

Wilkin Center Open House & Dedication--Vol. 9, No. 25

June 19, 2015

It was nine months in the making, but well worth the wait. Last September the Administrative Council approved the renovation of the Christian Ministry Center that houses our General Conference operations. Nothing much had been done to upgrade the building since its construction in 1981. After thirty plus years of operation, the facility definitely needed renewing. However, this project was to be more than a repainting. I organized a committee, and we began to work on recreating the interior hallways to reflect the ministry and mission of the Churches of God, General Conference (CGGC) both historically and in today's context.



View of the new seating area and signage in the main hallway

It started with the walls, floors, lights, and furniture. Coordinating everything required deciding the overall theme and color schemes before anything else. This design phase took months to work out the details and in fact some were not decided until near completion. Thankfully Ron Harvey from College First Church spearheaded this aspect, taking the ideas of the committee and translating them into reality. We went through many revisions before deciding upon the final rendition. Ron's advertising business enabled us to identify vendors and tradesmen who produced the various components needed.



Ron Harvey



The entryway mural



The Cross-Cultural Ministries wall

Dick and Barb have served the CGGC for more than sixty years in various capacities. In addition to his role as CGGC Administrator (1970-1986), Dick pastored Churches of God congregations in Ohio at Neptune (1952-1958) and Wharton (1959-1964), as well as Ft Wayne, IN (1964-1970). A 1952 graduate of Findlay College he was ordained by the Ohio Conference in 1953. Barb, a 1951 graduate of Findlay College, served for many years as the treasurer/financial controller for the Ohio Conference/Great Lakes Region. Dick has also been a trustee of The University of Findlay (since 1985), receiving an honorary doctorate in 1975, and Winebrenner Theological Seminary (1980-1987).

The purpose of the project was to provide a continuing visual proclamation of the mission of the Church and specifically the CGGC. We wanted to utilize the hall walls of the center as a kind of storyboard to highlight CGGC history and current ministries worldwide. That was the vision. The Administrative Council also decided to rename the building in honor of the first CGGC Administrator/Executive Director, Dr. Richard E Wilkin and his wife Barbara. Over the many months of renovation it was a bit challenging to keep the renaming a secret from "Dick" and Barb, but I think we succeeded.



Dick and Barb Wilkin



In response to renaming the building in their honor, Dick (pictured at left) commented that it represents the work of many people past and present who had a vision for a Christian ministry center and who have carried out Christ's ministry therein. It is the result of the prayers and labors of many, not of one or of a few. He gave the Lord all the praise for the Gospel work achieved in and through the building. He also offered thanks to all present for their ongoing support of him and Barb and CGGC ministries. If interested, readers may use this [link to see the rededication program](#)

from two weeks ago.

I could give readers a summary of each wall, but I think pictures will provide the best glimpse of the messages. Click on the slide show link below to see more photographs of the dedication event. The

various presentations highlight CGGC history, missions, and contemporary ministries. There's even a wall honoring past CGGC leadership. In addition, glass cases complement the murals by offering 3-D ministry info. Several scripture texts also appear in key locations to emphasize God's mission for the Church and every Christ-follower's call. At some point, when enough funds are raised, the display will also include a life-size bronze statue of Jesus in the entryway.



The History Wall containing key moments in the history of the CGGC



During the dedication service

Now, as good as the accompanying photos may be, seeing it all full size and in person makes quite an impression. Hopefully the message of making more and better disciples, leaders, and churches all over the world comes out loud and clear, and will do so via these visual images for years to come. Come and see for yourself!

One Mission together,
Ed
Soli Deo Gloria!

For more pictures of the open house and dedication service, go to the eNews blog at <http://cggcnews.weebly.com/>.

WTS Presidential Interviews to be Held

Winebrenner Theological Seminary plans to hold focus group meetings with its candidates for president on June 23 and 24 at the seminary in Findlay, Ohio. There will be a morning and afternoon session each day so the candidates can make an individual presentation followed by a time for questions and answers. See the schedule below for details. Representatives from the Church are



invited to participate in this extremely important selection process. All are encouraged to be in prayer and anyone desiring to attend needs to register with the seminary by contacting Ruth Whitaker at academicdept@winebrenner.edu or [419-434-4240] to indicate which sessions they will attend.

Timeline for WTS Focus Groups June 23 & 24, 2015

Morning:

10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Presentation
10:30 – 11:15 a.m.	Questions and Answers
11:15 -11:30 p.m.	Break
11:30 – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (Only for Presidential Search Committee and Board of Trustees)

Afternoon:

3:30 – 4:00 p.m.	Presentation
4:00 – 4:45 p.m.	Questions and Answers
4:45 – 5:00 p.m.	Break
5:00 – 6:30 p.m.	Dinner (Only for Presidential Search Committee and Board of Trustees)

Presentation Topic:

From your perspective, what are some of the current challenges in theological education today and how would you address those challenges at WTS?