

February 11, 2013

Dear Saints,

We are fellow sojourners with Christ and are called to extend the kingdom of heaven to the kingdoms of this world. Each of us has personally experienced a change so tremendous that we want others to know what our Lord can do for them. It is out of this experience that God invited us to ministry as our principal calling in life. Some of us engage in this full-time while others of us do in a bi-vocational role but both are used to grow the kingdom of God.

In the spirit of trying to be our best for the Lord, the TGA board and myself agreed in 2009 to a vision of offering a *high-quality credentialing system that meets the following minimum criteria:*

1. More legal protection against an increasing number of lawsuits for our Assembly.
2. Focused training for persons entering ministry.
3. Additional training opportunities for those in ministry
4. Greater accountability for those who are not affiliating with the Assembly on a regular basis.
5. Reduction of systems errors.

We realized we needed to upgrade our current system in order to accomplish these goals. After many meetings and hours of planning, the enhanced systems asks pastors and congregations in Texas to do the following:

- All credentialed persons register annually with a nominal fee of \$20.00.
- Retired pastors register but pay no fee;
- Congregations contribute a nominal fee of \$50.00 along with a completed registration form;
- Each minister then attends at least 1 Credentialing Mini-Conference, which are being held in a variety of venues throughout the year.

The easiest way to register is online at www.texaschurchofgod.com.

While these measures represent some adjustments to the way credentialing ministry is conducted, we really believe it will strengthen us and bring us closer together. If you have questions or comments, please do not hesitate to direct them to a member of the Board of Ministry or myself. Additional information is available on-line and we encourage you to read it there.

Shalom!

Dr. Timothy West
State Administrator
On behalf of the Board of Ministry