

April 15, 2024

Dear Partners in the Ministry of the Gospel,

Since we met in June 2023 your Ministries Council has been at work dealing with many issues and opportunities. At the top of our list is the responsibility to tend to the **transition process for the General Director**. Last fall we authorized a survey to be administered to you, members of the General Assembly, by NL Moore & Associates. Your participation produced a great response with 1,425 completing the survey, nearly double the minimum factor required. Thank you!

The Executive Summary can be viewed [at this link](#) (also available on the General Director Search webpage). The survey suggests that the Church of God Movement continues to see herself in the same quadrant of crisis as a nearly identical survey that was administered in 2012. This is a concerning matter for the Ministries Council and Search Team. Yet, despite the low energy and low satisfaction, there is a **strong motivation for change** among the Church with 92% looking for some level of change in the Movement in order to make significant progress in our vision for the Church of God's future.

So what can we do at this juncture with this information? The Search Team and the Ministries Council are pivoting in our thinking to **view this transitional time as a holy journey**. On this holy journey we are looking for new paths, giving much time and focus for prayer, reviewing the Executive Summary, and deliberating on key questions regarding the Movement's future in our various meetings this year. Thankfully, God has been moving powerfully among us, enabling both the Search Team and the Ministries Council to engage in fruitful conversations and decisions to answer the question: what is the route of this holy journey?

Based on the information gathered to date, as well as the general sentiment of the leaders within the Movement, the Ministries Council agreed, by consensus, to an intentional, strategic **transitional pivot**. During the transitional pivot several things will take place:

- Appoint a temporary transitional leader
- Research alternate (or new) working structural models for the Movement
- Listen to key influencers and stakeholders in the Movement, and continue to seek direction from the head of the Church, Jesus

At this time there are more questions on the table than answers. Nevertheless, the Ministries Council is acting in faith that this is the God-appointed path forward for the Church of God. A few days ago we (Efrain and Esther) met with our general director, Jim Lyon, to discuss the path forward. Jim agreed that the Ministries Council needs to address these issues. His love for the Church and generous spirit is evident and crucial for a productive and hope-filled transition.

In closing, the Ministries Council and the Search Team earnestly ask that you partner with us in prayer.

- Join us for the next Prayer Gathering **live on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) on May 25, 2024**.
- Continue to follow www.jesusisthesubject.org/general-director-transition for updates.

We believe that the Lord knows the way forward. May we be found faithful to follow Him!

Living in the Resurrection Hope,



Esther Cottrell

*Chair, General Assembly of the Church of God
in the United States and Canada*



Efrain Cirilo

Chair, General Director Search Team