



News Bulletin from the General Superintendent

September 8, 2023

For Credentialed UPCI Ministers Only

Annual Report Online

The 2023 UPCI Annual Report is now online at upciministers.com. We will present a summary during the Business Session at General Conference. The full report of almost 250 pages includes letters from general officials, minutes of last year's business meeting, and detailed financial statements and schedules for every ministry. Here are some highlights:



Ministers, Churches, and Constituents

- 11,694 credentialed ministers in the US and Canada
- 4,961 churches, daughter works, and preaching points in the US and Canada
- 43,000 churches, daughter works, and preaching points worldwide
- 5.5 million constituents worldwide
- Works in 199 countries (out of 210) and 39 territories

Consolidated Financial Statements for Fiscal Year

- Total assets of \$180 million
- Net assets of almost \$93 million, an increase of \$45 million from 5 years ago
- Revenues of \$80 million, an increase of \$16 million from 5 years ago
- Increase in net assets of \$1.8 million. The increase has been over \$1.5 million for the past 8 years.

The increase was not as great as last year's because of two extraordinary, one-time sources of revenue in 2022: Employee Retention Credit on payroll taxes and appreciation of value on acquisition of Urshan campus. It is also important to note that

depreciation was almost \$1.4 million. Without this non-cash expense, the increase would be \$3.2 million.

General Conference Business Session and Voter Registration

The business session will be conducted on Wednesday, September 20, at 9:00 AM Eastern Time. It will be held in Halls A-C at the Indiana Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN.

Every credentialed minister of the UPCI is entitled to vote at General Conference but must be in actual attendance, except that global missionaries may cast an absentee ballot. The voting process itself will be essentially the same as last year. **Every voter must present his or her UPCI Fellowship Card. Those who cannot locate their fellowship card can follow the steps in the video at the link below to print out a temporary one. Voters will also need a smart phone or Wi-Fi-enabled device.**

Please take the time to watch this video to familiarize yourself with the process and make your experience easier. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

Global Missions Director

Our long-time director, Bruce Howell, is not allowing his name to be considered again. We appreciate his many years of outstanding, faithful service as a missionary, regional director, and general director. Under his leadership, our overseas constituency has multiplied, doubling since 2012.

Last year, we adopted a new procedure for this office, which we will implement this year. We sent a nonbinding poll to all intermediate and career missionaries. On Monday, September 18, I will report their top three choices, or if one person received two-thirds of the responses, I will report the top choice, for information only. In the General Conference business session, ministers will be entitled to vote for any qualified person. At this point, the only person who knows the results of the survey is the general secretary, so if anyone else claims such knowledge it could only be by divine revelation.

Youth Ministries President

Michael Thomas is not eligible to serve another term due to age. We appreciate his contributions to Youth Ministries as district youth president, director of promotions, and most recently president. Under his leadership, we experienced an outstanding North American Youth Congress this year with 33,741 attendees.

Resolution

This year, the Resolutions Committee is presenting only one substantive resolution, which was submitted jointly by the Judicial Procedure Committee and the SafeChurch Committee. The main change is to establish a special track for handling allegations of child abuse. It parallels the existing process of complaint, investigation, and hearing but calls for it to take place on the regional rather than district level. The trial procedure remains the same. The General Board approved this concept, as recent experience has demonstrated the need. The purpose is to develop a pool of ministers who can be trained to handle these special cases and to reduce potential conflicts of interest within districts.

Call to Prayer

I urge every minister and church to participate in focused prayer for the 2023 General Conference. Let's seek the will of God for our business meeting, and let's ask for a special anointing upon our seminars and services. We need to hear from God, and we need a mighty outpouring of the Holy Ghost.

World Network of Prayer has designated the UPCI World Day of Prayer for Wednesday, September 13, and special fasting for Tuesday through Thursday, September 12-14. Please participate in whatever way you are led to by the Spirit. Your fervent prayers and sacrificial fast will make a difference! We are expecting great things worldwide. Please pray for the great success of General Conference.

General Conference Ministers Session

Please join us in the Ministers Session at General Conference on Thursday, September 21, 10:30–11:30 am. Stan Gleason, assistant general superintendent, will lead a team in discussing "The Fivefold Ministry Partnership." This session will be beneficial for every minister and church leader.

Sincerely in Christ,

David K. Bernard

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