

Advent Christian General Conference

Introduction

I am constantly humbled by the generosity and commitment of our churches and leaders to the work we do as a denomination. Everything the Lord accomplishes through us is an example of partnership in the gospel. Everything represented in this report is your work — it is work we all do together. The pastors and churches of the Eastern region are part of a worldwide body of believers that the Lord is using to do amazing things for his glory and the growth of his kingdom.

In the remainder of this report, I would like to highlight some of the ministry we are doing together.

Church Planting

Our work in church planting continues to advance thanks to the excellent efforts of Dr. Adrian Dixon, our church planting coordinator. We are grateful to the Lord for the success of Redemption Community Church in Clayton, N.C. The replant celebrated its second anniversary in September and is now averaging between 150-170 people every Sunday. A short video telling Redemption's story is available on our website at acgc.us/church-planting.

The Lord has truly blessed the work at Redemption, and that success has opened conversations with numerous churches from four of the five regions about the possibility of replanting. New Albany Advent Christian Church in New Albany, Ind. entered into the replant process last year and officially relaunched as Anchor Point Church on October 18. Replanter Jesse Barnett began pastoring the remnant of New Albany at Easter this year. They have already celebrated three baptisms. It's the first time the church baptistry has been used in years.

Longs Grove Advent Christian Church in Monroe, N.C. just voted unanimously to enter the replant process. The church of approximately 15, pastored by Rev. Art Stone, is currently working with ACGC to find a church replanter. This gives us a replant in three of the five regions. Garner Advent Christian Church in Garner, N.C. is a bit farther along in the replant process and is also in the midst of a search for the new church's pastor.

We are excited about the work of replanting and the momentum it seems to be gaining. Please pray for these replanting churches as they follow the Lord's leading.

International Missions

Our 2026 Penny Crusade materials feature stories of how the Lord is working through the ministries of Agape House in Japan. The 2027 material will focus on the fruitful ministry of Oro Bible College in the Philippines. We are deeply grateful to the churches and individuals who give so generously to make this work possible.

The Lord continues to bless our efforts in Tanzania. Your giving makes frequent visits by our Tanzanian pastors possible. Our pioneering mission work among the Hadzabe and the Datoga continues to grow. Two new churches have been planted in the area around Mang'ola, the town that serves as a base of operations for this work. Each time our missionaries visited, they were overwhelmed with requests to preach, share the gospel and pray. Pastor Johnson Odoyo saw this as a call to plant a church there, and to date have planted two churches in the area.

A recent trip to Thailand by Russell and Pohn Yoon reaped a great harvest among the Thai people. The Yoons held a special outreach event that was attended by 108 people. After hearing testimonies and a clear gospel presentation, approximately 50 people expressed a desire to become Christians. It is hoped this group will form a core group for planting a new church in the area. Currently the Yoons are supporting the new believers through online Bible studies. Please pray for these new believers and this nascent ministry among unreached people.

Leadership Development

The Rev. Mike Alix took over leadership of this department in July 2024 and has done excellent work. Most of his focus has been on evaluating and improving the processes and curriculum for the Ministry Training Institute (MTI). Multiple changes have been made to the curriculum in an effort to better serve and prepare future pastors and church leaders. Currently, there are 15 students in the program, a number of whom feel called into pastoral ministry.

Another growing area is bi-vocational and co-vocational ministry. As church size and financial resources decline, fewer can offer a full-time, livable wage. Mike and his team are working to become advocates for bi-vocational ministry and provide practical resources. Earlier this year we released "When One Job Isn't Enough: Bi-Vocational and Co-Vocational Opportunities for the Pastor and the Church." This book is free and can be downloaded at acgc.us/resources, or a print version can be requested by emailing malix@acgc.us.

Communication

Meredith Broadway and Cara Brock continue to lead our communications department with excellence. Please remember to submit your annual reports. These provide us with correct contact information for our churches and pastors, and they help us know how to better serve you. We also love to publish news from our churches. Please share outreaches, milestones and ministry successes with us so we can share them with others. This kind of news is a source of encouragement and inspiration for our churches.

There are four ways to stay connected with the denomination at large:

1. Subscribe to our weekly newsletter, E-News.
2. Subscribe to our weekly missions prayer email, Prayer Network.

3. Read our monthly printed newsletter, The Bulletin, and post it in a common area at your church — we're happy to provide extra copies.
4. Share your church news at acgc.us/tellus.

You can connect with us, learn more, or order resources at www.acgc.us.

2026 Triennial Convention

The Triennial Convention took place August 17–21, in Ridgecrest, North Carolina. More than 300 people attended the event, and more than 200 delegates attended the business sessions.

The theme for the event was “Press On: The Story Isn’t Over,” and our keynote speakers were Rev. Daniel Karl, Rev. Matt Rice, Rev. Mike Alix and Rev. John Gallagher. Each night the wonderful services included powerful times of singing together and hearing excellent scriptural expositions from 2 Corinthians 4-5.

The business sessions were full of critical business items, chief of which was a proposed Declaration of Principles (DOP) that would replace the existing one. The proposed DOP received an affirmative vote of 60.3% failing to reach the 75% threshold required for adoption. A motion was adopted to send the DOP back to the Executive Council for further study. All of the proposed by-law changes received strong affirmation well above the 66% required for adoption. Most significant among these was Article I: Section 2,

“Section 2. Membership shall only include those regions, conferences, churches, and associate member organizations, that:

- a. Affirm and uphold the Advent Christian Statement of Faith*
- b. Affirm and uphold the Enduring Resolutions of the General Conference*
- c. Financially contribute, directly or indirectly, to the ministry of the General Conference*
- d. Cooperate with the provisions set forth in these Articles of Association and Bylaws”*

Also, Article VIII, which replaced the General Conference Judiciary Committee with the General Conference Standards Committee. The enduring resolution on Human Dignity was slightly amended and an enduring resolution on the intermediate state was adopted. These resolutions are available in their entirety at acgc.us.

Rev. John Tate was elected president, RaeAnn McCune as recording secretary and Rev. Heath Simpson as member-at-large.

Conclusion

In closing, I simply want to say thank you. Everything described in this report is your work — made possible by the faithful giving of our churches and individual donors. We could not do any of this without you.

The churches of the Eastern region make substantive contributions to our work. We thank the Lord for his provision through your generosity. The Lord is still using Advent Christians. Remember, we can do more together than we could ever do alone.

Thank you for your time, your generosity, your prayers and your partnership in the gospel.

Your servant in Christ,

Justin Nash

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