

Rev. Newton to Retire in September 2018

Word is getting around that late last year I formerly announced my plans to retire in September of this year. Unfortunately, not all the information has been communicated as indicated from calls and cards I have received in the past few months. Therefore, I thought it best that everyone hears the full and complete story through this newsletter from me directly.

While I have made note of my plans in past Delegates Meeting reports, I did not pin down the specifics until October 2017 when I notified that board that I would be concluding my 16-year ministry with the region on September 30, 2018.

At Sunday's Delegates Meeting our region President, Rev. Michael Ware, will be announcing the names of the Search Committee elected at a recent Executive Board meeting.

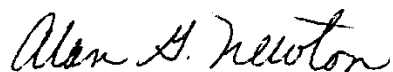
In the remaining months of my service with you I will be working to document as much as possible the procedures and tools I have developed over these years with the region. I will be limiting my travel to those functions, which are critically important to region churches, while preserving the bulk of funds designated for travel for when the new Executive Minister is called, knowing you will all be eager to get to know this person.

As for my plans after retirement; I will rely on sage advice from other retirees and not commit to anything for at least a year. My wife and I have settled on Rhode Island as a retirement destination. It is home to both of us. In the months ahead, we will be transitioning by selling our home here and finding housing there. If that physical transition occurs more rapidly than we predict I will find space to rent until the end of September.

My hope is that we will set aside time at the September Gathering (now a Biennial) to say our goodbyes. I have suggested that we might do this at a Friday night worship service followed by a reception that is open to all who wish to attend. More details will be shared about this during the next few months.

These years have truly been a blessing to me. The relationships we have formed I know will make a lasting impression on me and the memories will often rekindle the joy I have experienced in serving you.

With love and thankfulness,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan A. Newton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the closing text of the letter.