

J. Wesley (Jim) Hertel, jwesleyhertel@msn.com

Qualifications

I have the distinction of being the last active ministerial link to Bishop Raines. He first appointed me in 1967 in the NIC at age 21. In 1970, I was ordained a full Elder by Bishop Mueller in the SIC. My entire life has been spent in the local church. I've seen renewal, and I believe if it comes to our denomination, it will happen as local churches catch the fire and vision of our great mission.

I offer to this Conference the heart of a pastor who has served faithfully, and in doing so, has gained the wisdom and temperament years of service can bring. I've led 5 major building programs in congregations where I have served, and I have taught lay pastors in 5 missions to Africa.

Three Most Critical Issues

1. I don't know that one General Conference session can bridge the gap existing between our boards and agencies and the local church, but I would support efforts to redirect these entities to resource the local church and gives us less overhead.
2. We should change the way our Ministerial Education Fund is allocated, thereby freeing funds for the theological training of African pastors where the church is growing rapidly.
3. Homosexuality cannot be our focus, but for a truce in this never-ending struggle, I would support the removal of any condemning language in exchange for maintaining language in support of celibacy in singleness and fidelity in marriage, and for defining marriage as instituted by God between a man and a woman.