

Maranatha Conference Report of the President

The Maranatha Conference of Advent Christian Churches has worked this past year to fulfill its stated mission, which is: “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.” To that end, the conference has offered to its pastors a quarterly overnight retreat at the Alton Bay Christian Conference Center. These retreats, which are largely without structure or program, are intended to provide opportunities for rest, encouragement, dialogue, and prayer. The Lord is gracious and always seems to provide the programming and produce in the conference a wonderful fraternity amongst its leaders. In addition to these retreats, the conference has hired Reverend Randy DeTrude to serve our fellowships in the role of Church and Pastoral Health Coordinator. While we all strive to bear the burden of the greater work of Christ being done by our sister churches in Quebec, Vermont, and New Hampshire, brother DeTrude has made this concern his primary focus and effort. Because of his ministry, many of our churches and their leadership have been encouraged, the meetings of the executive and ministerial committees have been greatly enhanced by his information and insight, and the overall sense of community and interdependence in the conference has been bolstered and undergirded. We’re very thankful and blessed to enjoy Pastor DeTrude’s service to our shared mission.

The Lord has blessed the Maranatha Conference with financial assets. These monies are a charge to keep for the executive committee and the churches the committee serves. Those of us elected to be stewards of these funds strive to maintain a free hand and a discerning heart as we weigh the different needs brought before us. We’ve been grateful to God for the opportunity to provide funds this past year in support of local church outreach, pastoral placement, ministry internship, and training. We praise the Lord for His abundant blessings on us and pray earnestly for Him to provide an increase in His Kingdom.

The Maranatha Conference is blessed with stalwart churches that have faithfully proclaimed the truths of Scripture for many years now. One of the main reasons for this blessing, is a longstanding commitment by the conference’s ministerial committee to only award ministry credentials to those candidates exhibiting gifting equal to the biblical qualifications for the office and who hold and are able to articulate doctrines consistent with Biblical orthodoxy. Happily, there exists within the conference a desire to keep those who aspire to the role of teacher both accountable and equipped. The ministerial committee seeks to shepherd those who pastor our local churches and to nurture those who feel a calling to do so. Pastoral health is a vital component in any program looking to ensure church health and the Maranatha Conference is committed to encouraging and funding pastoral sabbaticals, providing pastoral retreats and training, and nurturing fellowship in the pastoral fraternity.

When taking inventory of all the church families in our conference, it seems that every situation and set of circumstances quicken our hearts to prayer and our hands to service. There are churches in seasons of change. There are churches contemplating closure. There are churches considering expanding their reach. There are churches that have enjoyed another year of loving fidelity to their commission and community. We sincerely pray for revival to come and light all our lamps with a brighter light, leading many to trust in Christ. We in the Maranatha Conference are grateful for what

the Lord has done in us this year and are anxious for Him to do much more in and through us in the coming year. Even so, come Lord Jesus!

Respectfully submitted,

John Tate
Maranatha Conference President