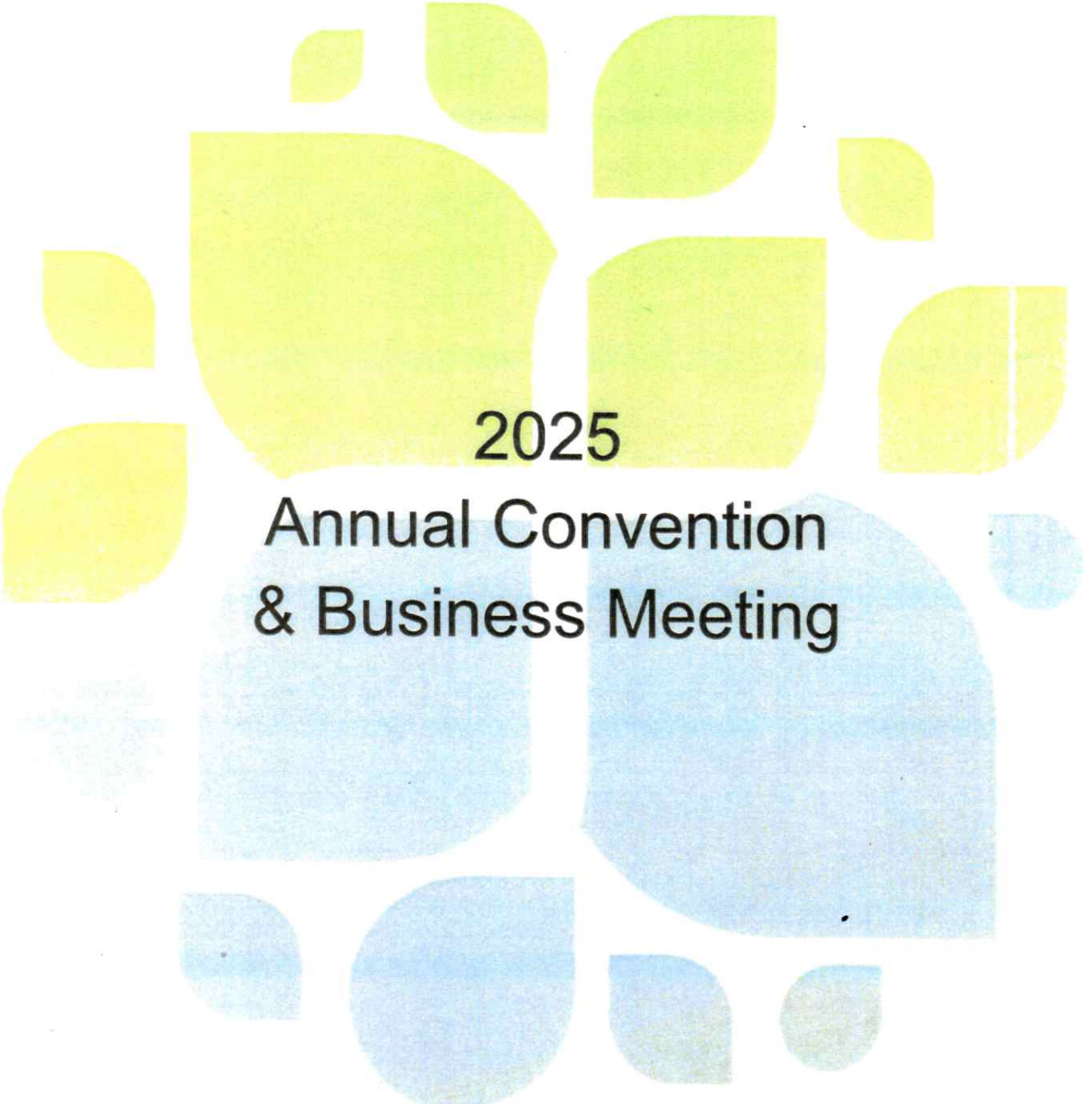


Association of the Church of God Southern California & Southern Nevada

The background features a collection of overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in yellow and light blue. These shapes are primarily circular and semi-circular, creating a modern, abstract design. The yellow shapes are concentrated in the upper half, while the blue shapes are more prominent in the lower half, with some overlap between the two colors in the center.

2025

Annual Convention
& Business Meeting

October 11, 2025
San Diego, California

**Association of the Church of God
Southern California & Southern Nevada
425 Sierra Madre Villa Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91107**

562-596-8437 / 877-360-5025

office@acogscn.org

www.acogscn.org

ACOGSCN Administrative Board

Kris Reed	President
Janet Werdowatz	First Vice President
John Hernandez	Second Vice President
Brent Miller	Secretary
Kerwin L. Manning	Regional Pastor
Evelyn Morse	Office Manager

Committee Chairs

José Cortez	Hispanic Concilio
Cassandra Garrett	S.A.F.E. (Senior Adult Fellowship Enrichment)
Jeremiah Gotts	Youth Ministry
Kevin Gotts	Church Multiplication
Brent Miller	Credentials
Janet Werdowatz	Church Health
Kimberly Winn	Children's Ministry

**Association of the Church of God
of Southern California & Southern Nevada**

2025 Convention & Annual Business Meeting

October 11, 2025

9:00am - 1:00pm

The Waters Church
4955 Conrad Avenue
San Diego, CA 92117

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United Prayer

Registration & Breakfast

Morning Worship Service, Welcome by Association Board Chair,
Remarks by Regional Pastor
and Guest Speaker, Pastor Monté L.G. Dillard, Sr.

<break>

Question & Answer Session
with Pastor Monté L.G. Dillard, Sr.

<lunch is served>

*****Association Business Meeting*****

Introduction of Delegates & New Pastors

Introduction of Committee Leaders & Members

Financial Report

Presentation of Proposed Budget for 2026

Regional Pastor's Report

Adjournment & Closing Prayer

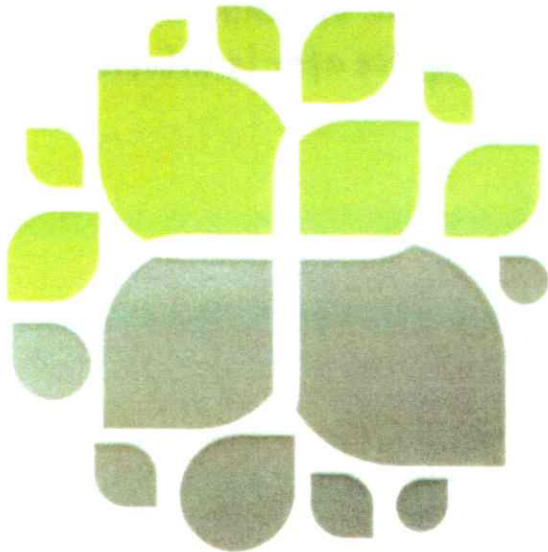
"MOVING FORWARD"

Regional Pastor's Letter

Greetings to the Pastors and Churches of the Association:

My heart is filled with gratitude as I write this letter. First of all, I am thankful to be alive. As you know, on January the 8th our lives, our church family, and our community were devastated by the Eaton Fire. Over 6,000 homes were destroyed (19 from our church alone), over 3,300 buildings and structures were decimated (including several schools and churches), worst of all, 19 people lost their lives. Almost immediately Pasadena Church went into action, serving as a major distribution site for relief. Although the fire has been contained and the news story has shifted, in the aftermath, we continue to

serve those who are in need, averaging about 300 cars/families each Saturday.



Prior to the start of the New Year I began excitedly sharing and strategically planning the year for our beloved Association, looking forward to serving, giving, and helping our pastors and churches in every way. Instead I found myself and our church in receiving mode, needing help. Your prayers, calls, visits, volunteering and generosity have sustained us for the past 9 months. Words cannot express how thankful we are for our beloved Association.

I've personally struggled with not being able to be as present and consistent in my role as your Regional Pastor due to being displaced for 6 months, caring for our families and playing a key role in our community. A part of me feels like I've let you down. However I am now understanding the truth of the quote that says, "Never dwell on what you've lost, rather focus on what you have left."

"MOVING FORWARD"

This year's theme, "MOVING FORWARD" serves as a reminder from the Word of God. It should encourage all of us to continue to advance. I am extremely thankful for the opportunity to reconnect, reengage, and reimagine the things the Lord put on my heart for our Association. My personal commitment as your Regional Pastor remains steadfast: **Encourage Pastors, Strengthen Churches, and Prepare for the Harvest, Now.**

I am actively pursuing this mandate. My top priorities are visiting our churches, promoting our Children's, Youth, and Senior's events, partnering with our Hispanic Concilio, and working alongside our Interstate Association. I am also determined to help cast vision for our Association in the area of Biblical Stewardship, encouraging our churches and members to include our Association in their monthly and annual giving. We will not be able to advance our Association without your support. Finally, I'd like to extend a word of thanks to our Administrative Board under the leadership of Pastor Kris Reed AND our very capable Office Administrator, Evelyn Morse. They were there for me, served in my absence, and often held my arms up through this crisis. Their commitment to our Association has been unwavering and remarkable. So, where do we go from here? FORWARD! I'm reminded of the chorus of one of our beloved hymns of the Church of God:

*"Strengthened by the mighty pow'r of heaven, We shall
conquer, we shall conquer; Till the raging foe afar is driven,
Press the battle on."*

Humbly Submitted,

Pastor Kevin

Pastor Monté L. G. Dillard, Sr.
Interim Director of Church of God Ministries

Pastor Monté L.G. Dillard, Sr. has truly dedicated his life to both ministry and family. Serving as the Senior Pastor of the First Church of God Christian Life Center in Evanston, Illinois for over 14 years, he has made a significant impact on his congregation and community. His background as a banker, with over a decade of experience and 8 years in management, highlights his strong leadership skills and commitment to excellence.

Pastor Dillard's influence extends beyond his local church, as he actively participates in leadership at the local, state, and national levels. His dedication to family is central to his ministry, believing that the strength of the church is rooted in the foundation of a Godly home. Alongside his wife Tina, to whom he has been married for 20 years, Pastor Dillard is a devoted father to their 4 children – Nia, Kennedi, Morgan, and Monté.

Pastor Dillard desires that the Holy Spirit would say through him exactly what everyone needs to hear. He wants God to help him speak with clarity and that Jesus Christ is exalted in all of it.

Children's Ministries Team

Annual Report 2025

The past year has been busy for the Children's Ministries Team. We completed a series of lessons based on the Church of God's background and traditions. We hope to distribute these by the end of the year. We also spent a number of months preparing for Kids' Kamp. It was scheduled for June 27-29, 2025. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, we had to cancel this year's camp. It was extremely disappointing. The Team is discussing Kids' Kamp for 2026, whether it should be continued, or whether the Team should go in another direction.

Our current project is to place presentations that address important areas in Christian Education on YouTube, so they are accessible to anyone who needs help in a particular area. If you would like more information on these presentations feel free to email me. We can also come to your congregation and present the information. Please uphold the Children's Ministries Team in prayer as we continue to minister to the children and congregations in the Association.

Thank you to a great team! They are faithful and committed to this ministry, and are an important part of the Association. Our members include myself, Kathy Jallins, Pastor Dave Collett, and Connie Miller.

Blessings,
Kimberly Winn,
Chairperson - Children's Ministries Team
winn_k@att.net

ACOGSCN Church Health/Church Multiplication
Annual Report – October, 2025

Your Church Health and Church Multiplication committees exist to support and encourage pastors and churches to be the healthiest version of themselves, to assist in their ministry endeavors, and to support new works.

This year, we have funded several grants to individual churches to assist in ministry projects in their communities. It has been a joy to be able to partner with pastors and churches to support them in their efforts to reach their communities for Jesus.

We have also provided financial support to the Interstate and Concilio in order to partner with them in their efforts to reach their communities for Jesus. Providing financial support is one way that we have been working on our oneness as we all move forward together to do the work of the Kingdom in the areas that God has placed us.

While these committees have been somewhat non-functioning other than the work mentioned above, we have plans to be even more involved in helping pastors and churches in 2026. We will be putting together a formal grant application process that will assist us in being good stewards of the Association's funds as we consider ministry opportunities to support financially. We will also be exploring ways that we can support and encourage pastors and churches in their everyday ministries.

We will also be working more closely with the Administration Board as well as the Ministries Council in order to work together more efficiently and productively in the coming year. To that end, we will be meeting monthly with the Ministries Council in 2026. We look forward to all that God has for us to accomplish in the coming year.

We consider it a privilege to serve the Association in this way and look forward to working together to move the Kingdom of God forward.

Blessings,

Janet Werdowatz (Chair, Church Health Committee)

Kevin Gotts (Chair, Church Multiplication Committee)

S.A.F.E. Annual Update: October 2025

Who we are: Senior Adult Fellowship Enrichment, (S.A.F.E.) is a ministry to senior saints and friends in the Association.

What we do: Provide in-gathering fellowship events to encourage and enrich our senior and maturing adults throughout the Southern CA Association.

Where and When we gather: In February, the Spring Rally (historically held at Knott's Berry Farm Hotel), and September Fall Rallies at local churches in the Southern California area.

Why we gather: We have a biblical mandate that we believe applies to us at all ages:

²⁴ We must also consider how to encourage each other to show love and to do good things. ²⁵ We should not stop gathering together with other believers, as some of you are doing. Instead, we must continue to encourage each other even more as we see the day of the Lord coming. — Hebrews 10:24-25 God's Word Translation

Seeing the need to encourage and enrich our older members whose differing abilities were sometimes not recognized in local churches and wanting to gather people from a wide variety of our congregations, Willie and Imogene Foreman put together a leadership team around 4 decades ago and began to offer Senior Rallies for all in the Association. For many years we were at the Knott's Chicken Dinner Restaurant, then migrated to the Knotts Hotel when their conference rooms became available.

Their heart for their fellow Senior Christians was inclusive, and they began an endowment fund for S.A.F.E. with the first \$1000 invested from their own funds. As this grew, the endowment was established as the Willie and Imogene Foreman Foundation Endowment for S.A.F.E. activities. A percentage of this endowment is used each year to help keep the Spring Rally banquet registration costs affordable for most. The leadership for S.A.F.E. activities continues in the spirit of these honored founders.

The S.A.F.E. Planning Committee has continued to meet nearly every month in our planning, prayers, and provisions for our older church members and friends. We plan enriching themes, meaningful worship, talented speakers and good food to make our events well worth the time and cost.

Although our focus is on those who are aged 50 and older, all of our gatherings are open to all ages, and family members and friends of all ages are invited and encouraged to attend. We are specially blessed by those Pastors who make it a point to support their seniors with their own presence and involvement.

We invite others to join the planning committee as we prepare for the upcoming (2026) Rally year. If you are a church member in the 50+ age range, we would love to have you take up the challenge of faithful and consistent service to your peers. New ideas and talented people will keep this ministry alive. Contact Pastor Cassandra Garrett at safesocal50@gmail.com or (213) 422-0977.

Thank you for your support and involvement!

The S.A.F.E. Planning Committee:

Pastor Cassandra Garrett, chair. Gloria Edge, secretary. Bob Edge, Hattie Gregory, Patricia Whetsel, Pastor Dave and Bobbi Collett, and Pastor David Winn.

This year, our youth program was blessed to see firsthand the faithfulness of the Lord in the improved involvement of our youth groups at the association level. With our main event for the year being the annual youth summer camp, we had 5 different youth groups in attendance, 3 of which were new to attending the camp in recent years. From those 5 groups, we had about 30 youth in attendance (about double the number we had last year) and it was an absolute joy to have them all together growing in and worshipping the Lord alongside those whom they had not met before. Our theme for camp this year was Identity (John 1:12-13) and as such we were able to talk about finding our identity in Christ as Children of God and how that can and should shape us.

With it being the first time that many of these youth had ever attended camp, it was such a joy to see them breaking out of their shells and building relationships with youth from other churches beyond just their own. Our groups have had events since then in which some of the youth that met at camp were able to get together and fellowship with one another and keep those connections strong. And this is one of the main goals that we as the association Youth Commission Team have always had, connecting youth from various churches to help them see the breadth and depth of the kingdom of God, not just within their church, but within the greater kingdom of God.

As we head into this next year, we have three main goals:

- 1) To build on the momentum we experienced at camp this year by continuing to grow summer camp attendance and involvement—both within existing groups and by including new ones.
- 2) To keep our youth teams connected throughout the year, not just at summer camp. Our youth team is working on planning regularly occurring gatherings (both online and in-person) for the youth leadership to keep them connected as well as to help them grow as leaders and build deeper bonds with one another that we pray will lead to deeper bonds between our youth across groups as well.
- 3) To provide our association with the help and resources they need to spiritually feed their youth. Although we have many churches with youth programs, we do not have participation from all of our groups, and we would love to see the number of youth groups involved in the association events grow. We believe that there is a vast amount of untapped potential within our unity that we will never get to see without intentional participation. This is not to say that our existing groups are insufficient for our youth, but rather to say that there is even more spiritual nourishment that we could be connecting our youth to.

That being said though, we also recognize that not all of our churches have a youth program, whether it is due to a lack of youth or a lack of capable individuals to lead a youth-specific group. If the problem is a lack of trained leaders, then we would love to support our churches in that. Our team would love to be able to come alongside your congregation and help train up individuals to lead the establishment and growth of these groups.

This next part may be tough to hear, but it is also a part I feel called to say and may be one of the most necessary things for me to say. Many of our churches are simply not putting in the effort that our youth need them to. I do not mean this to come across as harsh, but rather with love and with grace so please hear me out. I do not say

this to blame others or chastise churches, but because our youth deserve more. I say this because I have seen firsthand how much our youth need the church, the love, support, and community that the church is so uniquely equipped to provide. Especially during such a crucial, formative time in their life and we are not rising up to meet them in their need. If we do not have any way to minister to our youth, then how do we expect them to be molded into Christ-like disciples? Far too often the youth get our leftovers, whatever energy our resources are left after everybody else has gotten their share. I do not believe that there are any instances in which this was intentional, but rather, an unfortunate side effect of the chaos/difficulty of our various situations. For their sake though, we must stop focusing on why we can't afford to have a strong healthy youth group and start focusing on why we can't afford not to. Proverbs 22:6 says that we need to "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." We spend so much time hearing things said about this young generation and how broken the world has become. How are they to know any better if we do not teach them? How are they to break away from that if we give them no alternative?

Let me give you this example. When we want to start a church, do we wait until a congregation has gathered on a lot and then say now we are ready to start the church? No, we plant the church and we reach out to those around and the Lord brings people to the church. We would think it irrational to say the church can be formed only after the people have gathered. Then why do we do that with our youth? We have no youth therefore we have no youth group. Maybe we need to consider that we have no youth because we have no youth group. We should not be waiting to build a healthy youth group until we have a group of spiritually healthy youth. Rather, we need to build a healthy youth group that the Lord can use to then gather and develop healthy youth. A church would not form if we said it is worth the effort once the people have arrived asking for a church.

Again, I do not say this to blame or point fingers and I apologize if my words have come across harshly, that was not my goal. Rather, I hope that my words have come across plainly and clearly. I say this with love in my heart for our churches and their leaders. With a deep respect for the work that God is using them all for in so many lives. I say this with an extended hand of fellowship and offering our support in this. You are not alone in this, but our churches and leaders must be the ones to say enough is enough. We can no longer afford to sit on the sidelines. It is my hope that we would prayerfully wrestle with and consider these things. We long to come alongside you and see the Lord work in miraculous ways through the actions of his faithful followers. He does not call us to perfection, rather He calls us to be present and faithful.

Thank you for hearing me out. Thank you for loving your congregations. I know we love our youth, there is no doubt in my mind. I pray that through the power and faithfulness of the Lord, we might be able to step up and care for the needs of some of our most vulnerable and impressionable members. May we strive to care for our youth as if the very future of the church depends on it... because it does.

I want to leave us with this encouragement. The Lord has not commanded anything of us that He does not intend to equip us for success in. So let us be glad that the Lord has commanded us to teach our youth.

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." -Deuteronomy 6:4-7

In Christ,
Jeremiah (JJ) Gotts
Youth Commission Team Chair

**ASSOCIATION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA & SOUTHERN NEVADA
Annual Convention & Business Meeting
Pasadena Church
425 Sierra Madre Villa Avenue, Pasadena California
October 12, 2024
"Working On Our Oneness"**

AGENDA

Welcome & Prayer
Introduction of Delegates
Approval of 2023 Business Meeting Minutes
Regional Pastor Update
Summary from ACOGSCN Committees
Financial Report
Presentation of Proposed 2025 Budget
Ballot Distribution & Voting
President's Comments
Voting Results
Adjournment

The meeting was called to order at 12:38pm by Pastor Kris Reed. A prayer was shared and all were welcomed.

The Delegates were self-introduced. Representatives from the Interstate Association and Hispanic Concilio were recognized.

Minutes from the 2023 Business Meeting were included in the Convention/Meeting Packet and reviewed. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Minutes as presented. Unanimous approval.

Regional Pastor Kerwin Manning delivered an update drawing on the theme "Working On Our Oneness". He thanked the Association for the opportunity to serve our churches across Southern California and Southern Nevada. The goals of Encouraging Pastors, Strengthening Churches, and Preparing for the Harvest, Now remain his mandates and priority. Interpersonal connections are of great importance. The Association seeks to strengthen its relationship with the Interstate Association and Hispanic Concilio. This year, financial grants were extended to four organizations and the Board looks forward to continuing this mission as funding permits. Pastor Manning offered to cover for pastors so that they can enjoy a time of rest. Former Regional Pastor, David Winn, has been installed as Regional Pastor Emeritus.

The Committees were represented by delegates who offered brief updates/summaries of activities.

- Credentials Team. Pastor Kris Reed, reported on behalf of Pastor Brent Miller, that the Committee continues to work to prepare individuals at the local church level, ensuring each minister is capable to grow their ministry with sound doctrine and following the established process.
- Senior Adult Fellowship Enrichment (S.A.F.E.) Team. Pastor Cassandra Garrett wants seniors to stay connected. The Fall Rally was held at Whittier Church and included attendees of all ages. The Spring Rally will be held at Knotts Berry Farm on February 25, 2025.
- Youth Ministry Team. Minister Jeremiah (JJ) Gotts advised that attendance has declined for the Youth Summer Camp. He wants to increase promotion and awareness of the camp's great value by partnering with churches and training youth leaders.
- Children's Ministry Team. The Association offers background checks for all camp counselors/workers. A focus will be to encourage participation of children from the community and letting the parents know how the campers' lives are changed after participation. Attendees were encouraged to plan early for camps.
- Church Multiplication & Church Health Teams. Pastor Janet Werdowatz explained that the two Teams are different but work together to serve churches. A process will be established to disburse funds to churches that express the need. Requesters will need to explain the impact that the requested grant will have on the community.

The Financial Report and 2025 Proposed Budget were reviewed. Pastor Janet Werdowatz reported that most of the \$4,000 increase over the previous budget amounts to a cost of living raise for the staff. After a motion and second to approve, the 2025 Proposed Budget was unanimously approved as submitted.

The Ballot for Administrative Board Officers and Committee Members was mailed to each pastor and distributed at the meeting. Pastor John Hernandez explained the voting process and attendees were allowed time to vote during the meeting. The ballots(23) were collected and tallied. The complete Tally Sheet of the Official Ballot is attached to these Minutes. Where action was required, the results are noted below:

- Kris Reed, Additional 1-year term as President: Yes 23
- Janet Werdowatz, Additional 1-year term as 1st Vice President: Yes 23
- John Hernandez, Additional 1-year term as 2nd Vice President: Yes 23
- Dave Collett, Children's Ministry, term expiration 12/31/2026: Yes 23
- Mike Gratzke, Church Multiplication, Additional 1-year term until 12/31/2025: Yes 23
- Kris Reed, Church Multiplication, Additional 1-year term until 12/31/2025: Yes 23

Pastor Kris Reed agreed with the Regional Pastor Kerwin Manning's request for the Administrative Board to continue in its current iteration through the end of 2025. This will provide a greater opportunity for continuity. He thanked the Administrative Board for its service.

Pastor Manning invited all to join the bowling activities planned and offered a closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm.

Prepared by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Evelyn Morse', written in a cursive style.

Evelyn Morse

Office Manager, Association of the Church of God SCN

Approved by:

Pastor Kris Reed

President, Administrative Board

Association of the Church of God SCN