



East Coast CONFERENCE

Advent, December 2025

Brothers and Sisters,

It brings me joy to extend greetings to the congregations within the East Coast Conference family of churches as you gather for your Annual Meeting. It is my sincere prayer and desire that you experience the undergirding power of the Holy Spirit now, especially in the midst of many uncertainties unfolding at home and abroad. It is the peace of Christ that is to rule in our hearts – not the fear, anxiety, and threats that press upon us in the world around us. It's good to know, rehearse, and proclaim this prophetic truth:

*Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.
Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.
And all people will see God's salvation. (Luke 3:4-6 NIV)*

Preparing for the coming of God's salvation in Christ called for a massive series of changes in the human heart, in the social fabric, in the global order. The coming of the Lord reconfigures all people, all relations, all forms and norms. Your ministries as a community of faith, and ours collectively as a conference of churches participate in this great work.

We know that "road construction" season brings interruption until the work is done. Yet when the road is finally straight and smooth, and the way is level, all will rejoice at God's salvation. The great reconciliation of all things, restoring the shalom of God to all creation will not rest until it is finished. Let's keep at it, together, praying and rejoicing as we proceed by faith.

Thank you for your generous and prayerful partnership with us in the work of the Gospel here in the East Coast Conference. As we resource each of our churches, leaders, pastors, and ministries, your participation in prayer, financial support, and service across the region makes a great and eternal difference so that "all people will see God's salvation".

I invite you to make plans to send your delegates to our 2026 Annual Meeting, April 24-25 in Quincy, Massachusetts, hosted by Granite City Covenant Church. Details will be posted early in the new year on our website, <http://eastcoastconf.org>.

Yours because of Him,

Howard K. Burgoyne, *Superintendent*