

2017 New Life Conference President's Report

At the Annual Meeting in March I was elected to replace Rev. George Karl as the President of the New Life Conference. George was chosen to serve as the President of the Eastern Regional Association of Advent Christian Churches. Many thanks to George for his faithful and tireless service to our churches where he, with the help of the Holy Spirit, truly infused "new life" into our Conference. I am certain from my experience serving with George at the local church level that God will continue to use him in a powerful way as he leads the Eastern Region in wisdom and integrity. Moreover, I am thankful to Rev. Bob Miller for his leadership as Interim President of our Conference as George transitioned into his new position.

With my new role as Conference President, many exciting opportunities have presented themselves. I have had the privilege of chairing a wonderful Conference Board (Rev. Derek Irvine, Rev. Doug Foss, Rev. Bruce Burks, Mrs. Deborah Reed, Pastor Merle Beale, and Mr. Tom Zikan) which has consistently exhibited their love for the Lord and our churches. In addition, I have had the opportunity to attend two ERA Board Meetings (NH and Zoom) where I also witnessed a deep love for our Lord and commitment to the success of the Churches in the Eastern Region and the Denomination as a whole.

In my short tenure as Conference President, two main issues have been at the forefront. The first was the closing and eventual sale of Faith Community Church in Windsor, CT. While this was understandably a sad time for those who had called this church their home, we praise God for the impact that they had for the Gospel in the many years they were in Windsor. At our Conference Leadership Dinner in April we were able to honor those who faithfully served (both at the lay and leadership level) and truly celebrate God's faithfulness over the years. As a Conference we were charged with the oversight of the \$435,000 generated from the sale of the church and we have worked diligently to ensure that these funds will continue to be used in the spirit of ministry which was the watermark of Faith Community Church.

Secondly, much time has been dedicated to working with Pastor Merle Beale and the Oversight Committee of the Westfield, MA Church. In May the church voted to sell their building which was in need of mounting repair and relocate to a more strategic spot in the city. Both of these things were accomplished and the Church is now operating in a storefront location where the members are excited about new opportunities to minister and serve their community.

As we reflect on the sale of two of our Conference Churches, we praise God for His sovereign and providential care. In both cases, God allowed the buildings to be purchased by active and vibrant congregations who were in desperate need of larger facilities. While we humanly mourn the loss of the presence of an Advent Christian Church at these locations, we praise God that the Light of the Gospel will continue to shine from these buildings. May God accomplish all that He has for these new congregations, for the Westfield Church relocation efforts, and for all the churches in our Conference as He continues to breathe "new life" into us each day for His glory and for His Kingdom!

In His Service,

Rev. Michael F. Tuttle for the New Life Conference Board