

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD SCHOOLS

# CONSOLIDATION

UPDATE



January, 2012

## The Path to Consolidation



The presidents of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Central Bible College, and Evangel University joined me and our consultant Dr. Robert E. Cooley, for a meeting with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in Chicago this month. This was the required initial interaction review by the HLC to the Consolidation Plan we sent them after the General Council in August which voted overwhelmingly to proceed with consolidating the schools.

The guidance of the HLC officials we met with was for us to move ahead with our recommendation of a Change of Control Structure, or Organization as provided for in the Commission Policy 3:3.

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## Consolidation News

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



Some 60 participants gathered on Tuesday evening, January 17, at Maranatha Chapel in Maranatha Village, Springfield, Missouri, for the first prayer gathering of 2012 for the consolidation of Central Bible College, Evangel University, and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary. In this unique setting were a number of retired educators, current faculty, staff, and administrators of the three institutions, as well as other Maranatha residents and area church members.

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### Prayer List

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

# THE PATH FORWARD FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL SCHOOLS

By **George O. Wood, chair pro tem**



The presidents of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, Central Bible College, and Evangel University joined me and our consultant Dr. Robert E. Cooley, for a meeting with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) in Chicago this month. This was the required initial interaction review by the HLC to the Consolidation Plan we sent them after the General Council in August which voted overwhelmingly to proceed with consolidating the schools.

The guidance of the HLC officials we met with was for us to move ahead with our recommendation of a Change of Control Structure, or Organization as provided for in the Commission Policy 3:3.

I reported to the HLC that prior to our meeting, we have sought to move ahead as far as possible with the implementation plan outlined in our August report. Good progress is being made by the nine working groups, under the direction of the Consolidation Steering Committee and the transitional Board of Trustees.

Here are some highpoints from this meeting:

- I reported that outside consultants are working with enrollment personnel in the schools. \$2 million has been earmarked to help with the relocation of students from Central Bible College to Evangel University due to the inconsistency in tuition between the two schools.
- HLC stressed again that the accreditation of the schools is not in jeopardy inasmuch as all three are accredited by HLC. They noted that since we are not proposing a radical change, going back to candidacy status is highly remote.
- I reported on the initial meeting of the transitional board (comprised of the three boards of the schools) in November but noted this board currently is operating under the bylaws (Article 4.1) approved by the General Presbytery with membership consisting of all current members of the three boards until HLC approves this. However, this board has no authority over the individual schools as they presently exist. Their work solely relates to the formation of the consolidated university and the application to be filed with the HLC. Once HLC has approved the application, the transitional board will become the board of control of the consolidated university.
- In order to begin consolidation in the fall of 2013, we will need to get our application to HLC by June 1, 2012. They will then schedule a site visit sometime this coming fall and the report from that will go to their Board of Trustees in February 2013. The timeline for consolidation will be a matter of discussion with the Steering Committee who will study the feasibility of the best timing.
- We discussed again the five schools that will make up the new Evangel University. These are: Arts and Sciences, Behavior Science and Education, Business and Communication, Fine Arts, and Theology and Ministry. The approval to move ahead with the Consolidation means the committees and boards can begin to systematically do their work. There are nine committees working under a Steering Committee tasked with various phases of the consolidation. These committees are Faculty, Academic Administration and Programs, Enrollment, Stu-

dent Life, Education for Ministry, Governance and Leadership—Administration, HLC Application, Finance and Business Operations, Information Technology, and Advancement.

I want to thank Dr. Gary Denbow and his Prayer Task Force for the monthly prayer meetings they conduct to pray for the consolidation and everyone involved in it. Without question, this prayer foundation provided a covering for our meeting with HLC and the resultant approval. I also want to thank Dr. Byron Klaus and Dr. Robert Spence for the work and efforts they are giving to create a world-class Pentecostal Christian university. We must remember the ultimate goal of the consolidation is to provide an enhanced education for our young people that will result in empowered global leaders, business persons, professionals, educators, ministers, and missionaries to meet 21st century challenges and opportunities for higher education.

The dream of this consolidation began many years ago, but for a variety of reasons, has not yet become a reality. We believe the time has come and with the clearance from HLC, we have moved a long way toward realizing this goal.

[Back to the top >>](#)

## **First 2012 consolidation prayer service begins the year on a strong note**

Some 60 participants gathered on Tuesday evening, January 17, at Maranatha Chapel in Maranatha Village, Springfield, Missouri, for the first prayer gathering of 2012 for the consolidation of Central Bible College, Evangel University, and the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary. In this unique setting were a number of retired educators, current faculty, staff, and administrators of the three institutions, as well as other Maranatha residents and area church members. God's presence was powerfully felt as Prayer Task Force Coordinator and CBC President, Dr. Gary Denbow opened the gathering by praying for a fresh move of the Holy Spirit on all three campuses this year.

Various faculty, area ministers, and students offered prayers for the prayer emphases provided for the service that focused on the need for continued guidance, community, unity, and peace in the midst of the consolidation process. Additionally, open-mike opportunities were given for some who wished to express prayers from their hearts. During the service, long-time and renowned educator, Dr. Stanley M. Horton, testified of a strong inner peace he has felt since the decision was made to consolidate the three schools into one university.

"I was personally moved by the unique setting for this prayer service," states John Maempa, Prayer Task Force member and director of the Office of Prayer & Spiritual Care. "There was an awesome sense of God's presence as prayers were offered by those long retired as educators from each of the three schools as well as by current educators, leaders, and students. Prayers of exceptional depth and insight were shared."

The next consolidation prayer gathering is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 20, on the campus of Evangel University.

[Back to the top >>](#)

## **Things you can pray for:**

- Pray for a fresh move of God's Spirit on the campuses of CBC, EU, and AGTS this year.
- Pray for renewed energy, insight, and wisdom for the steering committee and project committee members.
- Pray for breakthroughs in challenging areas of deliberation and decision making.
- Pray for a growing sense of community among administrators, faculty, staff, and students of the three schools.
- Pray for continued wisdom in crafting the academic program of the consolidated university.
- Pray for wisdom in decisions pertaining to leadership and staffing structures.
- Pray that a sense of peace will rest upon the administration, faculty, staff, and student body in each school as the consolidation process continues.

[Back to the top >>](#)