Advent Christian Eastern Regional Association

Superintendent's Report

October 30-31, 2026

Brothers and sisters in Christ, honored delegates, and guests of the Advent Christian Eastern Regional Association Annual Convention, I am honored to welcome you to our gathering. May the grace, peace, and presence of the Holy Spirit guide our assembly. May we have eyes to see and ears to hear what God our Father has for us. May we be guided by our mission to assist the local church and pastors in more effectively fulfilling their God-ordained calling as Great Commission churches, preparing a people for the glorious and imminent return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. "I pray that the eyes of your [our] heart may be enlightened, so that you [we] will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe."[1]

And when we depart from this convention, may we be encouraged "…to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."[2]

I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Eastern Regional Board of Directors for the encouragement, support, and wisdom they have provided during my first seventeen months serving as Regional Superintendent. It has been and will continue to be quite a learning curve. Special thanks to Lisa Godard and Deanna Davis for their work, faithfulness, and service to the Eastern Region. Thank you, delegate body, for the prayers and encouragement you have given Julie and me. I would be remiss not to express my gratitude to all who have served the Eastern Regional Association in the past; for all that has been, we give thanks to Almighty God. For all who are and will serve the Eastern Regional Association in the future, and for all that will be, we give thanks to Almighty God and say yes, Lord!

The Eastern Region continues to transition to our new paradigm of working remotely, with the intention of being better stewards of God's provisions. With the advent of virtual meeting technology, working remotely has become our new paradigm. Both the regional superintendent and the administrative assistant continue to gather, unpack, and reorganize regional files following the sale of the regional home and office space. This process will take some time.

God has blessed the Advent Christian Eastern Regional Association and continues to bless it, with many of those blessings extending beyond the church walls. A couple of regional pastors and their churches are involved in prison ministries; other churches feed and clothe those in need, provide elder support services, or are beginning to ask how they can serve their communities. Why? To express their love for God by loving their neighbors and sowing the seed of the Gospel, trusting God to bring the increase.

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[1] *New American Standard Bible: 1995 Update* (La Habra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995), Eph 1:18–19.

[2] *The Holy Bible: English Standard Version* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2025), Eph 4:1–3.

Several churches in the region have launched or expanded children's and youth ministries. Through these ministries, children and teens have professed Jesus as Lord and Savior, and many have been baptized. Two churches I know of have also started senior adult ministries that offer meals and opportunities to build relationships. At one church, senior adults have joined the congregation and become faithful, fruitful members. Why? These churches looked at their communities and saw a field white unto harvest, with many seniors living in isolation.

Several churches also have vibrant family groups that meet throughout the week and bring people across generations together. Through these groups, people have come to Christ Jesus, marriages have been restored, and much more has happened. The groups gather for food, fellowship, teaching, singing, and, for some, Holy Communion. Why? To build up the body and serve as a tool for evangelism by faithfully making disciples.

However, the Eastern Region faces a multitude of challenges: declining church attendance; difficulty compensating pastors and their families; a tendency to dwell on the past, often called the glory days of our church; resistance to changing or adapting our approach to ministry so the Gospel may go forth with power; facing a possible shortage of pastors; and a general acceptance of our circumstances as they are, with no clear sense of what to do. I offer these assessments with great trepidation—not simply to identify problems, but out of conviction, love for God, and love for my brothers and sisters. Fear not: these challenges are not a surprise to God. They are opportunities to deepen our faith and trust in His provision.

The Eastern Region and our regional conferences continue to work with the Advent Christian General Conference on church planting and replanting. Please pray for opportunities to plant and replant churches in our region. Currently, no churches in the Eastern Region are in the replanting process, and no active plans exist to plant new churches. Pray with us that God will open our hearts and minds to church planting, replanting, and revitalization opportunities in our region. Lord, may you send revival to the Advent Christian Church.

Grace and Peace,

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