

105th AGK COUNCIL
of the Assemblies of God
Bethel Life Center, Wichita, Kansas
April 30 - May 2, 2023

The 105th Assemblies of God Kansas Ministry Network Council opened at Bethel Life Center, Wichita, on Sunday, April 30th, 2023, at 7:30 PM with the 2023 Ordination service. The Council focused on the theme “Change the Map.”

Following worship led by the Bethel Life worship team, AGK Superintendent Terry Yancey invited John (and spouse Kathy) Chastain and Don (and spouse Rebecca) Goatley to the platform. Both John and Don were honored for 50 years of ordained ministry with the Assemblies of God. Superintendent Yancey then introduced Herbert Cooper, founding pastor of People’s Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, who delivered a powerful message from Genesis on the life of Joseph and God’s promise of visions and dreams for Spirit-filled believers.

AGK Executive Secretary/Treasurer Kent Duncan, as chairman of the Credentials Interview Committee, expressed thanks to the Credentials Interview Committee consisting of the following: David Case, Marc Cauthon, Crystal Cauthon, Bob Cave, Sondra Cave, Dwight Dozier, Bobby Massey, Andy Parks, Steve Rains, Justin Sherer, Billy Simar, Brad Wicks, Karen Yancey. He also recognized the work of Robin Rains, AGK Credentials and Church Records Administrative Assistant.

Executive Secretary/Treasurer Duncan next recognized the following new credential holders that had received a Certificate of Ministry since the last Council.

Jeremy (Courtney) Amerin	Youth Pastor, Cross Connection Church, Dodge City
Corrie (Galen) Lawrence	Credentialed Minister, Victory Fellowship Church, Rose Hill
MacKenzie (Ryan) Witzke	Associate Pastor, First AG, Garden City

He introduced the following *License* candidates as they were awarded certificates by Superintendent Yancey and Assistant Superintendent Nathan Sheridan:

Cody Berntsen	Children’s Pastor, New Beginnings Church, Liberal
Bryce Bishop (Sarah)	Associate Pastor, Hope Church, Wichita
Steven Bishop (Sarah)	Lead Pastor, Generations Church, Andover
Jaquelynn Case (Seth)	Credentialed Minister, Freedom Chapel, McPherson
Jordan Castille	Chi Alpha Missionary, First AG, Manhattan
Crystal Chenoweth (Edward)	Worship Leader, Heartland Worship Center, Salina
Kelly Eisenman (Brett)	Children’s Ministry, Bethel Life Center, Wichita
Vanessa Hernandez (Robby)	Church Planter, The Generations Church, Wakeeny
Haylie Kuenzi	Youth Pastor, Oakland New Life, Topeka
Angelica Lari (Aaron)	Children’s Pastor, The Generations Church, Ness City
Erica Lewis	Interim Children’s Pastor, New Hope Church, Marysville
Jolyn Mauck (Brandon)	Lead Pastor, First AG, Hill City
Sarah Snavelly (Tony)	Credentialed Minister, Hope Church, Wichita

Stephanie Snodgrass (Aaron)	Associate Pastor, Hope Church, Wichita
Rolando Solis (Gloria)	Worship Pastor, Good News Church, Topeka
Tabitha Terhune (Andrew)	Children's/Youth Pastor, Generations Church, Andover
Ryan Witzke (MacKenzie)	Youth/Discipleship/Worship Pastor, First AG, Garden City

Assistant Superintendent Sheridan led the council in prayer for the Certified and License candidates.

The ordination candidates were then introduced, with the story of each candidate summarized through a brief video testimony. The following candidates were presented:

Diter (Laura) Aguilar	Lead Pastor, La Fe En Jesucristo, Kansas City
Michale Johnson	Associate Professor/Admissions Counselor, Friends Church, Haviland
Nicholas (Autumn) Madden	Youth Pastor, Heartland Worship Center, Salina
Joshua (Hannah) Peoples	AGK Ministries Assistant, Colonial Heights AG, Wichita
Rhonda (Ronnie) Rice	AG World Missionary, Portugal
Jonathan (Melissa) Rojewski	Youth Pastor, Bethel Life Center, Wichita
Megan Tate	Children's Pastor, Encounter Church, Great Bend
Shannon (Kristen) Watterson	Campus Pastor, Cornerstone Family Worship Center, Eudora

Superintendent Yancey then led the candidates and spouses through the ordination ceremony. They were presented with an embroidered mantle and gift Bible as they repeated their ordination vows. They knelt as members of the presbytery board, credentials interview committee, and friends laid hands on them and joined Superintendent Yancey in the prayer of ordination.

The evening concluded with a reception celebrating the Ordination candidates.

MONDAY MORNING SERVICES

Monday morning activities began at 7:20 AM with an hour of concentrated prayer. The worship team from Bethel Life Center opened and later closed the session. In between, the AGK Executive officers each led seasons of prayer based on Zechariah 4:1-10. Participants then enjoyed breakfast sandwiches during a brief break.

At 9:00 AM, the BLC worship team again launched Session 3, before Assistant Superintendent Sheridan led the Council in a time of memorial to remember the following ministers and spouses who had passed away since our last Council:

Ted Furry	Retired/Ordained	May 8, 1948 – September 2, 2022
Anna McLemore	Widow of Credential Holder	May 22, 1939 – February 17, 2023
Larry Tweet	Retired/Ordained	February 13, 1936 – May 11, 2022
Marjorie Hinds	Widow of Credential Holder	March 16, 1925 – April 14, 2023

Assistant Superintendent Sheridan and his wife, Amber, presented a challenge toward wholeheartedness, and concluded by leading the body in the observance of Communion.

Following communion, Superintendent Yancey once again introduced Pastor Herbert Cooper, who challenged the Council to develop effective systems necessary to “change the map.” Cooper focused on developing systems for evangelism, for turning guests into attenders, for salvation, for spiritual growth, and for leadership development. He further emphasized the need to be both Spirit-led and strategic.

Assistant Superintendent Sheridan then introduced Pastor Lacey Hartman, Development Coordinator for the Church Multiplication Network and co-pastor of Rock Hills Church in Manhattan. Lacey led a Q&A session of questions presented by the congregation, with responses by both Pastor Cooper and Pastor Troy Hartman, co-pastor of Rock Hills Church.

The morning session recessed at 11:45 AM for lunch with friends.

MONDAY AFTERNOON BUSINESS

Superintendent Yancey called the 104th AGK Council business session to order at 1:30 PM. AGK Chi Alpha director Hannah Bowling, Lawrence, opened the council business session with prayer.

Superintendent Yancey recognized the parliamentary committee, consisting of Tom Jacobs, pastor of Family Life AG (“FLAG Church”), Pittsburg, Rev. Carly Kattenberg, pastor’s wife of Hope Church, Caldwell, and Andy McMillian, lead pastor of Oasis Church, Ulysses. He then called for a report of the Roster Committee, given by Steven Bishop, lead pastor of Generations Church, Andover.

The Roster Committee report as of 1:30 PM, May 1, 2023 was as follows:

Ordained Ministers	119	
Licensed Ministers	40	
Certified Ministers	12	
Church Delegates	<u>25</u>	
Total Voting Constituency		194
Total Number of Churches	86	
Non-voting Adult Guests	112	
Non-voting Children	69	
Total Non-voting Guests		181
Total Registration		377

A motion was made and passed to accept the report and close the roster.

Superintendent Yancey then introduced Resolution #1, explaining its status as a privileged motion. On behalf of the resolutions committee, the following motion was then read by Ryan Wheeler, regional presbyter and pastor of Living Word Assembly, Chanutte:

RESOLUTION ONE: PAPER BALLOTING AT KANSAS DISTRICT COUNCILS

WHEREAS we acknowledge the potential advantages of a digital ballot which include ease of counting, removal of the need for paper, and the difficulty of cheating but the advantages are not outweighed by the disadvantages, *and*

WHEREAS paper balloting has greater accountability - anyone can see a vote is being cast, *and*

WHEREAS any mistakes in the count, collection, or distribution of digital ballots cannot be detected by the average person performing such duties, *and*

WHEREAS an honest mistake in the count, collection, or distribution of digital ballots cannot be detected by any except the most astute or trained observers/participants, *and*

WHEREAS any detected issue presenting itself in digital balloting significantly increases the time it takes to complete the voting process,

WHEREAS such time stretches result in frustration and impatience on the part of everyone present, providing potential to divide the body and heat up otherwise civil discourse over resolutions and other issues, *and*

WHEREAS the delay for an outcome for each issue prevents any additional amendments to resolutions from being voted upon, *and*

WHEREAS such issues were at least among the reasons that the 2022 District Council was extended into a third day of voting, *and*

WHEREAS such extensions prevent ministers who cannot remain for a third day from participating in the election process or other important business, *and*

WHEREAS paper ballots have multiple eyes on the ballots themselves as they are being collected to prevent multiple votes, *and*

WHEREAS paper ballots can be physically counted by multiple people to verify a count, *and*

WHEREAS paper ballots must be present anyway in the case that an issue with digital balloting becomes unresolvable, *and*

WHEREAS phones that are used for digital balloting may not have a quick enough connection to turn in digital ballots in a timely manner, *and*

WHEREAS in the current digital format, there is no way to verify that only a single ballot was cast per person per device without creating a system of digital profiles, thus eliminating a blind election and creating a record of votes, *therefore be it*

RESOLVED that in this, the 2023 AGK Network Council, and in all future such councils, the body returns to paper balloting, effective immediately upon adoption of this resolution.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Robert Trout

Following a second, and brief discussion, a voice vote occurred. The motion failed.

ORDER OF THE DAY: Superintendent Yancey introduced Sheri Huston, Membership Director for the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF). Rev. Karen Yancey interviewed Ms. Huston, who introduced ADF to the body, explaining the mission of ADF, the philosophy that shapes its activities, and the actions ADF takes in light of the cultural and legal challenges to religious liberty today.

Superintendent Yancey then introduced Rev. Jeremy Stamback, representative for Church Extension Plan, who addressed the body, reporting that CEP offers investments opportunities, retirement planning, and church loans and encouraging pastors to invest with entities that support local churches and plan well for retirement themselves.

An initial electoral ballot for Regional Presbyter was held with the following results:

West Region	Candidate	1st Ballot
	Chris Baker	82
	Timothy Singer	76
Central Region	Candidate	1st Ballot
	Exie Barber	33
	Marc Cauthon	46
	Tom Lovell	21
	Emily Oakley	20
	Brad Wicks	37
NE Region	Candidate	1st Ballot
	Jon Clayton	31
	Andrew Parks	84
	Jerod Yancey	44
SE Region	Candidate	1st Ballot
	Anthony Navaratnam	91
	Bryan Norvell	64

A second electoral ballot for Regional Presbyter yielded the following results:

West Region	Candidate	2nd Ballot
	Chris Baker	106
	Timothy Singer	55
Central Region	Candidate	2nd Ballot
	Exie Barber	24
	Marc Cauthon	72
	Tom Lovell	17
	Emily Oakley	11
	Brad Wicks	36
NE Region	Candidate	2nd Ballot
	Jon Clayton	19
	Andrew Parks	111
	Jerod Yancey	31
SE Region	Candidate	2nd Ballot
	Anthony Navaratnam	120
	Bryan Norvell	39

Superintendent Yancey congratulated Pastor Andy Parks and Pastor Anthony Navaratnam on their election.

Interspersed with balloting, the body heard the following reports:

Executive Secretary/Treasurer Kent Duncan highlighted the financial statements for the year 2022. He reported that, aided by Employee Retention Credits, total receipts exceeded disbursements by \$164,621. However, tithing income decreased by 1.9 % over the previous year. Wheat State Camp continued significant progress on their deficit and, utilizing proceeds from the sale of Woodston Camp, the AGK board acted to zero out that deficit effective Dec 31, 2022. Additional funds were invested in church plants at WaKeeney, Scott City, and Hope Church—Eureka.

Secretary/Treasurer Duncan announced that, effective this year, ministerial renewals would be exclusively online—paper renewals will not be available—and that 2024 Ordination applications would be due by August 28th. Additionally, he noted that all applications can now be completed online.

A motion was made and approved to receive the report with appreciation.

Executive Secretary/Treasurer Duncan moved that the minutes of the 104th Network Council held May 2-3, 2022 at Marriott Hotel, Wichita, not be read, but be approved as ratified by the District Board of Directors and posted on the AGK web page. The motion was approved by consensus.

Rev. Hannah Peoples, AGK Ministries Director and Rev. Josh Peoples, AGK Ministries Director Assistant, presented and commented on vision statements from each ministries director that had been presented by video.

Rev. Joanna French was introduced as the new coordinator for Enabled, the Disability Ministry of the AGK. Joanna reminded constituents of the AGK's relationship with AbilityTree and encouraged them to review the Summer 2022 edition of Influence magazine containing an entire section devoted to "Pentecostals and Disability Ministry." Rev. French offered partnership with any local church looking to better serve the disabled population and their families.

Tim McDowell, with Assemblies of God Financial Services (AGFS) reminded ministers of the availability and advantages of participating in the Ministers Benefit Association (MBA)— a 403(b) retirement plan with specific advantages for credentialed ministers and church employees including a range of investment options and, potentially, retired minister housing allowance.

AGK Chi Alpha director Hannah Bowling challenged pastors and leaders to partner with Chi Alpha in the continuing discipleship of young people on the college campus. "We disciple students to fulfill their purpose in God's global plan." Bowling reported that, of the new AG World missionaries produced today, 75% are coming out of Chi Alphas at secular universities.

Rev. Hannah Peoples challenged the body by introducing the Hollis Arena project, a plan to build a soccer arena dedicated to continuing the ministry of Kansas Missionary Doug Hollis in Sumba, Indonesia. AGK Speed the Light has pledged \$150,000 toward this \$750,000 project.

A third electoral ballot for Regional Presbyter was held with the following results:

West Region	Candidate	3rd Ballot
	Chris Baker	132
	Timothy Singer	28
Central Region	Candidate	3rd Ballot
	Exie Barber	15
	Marc Cauthon	108
	Tom Lovell	11
	Emily Oakley	4
	Brad Wicks	22

Superintendent Yancey congratulated Pastor Chris Baker and Pastor Marc Cauthon on their election.

Ryan Wheeler read Resolution #2:

Resolution 2: Death Benefit for Qualifying Credential Holders

Whereas the AGK Council in session previously approved a policy to take the equivalent of 5% of the tithe sent by credential holders and place that amount in their Assemblies of God Financial Solutions / Ministers Benefit Association (AGFS/MBA) retirement account, and

Whereas that remains in force today as an incentive for AGK credential holders to establish an AGFS/MBA retirement plan, and

Whereas the AGK leadership has exercised budgetary freedom for decades to give a \$300 offering as a token of concern upon death of either the spouse or credential holder, and

Whereas holding an AG ministry credential with the AGKansas Ministry Network provides multiple supports and benefits, such as investing in the minister’s retirement fund, and

Whereas it seems good stewardship to provide the benefit of a larger financial disbursement in lieu of a token offering upon the death of an AGK credential holder or spouse, **therefore be it...**

Resolved that the AGKansas Council in session approve a policy that allows the AGK Board to divert a small portion of the funds currently sent to AGFS/MBA for each member with an account there, **and be it further...**

Resolved that the AGK office send that small amount to a vetted insurance carrier to provide a significant death benefit to the minister’s family upon death of the insured AGK credential holder or spouse, as applicable.

Respectfully submitted,

AGKansas Network Board

After consideration by the body, the motion passed.

A nominating ballot was held for the position of non-resident female executive presbyter. Superintendent Yancey explained that this was a simple nomination, and the AGK will forward to the General Presbytery the name of the candidate that received the most nominating votes. Ultimately, four names selected by the General Presbytery

will be presented at this year's General Council in Columbus, Ohio. After balloting, the Superintendent announced that Sondra Cave had been selected as nominee from the AGK.

Superintendent Yancey invited Pastor Dwight Dozier and Pastor Tom Jacobs to the platform, where they were honored for their service as regional presbyters of the AGK. Both are retiring from full-time pastoral ministry and had declined to let their name stand for consideration in this year's presbytery elections.

Following the presentation, Current and newly-elected board members were invited to gather for prayer offered by Assistant Superintendent Nathan Sheridan.

Superintendent Yancey then conceded the chair to the assistant superintendent in order to encourage the body to be more proactive in bringing women and people of color into leadership roles. The Superintendent specifically encouraged the body to consider all options when engaging in the nomination process.

Upon resuming the chair, Superintendent Yancey entertained a motion to adjourn, effective at the close of the AGK Network Family Meal Tuesday afternoon. This motion to adjourn included profound thanks to the Lord for His favor, and deep gratitude to Pastor Ken and Danice Squires and Bethel Life Center for their hospitality and cooperativeness not only these days of Council but the months prior as they coordinated and labored to host us so well. The motion was seconded and passed.

Council dismissed for dinner with friends at 4:15 PM

MONDAY EVENING SERVICE

Service resumed at 7:00 PM Monday with worship led by Bethel Life Center. After a powerful message by Jeff Leake, pastor of Allison Park Church in Pittsburg, PA. Leake reminded the Council that God often uses "stuck moments" to shift our vision for the future. The evening closed with an extended time of prayer.

TUESDAY MORNING SESSIONS

Tuesday morning sessions opened with a welcome by Superintendent Yancey and his wife, Karen.

The Superintendent then introduced Jeremiah Galus, Esq., representing the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF). Mr. Galus provided an insightful review of current legal challenges impacting churches and religious leaders. He focused in particular on the current battles to assure that the church is treated no worse than similar secular organizations and entities. A Q&A session followed.

ADF offers members document reviews, access to attorneys, legal representation in cases threatening religious liberties, and additional resources. Churches and leaders facing threats to religious liberties are encouraged to contact ADF regardless of membership status.

After a brief break, Superintendent Yancey introduced Dr. John and Cheryl Easter. Dr. Easter serves as Director of Partnership Development for Assemblies of God World Missions and presented an encouraging and challenging introduction to Assemblies of God growth internationally. He noted that every 54 seconds, someone comes to Christ through AG churches or ministries, that every 81 minutes, a new AG church is launched. Still, he highlighted the ongoing need for progress among the Buddhist-Hindu populations of the world,

Dr. Easter described efforts to prioritize these unreached peoples by recruiting 50,000 prayer partners, sending more than 150 global workers into the Buddhist-Hindu world, and raising over \$15 million for special projects designed to penetrate the Buddhist-Hindu populations, reminding the AGK Network Council that “The gospel is only good news if it gets there on time” (Carl F.H. Henry).

Superintendent Yancey then brought the closing message for the Council, “Change the Map.” The Superintendent spoke from Zachariah 4, challenging the body toward an awakened prophetic voice, an alert prophetic voice, a multigenerational prophetic voice, and a synergistic prophetic voice. The service concluded with a heart-felt response on the part of the Council, offering themselves to God for the task of “changing the map” both across Kansas and the world.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

Following the closing service, the AGK Network Council dismissed to the Activities Center at Bethel Life Center for a catered meal provided by Assemblies of God World Missions. After the meal, Pastor Rodney Worsham and his wife, Kandace, emceed a great time of fun and frivolity, complete with multiple giveaways. At the conclusion of the afternoon meal, Superintendent Yancey formally dismissed the Council with prayer and his customary reading of Jude, verses 24-25: To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.

Respectfully Submitted
Dr. Kent L. Duncan
AGK Executive Secretary/Treasurer