

WPA E-CONNECT



We exist to equip congregations and leadership to help people find and follow Christ.

September 2021

2021 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021

Venue: Whitehall Camp & Conference Center

Guest Speaker: Rev. David Colp

First Church of God, St. Joseph, Mi

Worship Leader: Patrick Polk

Lincoln Avenue Church of God

Clergy/Lay Rep. \$40

Spouse \$10

Retired \$15

Register online at wpamin.com



GETTING IN LINE WITH GOD

Several years ago, Rev. Charles Myricks spoke to WPA Ministries about the effectiveness of alignment. Recently I have been pondering the question: What does alignment look like? With whom are we to be aligned? How will alignment affect our brothers and sisters – with relationships with other Church of God congregations - with like-minded denominations - with the community?

In the Church of God, we often state we are not a denomination. Because of that we recognize that we will not all agree on priorities, praxis, principles or preferences. Our own congregations often have different ways of living out our faith. Does that mean we are not aligned?

We have much in common with other Christian churches, but there are certainly differences in our theology and traditions. Can we still claim alignment with them? What things must we be aligned with in order to work together for the Kingdom?

I do not claim to know all the answers. However, I do know that unity does not mean uniformity. I know that without alignment, the body of Christ will not advance the Kingdom, which - I would argue - is the purpose of God's church. We often are our own worst enemy – fighting with each other instead of banding together to defeat the enemy. In order to invite God to expand the Kingdom, the ground must be prepared. Are we sowing weeds instead of plowing the field?

I have a couple of thoughts as to how we can be better aligned so that we can participate with God while He is “doing a new thing” (Rev. 21:5):

1. Don't compare yourself or your congregation to another – we are all on a different journey.
2. Believe that those who differ in their theology are also looking to God for their inspiration and direction. God has ONE church.
3. Remember – a practice is not the same as a theological truth. It is often a personal, congregational, or community preference.
4. Trust our brothers and sisters are seeking God's will. Assume the best.
5. Maintain an attitude of humility. Recognize NONE of us has it totally right. We can learn from each other.
6. Pray for each other as we work together on different branches of the same tree. One person or church may reach a family that you will never be able to reach.

There are some denominations with which we have much in common, and others where we differ a great deal. But we are one! We are the children of God – the one body of Christ, who is the Head. This is a bedrock principle of the Church of God. “we reach our hands in fellowship to every bloodwashed one” the hymn says.

Rev. Myricks reminded us that God has put the responsibility of alignment squarely on the shoulders of the leader. What are we modeling? Those who are watching the ones who claim Jesus Christ, want to see how we treat each other. “By this will everyone know you are my disciples, if you love one another.” John 5:35.

First and foremost, our alignment – personally and then corporately – must be with God and God's will. Only then will we be able to love each other – no matter what our differences. And only then will we provide a fertile environment for His Kingdom to come.

Today, I urge you to spend some time with God – find out if you are clearly aligned with Him. This will give you clarity, direction, and grace for the days ahead as you seek to align with others.

-Rebecca

THIRST IS IN TWO MONTHS!

THIRST – WPA Youth Convention

Friday, November 19-Sunday, November 21

Erie Sheraton Bayfront Hotel

Ready to register your youth group?

Check out our website! Go to www.thirstevent.com today.



It is time to send in your renewed background checks!

Pennsylvania state law requires background checks to be updated every 60 months/ 5 years.

Once you receive your background checks, you can mail them to WPA ministries at

PO Box 597, Emlenton, PA 16373 or you can scan them and email them to

Wpaminsitries1@gmail.com.

INTRODUCING JENNA BEICHNER



Jenna Beichner is a life long resident of the Clarion area who is currently working to obtain her bachelor's degree in accounting at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. Previously, she was employed at the Clarion Area Chamber of Business and Industry before she was called here to the Western Pennsylvania Ministries of the Church of God. Jenna has two siblings, an older sister and a younger brother, two amazing parents, and a niece who she loves to spend her free time with. Her hobbies include hunting, camping, boating, and going on weekend trips to Gettysburg. Jenna is super excited to continue her journey at the WPA Ministries of the Church of God!

TRANSITIONS:

Births:

Congratulations! Hezekiah Wolfgang Kovarik, son of Leah and Evan Kovarik was born Friday, August 20, 2021. Hezekiah weighed 8 lb. 7 oz.

Passings:

Donald L. Thompson, father of Rev. Julie Lamberson, died Thursday, August 19, 2021.

Rev. Darryl Mitchell, father of Rev. Eric Mitchell, died Thursday, August 19, 2021.

Retired:

Rev. Brenda Aughenbaugh has retired as Worship Pastor of Park Hill Church of God, Parker. Brenda will be available for pulpit filling.

Contact Us:

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Visit us on the web at



CHURCH
OF GOD

SAVE THESE DATES:

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| October 1: | General Assembly | 9AM-4:30PM | WHCC |
| | Speaker: Rev. David Colp, First Church of God, St. Joseph, Mi
Register online at wpamin.com | | |
| November 6 | "360" Leadership Day | 9AM – 3PM | Punxsutawney |
| Nov. 19-21: | THIRST State Youth Convention | | Erie, Pa |
| | * Register online at wpamin.com | | |
| February 3-4: | Ministry Teams/Committees Visioning Retreat | | WHCC |