

# Ashanti Central Ghana Conference

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## JOHN ANTWI BAAFI, AND FESTUS OWUSU

John Antwi Baafi is the executive secretary of Ashanti Central Ghana Conference.

Festus Owusu is the administrative secretary of Ashanti Central Ghana Conference.

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Ashanti Central Ghana Conference is a church administrative unit under the Northern Ghana Union Mission in the West-Central Africa Division. Formerly part of the South Central Ghana Conference, the Ashanti Central Ghana Conference was organized in 2015. It occupies the following territories in Ghana: Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly, Ashton, and New Tafo; Askore Mampong Municipal, Asawasi, Airport, and Yennyawoso/Anyarno; Ejisu-Juaben Municipal Assembly, Juaben; Kwabre East, Antoa, and Kenyasi; Kimawu and Kumawu; Sekyere South, Asamang.<sup>1</sup>

As of June 30, 2018, Ashanti Central Ghana Conference had 61 churches with a membership of 17,249 in the general population of 1,611,387.<sup>2</sup>

## Organizational History of the Ashanti Central Ghana Conference

The Ashanti Central Ghana Conference (ASCG) was created out of the South Central Ghana Conference (SCGC) of the Seventh-day Adventist Church by the action of the then Executive Committee of SCGC. The action was voted in March 2014 to reorganize the SCGC into three fields: the South Central Ghana Conference, the Ashanti Central Ghana Conference, and the Ashanti South Administrative Field.<sup>3</sup>

The districts of the Ashanti Central Administrative Unit were Ashtown, New Tafo, Yennyawoso-Anyarno, Airport, Kenyasi, Poano, Antoakrom, Manso Adubia, Datano, Jacobu, and Fiankoma in the initial reorganization.<sup>4</sup>

The work assigned to the administration and the working committee was fully executed and all districts under the Administrative Unit collaborated and supported the Unit. In order to create a strong financial foundation for the newly created Administrative Unit, there was a call to all churches to donate funds to the field. Many churches in the Manso Area (now with the Ashanti South Ghana Conference) and the Aboabo Church, though not the strongest financially, were prompt in donating to the Administrative Unit upon the request.<sup>5</sup>

In early August 2014, the Union came to inspect the Unit to determine whether it was ready for inspection by the West-Central Africa Division. Following the pre-inspection, the Union affirmed the Administrative Unit to keep on with the good work.<sup>6</sup>

In mid-August 2014, the WAD Inspection Team comprising Pastor Onalapo Ajibade (WAD Secretary), Elder Boadi Mensah (Assistant Treasurer), and Pastor Daniel Opoku Boateng (Ministerial Secretary) came and were pleased with what they saw concerning the financial indices and other aspects of the Administrative Unit.<sup>7</sup>

After the inspection, on November 1, 2014, conference status was voted and granted during the 2014 year-end meeting of the WAD Executive Committee, and the take-off date as a full-fledged conference was January 2015. However, after reorganization the Union decided to replace the Manso Area Districts with the Effiduase Area Districts and Asawase District.<sup>8</sup> The districts in the Conference now were Ashtown, New Tafo, Yennyawso-Anyarno, Airport, Kenyasi, Asawase, Asokore, Asamang, Juaben, Effiduase, Kumawu, and Senchi. The Conference then carved out the Antoa District from the Kenyasi District, making the number of districts thirteen (13).<sup>9</sup>

## Administrative Directors for the Administrative Unit

The elected officers for the Ashanti Central Ghana Administrative Unit were Pastor Akwasi Boateng (Director), Pastor Gabriel Kofi Kwateng (Secretary), and Pastor Ernest Owusu-Akyaw (Treasurer).<sup>10</sup>

A committee was selected to support the administration in the discharge of their duties. These officials who held the mantle of leadership until handing over to the first elected administration and the executive committee were: Pastor Akwasi Boateng (president and chairman), Pastor Gabriel Kofi Kwateng (executive secretary), Pastor Ernest Owusu-Akyaw (treasurer), Elder Yaw Boakye-Dankwa, Elder Edmond Adjei Boadu, Pastor H. E. Diaba, Pastor Oti Boateng, Lydia A. Forkuo, Pastor Anane Abraham Kofi, Elder Sarfo Nimako Baffour, Pastor Handson Ranss Ankomah, Pastor Jonathan Owusu, and Mercy Tiwaa.<sup>11</sup>

Given the enormous nature of the work, it was proposed to the Executive Committee of SCGC through the then Administration of SCGC to elect departmental directors to help in the work of the various departments. Those elected to the departments were Pastor Handson Ranss Ankomah (Ministerial Secretary), Pastor Kwaku Adu Boahen (Health and Youth Dir.), Pastor Edward Osei Bonsu (Communications, Publishing Dir.), Pastor Hanson Emils Diaba (Sabbath School and Personal Ministries Dir.), Pastor Jonathan Owusu (Stewardship Director), and Pastor Enoch Oti Boateng (Auditor).<sup>12</sup>

## First Session of the Ashanti Central Ghana Conference

The newly created conference held a joint session with the Ashanti South Ghana Conference at the Seventh-day Adventist Senior High Secondary School Bekwai from January 6-10, 2015. The session was overseen by the Northern Ghana Union administration and headed by Pastor Kwame Boakye Kwanin. During the session the administration committee, executive committee, finance committee, and other statutory committees to steer the affairs of the Ashanti Central Ghana Conference for its first quadrennial period were elected.<sup>13</sup>

Executive Secretary	Pastor John AntwiBaafi
Treasurer	Pastor Ernest Owusu-Akyaw <sup>14</sup>

The following members were also elected as Departmental Directors of the Conference:

Pastor Gabriel K. Kwarteng	Ministerial Secretary/Family Life Ministries
Pastor Kwaku AduBoahen	Youth/Music/Chaplaincy/Health
Pastor Jonathan Owusu	Stewardship/Trust Service/Strategic Planning
Pastor Osei Bonsu Edward	Publishing/Communication/Global Mission
Pastor Enoch OtiBoateng	Auditor
Madam Lydia Akua Forkuo	Women/Young Ladies/Children Ministries
Pastor Hanson Emils Diaba	Personal Ministries/Sabbath School/ Adventist Muslim Relations

The following Members were appointed as the first Executive Committee Members of the Conference<sup>15</sup>

Pastor Akwasi Boateng	President and Chairman
Pastor John Antwi Baafi	Secretary
Pastor Ernest Owusu-Akyaw	Treasurer
Pastor Gabriel Kofi Kwateng	Ministerial Secretary/Family Ministries
Pastor Hanson E. Diaba	Personal Min. /Sabbath School/AMM/ Adventist-Muslim Rel.
Pastor Kwaku Adu Boahen	Youth/Music/Chaplaincy/Health
Pastor Edward Osei Bonsu	Publishing/Communication/Global Mission
Pastor Enoch Oti Boateng	Auditor
Madam Lydia A. Forkuo	Women/Young Ladies/Children Ministries
Pastor Jonathan Owusu	Stewardship/Trust Service/Strategic Planning
Pastor William Agyei	Ordained Ministers Representative
Pastor Abraham Kofi Anane	Licensed Ministers Representative
Mr. Stephen Boamah	Accountant
Elder OseiAmo Mensah	Accountant
Elder AkwasiBediakoAsare	Accountant

Elder K. Owusu Yeboah	Regional Education Director
Elder Yaw Boakye –Dankwa	Educationist
Madam Agatha NsiaAkuoko	Educationist
Elder YeboahAsiamah	Banker
Nana Yaw Frimpong	Legal Practitioner
Nana GyaamaDarkwa	Manager

## Inauguration of the Ashanti Central Ghana Conference

On February 27, 2016, the Conference was pre-inaugurated at the Roman Catholic School Park in Effiduasi in the Sekyere East District of the Ashanti Region where churches within the Effiduasi area of the Conference used the opportunity to express their gratitude to God for creating the Ashanti Central Ghana Conference. The event was graced by Pastor Matthew Ango Bediako as guest speaker.

The climax of the inauguration took place on March 13, 2016, at the Konadu Yiadom School Park in Ashanti New Town, Kumasi where Pastor Ellie Weick-Dido, president of the West-Central Africa Division of Seventh-day Adventists and President of Northern Ghana Union Mission, Pastor Kwame BoakyeKwanin graced the occasion as guest of honor and special guest respectively. Also in attendance was the Ashanti regional minister, Mr. John Alexander Ackon.<sup>16</sup>

Several dignitaries, including a designee of His Royal Majesty Otumfour Osei Tutu II, Asantehene, and the former mayor of Kumasi Metropolitan Assembly (2009–2013), the Honorable Samuel Sarpong, were in attendance to grace the occasion. Also in attendance were Pastor Kwame Annor-Boahen, Executive Secretary of the Northern Ghana Union Mission and Pastor Dickson Sarfo Marfo, Treasurer. Officers and ministers from sister conferences were also in attendance to support the event.<sup>17</sup>

On the same day, the sod-cutting ceremony for the commencement of an office complex at Yennyawoso-Anyarno was held. Pastor Ellie Weick-Dido officiated the service in collaboration with Pastor Kwame Boakye Kwanin and the officers of the Northern Ghana Union Mission. Pastor Ellie Weick-Dido, on behalf of the West-Central Africa Division, donated an amount of \$5,000.00 toward construction of the office complex. In total, an amount of GH¢ 126,252.10 was realized at the inaugural fundraising.<sup>18</sup>

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## NOTES

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12. *ibid*
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