

Maranatha Advent Christian Conference

Report of the President

This is a significant year in the history of the Advent Christian Church. The Maranatha Conference Board has given our support to the proposed changes in the Declaration of Principles. Actually, what is proposed is a completely new Declaration of Principles. The proposed DOP along with recommended changes to the structure of the denomination will be brought before the delegate body at this year's triennial meeting in Ashville, NC. I hope that each of our churches will be able to send at least one delegate to the triennial meeting. Each church is entitled to one delegate for each fifty members or a major fraction thereof. This will be the most important triennial meeting in the history of our denomination and will determine the direction of our future ministry for years to come. Please uphold this meeting in your prayers and consider sending at least one delegate from your church to the meeting.

The board was sad to have John Aron step down from being our capable secretary. He had to do this to care for his ailing wife Micki, who fell asleep in Christ this past November. Please remember to hold John up in prayer that he might know God's comfort in Christ applied daily to his heart by the Holy Spirit. The Lord has provided a new secretary, Linda Flewelling, who has proved to be a competent, engaged, and faithful servant for our Conference. Linda along with our vice president Roger Brown, our capable treasurer Jerry Blanchard and our two executive members David Aseltine and Joshua Brown and I have the blessing and privilege of serving the churches and pastors of our conference.

We seek to have regular contact with each of our churches and pastors. This is not always possible, but I want to make it clear to you that we are here for you if, at any time, you need help. Our mission statement reads: "The Maranatha Advent Christian Conference, Inc. exists to encourage fellowship and share resources among its member churches, pastors, and associate members for the purpose of effectively communicating Biblical truth and fostering healthy ministries for an increased harvest." We seek to lead our conference with this mission statement in view.

In addition to keeping our doors open to you, our pastors, and churches, we also seek to cultivate future leadership. To that end we have been able to financially

support two students who are enrolled in the pastoral track of the Ministry Training Institute. Joshua Buttrick and his family are members of Family Bible Church, and Pastor Steve Ludwick is mentoring him. We are also supporting Ian Dominique, who is now serving as lay pastor of Northside Community Church in Massena, New York. Pastor Chris Barton serves as Ian's mentor. Our conference board has maintained a close working and ministerial relationship with the Massena church, which is the only church in the New York Conference. Both Joshua and Ian are proving to be enthusiastic and capable students, who serve in their respective churches while holding full time secular employment. Please uphold these two brothers in your prayers.

For the past two years our Conference in conjunction with the Eastern Regional Association hosted a Pastors and Leadership Retreat at Alton Bay. The Region with support from our conference and other regional conferences will be hosting a new and refocused event for pastors. The Pastors Summit will be held at the Bay June 2, 3, and 4. This will be "three days of fellowship, honest dialogue, worship, and prayer. The Summit is an opportunity to be with brothers who share this calling — to engage the real questions facing our churches and denomination, to sit under the preaching of the Word together, and to consecrate ourselves afresh to the Lord and to one another." You can find further information by visiting the region's website. We would encourage our pastors to attend.

Overall, I am encouraged by the Lord's gracious hand being upon this conference of churches and our pastors in their labors. I look forward to serving in this capacity for the coming year. Please uphold us in your prayers as we seek to lead in the fulfillment of our stated Mission for the advancement of the Gospel and the glory of God.

Respectfully submitted,

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