



**To:** Advent Christian Eastern Region Association

**Date:** September 6, 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is a joy to greet you on behalf of Berkshire Christian. As we reflect on the past year, I am grateful for God's provision and the opportunities He has opened for us to serve the Advent Christian family. "Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain" (Psalm 127:1, NIV). With this truth in mind, I am pleased to share a few highlights with you.

### **Church Planting Residency**

One of the most exciting developments this year has been Berkshire Christian's full funding of the first Advent Christian Church Planting Residency. This new initiative of ACGC will equip and mentor the next generation of church planters through immersive training, pastoral guidance, and theological coursework. We believe this program represents the very heart of our mission, preparing leaders to launch gospel-centered congregations that will multiply and grow the Kingdom.

### **A New Home at Oak Hill Bible Church**

In 2025 we relocated our offices to the Oak Hill Bible Church campus in Oxford, Massachusetts. Thanks to the generosity of Pastor Dr. Erik Reynolds and the church's leadership, Berkshire now has a permanent home. This move not only provides stability but also reduces costs, which allows more of our resources to go directly into scholarships and ministry support.

### **Expanded Scholarships and Support for Students**

We remain committed to investing in those preparing for ministry. This past year the Board approved expanded scholarship levels to help meet the rising costs of training and education. Students may now receive:

- \$600 annually for Ministry Training Institute coursework, plus \$300 toward materials
- Up to \$1,000 annually for undergraduate Bible college students
- Up to \$2,500 annually for graduate or seminary students
- Up to \$5,000 annually for doctoral-level students

In addition, Berkshire contributed \$20,000 to the Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies Founders Scholarship for the 2025–2026 class, helping young adults build a strong foundation for lifelong ministry.

### **Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary Partnership**

Our relationship with Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary continues to be an important part of Berkshire's work. This year brought a significant transition as Dr. Gordon Isaac, who faithfully held the Berkshire Professorship for more than 26 years, announced his retirement. While this raises questions about the future of the professorship, we are grateful that Dr. Isaac will continue serving Berkshire part-time from August 2025 through January 2026. During this time we will work with seminary leadership to chart a path forward and ensure continued support for Advent Christian students.

### **New Website: [www.berkshirechristian.org](http://www.berkshirechristian.org)**

We are also pleased to announce the launch of our updated website at [www.berkshirechristian.org](http://www.berkshirechristian.org). The site now includes online applications for both new and renewal scholarships, making the process simpler and more accessible for students preparing for ministry. We invite you to visit the site and encourage you to share it with others who may be seeking funding to support their theological education and training.

### **Looking Ahead**

Each of these steps, new partnerships, a new home, expanded scholarships, and faithful collaboration, reflects God's hand at work. We are humbled to see how He is providing and guiding us into the future. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and partnership in this vital work of equipping leaders for Christ's Church.

Berkshire Christian

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Thorpe".

Dan Thorpe

*Executive Director*

Berkshire Christian