

# **CHURCH OF GOD**

## **MASTER PLAN OF EDUCATION**

The Church of God acknowledges, as part of the Great Commission, its responsibility to provide educational opportunities for its constituency. The educational programs are predicated upon a Biblical and theological foundation set forth in the Declaration of Faith and in the following statement of philosophy of education. The goals of church-sponsored educational agencies, institutions, and programs are defined in the statements of purposes and objectives.

Primary responsibility for the coordinating of all educational programs rests with the General Board of Education, authorized by the General Assembly and appointed biennially by the General Executive Committee. Direct control of programs rests with duly constituted governing boards at the international, national, regional, territorial, state, and local levels.

### **Philosophy of Education**

The church is the creation of God's grace in Christ. It is a redeemed and redemptive community. It has been called into being by the Word and the Spirit of God. This relationship to the Word and Spirit creates community and responsiveness of the members of the church to each other.

The church sees men and women as rational, moral, and spiritual beings created in the image of God, responsible to God for their conduct, but with the divine image marred by sin. God has provided redemption and life through His Son Jesus Christ by the working of the Holy Spirit. Those who experience the grace of God are given the responsibility of following Christ as disciples and making Him known to others.

The church is committed to obedience of the mandate of the Great Commission to make

disciples of all nations and to its Declaration of Faith as the theological foundation of all its educational endeavors. It views purposeful education as a lifelong quest for truth, which will help the learner become aware of God's self-disclosure in the Word and in the world, to the end that the individual may develop mentally and spiritually, relate meaningfully to others, fulfill Christian discipleship, and enjoy useful occupation. The ultimate aim of education is to develop a mature individual rightly related to God, to oneself, and to others.

Church of God education, as developed through its educational agencies, institutions, and programs, is premised upon a belief in God as the source of all truth and the end of all knowledge. It recognizes the Bible as the inspired, infallible revelation of God and also acknowledges the value of natural revelation. It comprehends Jesus Christ as the fullest expression of God and as the best example of human life, and it understands the Holy Spirit as the divine guide to all truth and the Church as its educational agency.

### **Educational Purposes**

Church of God educational agencies, institutions, and programs are committed to the following purposes:

- To impart knowledge about God as He is revealed in the Bible and in Creation.
- To aid in personal development which will lead to healthy physical, mental, and spiritual growth; to provide a framework in which the meaning of life and individual roles in the church and society can be understood; and to encourage ethical relationships in accordance with Biblical principles.
- To lead to an appreciation of Biblical faith and practice as understood by the Church of God, to inspire wholehearted acceptance of its principles, and to encourage a living expression of its precepts.

- To prepare for successful vocational pursuits and effective Christian service.
- To train in Biblical knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary for ministry.
- To network ministerial training and ministerial placement with denominational leaders and local churches.

## **Educational Objectives**

The Church of God proposes to fulfill the purposes stated above by committing itself to the following educational objectives:

1. To make multilevel educational opportunities available to interested individuals through a coordinated international system, taking into consideration the uniqueness of individuals, national and cultural distinctives, age-group differences, and varying needs and goals.
2. To become involved in various levels of educational endeavors, including homeschooling, child care and kindergarten programs, private, local, church elementary and secondary schools, Bible institutes, Bible colleges, undergraduate liberal arts colleges, continuing education, distance learning, in-service training, and graduate-level professional programs.
3. To give highest educational priority to the preparation of clergy and laity for effective Christian ministry.
4. To place emphasis on the centrality of the Bible and the Christian worldview in the curriculum at all levels.
5. To fulfill the mandate for discipleship as stated in the Great Commission given by Christ.
6. To provide education in the arts and sciences and programs of vocational preparations.
7. To ensure excellence in all programs of education by endeavoring to meet appropriate accreditation standards, where such standards are not in conflict with the Church of God

philosophy of education.

8. To teach love for and loyalty to the Church of God by understanding the values and importance of its history, doctrine, government, and practical commitments.