

Eastern Region Representative to ACGC – Council Meetings September 11th & 12th

September 11th, President John Gallagher called the meetings to order and shared that he has a heart for this position and prays for the churches and pastors.

The morning devotions were led by Dave Ross from the Fellowship AC Church in Taylorsville, N.C. He shared from 2 Kings 2 reminding us that God is bigger than us. Dave will be retiring next month. He opened with prayer.

We approved the email ballots from the February meetings.

Adrian Dixon, Church Planting Coordinator, reported that Redemption Church will have its first service on Sunday, September 15th. This is the first church plant, and Adrian shared that there is money available for future plants. He also shared a pilot program he's working on for a church plant residency.

Executive Director Justin Nash shared that he was thankful to have a full staff under one roof. The full time staff had a retreat in February, where job descriptions were updated and organizational goals discussed. "Working together we finalized our core values" Justin explained. The core values are:

- * Christlike Servanthood - Serve one another, our churches and pastors the way Christ serves us.
- * God-Honoring Excellence – Do what's best and right every time, being good stewards of what's been entrusted to us.
- * Kingdom-minded Fruitfulness – Collaborate, evaluate and correct to ensure that every project or initiative is on-mission and bears fruit.
- * Hope-filled Solutions – Solve problems with an attitude of hope, trusting in the Lord's provision and purpose.

Justin shared that he was not prepared for the amount of travel this job required, but now with a full staff and almost a year in this position, he's no longer needed at all the meetings.

Mike Alix, Leadership Development Director, started this position on July 1st. As MTI falls in this position, he's met with his coordinators and they're in discussion about updating the MTI structure to accommodate "everyone from the nursery worker to the pastor". Mike will be updating the website and printed materials for MTI and he has a goal to meet and partner with colleges and seminaries.

Finance Director Dawn Rutan reported Penny Crusade and United Ministries are on goal and a little higher than last year at this time. Expenses at this time are under budget.

Meredith Broadway, Communications Director calls her department "support tools". Her success this year was the Easter devotional "Salvation Foretold". She and Cara Brock are working on an Advent Bible Study for Christmas. She is rebuilding the website that should be

launched next month. There has been an increase in the E-News and the Witness magazine; and Penny Crusade for 2025 will feature Mexico.

The September 12th devotions were led by Darren Brisco from Unity Church in Four Oaks, N.C. He shared his background as a Seventh Day Adventist to becoming an Adventist. As he and his wife were reading through Romans, they were convicted that what was being taught as a Seventh Day was not the true bible. He has a love for the truth of this denomination. He's been a pastor for four and a half years, and his church is growing. He opened with prayer and prayed for the council and the work being done here.

International Missions Director Jeff Walsh shared the schedule for the Asia Pacific Area Director and Frank Jewett who will be leaving on September 24th for a three week trip to India/Malaysia/Philippines. They will meet with established churches and reestablish relationships in other areas. Jeff shared the work happening in Mexico and Africa, and a trip to Liberia is planned for next year.

We heard reports from the superintendents, the William Miller Chapel and the chaplains and voted to approve all these reports. We prayed after each report.

We voted and passed the new mission statement:

- * UNITE churches in joyful ministry partnership.
- * EQUIP churches and leaders for Great Commission faithfulness.
- * SEND workers into global gospel work.

Before ending the meetings, Superintendent Joe Pritchard prayed for the staff.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Reed