

## **Church Extension**

During the 2008 meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of God, the Reconstituted Board of Church Extension announced that they were reaching the conclusion of their work and that soon Church Extension would no longer be in existence. This announcement impacts the local church in two ways: Conditional Deeding and Paid Off Mortgages. The following is quoted from their report to the General Assembly:

- Conditional Deeding - If your Church has conditionally deeded your property to CE, it is highly recommended that you contact your local state organization to begin the process of changing this clause. Many Churches and state organizations have already requested that CE deed its conditional interest to the local state organization. CE, with the approval and cooperation of the appropriate Church of God state organization, will continue to sign quitclaim deeds needed to complete this process as long as we exist as an entity.

- Paid off mortgages - If your Church has ever had a mortgage with Church Extension, it is recommended that you check with your local county recorder's office that a mortgage release was properly recorded when the loan was paid off. There have been several instances where the local Church paid off the CE mortgage (sometimes decades ago) and yet the mortgage release was never recorded. Historically, when a loan was paid off, CE would mail a signed mortgage release to the local Church and direct them to record the release at their local county recorder's office. It may be worth the time and effort to ensure this was done while CE can still sign these releases when needed.

Churches should check their most current deeds on record at the county recorder's or county clerk's office. Over the years churches tend to purchase various parcels of property. These purchases in many cases have not been incorporated into a single deed that describes all the parcels the church may own. Therefore it is well worth the time to go to the county clerk or county recorder to get copies of every parcel of property the church owns and check for any indication of Church Extension being named on them.

If the church should have Church Extension listed, contact the State Office for assistance in removing Church Extension.

As a reminder the Church of God Credentials Manual of the Church of God requires the following of churches:

"Maintains in its articles of incorporation a conditional deeding clause, with the beneficiary being the appropriate state, provincial, or area organization of the Church of God (Anderson)."

(Credentials Manual - Section 6.11 Letter O)

While the church is investigating its deeds it is recommended that they also check their articles of incorporation for a dissolution clause. If the original articles of incorporation does not have a dissolution clause, it is recommended that the church file an amendment of articles of incorporation which states the same dissolution clause as what appears on the church's deeds.