

UCG does not consider itself the Only True Church

Assembled by C. M. White

Version 6.1

Official UCG policy/statements on the subject.

In other words, members may freely visit other Church of God groups (including Feasts), befriend them and give presentations at their services. And that without penalty, harassment or stopping members from giving sermons/sermonettes/serving in UCG. Vindictiveness is not a Christian attribute.

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The UCG constitution, section 1.2.1 states:

"As defined in the Holy Scriptures, the Church is the Body of Christ and is greater and more inclusive than any corporate or associated organization established by human beings."

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Section 1.4 "United Church of God Ministers Speaking to Other Groups" (Pastor's Policy Manual):

"We do not claim that all Christians are among our fellowship, neither do we claim to be the only organization through which God may be working. UCGIA desires, therefore, to promote unity and cooperation and to share our beliefs and teachings within the broader Church of God community."

Section 1.5 is guidelines for members of other CoG groups speaking in UCG.

Section 1.10 is about how the UCG does not consider itself the only group that God is working through.

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The UCG Australia's Constitution Preamble basically mirrors the above:

"The United Church of God – Australia recognises its congregations are part of the broader community of believers called in Scripture "The Church of God".

While in clause 3.2.3 it states that UCG-A has power

“to prescribe to, become a member of and co-operate with or amalgamate with any other company or organisation, whether incorporated or not, whose objects are similar to those of the company” (company = UCG-A)

This can only mean that the UCG-A can merge with other Church of God groups which, in accordance with the UCG,aia and the Preamble, are regarded as part of the Body of Christ.

Other Supporting Information

The Council of Elders agenda for the 24-27 February 2025 meetings contained the following item: >1 p.m. Relations with other church groups<

This item was discussed, but only about one particular WCG offshoot in California that wants to have occasional combined services with UCG.

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This is what Vic Kubik wrote on Facebook:

>On Thursday July 13, 2023 Aaron and Michelle Dean and Bev and I were invited to the Church of God Seventh Day Conference held in Covington, Kentucky this year. About 1000 people were in attendance. We had dinner with Loren Stacy, President of the Church of God Seventh Day and his wife Karen as well as elder Mike Wallace. It was a wonderful evening reminiscing about our “recent” relationship going back 30 years when first visiting the COG7 Headquarters in Denver, CO and further back to the days when Herbert Armstrong fellowshiped with them. It was good to talk about their work in training ministers and leaders in their ARTIOS Christian College with a well-developed training curriculum. We also talked about evangelism and working with Young Adults where they have been successful. COG7 has 200,000 members worldwide. Wonderful evening. At the evening worship service I met many people with whom we’ve had contact with over the years.<

Meanwhile, in Oregon the pastor posted this:

>Greetings everyone - our local congregation is hosting a COG Fellowship Picnic on August 6th, 2023. This picnic is open to all COG members.

We've often quipped that "we only see one another at weddings and funerals..." and this event is specifically designed to take some meaningful steps to change that.

Formal invitations have been sent out to all COG Groups within Western Oregon and Southwest Washington, and I am sharing via Facebook to hopefully catch anyone we may have missed. We completely understand if the distance or the timing doesn't work - but we wanted to make the effort.

We hope you will consider attending as we would love to meet you.

Please RSVP to Sabrina Koester at the details on the flyer before July 30th - so that we can account for food. Burgers are provided, but please bring a side, dessert or drink to share. She will provide the address when you RSVP.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

This post is public and shareable.<

Similar events were held in Spokane and California during 2024!

Here is one such event held in London, 21 December 2024:

<https://www.ucg.org/news/home-office-weekly-update-94>

British Isles: London Open House Sabbath Service

The United Church of God in London, England welcomed Rick Shabi for a visit on the Sabbath of Dec. 21 as he and his wife, Deborah, travelled through on their way to the regional European conference in The Netherlands.

The opportunity was taken to host an “open house” for members of the wider Church of God community to come together in worship, unity and fellowship and to additionally take part in a Question and Answer session hosted by Mr. Shabi.

For most Sabbaths, the London congregation is usually around 30–40 people, but for the open house the numbers swelled to a little over 100—**with at least five different “churches of God” represented, as well as a number of brethren who do not currently associate with any particular organization.**

Mr. Shabi’s sermon reminded everyone of Christ said in John 17:17—how we are all bound by His Spirit and truth—in a message titled “Set Apart by Truth.” For some, the singing of the old and well-known Church of God hymns, including “O Come and Let us Worship Him” and “We are God’s People,” was an emotional reminder we are indeed all God’s very own special people, called out of this world to be sanctified and prepared for service in the soon coming Kingdom of God.

Following the service, everyone enjoyed a buffet meal while brethren old and new met or renewed acquaintances. Some brethren had not seen each other for decades and it was a remarkable opportunity to see other members of the Church of God and to be strengthened—being reminded that God is active in the lives of all His children.

After the food and fellowship, Mr. Shabi answered questions from the congregation. Many positive comments have been received and brethren from various Churches of God appreciated the openness, friendliness and opportunity to see faces old and new.

Our sincere thanks to all those who worked so hard to arrange such a special and encouraging occasion.

—David Elliott, elder, London, England

Note how the UCG and its President are cooperating like this:

<https://www.churchofgodnetwork.org/congregation-map-updated-with-specific-ucg-locations/>

Why? Because we do not believe that we are the only true Church and never have. Some do, contrary to UCG teaching and belief.

On 20 April 2025 the Eternal Church of God announced:

>Today there will be a historic combined service of the Eternal Church of God and the United Church of God in Billings, MT. For those who find our services helpful, they will again will be aired live, but at 1:00 pm instead of our usual 11:00 am. Because there will be more than one video streaming at their facility, we may experience rendering difficulties. Therefore, we are providing both of the links to the live video stream below. The one used by Mr. Deininger's group requires the app GoToMeeting which is a simple and free process, and it may have less issues then the one that we regularly provide on YouTube. A good Sabbath to all!<

There have even been feast sites held jointly with other groups; or ministers speaking at other groups.

However some still talk in terms of UCG as "God's Church" and while it is, their connotation is that it is the only true Church. Such a shame.

The only way we can have the right 'checks 'n balances' and know exactly what the UCG teaches is for the *Pastoral Manual* to be online for members to see for themselves. Otherwise certain ones ignore these policies and not let us know what we really teach. Like the old WCG, certain pastors were 10x stricter than policy as we found out from other pastors or when we were able to find out the truth (eg a phone call I made to Dr Hoeh's office in the 1980s about something). Certain pastors just don't want us to know and what to keep us in the dark as part of their control mechanism.

As some may be aware, at the Land Between the Lakes site hosted by CGI & CEM in western Kentucky the UCG, for the 4th year, had someone go there [2019] from UCG to build bridges with those organisations. Apparently, Chris Rowland from MMS went there several years ago and Aaron Dean went one year for a little while. Kevin and Rachel Kenady have gone there for 3 years in a row. This is in addition to UCG cooperation at other sites or visits to other church of God groups by members. The UCG has never been opposed to visiting other groups and those trying to implement such a policy and claim that members are not in good standing because they do, are not functioning as a UCG employee.

What the Intercontinental Church of God's Constitution and Bylaws states.

>ARTICLE VIII

RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER CHURCHES, FELLOWSHIP GROUPS, OR CORPORATE BODIES:

The INTERCONTINENTAL CHURCH OF GOD is an "open arms, open door" church. Therefore, it welcomes cooperation with any other church body, insofar as such body desires. The ministry of the church shall not prohibit members of the church from attending church services with any other church, Bible study or fellowship group. However, the church will not allow guest speakers from any other churches who espouse doctrines or concepts not held by the ICG, or who engage in proselyting on behalf of any other groups. The ICG specifically welcomes the ministry and membership who are Sabbath-keepers, and who recognize their need to attend the annual Holy Days of the church, including the "Feast of Tabernacles" in the Autumn.

The INTERCONTINENTAL CHURCH OF GOD welcomes close cooperation with any independently-incorporated church groups, and does not regard an independently incorporated local church as estranged, or in competition. The ICG will not seek to bring any independently-cooperating church under its corporate documents, or under its organization or church structure. As an "open arms, open door" church, the ICG hopes that any such independently-incorporated local church will freely fellowship with the ministry and membership of the ICG; that its ministers will be invited to participate in any conferences of the ministry of the ICG; that its ministers will be invited to participate in the speaking schedule at the annual Holy Days of the church, and that its members will be welcome at any regular Sabbath service or annual Holy Day of the ICG.<

http://www.intercontinentalcog.org/constitution.php#ARTICLE_VIII

What Herbert W Armstrong taught.

"But where then is the True Church? Jesus said; "...I will build my church..." (Matthew 16:18). Did He? Where is it? Did the true Church of God, of which Jesus Christ is the Living Directing Head become perverted? Now did it apostatize into the system that I have been talking about, the system that is foretold in the Bible? Did the true Church apostatize, go clear away from the truth, completely degenerate — and then later come back and reform again, or something of that sort? Oh no my friends, the gates of hell have never prevailed against the true Church of God and never will. The true Church has never fallen; it couldn't be the Church when it falls.

Listen, the true Church, the real Church of God, the Church of which Jesus is the Head, the Church Jesus that Himself founded, is composed of what? It isn't a physical organization of people, it isn't a political organization; it is a spiritual organism. And it is composed of those people who have completely given up their way and turned to the Way of God, who have repented of their own way. Who have accepted Christ, not only as just Savior on the outside and someone to profess; but as the Living Savior who comes within and lives His life within their own minds and hearts. Who have actually given up their own way; who have completely surrendered to God and who are now led by the Spirit of God. And who live as Jesus said they must — by every word of God.

They are sorting out the wheat from the chaff, error from truth and throwing the error away and keeping the wheat, or the real truth. They are people who rejoice in the light, they are people who are permitting the Word of God, the Bible, to correct them and reprove them. They are people that have given their whole hearts to God.

And the rest of them profess Christ but they continue their own way. They are merely in this world and they are following the devil, and they are deceived. Now do you know what we have been doing all this time? We've been looking at organized groups; we've been looking at physical material things that we can see with the physical eye.

And the true Church of God is a spiritual organism, it isn't something you see; it's something that is written right down in men's hearts. What is the New Covenant? Jesus Christ is the Mediator of the New Covenant and the apostle Paul tells us in Hebrews that it is not like the Old Covenant but:

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will write my laws in their minds and in their hearts and in their inward parts;" (Hebrews 10:16 paraphrased)

Now God's own people have the laws of God, the ways of God, the very mind of God written right down in their hearts. It isn't a matter of maudlin sentimentality and worked up physical emotion but is real spirituality. People who have really surrendered their way, people who are willing to be corrected by God and by the Word of God. Who are searching the Word of God, studying the Word of God, to know how to live by it. And who really have, and are empowered, and live by the very Spirit of God — they are the children of God, they are begotten of God.

And they are the only ones that are the children of God, and God's Church, the true Church of God. The Church that Jesus said He would build is composed of those people that are the begotten sons of God; and being led by the very Word of God, the Way of God, the will of God, the law of God. They are the people that have — that keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus; as you find them described in the fourteenth chapter of Revelation, and also in the twentieth chapter of the Book of Revelation, and all through your Bible, my friends."

~ HWA, "Apostasy Foretold" in a *World Tomorrow* broadcast.

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The below is from a contact of mine who knew Herbert W Armstrong. Raymond McNair and others related similarly over the years re HWA agreeing or stating that there were indeed Christians in other Church of God groups.

"About 1970 after church services I walked up to Mr HWA and asked him if there were "true Christians in [the Church of God, seventh day]." He looked at me and without hesitation or second thoughts replied affirmatively that there are. It was as if: of course there ARE, and why would you even ask." (5 April 2021)

When the term “true church” was used, it referred to the sharp edge of the Work that one group was undertaking