



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

Once again it is our joy and privilege to extend greetings to you as you gather for 2017 Annual Meetings across the East Coast Conference from Newport News, VA to New Sweden, Maine. In the midst of all that is in transition around us in the world and across the nation, we remain secure on the solid rock that is our Savior, Jesus Christ! May his presence and promises undergird and underwrite your resolve to remain steadfast, immovable, and always abounding in the work of our Lord.

In this last year, the Lord has blessed and strengthened our ministry in very clear and compelling ways. Record numbers of churches have been helped in pastoral search committees (22 this year!). Numerous churches are stretching their faith to focus on renewal of ministry and expansion of mission. Many are now partnering together in church planting. New congregations are under formation in Newport News, VA; Richmond, VA; Fairfax, VA; Manhattan, NY; Hartford, CT; N. Providence, RI; and Nashua, NH. Another congregation in Stow, MA has been joined into Acton, MA via a merger. We are well on our way towards our 2025 vision of planting 50 new churches in this decade, and making 8,000 new discipling disciples throughout the conference.

Pilgrim Pines and our Seafarers Mission increased numbers of persons served in their ministries. Lives are being changed. Christ is transforming people by God's love. Hope is being found. Immigrants are being welcomed and assisted in securing documentation. The hungry are fed, the naked clothed, the elderly cared for, the developmentally challenged are supported, and justice and mercy are being made manifest - pushing back darkness, evil, and indifference.

We are in process of bringing a new associate superintendent onto our team who will help resource churches in discipling and leadership development. We need all of our churches to press forward financially in giving to the Conference so that we can make that step together in 2017. We ask you to invest on a percentage basis of your actual church income in giving monthly to regional mission – 3.5% to the Conference, 1% to Pilgrim Pines and 0.5% to New England Seafarers Mission, and to the ECC 6.5% for ongoing domestic ministry and foreign mission support. Together, we are making a difference across the region and around the world.

We are putting plans together this month towards our April 28-29, 2017 Annual Meeting as a Conference in Attleboro, Massachusetts. We encourage the officers of your church to attend as delegates this year; we will be providing focus for church chairs, treasurers, and leaders to learn and network together as part of our meetings. We hope your church will send a full slate of delegates to celebrate and deliberate with us as we reach forward together in common mission.

Yours truly,

Howard K. Burgoyne
Superintendent