesians 2:10). The idea is one of a kind work of art. God is not stamping out Chevys. He is purposefully designing uniqueness. The more Spirit-controlled, Spirit-driven, and Spirit-centric our District becomes, the more unique manifestations of God in our churches, ministries, and ministers will become a reality.

The Assemblies of God is custom-made for this set of realities. Our structure, governance, and beliefs have created a reality that our tent stakes are set so wide that we have room for all kinds of unique expressions of ministries. Homeless Church to ministries that provide ministry to the world's high-tech capital. We have room for all of it. We have room for us to be accepting of the expressions of ministries that God will birth in us. We have room for unique ministry accompanied by an expectation that none will criticize or condemn those who don't do ministry the way they do. May the empowerment of God destroy comparison thinking and demands placed on one another. Let's adopt a stance of celebration for others and love that covers differences in ministry expression and approach.

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

This sentence doesn't stop at power; there is an emphasis at work within us. It goes on to emphasize that empowerment is God's ability. God's immeasurable more. God's ability to do more than we ask, than we imagine. Work done through us – empowered by Him.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” (Ephesians 2:8-10, NIV84)

Saved by grace through faith, not by works, but created to do good works that were prepared in advance for us to accomplish. God empowers us to do what in ourselves we cannot do. He empowers us with the expectation that fruit will result. God already readily admits in His Word that unless we are empowered by Him, through Him, in Him – we cannot produce fruit of eternal consequence.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.” (John 15:5-8, NIV84)

Our familiarity with this passage has led to us focusing on one part and minimizing other parts of the passage. While we focus on “remaining in Him,” “ask whatever you wish,” “it will be done for

you,” there are two other key concepts in this passage: *“If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.”* There is accountability for what we have been given – that to which we were called and to whom we have been entrusted.

One day, I will stand before God and give an account of how I used the opportunities trusted to me, for the messages I preached, for the ones I failed to preach. I will not give an account for you, but I will give an account for how I treated you. I will stand before God – so will you.

“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”

God receives glory when we bear much fruit; the expectation is fruit, and the expectation is much fruit. In your own power? No!!! IF we remain in Him if we are empowered by Him. This is then defined as discipleship. Truly there is God’s part; there is our part, never worry about God’s faithfulness. When we allow God to empower us, we are fruitful. We bear much fruit; God is glorified because I have been faithful as a disciple.

The image of a grapevine is well-known to us, who are preachers. But the value of a grapevine is not in the wood; it is measured only in the fruit it bears. Grape wood, vines with no fruit, according to Ezekiel 15:1-5, is clearly stated: *“The word of the LORD came to me: ‘Son of man, how is the wood of a vine better than that of a branch on any of the trees in the forest? Is wood ever taken from it to make anything useful? Do they make pegs from it to hang things on? And after it is thrown on the fire as fuel and the fire burns both ends and chars the middle, is it then useful for anything? If it was not useful for anything when it was whole, how much less can it be made into something useful when the fire has burned it, and it is charred?’”*

God asked Ezekiel to compare the wood of the grapevine to the wood of the trees of the forest. If a grapevine has grapes on it, then there is an obvious use for the vine. Yet if there is no fruit, then the value of the wood drops radically. This is the season of fruitfulness—the season of empowerment.

Last year, District Superintendent Bret Allen reported that the bench was thin due to the social phenomenon in California. This social phenomenon was answered by ministers stepping up and filling positions vacated. He recognized young ministers who have stepped into their first pastorate:

- Boulder City – Kevin Doyle
- Truckee – David Gregory
- Battle Mountain, NV – Zach Beardsley
- Ely, NV – Jarod Elrod

Many are quitting and quitting early. Quitting too soon.

He has spoken to several leaders, including some who have met with the Lilly Foundation, and they are all reporting a new trend. Young ministers are quitting senior pastor positions and seeking staff and campus pastor positions. Senior pastors are stepping back, and young ministers refuse to step up. Friends, that is a troubling trend. Friends, every generation of leadership bears its cross. This time is important. It is no less or no more difficult than those who have led before us.

Still, others are quitting quietly; the resignation is not formal, and some are opting to withdraw from tasks and responsibilities of the ministry, quietly fulfilling primary responsibilities but less willing to risk or perform what may be deemed required duties of the ministry. At first blush, this may not seem to be problematic. However, passionless leadership is a problem for those in our communities who have no relationship with Jesus, whose eternities are in the balance. It’s been tough. It’s been discouraging for many. The challenges have outweighed the victories. But it’s the wrong time to quit. This is the day. This is the time. This is your time!

For years we discussed the life of this District and the issue of the average age of our ministers. Increased age was only seen as a problem and a liability. But aging ministers are not the problem:

- Harley Allen (88) teaches every weekend.
- Chip Worthington (77) has been at his church for 45 years.
- Ernie Spears (78) has been at his church for 52 years and recently conducted 8 funerals, 7 of which are not part of his church.
- Rudy Greko (88) has his son drive him for 1 hour to lead worship, and then Rudy preaches to this growing church in Overton, Nevada.
- Leo Duncan (94) just retired.

In a recent Executive Presbytery meeting, one member who has been involved in Presbytery leadership for 51 years said, "You just don't stop."

Friends, let's not worry about the average age of our ministers. We need every minister we have. Instead, let's celebrate the tenacity, strength, vitality, and tough refusal to quit. Let's not question age; let's immolate their strength! Regardless of age or gender, or nationality, Superintendent Allen stated, "I praise God for everyone one of you who stand strong on the front lines of the District."

Let's celebrate men and women still serving with vigor and commitment in their 70's, 80's, and 90's.

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy." (Acts 2:17, NIV)

These are those days. Are you ready?

Praise God. He has, He is, and He will empower us for the outstanding days just ahead of us.

U40 Dinner

A dinner was held for ministers and those who feel called to ministry under the age of 40. Over 125 were in attendance. Dinner was served, followed by a Q&A with the three Executive Officers hosted by District Credentialing Director Darryn Fisher.

Evening Service

Assistant District Superintendent Samuel Huddleston introduced the Teen Challenge Choir with over 150 members who opened the service with songs and testimonies. The NCN Worship Team, under the direction of District Music Director Jon Lugo and Ben Brown, opened the service in worship.

OFFERING – Return Fare for Foreign Missions

Executive Presbyter Greg Wendschlag shared that world missionaries itinerate in local churches and must raise a budget to sustain them while they are overseas. The District raises funds to assist them with the costs involved in getting these missionaries back to the foreign mission field. He prayed over the offering, followed by a time of worship.

SPEAKER – Gene Roncone, Rocky Mountain Ministry Network Superintendent

District Secretary-Treasurer, Jay Herndon introduced Gene Roncone, former NCN District Church Development & Education Director and now Rocky Mountain Ministry Network District Superintendent.

Spirit-Driven Relevance (Acts 11:25-30)

The pressure for pastors to be relevant today is atmospheric. What is our most relevant red-hot resource today in ministry? How can the Holy Spirit empower us to be relevant when and where we are in ministry?

“Through the spirit,” three words found in Acts 11:28. The Holy Spirit had warned the church about what culture would need one year later, and the church listened. We need to reach back to our spiritual ancestors and grab something from their DNA because those three words, through the spirit, made them relevant. This passage shows us a red-hot relevance that came through the Spirit of the Living God.

Four reasons why we need the Holy Spirit to speak to us:

1. Challenges are overwhelming (Acts 11:28). This was a severe famine, and it was spreading. The problem was growing. We live in a time when we will face challenges requiring prophetic relevance. We need the Holy Spirit to speak to us.
2. Needs are unpredictable (Acts 11:28). “The Spirit predicted.” The Holy Spirit spoke to what was going to happen. The Spirit still speaks to us today and gives insight into what is happening and what you should do.
3. Revelation demands application (Acts 11:29). They took the prophetic word and acted upon it. They didn’t get out in front of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit moved, and then they mobilized. The prophetic words that God gives us require us to act upon them. The word that God gives us is not just for now.
4. Strategy is powerless (Acts 11:28-29). Each one took ownership of this prophecy. The Holy Spirit told them first, and they backfilled with the strategy. Strategy is powerless in and of itself. We have lost the skillset to lean into the Spirit and lean into our own strength.

When the famine came, the church was ready because they listened to the voice of the Spirit. The footprint the NCN District leaves is dependent upon the Spirit of God. We are not smart, gifted, or resourced enough to match the culture. Our culture is driven by a dark anointing that our natural giftings are not matched for. How hungry are you tonight for the Spirit’s voice of relevance in your ministry? The altars were opened for those ready to leave their strengths and talents behind and hungry and ready to lean into the Holy Spirit as the voice of relevance in their ministry.

TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023

TRINITY LIFE CENTER SACRAMENTO, CA

Morning / Business Session

WORSHIP – The NCN Worship Team, representing several churches under the direction of District Music Director Jon Lugo and Ben Brown, opened the session.

Superintendent Bret Allen called the business session to order at 8:50 a.m. Host Pastor Abe Daniel opened the session in prayer.

Introductions – Superintendent Bret Allen made the following introductions: Assistant District Superintendent Samuel Huddleston, District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon, Recording Secretary Leanna Sheley, Assistant Recording Secretary Bridget Gallup, Parliamentary Committee Robert T Schlipp (Chair), Brandon Philpott, and Abby Sterling, Roster Committee Chair Tim Gavigan, Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss, Resolutions Committee Chair Kim Leatherman, American Sign Language Interpreters – Ramona Crossley and Sandy Nelson, District Council Coordinators Bridget Gallup, and the Trinity Life Center Staff.

Welcome – Superintendent Bret Allen welcomed the former Executive Officers and Department Directors who were in attendance.

Voting Constituency – District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon provided a PowerPoint presentation of the voting constituency as defined in the Constitution, Article Ten and Bylaws, Article Two.

Roster Report #1 – Roster Committee Chair Tim Gavigan presented the following report for the Roster Committee as of 8:30 am, May 2, 2023:

Ordained Ministers.....	371
Licensed Ministers.....	90
Certified Ministers.....	37
Non-Credentialed Senior Pastors	0
Delegates.....	72
TOTAL VOTING CONSTITUENCY.....	570
Visitors.....	217
TOTAL REGISTERED	787

Welcome – Superintendent Bret Allen welcomed the 24 Called Students and 29 SUM, Pathway, and Berean students who registered and were included in the visitor registration numbers.

Agenda and Working Committees – A MOTION PREVAILED to adopt the agenda and Working Committees as published on the website at www.ncndc.org.

Standing Rules of Order – A MOTION was made to adopt the following Standing Rules of Order for the business deliberations at this District Council. *1. The chair may call for resolutions and agenda items out of order at the chair’s discretion. 2. That we limit the amount of time a speaker may speak to a pending question to three minutes. 3. That we limit the number of times a speaker may speak to a pending question to two times. 4. That we ask those who move to amend a motion to provide a written copy of their amendment to the chairman by hand or via the chat feature. 5. Voice votes or “common consent” will be allowed for procedural and courtesy motions such as motions to Recess, Adjourn, Receive Reports, Express Appreciation, Second a Motion, etc.*

MOTION PREVAILED to adopt the Standing Rules of Order.

Remote Meeting Special Instructions – The District Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the following: If you want to obtain the floor:

1. Using the Q&A box, send a question to the Chair and state your purpose and your name.
2. The Chair will enable your microphone and camera. Please use care to avoid echo and feedback. Please wait to be introduced before speaking.
3. When speaking, state your name and city for the record.

Typical purposes include: point of order, speak for, speak against, ask a question, make a main motion, second motion, incidental motion, and motion to amend. Please keep your chat message short.

Elections – District Superintendent Bret Allen stated that the first Electoral Ballot was cast Monday afternoon and called for the Teller’s Report.

District Assistant Superintendent

The Chair called for the Teller’s Report for Electoral Ballot #1 for District Assistant Superintendent. Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the results of Electoral Ballot #1 for District Assistant Superintendent:

Total Votes Cast	300
Needed to Elect	220
Samuel Huddleston received	323

The Chair, upon being apprised that Samuel Huddleston received sufficient votes to be elected, declared Samuel Huddleston re-elected to serve a four-year term as District Assistant Superintendent.

Executive Presbyter Elections

The Chair reported that the Sectional Tour was conducted in February for Regions 1, 3, 5, and 7. During these meetings, elections were conducted for the office of the District and Executive Presbyter. District Bylaws, Article 3, Section 2 states that if a section in the region nominates the same individual, the chair may declare an election without further voting by the District Council. The sections from the following regions have nominated the same individual for the office of Executive Presbyter for its Region, and; therefore, the Chair declared the following as re-elected to serve a two-year term to the office of Executive Presbyter.

- Region 1 – David Childers
- Region 3 – Greg Wendschlag
- Region 5 – Andrew Huson

Executive Presbyter, Region 7

The Chair reported that Region 7 had two names that were nominated among its sections. Therefore, those names were presented on Monday for election in accordance with the Bylaws. The Chair called for Electoral Ballot #1 for Executive Presbyter, Region 6. Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the following results:

<u>Electoral Ballot #1</u>	
Total Votes Cast	321
Needed to Elect	214
Eric Daniel received	237
Jim Heden received	84

The Chair, upon being apprised that Eric Daniel received sufficient votes to be elected, declared Eric Daniel re-elected to serve the two-year term as Executive Presbyter – Region 7.

Executive Intercultural Presbyter At-Large

The Chair called for the Teller’s Report for Electoral Ballot #1 for Executive Intercultural Presbyter. Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the following results:

<u>Electoral Ballot #1</u>	
Total Votes Cast	317
Needed to Elect	212
Joe Taybron received	312

The Chair, upon being apprised that Joe Taybron received sufficient votes to be elected, declared Joe Taybron as elected to the two-year term as Intercultural Executive Presbyter.

District Intercultural Presbyter At-Large [A]

The Chair called for the Teller’s Report for Electoral Ballot #1 for District Intercultural Presbyter [A]. Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the following results:

Electoral Ballot #1

Total Votes Cast	318
Needed to Elect	212
Fautua Fautua received	311

The Chair, upon being apprised that Fautua Fautua received sufficient votes to be elected, declared Fautua Fautua as re-elected to the two-year term as Intercultural District Presbyter.

District Intercultural Presbyter At-Large [B]

The Chair called for the Teller's Report for Electoral Ballot #1 for District Intercultural Presbyter [B]. Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the following results:

<u>Electoral Ballot #1</u>	
Total Votes Cast	318
Needed to Elect	212
Eremasi Vabasi received	311

The Chair, upon being apprised that Eremasi Vabasi received sufficient votes to be elected, declared Eremasi Vabasi as re-elected to the two-year term as Intercultural District Presbyter.

General Council, Female Executive Presbyter, District Nominee

The Chair called for the Teller's report for Electoral Ballot #1 for General Council, Female Executive Presbyter, District Nominee. Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the following results:

<u>Electoral Ballot #1</u>	
Total Votes Cast	325
Needed to Elect	164
Marcia Bethke received	136
Teri Herndon received	111
Cindy Johnson received	78

<u>Electoral Ballot #2</u>	
Total Votes Cast	321
Needed to Elect	214
Marcia Bethke received	121
Teri Herndon received	152
Cindy Johnson received	48

<u>Electoral Ballot #3</u>	
Total Votes Cast	321
Needed to Elect	214
Marcia Bethke received	81
Teri Herndon received	218
Cindy Johnson received	22

The Chair, upon being apprised that Teri Herndon received sufficient votes to be elected, declared Teri Herndon as nominated to be the District Nominee for the office of General Council, Female Executive Presbyter.

Honorary Executive Presbyter, George Russell

The Chair called for the Teller's Report for Electoral Ballot #1 for Honorary Executive Presbyter George Russell. Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the following results:

<u>Electoral Ballot #1</u>	
Total Votes Cast	324
Needed to Elect	163

Will Nelken received319

The Chair, upon being apprised that George Russell received sufficient votes to be elected, declared George Russell as elected to the office of Honorary Executive Presbyterian.

Honorary Executive Presbyterian, Will Nelken

The Chair called for the Teller’s Report for Electoral Ballot #1 for Honorary Executive Presbyterian Will Nelken. Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the following results:

<u>Electoral Ballot #1</u>	
Total Votes Cast	324
Needed to Elect	163
Will Nelken received	317

The Chair, upon being apprised that Will Nelken received sufficient votes to be elected, declared Will Nelken as elected to the office of Honorary Executive Presbyterian.

Reports – The Annual Report was published on the District Council website at ncndc.org on March 15, 2023.

Superintendent’s Report – The Chair was turned over to Assistant District Superintendent Samuel Huddleston, who expressed his appreciation to Superintendent Bret Allen for his State of the District Address given on Monday afternoon. A MOTION PREVAILED to express appreciation to the District Superintendent for his report.

Assistant Superintendent’s Report – The Chair invited Assistant District Superintendent Samuel Huddleston to present his report. A MOTION PREVAILED to express appreciation to the Assistant District Superintendent for his report.

Secretary-Treasurer’s Report – The Chair invited District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon to give his report.

Secretary’s Report

Ministerial Roster – In 2022, the District added 54 ministers and removed 62 for a net loss of 20. The most significant decrease resulted from ministers: dying (net loss of 29).

Church Report – In 2022, the District added 15 new churches and removed 17 for a net loss of 2. The current number is 452.

Treasurer’s Report

The District finished the year in the black financially.

Ministerial tithes =	\$2,346,839
One Fund Income =	\$631,563

A small decline in both ministerial tithe and church income contributions.

Net-Results	
Net General Admin =	\$20,227
Net Ministries =	\$5,868
Total Operations =	\$26,095

Benevolence Funds – In 2022, the District distributed \$119,613 to assist churches and ministers with benevolence, counseling, disaster relief, mission villa repairs, and small loans.

Insurance Update

The Secretary-Treasurer is responsible to “supervise the development of comprehensive insurance programs for churches and ministers.” Meg McComb Insurance is the District’s endorsed agent. She has negotiated a wide variety of insurance options that ministers may choose. (All voluntary.) – Dental, Vision, Life, Home, and Auto. Open enrollment for MetLife (Dental, Vision) is now through June 1st. The District is not allowed to offer group Medical Insurance options.

Scholarship Initiatives

5. The Under 30 Education Assistance Program reimburses young ministers for their ministerial education. Funds are provided by Senior Retired Ministers. We assisted 17 young ministers in 2022 with \$9,800 to pay for their ministry education.
6. *Bethany Legacy Scholarship* – The Presbytery has approved scholarship policies and a scholarship committee. For AG students studying at AG colleges with regional or ABHE accreditation. Approved majors: Ministry, Music, Missions, & Education. In 2022, we awarded six students a total of \$12,500.

First Time Senior Pastor Cohort

We have approximately a dozen open churches (District Affiliated and General Council). It is time for some of our staff pastors to step up and become a senior pastor. But you don’t have to do it alone! We now have a “First Time Senior Pastor Cohort” to coach new Senior Pastors through the first six months of their appointment.

He closed his report by expressing his appreciation to the District Council for allowing him to serve as District Secretary-Treasurer for the past seventeen years. He also expressed appreciation for God, his wife, Teri, and his fellow officers.

A MOTION PREVAILED to receive the reports.

CPA Financial Audit/Review

The District Secretary-Treasurer invited Paul Straub, a certified public accountant with Devant, who provided a financial review that was distributed in a draft form. Paul reviewed his report. A MOTION PREVAILED to receive the financial review.

The District Secretary-Treasurer explained that the Wall Street Journal has reported more than 300,000 auditors have left their jobs in the past two years, a 17% decline. We are facing a crisis in the accounting industry. In California, the roster of registered CPAs had dropped by 55,000 in the past five years, a reduction of 35%. It has been difficult for us to obtain an audit. We were supposed to get an audit in 2022. Most are no longer doing audits or are short-staffed. In 2022, he promised a full audit to be presented this year. We had a firm that agreed, and they withdrew in September. He contacted some old friends with Thompson and Noble, and Paul Straub agreed. In March, Paul notified him that he thought he would need more time to complete the full audit for the District Council meeting as he is short staffed too. Another reason auditing firms do not want to do audits anymore is because of the chaos in the financial world. In 1952, our District approved a Bylaw amendment that required a financial audit. Many things have changed since 1952, and audit standards have become very difficult to satisfy. He intends to approach the Presbytery to modify the bylaws to move away from a full audit and move to a financial review as it meets the requirements we are looking for.

Departmental Ministries Annual Reports – The Departmental Directors were invited to the front and introduced. A MOTION PREVAILED to express appreciation to the Departmental Directors for their published Annual Reports.

Resolution #1 – Resolutions Committee Chair Kim Leatherman read Resolution #1 as follows and MOVED ITS ADOPTION.

MINISTERIAL TITHE ASSESSMENT

*Resolution to Amend by Strikeout / Insertion
 BYLAWS, ARTICLE ELEVEN, SECTION ONE
 Needing Majority Vote*

WHEREAS, the original assessment language that prescribes budget distributions was not presented as a bylaw amendment and not intended to be considered a bylaw; *and*

WHEREAS, debt reduction, benevolence, pastoral care, and leadership development are considered to be “core values” that are central to our district mission; *and*

WHEREAS, the designated amounts are disproportionate to the actual need and the district is nearly always spending far greater sums on these needs; *and*

WHEREAS, receipting and accounting for designated funds unnecessarily complicates the accounting process; *and*

WHEREAS, the practice of budgeting-from-the-floor is an antiquated budgeting philosophy that is no longer considered efficient or effective and no longer matches current needs; *and*

WHEREAS, removing these assessments will allow the Executive Presbytery to fund needs and priorities, and to balance the budget without a tithe increase; *therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, that Bylaws, Article Eleven, Section One, Paragraph E. be amended by *strikeout and insertion* as follows:

Credential Type	Minimum Amt per Month
* Active Ordained Ministers	a minimum of \$258 per month
* Active Licensed Ministers	a minimum of \$258 per month
Active Certified Ministers	a minimum of \$148 per month
** Senior, Retired Credential Holders	a minimum of \$60 per month (as able)
All Inactive Credential Holders	a minimum of \$60 per month
Nationally Appointed US Missionaries, World Missionaries residing in the U.S. or on the field per family, and	
District approved Chi Alpha Directors	a minimum of \$100 per month
Chaplains Nationally Endorsed	a minimum of 10% of their tithe
Student, full-time	a minimum of \$100 per month
*** Spouse as second credential holder	a minimum of \$35 per month

~~* This tithe rate includes \$7 for home missions pastors' benevolence, \$5 for Leadership Development and Pastoral Care, and \$25 for debt reduction on the Resource Center.~~

~~** Half of this amount shall be designated toward ministerial training of those under the age of 25.~~

*** This tithe rate is revised every 3 years (Resolution #8, 1996 D.C.).

Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the results for Resolution #1:

Total Votes Cast	291
Needed to Adopt	146
Yes Votes	282
No Votes	9

The Chair declared Resolution #1 as adopted.

Resolution #2 – Resolutions Committee Chair Kim Leatherman read Resolution #2 as follows and **MOVED ITS ADOPTION.**

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MINISTRY ASSOCIATE COMMISSION

Resolution to Amend by Strikeout / Insertion

BYLAWS, ARTICLE SEVEN, SECTION ONE, PARAGRAPHS B. AND C.

Requiring a 2/3 majority vote

WHEREAS, the Lord commands us to pray to the Lord of the Harvest to send forth laborers into the harvest; *and*

WHEREAS, it is evident that a high percentage of people that are called to ministry experience that calling at a young age; *and*

WHEREAS, it is essential that we create a way in which to identify these young-and-called persons, affirm that call, and mentor and support them as they develop that call; *and*

WHEREAS, the District Council is launching the CALLED initiative, which requires retooling the Ministry Associate Commission for this purpose; *and*

WHEREAS, it is necessary to amend the bylaw language to facilitate this initiative; *therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, that Article Seven, Section One, Paragraphs B. and C. be amended by *strikeout and insertion* as follows:

ARTICLE SEVEN – MINISTERS AND MINISTRY

Section One: Establishment of Ministry

A. Sacerdotal Rites and Ministry

.....

3. A fifth classification of ministry, a Ministry Associate, may be provided by the District Council, under guidelines adopted in these Bylaws and such additional guidelines adopted by the Executive Presbytery. The Ministry Associate Commission is an apprentice commission, the purpose of which is to provide young persons who feel called to ministry the authorization to conduct certain ministry, under the supervision of a Licensed or Ordained Assembly of God Minister, for training and mentoring purposes. The Ministry Associate Commission is not a General Council Credential, and does not authorize the holder to unsupervised performance of sacerdotal functions, to serve as a Senior Pastor of a church, to have voting rights in district business, or to legal benefits afforded to ministers (such as housing allowance).

B. Classification of Ministerial Credentials

.....

5. Ministry Associate: Associate Ministers are those persons who are at least 12 ~~16~~-years of age and not more than 20 ~~22~~ years of age, who are preparing to serve in full time ministry.

C. Basic Qualifications Established by District Council

.....

10. ~~Special qualifications for candidates for a~~ Special qualifications for candidates for a Ministry Associate Commission ~~candidates; Ministry Associates: Ministry Associates need not fulfill all of the educational requirements and qualifications listed in paragraphs 7, 8, and 9 above; however they must fulfill the following as a condition of their commission:~~

a. have a personal testimony of salvation;

b. have a personal experience of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, or are earnestly seeking such;

c. profess a sense of a call to serve God in ministry, or are in the process of clarifying that call;

d. profess an intention to live a life of personal integrity;

e. profess agreement with Assemblies of God doctrines as stated in the Statement of Fundamental Truths;

f. be actively involved in a mentoring relationship with a Licensed or Ordained Assemblies of God Minister as a condition of their commission.

Tellers Committee Chair David Bliss presented the results for Resolution #2

Total Votes Cast	315
Needed to Adopt	210
Yes Votes	300
No Votes.....	15

The Chair declared Resolution #2 as adopted.

CALLED Initiative – The District Superintendent invited District Church Ministries Director Char Blair to address the Called program. Called is a discipleship program for young people ages 12-20 years old who feel called to ministry. The goal is for these students to maintain the originality from the house (the church) from which they come so they are embedded and effective where they are. This is done through utilizing pastors, youth pastors, and young adult pastors through training, online cohorts, Called camp, and empowerment at all District level events. We are affirming their call with a commission, giving them a certificate and a card, much like what a credentialed minister receives from Springfield. The process has been set up and includes an application, an interview with their presbyter, and commissioning services at Youth Convention. This year, 25 Called students registered for District Council.

The District Superintendent invited the Called students in attendance to the front and asked former District Superintendent James Braddy to come and pray over the students. Superintendent Braddy encouraged pastors to allow students to have their pulpit. He shared how he learned about preaching in classrooms. Allow them the opportunity to share what God has motivated them to do and where God is leading.

Courtesy Resolution - Resolutions Committee Chair Kim Leatherman read the Courtesy Resolution as follows and **MOVED ITS ADOPTION.**

2023 COURTESY RESOLUTION

Needing Majority Vote

WHEREAS, the Northern California and Nevada District of the Assemblies of God has convened for its 2023 District Council: *and*

WHEREAS, the numerous committees and individuals whose prayerful preparation, efforts and attention to detail have made it possible for those in attendance at this council to accomplish the purposes for which they have convened; *therefore, be it*

RESOLVED, that great appreciation be expressed to District Superintendent Bret Allen, Assistant District Superintendent Samuel Huddleston, District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon, the Executive Presbytery, the District Presbytery, the District Ministry Directors, the District Resource Center staff, Pastor Abe Daniel and the staff of Trinity Life Center, for their excellence in the planning and executing of numerous details – both seen and unseen – that are necessary for a successful District Council; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, that this District Council express appreciation to special guests General Superintendent Doug Clay, Gene Roncone and Dore Donaldson for their messages of inspiration and encouragement. To those who ushered us into worship and used their God-given gifts to allow for a time of refreshing and empowering, we offer sincere gratitude; *and, be it further*

RESOLVED, that today we celebrate every pastor, missionary, evangelist, and leader that is faithfully empowering the saints and advancing the Gospel in our day; *and be it further*

RESOLVED, that the members of this District Council pledge themselves to pursuing the outpouring and empowerment of the Holy Spirit that was promised by the Lord Jesus in these last days.

A MOTION PREVAILED to approve the Courtesy Resolution.

Adjourned / 2022 District Council Business Session at 10:30 a.m.

District Secretary's Legal Report – Jay Herndon

District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon provided the following Legal Updates and Reminders.

Two things to know:

1. Mandatory Reporter screening and training
2. Vetting staff pastors

Mandatory Reporter Screening & Training

New California law for screening and training. California State Law BPC §1110.5 (AB-506) requires volunteers and employees of “youth organizations” to:

1. Get screened via *Live Scan*,
2. Complete Mandatory Reporter Training,
3. Adopt “two reporter rule” for activities.

This applies to Clergy, Employees of a “youth organization,” and Volunteers with minors working 16 hours a month or 32 hours a year.

Vetting Staff Pastors

We've noticed that churches are not adhering to their bylaws regarding pastoral staff appointments. This exposes the church in several ways: doctrine, values, commitment to our fellowship, and Legal liability. Church bylaws require staff pastors: 1) Have credentials with the AG, church commission, or a Pentecostal organization; and 2) Be appointed by the church board (minutes, job description, etc.).

Warning for Churches – Case Study

California Equine Retirement Foundation – CERF is a non-profit organization that cares for retired racehorses. CERF owned a small ranch and housed about 40 horses. The Director of the foundation lived on-site. CERF's corporate status and tax exemption were suspended, bills went unpaid, liens were placed against the property, and Animal Control determined the horses were under-fed and removed. The Director tried to sell the ranch. The Attorney General intervened and filed suit to force dissolution, require the director to give back his salary and rent for his lodging and impose punitive damages against the director and the board.

Lesson For Churches

1. Take care of your corporate and tax status – the church cannot legally accept donations or do business if it loses its status. The State can force dissolution (take over) if it believes the church abused its status.
2. The state may seek punitive and/or civil damages against the officers or board if it believes they breached a fiduciary duty or used assets for personal use.

World Missions Service – Bret Allen

District Superintendent Bret Allen welcomed those in attendance. He recognized those missionaries who were home and asked them to stand – Joyce Bergen (online), David Cartright, Joel Corbin, Marissa Darea, Eric & Kimberly Dueck, Steve & Glenda Evans, Christina Keen, Bill Kirsch,

Jerad Macauley (online), Elizabeth Romero, Emily Sandoval, Susan Saunders, Jerry & Janice Smith, Jason & Georgina Bottcher, Alvin & Lacey Leota. Pastors were encouraged to target these friends and ask how to get them back into the field.

Top Churches in Missions Giving were recognized, and awards were given to the following:

District Affiliated Top 10 Missions Giving Churches:

1.	San Francisco Worship Center - San Francisco, CA	\$33,420.00
2.	Life Christian Church Assemblies of God - Las Vegas, NV	\$29,209.15
3.	Trinity Assembly of God - Alamo, NV	\$23,49000
4.	Assembly of God - North Fork, CA	\$20,636.00
5.	Ruth Community Church - Ruth, CA	\$20,572.00
6.	River Valley Church of the Assemblies of God - Olivehurst, CA	\$19,708.00
7.	Sacred Church of San Bruno of the A/G - San Bruno, CA	\$18,400.00
8.	Full Gospel Church of Las Lomas - Watsonville, CA	\$16,876.00
9.	Cutten Community Church of the A/G - Eureka, CA	\$15,067.00
10.	New Life Assembly of God - Sacramento, CA.....	\$14,966.00

Top 10 Churches In All Giving:

1.	Bethel Church of San Jose - San Jose, CA	\$729,775.14
2.	Trinity Life Center of Sacramento - Sacramento, CA	\$662,614.46
3.	Harvest Church Elk Grove - Elk Grove, CA	\$608,519.18
4.	Abundant Life Assembly of God - Cupertino, CA	\$571,569.04
5.	One Church - Modesto, CA	\$444,644.17
6.	Crossroads Christian Center of the A/G - Morgan Hill, CA	\$374,842.00
7.	The Bay Church - Concord, CA	\$364,853.67
8.	Calvary Christian Center A/G - Yuba City, CA	\$358,571.67
9.	Capital Christian Center - Sacramento, CA	\$326,897.03
10.	Destiny Christian Church A/G - Rocklin, CA	\$310,682.08

Top Giving Per Capita (per person that attends)

1.	Crossroads Christian Center of the A/G - Morgan Hill, CA	\$1,105.73
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SPEAKER – Dore Donaldson

District Superintendent Bret Allen introduced guest speaker Dore Donaldson. She and her husband Hal are the Directors, Founders, President, Vision, and Heart behind Convoy of Hope. Recently, he and Assistant District Superintendent Samuel Huddleston visited El Salvador to see firsthand the Women’s Empowerment Initiative, the theme for this year’s giving project. He shared a video for the Women’s Empowerment Initiative that he filmed while visiting El Salvador.

Dore expressed her appreciation to be invited to share at this year’s District Council. She also shared her excitement about the new regional center opening in the Sacramento area, with a grand opening on September 21st. She invited Valerie Allen to the stage to present a gift from their community in Kenya for her support of the Women’s Empowerment Initiative. Here are just a few numbers of what Convoy of Hope has been able to do through the support of churches and District:

- Over 200 Million People Served
- Over \$2 Billion in Food and Supplies
- Over 625 Disaster Responses
- 1,000s of Community Outreaches
- Feeding over 533,000 children

Empower the local church to be the hands and feet of Jesus at home and worldwide. The Women’s Empowerment Initiative provides career training so they can start their own business to provide and feed their family. Tangible resources are provided to them as a gift, not a loan, to help them

with the equipment needed to start the business. Intangible resources are the relationships provided to assist in the women's and the family's personal and spiritual growth. The Girl's Empowerment Clubs meet in the local school and encourage the girls to stay in school, delay marriage, and prevent abuse. Over 99,000 women and girls have been impacted by this program since its start.

District Superintendent Bret Allen closed the service setting a goal of raising \$250,000 throughout the District for the Women's Empowerment Initiative over this next year. He recently met with Hal Donaldson, who has picked the Sacramento area as the first of five regional distribution centers for Convoy of Hope. He showed a video that announced the new regional center.

Legacy Service – Jay Herndon

Assistant District Superintendent Samuel Huddleston opened the service in prayer and introduced the Benevolence Offering. A time of worship was led under the direction of District Music Director Jon Lugo and Ben Brown.

District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon shared that briefly on, *Unlikely Heroes*. (Judges 4 and 5) The history of faith is a story of unlikely heroes. Abraham was childless but became the father of many nations. Moses was a murderer and fugitive from the law, but he gave the world the Ten Commandments and the foundation of our legal system. A shepherd boy with a sling and stones slayed a giant and became a king.

Paul wrote, *“Not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty.”* (1 Corinthians 1:26-27)

Abraham and Moses were not born great. Nor were any of these heroes here. But God promised to make them great. And he was faithful to do it. Most hero stories occur during war, famine, or some other threat. Turbulent times are the canvas on which great lives are painted. And God finds the paint for these portraits in unusual places. They finished their assignment, and God finished their portrait. God said, “Well done,” and signed it for all to see. But those who quit before it's finished don't get the endorsement.

The same can be said for these ministers being honored; God found them in all kinds of unusual places and used them to do great things. They are unlikely heroes.

IN MEMORIAM

2023 District Council Recognition – Adolph Anguilano, Analiza B Austria, John R Blakeley, Robert E Capehart, Albert B Cardenas, Donald W Coates, Robert Ray Davis, R Scott Dowell, Martin S Engebreetsen, Leonard P Grim, Warren T Hanford, Barbara L Irvine, John B Jackson, Richard F Kashner, Elmer e Kirsh, Edward L Klinsky, Eugene Z Lawrence, Arnold L McLellan, Frederick A Muster, Floyd D Myrick, C John Peterson, Tammy D Reulman, Williard M Richardson, Reuben J Sequeira, Phillip H Stewart, Everett A Wilson, and Joe D Wright, Sr. The following non-credentialed spouses of credentialed ministers were memorialized: Pearl E Blay, Corene Davis, Leonora Grecco, Adella Kenworthy-Miller, Talaumtoe L Kaufusi, Vickie C Seeley, and L Barbara Womack.

Communion Service

Former District Superintendent James Braddy and former District Secretary-Treasurer Richard Hopping led those in attendance through the partaking of communion.

Evening Service / Ordination, 50-Year Recognition

The service opened with a processional of the District Presbytery and the 2023 Ordination candidates. The NCN Worship Team, under the direction of District Music Director Jon Lugo and Ben Brown, led the congregation in worship.

FIFTY-YEAR RECOGNITION

District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon introduced those being recognized for 50 years of Ordained ministry. General Superintendent Doug Clay pinned the honorees with their 50-year pin before the service. District Superintendent Bret Allen and Assistant District Superintendent Samuel Huddleston presented Certificates of Recognition to those able to attend the service. Those recognized for 50 years of Ordained ministry included: Winston E Culp, Gerald L Cunningham, Calvin R Davis, Rudolph C Grecco, Gilbert J Pries, Ronald L Richardson, and Cecil Mel Robeck, Jr.

PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS

District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon asked those who received credentials as Certified Ministers and Licensed Ministers within the last year to be recognized. Assistant District Superintendent Dr. Samuel Huddleston prayed over the thirty-three newly credentialed ministers.

Certified Minister Candidates were: Justin K Blattel, Rochelle A Cook, A Eric De La Cerda, Tajni Diller, Natalie S Hilbert, Scott T Hilbert, Abraham J Longoria, Treacy C Marr, Lydia M McDermid, Camille L Perez, Latosha E Rodriguez, and Alvan G Scott, Jr.

Licensed Minister Candidates were: Thomas J Allison, April A Arreola, Davis A Bartoe, Jennifer L Campbell, Calyb J Danna, Cassandra Dayrit, Erika S Diehl, Leslie D Fitzhugh, Mykael Gampon, Brandon L Hyatt, Salomon C Lee, Anthony D Marler, Gregory W Marr, Brian A McBride, Brittany R McGinnes, Leighton P McIntosh, Tirzah J Neria, Christian J Niles, Bradley S Reiches, Isaiah R Sanchez, and Shelley A Traub.

OFFERING – Convoy of Hope, Women’s Empowerment Initiative

Assistant District Superintendent Samuel Huddleston introduced the offering for Convoy of Hope’s Women’s Empowerment Initiative. He shared his experience when going to El Salvador to experience first-hand the Women’s Empowerment Initiative. Everywhere they went, you knew Convoy of Hope had their hand upon it because it was well maintained and clean. He is privileged to be on their board, and the things he learns and brings back to the District are amazing. The goal is to raise \$250,000. Will you help us? He prayed over the offering.

SPEAKER – General Superintendent Doug Clay

District Superintendent Bret Allen introduced guest speaker Doug Clay, General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God. He expressed his appreciation for being with the NCN District, which has a local and a global impact. Ordination is an opportunity for all of us to recognize Christ’s calling on their life. A denomination does not ordain individuals; God does. (John 15:16) Ministry was never intended to be an occupation; it’s a calling. Tonight is about celebrating the call of God upon your life.

A Day In The Life of Christ’s Ministry (Luke 4:31-37)

1. Authoritative Teaching (Luke 4:32) – Christ believed in the power of God’s word. Our words will have little impact on people’s lives, but God’s word will have a transformational impact on people’s lives.
 - The Bible is God’s perfect revelation.
 - The Bible is God’s complete revelation.
 - The Bible is God’s living revelation.
2. Supernatural Power (Luke 4:33-36) – There were tangible results. When Christ taught, things happened. Anointing is supernatural assistance; otherwise, you cannot do it on your own. Allow the person of the Holy Spirit to reside in you and not just dwell in you.
3. Genuine Compassion (Luke:37) – See people as the primary reason for entering the ministry.

As ordained ministers, he challenged them to please God, serve people, lead with courage, take responsibility, and lead like Jesus. Your authority will come from scripture. Your anointing comes from the Holy Spirit. And your authenticity will come from your humility. Congratulations to the ordination class of 2023.

ORDINATION

District Secretary-Treasurer Jay Herndon and Credentialing Administrator Darryn Fisher presented the candidates for Ordination.

Ordination Charge

Presented by District Superintendent Bret Allen

Ladies and Gentlemen; Fellow Ministers; Co-Laborers; Ordinands –

You are not advancing a career.

You are responding to a calling.

This is not for advancement on a resume.

This is for advancement in servanthood opportunity.

You are not qualifying yourself for religious or non-profit business.

You are preparing yourself for the proclamation of truth.

You are to live the truth.

You are to preach the truth.

You are to embrace the truth.

Ordination affirms the ideas of calling, servanthood, living the truth, and furthering God's Kingdom. However, ordination is not just about affirmation but also impartation. A prophetic impartation will occur in your life.

Tonight, I speak over you words that were delivered to Timothy from the Apostle Paul.

"Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. ³For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. ⁴They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. ⁵But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry." 2 Timothy 4:2-5 (NIV84)

Tonight, you stand in the presence of friends, family, and peers. Tonight, you stand as a part of a sacred ceremony that establishes in a public forum the solemn responsibilities of preaching the Word, leading the church despite difficulties, and evangelizing the world.

I charge you to know the Word. Paul charged Timothy to, *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth."* 2 Timothy 2:15 (NAS)

I charge you to live the Word. Let your personal character be blameless and above reproach. Let your words and your actions align with God's Word. *"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received."* Ephesians 4:1 (NIV84)

I charge you to preach the Word. God has placed a blessing on His Word. *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away."* *Matthew 24:35 (NIV84)* God has placed a blessing on His Word that God has not extended to your opinions.

Preach the Word. Preach the Word with clarity so that those who hear can also understand. The world will gather for themselves teachers – **you preach the Word.** The day will come when they will not tolerate sound doctrine – **you preach the Word.** The world will change, and morals will continue to shift – **you preach the Word.** Others will turn away to myths and fads – **you preach the Word.**

I charge you to endure hardship and difficulty. May the call of God extend far beyond your personal comfort zone. May the call of God help you to stand strong and steadfast in the face of hardship, difficulties, and disappointments. *"...keep your head in all situations, endure hardship,..." 2 Timothy 4: 5a*

I charge you to work hard at all the opportunities that God would afford you to evangelize our world. Do not forget the lost. Do not forget the Great Commission. May your life be marked by passion for people who need Jesus in your neighborhood and around the world. May you be known as one who loves missions and always has time for lost people.

I charge you to remain dependent upon the Holy Spirit to enable you in all things. *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us," Ephesians 3:20 (NIV84)*

Executive Presbyterian John Withers prayed over those being ordained. The candidates were then ordained by the laying on of hands by the members of the District Presbytery as an ensemble sang a revised rendition of "Let Thy Mantle Fall on Me."

The 2023 Ordination Candidates: Sebastian L Attaway, Zachary D Beardsley, Georgina M Botcher, Anthony A Calabro, Arney L Corbin, C Joel Corbin, Bradley S Gray, Aaron M Hansel, Christina D Lee, Jeffrey M Lee, Marquel L McGhee, Nicholene M McGhee, Christina R Olson, Barbara K Pahulu-Eatmon, Tryphena J Plasier, Rafael E Portillo, Amanda S Reneau, Gerardo "Charlie" Rodriguez, Stephanie J Rodriguez, Elizabeth M Romero, Ashley C Seeley, James A Thompson, LeeAnn S Thompson, Eriq K Truitt-Reed, Heather M Tuttle, Tamera M Walker, William D Walker, and Alex J Williams.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Jay A Herndon
Secretary

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