

2026 Advent Christian Triennial Convention

The Ridgecrest Conference Center in Black Mountain, NC, is the beautiful setting for this convention. Located in the Blue Ridge Mountains, everywhere you looked, God's creation was evident. Strategically placed rocking chairs give you the opportunity to sit, visit with friends, enjoy your peaceful surroundings, and relax.



Monday, August 17th Evening Service

Executive Director Justin Nash welcomed everyone to the 16th triennial and 61st session of the Advent Christian General Conference of America, Inc. and asked former Executive Director Steve Lawson to open the evening session with prayer.

Justin acknowledged Rev. Roger Brown and Rev. Wayne Lucas for 50 years of ministry service and awarded them a coin in recognition of their service.

Heath Simpson, Josh Rice, and Angela Hutcheson led a beautiful time of worship.

George and Laura Karl introduced this evening's speaker, their son Daniel. Daniel is the pastor at Redemption Church in Clayton, NC. His message titled "The Light of the Gospel" was from 2 Corinthians 4:1-6, reminding us that "the world is in spiritual darkness and it's our job to carry God's glorious light to the world".

Brad Rigney, Western Region Superintendent, closed in prayer.

Tuesday morning, August 18th Business Meeting

Tim Soucy, Eastern Region Superintendent, opened with a devotional from 1 Kings 3:6-14, reminding us of Solomon's wisdom. "Seek God, not our own desires; surrender to God and His kingdom; use discernment and listen to God."

President John Gallagher called the business meeting to order and reminded us of Philippians 4:5. John introduced the parliamentarians Joe Pritchard, Glenn Rice, and Brent Ross. The Business Committee includes Paul Dean (Chairman), David Davis, Tracy Ainsworth, Heath Simpson, and Kevin Shipworth. John informed us that all business matters had to be submitted to this committee by Thursday at noon.

Dawn Rutan reported 207 delegates and 70 guests. It was moved to seat all delegates and guests.

At this time, reports were received from John Gallagher, President; Dawn Rutan, Finance Director; Faye Richards, WHFMS coordinator; Justin Nash, Executive Director; Adrian Dixon, Coordinator of Church Planting; Mike Tuttle, Vice President at BICS; and Dan Thrope, President of Berkshire Christian.

Reports and updates were given from Superintendents Dr. Bill Norwood, Central Region; Brad Rigney, Western Region; Dan Harrell, Western Region; Tim Soucy, Eastern Region; Joe Pritchard, Southern Region; and Matt Broadway, Appalachian Region.

Business was completed for today.

There were many workshops provided this afternoon:

- * Church Planting and Replanting: Cultivating New Life in Communities
- * Front Porch Conversations: Authentic Engagement for Small-Town Life
- * Hospitality in the church: What Does it Look Like to Make People Feel Welcomed and Why Does it Matter?
- * Dealing with Difficult People
- * Pastoral Care and Counseling Structures in Small Churches
- * Bi-Vocational Ministry: Is It Right for You and Your Church?
- * Discovering and Activating People's Gifts Through Community Service

Tuesday Evening Service

Pastor Nathan Rogers, from Missouri, opened in prayer. A slide presentation of the necrology update since the last triennial was presented.

Justin Nash recognized Rev. Jim Lee for 50 years of service.

Worship time continued, with Luke Copeland joining on keyboards.

Glenn and Cindy Rice introduced this evening's speaker, their son Matthew. Matthew serves as pastor of Dulin's Grove ACC in Charlotte, NC. His message was from 2 Corinthians 4:7-15 and reminds us that "our inability depends on God's ability."

Each evening we were blessed with worship music from Heath S Simpson, Josh Rice, and Angela Hutcheson. On Tuesday evening, Luke Copeland joined. All from different areas, they came together and led us in joyful song and scripture.

Wednesday morning, August 19th Business Meeting

Matt Broadway, Appalachian Region Superintendent, opened with a devotional from Titus 2:11-15, reminding us that "while we wait for the blessed hope," we should protect the churches we serve, as they've been entrusted to us.

President John Gallagher called the business meeting to order, and we were updated that there are now 211 delegates, and they have been seated.

We heard reports from Meredith Broadway, Director of Communications; Craig Carter, President of Advent Christian Village at Dowling Park, Florida; and John Tillman, Director of Alton Bay Christian Conference Center.

The business meeting was adjourned.

In the afternoon, a question-and-answer panel discussion covered the proposed Declaration of Principle. The panel included the presidents from each region and Tom Loghry, who was the original author. Many people approached the microphone with questions, comments, and concerns.

Wednesday Evening Service

Pastor Marcus Taylor, from Tennessee, opened in prayer.

Worship time continued with song and scripture.

Superintendent Matt Broadway introduced this evening's speaker, Mike Alix, Director of Leadership Development at ACGC. Mike's message, "Courage Through God's Preparation," was from 2 Corinthians 4:16-5:10, reminding us that "God Almighty is living in us through his Spirit" and "God is working through our trials".

Thursday morning, August 20th Business Meeting

Joe Pritchett, Superintendent of the Southern Region led the devotional from Philippians 1:27-30. Joe reminded us, "that we are to stand together, and we're stronger side by side."

President John Gallagher called the business meeting to order, and we were updated that 211 delegates remain.

We heard reports from Cheryl Frank, representing Aurora University in ILL; Jeff Walsh, Director of International Missions, reminding us that we have mission fields in 18 countries and 550 churches outside the US and Canada; and President Larry Knowles of the Advent Christian Retirement Community, which has facilities in Vermont and Maine.

More speakers continued with their comments and concerns about the proposed Declaration of Principles, and at one point a motion was made: "I call the question." At this time, a hand vote was taken to accept or decline this motion. With some uncertainty, the group decided that all discussion was finished.

Business Chairman Paul Dean moved to adopt the 2026 Declaration of Principles. Paper ballots were handed out.

During the count, Director of Finance Dawn Rutan presented the 2027 budget, which passed; and Mike Alix, Director of Leadership Development, presented his report.

By ACGC bylaws, a 75% vote is required from the delegate party to change the Declaration of Principles. The final vote was 60.3% in favor and 39.6% opposed.

A motion was made to table the proposed 2026 DOP and have the Executive Council continue this work, taking into consideration the comments made by the delegate body.

Kevin Shipworth of the Business Committee presented a resolution recognizing Tom Loghry for his nine years as secretary for the council. Justin Nash prayed for Tom.

Kevin presented a resolution for Chaplain Mike Gardner and his faithful dedication to this ministry. Dr. Bill Norwood prayed for Mike.

Motion was made to adjourn and to continue the business tomorrow.

Thursday Evening Service

Worship time continued with a little Blue Grass singing.

Joy Gallagher is the wife of this evening's speaker, John. John has served as the president of ACGC since 2020. Pastor Jim Lee prayed for John. The title of John's message is "Rediscovering the Heart for Making Disciples" from 2 Corinthians 5:11-21. He shared, "We need to look at others through Christ's eyes" and "see others through the eyes of grace."

After the service was a campfire and s'mores.

Friday, August 21st Business Meeting

As I had an early flight this morning, the rest of my report comes from the summary of business by the ACGC Recording Secretary Tom Loghry.

- Special voting rule for the 2026 Declaration of Principles ruled unnecessary; amendments out of order.
- Amendment to the Enduring Resolution on Human Dignity
- The 2026 Declaration of Principles failed to garner sufficient support.
- The 2026 Declaration of Principles was sent back to the Executive Council for further consideration.
- The proposed changes to the articles of association and bylaws were adopted with some adjustments.
- The Enduring Resolution on the Intermediate State and Final Punishment was adopted.
- A Resolution Encouraging Healthy Consolidation was passed.
- New members of the Executive Council and nominating committee elected.

President - John Tate; Recording Secretary – Rae Ann McCune; Member-at-Large - Heath Simpson
Appalachian Regional Representative - Nancy Miller (ratified); Southern Regional Representative - Penny Batten (ratified)

- Resolutions of Honor included:

Rick Qualls Sr., Steve Epting, Mike Gardner, Tom Loghry, Beth Larkin, Matt Larkin, George Karl, C.J. Nicely, John Gallagher, Dr. Gordon Isaac, Program Committee, Ridgecrest Conference Center, Appreciation for the Children

For a complete summary please visit [What Happened at the 2026 Advent Christian General Conference Triennial Convention — Advent Christian Voices](#)

In His Service, Debbie Reed