

# CHURCHRIGHT

*Doing church right*



## Membership Notice

All members of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) who will be at least 18 years of age as of July 1, 2025, and who wish to vote during our 2025 convention, should register for convention no later than **April 30, 2025**. They must indicate on the convention registration form their intention to vote. Because of the time it may take to validate some memberships, we cannot guarantee that those who register later will be able to vote.

Additionally, because of the time it takes to process membership applications, this deadline also applies to anyone wishing to become a member before our 2025 convention. No new memberships will be issued the week of convention (June 30-July 5, 2025).

## Meditations on Time

I'm thinking about time . . . things past and things yet to come. I'm thinking about God's sovereign control of time and of everything else. It's comforting to know that God is in absolute control, not only of the "what" but also of the "when."

Ecclesiastes 3:1 tells us, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" (ESV). The verses that follow list familiar examples of those seasons: "a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; . . . a time to weep, and a time to laugh," and so on (vv. 2, 4-8). The writer could also have written "A time to begin, and a time to end."

The year recently past was challenging, and the year recently begun will bring its own challenges. Every year does. Last year was marked by a wonderful meeting of our North American Ministerial Council. This year will be marked by another wonderful General Conference Convention. (Have you reserved a hotel room and registered for the convention? See page 4 for details.)

Last year was marked by concerns regarding the November 2023 transition of the International Ministerial Congress into the International Federation of the Church of God (Seventh Day). This year, GC members may be given opportunity at convention to decide whether or not the GC remains affiliated with the International Federation.

Last year during the February board of directors meeting, Executive Director Jody McCoy and I gave notice that we will retire from our current positions effective the end of the 2025 GC Convention. This year we will all learn who our successors will be. (Please bless them with the same gracious and patient support you have given Jody and me.)

A certain pastor read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, thought about life, and observed that God's timing is sovereign, God's timing is seasonal, and God's timing often is surprising. I think that pastor is correct. "Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

– Loren Stacy  
GC President



# District News

## West Coast

Contributor: Aaron Carbajal, WCD Media Ministry Director

**Super Sabbath.** A powerful day of worship, unity, and inspiration took place at the Arizona Super Sabbath in Phoenix, AZ, on December 14. Churches gathered from Phoenix, Mesa, East Valley, Monte Sinai, Vegas (English), Vegas (Spanish), Tijuana, Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico, California, and Michigan. Under the theme “Engage,” Central District Superintendent Ronald Rousseau presented impactful messages. We are grateful for this unforgettable gathering of faith and fellowship!



## Upcoming Events

May 23-25 - WCD Men’s Retreat; theme: “Men After God’s Own Heart”; Oakhurst, CA

## Southwest

Contributor: Victoria (Tory) Capetillo



**Women’s retreat.** Our Southwest District Women’s Retreat was held in Burnet, TX, on December 6-8. Over 200 women gathered for a powerful weekend of worship, fellowship, and growth focused on the theme “Transformed.” Workshop leaders shared inspiring messages on the importance of being a transformed woman in Christ. As we left the retreat, our hearts were filled with renewal, refreshment, and a deeper

understanding of God’s unconditional love. We’re grateful for the leadership of SWD Women’s Director Jessica Salazar, our incredible speakers, worship team, and volunteers who made this event possible.



**Remembering.** On December 28, the El Paso church celebrated a Coffee of Remembrance. At the end of the service, members gathered in the church dining room where they enjoyed refreshments and worship. They praised God by singing hymns, joined by members of the worship team.

**Super Sabbath.** The Area 6 Super Sabbath at Tree of Life church in El Paso, TX, inspired great blessings. On December 13-14, we gathered for a powerful weekend of worship, fellowship, and growth. The theme “The All Sufficient, All Satisfying



Christ” inspired everyone. Pastor Esau Hernandez and Brother Josh Gutierrez, shared impactful sermons that reminded us of God’s unconditional love and guidance. We left feeling encouraged and uplifted, with a renewed sense of faith.



**Youth camp.** As we’ve wrapped up our winter youth camp here in beautiful Jasper, AR, our hearts are full – but also a little sad that it’s come to an end. December 26-29, we hosted over 50 incredible young people from Michigan to Texas, all united by a desire to grow deeper in their faith and connect with one another. Centered on the theme “Same God,” youth enjoyed passionate worship, challenging messages, and enlightening workshops. They also enjoyed delicious food,

games, crafts, hayrides, and a fireside service Saturday night. Though the days were filled with adventure, laughter, and memories to last a lifetime, we know that the true impact of this camp will be seen in the days and weeks to come as our youth return home, equipped and inspired to shine God's light in their communities. To our amazing campers, volunteers, and staff: Thank you for being part of this special experience!

### Upcoming Events

- February 7-9 - SWD Leadership Meeting, Houston, TX
- March 8-10 - SWD Pastors Retreat, Camp Tejas, Giddings, TX
- March 14-16 - SWD Children's Camp, Burnett, TX
- March 28-30 - Area 2 Women's Retreat at Dover Family Camp, Dover, OK
- March 28-30 - Area 6 Super Sabbath, Midland, TX

### Southeast

Contributor: Steve Krome, Superintendent



**Men's retreat.** Over 200 men attended the Southeast District Men's Retreat November 15-17. Wilmer Ortiz (Tampa, FL), Claude Ricketts (NW Atlanta), and Juan Villeda (LaBelle, FL) delivered sermons based on the theme "Fight the Good Fight." Worship music was provided by musicians from Lake Worth and Tampa, FL, and Stone Mountain and Baxley, GA. Saturday evening specials were led by Tereso Hernandez. Special thanks to Pastor Walter Apen (Men's Ministry coordinator) and his committee of Wilmer Ortiz and Tereso Hernandez. The next retreat will be at Camp Adrian, GA, October 24-26.



**Youth retreat.** The Southeast District held its annual youth retreat at Camp Mikell December 20-22, in the

beautiful Georgia Mountains. Over 200 youth and youth leaders attended. Special speakers Moises and Pete Capetillo (Albuquerque, NM) addressed this year's theme "Digital Disciples." Worship music was led by church youth from Stone Mountain, GA; Tarboro, NC; and South Miami, FL. Activities were led by Jo Krome, Jon Unzueta, and the youth group from Hammondville, AL. Jon Unzueta (youth director) and Cesar Medrano (district music director) emceed the entire event.



### Late Fall 2024 Graduates

- Arnulfo De la Cruz (Certificate of Leadership Studies)
- Efrain Gomez (Certificate of Leadership Studies)

### Fall 2024 Dean's List Recipients

- William Aba • Alex Baez • Pete Capetillo • Aaron Coulson • Dan Davila • Adiel De Leon • Uber Donis • Efrain Gomez • Karlene Green • Alirio Luna Sosa • René Marroquin • Pablo Martinez • Israel Pacheco • Elizabeth Perez • Jose Perez • Justo Perez Marroquin • Rebeca Ramirez • Jesus Velazquez

### New Scholarship for International Students

We are excited to unveil a new scholarship just for our CoG7 students outside the US and Canada! The CoG7 International Scholarship assists Church of God (Seventh Day) students beyond the US/Canadian General Conference whose local church or national conference is affiliated with the Church of God (Seventh Day) International Federation. The scholarship provides up to 100 percent tuition for the duration of their academic program. Learn more at [artioscollege.org/sponsorship/](http://artioscollege.org/sponsorship/).



We need partners to help fund this special scholarship. If you have a heart for helping our international brothers and sisters, consider assisting them in receiving the training they crave. There are three ways to donate:

- [my.artioscollege.org/give](http://my.artioscollege.org/give) (myArtios account required); select "Scholarship Fund"



- [secure.cog7.org/giving/](https://secure.cog7.org/giving/); follow directions and select “Artios-Scholarship Fund.”
- Personal check made payable to “The General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day),” with “Artios Scholarship Fund” written on your check’s memo; mail it to P.O. Box 33677, Denver, CO 80233.



## It's Time!

### Calendar Events

**February 10** - Late Winter registration closes

**February 16** - Late Winter classes begin

**March 31** - Early Spring registration closes

**April 6** - Early Spring classes begin

### Late Winter classes

COM 121 Written Communication for Leadership

HIS 321 History of Western Christianity

LEA 111 Essentials of Vibrant Leadership

THE 201 Christian Theology (*English only*)

THE 202 Church of God (Seventh Day) Doctrines

### Early Spring classes

COM 121 Written Communication for Leadership

BIS 104 History & Literature of the New Testament

LEA 155 The Essence of Life Coaching (*English only*)

LEA 331 Church Administration

WOA 311 Prayer Ministry

Register at [my.artioscollege.org/en/courses](https://my.artioscollege.org/en/courses).



Through the *Bible Advocate*, *Churchright*, and GC Facebook page, you’ve seen the information about what is in store at Convention ’25. Don’t worry. If you missed it, you can check the archives or find it at [cog7.org/convention](https://cog7.org/convention). (Keep checking the site; more info will continue being added!) Engaging workshops, exciting children/youth/young adult programs, important business sessions, inspiring worship services, tourist attractions, and more. However, all of this won’t be meaningful unless the seats are filled with people. That includes YOU!

Convention is not about the event; it’s about the memories. Memories you will make with friends, old and new. Experiences with your family. Collectively growing together as the body of Christ. Appreciating a new part of God’s creation in the beauty of Utah.

What else can we tell you about what Convention ’25 will be? We can’t. It will be up to you what you make it. So come “engage” with us in a week full of opportunities that you will turn into special memories. The stage is set. Come play your part!

Register now by going to [cog7.org/convention](https://cog7.org/convention). Hotel, meal, and event registration is available on the website.

Already registered? You can edit your own information through the same link. Signing up for at least one meal per person and registering for one of the convention hotels through the online link helps us save meeting room costs. The early registration discount ends **April 30**, so don’t miss your opportunity to save!

### Important Convention Dates

**April 30** - early bird convention registration ends

**June 9** - deadline for hotel reservations; after this date, reservations made are not guaranteed to receive our convention rate

**June 24** - deadline for meal tickets to be purchased



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