



East Coast CONFERENCE

Beloved in Christ,

It is a joy to extend greetings to you in your Annual Meeting as we continue to pursue Christ and partner in Christ's mission in a dark and hurting world together. As we unite together to renew local fellowship, relaunch community ministries, and rekindle cross cultural mission, let us rejoice and remember that we are *better together*, united by the work of the Spirit, in the body of the living Christ. This is such a marvelous mystery!

In Christ, we are not sent to fight for political control of the world. We are sent as he was, to ignite and be a holy light in the world. The Church is to be an alternative and open community, living out the beauty of grace and truth. The light shines in the darkness!

You are the light of the world. You are a city shining on a hill. Let your light so shine that people see your good work, and glorify our Father in heaven.

A Scottish advent carol gives language to my prayers this year:

*Christ is coming! Let creation from her groans and travail cease;
Let the glorious proclamation hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come, thou blessed Prince of Peace.* (John R. MacDuff)

As we embrace a new year together, let us renew our faith in Christ, and our resolve to love one another as God has first loved us. Let us renew our commitment to join together in common mission, for the sake of serving the world, for Christ is the Savior of the world!

Thank you for your generous and prayerful partnership with us in the work of the Gospel here in the East Coast Conference. As we resolve to resource churches and leaders, to plant new churches, and to extend care and counsel to all who need it, your support is deeply appreciated.

*With that blessed hope before us, let no harp remain unstrung;
Let the mighty advent chorus onward roll from tongue to tongue:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming! Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come!*

Yours because of Him,

Howard K. Burgoyne
Superintendent