

# 2024 Genesis BOA Report

Dear Genesis Conference,

It is difficult to overstate the importance of responsible leadership in the Church.

The integrity with which we carry out day-to-day ministry matters to the Lord. The way we treat people, steward our resources, and solve sticky problems is either aided or hindered by the processes, procedures, and policies we develop. Good governance at the local and conference levels opens up ministry opportunities, while neglect of these responsibilities hampers ministry.

Over the past few years, the BOA has been reminded of this reality monthly as we have continued to navigate multiple lawsuits. When NYS opened up the window for victims of sexual abuse to seek justice, it resulted in both the conference and some of our churches being named in suits. We continue to work with counsel toward the best resolutions.

The world in which we minister provides a never-ending supply of complicated circumstances.

Helping churches navigate finance, property, and legal matters is the core of what we do. The BOA's important work is approached prayerfully, professionally, and diligently at each monthly meeting. I can say with confidence that our team of lay and clergy members, in partnership with the conference staff, constantly make decisions with the well-being of the local church in mind.

We want to remind you that our conference staff constantly seeks to serve our churches.

- **Katrina Wilkins** - Asst. to the Superintendent & Director of Ministerial Credentialing
- **Dave Francis** - Director of Operational Services (legal and property matters)
- **Honna Curtis** - Director of Financial Services (all matters relating to finance)
- And our new **Associate Superintendent!**

Do not hesitate to make use of their skills and considerable experience.

This conference year, the Genesis BOA sought to make decisions that would assist churches with potentially threatening issues and overcome barriers to growth. We set policies that allow churches to thrive, we celebrated what God has done. The churches of Genesis, as evidenced by their faithful participation in Fair Share contributions, are thriving more and more.

Because of the diligence of our Genesis churches, we are happy to report that we are running a small budget surplus. Our conservative approach to budgeting, as initiated by Superintendent Pam, has positioned us to take a significant step forward, having the funds to hire an Associate Superintendent. It is our sincere hope that the addition of this role will facilitate the churches being better resourced throughout the conference year.

The Genesis BOA would like to remind you that our lay and clergy members, and especially our conference staff, work to serve you, the members of the conference.

On behalf of the women and men of the BOA, I want to thank you for your faithfulness to Jesus. May the Lord fill you with courage as you meet the demands of ministry this conference year.

-- Joe Wickman

Genesis BOA Chair

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**The BOA you elected at the 2023 Annual Conference has been hard at work this year.**

Below is a sample of issues discussed and decisions made during our meetings. While these are a fraction of the agenda items, they are representative of the type of work the BOA does.

**Summer '23** - The BOA evaluated the effectiveness of AC23, discussing changes that could continue to improve future Annual Conferences.

Knowing we were entering Supt Pam's final year of her term, we began the process of discussing the needs of the conference for the next season from the BOA's perspective.

We reviewed the ongoing work being undertaken by the Genesis delegation to GC23.

The BOA was notified that another church opted into the Current Income Model, which adjusted their Fair Share to reflect current income, providing some relief for the church's budget.

The BOA reviewed the purpose and function of the BOA, discussing our responsibility to act on behalf of the conference, addressing property, finance, and legal matters.

We celebrated how four members of the Genesis Conference were elected to the National BOA.

We familiarized ourselves with NYS's legal requirements for valid online voting procedures and communicated this to our churches.

We approved a loan from the challenge loan fund that facilitated the renovation of a church.

**Fall '23** - The BOA reviewed Genesis's finances, as we do monthly. We celebrated how the health of Genesis churches and their faithful Fair Share participation produced a small surplus..

The BOA reviewed work done by Dave Francis to sort out a church's incorporation issues. This complicated matter required Dave to seek a judgment from the NYS Supreme Court.

We discussed the potential of an urban church in Rochester seeking affiliation with Genesis.

We worked for months to pass a 2024 budget that rewarded conference staff while including margin, allowing us to save for future contingencies, including emergencies and opportunities.

The Policy Committee met to delineate policies and procedures such as: remote work for conference staff, affiliate organizations, genesis investments, and pastoral compensation.

**Winter '24** - Supt. Pam reported on the trip to Senegal, including how they interviewed 23 CMC candidates and approved 21, and the ordination service was attended by about 400 people.

Rachel Anderson, Genesis Treasurer, reported on her meeting with Free Methodist Financial. She underscored how FMF serves as a strong ministry partner for the churches of Genesis.

The BOA voted to reimburse churches for legal expenses in an effort to assist them.

The BOA voted to move liquid assets into from savings account to low-risk investments, ensuring that conference monies will yield as much interest as possible.

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Due to a budget surplus supplied by faithful Genesis churches and conservative budgeting, the BOA voted to approve Supt. Pam moved forward with the process of hiring an Associate Supt.

The BOA invested money from the sale of properties in order to build funds to fuel future ministry expansion.

Dave Francis updated us on the work he is doing to assist several of the African Churches as they work on incorporation.

The BOA prayed routinely for the Lord to fill empty appointments, help pastors and churches navigate crises, and build up the work of the Gospel throughout the Genesis Conference.

The BOA voted to establish a new role of “Designated Reporters.” These volunteers, trained in reporting procedures, will serve outside the power structure of the Conference, providing a safe source of reporting wrongdoing for all. They will be commissioned to hear any who have grievances. This continues our efforts to operate transparently while protecting the vulnerable.

**Summary Thought:** Whether we’re navigating legal, financial, policy, or procedure issues, the Genesis BOA seeks to prayerfully consider the best interests of conference churches and leaders. The sincere hope of the lay and clergy leaders of the BOA is that our decisions will continue to remove obstacles to fruitful ministry while facilitating functional structures.