



California Churches of God Eldership

The California Eldership is part of the Churches of God General Conference.
Our statement of faith includes:

Statement of Faith

- We believe that the Bible is the divinely inspired Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice.
- We believe in one God, eternally existent in three persons – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – one in essence and community.
- We believe in God the Father, the almighty Creator of heaven and earth.
- We believe that Jesus Christ our Lord is the Word made flesh – fully God and fully man. We believe he was conceived by the Holy Spirit, was born of the virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, was crucified, died and was buried, rose again on the third day, and ascended into heaven.
- We believe in the divinity of the Holy Spirit, who indwells the believer. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin, enables the believer to live a holy life, comforts, teaches, and bestows spiritual gifts.
- We believe humanity is created in the image of God, has fallen into sin, and can be born again by the Spirit, justified freely by grace, and saved through the atoning work of Jesus Christ alone.
- We believe that the Church is the body of Christ, the people of God, whose mission is to make disciples of all nations and to be salt and light in the world.
- We believe baptism, the Lord's Supper, and footwashing to be ordinances of the Church.
- We believe in the return of Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, everlasting life, and the new heavens and new earth.

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The California Eldership of the Churches of God, conducts church business according to our constitution and hold an all church wide biennial (every two years) business meeting.

During the year, we also hold quarterly fellowship meetings (January, April, June and October) at the several churches per the body's vote. Business is also conducted at these fellowship meetings as needed.

As a new church, there are resources available for you:

Resources

- Copy of the California Eldership of the Churches of God Constitution
- Church Doctrinal Statement
- Ministerial Guidelines
- Church financial management information/guidance

As a new church, you have organizational responsibilities:

Responsibilities

- ✓ Manage church business and conduct (membership, pastor duties) according to the constitution and Eldership guidance
- ✓ Attend quarterly meetings, taking part in fellowship and necessary business
- ✓ Pay Fair Shares (General and/or California as requested)
- ✓ Prepare an annual statistical report
- ✓ Ensure minutes/records are generated and maintained as appropriate, for Eldership Business such as: pastor and candidate credentialing requests, obituaries, absent minister reports

RESOURCES

- **California Eldership of the Churches of God Constitution**

The California Eldership Constitution governs how we conduct church operations. Such as: the conduct and duties of the ministers (pages 4-5) and officers in the church body (pages 2-4), what church membership consists of (page 1) and management of church properties (page 3).

- **Church Doctrinal Statement**

The California Churches of God Doctrinal Statement is an early doctrinal statement published by the General Conference taken from "Winebrenners View" the founder of the Churches of God in 1830. The followers of John Winebrenner called themselves the Church of God. They professed to hold to no creed but the Bible, repudiated sectarianism, baptized by immersion, and observed as an ordinance the washing of feet in conjunction with the Lord's Supper. The Churches of God General Conference doctrinal statements "We Believe", is also used in the California Churches of God.

- **Ministerial Guidelines**

The California Churches of God Eldership Ministerial/Pastor Guidance was Adapted from: Churches of God, General Conference "Readiness for Ministry-Guidelines for Pastoral Maturity." These guidelines should be used in conjunction with the California constitution's governance sections for ministers/pastors: Articles XV, XVI, XVII and XIX. These guidelines should also be reviewed by men who feel they are called to the ministry. The Board of Education, the eldership's credentialing body for ministers also use it as a guide when reviewing candidates for the ministry.

- **Church financial management information/guidance**

Local churches needing to open a church bank account are typically requested by their local bank for various articles, and these articles are different according to each local banks requirement's, but have included items such as:

- California Churches of God Articles' of Incorporation
- Federal Tax Identification Number
- California Tax Identification Number
- Financial Board of Directors Approval
- The corporation's seal
- The corporation secretary approval signature

When you need to open a new bank account, please contact the Eldership Clerk to provide your local church letter with approvals and your local bank required items.

LOCAL CHURCH RESPONSIBILITIES:

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- Manage church business and conduct (membership, pastor duties) according to the constitution and Eldership guidance.**
 - See the constitution, and areas discussed on the resource page for church business and conduct articles.

- Attend quarterly meetings, taking part in fellowship and necessary business**
 - In keeping with Articles II, III and XVII of our constitution, and striving to be a church member in good standing, local church leadership are obliged to be committed to attending Church of God fellowship and business meetings.

- Pay Fair Shares (General and/or California as requested)**
 - In keeping with Article II of our constitution: “The object of this body shall be the furtherance of the Gospel of Christ, the salvation of souls, the organizing and building up of local Churches of God, the care and supervision of the churches and ministers, and the spiritual, financial and physical support and furtherance of the missions and other projects of the California Eldership and Churches of God General Conference.

- Prepare an annual statistical report**
 - The annual statistical report is requested from each local church each year by the General Conference. The statistical clerk can assist you with the report.

- Ensure minutes/records are generated and maintained as appropriate, for Eldership Business such as: pastor and candidate credentialing requests, obituaries, absent minister reports**
 - In keeping with Articles III, XV, XVI, and XIX of our constitution, local church leaders are obliged to provide records to the Eldership Business meetings.

