

Michigan Christian Convention Historical information 1956 - 2021

Not a lot of information is known regarding the beginning of the Michigan Christian Convention. We do know that in 1955, there was an active central Michigan Minister's meeting and it is probable that O.A. Trinkle introduced the idea of a convention for the state of Michigan at one of their meetings. This got the ball rolling, and an advisory committee was established. Their first meeting was in Lansing on January 23, 1956. Posters were printed and mailed out in March.

- The first planning for the Michigan Convention began in 1956
 - (CS,2/18) Michigan Convention planned when 35 preachers and 3 elders met in Lansing on January 9 to complete plans for a Michigan Convention of Churches of Christ.
 - The convention was first called the Michigan State Convention For Churches of Christ

Michigan Christian Convention History

April 26 & 27, 1956 (CS, i5/12)

HOST: East Superior Christian Church

THEME: *Saved to Save*

SPEAKERS: Russell Martin, James Greenwood, W. Robert Palmer

HOST MINISTER: O.A. Trinkle;

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN: Virgil Felton

ATTENDANCE: 533 attended, a few additional in attendance.

April 4 & 5, 1957 (1st Church, Owosso, Hist); (Key, Mar/Apr); (Girdwood file)

HOST: First Church of Owosso

THEME: *The New Testament Church*

SPEAKERS: Reggie Thomas, Arthur Cross & John Kinner

REGISTRATION: 504 registered. 400 to 500 attended the closing service.

PRESIDENT: Herb Owens

- *A 15-man continuation committee was picked & they selected Herb Owens to be the 1956 chairman and Max Smith as sec/treas.*

May 8 & 9, 1958 (Key, Feb); (Key, Mar)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *It worked for us* (or – Faith in Action)?

KEY SPEAKER: Earl Hargrove, President, Lincoln Bible Institute

PRESIDENT: James Greenwood (1957 or 1958?)

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- A youth banquet was held on May 9 at the YWCA. Robert Girdwood served as master of ceremonies and William Lower was the main speaker.
- Friday's luncheon was sponsored by the GLBC Alumni Association.

April 30 & May 1, 1959 (Key, Apr); (Key, May59)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *The Church Through the Ages*

SPEAKERS: Luther Burrus, Brant Lee Doty, Edwin Hayden, L. Edsil Dale, Lewis Foster, Gerald Fergusson, James Warfield, Wilmer Ballou, & Jack Wachenschwanz.

WORKSHOPS: Mrs. Beulah Chapdu, Mrs. Ruth Dale, Mrs. C.J. Verway and others. (Key, May)

PRESIDENT: Gene Carter

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- GLBC's "Dodge Estate" campus was dedicated on May 1 at an afternoon service.
- Edwin Hayden, editor of the Christian Standard, also held spring lectures on journalism at GLBC.

April 28 & 29, 1960 (1st Ch, Owosso, Hist); (Key, April60)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *The Winning of a Soul to Christ*

SPEAKERS: Leon Appel and John Wilson

PRESIDENT: W. Robert Palmer

April 20 & 21, 1961 (Key, May)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Living for Christ Today*

SPEAKERS: Louis M. Detro and Joe Sutherland

PRESIDENT: Ralph Woodard

REGISTRATION: nearly 900

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- For the second year, GLBC handled local arrangements for the convention, including out-of-town guests, registration, convention displays, ushers, receiving offerings, furnishing nursery facilities for preschoolers, and more.

April 26 & 27, 1962 (Key, May 1961); (Key, Mar); (Key, Apr/May)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *A Guiding Faith in a Misguided World*

SPEAKERS: Orval M Morgan, W. Robert Palmer

PRESIDENT: Max Smith of Jackson; Vice-President: Lloyd Taylor of Memorial in Detroit; Treasurer: James Myers of Battle Creek.

REGISTERED: 875

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- GLBC was in charge of the local arrangements. GLBC's choir presented a brief concert Friday evening before the main message. They also joined the Lansing area choir to sing three songs.

April 18 & 19, 1963 (Key, Apr/May 1962)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *That They May All be One*

SPEAKERS: Charles A Matthews, Burris Butler, Gene Dulin

PRESIDENT: James Myers of Battle Creek; Vice President: James Warfield of Wyandotte; Secretary-treasurer: Ed Crandell from GLBC/Lansing

April 23 & 24, 1964 (Key, M/A)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *More Than Conquerors*

SPEAKERS: Earl Ray Jones, minister of East 38th St Church, Indianapolis; Donald Nash, professor at Kentucky Christian College; and Robert Green, minister of 1st Christian Church, Michigan City, Indiana.

WORKSHOPS Robert Palmer, Buchanan; Gene Carter, Grand Rapids; Brant Lee Doty, GLBC.

MUSIC LEADER: Charles Race, East Chicago, Indiana

PRESIDENT: James Warfield

April 29 & 30, 1965 (Key, Mar/Apr)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *The Abiding Three: Faith, Hope, and Love*

SPEAKERS: Galen Skinner of Minnesota Bible College and Seth Wilson of Ozark Bible College.

Workshops: Mrs. Joanne Clayton, Grand Rapids; Virgil Felton, Lansing; Jack Wilson, Lansing; Gene Carter, Grand Rapids; Maurice Wertenberger, Buchanan; M/M Lawrence Bartlett of Standard Publishing.

PRESIDENT: Henry J. McAdams.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- Attendance goal of 1,000.

May 12 & 13, 1966 (Key, J/F 1966)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *The Faith Once-For-All Delivered*

SPEAKERS: Lewis Foster and Douglas Dickey

PRESIDENT: Max Copeland

April 27 & 28, 1967 (Key, Dec 1966) (Mason File)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Let This Mind Be in You*

SPEAKERS: Orval M. Morgan and Wilkie Winter

PRESIDENT: Ronald Fisher

April 18 & 19, 1968 (Key, Apr 1968) (Mason File)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *The Redeeming Christ (or The Returning Christ)?*

SPEAKERS: Russell Martin of Miami, OK and Dr. James Strauss of Lincoln Christian College.

PRESIDENT: J. Walter Klages

April 17 & 18, 1969 (Key, Mar) (Mason File)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Evangelizing the World*

SPEAKERS: Max Ward Randall, missionary in Africa, and John Ralls of Lincoln Christian College.

Workshops on Witnessing: in the City, on the College Campus, before Teens, in Rural Areas.

PRESIDENT: Michael Steere, minister of Hatfield Church near Big Rapids

April 16 & 17, 1970 (Key, Feb) (Mason File)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Priesthood of All Believers*

Key SPEAKERS: Richard Laue and Don DeWalt

PRESIDENT: John Hasty, Vice-President: Gene McElroy

April 29 & 30, 1971 (Key, Summer 1970) (Mason File)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Do We Retain God in Our Knowledge*

SPEAKERS: Lewis Foster and William Ely

PRESIDENT: Gene McElroy

April 24 & 25, 1972 (Key, Feb) (Mason File)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Fundamentals of the Faith*

SPEAKERS: Ralph Dornette and Raldo Cook

PRESIDENT: Ivan Odor

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- The location was moved to the main auditorium in the Civic Center
- Individual churches were asked to set up displays of what they are doing.

May 7 & 8, 1973 (Key, Apr)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Open Doors - Opportunities*

SPEAKERS: Reggie Thomas, evangelist for Revival Fires, and Robert Yawberg, minister at North Highlands Church, Ft. Wayne, IN.

WORKSHOPS: 14 were offered.

PRESIDENT: Bob Girdwood

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- PRESIDENT Girdwood said, "Won't it be thrilling to see 2,000 people...?"
- Every church was encouraged to bring a display about their congregation's life & program.
- A youth banquet was held Tuesday evening with speaker Grady Nutt.
- Convention Costs: \$6,725.13. (Civic Center cost \$1,670 and banquet costs of \$2,622)

May 6 & 7, 1974 (Key, Apr)

Location: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *All Means, All Men, All Things*

SPEAKERS: Charles Selby, Gene Dulin, and Barton McElroy

PRESIDENT: Hiram Gates

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- Prior to Tuesday's evening session, Bob Girdwood presented "The Mission Field - The Great Lakes Area," a review of Michigan Church history.

May 5 & 6, 1975 (Mason File)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Jesus Christ, Lord of All*

SPEAKERS: William Lown and Carl Ketcherside

PRESIDENT: Ed Bratton

May 3 & 4, 1976 (Mason File)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Preach the Word*

SPEAKERS: Art Hoven and Knofel Staten

PRESIDENT: William Horton

May 2 & 3, 1977 (Mason File)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Commit Thou to Faithful Men*

SPEAKERS: Robert Shannon and James Greenwood

PRESIDENT: Norman Howard, minister at Alma

May 1 & 2, 1978 (Mason File)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *As for Me and My House*

SPEAKER: Wayne Shaw

PRESIDENT: Jim Lemmons

April 29 & 30, 1979 (Mason File)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Holding Forth the Word*

SPEAKER: Jack Ballard

PRESIDENT: Paul Stacy

April 27 & 28, 1980 (Mason File)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *The New Self*

SPEAKER: James D. Strauss

PRESIDENT:

April 26 & 27, 1981 (Key, Jan/Feb) (Mason File)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Preach the Word*

SPEAKERS: Justin Shepard, Roy Chenoweth, Jim Lemmons, Keith Keeran

PRESIDENT: Gary Hawes

ADDITIONAL NOTE: Attendance goal of 2,000.

May 2 & 3, 1982 (Key, Feb) (Mason File)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

SPEAKER: Henry McAdams

THEME: *The Ministry of the Holy Spirit*

CONVENTION OFFICERS: Curt Lloyd, Ivan Odor

May 1 & 2, 1983 (Key, Feb 1982) (Mason File)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *A Moral Church in an Immoral Society*

SPEAKERS: Mark McGilvery, Henry McAdams, Richard Robinson, and Gary Washburn

PRESIDENT: Ron Fisher

April 29 & 30, 1984 (Key, Feb 1982)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Our King is Coming*

SPEAKER: Russell Boatman

PRESIDENT: Bernard Blackman

April 28 & 29, 1985 (Key, Feb 1982)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Discipleship - Learn of Me*

SPEAKERS: John Hasty and Mike Steere

PRESIDENT: James Myers

May 4 & 5, (or April 27 & 28?) 1986 (Key, Apr 1985) (Key, J/F 86) (Mason File)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Abundant Life*

SPEAKER: Marshall Leggett

PRESIDENT: Tom Haynie

April 26 & 27, 1987(or 24-25?) (Key, J/F 1985)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *The Year of the Leader - II Timothy*

SPEAKERS: Dennis Young, Bernard Blackman, Ken Henes, Joseph Jones

PRESIDENT: Ron Scott

March 11 & 12, 1988 (Key, N/D 1985)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Ministries of the Spirit*

SPEAKERS: Ben Alexander and Keith Keeran

PRESIDENT: Dan Nichols

March 10 & 11, 1989 (Key, M/A 1986) (Key, J/J 1988)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *You Shall Be My Witnesses*

SPEAKERS: David Cortis and Don Stevenson

PRESIDENT: Gary Washburn

March 2 & 3, 1990 (Key, S/O 1989)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Building the Church: A Vision for the Future*

SPEAKER: Wayne Smith

PRESIDENT: Paul Stacy

March 1 & 2, 1991 (Saunders); (Mason File)

LOCATION: Kellogg Center, East Lansing

THEME: *Building the Church: A Task for the 90's*

SPEAKERS: Paul Williams and John Wasem

PRESIDENT: Ken Henes

March 6 & 7, 1992 (Saunders); (Mason File)

LOCATION: Kellogg Center, East Lansing

THEME: *The Family God Wants You to Be*

SPEAKER: Robert Lowery, Lincoln Christian College

PRESIDENT: Mike Mason

March 12 & 13, 1993 (Saunders)

LOCATION: Kellogg Center, East Lansing

THEME: *Building the Church Through Relationships*

SPEAKER: Ben Merold

PRESIDENT: Gary Wackler

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- Kent Odor lead a seminar on Small Groups Ministries.
- A youth program was offered for all ages.
- Andy Homes and "Gerbert" presented lessons for the Juniors.

April 8 & 9, 1994 (Key, Fall 1993)

LOCATION: Midland

THEME: *Conforming to the Likeness of Christ*

SPEAKER: John Caldwell

PRESIDENT: Dan Johnson

April 28 & 29, 1995 (Saunders); (Key, Winter 1995)

LOCATION: Amway Grand Plaza Hotel, Grand Rapids

THEME: *Fighting the Unseen Enemy*

SPEAKER: David Butts

PRESIDENT: Dean Trune

ADDITIONAL NOTE:

- GLCC held a reception the evening of April 28.

March 22 & 23, 1996 (Saunders)

LOCATION: Lansing Civic Center

THEME: *Making an Impact*

SPEAKER: Curt Hess

Teen session SPEAKER: Griff Ray

PRESIDENT: Paul St. Louis

April 4 & 5, 1997 (MCC Program Book)

LOCATION: Radisson Riverfront Hotel, Flint

THEME: *Established in the Faith*

SPEAKER: Marshall Hayden

Worship leaders: Tom and Rhonda McNerney

CONVENTION CHAIR: Paul St Louis

April 3 & 4, 1998 (MCC Program Book); (RLG)

LOCATION: Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant

THEME: *Unity in Our Diversity*

SPEAKER: Dr. James Girdwood

MUSIC: led by Expressions of Faith from Country Christian Church, North Branch

PRESIDENT: the committee acted as a whole without a president.

ATTENDANCE: 300 adults and 220 college/teens

April 16 & 17, 1999 (Saunders notes and Convention Program)

LOCATION: Radisson Plaza Hotel, Kalamazoo

THEME: *Building Stability in an Unstable World*

SPEAKER: Keith Keeran, President, Kentucky Christian College

WORKSHOPS: Balancing Ministry and Family (Robert Bodell); Your Financial Security (Jim Lockwood); Character First! (John and Cheryl Sowash); How to Deal with Child Abuse Issues in the Church (Don Stowell); Can We Do It All? (Keith Keeran); Your Home as a Mission Field (Barry and Beth Zimmerman); The Cutting Edge of the 21st Century Sunday School: Strategies for Today and Tomorrow (Phyllis Girdwood); When (We Think) God Doesn't Make Sense (Pat Girdwood); Stability: Mind, Body, and Soul (Dr. Larry Martin); Stability After 55 (Ron Fisher); Ministry Retirement Planning (Gary Washburn); Retirement and Ministry Opportunities (Gene Beavers); Change and Stability (Bob Girdwood); and Leadership Development in Small Churches (Jerry Paul)

WORSHIP LEADERS: Faith Compass Ministries, Oakland Drive Church of Christ; Expressions of Faith, Country Christian Church of North Branch; and Cross Walk of Joplin, Missouri.

President: There was no president

Additional Notes:

- Convention costs \$5,430 (Radisson cost \$2,410)

April 28 & 29, 2000 (Saunders notes); (RLG)

LOCATION: Memorial Church of Christ, Livonia

THEME: *Investing in Eternity*

SPEAKER: Dudley Rutherford

PRESIDENT: David Monroe; Vice President: Dennis Wheeler

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- Soul Real, a woman's trio from Southeast Christian Church, presented a Friday evening concert.

April 27 & 28, 2001 (Saunders notes and Convention Program); (RLG)

LOCATION: Holiday Inn and Conference Center, Holland

THEME: *When Christ Comes* (or *When Jesus Comes*)?

SPEAKER: Allan Dunbar

WORKSHOPS: The Power of Music; Just Say No; Why Not Choose a Christian College? Beyond Feminism-Back to Reality; Serving Until He Comes; Database and Da Church; Bad Girls of the Bible; Re-energize Your Vacation Bible School; The Power of a Praying Wife; Maximizing Your Time and Talents; Journaling for an Effective Prayer Life; Ministering to Divorcees; Leaving a Legacy; The Importance of the Inner-City Church; The Persecuted Church; and The Revelation of Christ's Coming.

PRESIDENT: Dennis Wheeler

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- Judy Beavers and the worship team from Duplain handled the music.
- Marshall Kellam of Louisville, KY was a guest musical artist.
- Recognized Michigan-based Missions.
- Convention expenses: \$5,060.30; income: \$8,179.32

April 19 & 20, 2002 (Saunders notes and Convention Program)

LOCATION: Bavarian Inn Lodge and Convention Center, Frankenmuth

THEME: *One Heart, One Mind, One Purpose*

SPEAKERS: Roger Kerr (One Heart); Mark McGilvery (One Mind); and Mike Washburn (One Purpose)

WORKSHOPS: Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage (Dr. David Monroe); Baptism (Ron Fisher); Homosexuality (George Stehle); Know Your Town/Field (Marvin Businius); Christianity Among Muslims (David Bracken Meyer); Growing Through Home/Small Groups (Mike Steere); The Greatest Story Never Told (James Muffett); Transferring Truth to the Next Generation (James Muffett); Maximizing Your Time and Talents (Brett Nelson).

TEEN WORKSHOPS: Led by Conrad Gonzales and Jeremy Root from Central Christian Church in Battle Creek: Is Jesus Enough? One Heart; Who Am I? One Mind; Isn't there More to This Life? One Purpose.

WORSHIP LEADER: Bob Hepner and the praise team from Lake Superior Christian Church, Marquette.

PRESIDENT: Gordon Pippin

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- Attendance: Friday night-314, Saturday Morning-255, Saturday afternoon-215.
- Convention expenses: \$6,018.03; income: \$8,179.32

March 28 & 29, 2003 (Saunders notes & Convention Program)

LOCATION: St. Louis Church of Christ

THEME: *Sounding a Clear Call*

SPEAKERS: Donald (Bud) Holmes (Sounding a Clear Call for Evangelism); Larry Carter (Sounding a Clear Call for Christ-like Morals); and Gary Hawes (Sounding a Clear Call for a Vision of Ministry).

PRESIDENT: George Stehle

WORKSHOPS: Using Puppets to Help the Small Church Grow (Ellen Agle); Effective Elders Meetings (Herb Parsons); Determining Community Needs to Aid Church Growth (Bud Holmes); Counseling Ministry in the Small Church (David Monroe); How Family Groups Help the Small Church Grow (Rex Sanders); Hands on Involvement in Primary Church (Val Keese); Deacons in the 21st Century (Brett Nelson); Cross Cultural Ministry for the Smaller Church (panel); Leading a Care Ministry; Preparing for a Short Term Mission Trip (Craig Gates); Issues and Answers about Morality (Larry Carter); Small Church Leadership (Mark St Louis); ?Working with Teens (Todd Petty); Choir for Every Age Group (Val Keese).

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- Main session attendance: Friday Night: 351, Saturday Morning: 265, Saturday Afternoon: 182.
- Convention expenses: \$3,714.02; income: \$7,432.50

April 16 & 17, 2004 (Saunders notes)

LOCATION: Woodview Christian Church, Grand Rapids

THEME: *That I Might Save Some*

SPEAKERS: Kent Odor, Las Vegas, NV (Reaching Our Neighbors and Friends), Brett DeYoung, Southeast Christian Church, Louisville (Reaching All Men), Andy Hansen, Oronogo, MO (Reaching For Tomorrow).

WORKSHOPS: Small Churches-Small Groups (Kent Odor); How To Share Your Faith (Gordon Pippin); Genesis and Creation (Paul Kissling); Building a Kids Ministry (John Datema); Building Strong Marriages (Fred Zimmerman); Making the Bible Come Alive (Ron Fisher); ?Long Term Ministry (Richard Robinson); Building a Teen Ministry (Andy Hansen); Preparing Family For Ministry (Ron & Mikie Scott); From 80 to 800 (Roger Keur); Volunteerism (Brett DeYoung); Church Without Walls (Bob Girdwood); Minister's Taxes (George Stehle); Dealing With Troubled Youth (Carol Reed); and Music in Worship (Esther Hetrick).

PRESIDENT: George Stehle

ATTENDANCE (adults): Friday Night-163, Saturday Morning-166, Saturday Afternoon-106.

April 29 & 30, 2005 (MCC Flyer)

LOCATION: Central Christian Church, Battle Creek

THEME: *Lord, Give Us Boldness*

SPEAKERS: David Beamer (Boldness in the Face of Adversity); David Butts (Boldness Through Prayer); Brett Kays (Boldness in Evangelism).

FRIDAY'S SEMINAR was led by Jerry Paul on "Leading a Church Through Change."

WORKSHOPS: The Devil Goes to Church (David Butts); Boldness in Evangelism (Brett Kays); How to Lead a Church Through Change (Jerry Paul); Boldness as We Worship (Judy Beavers); They Are Just Like Us: Boldness in Outreach (Vernon Boyd); Boldness, the Persecuted Church, and You and Me (Forest Higginbotham); The Praying Family (Kim Butts); A Retrospection on the Restoration Forum (Larry Carter) Boldness in Bewildering Times - A Look at 1 Peter (Ron Fisher); If Jesus Were Here Today - Reaching Out to People Outside Our Comfort Zone (John Gooch); Children's Programs (Nancy Martin); 12 Habits of Highly Effective Congregations (Howard Nourse);

Boldness in Church Planting (Randy Penwell); Women Mentoring Women (Stephanie Penwell, Mary Lenski, and Vikki Ringwalt).

ATTENDANCE: Friday evening-327; Saturday morning-293; Saturday afternoon-202; Friday Seminar-60.
PRESIDENT: J.D. Saunders.

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- The Central Church was highly involved in the convention. Along with their minister, Gordon Pippin, serving on the Continuation Committee, their worship team was in charge of the praise service, secretary was registration chair, children's minister led the children's program, youth minister assisted with the teen program; 20-25 of their members acted as hosts and hostesses for the convention to welcome attendees, answer questions, assist with parking, taking up the offering, and others assisted with children's program. One of their members catered food functions.

April 21 & 22, 2006

LOCATION: Valley Plaza Resort, Midland

THEME: *Saved to Save* (also the THEME at the first convention in 1956).

PRESIDENT: Randy Penwell

SPEAKERS: Paul Williams, the Orchard Group (Saved to Evangelize); Patrick Mead, Rochester (MI) Church of Christ (Saved to Unify); Mark Christian, First Church of Christ, Mt. Pleasant, (Saved to Glorify).

WORKSHOPS: Coming together in Christ (Larry Carter, President of Great Lakes Christian College) and Mike Westerfield (President of Rochester College); Three Studies from the Book of Acts (Ron Fisher of Great Lakes Bible College); Saving Our Community (Laverne Morse of Southeast Christian Mission); Saving Youth In Our Home (Dr. Gordon McKinnon of Rochester Hills); Helping Women Recapture Their God-Given Hearts (Stephanie Penwell of Vestaburg); The Missional Church (John Nugent of Lansing); Saving Michigan: Where to Go Next? (Bob Girdwood of Berkley and Al Meakes of Rochester Hills); Saving Our Community: Special Opportunities (Greg Stauffer of Toledo); Saving Youth in Our Congregation (Laura Cronenwett of Brighton); Free to be Mary in a Martha World (Betsy Carter of Lansing); The Reproducing Church (Dave Dummitt of Brighton); Building a United Spirit (Jerry Tallman of Lansing); Saving our Community Through Coordinated Effort (Love, INC); Saving Youth In Our Community (Greg Stauffer); Alone in a Crowded Room (Lynda Kohlhoff of Midland); and The Changing Church (Randy Penwell of Vestaburg).

WORSHIP LEADERS: Chad Foust, Southpointe Community Christian Church; Esther Herrick, Great Lakes Christian College; Everlasting, Algonac Church of Christ.

TEEN WORKSHOPS: Darwin Lied...I Ain't No Monkey's Uncle (Henry Hawver); Sharing Christ With My Friends (Eric Christian); More Like Jesus (Corby Blem).

ADDITIONAL NOTES: A Bible Bowl program and luncheon on Saturday was held looking back at 30 years of Bible Bowl in Michigan and a demonstration of Bible Bowl competition by the two current top teams in Michigan.

April 20 & 21, 2007

LOCATION: Southpoint Community Christian Church, Trenton

THEME: *God's Network: Linked in Love, Wired to Witness*

SPEAKERS: Larry Carter, President of Great Lakes Christian College (God's Network); Brett Kays, minister of Southpoint Community Christian Church and Mark Frost, minister of Trenton Church of Christ (Linked in Love); and Mark Scott, Academic Dean at Ozark Christian College (Wired to Witness).

WORKSHOPS: Understanding Islam (Diane Denaro Frank of Angel House); Wired to Connect with the Hispanic Culture (Craig Gates, Christ's Mission to the Yucatan); Effective Software Installation (Randy and Stephanie Penwell, New Churches of Christ Evangelism); Discussion of why they are Growing (Southpoint Panel); iCulture (Joel McClure of Water's Edge); Rebooting Racial Relations (Jimmy Hurd, Oakland Church of Christ and Al Meakes, Plymouth Church of Christ); Personal Finance (Bob Jeannot, Southpoint Community Christian Church); Worship Tech (Chad Foust, Southpoint Community Christian Church).

WORSHIP LEADERS: Southpoint's Praise Team and Trenton's Vocalists; and Bread Basket.

PRESIDENT: John Bailey

April 25 & 26, 2008

LOCATION: Great Lakes Christian College

SPEAKERS: Don Smith, Church of Christ in Beamsville, Canada; Matt Shantz, His House Christian Fellowship, Mt. Pleasant; and Bob Russell of Bob Russell Ministries.

WORKSHOPS: Integrity in Leadership (Dr. Gordon MacKinnon, Rochester College); Church Health in Revelation 2-3 (Larry Stephens, Livonia Church of Christ); Healing a Broken Church (Joshua Graves, Rochester Church of Christ); Maintaining a Healthy Focus (Dr. Dan Cameron, Great Lakes Christian College); Give Me Liberty or Give Me (dealing with Christian liberty) (Ron Fisher, West Lansing Church of Christ); Teaching Children (Angie Patek, Memorial Church of Christ, Livonia); Connecting with the Generation Millennium (Matt Shantz), Jesus Has Left the Building (Sam Pace, Otisville Church of Christ).

MUSIC: led by the Rochester Hills Church of Christ praise team; Memorial Church of Christ Praise team; and Dr. Esther Hetrick and the GLCC Concert Choir.

WORKSHOPS: Growth in Small Churches, by Shawn McMullen, editor of The Lookout, minister of the Church of Christ at Milan, IN, and director of the Energizing Smaller Church Network.

ATTENDANCE: Friday night-280, Saturday morning-287, Saturday afternoon-275. Toddlers averaged 9; the older youth averaged 15. Total registration of 328.

PRESIDENT: Al Meakes, Plymouth Church of Christ

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- Children's activities were provided by Group Publishing VBS Group's Power Lab.
- The teens met with the adults in the main sessions and had workshops of their own.

April 17 & 18, 2009

LOCATION: Great Lakes Christian College

THEME: *Forecasting Reign.*

SPEAKERS: Randy Harris, Abilene Christian University; Steve Larson, New Churches of Christ Evangelism

WORKSHOPS: Communicating the Gospel (Dr. Brian Stogner, VP, Rochester College); Keeping In Touch (Roger Keur, minister, Country Christian Church); God Is in Control (Revelation 40) and Jesus is Lord (Dr. Greg Stevenson, Professor, Rochester College); True For You, But Not For Me (Chris Higgins, minister, First Church of Christ, Owosso); To Win As Many As Possible (Al Meakes, Outreach and Involvement Minister, Plymouth Church of Christ); Radical Faith in a Skeptic World (Randy Harris); Once Upon a Time (Steve Larson).

MUSIC: led by praise teams from the Rochester Church of Christ, Memorial Church of Christ, and Vestaburg Church of Christ.

FRIDAY SEMINAR: led by Keith Wise, minister of the St. Louis Church of Christ and Harvey Bream, Jr. They addressed the subjects of "Court Cases in Light of the Restoration Movement," "Why is the Restoration Movement Important?", and "What is the Future of the Restoration Movement in Light of Modern Culture."

PRESIDENT: Sam Pace, minister of the Otisville Church of Christ

April 16 & 17, 2010

LOCATION: Great Lakes Christian College

THEME: *The Magnetic Church*

Speakers: Bob Russell; Dr. Gary Johnson, senior minister of Indian Creek Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN; Don McLaughlin, minister of the North Atlanta Church of Christ, Atlanta, GA.

WORKSHOPS: Practical Strategic Thinking AND Producing a Strategic Plan (Dr. Gary Johnson); Making Music Matter in Ministry (John Phipps, Worship Leader and Choir Director, Plainfield Christian Church); Ministry to Military Families and Veterans (Larry Vollink, Huron Christian Church); Attracting the Unattractive through Benevolence Ministry (Mark McGilvery, Senior Minister, Memorial Church of Christ); Winsome Women's Ministry (Dorthea Lafever, Plymouth Church of Christ); Ministering to Those Suffering Loss and Tragedy (George Stehle, chaplain, Great Lakes Christian Homes); Biblical Foundation for Being a Magnetic Church (Al Meakes, Outreach and Involvement Minister, Plymouth Church of Christ); ABC's of Children's Ministry (Cheryl Rosenbaum, Children's Coordinator, Central Christian Church, Battle Creek); The Attractive Forces of Church Conflict (Brad Palmore, Community Life Minister, Bristol Road Church of Christ).

PRESIDENT: Chris Higgins, minister of Owosso First Church of Christ.

April 8 & 9, 2011

LOCATION: Great Lakes Christian College.

THEME: *Stand Strong, Stand Long!*

SPEAKERS: Jeff Walling, minister of the Providence Road Church of Christ, Charlotte, NC (Fearless Evangelism); David Faust, President, Cincinnati Christian Seminary (Faith Under Fire); Matt Proctor (Finish Line Faith).

WORKSHOPS: Preparing Your Child for College (Ben Andrews, WMU Campus Minister, His House Christian Fellowship); The Refining Power of Hardship (Dr. David Faust); I'm so Sure! Yes, You Can Have Confidence in Christ (Jeff Walling); Youth in Crisis (Lloyd Scharer, Great Lakes Christian College); How to Read Revelation for All It's Worth (Matt Proctor); Whatever Happened to Right and Wrong? (Jeff Walling); Don't Burn Out - Burn On! (Dr. David Faust); Developing a Strong Family in a Two-Career Home (Jimmy Hurd, Minister, Oakland Church of Christ).

MUSIC: led by John Phipps, Worship Leader and Choir Director at Plainfield Christian Church; James Cech and the Grace Community Christian Church worship team; Journey Singers from Oakland Church of Christ in Kalamazoo.

FRIDAY SEMINAR: "Leaders Who Last" was led by Matt Proctor, President of Ozark Christian College. The seminar dealt with how to lead effectively, persevere in leadership, understand how to address change and conflict, and developing healthy habits of effective leaders.

TEEN SESSION: "Walk the Talk" Speaker was Dan Smith, minister of Momentum Christian Church, Cleveland, OH. Music was led by Nevaeh. Workshops included Modesty in an Immodest World - for girls only; Walk the Line - for boys only; Developing a Faith that Sticks, Keeping your Faith Real at College.

YOUTH SESSION: Parable of the Whiny Workers (Gratitude); Parable of the Roadside Rescue (Compassion); Parable of the Shocking Servant (Forgiveness); Parable of the Warmest Welcome (Grace); Parable of the Master's Money (Faithfulness).

PRESIDENT: Tyler Barlage

April 20 & 21, 2012

LOCATION: Great Lakes Christian College

THEME: *TO GOD BE THE GLORY -- It's Not About Us...It's All About Him.*

SPEAKERS: Dr. Rubel Shelley, President, Rochester College (God is Suffering from an Image Problem—and We are to Blame); Dr. Jack Cottrell, professor, Cincinnati Christian Seminary (The Christian's Eightfold Path to Holiness); Larry Carter, President, Great Lakes Christian College (The Omnipresence of God).

WORKSHOPS: Using Social Media to Grow Your Church of Ministry (Howard Brown, CEO, Circlebuilders); Building a Blended Family That Works (Tyler and Julie Barlage, Community Christian Church); The Bible: Light for Your Life AND Faith: How the Blind See (Dr. Rubel Shelly); Dare to Care Ministry (Steve Leaming and Valerie Girdwood, Holt Christian Church); Loving Kids to Christ (Jeanne Wilson, Plainfield Christian Church); Growing Ministry in the Small Church (Dan Johnson, Kalkaska Church of Christ); The Christian Response to Homosexuality in Our Culture Today (Tyler Barlage).

WORSHIP LEADERS: Autumn from Rochester College; All Nations Christian Church; Oakland Drive Church of Christ.

Friday's seminar, "God's Power in You" was led by Dr. Jack Cottrell

TEEN PROGRAM: Led by Scott Crary, Senior Campus Minister with His House.

YOUTH PROGRAM: They had four lessons: It's Not About Me, It's About God; It's Not About Me, It's About God's Power; It's Not About Me, It's About God as Creator; It's Not About Me, It's About God.

PRESIDENT: Henry Hawver.

Committee members: Tyler Barlage, Stacie Bush, Ron Fisher, Bob and Janet Girdwood, Dennie Olson, Robyn Orme, John Phipps, J.D. Saunders, George Stehle, Larry and Susie Vollink, Marilyn Weber.

April 19 & 20, 2013

LOCATION: Great Lakes Christian College

THEME: *The Church⁴ – Integrity, Interactive, Influential, Intentional.*

SPEAKERS: Dr. Gary Johnson, minister, Indian Creek Christian Church, Indianapolis, IN (The Church Interactive: Mission Possible); James Sanderson, minister, Center Road Church of Christ, Saginaw (The Church – Intentional: We Must Obey God Rather Than Man); Dr. James Girdwood, professor at Kentucky Christian University (The Church with Integrity: The Glory of God in Christian Living)

WORKSHOPS: Purpose and Role of Music in Worship (John Phipps); Living a Moral Life in an Immoral World (Larry Carter, president, Great Lakes Christian College); What Islam Believes and its Background AND Evangelizing Muslims (Dr. Dan Cameron, professor, GLCC); Developing Unity Between the Churches of Christ and Christian Church (James Sanderson and George Stehle); Logos Bible Software: A tool for Bible Study (Jim Bishop of Logos); Evangelism that Works (Jim Girdwood); and Drama: How to get your message across in the age of X-box and Wii (Joyce Haner).

FRIDAY SEMINARS: **1)** The “e2 Effective Leaders Conference”, led by Dr. James Estep, Dean, School of Undergraduate Studies at Lincoln Christian University; Dr. Gary Johnson, minister, Indian Creek Christian Church in Indianapolis; and Dr. David Roadcup, professor, Cincinnati Christian University; **2)** “Loving to Pray” led by David Butts, founder and president of Harvest Prayer Ministries.

PRESIDENT: Tyler Barlage.

Committee members: Ron Fisher, Bob and Janet Girdwood, Henry Hawver, Al Meakes, Dennie Olson, Robyn Orme, John Phipps, James Sanderson, J.D. Saunders, George Stehle, and Larry and Susie Vollink.

April 11 & 12, 2014

LOCATION: Great Lakes Christian College

THEME: *Truth That Never Changes*

SPEAKERS:

WORKSHOPS:

FRIDAY SEMINAR: “God’s Structure for the Church Has Not Changed,” led by Jim Tune of Impact Canada. Part 1-Stand Firm: A Blue Print for Unity. Part 2-Stand Firm: Building Biblical Leaders. Part 3-Stand Firm: Partnering for Empowerment. Part 4-Stand Firm: Submitted Servants.

PRESIDENT: Henry Hawver.

April 17 & 18, 2015

LOCATION: Great Lakes Christian College

THEME: *Jesus Matters – Share Him*

Speakers: Jeff Faull and Jerry Tallman.

PRESIDENT: Tyler Barlage

FRIDAY SEMINARS: **1)** “Healthy Elders” led by Jim Estep, Gary Johnson, David Roadcup; **2)** “The Path to Productive Christian Living” led by Jerry Paul.

April 13 & 14, 2016

LOCATION: Great Lakes Christian College

THEME: Church Relevant

SPEAKERS:

FRIDAY: Concerts by Art Bush and Andrew Peterson. Lt. Governor Brian Calley spoke Friday night

Saturday: Dr. Richard Knopp, Ben Merold, Joshua Straub, Wissam Al-Aethawi

PRESIDENT: Tyler Barlage; Vice-President: Conrad Gonzales

April 21 & 22, 2017

LOCATION: Great Lakes Christian College

THEME: *God Breathed*

SPEAKER: Jim Powell

PRESIDENT: Conrad Gonzales; Vice-President: Jordan Kellicut

Friday Concerts by Tommy & John-Thomas Oakes (Star Queen) and 64 to Grayson.

Workshops: Jim Powell, Dr. Ron Peters, Dr. John Nugent, Matt Allison, Laura Kellicut, John Caldwell, Wissam Al-Aethawi, Chad Cronin (youth program).

April 13 & 14, 2018

LOCATION: Great Lakes Christian College

THEME:

SPEAKERS: Phil Kenneson, Brian Jones, Jim Canada (Petoskey Church of Christ)

FRIDAY SEMINARS: 1) "Preaching, Growth and Leadership" led by Brian Jones; 2) "Cultivating the Spirit's Fruit" led by Phil Kenneson.

President: Jordan Kellicut; Vice-President: Tim St. Louis

April 12 & 13, 2019

LOCATION: Great Lakes Christian College

THEME: *The Church and Social Justice*

SPEAKERS: Shane Claiborne and John Nugent

PRESIDENT: Tim St. Louis; Vice President: Beki Hodgman

2020 The Convention was not held due to Covid-19. President was Beki Hodgman.

August 14, 2021

The 65th convention was held outdoors at Rock Lake Christian Assembly. This was a one day event.

THEME: *In Pursuit of Unity*

SPEAKERS: Jeremiah Johnson, Devin Robertson (Cornerstone Christian Church in Jackson), Bruce Wilson (Plainfield Christian Church). Worship led by Rachel and Hannah Sancricca (Twin Oaks Christian Church).

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

- A student preaching competition for GLCC students was created by Beki Hodgman and Sam Long. Kalkaska Church of Christ sponsored the prize money. Micaiah Allen won the contest and presented his message at the convention.

PRESIDENT: Beki Hodgman; Vice-President: Tyler Barlage

MCC Committee: Dennie Olson, Al Meakes, Andy Bratton, Conrad Gonzales, Rose Blasen, Ron Fisher.

Thank you to Jim Amstutz for providing information regarding the formation of the convention which he found in the April 1956 Christian Standard, the Christian Broadcaster (the East Superior Christian Church's church paper), and O.A. Trinkle's calendar.
Thank you to J.D. Saunders for his historical research on the conventions.