



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As you convene in your Annual meetings during 2019, I am pleased to bring you greetings on behalf of the Conference Board and Staff! As I pray for you, I ask the Lord to remind you of the deep fellowship we share together in common faith and mission in Jesus Christ who joins us together. Because of Jesus we have one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism! As an expression of the Body of Christ, the East Coast Conference participates in the Body as both a servant to and an extension of the local church.

In Revelation 1:12-13 these words are found – “I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man...”

If I were preaching from this text in your church this year, I might make these essential points to encourage and exhort you in the Lord:

- Every church is called to bring a shining light to a dark place
- Jesus is standing with you at all times, upholding you in his right hand
- Jesus brings a word of affirmation, reformation, and motivation to each church
- Overwhelmed, the Sovereign One raises us saying, “Do not be afraid.”

The deepest reality of all creation and history is that Jesus Christ is the center of it. He precedes it, encompasses it, sustains it, and directs it forward. We did our worst to him, and God raised Him from the dead – alive, victorious, and overcoming death and darkness. Since this is the central truth of universal and personal existence how does this impact your outreach and discipleship? Everything we do must flow from this conviction, encounter, and resolve. Your faithfulness in prayer and financial support of the Conference flows from this great foundation and hope.

As you unite as members and partners together, I pray that you will renew your commitment to the common mission of your Church and to the regional mission of the East Coast Conference. Because of your generous partnership we continue to expand our services to churches as well as our extension of churches across the 12-state region. I urge you to send your elected leaders as delegates to our 2019 Conference Annual Meeting, April 26-27 in Springfield, MA. We gather for leadership training, networking, and decision making for our common mission.

Yours because of Him,

Howard K. Burgoyne, *Superintendent*