

Dear Friends,

This is the last time that I will be writing a *Friends Campaign* letter to the region. For the past 16 years I have sent invitations to you to participate in the region through financial gifts and you have responded faithfully and generously, for which I am very thankful.

This year I am seeking your support for the **ongoing ministry** of the region. It is important for my successor to have a strong base of support.

More than at any other time your gifts to the *Friends Campaign* are needed. When I came to the region in 2002 the primary source of income was the return from United Mission given by our region churches. In that year United Mission comprised a little more than 60% of the budget. Compare that to 2018 where United Mission covers just 32% of the budget. During the same span of time our overall budget has increased by approximately 30%. It is your generosity giving to the **Friends Campaign**, that has kept the region financially strong.

Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for being a partner in this ministry.

Whatever you can give at this time is appreciated and needed. **My hope is that for this year we can reach a goal of \$30,000.** This may seem to some to be an audacious goal, but I believe that we can do it. I say this because as I visit with church leaders across the region I am learning that most have never heard of the *Friends Campaign*. This year I plan to remedy that. But I ask for your help. In addition to making a gift to the campaign, **would you also ask someone in your church to consider giving to the campaign?**

I close in gratitude for the privilege of serving you for the past sixteen years. It has been a joy getting to know so many of you and it has been a blessing to share in your church's ministries.

Gifts to Friends of the Region can be sent to us at: ABCRGR, 1100 Clover Street, Rochester NY 14610 or can be given on-line through the Paypal account at www.abcrgr.org

In Christ's love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan G. Newton".

Rev. Alan G. Newton