

Dear Members of the Eastern Region,

As we navigate this important transitional period for Berkshire Christian, I am pleased to provide you with an update on our current priorities and ongoing efforts. Our mission to equip individuals called to serve in local Advent Christian churches continues to guide us, and we are deeply appreciative of the strong relationships we share with our "home" region, the Eastern Region. Your longstanding support has been vital to our work, and we are eager to share the strides we have made together.

With the conclusion of President Glenn Rice's tenure on June 30, we are immensely grateful for his years of leadership and the impact he had on countless lives. To ensure the continuity of our mission, I have stepped in as Interim Executive Director, and it is a privilege to continue building on the solid foundation laid by those who came before me.

One of our main focuses during this period is the evaluation of the Adventual Collection at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (GCTS). This partnership, established in 1990, includes the Berkshire Professorship, financial aid for Advent Christian students, and the Adventual Library. The collection has grown substantially over the years, serving students, scholars, and lay leaders. We are dedicating significant resources to organizing and improving access to the collection, ensuring it remains a valuable tool for the present-day needs of those who rely on it. I'm happy to report that due to the efforts of former Berkshire Christian Board Member, Dave Norck, as well as support from Justin Nash and Dr. Gordy Isaac, significant progress has been made this summer towards our goal of organizing the Collection, removing items that are no longer necessary, and increasing the research value of the Collection.

Additionally, we continue to support the Advent Christian Professorship at GCTS, a position held by Dr. Gordon Isaac for over 26 years. This professorship plays a pivotal role in shaping the next generation of church leaders. In fact, two of our recent Berkshire Christian scholarship recipients, Laura Pitcher and Daniel Karl, earned their degrees this past spring and are now serving in leadership roles within their local churches.

Another key priority is our continued support of students through scholarships for the Ministry Training Institute (MTI) and those pursuing advanced theological education at GCTS. Although our direct involvement with the educational elements of MTI ended last year, Berkshire Christian remains committed to financially supporting MTI students through scholarship. Your generosity has made this possible, and we remain dedicated to helping those who are called to serve the Lord in local Advent Christian churches.

During this interim season, we are placing special emphasis on fostering reconciliation and unity within our denomination. We deeply value our relationships within the Eastern Region and are committed to using this time to strengthen connections among our educational ministries and denominational leadership. This ongoing work is a priority, and we believe it is essential to equipping leaders for future ministry. Your prayers and support are greatly appreciated as we move forward with these efforts.

The success of last year's 125th Anniversary Celebration, held following the Triennial Convention, was a wonderful reflection of God's faithfulness and the dedicated leaders who have shaped Berkshire Christian over the years. It has provided us with the encouragement to continue moving forward with optimism and purpose.

As we look ahead, we recognize the vital role the Eastern Region has played and continues to play in Berkshire Christian's story. Your prayers, support, and financial contributions have been a bedrock of our work. We invite you to continue partnering with us as we pursue God's direction for the future of Berkshire Christian and work to equip more leaders to serve in His name.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our shared mission.

Yours in Christ,

Dan Thorpe
Interim Executive Director
Berkshire Christian