



East Coast CONFERENCE

Epiphany, January, 2025

Dear friends in Christ,

Grace and peace be given to you all from the fellowship we share with God our Father, our Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. May the overflow of divine love, unity, and diversity be manifest in your fellowship as you gather for your annual meeting in 2025. Jesus said:

“You are the light of the world.” Do not curse the darkness: *be lit!*

“You are the salt of the earth.” Do not despair decay: *be salty!*

We are living in a season that is momentous, apocalyptic, and prophetic. Contrary to the world’s fear, despair and perplexity we are expected to be awake, alert, and prepared. This is in keeping with God’s promises. So, we look up in hope, not fear. We pray from faith, not worry. We watch expectantly, for history belongs to Christ, the Author and Editor of our *Faith*. The yeast in the dough is still rising. The net in the sea is still spreading. The harvest in the field is still ripening. Our redemption is drawing near, for God’s purposes and promises precede and supersede the raving of the “powers” and the roaring of “nations”.

We are called to flourish together. In Psalm 1, the flourishing of God’s people is a consequence of being rooted in God’s life giving Word, like a tree planted by a flowing stream. As we make plans for our 2025 Conference Annual Meeting, this theme will undergird our preparations, our time together, and our resourcing of pastors and leaders. Along with our essential governing duties, we come together to encourage, network, and resource leaders for their service in God’s kingdom. We hope you will send delegates to join us at Anchor Bay Covenant Church, Beverly, MA, May 2-3.

We are excited to report on the advancement of God’s kingdom among us, and to update you on what we see emerging as spiritually strategic next. We will explain the changes we are making to more fully manifest the kingdom, to proclaim the Gospel, and to build up the body of Christ.

On behalf of the Conference staff and board, thank you for your generous partnership in the Gospel. Thank you for your faithful participation in the diverse ministries we share as a fellowship of congregations, mission agencies, and associations. In Christ we stand together, or we fall apart.

Let’s resolve, as we have since 1889, to ***Flourish Together!***

In the service of Christ and His kingdom,

Rev. Howard K. Burgoyne
Superintendent

Mr. Michel Williams
Chair, Conference Executive Board