



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

It brings me great joy to extend greetings to your Annual Meeting in 2024. By the grace of God, we continue to partner together as a communion of churches to grow deeper in Christ, and further in mission. The partnership we nurture continues to bear fruit for the gospel and to deepen roots for the kingdom of God across our region. Since 1889 we have grown together as a fellowship of churches and ministries across twelve states – and we continue to advance in the Faith, hope, and love of Jesus Christ. Through the work of caring, coaching, training, consulting, church planting and credentialing, we support the primary work of your church, where the kingdom of God is growing as the gospel of Jesus is being demonstrated and proclaimed.

*The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea, and it will obey you.'" (Luke 17:5-6). Size is not the first measure of strength; speedy determination is. Is Jesus not saying, "You may be small, but you can be strong!" Faith in Jesus still moves mountains! May this prayer and promise anchor and focus us as we face challenges ahead. People movements are built by gathering momentum, and God is moving history powerfully forward towards the beautiful kingdom of reconciliation, restoration, and resurrection. One day, enmity, injustice, and death will be no more! Why? Because the living faith, hope, and love of Christ are more powerful than them. Let us pray, "Lord, increase our faith!"*

As your congregation labors to live as salt and light in a decaying and dark world, so do your sibling congregations – from Virginia Beach to Northern Maine. We live in cities, suburbs, towns and villages – and we serve in unison, confessing One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism. We are one body – *United in Christ*. Working and serving regionally, we support the ministries of 90+ churches who have called and support 175 credentialed ministers serving in church, chaplaincy, education, camping, and outreach ministries. Our ministry includes the support of camping and retreat ministries at Pilgrim Pines; outreach to sailors through New England Seafarers Mission; and our Covenant affiliates at Ädelbrook, who work with those who have autism or other special needs; and with senior adults at Covenant Living Communities in Keene, NH and Cromwell, CT.

The East Coast Conference exists as a servant to, and extension of the local church. Our board and staff are grateful for all you do to advance the collective faith, hope, and love of the Covenant Church. Let's focus the hopes and convictions for good will and good work that arise in our hearts for one another. We look forward to serving with excellence this year and beyond.

Yours for the sake of Him,

Howard K. Burgoyne  
Superintendent