

CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY VISION 2020

Organizational Strategic Goals Executive Summary

This document expounds on the [brochure](#) distributed at the 97th International Assembly of the Church of God of Prophecy, July 26, 2012.

The core values of prayer, harvest, and leadership development were given to the Church of God of Prophecy by the Holy Spirit and are worthy of our attention and resources to see those Spirit-directed mandates implemented. We are committed to offering God and the Church our best efforts, reviewing and revising our programs and policies so that God is glorified and the Church is built (Matthew 16:18, 19). This is neither a short-term campaign nor an attempt at innovation but a true call, which brings with it the need to lay down a track of vision to 2020 and for decades to come. We are committed to the strategic planning and implementation process until our vision and mission is fully realized and our core values woven throughout every level of our Movement.

OVERALL GOAL

Make vision, mission, and core values the heart or foundation for calling, identity, leadership and strategic action of this Movement.

“Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.” (Proverbs 29:18) We will lay aside the peripheral so that we are able to attend to God’s clear focus, which He imparted to us as three core values. We will implement strategies and initiate pathways to insure our Spirit-driven goals are attained by every layer of leadership, from general presbyter to pastor to local church leadership and disseminated to each member, so that the entire Movement is able to perform with laser-like efficiency.

OUR VISION

The Church of God of Prophecy will be a Christ-exalting, holiness, Spirit-filled, all-nations, disciple-making, church planting Movement with a passion for Christian union.

OUR MISSION

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, through prayer, we will plant churches and equip leaders to carry out the biblical mandate to make genuine disciples of all the peoples of the world, to the glory of Christ our Lord, Head of the church.

CORE VALUES

Our three core values summarize what we believe the Holy Spirit is speaking to our Movement, and therefore, aligning us with what we see God doing in the world. As we consider each core value, God has also spotlighted priority areas that should not be overlooked:

Prayer

We will make prayer the number one priority and core value in each local church.

Harvest

- Strengthen Local Churches for the Harvest
- Plant New Churches
- Young Harvest
- Mission Awareness
- Harvest Alliance

Leadership Development

- Pastor Passionate
- Overseer Serving and Equipping

PRAYER GOALS

Prayer is the primary element that forms the foundation for all that we do as the body of Christ. It touches everything, informs all activities, empowers all ministry and service, and permeates our work from beginning to end. Therefore, an important challenge for all levels of leadership is to make prayer a core value and to ensure its continuance through these specific prayer goals.

Cultivate a culture of prayer in this Movement for the sovereign rule of God.

“Teach us to pray, Lord,” the disciples requested. Oh, that we would passionately desire to effectively pray for the rule of God in our lives and in the world. Let us provoke each other to the good work of prayer. Let us all commit ourselves to a lifestyle of unceasing, fervent, militant intercession; praying in agreement with Jesus, “Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10)

Make prayer the number one priority and core value in each local church.

Throughout history, when God was up to something, He preceded it with a call to prayer. A world-wide prayer movement is saturating Christianity. The Church of God of Prophecy must move where God is moving. We must convey a sense of urgency and lead our people into an end-time prayer movement, knowing that prophecy has already told us that a great harvest is to come.

Equip every leader and member so they become characterized by prayer.

We commit ourselves to a revival of prayer and will give every leader and member much instruction and opportunity to pray, until our churches are known as houses of prayer and our members, people of prayer. We will pray until the work of the Holy Spirit is evident in the working of salvations, miracles, healings, and deliverances; where supernatural ministry is manifested so that it spills over into the community. “These signs shall follow them that believe ...” (Mark 16:17).

Affirm our call to the family altar and make prayer a priority in every home.

We are convinced that the family altar can be the most powerful place of prayer in the world. Statistics show us that when the parents of a child lead them in spiritual activities such as simple family prayer the child’s potential to remain in faith is greatly enlarged. We see from Christian history that the family altar activated spiritual stirrings in most of the giants of the faith. If the family is the most basic unit of social structure that God has ordained, then infusing it with prayer has the awesome potential to transform cities and nations. The Church of God of Prophecy calls every home to restore the family altar.

HARVEST GOALS

Harvest has been the call heard consistently since 1994, which was only a re-alignment to our call when this Movement was birthed. We can report that this Movement is more aligned with God’s harvest priority today than 20 years ago, and it continues to be our central mandate. May each level of leadership be so consumed with this passion for the great harvest of God that they will align every activity to the harvest and focus every resource on reaching the lost.

Overall Goal

Become a movement of vibrant congregations, passionately pursuing the Great Commission call.

Our first priority must be strengthening and equipping each local church to inspire every member to be an enthusiastic soul-winner. Jesus commanded that we go and teach all nations but He does not require that we go alone. He promised He would go with us! Armed with this assurance, we can boldly set out to win the world.

We will make church planting our primary method of evangelization across our global network.

Church planting is the most effective way to spread the Gospel around the world. Everywhere the Church of God of Prophecy is growing, we are planting churches. In addition to individuals involved in church planting, churches birthing churches follows the natural order of God’s reproductive process. We believe this process can be the means for sowing the gospel seed in every land and every community. The Church of God of Prophecy affirms its commitment to church planting in all of its various forms.

A key element to accomplishing our harvest goals is leadership development.

Strengthen Local Churches for the Harvest

Capture the compassionate heart of Christ for lost humanity.

As Christ demonstrated his compassionate heart for lost humanity (Matt. 23:37), we as a church identify with his broken heart for all people. We must be a church with our eyes turned to the ones with the greatest needs – all people separated from God for whom He has demonstrated his love through Jesus’ death on the cross. We will be an army of servants, always looking for, anticipating, sensing the needs of others and responding with true compassion, expecting nothing in return, remembering that “God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9)

Make and grow disciples for Christ.

Just prior to ascending to the father, Christ’s last command to the church was to make and grow disciples, teaching them to observe all things. His last command is our first concern. Our Movement will be a family of vital congregations helping people to mature through intentional spiritual growth, living lives where their total allegiance and complete surrender belongs to Christ. (Matt. 6:33)

Equip and mobilize every member to win the lost of his or her community.

Grassroots efforts have the best chance of influencing and evangelizing a city. Barna Group research finds that most people visit a church because someone personally invited them. Advertising campaigns and large events may be effective, but “Each one, reach one” is still a valid strategy. Leaders must train believers to connect with people in the community and share the Gospel effectively. Acts 2:46, 47 tells us that God added to the church because it was *relational*; they worshipped together, they visited each other and ate together, joyfully. We must be relational in our churches and in our communities to win the lost.

Develop a healthy structure that is contextually relevant and consistent.

Structure sometimes has the propensity to suffocate and drain the life of things away. A healthy structure is one that is flexible, fosters life-long growth and development, and serves the people. Jesus said: “The Sabbath was made to meet the needs of people, and not people to meet the requirements of the Sabbath” (Mark 2:27 NLT). Leaders must be trained to search out innovative ideas and the most useful methods that can be adapted to reach their communities.

Foster unity, connectivity, and synergy within the greater COGOP body.

Great strides have been made across this Movement in the past 15 years. Many testimonies have come out of the recent season of phenomenal growth of the Church. Resources—online, print materials, audio recordings, and video footage—can be disseminated throughout the world. And through Vision2020 we aim to unite our efforts toward our core values. We have a mutual strength when we work together, and we can do much for the Kingdom.

Plant New Churches

Develop adaptable, sustainable church planting models and best practices.

Church planting is biblical. Acts 13 shows us that the church at Antioch started nine churches and literally changed the world. The Church of God of Prophecy is more than a denomination; it is a church planting Movement. Peru is an example of a nation who has taken this call and run with it. With a clear vision for church planting in place, strategizing for five years in preparation, the Church of God of Prophecy in Peru planted 44 new churches in one year.

Identify, support and strengthen mothering churches.

We encourage each church around the world to seek to “mother” new churches. Nature teaches us that every healthy cell reproduces. A mothering church is one that is committed to allocating its limited resources to send out and support church planting teams into a new harvest field. Through saturation, church planting is the most effective means of evangelization in a given area. Evangelization is a process that includes winning lost people, enfolding them into a community of believers, developing them spiritually, and helping them grow into effective leaders.

Identify, equip and release God called, gifted church planters/church planting teams.

We must identify and empower those with the gifting for church planting. Each presbyter, overseer, and pastor should have the mindset that lifting up the ministry of church planter is one more way to equip people in their giftedness. It is notable that someone who is gifted in church planting may not necessarily be gifted as a pastor. Churches must train and release church planting teams. A worthy goal is that every local church plants a church. Churches of any size will learn that by planting churches they will grow.

Young Harvest

Make outreach to and development of children and youth a priority in every local church.

The ministry of Jesus to children and young people is highlighted in the gospels more often than ministry to any other specific group. He healed them, brought deliverance to them, and raised them from the dead. They were a priority to Him! They must be a priority in every local Church of God of Prophecy congregation. The Devil does not wait for children to become adults to tempt them, to pursue them, to steal, kill, and destroy them. Indeed, in Revelation 12 we see a last-days onslaught on children is his agenda. “Then the dragon (the Devil) was enraged at the woman (the Church) and went off to make war with her offspring.” The Church must be preemptive. We must not wait to offer the abundant-life message of faith in Christ to children and young people. There is a war being waged and now is our time to strike!

Identify, equip and release the young harvest for ministry.

The prophet Joel tells us that a hallmark of the last days will be an outpouring of the Spirit of God on sons and daughters, young men and women. If prophecy tells us that God is anointing youth in these days, we must be about preparing and mentoring them to move in that anointing. Discerning the times and knowing the need for anointed ministers is great throughout the world. Let us be intentional about implementing a systematic process for equipping and setting forth those whom God has called, even while they are young.

Identify, train, certify, and license ministers specifically called to the young harvest.

Across this great church, we must be willing to allow a shift to occur in our thinking. Ministry to children and young people is most effective when those leading have experienced a specific calling. We must no longer view children's ministry and youth ministry as a stepping-stone to "real" ministry. We must affirm, encourage and release those who have a zeal for the young harvest with every tool at our disposal. We must insure that tracks of leadership development, certification, and licensure are on par and as highly esteemed as any other calling.

Implement Child, Youth and Worker Protection Policy in every local church. A copy of the policy may be downloaded [here](#).

Mission Awareness

Be a unified missionary movement with a passion for the lost across all people groups.

"Strong men wept." Within any movement are rallying cries, phrases that strike a chord and remind us of our identity. One such phrase for the Church of God of Prophecy came out of the first Assembly, when it was reported that, when confronted with the thought of lost people dying without the knowledge of Jesus Christ, "Strong men wept and said they were not only willing but anxious to go." It is in our spiritual DNA as a body to be moved with compassion for the lost. We must never lose the passion to share Jesus with the world.

Encourage every member and each local church to embrace the importance of giving to support our ministry network that is reaching new fields and impacting the global harvest.

We are at our deepest core a missionary movement and we are striving to live this out individually, congregationally, and in all our corporate expressions. Global missions are the call of God throughout Scripture and continue to be the call to Spirit-empowered Christians today. It is our reason for being. We have a great privilege in the COGOP to be part of a family, to participate in a network of churches all over the world reaching souls for Christ. With this great privilege comes the responsibility to maintain and energize those ministries with our prayers and our finances.

Connect every local church to the global Harvest Partner mission network.

The Harvest Partner mission network has been established to enable members of the COGOP family to meet the needs of COGOP ministries around the world. Linking arms with Harvest Partners is the most effective way to support our missions programs and must be championed in each local church. We will not neglect our brothers and sisters who are laboring on the mission field to expand the work and reach of our Movement globally.

Affirm and encourage cross-cultural missionaries.

The Great Commission demands the continuing expansion of the gospel from one people group and culture to another. There will be an on-going need for cross-cultural missionaries to respond to the call of Christ to take the gospel across language, ethnic and other barriers.

Harvest Alliance

As an expression of our passion for Christian union, we will partner with other Kingdom builders.

We as a Church have always taught and believed that there would be a unity above and beyond religious creeds. God will use this unity to glorify His name in these last days. Ministries should be encouraged to reach beyond the walls of their churches, partnering with those who exalt the name of Christ and His great Gospel to build the kingdom of God.

Welcome congregations who wish to unite with our global body to maximize harvest potential.

Fellowship is a great need for churches as well as individuals. Around the world, there are ministries working without the blessing that comes from being part of a family. We are encouraging our pastors to reach out, to open the door, to make available training, covering, and accountability, not as a method of evangelization but out of a pure heart, being true brothers and sisters to those who need us. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them that are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing leaders is key whether our ministries operate in a harvest-rich location or a harvest-challenged location. In harvest-rich locations, leadership development is essential so that the fields God has prepared can be cultivated even further. In harvest-challenged locations, the key to progress in reaching the lost is to develop pastors and leaders who can hear the voice of God and move forward with His inspiration and guidance. We are committed to developing leaders at every level of this Movement who will initiate change that will transform culture and build God's Kingdom here on earth.

Overall

Discern, identify, equip and deploy called, anointed, gifted leaders.

Regardless of where a person is on their journey, streams of leadership development are available at every level within the Church of God of Prophecy. We must identify those who have a calling and equip them to fulfill it. We must be vigilant in developing those whom God has gifted, anointed, and called so that they can be made ready to serve in their place in the body.

Upgrade and raise the standard of ministry and leadership development at every level of leadership, leaving none behind.

Education is a life-long experience. We have a unique opportunity in the Church of God of Prophecy to offer a wealth of knowledge while instilling in people a desire to grow in the deeper things of the Spirit. Knowledge alone can be detrimental, for the Scripture says it “puffs up.” But coupled with love, God’s very nature, a person can be built up or edified. We must continue to pour into current and emerging leaders in the most effective ways.

Pastor Passionate

Continue to affirm and value the vital role of pastors.

The role of pastor is the single most important and critical appointed ministry function in the Church of God of Prophecy. God loves pastors and has entrusted to them the spiritual well being of His flock. Those whose work is preaching and teaching are worthy of double honor according to 1 Timothy 5:17.

Encourage mentoring relationships across all levels of ministry.

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Timothy 2:2). An effective mentor is one who intentionally directs the one mentored toward wholeness, maintaining a healthy ministry, marriage, and life. Every leader is encouraged to recognize the value of both being mentored and being a mentor. Building solid mentoring relationships is an effective way to pass the baton to the next generation.

Standardize preparation, training and accountability for pastoral ministry.

We must make great strides in this area – much has been done – but there is room for innovation and improvement. We will develop equipping processes for pastors that flow from orientation to extensive training.

Establish accountable, well-structured and sustainable delivery systems to train spiritually inspired ministerial leadership.

The Holy Spirit has challenged us to implement effective, comprehensive, long-term formal and informal avenues to train and encourage our ministerial leadership. Under our leadership development umbrella, we will pursue programs that meet the various needs of our leaders, including academic and transformational leadership, as well as curriculum geared toward life long learning and continuing education.

Establish an integrated model to train lay leaders at every level of ministry.

Lay leadership training programs are important and necessary to strengthen local churches. Every effort must be made to help and encourage pastors to identify those whom God has called and equip them by utilizing every training tool available. Some of these include Sunday school, the Institute of Children’s Ministry, Youth Harvest Training, Women’s ministry events, and in-house instruction for nursery workers and care group leaders. We welcome suggestions from pastors on formulating additional tools and training programs.

Overseer Serving and Equipping

Continue to affirm and value the vital apostolic ministry of the overseer.

“And he gave some, apostles . . . for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11, 12). God calls and places anointed people at the table of decision-making. The apostolic ministry of the overseer is vital; he bridges the local church to the International Offices. Let us be diligent to honor those who administrate the work of the Kingdom.

Provide a breadth of educational streams to equip overseers in developing resources relevant to their region of ministry.

Overseers should have at their disposal every resource and tool available to insure that the needs of their region are fully met. Open lines of communication are imperative and must be utilized more than ever. A multiplicity of ideas and strategies should be offered continually through email, websites, and innovative learning opportunities. Effective ministry strategies should be sought by the general presbyter and shared with the overseers regularly.

ADDITIONAL GOALS

Stewardship and accountability at every level are essential to the growth and influence of this Movement globally. We are committed as believers and leaders to these biblical mandates.

Achieve adherence to biblical and organizational accountability at every level of ministry.

The identity of the Church of God of Prophecy has always been a wide international, yet centralized Movement. Our challenge is to stay true to that identity in practical as well as spiritual ways. To give account is a biblical principle that provides both connection and covering. We commend those that are participating and will continue to encourage accountability through reporting in every area: local, state, region, and nation.

Implement financial polity in every nation of ministry in order to maintain financial stability on each level of organization in the COGOP network.

Every ministry is called to the biblical mandate of stewardship. We will lay foundations for mature stewardship in every nation. We will encourage and teach every church in every place to tithe and to come to the full stature of maturity. A self-supporting local church will contribute to other ministries, all over the world.

Achieve faithful participation in tithing and giving by every member and local church across this Movement.

Good stewardship and cheerful giving bring the blessings of God upon a people. We cannot deny our brothers and sisters the opportunity to see God open the windows of heaven upon them. We must implement teaching strategies that clearly define biblical tithing and giving as the method that will bring “lifting grace” to all those who practice it.

MOVING FORWARD

The General Presbyters and Administrative Committee will continue to implement changes where possible to align with core values. The next step in our corporate strategic planning is to begin the benchmarking process. We will gather data, establish measures, monitor benchmarks, review and evaluate regularly, and set new benchmarks. Findings will be communicated periodically to the field in various forms.

Each local church/state/region/nation is encouraged to systematically work through this document and the accompanying [brochure](#) to continually develop or refine your strategic plan. If you have not already begun your journey, the [brochure](#) has been designed with a grid to help you identify those goals that may be applicable to your level of ministry leadership. From there, you may want to meet with your leadership team to review these documents and begin the process of setting goals, objectives, and benchmark measures for your locale. Goals are simply more detailed and defining steps that specify the action items that need to be taken if the vision is to be fully realized. Benchmark measures help us to track progress over time. These measures such as membership, financial budgeting, churches planted, etc., should be realistic and attainable. Projections should be made for each goal identified.

A very important thought to keep in mind as you work through this process is that it may take some time to actually put your goals and objectives in writing and develop benchmarks, but the time it takes will be rewarded greatly when you begin the actual implementation.