# History

In a time when the Church of Jesus Christ is challenged to send the "Evening Light Message" to the uttermost part of the Earth, a group of men and women came together on May 29, 1992 at the Pentecostal Church of Christ in Cleveland, Ohio to form what is now called "United Covenant Churches of Christ". This meeting was called by Bishop J. Delano Ellis, II, by the will of God, and it was obvious in that session that the Lord had laid the mantle of leadership on him for this new Reformation of "whole-truth" churches. Because of deep and abiding passion for souls and sincere desire to see the historical nature of the Church restored with a strong emphasis on holiness of life and witness, Bishop Ellis joined the ranks of the Apostolic Fathers who each served their generations. During that meeting, some twenty-five preachers of the various churches gathered for worship, which eventually led us to the materialization of our current reformation. The one unique feature of this Ecclesiastical Conclave was the "Midnight Prayer and Consecration" which convened at the adjournment of the College of Preachers on that same evening. When some one hundred and twenty saints gathered in the National Mother Church for that midnight call, the power of the Holy Ghost was evident and great were the signs and wonders amidst the people of God.

God called out another people with one agenda for the twenty-first century... "declare the name of Jesus, restore the historical nature of the church, lead the church back to unrestrained praise and loose the women who have a call of Christ."

On August 22, 1992, the First Pentecostal General Assembly of the Church was convened during the third session of the Holy Convocation of the Pentecostal Church of Christ, at Cleveland. Bishop J. Delano Ellis was proclaimed the first General Overseer and President of the Reformation.

After fifteen years of excellent labor, Bishop J. Delano Ellis,II exercised wisdom in the Lord and deemed it necessary for health reasons, to relinquish the office of the presiding bishop and grant a faithful son, Bishop Larry Darnell Trotter, his nomination for succession in the Episcopal Office. After much prayer, the College of Bishops of the United Pentecostal Churches of Christ convened on Tuesday, June 8, 2004 and unanimously elected the nomination of Bishop Trotter to the office of Presiding Prelate of the reformation. Bishop Trotter's Pentecostal roots, tenacity, wisdom and 21st century technological style prepares us for the continuation of the foundation, as well as propels us to the next dimension...which caused a word in our name to change from "Pentecostal" to "Covenant" for our global agenda.

#### WE ARE READY FOR SERVICE!

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**United Covenant Churches of Christ International** 

(Formerly United Pentecostal Churches of Christ)

"A New Paradigm"



Bishop Larry D. Trotter Presiding Prelate

# United

### What United Offers

### Letter

#### Our Mission

The United Covenant Churches of Christ International serves as a Christian Interdenominational Reformation embracing the Pentecostal experience by way of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. With an Anglican form of government, UNITED makes available, a forum for fellowship and a reformation for development, collaboration, and synergistic relationship among parishes throughout the world. As a reformation in ministry activity, UNITED provides a covering for local churches, para-church organizations, church leaders and individuals. UNITED is apostolically authentic in form, institutionally inclusive in fellowship, ministry and mission minded in service. United seeks to bridge the gap of the religious and denominational divide that exists throughout the Body of Christ.

### Our A.I.M.

Apostolically Authentic

<u>United</u> believes that Jesus is Lord and that all persons must come through Him to receive Salvation. Souls are the most important agenda of this reformation.

<u>United</u> believes in the governmental offices of the church; Bishops, Elders, Ministers, and Deacons. Furthermore, United also believes in the five-fold ascension gifts (Apostle, Prophet, Pastor, Evangelist and Teacher) as written in Ephesians 4:11.

<u>United</u> believes in planting churches and supporting those new works.

<u>United</u> has instituted a C.P.A. (Church Pastoral Assistance) system wherein churches that qualify can receive short term assistance.

#### Institutionally Inclusive

<u>United</u> believes it is necessary to serve and develop key relationships with government, and other non-profit organizations, for the purpose of working together to improve the welfare of all mankind.

<u>United</u> provides opportunity for the expression of ministry without discrimination based upon age or gender.

<u>United</u> believes in the autonomy of the local church and the key word for this age is "Covenant" (in agreement).

#### Ministry & Mission Minded

<u>United</u> is an apostolic, 21st century reformation, designed to empower all humanity throughout the world.

<u>United</u> is committed to assist growing churches and new congregations in the growth and development of their ministries.

<u>United</u> believes in the biblical mission to spread the gospel to all nations and endeavors to meet the spiritual needs of those in other countries.

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#### **Church Development**

- Leadership Training & Development
- Church Administration & Support Training
- Assistance with Church Growth & Marketing
- Ministerial Training in Theological Disciplines and Protocol



#### **Economic Development**

- Assistance with establishing 501 (C) 3 status
- Assistance with establishing an Economic Development Division (such as day care & camp programs, tutoring, food giveaways, etc)
- Business Development Training (teaching members how to start businesses, assisting with certain professional service training, etc)
- Other not-for-profit programs and grants available
- Guiding shepherds and sheep toward financial independence via the tithe system



#### Pastoral Development

- Assistance with Pastoral Insurance Programs
- Financial Retirement/Pensions & Secured Financial Planning Strategies
- Pastoral Education and Development
- Pastoral Covering, Relationship and Networking for an advanced ministry

# from Presiding Prelate



Dear Beloved,

Above all I wish that you may prosper and be in good health even as your soul prospers. Over the past 25 years I have been a faith leader. My heart is that my ministry and my work would bring men and women of God together with a single eye and vision to advance the Kingdom of God in the earth as it is in Heaven.

One assignment that we all share is to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to the four corners of the world that humankind might receive the word that God has sent to heal, deliver, and save lives.

It is our desire as an organization to bring men and women of God together who still believe in holiness and share like-minded faith and passion. As Presiding Prelate of United Covenant Churches of Christ, I believe part of my assignment is to join these kindred spirit individuals in an effort to raise the standard of excellence that will birth a 21st century generation of people in holiness and righteousness.

I believe that "United" is a gift from God that has been given to us to be a bridge to bring the unbeliever to Christ to empower those in ministry, and to establish the true unity of the faith to all those in the body of Christ.

As the Presiding Prelate of UCCC, I have been chosen by God to be a shepherd to shepherds, a father to sons and daughters, and a bishop to the Lord's church. I welcome the opportunity that you and I have to build a better church for today and a greater Kingdom for years to come, because I still believe that "what's to come is better than what's been." UNITED WE CAN!

Your Servant in Christ,

**Bishop Larry D. Trotter** *Presiding Prelate* 

**United Covenant Churches of Christ International**