

Church Organization in the CGI

Manual for Field Churches (2012)

Manual
for field churches



Jesus said, "I will build my church" (Matt 16:18)

- There is a big difference between the *spiritual organism* – those lead by the Holy Spirit, and the *physical organization* – the legal entity.

Joh 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

- The Church of God is composed of Spirit-filled Christians who constitute the Body of Christ. Some have thought different CoG (Church of God) organizations as the branches – This is simply not true – *Individual Christians* are the branches.

The spiritual should not be confused with the physical

(You are baptized into the Father, Son & Holy Spirit (Matt 28:19),
not into any church organization)

Purpose: The CGI is a physical corporation chartered in Texas (and in Canada) whose purpose is to direct the efforts of *some* in the spiritual organism through its organizational strengths. Members of the spiritual organism voluntarily worship together to fulfill the common purposes of preaching and publishing the gospel.

Becoming a Church: The Bible is silent on a specific number necessary for starting a church. The CGI Ministerial Council has determined a local church charter will be granted only when there are at least 12 baptized members in regular attendance. (... and we will work with smaller groups to potentially bring them to the level of being chartered).

Essential activities of a local church:

1. **Worship** – This involves prayer, hymns & honouring God with our presence
2. **Edification** – Involves preaching & teaching
3. **Fellowship** – Simply being together to exhort & encourage
4. **Service** – Including assisting the needy, visiting, encouraging & helping the sick

Types of Groups:

- **Independent Affiliated Churches** – Ministerial Council may opt to enter into a cooperative relationship including baptism, festival attendance, anointing, youth activities Requirements include doctrinal agreement, support of CGI & culture of servant-leadership MIP = Ministerial Integration Program (for elders to be considered for CGI credential)
- **Extended Church** – offers CDs & webcasts along with counseling for scattered brethren
- **Fellowship Groups** – Ministerial Counsel can assign pastoral oversight to small groups
- **Chartered Churches** – fully participate with CGI & have a credentialed minister assigned

Local Church Councils:

- Does not “run” the church, but oversees the physical duties (under direction of pastor)
- (are optional ... often in small churches “the congregation” carries out these functions)
- Objective is to involve the lay membership in the decision making process
- Ministerial Council recommends 5-7 members, annual election, candidates okayed by pastor
- Should have chairman, secretary & treasurer. Quarterly meetings or as needed
- **Qualifications:** Good standing, supports CGI beliefs, 1 member per family
- **Duties:** serve needs of local membership, keep records, conduct meetings

Deacons: Men or women who “qualify” (1Tim 3) & are recommended by members to serve as helpers of the physical needs of the congregation. Ordained locally (not transferred if they move)

Duties of Ministers:

1. Take care of their family
2. Oversee the church
3. Feed the flock
4. As time permits – counseling, etc
5. Arrange joint services
6. Encourage Feast attendance
7. Live with high ethical standards
8. Provide servant-leadership training
9. Recommend MAP candidates
10. Be accountable to ministry & MC
11. Oversee local church council

Ethical Responsibilities of a Minister:

- Be an example to congregation & keep Sabbath services a sanctuary for worship
- A process is listed for grievances, disagreements, and opting to leave

Speaking Credential:

- Certification by ministers of who is authorized to speak in churches (where no minister is present) ... expires annually at end of December... List kept at home office

Worship in Music:

- Our Worship music should be dignified, thoughtful, edifying to the listener & glorifying to our Creator

Sabbath School:

- Instructional material is decided with the local pastor & those who teach

Teen & Young Adult program:

- Goals: to teach biblical principles, relationship with Father & Jesus, and to share gospel
- Infuse at Feast, Annual Retreat, Website, Magazine, Monthly Correspondence, Facebook

Conflicts among Members: Matthew 18 to encourage reconciliation & counsel with minister

Disagreements over Church Policy or Doctrine: Via Local minister & Ministerial Counsel

Territory: There may be more than 1 charter church or fellowship group in a community

Disfellowshipment: Is the result of specifically outlined sins, false teachings, seditions, or heresies contained in scripture. It is a “last resort” seeking they will repent of their sin.

Exceptions: should be pursued in a spirit of cooperation, to benefit the mission of the church