Diamond Field Ghana Conference was organized in 2017. It was formerly part of East Ghana Conference. Diamond Field Ghana Conference consists of several districts and municipal assemblies of the Eastern Region of the Republic of Ghana: Suhum Municipal, Ayensuano District, Nsawam/Adoagyiri Municipal, part of East Akyem Municipal, West Akyem Municipal, Upper West Akyem District, Denkyembour District, Kwaebibirem District, Birim South Municipal, Birim Central Municipal, part of Birim North District, part of Akuapem South Municipal and Akyemansa District; bounded on the north by the Eastern View Ghana Conference, on the south by the Accra City Conference, and on the west by the Pioneer Ghana Conference.¹

As of June 30, 2018, the number of churches is 64; membership is 11,624; total population is 1,282,168.²

Creation of the Conference
The creation of additional fields in the eastern region of Ghana became necessary owing to the vast nature of the territory. The plans to organize a new conference started when all elders of the East Ghana Conference met at Maranatha Multi-Purpose Camp Complex, Kukurantumi, January 2-4, 2015. It was unanimously agreed that two new fields be carved out of the existing conference. Therefore, at an executive committee meeting at the Kukurantumi Camp Complex on January 4, 2015, a new field now called Diamond Field Ghana Conference, then comprised of eight districts of churches namely Asamankese North, Asamankese South, Ayirebi, Kade, Oda East, Oda West, Nsawam, and Suhum, was created.

Most of the districts in the Diamond Field Ghana Conference can trace part of their roots to the evangelistic efforts of Opanyin Peter Agyekum Boadi from Akyem Aperade who heard the Adventist message from Elder Ansong at Asante Bekwai. After returning to his home town in 1933, Boadi did personal evangelism and a few followers were gathered.

In 1950, Opanyin Kwasi Sene, from Akyem Aperade converted to the faith and also started a small congregation at Akyem Aperade. Opanyin M. K. Gyimah of Oda visited Asante Bekwai in 1949. He met Peter Agyekum Boadi who was evangelizing at Oda and he was very happy to meet such an evangelist and they worked together. That was where he was converted. Sabbath worship services were held in family houses. That little seed spread to Accra and surrounding areas.

The first camp meeting was in 1953 under Pastor Essien who was district pastor at Cape Coast. Oda was part of Cape Coast district. In 1980 Oda was carved out of the Cape Coast district.

Another great event started at Asamankese in early 1950. According to Elder R. Y. Tawiah, S. D. Bennett-Lartey started a small branch Sabbath School after his retirement from the government hospital. They were joined in worship by Lt. Col. Isaac Buabeng from Asamang Tamfoe and Mr. F. Ankomah-Afranie. A literature evangelist, Mr. M. E. D. Ansah was transferred from Abiriw Akuapem to Asamankese to assist in the evangelistic work. After the death of S. D. Bennett-Lartey, Mr. Amoah brought together some faithful ones like Alice Apea Tawiah, Elizabeth Ayeh, Leticia Larney, Noah Appiah, R. Y. Tawiah, Mary Kyerewaaah, and Madam Wilson.

From this humble beginning in 1933 at Ayirebi, the Oda District has produced the following districts: Ayirebi, Oda East, Oda West, Asamankese South, Asamankese North, Kade, Ofoase, and Oda North.

The history of the churches/districts that were brought together to form the current Diamond Field Ghana Conference began with the Ntoso church in the Abiriw district.

It began when Mr. Ankra relocated his private school from Duadekyea to Ntoso in 1952. A conversation that ensued between him, Dr. Narrey, and Madam Rebecca Aba Odum, who had come to seek medical care for her sick daughter, was the beginning of the seed that sprouted to form a church at Ntoso. Mr. Ankra and the brethren met to study the Word of God and Adventist beliefs along with the chief of Ntoso at the La quarters of the village.

Madam Odum narrated what transpired at the clinic to her husband after going home and together they joined the small Adventist group. Mr. Ankra taught his pupils Christian songs and Bible verses for recitals. This inspired many people to join the young Adventist family. As they prepared for baptism, including Shadrach Adama Dowuona, the husband of Madam Odum, the baptism was cancelled by Pastor Agboka because all those who were ready for baptism were in polygamous marriages. As a result, they all stopped attending church meetings.

Pastor B. C. B. Debra carefully taught them and prepared them for baptism in 1956. The baptism was performed by Pastor Welch in the Densu River. The Lord added people daily to the flock until in 1961. The first camp meeting was held at Ntoso. At the camp meeting, a ram, Bible, Hymn Book and cash were given to the chief of Ntoso and his elders in appreciation for a parcel of land released by them to be used to build a chapel for the congregation.

In order to sustain the gains, a request was made to the “parent” of Hansen Road SDA Church to allow their youth to be taken to Ntoso on weekends to boost the morale of the youth. Prominent among the youth who came were E. O. Abbey (now a retired pastor), Eddie Larney, Emmanuel Antwi, Joseph Nii Ayi Hammond, J. J. Nortey (now a retired pastor), and E. O. Sackey (now a retired pastor).

The quest for further education coupled with lack of employment forced the youth to leave the town and go to Accra and elsewhere in order to meet their life aspirations. As those who could read and write left the town, the membership dwindled. The Ghana Mission sponsored an evangelistic campaign led by Pastors H. V. A. Kumah, E. O. Abbey, M. A. Bediako, and evangelist A. L. Ewoo at Nsawam. The result of that effort was the establishment of a church in Nsawam.

The establishment of a church at Nsawam gave more impetus to Adventism and the message spread to nearby towns and villages. By the abundant mercies of God, from a humble beginning the district has grown and has been reorganized into three districts of churches—Nsawam North, Nsawam South, and Nsawam West districts.

**Official Operation of the Diamond Field Conference**

The Southern Ghana Union Conference (SGUC) church session at Valley View University on November 20, 2015, voted the Diamond Field to operate as an administrative unit. The official work began in January 2016. At the inception of the new field, there were a total of 42 organized churches and 100 companies with a membership of 8,470.
In July 2016, based on the progress of work in the field, a recommendation from the SGUC was made to the WestCentral Africa Division (WAD) to survey the field for approval to operate as a conference. The team that came from WAD was impressed and made such recommendation to the WAD Executive Committee which voted at its year-end meeting that the Diamond Field Administrative Unit should operate as a conference.\textsuperscript{14}

From March 15-18, 2017, the DGC held its commencement session and the following officers and departmental directors were elected to steer the affairs of the DGC for the quadrennium.

**Officers of the Diamond Field Conference\textsuperscript{15}**

President, Pastor Seth Asare Nyarko (2017-present)
Secretary, Pastor Alexander Wiredu Abugiyimah (2017-present)
Treasurer, Miss Victoria Annor (2017-present)

Address: RD 61, Near Methodist School Park, Asamankese, Ghana.
Mailing address: P.O. Box 218, Asamankese, Ghana

**SOURCES**

East Ghana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 2015 4\textsuperscript{th} Quarter Statistical Report, East Ghana Conference records.

East Ghana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Executive Committee Minutes, EXECOM 004/01/15, East Ghana Conference records.


Southern Ghana Union Conference Session Minutes, November 20, 2016, Southern Ghana Union Conference records.

West Central African Division, Year End Meeting, October 22, 2015, West Central African Division Archives.

**NOTES**


2. Ibid.\textsuperscript{?}

3. East Ghana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Executive Committee Minutes, EXECOM 004/01/15, East Ghana Conference records.\textsuperscript{?}

4. Georgina Owusu, interview by Pastor C. K. Boama, Ayirebi in Eastern Region of Ghana, October 14, 2018.\textsuperscript{?}

5. Sintim Aboagye, interview by author, Oda in Eastern Region of Ghana, March 15, 2018.\textsuperscript{?}

6. R. Y. Tawiah, interview by author, Asamankese in Eastern Region of Ghana, March 30, 2019.\textsuperscript{?}

7. Mada, Angela Tele Akpam, interview by Isaac Adu Mensah, Madina in the Great Accra Region of Ghana, February 10, 2016.\textsuperscript{?}

8. Ibid.\textsuperscript{?}

9. Ibid.\textsuperscript{?}

10. Ibid.\textsuperscript{?}

11. Ibid.\textsuperscript{?}

12. Southern Ghana Union Conference Session Minutes, November 20, 2016, Southern Ghana Union Conference records.\textsuperscript{?}

13. East Ghana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 2015 4\textsuperscript{th} Quarter Statistical Report, East Ghana Conference records.\textsuperscript{?}

14. West Central African Division, Year End Meeting, October 22, 2015, West Central African Division Archives.\textsuperscript{?}
