

1840

2000

Our History – Years of Change

Church of God (Seventh Day)

**A Timeline of Events in the Development of the
Church of God (Seventh Day) in North America**

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General Conference of the
Church of God (Seventh Day)
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A Timeline of Events in the Development of the Church of God (Seventh Day) in North America

Studying the history of our church is valuable. It helps us better understand our identity and how this identity and our growing ministry to the world have developed throughout generations. We can also better understand the Church's foundations inspired by the blessings God has provided for His people.

This timeline identifies benchmarks in time as the church continues to grow and expand its service and witness. The data for this timeline was developed from periodicals and documents on file in the General Conference offices of the Church of God (Seventh Day) in Denver, Colorado.

The church has grown more diverse in its culture and ethnicity in the latter years of the 20th century. As the Church continues to address the needs of the people it is commissioned to serve, it more fully reflects the motto: A Diverse People Unified in Christ.

1840

1831-44 William Miller promotes the doctrine of the second advent of Jesus Christ.

1843 Gilbert Cranmer accepts the Advent theory of William Miller.

1844 Seventh-day Sabbath is brought to the attention of an Adventist congregation in Washington, New Hampshire, by Rachel Oakes (Preston), a Seventh day Baptist from New York State.

William Miller's followers experience great disappointment when Christ does not return on October 22, as Miller's Advent theory predicted.

1845 Final conference of Adventists is held at Albany, New York in April.

An article on Sabbath observance, authored by T. M. Preble, is published February 28 in a Millerite Adventist magazine.

Joseph Bates begins to observe the Sabbath as a result of Preble's article.

1846 Ellen G. Harmon marries James White on August 25. Later in the year, the Whites begin to observe the Sabbath.

1849 William Miller dies December 20 (born February 5, 1782).

Joseph Bates travels to Michigan, advocating Sabbath observance.

1850

1850 Whites make their first trip to Michigan.

1852 Joseph Bates makes his second trip to Michigan and visits Battle Creek.

Gilbert Cranmer begins to observe the Sabbath after hearing Bates expound on its observance.

1853-58 H. S. Case and C. P. Russell publish *The Messenger of Truth*, a rival and critical paper of James and Ellen G. White's *Review and Herald*.

1855 The Whites and *The Review and Herald* move from Rochester, New York to Battle Creek, Michigan.

1857 The Whites deny Gilbert Cranmer a license to preach for the Adventists.

1858 Gilbert Cranmer begins to preach independently and establishes several congregations in western Michigan.

1860

1860 Gilbert Cranmer organizes his congregations into a state conference in Michigan. The church is known as the Church of Christ in Michigan.

M. E. Cornell evangelizes in Iowa, and on June 10 organizes the Church of Jesus Christ at Marion, Iowa.

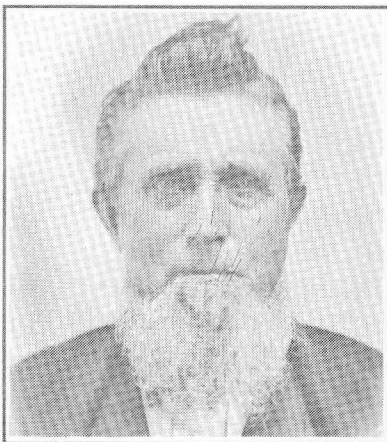
James and Ellen White persuade their followers to adopt the name Seventh-day Adventist for their denomination.

1861-62 M. E. Cornell divides the Marion church by attempting to introduce the visions of Mrs. E. G. White.

An Iowa conference is held on November 5, 1862.

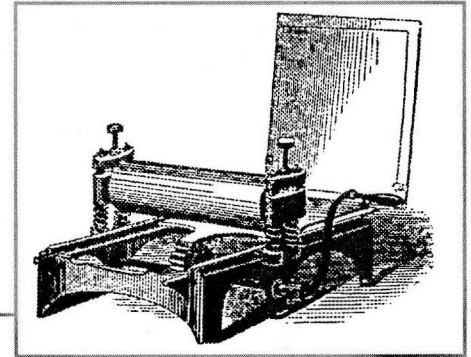
1863 Gilbert Cranmer's Church of Christ, in Michigan, publishes the first issue of *The Hope of Israel*, dated August 10, 1863. The paper became the forerunner of the *Bible Advocate*.

The Church of Jesus Christ at Marion, Iowa learns of the Michigan conference of the Church of Christ and its plan to publish *The Hope of Israel*, and begins to communicate with the Michigan church.



Gilbert Cranmer was influential in the actions taken to begin publishing *The Hope of Israel*, and served as one of its early editors. He raised up several congregations in Southwestern Michigan, and served as the first president of the Michigan Conference in 1860.

This Adams' Cottage Printing Press was purchased in Chicago, Illinois in 1863 for \$300 to be used in publishing *The Hope of Israel*.



1864 *The Little Preacher*, a children's magazine, is introduced.

1865 The Marion church adopts the name Church of God. William H. Brinkerhoff and B. F. Snook leave the Seventh-day Adventists and join the Church of God in Iowa.

Publication of *The Hope of Israel* discontinues in Michigan with the October 18, 1865, issue.

1866 *The Hope of Israel* is moved to Marion, Iowa. Publication resumes on May 22, under the auspices of the Christian Publishing Association (starting again with Volume 1, Number 1). W. H. Brinkerhoff is editor.

A letter published in *The Hope* from A. C. Long indicates the Church is becoming active in Missouri.

1869 W. H. Brinkerhoff becomes a Universalist.

1870

1868-71 B. F. Snook edits *The Hope of Israel*. Later he too leaves the Church of God. It is reported that he became a preacher for the Universalists. Jacob Brinkerhoff becomes editor of the paper.

1872 The name, *The Hope of Israel*, changes to the *Advent and Sabbath Advocate* and *The Hope of Israel*.

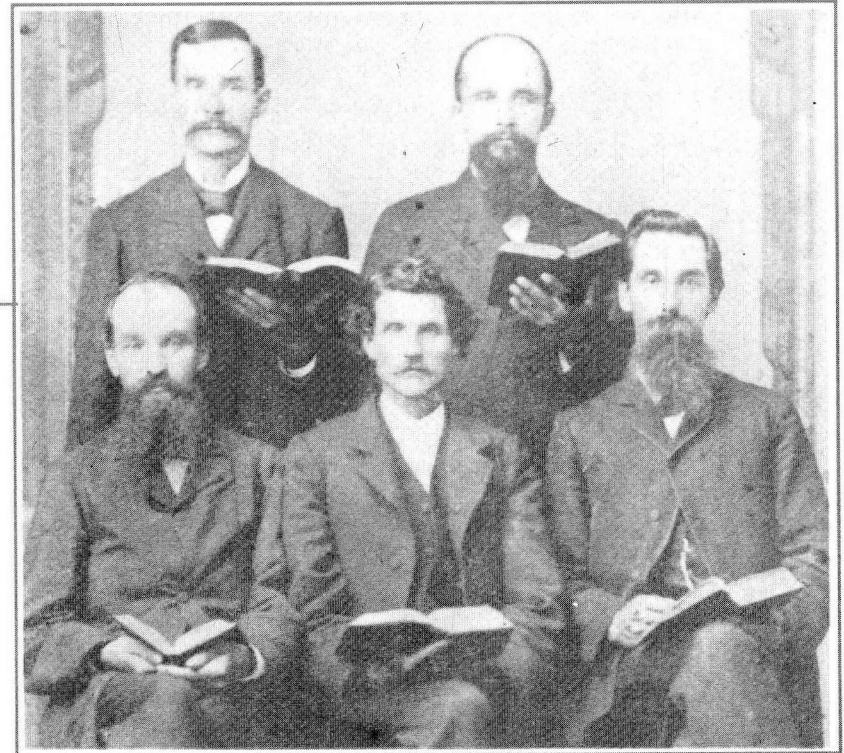
1874 The magazine, under the management and editorship of Jacob Brinkerhoff, becomes known as the *Advent and Sabbath Advocate*. The Christian Publishing Association dissolves (H. E. Carver, M. N. Kramer, V. M. Gray).

The Sabbatarian Adventist Conference of Missouri is organized on August 2 at Denver, Worth County, Missouri.

1875 On August 13, the Missouri church adopts the name Church of God.

1880

1881 The annual conference of the Church of God of Missouri has an attendance of 1200 to 1500.



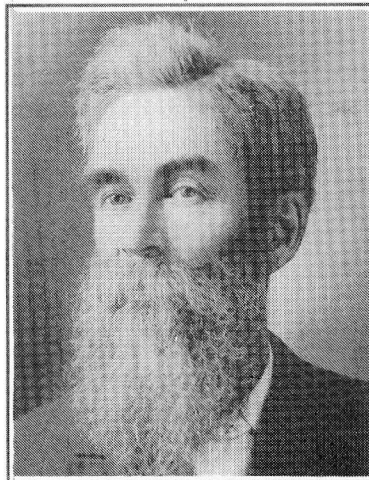
These men were influential in organizing the first General Conference. They are, left to right, back row: J. C. Branch and W. C. Long; front row: A. C. Long, Andrew F. Dugger, and N. A. Wells. A. C. Long was the first president and A. F. Dugger the first vice-president.

1884 The General Conference of the Church of God organizes on October 5 at Irvington, Van Buren County, Michigan. It is composed of the Michigan, Iowa, and Missouri conferences and the churches in Nebraska and Kansas. The Michigan Church of Christ changes its name to Church of God.

The Sabbath School Missionary, a magazine for children, is first published.

1885 The second meeting of the General Conference is held at Marion, Iowa. The membership of the Conference in Michigan, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas,

Jacob Brinkerhoff (April 5, 1841 — July 12, 1916) was ordained as a minister of the Church of God in Albany, Missouri, August 24, 1865. He first worked at the office of *The Hope of Israel* in Iowa as an assistant printer. In 1871 Brinkerhoff succeeded B. F. Snook as editor, then on March 31, 1874, he also became publisher after saving the paper from a foreclosure sale. He purchased the paper with personal funds he had saved to purchase a house for his family. He sold the operation to the next editor, A. C. Long, in 1887, who sold it to the General Conference the next year.



Jacob Brinkerhoff became editor of the magazine again from 1907 until his retirement in 1914. He stands out as one of the most prominent pioneers of the Church of God through his unselfish contribution to the church's ministry and publishing work.

and Nebraska is 820. There are 23 churches and 18 Sabbath schools reported.

The General Conference votes to assume responsibility for the publication of the *Advocate*.

1887 The fourth annual meeting of the General Conference is held in October at Stanberry, Missouri.

A. C. Long is appointed editor of the *Advocate*, which is still being published at Marion, Iowa.

1888 The General Conference purchases the *Advocate* printing equipment at Marion, Iowa and moves it to Stanberry, Missouri. W. C. Long becomes editor.

The name of the paper is changed to *Sabbath Advocate and Herald of the Advent*.

1890

1899 In December, the General Conference of the Church of God is incorporated in Missouri.

1900

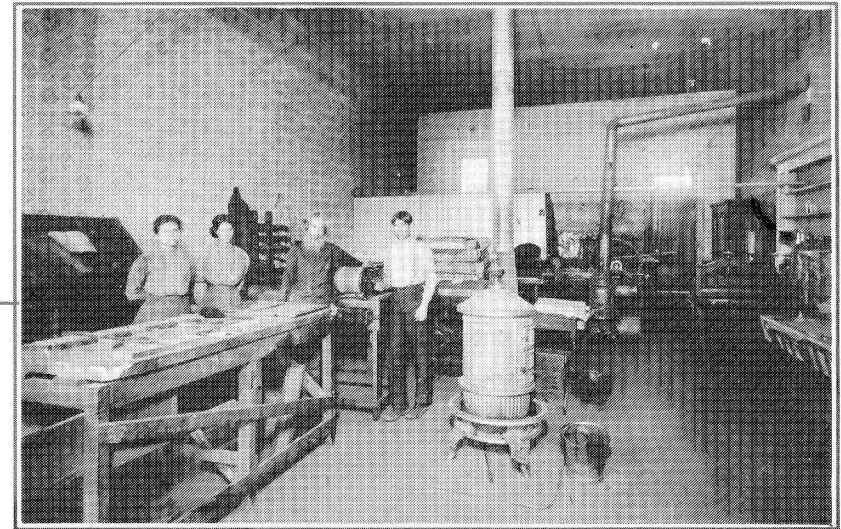
1900 The name of the *Advocate* changes once again to *Bible Advocate and Herald of the Coming Kingdom*. W. C. Long remains the editor.

A. C. Long, a pioneer of the Missouri church, dies (born September 15, 1846).

1903 Gilbert Cranmer dies (born January 14, 1814).

1905 W. C. Long leaves the Church of God over a management dispute at the Publishing House. A. F. Dugger becomes editor of the *Bible Advocate*.

1906 Andrew N. Dugger, son of A. F. Dugger, begins his ministry.



A view of the Church of God Publishing House in Stanberry, Missouri in 1914. Jacob Brinkerhoff, editor of the *Advocate*, is third from the left. All the type was set by hand in those days — a very tedious job.

1907 Jacob Brinkerhoff comes out of retirement and is appointed editor of the *Advocate*.

1910

1910 A. F. Dugger, pioneer of the work in Nebraska, dies.

1914 Jacob Brinkerhoff retires and Andrew N. Dugger becomes both editor of the *Advocate* and president of the Conference.

1916 Jacob Brinkerhoff dies at age 75, on July 12.

1917 A. N. Dugger publishes 40 points of doctrine.

1920

1900-22 The work of the Conference expands into California, Oregon, Washington, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas,

Alabama, Louisiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, North and South Dakota. In 1921 more than 1,000 new members are reported to have been added to the Church.

- 1920 The *Bible Home Instructor* is published.
- 1921 *The Harvest Field Messenger*, official field organ of the Church of God, is published.
- 1922 A. N. Dugger implements a Conference-wide financial reform.
- 1923 The General Conference adopts the name Church of God (Seventh Day).
- 1925 A. N. Dugger starts a new editorial policy for the *Bible Advocate*. It is to cease to be an open forum in which "debatable questions" are aired.
- 1926 The German brethren in the Dakotas report publishing the *Bible Advocate* in German.
- 1927 The Conference in session passes a resolution calling for doctrinal conformity among the Church membership.



Andrew N. Dugger, editor of the *Advocate* and president of the General Conference.

- 1929 The Conference in session calls for further unity and conformity in its ministerial ranks.

1930

- 1931 A. N. Dugger goes to Jerusalem, proposing that Jerusalem become the location of the Church's headquarters.
- 1932 Dugger returns from Jerusalem.
Dugger becomes spokesman for a move to restore "Bible organization" within the Church—i.e., using the numbers 12, 7 and 70 in various combinations of the church's government.
- 1933 The Conference, almost evenly divided over Dugger's candidacy for Conference president, elects A. S. Christenson instead.
On November 4, Dugger hosts a meeting in Salem, West Virginia to institute "Bible organization" in the Church, thus dividing the General Conference.
On November 6, the newly organized Salem Conference issues its own version of the *Bible Advocate* magazine.
- 1939 The Women's Association is organized in August, at the Conference meeting. Its first president is Myrtle Davison.

1940

- 1942 An attempt to reunite the Salem and Stanberry churches fails.
- 1947 The Salem and Stanberry conferences mutually agree to appoint committees to study unity.



This building was constructed in Stanberry, Missouri between 1946 and 1949 to house the Stanberry church, the Church of God Publishing House (later named Bible Advocate Press), and Midwest Bible College.

Spring Vale Academy is started by the Michigan State Conference.

On November 7, the first Unity Committee meeting is held.

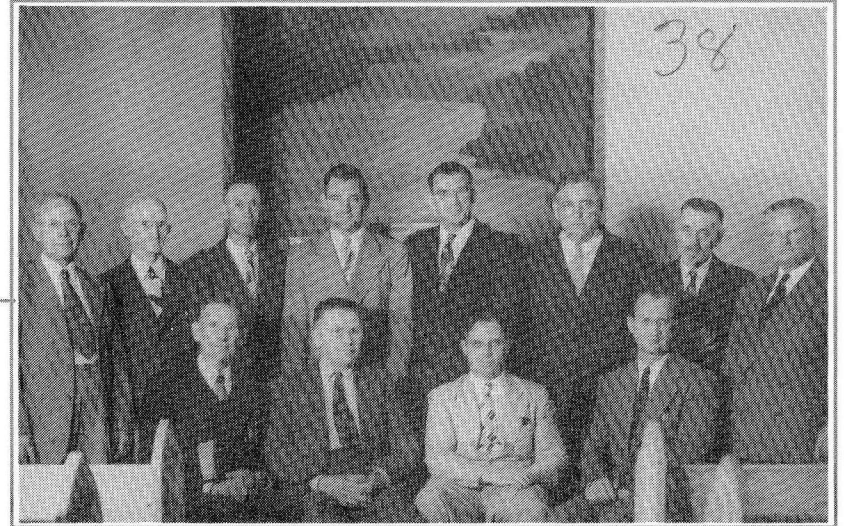
1948 The ministry and church leadership of both conferences meet at Fairview, Oklahoma, February 12-17.

In August, both conferences hold a common national campmeeting at Stanberry, Missouri.

Spring Vale Academy, a church-sponsored high school academy, opens for its first school year.

1947-49 Publishing House and chapel are built in Stanberry (dedicated March 4, 1950).

1949 A joint session of the Salem and Stanberry conferences is held August 12-21, at Stanberry, Missouri, to effect the reunion of the conferences.



The first Executive Board following the merger between the Stanberry and Salem Churches of God. Front row (left to right): Otto Haerber, A. E. Lidell, E. A. Straub, Charles Adams; back row (left to right): L. I. Rodgers, William Alexander, Archie Craig, Kenneth Freeman, Ennis Hawkins, R. E. Burge, Christ Kiesz, and W. W. McMicken.

Articles of Incorporation are amended to accommodate the organizational bylaws of the newly merged Conference.

Elder A. E. Lidell is elected as chairman of the Conference.

1950

1950 The General Conference offices of the united Conference are moved to Denver, Colorado, and temporarily located in the basement of the Denver church.

1951 General Conference Campmeeting is held at Red Rocks Campgrounds near Denver, Colorado.

Midwest Theological Seminary with Burt Marrs as its president is started at Stanberry, Missouri.

1952 At the resignation of Elder A. E. Lidell, Elder E. A. Straub, vice chairman, becomes the chairman of the General Conference.

Charles Adams and his family visit and assist the Church of God in Nigeria for an extended time.

1953 General Conference Campmeeting is held at the Assemblies of God Campgrounds in Littleton (South Denver), Colorado.

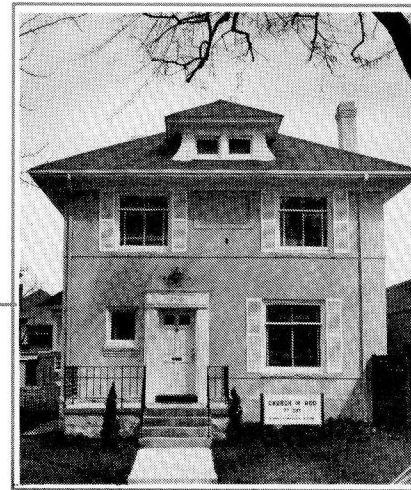
Elder E. A. Straub is elected chairman of the General Conference.

EMGAM ("Every Member Gain A Member"), an outreach program of the Home Missions Department, is introduced at the General Conference.

Goal set by EMGAM program to double church attendance in two years.

Plans for a national radio work are announced.

The first Ministerial Council meeting following the 1949 merger — held in Denver, Colorado in 1950.



General Conference office facility at 1510 Cook Street in Denver, Colorado, purchased in 1953 and occupied until 1972.

Name of Midwest Theological Seminary is changed to Midwest Bible College.

Campaign is organized for new classroom/chapel building at Spring Vale Academy in the amount of \$25,000.

Church Manual is published.

Home Missions Fund Drive is initiated (\$10,000).

Elder Kenneth H. Freeman of Friendly, West Virginia is selected as the speaker for *Faith For Our Time*, the new radio program. Broadcasts are announced on three stations that provide general coverage throughout most of the United States.

A building at 1510 Cook St., Denver, Colorado, is purchased to house the General Conference offices.

The *Christian Workers Course* and the *Searchlight Bible Course* are introduced by the Home Missions Department.

1954 WAND — *Women's Association News Digest* — is first published by the National Women's Association.

- 1955 General Conference Campmeeting is held at the Assemblies of God Campgrounds in Littleton, Colorado.
- United Fund is established by which local churches set individual annual goals to support the work of the departments.
- The Stacy Memorial Foundation is established in memory of the late Elder Carl Stacy to provide financial assistance to ministerial aspirants. The name is later changed to Faithful Servant Memorial Fund.
- 1956 Executive Board and Administrative Committee at their joint session agree to change the *Bible Advocate and Herald of the Coming Kingdom* frequency from weekly to biweekly.
- The *Searchlight Bible Correspondence Course* is offered free through the *Faith for Our Time* broadcast.
- 1957 General Conference Campmeeting is held at the Assemblies of God Campgrounds in Littleton, Colorado.
- 1958 The Laymen's Research Committee is organized. The activities of this committee would disrupt the peace of the Church for a period of time.
- New Junior Sabbath School quarterly is introduced by the Publishing House.
- 1959 Free Literature Distribution Program is established whereby no fees are charged for pamphlet-size tracts printed by the Publishing House.
- The Ministerial Council selects a Research Committee to study the Constitution and Bylaws of the General Conference, develop necessary amendments, and prepare a presentation for the next General Conference Campmeeting.

General Conference Campmeeting is held at the Assemblies of God Campgrounds in Littleton, Colorado.

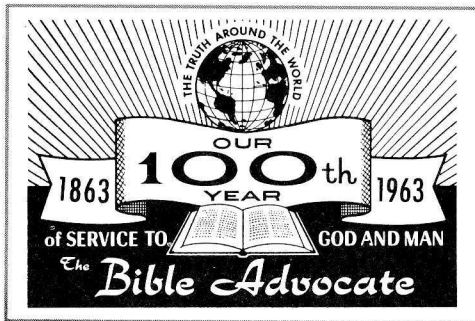
Elder Kenneth H. Freeman is selected as chairman of the General Conference.

AIM is selected as the new name for the youth magazine of the church, replacing the *Christian Youth Herald and Gospel Call*.

Spring Vale Academy announces plans for a new dormitory. This addition will allow the school to double its enrollment.

1960

- 1961 General Conference Campmeeting is held at the Assemblies of God Campgrounds in Littleton, Colorado.
- General Conference goes on record as opposing the formulation and functioning of any self-appointed committee or organization within the church organization that solicits or draws funds and/or circulates to the members derogatory and demoralizing documents — under any circumstances — without official support of the General Conference.
- Searchlight Bible Course* enrollment is up to 1739 students.
- Oregon Youth Camp is sponsored by the Oregon State Conference.
- Thirty three acres of land north of the Denver city limits are purchased by the General Conference for \$27,000. The envisioned development of this land is for a Church-owned campmeeting site, General Conference office building, and other structures for church activities.
- A committee of Kenneth Freeman, Robert Coulter, and Larry Russell is appointed to study and arrange



Logo used by the Publishing House during the *Bible Advocate's* centennial year, August, 1962 — August, 1963.

for a master plan for the campgrounds. Action is taken to initiate a Building Fund Drive.

1963 General Conference Campmeeting is held at the Assemblies of God Campgrounds in Littleton, Colorado. Theme: "Love, the Link to Perfection."

Elder Robert Coulter is selected as chairman of the General Conference.

Young People's Department sets as one of its goals to double the *AIM* circulation.

Faith For Our Time is broadcast on 24 radio stations.

Faithful Youth Challengers manual is published.

Church youth camps are sponsored in Oregon, Michigan, and Missouri.

The *Bible Advocate* celebrates 100 years, having been published under the following names:

The Hope of Israel

Advent and Sabbath Advocate and Hope of Israel

Advent and Sabbath Advocate

Sabbath Advocate and Herald of the Advent

Bible Advocate and Herald of the Coming Kingdom

Finance Study Committee is appointed by the Executive Board to study the Church's financial policies and needs.

1964 Administrative Committee meets to develop and recommend a budget and to review interrelationships, successes, and needs. The seven departments are supported through the United Fund.

Foreign Missions Department selects a team of E. A. Straub and Hugh Butrick to review and evaluate Church programs in foreign fields.

Upon the recommendation of the 1963 Conference, the Executive Board evaluates the work of the Church in the field and revises its district boundaries. The new district boundaries effective July 1 are:

1. West Coast
2. North Central
3. High Plains
4. South Central
5. Southern
6. Northeastern

The first budget for the General Fund of the Conference is set by the Executive Board.

Department Emphasis Sabbaths are established by the Administrative Committee in which Sabbaths are designated throughout the year to emphasize the work of each department. A special offering is to be received during the promotion.

1965 General Conference Campmeeting is held at the Assemblies of God Campgrounds in Littleton, Colorado.

National Faithful Youth Challengers tour visits many churches.

The Church of God Publishing House is renamed Bible Advocate Press.

1966 The United Fund is renamed the United Missions Fund, through which the seven departments of the Church are supported.

Finance Manual is published and distributed, outlining the General Conference financial program and procedures.

The National Women's Association publishes a W. A. Handbook.

General Conference Trust Agreements are developed and information is distributed about them.

The Executive Board adopts a report from the Finance Counseling Committee that more clearly outlines the reporting responsibilities of the seven departments to the Executive Board.

1967 General Conference Campmeeting is held at Palmer Lake, Colorado. Theme: "Steps to Salvation"

Elders Robert Coulter and Ray Straub are sent by the Executive Board to evaluate the work of the Church in Central America.

The Executive Board approves the proposal that the Central American church operate autonomously — a separation from the church in Mexico.

New *hymnal, Worship in Song* is published and made available by the Bible Advocate Press.

Youth Camps are planned in California, Oregon, Michigan, Oklahoma, and Missouri.

1968 The Ministerial Council meets in Monterrey, Mexico, its first biennial meeting held outside the United States.

1969 General Conference Convention is held in Huron, South Dakota. Theme: "The Night is Far Spent, The Day is at Hand."

Ministerial Internship Plan is adopted.

The Harvest Field Messenger will be sent free of

charge to all members. The General Conference will underwrite the cost.

Spring Vale Academy moves into new classroom/gymnasium building.

Kenneth Knoll is awarded the first scholarship from the Faithful Servant Memorial Fund.

1970

1970 National Youth Leadership Retreat is held at Boulder, Colorado.

The Executive Board tentatively adopts a plan to build a new Conference office building and publishing plant on the 33-acre property previously purchased in north suburban Denver.

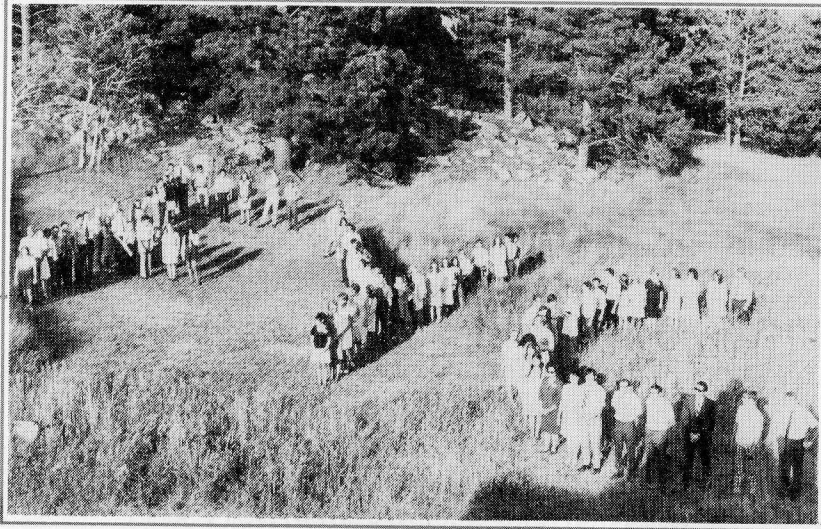
Beginning July 1, the *Bible Advocate* is offered free to anyone who requests it.

Footprints, a new children's magazine, replaces the *Sabbath School Missionary*, now in its 85th volume.

Construction of the new General Conference offices is proposed. The building will provide eight offices, a conference room, and stenographic area, as well as space for the Bible Advocate Press and other Conference departments. The target date for construction is June 10, 1971.

Departmental Tithe Assistance Program is adopted. This plan makes available one of the 15 percent of tithe contributed to the conference treasury to support departmental work. The other 14 percent supports other Conference operations.

Tithe Refund Plan is adopted. This is a plan by which a local church may receive a refund of up to 10% of its tithe receipts. The local church qualifies for the Tithe Refund Plan by actively participating in the adopted Church finance support activities and guidelines.



Youth forming the letters "FYC" during a Faithful Youth Changers retreat in the Rocky Mountains near Boulder, Colorado.

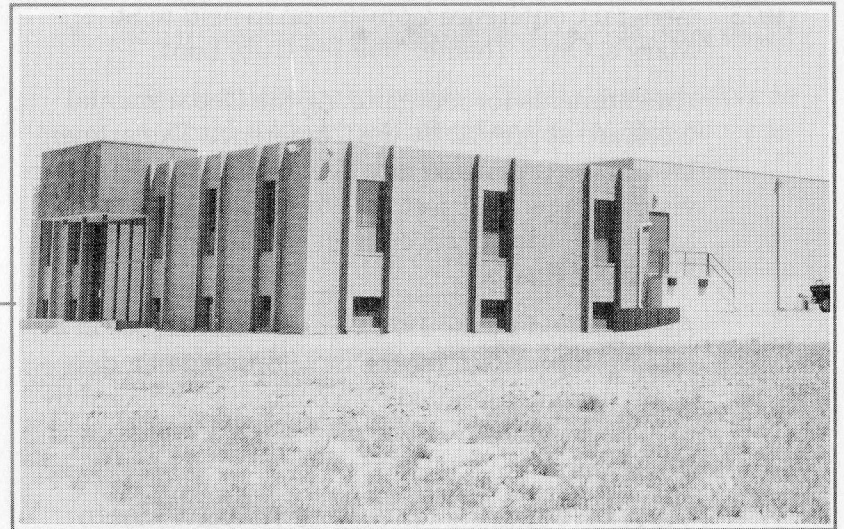
1971 General Conference Convention is held in LaVerne, California. Theme: "Behold, He Cometh Quickly."

New three-year curriculum for junior high youth is printed by the Sabbath School Department and Bible Advocate Press.

The Ministerial Council inaugurates a new method of issuing church membership certificates. Under this method, the candidate completes an application form requesting membership. The form is sent to the General Conference office, and the membership certificate is completed and returned to the issuing minister who presents it to the new member.

A new Sabbath School Handbook is published and distributed by the Sabbath School Department. The handbook presents the Plan of Operation of Sabbath Schools, adopted by the Ministerial Council.

Under the co-sponsorship of the General Conference and the Foreign Missions Department, Elders



New General Conference building constructed in suburban Denver, Colorado to house the general offices, publishing facility, and other agency offices.

Wesley Walker and Robert Coulter tour the Church work in the Caribbean. Elder E. A. Straub tours the Church work, covering a major part of Europe.

1972 Ray L. Straub is selected as speaker for *Faith For Our Time* radiobroadcasts. The program has been reorganized to enlist more local church sponsorships.

New men's dormitory is completed at Midwest Bible College in Stanberry, Missouri.

The General Conference office and Bible Advocate Press move into the new building in Denver, Colorado in March.

The phrase, "*Herald of the Coming Kingdom*" is dropped from the name *Bible Advocate*.

Sabbath School Quarterly lessons for senior high youth are revised and updated.

- 1973 General Conference Convention in held in St. Mary's, Ohio. Theme: "Fill My Cup, Lord."
- Amendments for reorganizing the Departmental work are approved by the Conference. Departmental work is organized into agencies under the supervision of agency directors, who report to a United Missions Board of seven men appointed by the Executive Board.
- As requested by the 1971 General Conference in session, a proposal for the development of a delegate system is studied by a committee selected by the Executive Board. The plan is not adopted by the Conference.
- VISTOC (Volunteers In Service To Our Church) program is introduced by the Young People's Department. The program is designed to provide training in church-related employment.
- Home Missions Department develops a cassette ministry. These cassettes are prepared as Bible studies for shut-ins as well as helpful studies for carrying out evangelistic work.
- Sabbath School Department develops long-range curriculum for Adult Sabbath School lessons.
- The mailing list of the Bible Advocate Press is converted to computer.
- 1974 Ministerial Council adopts revised doctrinal statement on marriage, divorce, and remarriage.
- The new Church Manual is offered in a looseleaf binder so sections can be easily updated.
- 1975 General Conference Convention is held in Fulton, Missouri. Theme: "With Our Witness."
- The Conference adopts bylaws that provide for the nomination of members to the Executive Board

through a nominating committee. The Executive Board members will be elected by a majority vote.

The Conference recognizes that it does not serve as a world-wide organization and gives autonomy to its conferences and councils in other countries.

The Conference adopts bylaws that allow districts more flexibility in electing their district board members.

The Executive Board authorizes the United Missions Board to implement a plan to move the Church's ministerial training program from Stanberry, Missouri, to Denver, Colorado.

Elder Trinidad Padilla is selected as speaker for *Faith For Our Time*.

Elder Ray Straub is selected as director of the new Ministerial Training Center in Denver.

Women's Association develops Seekers program for children ages 9-12.

- 1976 A committee is formed of five brethren from the Churches of God (Seventh Day) of Meridian, Idaho, and five brethren from the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) of Denver Colorado. This committee is to explore ways of improving relationships between the two groups, promote communication, and build confidence for possible unity.

The Ministerial Council of the General Conference was reorganized as the North American Ministerial Council.

The first meeting of the International Ministerial Congress is held at Glorieta, New Mexico, October 5-9. This is a transitional organization.

- 1976-77 MTC (Ministerial Training Center) operates its first year (including its first summer session) in Denver, Colorado.
- 1977 General Conference Convention is held in Bethany, Oklahoma. Theme: "Jesus Is Lord."
The Christian Education Agency introduces a Young Adult Ministries program to assist young adults in identifying opportunities to strengthen their spiritual lives.
- 1978 A building is purchased by the General Conference to house the Ministerial Training Center library, classroom, and radio studio. This building is destroyed by fire while being situated at the Conference site. A new modular building is moved in to replace the one destroyed by fire.
The organizational meeting of the present International Ministerial Congress is held in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.
- 1979 General Conference Convention is held at Glorieta, New Mexico. Theme: "Run With the Vision."
The Conference adopts a resolution which makes the Church of God (Seventh Day) a charter member of the International Ministerial Congress.
Each district appoints a district youth coordinator. The coordinators serve as communication links between the national youth office and the district youth, and serve as the leadership team with the National Youth Agency.
The first Senior Adult Retreat is conducted by the church in Phoenix, Arizona.
A new addition to the girls' dormitory is completed at Spring Vale Academy.

- 1980 District Overseers meet to discuss coordinating common programs, needs, and interests.
Emphasis Sabbath promotional presentations are made available on filmstrips accompanied by audio cassettes.
General Conference adopts a growth goal to double its membership in a decade.
Media Outreach Agency produces seminars and notebooks that provide instruction and know-how for church growth.
- 1981 General Conference Convention is held at Denver University in Denver, Colorado.
The "Afterglow," a publication for Senior Citizens, is published by the National Women's Association.
The Financial Study Committee appointed by the Executive Board recommends adjustments in the flow of church finance, allowing more authority to local church boards, and leaving less responsibility and clerical work at the district level of the Conference.
- 1982 The Executive Board adopts general job descriptions for the president and secretary/treasurer of the General Conference office.
Summit School of Theology, in collaboration with the Media Agency, makes its summer session classes available on video tape.
The National Women's Association sponsors the construction of a medical clinic in Cross River State, Nigeria, Africa.
Media Outreach Agency prepares Doctrinal Cassette series of the Church of God (Seventh Day).

1983 General Conference Convention is held in Manhattan, Kansas. Theme: "Great Things He Has Done: A Centennial Celebration" of the organization of the General Conference.

The National Women's Association holds its first women's retreat in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Summit School of Theology conducts a leadership seminar in Monterrey, Mexico.

Faith For Our Time is offered as a tool for sponsorship through local churches. Most frequent speakers are Ray Straub, Calvin Burrell, and John Roina.

A coordinating committee composed of nine members representing the General Conference, Denver, Colorado and the General Council, Meridian, Idaho, prepares bylaws that will serve as a framework for a unified organization.

General Conference sermons and worship presentations are made available on cassette tape through the Media Outreach Agency.

The Executive Board appoints a Hispanic Coordinating Committee which will serve as coordinator between the Church's Hispanic membership and the General Conference.

1984 The Coordinating Committee for Unity publishes proposed bylaws for presentation at the 1985 Conference.

1985 General Conference Convention is held in Logan, Utah. Theme: "Show Me the Way."

The Church's United Missions work is renamed United Ministries work. The title of the United Missions Board is changed to United Ministries Board.

The National Women's Association holds its first

Women's Training Conference in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The Association publishes a cookbook.

The Conference in session delays a vote on unification until the 1987 conference.

1987 General Conference Convention is held at the Sheraton Denver Tech Center in Denver, Colorado. Theme: "Let's Celebrate Spiritual Growth."

The Conference adopts the "Unity Bylaws." The Meridian, Idaho General Council defeats them.

New bylaws adopted rename the Executive Board the Board of Directors. Bylaws allow for laymen to serve on the board.

Elder Coulter announces his retirement as president of the General Conference.

Elder Calvin Burrell is selected president of the General Conference.

1989 A one-day Leadership Conference is held previous to the biennial Conference Convention in Denver, Colorado.

The Conference receives a report from a Financial Study Committee provided for in a 1987 Conference resolution. The report outlines three models of financial flow and is referred to a committee to study and recommend a financial structure in the 1991 convention.

Church Growth Director is appointed by the Board of Directors.

1990

1990 The National Women's Association sponsors a Women's Cultural Exchange to Jamaica, West Indies.

- 1991 General Conference Convention is held in Little Rock, Arkansas. Theme: "It Is Written."
Conference approves Financial Option Plan, which gives more freedom for local churches to fund ministries of local priority. Accountability to the district and General Conference must still be maintained. This plan will be implemented July 1, 1992.
Board of Directors establishes a Hispanic Affairs Agency in the Conference office in Denver, as an outgrowth of the Hispanic Coordinating Committee.
- 1993 General Conference Convention is held in Bloomington, Minnesota. Theme: "Find Us Faithful."
A one-day Conference on Leadership is conducted immediately prior to the General Conference Convention.
- 1994 The North American Ministerial Council, meeting in Colorado Springs, Colorado, approves major rewording of the Church's doctrinal statements. Mostly by combining related topics, the number of statements was reduced from 37 to 27.
- 1995 General Conference Convention is held in San Diego, California. Theme: "Let the Church Arise."
The Conference adopts an amendment that separates the assignment of president of the General Conference from that of the chairman of the Board of Directors.
Elder Whaid Rose is selected as chairman of the Board of Directors. Elder Calvin Burrell is selected as president of the General Conference.
The Board of Directors approves a plan to hold ACTS (Annual Conference Training Seminars) in key areas throughout the country.

- 1996 The first World Missions project of the International Ministerial Congress sends a delegation to become better acquainted with a Sabbath-keeping church in Ukraine.
The Board of Directors, in sharpening its focus, begins a gradual process of restructuring the United Ministries work.
The Board of Directors creates the position of Director of Administration. The director will be responsible for the general oversight of the General Conference offices.
The National Women's Association changes its name to North American Women's Ministries.
- 1997 General Conference Convention is held in Knoxville, Tennessee. Theme: "Let the Whole World Know."
Calvin Burrell resigns as Conference President — is appointed *Bible Advocate* editor.
Elder Loren Stacy is selected chairman of the Board of Directors. Elder Whaid Rose is selected president of the General Conference.
Spring Vale Academy celebrates its 50th year of operation.
The General Conference approves changing the name United Ministries to General Conference Ministries.
- 1998 The Board of Directors approves a new Conference Ministry for Young Adults: SWORD (Sharing the Word and Offering a Real Difference).
The Board of Directors approves appointment of a President's Commission on Diversity.
- 1999 General Conference Convention is held in Tulsa,

Oklahoma. Theme: "A Diverse People Unified in Christ."

The North American Women's Ministries celebrates its 60th anniversary of service to the ministries of the Church of God (Seventh Day).

This is the 50th anniversary of the merger reorganization of the Church, which took place in 1949, and the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the General Conference of the Church of God (Seventh Day) in the State of Missouri.