

2014 Triennial Report

STRATEGIC PLAN 2014 – 2017

Mission Statement:

Convinced of the imminent return of our Lord Jesus Christ, Advent Christian General Conference exists to Encourage, Equip and Empower Advent Christian churches worldwide to be obedient to His Great Commandment and Great Commission.

This Strategic Plan is for Advent Christian General Conference of America, Inc. and is to serve as a directive for the next three years, beginning June 2014. While the planning areas are very specific in defining overall objectives and goals, the underlying purpose behind all that we do is to present the hope filled, life saving message of the gospel. This is to be accomplished as we work in concert with our churches, conferences and regions. The singular purpose of our mission statement is for us as a people to be obedient to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission. In other words, everything we are about and everything we do should be in response to God's love for us. That response is to be the expression of our love for him and for others. Jesus entrusted his message of love to his disciples — that they would love others just as they had received love from him. The message has not changed and the charge is just the same today. The credibility of our message and the worth of our work will be measured by how we love one another. The importance of what we are to do is amplified by the promise of the second coming of Jesus Christ. The degree of urgency is sensed as we realize that his coming again may be today. This, in itself, creates the need to actively pursue those who need Jesus as their Lord and Savior; to love them as Jesus loves us.

I. Loving the Lost

Through the collective resources of ACGC, we will encourage, equip and empower the growth and development of God's kingdom. We will come alongside churches, conferences and ministry organizations to promote the growth and development of God's kingdom. It is through evangelism, outreach and church planting that God's kingdom grows and develops.

- A. Actively pursue partnering relationships with Advent Christian ministries around the world for the purpose of promoting the message of Christ and establishing new churches among unreached peoples and groups
 - 1. Encourage and promote opportunities for churches and individuals worldwide to participate in partnering relationships
 - 2. Assign and deploy personnel for strategic roles
- B. Pursue partnering relationships with ministry organizations (e.g. Frontiers, World Mission, Wycliffe Bible Translators, etc.) that will foster the involvement of Advent Christians (in North America and elsewhere) in establishing the kingdom of God among unreached peoples
- C. Encourage the development of intentional relationships with the people in the communities surrounding our churches and membership
 - 1. Use gatherings of pastor/leaders to introduce and promote Loving the Lost through Denomination communications — spoken and printed

2. Provide resources such as CE material, books publications, bibliographies and training events for local churches, conferences and regions

II. Church Planting

- A. Develop and promote the establishment of funding resources to assist in the planting of new North American churches
 1. Employ “Church Growth Sunday” to inform local churches, conferences and regions of the opportunities for church planting
 2. Add to the ACGC Church Planting Fund
 - a. Designate “Church Growth Sunday” (First Sunday in February) for solicitation for financial support
 - b. Designate all or a percentage of funds received from the sale of church properties for the Church Planting Fund
 - c. Encourage regional budgets to designate a portion of UM funds for church planting
 3. Create the process for the distribution of the Restricted Church Planting Fund
- B. By promoting the Agape House Church network assist, guide and resource the planting of new North American churches
 1. Identify Agape alumni residing in the United States and come alongside them to encourage them to plant Agape House churches
 2. Through partnerships with local churches, conferences and regions, identify and solicit potential resources for planting sites
 3. Identify church planters using Leadership Development criteria
 - a. Introduce potential and proven church planters to conferences, seminars and workshops on church planting
 - b. Provide internships for potential church planters in the context of healthy church-planting ministries
 - c. Introduce potential and proven church planters to our successful international church-planting models

III. Church Health

To participate in the life of the church as a member of Christ’s body should be a real joy. Defining what a healthy church looks like and how it should function is our objective. ACGC is to assist those given to the leadership of the church with this task. We are committed to assist our churches and its leaders in developing excellence and practical experience in every aspect of local church ministry.

- A. Provide the criteria to determine (assess) church/conference health
 1. Develop the tools and mechanism for delivery to the local church and conference in the area of strategic planning
 2. Provide leadership resources addressing church administration and financial management
 3. Provide the tools and resources that help a church in areas such as Christian education, body life
- B. Discern, define and develop ministries for men, women, youth and children

1. Establish Kids' Ministry
2. Redefine Student Ministry Commission and approach to Student Ministries for ACGC
3. Continue to work with Coordinator of Women's Ministries and WHFM Society to maximize efforts for the women of ACGC
4. Discern best approach for the establishment of an effective Men's ministry for ACGC.

IV. Leadership Development

We will take a proactive approach in seeking out those among us in whom we recognize the potential for leadership as well as those already demonstrating leadership abilities. By identifying these men and women, assisting them in assessing their strengths and weaknesses for leadership as well as identifying gifts and equipping them for specific and greater levels of leadership, we will position the ministry of the Advent Christian Denomination for greater and more effective ministry, not only now but far into the future.

- A. Provide the criteria to determine (assess) leadership health
 1. Criteria to be determined by a team of selected consultants
 2. Health to be evaluated in five areas: Spiritually, Mentally, Emotionally, Physically, Relationally
- B. Implement Assessment Plan for leadership health
 1. Employ the approved assessment tools and process
 2. Extend invitations to existing and emerging leaders to participate
 3. Evaluate results of the assessment to measure the effectiveness of the process
- C. Identify both emerging and existing leaders
 1. Compile lists in cooperation with regional superintendents, conference leaders and local pastors
 2. Compile lists from conference and regional youth events, summer youth camps, retreats and educational institutions' enrollment
 3. Maintain contact with college students attending associated institutions
 - a. ACGC contact churches and camps for names of high school seniors and college-age students
 - b. ACGC personnel is to make a minimum of six campus visits each year
 - c. Regional superintendents are encouraged to make three campus visits each year
 - d. Contact information to be shared between ACGC and regions
- D. Provide resources and methodologies for achieving leadership health
 1. Utilize available delivery systems such as LEAD Teams, AIMS, partnerships with educational institutions and programs to serve our leaders
 - a. Through Web Services build an online community site to connect leaders
 - b. Provide resources and assistance that contribute to the health of existing and future LEAD Teams
 - c. Provide internship opportunities as a part of the evaluation and preparation experience
 - d. In addition to the currently Approved Internship Ministry Sites

2. Collaborate with our educational institutions in the development and delivery of learning and enrichment opportunities (Aurora University, Berkshire Christian College, Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies, Eastern University, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Oro Bible College, Antioch School and BILD)
 - a. Provide short-term field experiences in cooperation with our educational institutions and churches
 - b. Co-host on and off campus training events
3. Define and deliver the resources available through the Global Training Initiative
 - a. Facilitate and monitor the Global Training process among cooperating conferences/ministry organizations worldwide.
 - b. Incorporate relevant individuals, organizations and institutions into the Global Training program as potential training resources.
4. Develop Charlotte campus as a resource/training center
 - a. Produce training seminars and distribute via digital media.
 - b. Host up to three ACGC Equip events each year on campus
 - c. Develop a media library and delivery system of leadership training material
 - d. Explore the development of a “Leadership Periodical”
5. Groom partnerships with para-church organizations such as Intimate Life,[®] Denominational Prayer Leaders’ Network,[®] Right Now Media,[®] BILD[®]
6. Encourage and promote opportunities for churches and individuals worldwide to participate in partnering relationships.
7. Pursue appointments of adjunct professorships for Oro Bible College and Instituto Bíblico Jericó
- E. Facilitate opportunities for deployment/appointment to positions of leadership
 1. Through regional superintendents, area directors and Associate Members, identify ministry opportunities
 2. Seek scholarships/grants that enable pastors/leaders to attend seminars, workshops and retreats that contribute to their health
- F. Assist in providing respite care and renewal for pastors
 1. Serve as a referral to the Advent Christian Village for pastors needing respite care
 2. Encourage local churches and conference to embrace the Sabbatical Policy Endorsed by ACGC and the Regional Superintendents