

## Regional Pastor Report

*“Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation, your might to all that are to come.” — Psalm 71:18*

### Activities

The above verse has been a key one for me in this season of my life. It has challenged me about the importance of the work I have yet to do, to pass the baton of faith to the next generation.

God continues to call new leaders and pastors and my year started with installing three pastors and ordaining one. Three congregational search groups are still looking for their next pastor. About 10% of our congregations are always in transition making pastoral searches a priority. Other involvements are with monthly Pastor Peer gatherings, clusters meetings, and leading staff meetings. I am also walking with three congregations through challenges within their congregational systems. A more recent development is assisting pastors who are overextending themselves. Several pastors needed some respite time away from their responsibilities. Participating in Pastor/Spouse retreat, healthy boundary training, missional meetings, and many other meetings was part of my work.

During the last two years I have inherited some Conference Minister responsibilities, such as dealing with two misconduct situations, attending Constituency Leaders Council, National Conference Ministers gathering, and responding to numerous emails and inquiries from the other conferences and the denomination.

### Affirmations

It is delightful to see God at work in the lives of our congregations. People are still being transformed! There is a greater sense of calm and feeling settled within our congregations, for which I am grateful. I acknowledge there are still some unsettled congregational members looking for new church homes.

### Concerns

Forward movement has been slow, both in the missional realm and in finding a conference minister. I pray we can be patient and persevere until God opens the right doors. During this time of structural down-sizing and regrouping it will take unique ways of thinking, and creative ways of dealing with these challenges. We must be willing to step-up and into the activities of being the church.

### Actions

Our main objective is to have healthy pastors and congregations spreading God’s good news and love. It takes congregations and pastors working together to make that happen. Hopefully, with faithful persistence, fruit will be forthcoming. I think we have a new generation of pastors with renewed vigor and vision, who together with everyone’s participation can help to usher in the kingdom of God. May it be so.

Ralph Reinford, Regional Pastor