MARCH 7, 2022

**Dear Pacific Northwest Conference,**

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As you gather for your Conference Annual Meeting, please know how much I appreciate you. I am grateful for our partnership in the Gospel and the joy it is to be on mission together. We are truly mission friends, going deeper in Christ and further in mission.

You are not alone. You are part of a Spirit-filled union of 903 churches throughout the United States and Canada. Together, we proclaim and demonstrate the whole Gospel in our communities and around the world. We are a Gospel-centered people, grounded in the Scriptures and linked in mission.

As we come out of Covid, navigating life and ministry, we continue to experience both challenges and opportunities. What are the new realities of the post-pandemic church? Let’s discover together as we remain open to the new things the Spirit is doing. May God grant us a clear understanding of how the kingdom of God is advancing so we may follow the Spirit wherever the Spirit leads.

Here is what we know for certain: a dynamic expression of the Spirit’s work among us continues to be the multiethnic mosaic of churches of which we are all part. The ethos of mission friends is our roots. The mosaic of mission friends is our future. As we move forward in mission, we do so not through our own strength, but through the power of the Holy Spirit who is the blazing center of our mission. We cannot do the work of God without the power of God; we must be consciously dependent on the Holy Spirit.

**WE REMAIN FAITHFUL TO OUR CORE IDENTIFY AND TRUE TO OUR THREE COVENANT QUESTIONS:**

- Where is it written?
- How goes your walk?
- Are you alive in Christ?

This is who we are, and this is who we will continue to be. As we love and follow Jesus, I have hope for the Evangelical Covenant Church because of our roots and our core commitments. We are at our best when we are grounded in Scripture, calling out the best in each other and sharing stories of transformation and hope.

Pandemic or no pandemic, Jesus is the firm foundation of our faith. He will build his church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it (Matthew 16:8). Yes, there is both beauty and brokenness in the church, and I trust that we will be encouraged in heart and united in love (Colossians 2:2).

**May you sense the presence of Jesus as you gather. We stand on his promise, “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them”** (Matthew 18:20).

Thank you again for your support of our shared mission. Together we trust in a generous God.

*May God bless you and your families in every way.*

John S. Wenrich, PRESIDENT, EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH