

# NACOGU FOCUS

November 2025

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Publication of the National Association of the Church of God Ushers

## Celebrating the 70th National Ushers Convention

**Convention Theme:** "Serving with a Divine Purpose" **Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 15:58



Elizabeth Cheeseman-Martin, President



Marie Freeman, Vice-President

Greetings, Fellow Ushers, and Faithful Supporters!

As we prepared to gather once more for our National Ushers' Convention, we reflect on the journey we have traveled over the past year. Throughout the challenges and changes we have encountered, one constant has remained: God's unwavering faithfulness and the abundance of His blessings upon us. We are grateful to be able to proclaim the success of our 2025 Convention, not because of anything that we have done but what God has done. "To God be the Glory, Great things He has done." It is by His guidance and grace that we were able to come together, serve with purpose, and experience a truly meaningful and uplifting convention. We honor God for leading us and for the victories and growth that have come as a result.

We also thank the Arlington Church of God family for their outstanding support and kindness during our 69th convention. The spirit of hospitality that was displayed set a joyful and uplifting tone for the entire event. Arlington not only opened their doors to us, but their hearts, and that played a significant role in making the convention a special and meaningful gathering for everyone. Thank you, Arlington!

I am now delighted to announce that our 2026 - 70th National Association of the Church of God Ushers' Convention will be hosted at the Clement Road Church of God, located at 3701 Clement Road, Columbia, SC 29203. This milestone convention promises to be a memorable gathering as we continue our tradition of service and fellowship.



**SOUTH CAROLINA (The Palmetto State) Welcomes You!**

**State motto: "Dum Spiro Spero" translates to "While I breathe, I Hope."**

We are blessed to have Rev. Dennis T. Smart, Pastor of Clement Road Church of God, as one of our gracious hosts. Joining him are Sis. Marie Irick, who serves as the State Usher President, and Rev. Robbie Shortt, Chairman of the South Carolina State Presbytery of the Church of God.

We invite you to join us in South Carolina. Registration is now open, and we recommend completing your registration at your earliest convenience. To honor prompt registrants, the first four (4) individuals and the first two (2) groups will receive formal recognition during our services and be awarded a special prize. For your convenience, all required forms are included, registration, advertisement submissions, T-shirt orders, and participation in the pre-convention shopping spree tour.

## Hotel Accommodations

You may reserve your hotel room at the Springhill Suites by Marriott Columbia Downtown / The Vista. Hotel details and the reservation link are included in the registration form. If you prefer to book by phone, please call (803) 271-0739. Be sure to mention the National Church of God Ushers special rate of \$159 per night. When booking accommodation, please feel free to utilize the maximum occupancy allowed for each room.

## Transportation

To ensure a convenient and comfortable experience for all attendees. Complimentary transportation will be provided to and from the hotel and church for all scheduled services and activities.

### **CONVENTION SPEAKERS**

**Rev. Dennis T. Smart, Pastor**  
Clement Rd Church of God, Columbia, SC

**Rev. Robbie Shortt, Chairman**  
SC State Presbytery of the Church of God

**Bishop Ophelia Livingston, Pastor**  
Pittsboro Church of God, NC

### **WORKSHOP**

**Theme: “Unlocking what God has for You”**  
**Scripture: Matthew 7:7-8**

Workshop Leader: Rev. Sheila Granger  
NACOGU Spiritual Resource Coordinator

### **INTERESTED IN HOSTING THE USHERS’ CONVENTION:**

Bids to host the ushers’ convention in 2027 and 2028 should be submitted at the May 2026 business meeting or at the West Middlesex business meeting. The bids should include, at a minimum, your request to host the convention.

To all our supporters, friends, and families, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for your unwavering prayers, steadfast support, and uplifting words of encouragement. Your presence and involvement have been invaluable.

I thank each of you once again for granting me the privilege to serve. It is an honor that I do not take lightly. I assure you of my continued commitment to serve with the utmost professionalism, always guided by God's love, grace, and wisdom. Thank you for standing with me on this journey.



*Your Servant in Christ!*

*Elizabeth Cheeseman-Martin, President*

*“For a day in the courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.” - Psalm 84:10*

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD USHERS OFFICERS

Elizabeth Cheeseman-Martin..... President  
 Marie Freeman.....Vice President  
 Juanita Hollingsworth-Johnson.....Treasurer  
 Gloria Dillard.....Assistant Treasurer  
 Mary Y. Simmons.....Secretary  
 Sheila Granger.....Spiritual Resource Coordinator  
 Patricia Howard.....Registrar  
 Esther Deans.....Advisor  
 Elizabeth K. Gaddis ..... Advisor/Floor Coordinator  
 Donna M. Ravenell .....Convention Manager/Advisor  
 Bessie Smith.....Community Mission Project Coordinator

## SUB-COMMITTEES



### FINANCE COMMITTEE

Juanita Hollingsworth-Johnson (Chair) NC  
 Gloria Dillard, MI  
 Patricia Howard, SC  
 Esther Deans, IN  
 Donna Ravanelle, SC

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mary Ann Nesbit (Acting Chair) GA  
 Diane Patterson - IN  
 Jack Howard, SC  
 Susie Beasley, OH

### COMMUNION COMMITTEE

Rev. Sheila Granger (Chair), MI  
 Marion Hazly, OH  
 Jack Howard, SC  
 Mary Sutton

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the Ushers who served during the 2025 West Middlesex campground meeting. Your sacrificial time and effort were truly valued. I also wish to acknowledge and thank both our past and current officers for their diligent work and leadership.

Finally, we the Board extend a warm welcome to our newly elected and appointed officers and committee members. We look forward to working together as a team and continuing the legacy of service and excellence within our organization. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

### OPEN POSITIONS:

If you are interested in serving on the NACOG Ushers' Board, please do not hesitate to contact Sis. Mary Ann Nesbit at (404) 775-1185. Thank you!

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- **Wednesday, May 13, 2026,**  
 Ushers' Pre-Convention Shopping Tour: *(see order form for detailed info)*
  - **Friday Evening – May 15th**  
 Candlelight Memorial Tribute in Honor of the late Deacon Joseph Scarborough
- Ushers' Re-dedication Prayer and Communion.** *(Ushers please wear your white summer uniform – see uniform guidelines).*

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- NYC 2025 Convention  
 Dec 27<sup>th</sup> – Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
 New Orleans, LA
  - Mid-Year Leadership Conference - Mar 3-5, 2026  
 Jacksonville, Florida
  - NACOG Campground meeting.  
 West Middlesex, PA  
 Meeting: July 27-Aug 2, 2026

For more detail info for NACOG events. Visit their website at: <https://www.nacog.com>

### **The following are Included in this issue:**

- Uniform Guidelines
- Registration form
- Souvenir Journal ad form
- 70<sup>th</sup> Souvenir T-Shirt order form
- Pre-Convention Shopping Tour form