

# CHURCHRIGHT

Doing church right



## Convention 2027

The 2027 GC Convention has gained a cherished spot in our past, yet its good memories live on. It also signals the anticipated arrival of our next one in 2027! Save the dates of June 28 - July 3, 2027, and plan to gather with us in Greensboro, North Carolina. Church business, Spirit-filled worship, focused times of learning, family events, and making more memories with friends old and new are on the docket. It will be here before you know it!

## The God Who Is Near

The presence of God has always been a defining mark of the people of God. Abraham, the father of the faith (Romans 4:16), heard the very voice of God: "Get out of your country" (Genesis 12:1). Moses spoke "face to face" with God (Exodus 33:11), Israel was led by the manifested presence of God's "a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night" (Numbers 14:14). And the New Testament church was birthed by the pouring out and indwelling of the very presence of God through the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:17).

God has promised, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). Yes, He always follows through on His irrevocable promise with divine means of revelation and manifestation of His presence.

We must expect no less. From our devotional times to our corporate gatherings in the name of Jesus, we must anticipate that God, who is faithful to His Word, will meet us there.

If there is no expectation among us, we have failed to grasp both the new covenant reality of our faith (Hebrews 8:13) and the cross of God memorial: "I will dwell in them and walk among them" (Exodus 25:8); 2 Corinthians 6:16). We also risk hearing what Christ told the church in Sardis: "You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead" (Revelation 3:1).

What can you do to help ensure the manifested presence of God within the church? First, truly place your trust in the faithfulness of God, trusting His promises that He will never leave us nor forsake us and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). Second, learn to wait on God as you enter His sanctuary. Enter with reverence, letting go of the ordinary conversations of life and being your focus wholly on the God who is present. Remember the psalmist's instruction to be still before Him (Psalm 46:10).

Church of God, as we come in expectancy and reverence, be assured both of His wonderful manifested presence and of His glorious work among us. May it be so!

- Greg Lynch  
GC President