



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, as you convene in your Annual meetings during 2020, 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. Please let us know how best to serve and support your ministry this year!

Psalm 89 offered Israel a thorough lament from the historic vantage point of their exile as a people and the puzzling failure of the monarchy to fulfill God's command. What would happen to the promises of God? To stabilize faith in the midst of disorientation the Psalmist reminds us:

*14 Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne;
love and faithfulness go before you.
15 Blessed are those who have learned to acclaim you,
who walk in the light of your presence, LORD.*

In the midst of troubles, trials, and puzzling circumstances, God remains trustworthy and praiseworthy. Everything God does is founded on solid, consistent, worthwhile standards. The pillared principles that flow from God's being are powerful and precious. God acts only out of his being – and all God's works are righteous, just, loving, and faithful. This premise took on flesh and blood in Jesus Christ our Lord. It is sustained in the power of the Holy Spirit. That's why those who walk in the light of Christ are blessed, when their worship and their witness cohere in fruitful deeds and faithful words.

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 expanding 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. As we labor together to see God's Kingdom come "on earth as it is in heaven" we will continue to sow in tears so that together we can reap with joy. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel!

I also urge you to send your elected leaders as delegates to our 2020 Conference Annual Meeting, April 24-25 in Keene, NH. We gather for leadership training, networking, and decision making for our common mission.

Yours because of Him,

Howard K. Burgoyne, *Superintendent*