



SEVENTH-DAY
ADVENTIST
CHURCH

Southern New England
Conference
Stewardship | Planned Giving
& Trust Services

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December 12, 2023

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Southern New England Conference Planned Giving & Trust Services Department. I hope this letter finds you doing well and able to spend time with loved ones over the holidays. For our year-end letter, I asked our conference president to give you a brief report so you will know about some of the exciting things happening in our conference. Here is a letter from him to you:



Dear Fellow Follower of Jesus:

It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of yet another year. What a different world we face than that which surrounded us back in January. Inflation eats away at our income and makes day-to-day expenses difficult for many. Wars and rumors of wars are on the increase, and some fear a worldwide conflict is around the corner. However, despite challenges and uncertainties, we have seen the steady hand of God working in our conference!

About a year ago, our Executive Committee voted “Vision 2026” as a roadmap for the coming four years. It is a missional priority list with measurable goals we hope to accomplish to grow the Kingdom of God. The five key goals of Vision 2026 are as follows:

- 1. Faithfully grow God’s Kingdom**
- 2. Dynamically provide discipleship opportunities to our members**
- 3. Prioritize engaging our children and youth in the mission of the church**
- 4. Widen and deepen the work of Adventist education in our conference**
- 5. Proactively engage in meeting the needs of their community**

After one year of focusing on these missional goals, we already see demonstrations of God’s power. For example, we have seen historic growth in our church and surpassed a goal to increase church membership by 3%. This year, we have registered the highest number of baptisms and professions of faith in the history of our conference — 850 (at the time of this writing). We praise God for each soul who has given their heart to Jesus and joined God’s remnant church.

Besides that, our Adventist schools continue to grow at a time when many conferences are facing shrinking enrollment. Five of our nine schools need more room to accommodate applicants. (That’s a good problem!) The number of Pathfinders and Adventure clubs in our conference has multiplied, and more of our young people are involved in ministry. As a conference, we engage in the cause of Christ beyond our

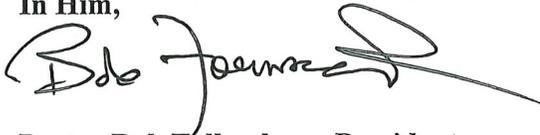
borders through mission trips and provide financial support for two church planting teams in the 10/40 window. One team is in China. The other is amongst Muslims in Morocco.

Progress has been made in other areas as well. If you want to see all our Vision 2026 goals and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), go to sneconline.org. Under the “Home” button, select “SNEC KPIs.”

We face unique challenges here in the most secular, post-Christian part of the United States. Our neighbors and those we work with want little to do with organized religion. There is a growing sense of anxiety and a deepening desire for peace and hope. However, God’s love reigns, and your prayers, through the power of the Holy Spirit, are making a difference. As we, disciples of Jesus, submit daily to Him, He will continue to work in and through us. We will be united in mission and testify clearly to the power, joy, and peace that only comes from Jesus.

May God richly bless you and your family in the coming year, and may God also bountifully bless our Conference as we work “Together in Mission” for the Cause of Christ.

In Him,



Pastor Bob Folkenberg, President

Brothers and Sisters, it is an honor to be here and to join you in God’s mission. If you want to be more involved in mission, have questions about various conference ministries, or are curious about how you can provide financial support through present-day or legacy giving, please do not hesitate to contact me. Your Planned Giving & Trust Services Department is here to serve His purposes and partner with you in growing God’s Kingdom.

It may be that 2024 is the year Jesus takes us home. Wouldn’t that be wonderful! While we wait and live in anticipation of that day when all will be made new, let’s live with grateful hearts, full of hope, for our Friend and Redeemer is always faithful! May you sense His presence this holiday season.

Sincerely,



Audrey Folkenberg, Director

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