

December 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

May God richly bless you as you gather for your congregational Annual Meetings and celebrations. I greet you on behalf of the entire Evangelical Covenant Church. I am deeply grateful for our partnership in the whole Gospel. We join as mission friends to proclaim and demonstrate the good news of Jesus.

We are a union of 875 churches on mission together, which is to join God in his mission to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world. The Holy Spirit is the Blazing Center of that mission, and we advance that mission through a multiethnic mosaic of churches.

This aligns with one of our key Covenant Affirmations: a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit empowers us to carry out this mission, serving locally and partnering together to impact more than 2.5 million people in close to 60 countries and on five continents. Our kingdom impact is only possible through the Holy Spirit, who is the personal agent of Christ's presence and power.

As you gather to celebrate this past year of ministry and plan for the year ahead, remember that you are partners in ministry with many other Covenanters. You are not alone. Most important, know the Holy Spirit will continue to comfort, strengthen, unify, and instruct you. My prayer is that the Holy Spirit continues to lead us deeper in Christ and further in mission.

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the *Holy Spirit be with you all"* (2 Corinthians 13:14).

In Christ's Love,

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John S. Wenrich President