

2024 President's Report

With the 2024 ERA annual convention I will have completed my 8th year as president of the region. This coming year will be my last as president, for the regional constitution restricts officers to 3, 3-year terms. The need for a new president beginning with the 2025 regional convention needs to be a matter of prayer. While there are a lot of responsibilities upon the president, the region and its ministry are accomplished by the efforts of many people. I want to take this opportunity to thank the many people and churches that make it possible for the ERA to fulfill its mission. First and foremost, I want to thank the many people in our region who pray for me and the ministry of the ERA. Also, I want to thank all the churches and individuals in our region who continue to faithfully give to the region. Without your financial support the ministry could not go forward. Then, there are many people who faithfully serve the region. I am extremely grateful and thankful for Clayton Blackstone for his service to the Lord and the region as the Interim Superintendent for the last 1 1/2 years. From day one he has faithfully served our pastors and churches in this role. He has filled a huge gap in our ERA ministry. Next, I want to recognize the entire ERA board for their faithful service to the Lord and to the people of the ERA. Their guidance and direction are crucial in the functioning of the region. With this convention, the 3-year term of Vice President Dwight Dean will conclude. Dwight is not running again for the position. Dwight has been a very valuable confidant and advisor throughout his term. Many times, I have asked Dwight for his input concerning issues that have come before us. I will greatly miss him as vice president. I look forward to having a close relationship with our next vice president whom I assume will be Russell Carle as he is the only name on the ballot for that position. Russell brings many years of pastoral and denominational experience to the position. The finances of the region have been in the capable hands of our ERA treasurer, John Oliver Jones, and bookkeeper Lisa Godard. Their expertise in these areas is extraordinary. Since Jonathan Price was elected last year to the position of clerk of the region, he has continued the many years of efficient record keeping that had been accomplished by his predecessor, Allen Latimore. One of the people on our board, who, by her position, serves 2 functions. Debbie Reed is the ERA Representative to the Advent Christian General Conference Board of Directors. So not only does she attend all the ERA Board meetings, but she also attends all the ACGC Board of Directors meetings. Her presence is valuable considering the insight and wisdom she brings to these meetings. I also want to thank my daughter, Kathleen Irvine, who has stepped into the gap as secretary for the region. This is not an issue of nepotism but rather was born out of the need for me to have a secretary readily available to me. Finally, the Superintendent Search Committee, led by chairman Josh Rice, has dedicated countless hours in the pursuit of the permanent superintendent of the Lord's choosing.

When I was elected to the position of ERA President, I never anticipated being in this position for 8 years, going on 9. I want to thank so many who have given me words of encouragement, prayed for me, and supported me in this position of president. I have greatly appreciated these gestures of care. Next year at this time, I will have mixed emotions knowing that this season of my life will have ended. But I will be able to "fade away into the sunset" with the knowledge of the privilege and blessing to have served you, and with many men and women, both on the regional level and the General Conference level, who have a deep love and commitment to Christ and His kingdom. Thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me through these years.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. George Karl

ERA President

