

Annual Report of the
Heritage Advent Christian Conference
to the
2016 Eastern Regional Association Annual Convention

As we look over the past year, many things have developed within the Heritage Conference. First, three men were newly credentialed. The ministerial committee, and many others from elsewhere in the Eastern Region, took part in the ordination service for Nathaniel Bickford (Attleboro Advent Christian Church, Attleboro, MA) in January. In September, Erik Reynolds (Oak Hill Bible Church, Oxford, MA) and John Jones (Global Christian Fellowship, Providence, RI) were approved as Commissioned Ministers. A commissioning service for Erik Reynolds was held on October 16th.

Second, the conference board has begun a number of changes this year in the areas of pastoral health, conference communication, and credentialing. As a first step in assisting our pastors, the conference board has decided to pay the cost for one pastor from each church to attend our annual Pastor's and Lay Leaders dinner. In addition, the conference leadership is attempting to have more direct contact with the pastors in the conference to encourage, support, and pray for them. We hope these initial changes will be an encouragement to our pastors. With regards to conference communication, we have begun two new efforts. The first is the creation of a new website. The second is a semi-annual newsletter. Both projects are still under development. Our third change is the most significant. We are currently in the process of a complete revision of our Ministerial Manual. The new manual is being developed around a threefold purpose:

- To assist member churches by discerning and recognizing the calling of the Holy Spirit, the Christian character, and the ministry competence of an individual for various levels of service in the Church.
- To provide support and accountability to those serving in ministry.
- To provide support and accountability to member churches and any churches seeking membership in this conference.

Finally, this summer saw a change in conference leadership. Our president, Rev. Steve Baker, had to step down from this position, and retire from full-time pastoral ministry for health reasons. He served faithfully as president for about 16 months and as the ministerial committee chairman for a number of years before that. We will greatly miss his leadership and his many contributions to the Heritage Conference.

We look forward to seeing how the Lord will work in the Heritage Conference in the coming year.

In Christ and to His glory,
Rev. Nathaniel Bickford, Heritage Conference President