

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD NEWS SERVICE

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ASSEMBLIES OF GOD DELEGATES BEGIN BIENNIAL CONVENTION

ORLANDO—Approximately 30,000 church delegates from the Assemblies of God (U.S.) will meet at the Orange County Convention Center (North/South Hall) here this week for the church's 53rd General Council. Delegates will come from every state and many foreign countries for this biennial meeting.

The General Council is the business meeting for the church, which is part of the largest Pentecostal denomination in the world with nearly 55 million members. There are nearly 3 million members in the U.S.

Even before Council officially opens Tuesday night (August 4), crowds began meeting this weekend for pre-council meetings and a leadership conference that begins today (Monday, August 3).

The 270-member General Presbytery began its annual session Saturday and will continue its meeting today at the Convention Center. This is the second-highest policy making body for the church, after the General Council. Dr. George O. Wood, general superintendent, chairs these meetings that will conclude this evening.

Influence: Leadership in High Definition Conference will begin tonight and continue through tomorrow. The two-day seminar features leadership experts Mark Batterson, Ed Young Jr., Keith Craft, Reggie Joiner and Beth Moore.

Teens from across the nation will gather for the final competition in the Fine Arts Festival. Some 10,000 teens will participate in competition this week at the Convention Center, culminating in an awards rally Friday, August 7 at the Convention Center beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Kids Council will be held Tuesday through Friday at the Convention Center, with morning, afternoon and evening service options.

Evening services of the 53rd General Council will convene 7 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday evenings, and 6:30 p.m. Friday evening at the Convention Center with Wood delivering the keynote message on Tuesday.