

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD SCHOOLS

CONSOLIDATION

UPDATE



December, 2011

A Word from Dr. Wood



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Consolidation News

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Working groups begin tackling responsibilities

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Prayer List

[Click here](#) to view a list of things that you can pray for.

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The Transitional Board of Trustees of the consolidated university, comprised of members of the three Boards of Directors of the institutions met in November to consider matters related to the consolidation. This board elected an executive committee pro tem to lead during the consolidation process.

In my capacity as chairman of the Board at AGTS, I was selected to serve as chair pro tem; John Lindell, who is chairman of the Evangel University board, was named vice-chair; and JoAnne Butrin, secretary of the CBC board, will serve as secretary. Serving with these three officers will be other members of the transitional Board of Trustees: Richard Dresselhaus and Charles McKinney (AGTS); Raymond Schmidgall and Stan Tharp (EU); and William Leach and George Westlake III (CBC).

Members of the Transitional Board also were chosen to serve on two Ad Hoc committees which will begin work immediately. The Committee on Mission and Core Values is chaired by Charles McKinney with members John Hershman (AGTS); William Leach and James Long (CBC); and Frank Cargill and Phyllis Wolfram (EU).

The second Ad Hoc Committee is to draw up a Presidential Profile. This profile will be based on the vision for the comprehensive university, including its mission and core values. Following the work of this committee and its adoption, a presidential search committee will be appointed. The Presidential Profile Committee is chaired by James Bradford (AGTS); with members Joy Wilson (AGTS); Rodger Gadd and Randall Ross (CBC) and Doug Clay and Stan Masters (EU).

Report from Presidents

At the November meeting, President Robert Spence reported briefly on the process of working with the Higher Learning Commission. A letter has been sent to them seeking their guidance on the measures the three schools need to take to move ahead with the consolidation. President Byron Klaus reported on a recent joint faculty meeting with Bible and theology faculty from the three schools as they begin the work of creating a unified curriculum for theology and ministry majors. President Gary Denbow reports on the beginning of monthly joint prayer meetings which focus on the consolidation. Eventually, these prayer meetings will be live-streamed so alumni and others around the world can participate in the prayer time.

Tuition Relocation Fund to assist students

During its November meeting, the Executive Presbytery approved funds to be distributed over the next 4 years from the Consolidation Fund to assist students in relocating from Central Bible College into the consolidated Evangel University.

I am keenly aware of the importance of the Godly heritage we have in all three institutions. We will be working to ensure to our donors, alumni and prospective students that this legacy receives heightened awareness in all areas. I want to emphasize again that the consolidation is aimed at creating a world-class university which offers the best majors in every area, including the liberal arts. The consolidation also will enhance cutting edge ministerial training by offering the best in faculty, curriculum, and culture from the three schools to create a theology/

ministry major for those students called to full-time ministry. I believe the learning experiences for our students will transform lives to meet 21st century challenges and service opportunities.

As we seek continued enrollment we will place even greater emphasis on recruiting from the nearly 40 percent of our U.S. AG membership which are ethnic minorities. My hope is that all of our schools will increase their efforts to reach this important segment of prospective students.

The next meeting of the Transitional Board is set for May 30, 2012. Before then committees will work on projects including the enrollment plan, the advancement work, and the educational plan.

Pastors and youth ministers, could I ask you to encourage your young people to consider attending an Assemblies of God college or university. Please promote their going to www.colleges.ag.org to find enrollment and financial aid information on all of our colleges. Sometimes our students feel they cannot afford to attend; but if they went through the financial aid process, I believe many would realize they can. Also, please let students called to vocational ministry know that the consolidated university welcomes them to inquire about the financial aid scholarship program that is being offered.

I am asking that the ministers of this Fellowship join me in seeking God's face and favor as we move forward with the consolidation. The ultimate goal of this effort is to provide the young people in our churches an enhanced education that will result in empowered global leaders to serve God wherever He calls them—be it the church or the marketplace.

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Consolidation prayer gatherings focus on seeking God's wisdom and guidance

Soon after the delegates to the 54th General Council in Phoenix, Arizona voted to consolidate Central Bible College, Evangel University, and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, CBC president Dr. Gary Denbow approached General Superintendent George Wood about providing a prayer covering for this momentous initiative. As a result, the Consolidation Prayer Task Force was formed with Dr. Denbow serving as coordinator. Other members include Sandra Drake, founding director, AG National Prayer Center; Joanne Strom, Alliance for AG Higher Education; Dr. Jay Taylor, director of spiritual formation, AGTS; John Plake, campus pastor, director of spiritual life, EU; Allen Baker, campus pastor, CBC; and John Maempa, director, AG Office of Prayer & Spiritual Care.

Since September, some 60-70 administration, faculty, staff, and students, and area church members, have gathered monthly under the theme, "Together In Prayer," to seek God's help and guidance for the consolidation of the three schools. The prayer gatherings have alternated among the three institutions. Each of the school presidents has been integrally involved in these special meetings.

Prayers, led by various participants have focused upon seeking God's wisdom for the work of the steering committee and the various project committees. Prayers also have been directed toward unity of heart, mind, and spirit; dispelling fears surrounding change; open and honest discussion; and forming a strong sense of community among the three schools. Additionally, participants have prayed for God's help with the pragmatic issues of course design, accreditation, and favor among accrediting bodies. Prayers also have focused specifically on the presidents, academic deans, faculty, staff, and students.

"As a participant on the prayer task force and in the prayer gatherings, I have been so blessed and encouraged by the powerful sense of God's presence that has prevailed," states John Maempa. "So much is accomplished through prayer. A wonderful sense of unity, peace, and assurance has been felt as we have prayed together. I believe that God's hand is moving in response to the prayers being offered."

A prayer gathering was not scheduled for December; however, the monthly meetings will begin again in January and continue through April which will be just prior to the conclusion of the academic year. Many challenges lie ahead; however, as God's help is sought through prayer, and due diligence is given to the process, His hand will be clearly evident as the task of consolidation moves forward to completion.

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Working groups begin tackling responsibilities

The consolidation process of joining AGTS, CBC, and Evangel as one institution is moving forward thanks to the committed faculty, staff and administrations of all three schools and the working groups which have been put in place.

A Steering Committee was instituted after General Council, comprised of board members, administration, faculty and staff. Within this committee are ten working groups who have been assigned heavy loads in the implementation process.

The ten working groups include: Faculty, Academic Administration and Programs, Enrollment, Student Life, Education for Ministry, Governance and Leadership – Administration, HLC Application, Finance and Business Operations, Information Technology, Advancement, and Communications. Each working group has a chair and two associate chairs, to ensure representation of all three institutions. As the assignments become even more clear, many faculty, staff, and administration will be added.

These working groups have enormous responsibilities as they not only comply with what is required for the consolidated university, but also meeting the requirements of the accreditation bodies. They will address all issues associated with establishing the five schools which have been identified in the consolidated university structure: the School of Arts and Sciences, the School of Behavioral Science and Education, the School of Business and Communication, the School of Fine Arts, and the School of Theology and Church Ministries.

As these teams continue to expand and take on more responsibilities in the coming months, please pray for them and for God's clear direction in all that they do together to fulfill the four goals of the consolidation:

1. To maximize financial and organizational stewardship
2. To significantly spur enrollment growth
3. To enhance and expand ministerial preparation to meet the growing needs of our Fellowship
4. To meet 21st century challenges and opportunities

Thoroughly addressing these goals will accomplish the mission of the consolidated university to shape students as Spirit-empowered leaders who are intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually equipped to impact society and the global church.

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Things you can pray for:

- We have received correspondence from the Higher Learning Commission and are working with them to set up a face-to-face meeting between the Consolidation Executive Steering Committee and the HLC team in early January. Please be in prayer for all those involved as we move forward in the consolidation process.
- Pray that a sense of mission and purpose will prevail as we work through the consolidation process.
- Pray that the overarching focus of the consolidation will be upon preparing students to pursue their callings with excellence and purpose.

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