

MARANATHA

ADVENT CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

“Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.” Isaiah 55:1-3

Dear Brothers & Sisters in the Eastern Regional Association of Advent Christian Churches,

If you've never been to the eye-opening spread of food that is Shady Maple Smorgasbord in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, then you are certainly missing out from a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The restaurant, in addition to its massive size and seating capacity, boasts over 200 feet of buffet space, with homemade favorites aplenty. A patron quickly feels like a prince when, with an empty plate in hand, he approaches the feast before his eyes. It's truly an experience to remember. Having lived just a few miles from this culinary wonder, we visited often. But one surprising thing about living nearby was that, while locals may eat there on occasion, they eat most of their meals at home, taking sustenance from a table that's probably four-feet long, without an endless supply of savory sustenance. How often we see this same phenomenon taking place within our churches and families; folks who have been given more than the eye could imagine by way of salvation, yet grasping and groaning for things pale in comparison to all that is theirs in Christ Jesus. As ambassadors of this feast of grace, the charge is ours to continue to offer a seat to all who will come. May we, as those who have tasted His goodness, persist to proclaim to the hungry and thirsty that there is indeed satisfaction for the soul in Jesus alone.

I am so thankful for the opportunity I've had to serve as President over the last five years. To serve alongside the men on the conference board has been a real joy. I trust that the Lord will continue to lead, provide for, and bless His church in the Maranatha Conference, and beyond. May we continue to find our satisfaction in Him!

'Til He Returns,  -Rev. Joshua Rice

Here are a few highlights from our conference over this past year:

- Aided our conference churches with prayer, counsel, guidance, and in some cases finances, in accordance with our mission
- Supported the yearly worship gathering at the William Miller Chapel
- Completed the revision of our credentialing exam, making it contextually accurate and biblically robust
- Supported the ministry of Sports & Music Camp, which meets in Alton Bay
- Invested in the Pastors & Leaders Conference held in Alton Bay, with featured speakers Chris Date and Justin Nash
- Met for our Annual Meeting at Emmanuel Church in Rochester, NH, on April 13, 2024