



Greetings,

Welcome to the 57th General Council of the Assemblies of God. We are pleased to host you for this exciting event. Enclosed in this packet is vital information to assist you in covering General Council, including: information about the Assemblies of God, story leads, and an event guidebook.

The Press Office is located in the Anaheim Convention Center inside the exhibit hall, Hall A Show Office on the second floor. Daily news and updates will be available online at [generalcouncil.org](http://generalcouncil.org) and through the GC17 app. All services will be available live on the website and apps with archived sessions posted to the site within a few hours of the ending of each live session.

Please stop by the Press Office or call 1 800 GC PRESS (1 800 427-7377) and we will be happy to assist with any press needs you have in covering this exciting event.

Sincerely,

*Mark Forrester*

Senior Director, Communications and Public Relations

**CONTACT**

Mark Forrester, Sr. Director  
Communications/PR  
Email: [opr@ag.org](mailto:opr@ag.org)  
Ph: 417-862-2781  
Web: [ag.org](http://ag.org)



## Overview of the General Council of the Assemblies of God

### Origin

The Assemblies of God was founded as a result of a religious revival that swept around the world in the early 1900s. The church was organized in a constitutional convention in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in 1914. Today there are 13,023 churches in the U.S. with over 3.2 million members and adherents. Worldwide, there are more than 68 million Assemblies of God adherents and over 367,000 churches, making the Assemblies of God the world's largest Pentecostal denomination.

### Beliefs

Doctrinally, the church emphasizes personal salvation, water baptism, divine healing, the baptism in the Holy Spirit accompanied by the evidence of speaking in tongues, and the pre-millennial second coming of Jesus Christ. The Bible is recognized as the inspired Word of God and provides the rule for faith and practice. The church's four-fold mission is expressed through evangelism, worship, discipleship, and compassion.

### Affiliations

The AG is a member of four national and international Christian organizations including: National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), Pentecostal and Charismatic Churches of North America (PCCNA), Pentecostal World Fellowship (PWF), and World Assemblies of God Fellowship (WAGF).

### National Office

The U.S. Assemblies of God national office complex is located at 1445 N. Boonville Avenue, Springfield, Missouri. It houses the denomination's executive and administrative offices, service divisions and departments, and AG printing plant, which ships more than 6.5 tons of literature daily to 119 countries.

### Quick Facts—U.S.

3,240,258 adherents  
(persons of all ages who identify with an AG Church)  
42% of adherents are ethnic minorities  
22% of adherents are Hispanic  
54% of adherents are under age 35

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Mark Forrester, Sr. Director  
Communications/PR  
Email: opr@ag.org  
Ph: 417-862-2781  
Web: ag.org

Churches: 13,023  
Ministers: 37,619  
General Superintendent: Dr. George O. Wood

### Quick Facts—World

Adherents: 68,504,338  
Churches: 367,287  
Ministers: 392,018



## Assemblies of God Fact Sheet

- The U.S. Assemblies of God has experienced 27 consecutive years of growth in adherents.
- A new AG church is started somewhere in the world every 95 minutes.
- A conversion takes place through an AG church or ministry somewhere in the world every 37 seconds.
- The U.S. AG is comprised of 3,240,258 adherents.
- 42% of U.S. adherents are ethnic minorities.
- 22% of U.S. adherents are Hispanic.
- 54% of U.S. adherents are under age 35.
- In the past decade the U.S. AG has grown by 11% with millennials (ages 18-34).
- The U.S. AG closed 2016 with a record 406 new churches, the highest annual number in its history.
- 14% (1,792) of the 13,023 AG churches in the U.S. have started in the last five years.
- 24% of the 37,619 AG U.S. ministers are women.
- Worldwide, the AG has 68,504,338 adherents, 367,287 churches, and 392,018 ministers.
- Worldwide, the number of AG churches and adherents have both more than doubled over the last 20 years.
- There are 10 times more AG churches in the world than McDonald's restaurants.

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## General Council Story Leads

The Assemblies of God 57th General Council offers a number of potential stories. Here are a few. Please contact us if we can assist with these or other stories or interviews.

- **Twenty thousand Pentecostals gather in Anaheim this week**

The Assemblies of God (U.S.), the largest worldwide Pentecostal denomination with over 68 million members and adherents, is meeting in Anaheim this week for its 57th General Council. This meeting is for the U.S. AG, which has over 3.2 million members and adherents. More than 20,000 delegates and visitors are expected to gather at the Anaheim Convention Center for activities during the day, as well as for evening services Monday through Friday.

- **Assemblies of God sees 27 consecutive years of growth in U.S.**

While many denominations have seen marked decline, the Assemblies of God now reports 27 consecutive years of growth. In the past decade the AG has grown by 11% with millennials (ages 18-34). Some 54% of AG adherents are under the age of 35. The AG has opened more churches in the last four years than at any point in its history

- **The U.S. Assemblies of God is a diverse group**

- o 42% of U.S. adherents are ethnic minorities
- o 22% of U.S. adherents are Hispanic
- o 54% of U.S. adherents are under age 35
- o 24% of the 37,619 AG U.S. ministers are women

- **The Influence Conference is hosting several prominent speakers, including:**

- o Rick Warren, Pastor of 30,000-member Saddleback Church, Orange County, California
- o Priscilla Shirer, author, speaker, actress
- o Sammy Rodriguez Jr., president, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference
- o Mark Batterson, lead pastor, National Community Church, Washington, D.C.

- **15,000 are expected in Anaheim to participate in numerous AG youth activities**

Some 15,000 students and leaders are expected to converge in Anaheim, California, August 7-11, to participate in numerous activities including National Fine Arts Festival, community outreach, and nightly services.

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## General Council Story Leads *(cont.)*

- **Significant elections to take place**

Elections for the offices of general superintendent and general secretary will be held during the 57th General Council. A new executive director of U.S. Missions will also be elected to follow Executive Director Zollie Smith Jr., who is retiring. In addition, five new executive presbyters will be elected as four have reached their term limit. Also, this will be the first election for the new position of Black Executive Presbyter, which was approved at the 2015 General Council.

- **General Council returns to birthplace of Azusa**

In 1906, a revival began at a little mission on Azusa Street in Los Angeles where believers sought God over a three year period with thousands experiencing salvation, healing, Spirit baptism, and many responding to a call to missions. The revival's ripple effects are seen today with over 600 million Pentecostals around the globe. The Assemblies of God, the world's largest Pentecostal denomination, returns to Southern California—the heart of Azusa—for its 57th General Council.

- **Rural Churches Initiative**

At this General Council, the AG is launching Rural America Ministries (RAM) as a new advocate and partner in ministry with churches located in the rural U.S. RAM will focus on networking with, counseling, resourcing, training, and encouraging ministers serving in rural America.

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