



November 2015

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Northwest Conference staff and executive board I send you warm greetings in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Another year is fast-approaching its end and it is time for many of our NWC churches to hold their annual congregational meetings at which time they will elect leaders, approve budgets, reflect on God's faithfulness throughout this past year, acknowledge challenges, and dream about the future.

This we know...that God is present in the midst of all of our deliberations even as He has been with us in our activities and service. Further, we believe that the Lord Jesus desires to live and reign in our hearts even as we earnestly desire to be led by the Holy Spirit.

And so, we are led though we follow imperfectly; acknowledging that even this drives us to a humble trust in the Lord and an even more humble distrust in our own capacity to "get it right" in every instance. Yet, our great God continues to be faithful in spite of our fecklessness. And so we give voice along with the hymn writers, "*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father*" even as we also cry out, "*Dear Lord and Father of humankind, forgive our feverish ways.*" And He does!

This faithfulness has also been made manifest in your faithfulness to our shared mission through the mission and ministry of the Northwest Conference in 2015. Thank you for your support through your prayers, participation, and the faithful stewardship of your finances. Simply put, while we are here to serve and resource our churches, pastors and lay leaders, we would be unable to do so without the faithful generosity of our churches...yours included! As such you are a blessing beyond your own walls in ways that make a real difference in the lives of other Covenant churches in our region. On their behalf I want to thank you, as well.

And know that the leadership of the NWC is cheering you on and praying that you would be found to be both faithful and fruitful for the sake of Jesus Christ and His Bride, the Church. Moreover, that your labors will be a blessing to those who have yet to name the Name that is above every name, so that every tongue might acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*And so in our service, we remember that God's mercy to us and to others as expressed through Jesus Christ is His provision arising out of His compassion. It is not our "commission" for a job well-done; unearned yet received through Christ our Lord.*

May the reality and joy of this gospel message give you confidence to step out in faith and to seize the opportunities God will give to you in the coming year, even as you are making critical decisions that will affect your future endeavors.

Courage! And Peace.

Mark R. Stromberg, Superintendent