

NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND CONFERENCE



# REVIVAL IN THE EAST

*Vision , Mission and Strategy*

2023-2028

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# REVIVAL IN THE EAST



There's just one thing the Northern New England Conference needs more than anything else and that's revival - the outpouring of the Holy Spirit - the Latter Rain!

In the book of Acts we learn that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit brings evangelistic zeal (1:8, 2:3), gospel preaching (2:2,42), conviction of sin and repentance (2:37-38), deeper Bible study (2:42), fervent prayer (2:2:42), church fellowship (2:42), brotherly love and sacrificial giving (2:45), heartfelt worship (2:46), joy and gladness (2:47), signs and wonders (2:43) and church growth (2:47).

Ellen White put it like this, "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God isn't willing to bestow His blessings upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it" (Selected Messages p. 121, emphasis supplied).

## Revival lies in Repentance



The good news is that revival is certainly coming to the East and this outpouring of the Holy Spirit has been promised to the constituency of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont!

“The message is to go with power as the work closes up. Portland, Maine, a city that has been foremost in temperance form, is to be worked without delay.”

(Evangelism p. 389, emphasis supplied)

“In these cities the message of the first angel went with great power in 1842 and 1843, and now the time has come when the message of the third angel is to be proclaimed extensively in the East. There is a grand work before our Eastern sanitariums.” Counsels on Health 547.2

# It is not only Ellen White that predicts the mighty outpouring of the Spirit (Latter Rain)



The book of Joel also promises the same and this outpouring will occur just “before” Jesus returns!

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem, there will be deliverance, as the Lord has said, even among the survivors whom the Lord calls.”

Joel 2:28-32



## Notice, that this Latter Rain power will be multi-cultural, interracial and intergenerational.

It will also be irrespective of gender or class. It will fall on “all flesh” for the purpose of prophesying and leading people to salvation in Jesus! The question the constituency of NNEC should be asking then is, how can we prepare our hearts for this mighty outpouring of God’s Spirit?

How can we as a Conference, local churches and individual Adventists align ourselves with God in such a way as to become lightning rods for this promised revival?

Thankfully, God’s word tells us how!



# OBEEDIENCE



The Holy Spirit is given to those who obey the Great Commission as Peter and John were doing in the context of this passage. Our Conference has a simple evangelistic strategy as well as several ministries designed to help us be obedient to the Great Commission.

“We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him” (Acts 5:32).



# First

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# THE STRATEGY



## 1 Connect Academy and ReGenerate Workshops

We are challenging every church in NNEC to hold at least one traditional, small group, class or virtual evangelistic meeting every year until Jesus returns! These programs will show us how.



## 2 Fill the Baptistry Sabbaths

Members who were trained through Connect Academy, ReGenerate, and other church programs, can bring the people they've led to Jesus to church for baptism on Fill the Baptistry Sabbath!



## 3 New Members Class and Small Groups

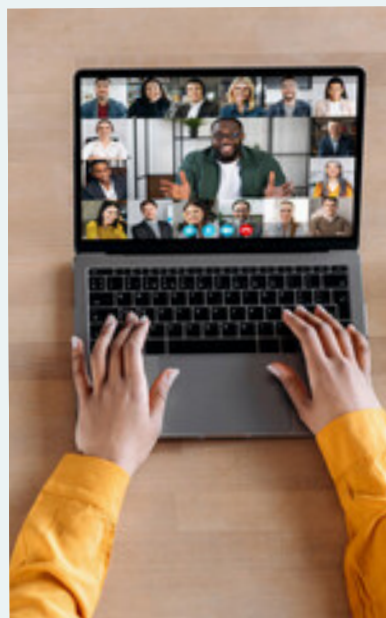
The third step in our strategy involves discipling our newly baptized members through a New Members Class and other initiatives at the local church. In NNEC we are not just interested in baptizing people, we are also interested in discipling them!



# CONNECT ACADEMY

First, we encourage every member of NNEC to attend Connect Academy twice a year for online training in various aspects of public and personal evangelism.

If we want to mobilize our 5,400 members for ministry, we must give them the training and resources to minister effectively. In 2023 we trained our members "How to Give Bible Studies" and "How to present the Three Angels' Messages." Please go to [www.nnec.org](http://www.nnec.org) if you wish to access these pre-recorded training events and register for upcoming ones. We are challenging every church in NNEC to hold at least one traditional, small group, class or virtual evangelistic meeting every year until Jesus returns!



In 2024 we will be offering two new classes also designed to give our members the training and tools they need to be successful in soul winning. To be clear, Connect Academy is a supplement, not a substitute for the ministry training already being provided by our local pastors, teachers, and elders (Ephesians 4:11-12).

For this reason, we encourage every local church to get involved with Connect Academy to enrich their ministry training!

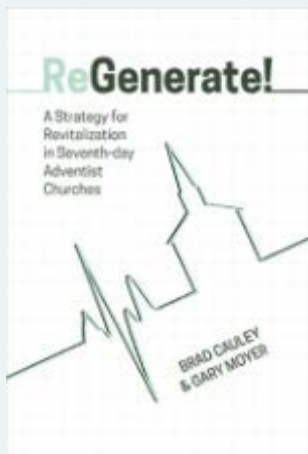
# REGENERATE WORKSHOPS

Since we know that healthy churches grow naturally, we also host “ReGenerate” workshops throughout the Conference.

These in-person gatherings are designed to give our members and leaders the tools they need to create church cultures that are vibrant, loving, innovative and attractive to those God is calling “out of darkness into His marvelous light.”



We had two of these Conference weekends in 2022, one in 2023 and we plan to have two more in 2024!



Also, a new resource created by Pastor Brad Cauley is available entitled ReGenerate! A Strategy for Revitalization in Seventh-day Adventist Churches.

# Fill The Baptistry

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## SABBATHS

Second, we invite all 59 churches and 4 companies, 35 pastors in our Conference to fill their baptismal tank twice a year.



Members who were trained through Connect Academy, ReGenerate, and other church programs, can bring the people they've led to Jesus to church on those Sabbaths for baptism. In 2023 Fill the Baptistry Sabbaths happened on April 5 and October 14. On April 5, we had 19 baptisms and 10 professions of faith reported throughout the Conference! While we rejoice when people are baptized any Sabbath of the year, we've designated these two Sabbaths as opportunities for the laity to celebrate what God is doing through them to reach the harvest!

We also pray these special Sabbaths will be an opportunity for our church leaders to highlight our unique mission and message as Seventh-day Adventists. In 2024, 'Fill the Baptistry Sabbaths' are scheduled for April 6 and October 12.

Imagine for a moment the impact this would have on God's kingdom here in NNEC, if "each one reached one" soul for Jesus every year!

# FILL THE BAPTISTRY SABBATHS

Imagine if rather than simply praying that more people would come to our churches on Sabbath morning, we prayed instead that more of us would go to the lost, demonstrate God's love, share the gospel and lead them into the family of God (Matthew 9:38, Luke 10:2).

We currently have 5,400 members in NNEC. By our next constituency in five years, we could have 27,000 new members ready and waiting for the return of Jesus! In fact, if each of these new disciples, paid it forward and led their peers to Christ, we would have thousands more worshipping "Him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" with us! If we want to see God's kingdom growing exponentially here in NNEC we cannot rely solely on our pastors!



"The Savior's commission to the disciples included all the believers. It includes all believers in Christ to the end of time. It is a FATAL MISTAKE to suppose that the work of saving souls depends alone on the ordained minister. All to whom the heavenly inspiration has come are put in trust with the gospel. All who receive the life of Christ are ordained to work for the salvation of men. For this work the church was established, and all who take upon themselves its sacred vows are thereby pledged to be coworkers with Christ." (Desire of Ages, p. 822, emphasis supplied)

Notice, Ellen White calls this a "fatal mistake."

# WHAT IF THERE ARE NO BAPTISMAL CANDIDATES ON THESE FILL THE BAPTISTRY SABBATHS?

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We encourage our churches to fill their baptismal tanks anyway! This opportunity may be used to express faith in God's power to work through the efforts of His people to bring new disciples for the next Fill the Baptistry Sabbath.



These special Sabbaths are also an excellent time to remind the church of our mission and message! "The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to all the world" Acts of the Apostle, p. 9

Baptism is God's idea, not ours. It is not a suggestion but a command from our Lord and Savior. In fact, Baptism is visual evidence that the church is engaged in its mission and that the Holy Spirit is on the move through His people.

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Matthew 28:19-20

# STRATEGY FOR LAY-LED CONGREGATIONS



The Northern New England Conference desires to promote intentional, vibrant, growing, and multiplying churches.

The role of lay leadership in ministry cannot be underestimated. The NNEC Church Planting Committee has adopted a lay-led model that helps Volunteer Lay Pastors (VLP) or Volunteer Lay Leaders (VLL) and churches maximize their potential. The following outlines the nature of the pastoral relationship as well as the supportive role provided by the NNEC:

1. The Supervising Pastor is provided with a hand-out (see below) that details the essentials for coaching meetings. Other recommended resources and training will be made available from the NNEC Church Planting Department.

2. Monthly coaching/support meeting between Supervising Pastor and VLP/VLL. Purpose: listening, prayer, reporting, visioning, accountability, development of long-range planning. The Supervising Pastor helps the VLP/VLL develop a Spirit-led plan for the next month. Time: 1½-2 hours monthly. Interaction by phone or e-mail available as needed between meetings. NOTE: when pastors serve multiple groups and companies, network meetings are encouraged in lieu of separate meetings. Location: Restaurant or by phone. The Treasury Department will reimburse expenses to the Supervising Pastor up to \$50.00. Who Initiates: Supervising Pastor



3. Interaction between Supervising Pastor and church congregation. Purpose: a) Attendance: at the following: socials, business meetings, potlucks, outreach events, youth events, etc. b) Evaluation: administer NCD survey, process NCD results, affinity exercises, mystery guest, etc. c) Training: in preaching, conducting Bible studies or small groups, S. S. teachers & greeters workshops, etc. Time: Once a month (unless otherwise directed by ministerial director/administration); length varies Location: Possible venues include church facilities, homes, restaurants/cafes, outdoors, etc. The Supervising Pastor should plan to attend special celebrations (e.g. company and church organizing meetings, homecomings). Note: Sabbath morning preaching not more than 1x per quarter (unless otherwise directed by ministerial director/administration). Who Initiates: Supervising Pastor determines based on scheduling what event(s) he/she is able to attend. VLP/VLL communicates requests—emphasizing on special events that are being planned.

4. Outreach meetings (Supervising Pastor and church congregation). Purpose: Growth of the church spiritually and numerically. Time: Varies. Location: Church facility or neutral location Who Initiates: Supervising Pastor and/or VLP/VLL in consultation with the church. The speaker does not necessarily need to be the Supervising Pastor though he will have an active role in the endeavor. NOTE: To apply for financial assistance, the Supervising Pastor should submit a request to the Evangelism Department by October 30 of the preceding year.

5. Church growth & church planting training events for churches, pastors, and VLPs/VLLs. Purpose: Specialized training seminars on church growth, visioning, strategic planning & inspiration. Time: Various times. Location: Varies Who Initiates: Conference coordinator.

6. VLP/VLL trainings. Purpose: Inspiration, training, networking, providing resources for the upcoming year and expressing appreciation. Time: Weekends in the Spring and Fall of each year. Location: Camp Lawroweld or NNEC Office Who Initiates: Conference coordinator.

# CHURCH PLANTING GUIDELINES



It is the purpose of the NNEC to foster the growth of Seventh-day Adventist churches in our territory. In order to assist mission groups in becoming successful, healthy, growing churches, the following guidelines have been adopted on the basis of a demonstrated history of church plants.

## ~Mission Group Status~

- 1 Prospective groups will be established for the purpose of evangelism.
- 2 Weekly meeting for the purpose of spiritual fellowship and strategic church plant planning. This “incubation” period should continue for several months before commencing Sabbath worship services. (Groups desiring to plant may use the book, *Steps to Planting: From Incubation to Launch* by Tom L. Evans, as a guide). There will need to be a business meeting vote by the mother church to sponsor the church plant and elect its Volunteer Lay Leader.
- 3 Plants will develop 2-year plan for church growth (Include outreach events, stewardship plan, etc.)
- 4 Plants will be lay-led and should have a vision to continue in that mode even after receiving church status, with oversight by a Conference pastor. Prospective Mission Groups must read, accept, and afterwards have the Volunteer Lay Leader and pastor sign the “Strategy for Lay-led Churches” document.
- 5 Plants will be located in communities that are demographically viable (i.e., where population may sustain future growth).
- 6 Each plant must originate with and maintain a positive relationship with a sponsoring NNEC church from which they take counsel, and whose pastor supports the effort and serves as Supervising Pastor. If the sponsoring church is English speaking for a non-English-speaking plant, there should be a bi-lingual leader in the non-English-speaking plant to facilitate communication between the two.

- 7 The key leaders of the plant should be established Seventh-day Adventist members who have a supportive relationship with the pastor, local church, and conference. All Adventist Mission Group members need to hold membership in the sponsoring local church of the NNEC. The mother church should elect the Volunteer Lay Leader of the Mission Group as a board member of the mother church. The Volunteer Lay Leader should be elected during each nominating process with guidance from the Supervising Pastor and the Mission Group.
- 8 Finances of the Mission Group, both income and expenses, shall flow through the sponsoring church, and its bank account(s), which will account for the tithes and offerings and disburse funds in harmony with the will of the Mission Group, the guidelines of the sponsoring church and the policies of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. While Mission Groups shall not have separate bank account(s), Mission Groups may maintain a Petty Cash or similar arrangement for limited expenditures when coordinated with the sponsoring church. A treasurer for the Mission Group shall be elected to be accountable for the finances of the Mission Group, convey tithes and offerings to the mother church treasurer, and be the custodian of Petty Cash. The conference auditor or his/her representative will be available for training and support. Records will be available for the Mission Groups from the mother church treasurer. Any requests for exceptions should be submitted to NNEC Treasury.
- 9 All Mission Groups are asked to designate a minimum of 30% of their budget to outreach (public evangelism, Bible studies, and other events focused on reaching nonmembers) as well as be financially self-sustaining.
- 10 Plant must meet with the NNEC Church Planting Committee to be recognized as a Mission Group.
- 11 Buildings and land should not be purchased for or by congregations while they are at Mission Group status. Exceptions must be approved by the NNEC.
- 12 Organized Mission Groups should have made it a priority to attend training events (i.e., church planting meetings, various lay training, etc.) to enhance their experience.

NOTE: The responsibility of hiring employees lies with the NNEC. Mission groups, companies and churches may not hire pastors, Bible workers, teachers, or any employee in any capacity without consultation with the NNEC.

# CHURCH PLANTING GUIDELINES

## ~Company Status~

- 1 To progress to “company” status a Mission Group needs at least 20 baptized members with an average attendance of at least 20 for previous 3 months.
- 2 Mission Groups desiring “company” status will be lay-led, and should have a vision to continue in that mode even after receiving church status, with oversight by a Supervising Pastor. Mission Groups must read, accept, and afterwards have the Volunteer Lay Leader and Supervising Pastor sign the “Strategy for Lay-led Churches” document.
- 3 Mission Group Finances:
  - The Mission Group must have at least \$20,000 in projected annual tithe.
  - The Mission Group must have a balanced budget.
  - The Mission Group must have a record of faithful remittance of tithe and offerings to the NNEC, through the sponsoring church.
  - Once company status is voted, a bank account is to be set up in the company’s name in consultation with the Conference Treasury department. The Conference auditor should also be contacted about accounting software and financial procedures.
  - The company agrees to establish a line item in their budget for a building fund. This will receive a monthly allocation from the combined budget. However, purchases of land or buildings is not recommended before reaching “church” status. The NNEC must be consulted with and authorize such purchases or projects.
  - At least 30% of the budget continues to be designated for outreach.
- 4 The Mission Group must maintain a positive relationship with the sponsoring church, Supervising Pastor, and Conference.

- 5 Upon receiving “company” status, membership will be transferred from the sponsoring church to the NNEC Church, which is governed by the Conference Executive Committee.
- 6 The Mission Group must have committed Seventh-day Adventist lay leadership ready to serve in a minimum of two key offices: Volunteer Lay Leader and treasurer. These offices should be filled during each nominating process. While most decisions will be made by local leadership, the Executive Committee of the Conference serves as the board for the company, granting transfer requests and voting on church discipline issues. (See SDA Church Manual, “Organizing a Company” for details).
- 7 Mission Groups must present a two-year plan for church growth. (Include outreach events, stewardship plan, etc.)
- 8 Approval for “company” status must be voted by the Conference Executive Committee, at the recommendation of the Church Planting Committee.
- 9 Mission Groups desiring to become companies have made it a priority to attend training events (i.e. church planting meetings, various lay training, etc.) to enhance their experience.



# CHURCH PLANTING GUIDELINES

## ~Church Status~

- 1 For a company to progress to “church” status it needs to have at least 35 baptized members and an average attendance of at least 40 for the previous 3 months.
- 2 Companies desiring “church” status will be lay-led and should have a vision to continue in that mode after receiving church status, with oversight by a Conference Supervising Pastor. Companies must read, accept, and afterwards have the Volunteer Lay Leader and Supervising Pastor sign the “Strategy for Lay-led Churches” document.
- 3 The company must have maintained a positive relationship with the sponsoring church and supporting pastor. The supporting pastor will serve as a coach to the Volunteer Lay Leader.
- 4 A minimum of 10 individuals shall have joined by baptism or profession of faith since the company was organized.
- 5 The company must be able to give evidence of dedicated outreach.
- 6 The company must have an annual tithe of at least \$40,000.
- 7 At least 30% of the budget continues to be designated to outreach.
- 8 The company must have a balanced budget and a solid financial plan for retiring any debt.
- 9 The company must have a record of faithful remittance of tithe and offerings to the NNEC.
- 10 The company must have completed a Natural Church Development survey with a minimum average score of 50. The conference will cover the cost of this first survey once the church health team begins to meet. The company would report what proposed changes it has to address the lowest areas of health.



- 11** The company must have committed Seventh-day Adventist lay leadership in key offices: Volunteer Lay Leader, elder, deacon, treasurer, and clerk. These offices should be filled during each nominating process.
- 12** The company must provide a three-year plan for church growth. (Include outreach events, a stewardship plan, etc.)
- 13** The company should have voted a commitment to support Adventist education in their annual budget with at least one of the options below:
- Option #1 – A monthly subsidy for members' children to attend an Adventist church school.
  - Option #2 – A constituent relationship with an Adventist church school. Once the subsidy reaches an acceptable level, voting representation on the school board is to be expected.
  - Option #3 – To fund a new SDA school within the area of the congregation.
- 14** A company shall have plans in place to plant a new church within 5 years.
- 15** All policies outlined in the Church Manual must be followed.
- 16** Companies desiring to become churches should have made it a priority to attend training events (i.e. church planting meetings, various lay training, etc.) to enhance their experience.



# THE HARVEST IS ALWAYS RIPE!



According to Jesus, the issue has never been with the harvest, the harvest is always ripe! The real issue is finding members willing to go into the harvest with the “everlasting gospel.” In every community, no matter how secular, there are earnest people hungry for the truth and longing for hope. “All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in.” (Acts of the Apostles, p. 109)

We cannot be detoured, delayed or deceived by those who tell us our territory is too secular to be reached. Our job is to simply obey the great commission, His job is to give us great success!



# NEW MEMBERS CLASS

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## SMALL GROUPS



The third step in our strategy involves discipling our newly baptized members through a New Members Class and other assimilation initiatives at the local church. In NNEC we are not just interested in baptizing people, we are also interested in discipling them!

This class can be done during Sabbath School, Sabbath afternoon or any convenient time during the week. It can be set up like a traditional class, or it can be done in a small group or even in a one-on-one setting. We recommend that the teacher be a warm and inclusive person who knows how to facilitate discussion among the new members rather than lecture. This class will help the new members make friends, strengthen their Adventist faith, learn their spiritual gifts, get involved in ministry and become familiar with the culture of their new church family. It will also equip them to share the gospel of the Three Angels' Messages with their pre-Adventist friends.

A New Members Class combined with intentional efforts on the part of each member to bring the newly baptized members into the vibrant life of the church is key to retention. We also encourage every new member to be placed in a weekly small group. A great resource for small groups is Dennis Smith's book "Ten Days of Prayer and Devotion to Experience the Baptism of the Holy Spirit." This book can be downloaded for free at [gcyouthministries.org](http://gcyouthministries.org) or a hard copy of the book can be purchased on Amazon. Interestingly, in the introduction to the book, the author explains how to turn your small group into an evangelistic outreach group.

# MISSIONAL MINISTRIES

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Now let's look at our Conference's ministries designed to further help us obey our gospel mission in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.



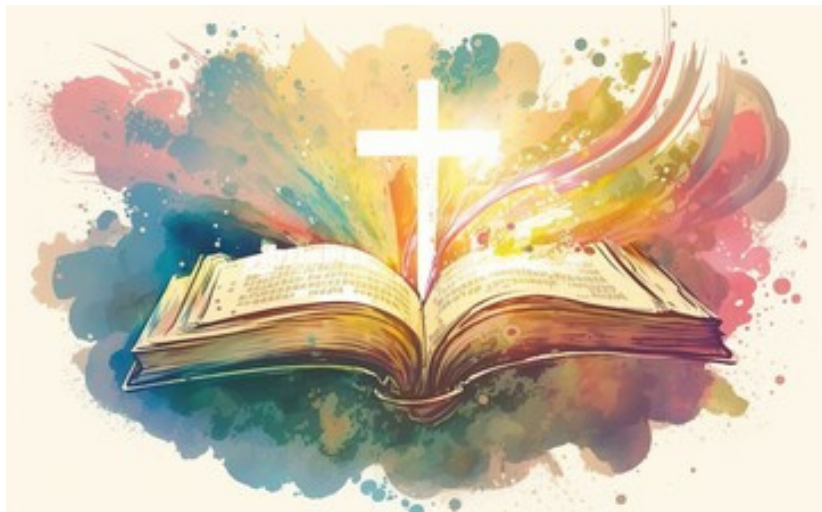
Our new 'Connect with Missions' department will be focused on sending and receiving missionaries. They are starting "Centers of Influence" in the major cities of our Conference as well as coordinating mission trips to India, Colombia and Burundi! Contact our missions director, Harry Sabnani, to see how you can get involved.

We are also starting a new Community Services and Disaster Relief Ministry, so we can not only assist our churches in meeting felt needs in their local communities, but also prepare them to assist when natural disasters occur (for example, the recent flooding in Vermont, etc.).

Just like the apostles in the book of Acts, our responsibility is to share the gospel message while we extend a helpful hand to the sick, sorrowing and suffering around us.

"Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk. Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong." (Acts 3:6-7)

# LITERATURE EVANGELISM



We now have a new Literature Evangelism program and director. This frontline ministry will take the “everlasting gospel” of the Three Angels’ Messages directly to the people in our territory.



This combined with our wonderful Bible Worker Ministry made up of 11 dynamic soul winners and trainers, assures us that the Three Angels’ Messages will find their way into many homes and hearts!

One of the most important books we can put in the hands of others, is *The Great Controversy* by Ellen White. Besides the Bible, this book is one of the most essential resources for the times we are living in!



# HEALTH MINISTRY

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Adventists know that our church's health message is the "right arm of the gospel" and those who practice the eight laws of health can live approximately six to ten years longer than the average person. For these reasons and many more, we now have a new dynamic Health Ministry team.

In 2023, this team trained over 100 individuals at its first medical missionary training event at Camp Lawroweld. Our health ministry motto is simple but profound, "Every home a sanitarium, every church a place of healing!" It is our prayer that within the next five years we will also have a health retreat (sanitarium) in the Northern New England Conference where members can go and over a period of days, or even weeks, experience our health message and its amazing benefits!



In order to understand "The Adventist Health Message" and its wonderful impact on mind, body, soul, we cannot recommend the book Ministry of Healing by Ellen White enough!

"Every home a sanitarium,  
every church a place of healing!"



# CAMP MEETING



If you were able to attend Camp Meeting 2023, you might have noticed the new component we've added to the experience. Each night during the week, we were holding evangelistic meetings in the main tent and inviting the local community to participate. Over 40 people requested baptism as a result of the meetings! This year our speaker was John Bradshaw, president of "It is Written." Next year our speaker will be Dan Serns, president of the Central California Conference.

Our camp meeting theme this year was "Revival in the East" and focused on the Holy Spirit. Our theme for 2024 will be "It's 3AM!" and will focus on, you guessed it, the Three Angels' Messages! Although Adventists are not better than other Christians, we have been given a greater responsibility. God has called us to compassionately and courageously preach, teach and share the Three Angels' messages through personal and public evangelism!

## It's 3 AM

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# Hispanic

# MINISTRIES

We are also proud to announce that we have a new Hispanic Ministries Department, and we are seeing the work among our Hispanic members growing rapidly.

Perhaps you've noticed how filled and vibrant the Spanish tent was at camp meeting or heard stories of churches being planted and people being baptized throughout our Conference. In 2023 we planted two Spanish churches, which means we now have three Spanish congregations in NNEC!

Finally, thanks to our Evangelism and Church Planting Departments we now have a total of 63 churches and companies in Northern New England! We have also seen over 289 people baptized and brought into the warm fellowship of God's Church!

## Buen trabajo amigos!



We have much to celebrate in NNEC, but we also have much to pray about. The following quote from Wes McDonald is instructive regarding the evangelistic soul winning fervor of our churches in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont:

“The latest 12 months of data from the 3rd quarter of 2022 through the end of the 2nd quarter of 2023 shows 131 baptisms and POFs, with losses from deaths, removal, and missing at 74. Thus, the total net growth of the conference for the last 12 months was 57 people, exclusive of transfer data. Additions and subtractions due to transfer are not being considered here. This is the highest 12-month growth figure of any year going back through 2011. In fact, the yearly average growth of the conference for the years of 2011 through the end of 2022 was just under 11 persons per year exclusive of transfer data. After factoring in the transfer data, the conference grew by about 8 persons per year for those years. Although the average annual net growth from 2011 through the end of 2022 was just under 11 persons per year exclusive of transfer data”, there was one year where the net growth was 56 and that was 2020. Every other year ranged from a low of minus 21 to a high of 47.”

**These numbers alone should cause us to pray earnestly for revival in the East!**



Our hope is to see the following churches planted:

- Westbrook, ME Kinyarwanda
- Southern NH Kinyarwanda
- Lewiston Ukrainian
- Burlington, VT English
- Augusta, ME Spanish
- Manchester, NH English
- Nashua, NH Spanish
- Portland, ME English

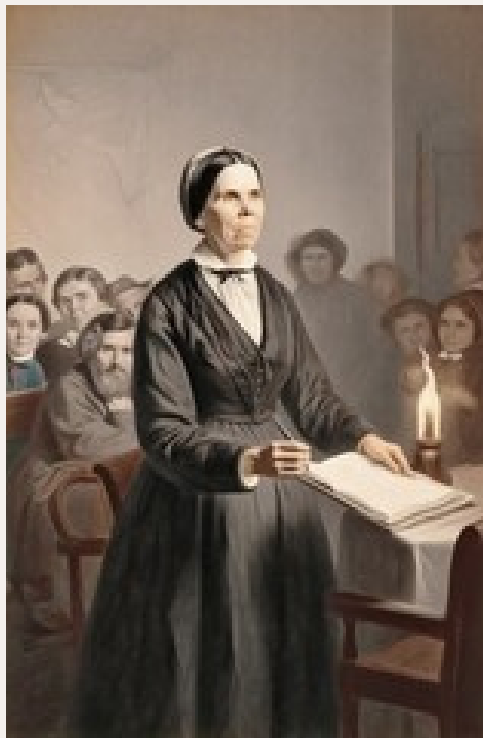
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It is our prayer that in the next five years we will see many more people won to Jesus!

# Adventist Heritage



Here in NNEC we are living in the very cradle of Adventist history. In many places throughout Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont, we have wonderful historic sites that remind us of our unique identity as a church.



This is why we have a new Adventist Heritage Ministry with plans to provide an online resource for folks who want to do self-tours, as well as Conference organized tours throughout the year. We also have plans to make our heritage library located at the Conference office more visible to the public.

# “Priesthood of All Believers”

## Called to Serve



We believe wholeheartedly in our pastors! God has called them to a great work in these last days! Their work involves preaching the “everlasting gospel” to the lost and training the members of the church for effective ministry (Romans 15:20-22, 2 Tim 4:2, Ephesians 4:11-12). Since our beginning as a denomination (May 21, 1863), Adventists have embraced the Biblical truth that every born-again member of the church is a minister and is called to serve as a priest (1 Corinthians 12:7, 1 Peter 4:10; 2:5,9, Revelation 1:5-6; 5:9-10). This means every born-again Adventist has direct access to God and has the God-given right to perform ministries according to their spiritual gifts for the building up of the church and the conversion of the lost. When their lives and ministries are in harmony with Scripture and Spirit of Prophecy they should be empowered and encouraged to do ministry for the Master! Because of this Bible based “priesthood of all believers” understanding, Adventists have had a unique and effective way of taking the gospel rapidly around the world. This “Priesthood of All Believers” plan is grounded in our history and is key to our continual success. We dare not forget it!



# Ellen White's

## WARNING

"We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history." (Life Sketches p. 196, emphasis supplied)

Rather than placing paid pastors over local churches, our pioneers placed them over territories so that they could work with and through the local Adventist churches to reach the unreached with the Three Angels' Messages (Revelation 14:6-12). Our pastors also met regularly with the local church elders as did the Conference president for encouragement, training and direction. "Our ministers are not to hover over the churches, regarding the churches in some particular place as their special care. And our churches should not feel jealous and neglected if they do not receive ministerial labor. They should themselves take up the burden, and labor most earnestly for souls."

(Australasian Union Conference, August 1, 1902, par 7)

"Instead of keeping the ministers at work for the churches that already know the truth, Let the members of the churches say to these laborers: 'Go work for souls that are perishing in darkness. We ourselves will carry forward the services of the church. We will keep up the meetings, and, by abiding in Christ, will maintain spiritual life. We will work for souls that are about us, and we will send our prayers and our gifts to sustain the laborers in more needy and distant fields.'" (Testimonies for the Church, Volume 6, p. 30)

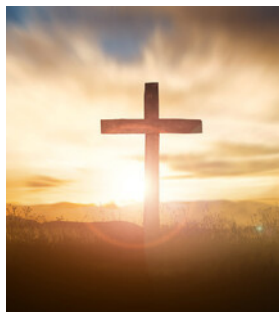
As a result of messages like these, the ministers worked closely with the Adventist churches in their territories, focusing almost entirely on personal and public evangelism. They rapidly began making disciples and raising up new congregations. They functioned much like the Apostle Paul did and the results for the kingdom of God were phenomenal! To learn more about this, check out Russell Burrill's seminal work on the topic found in his books "Revolution in the Church" and "Rekindling a Lost Passion."

# IMAGINE



Can you imagine how rapidly the Three Angels' Messages would spread through Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont if our pastors working with the local churches in their territories, were able to focus on the unreached neighborhoods, towns and especially cities in our Conference?

Just imagine if in the wake of this, our pastors and people planted companies and churches filled with vibrant disciples of Jesus. Could there be anything more exciting than this?



For over 150 years, God has called the Adventist Church, tasked with taking His last message of hope and warning to the world to start playing offense and not just defense. In fact, someone once said, "the best defense is a good offense!" Our church is never safer from deceptive theologies and worldviews than when it is active in gospel work! Our church is also never more effective at reaching and retaining the younger generation than when it is active in mission! (Psalms 127:4).

# BUT WAIT!

If the pastors are out reaching the harvest and some members like Timothy, Mark, Silas, Barnabas, Priscilla and Aquila are serving with them, who will give pastoral care to the local churches? The Holy Spirit!

He will accomplish this through the elders and the spiritual gift of the members! This is where the “Priesthood of All Believers Plan” gets even more exciting!



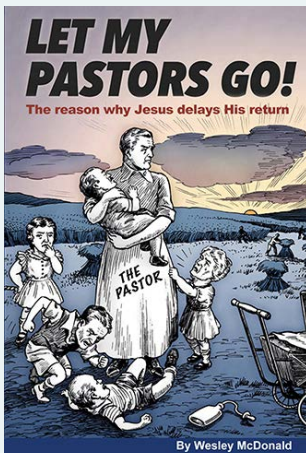
It's fascinating to discover that our early pioneers considered the elders of the local Adventist churches to be the lay pastors. These humble and prayerful leaders working through the gifts of the members and in cooperation with the ministers in their territories, not only provided for the nurture of their congregations but also grew their churches through local evangelistic outreach (1 Peter 4:10, 5:1-4). This is so exciting, and by the way, it was the primary reason we started the Volunteer Lay Pastor (VLP) Initiative in NNEC. The early Adventist pastors who were called by God to oversee the gospel work in their territories met regularly with the elders of the local churches to encourage them, provide training and direction. Although they did not “hover” over them, they did provide consistent support. No church was left to struggle alone without a strong connection with the “sisterhood of churches.” Also, it was the sacred responsibility of the president and other church directors and officers to give support and care to the local church elders in the Conference.

# THE PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS

“Many presidents of state conferences do not attend to that which is their work—to see that the elders and deacons of the churches do their work in their churches, by seeing that a faithful tithe is brought into the treasury...Presidents in our conferences, do your duty; speak not your words, but plain “Thus saith the Lord.” Elders of churches do your duty. Labor from home to home, that the flock of God shall not be remiss in this matter, which involves such a blessing or such a curse.” (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers pp. 305-306)



We currently have seven lay-led churches and four companies in our Conference. As well as seven volunteer lay pastors and lay leaders. To God be the Glory!



Interestingly, it was during this era of empowering the “priesthood of all believers” that the early Adventist church became one of the fastest growing denominations in the world (Revolution in the Church, Russell Burrill p. 39-40). This inspired method and its foundation in Scripture and Spirit of Prophecy is well documented in Adventist literature. Wesley McDonald’s book “Let My Pastors Go,” is just another example of this method. One can download a free digital copy at [www.letmypastorsgo.com](http://www.letmypastorsgo.com) or purchase a copy at [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org).

# HOW TO

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If the Northern New England Conference chooses to get behind this plan, a ministry team will be created to further develop a voluntary process that includes ongoing training, accountability and connection for our elders, pastors and churches who want to participate.



This will happen through Conference organized monthly Zoom gatherings, Connect Academy, ReGenerate workshops, yearly retreats and Conference wide training events, etc.

For “The Priesthood of all Believers Plan” to work in a way that honors God and His Mission, it must be voluntary not mandatory and should be born out of fervent prayer and earnest conviction!

The truth is, not every pastor is called to be an apostle and not every church or district is ready to be without a paid minister. But for those who are open to the idea and interested in learning more, training, resources and opportunities will be provided. God willing, in May 2024, the Northern New England Conference will be holding Town Hall Meetings in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont for the purpose of laying out the “Priesthood of all Believers Plan” in more detail as well as getting feedback from the constituency.







# PRAYER

We've looked first at the importance of obedience to the Great Commission in preparing ourselves for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, now let's look at prayer.

Some may wonder why prayer was not mentioned first, and that is simply because both prayer and obedience to our mission are equally important in bringing revival to the East. The Spirit will not fall on churches that are praying but not working and He will also not fall on churches that are working and not praying! We must "Pray and labor, labor and pray..." (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, p. 498-499).



Now let's look at the importance of prayer. Throughout the book of Acts, earnest prayer was the way the church prepared for the early rain (Acts 4:31). It would make sense then, that the Latter Rain would come in response to prayer as well. In NNEC we are blessed to have a very active Prayer Ministry! Every morning, prayer warriors gather live over the phone and pray for individual and church needs, the most important of which is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Everyone is invited to call in and share their needs and pray for God's blessing. The phone number is 1-609-663-0983. Also, twice a year, members of our Conference gather at Camp Lawroweld for our prayer retreats. These are times of deep fellowship with each other and The Spirit.

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Acts 4:31



We believe every Adventist church in NNEC should have a weekly prayer meeting attended by the members and especially the spiritual leaders of the church (Acts 3:1).

In fact, Jesus Himself said "...my house shall be called a house of prayer..." (Matthew 21:12-14). For some church communities, especially those who travel a significant distance to their local church, an in-person prayer meeting held after church on Sabbath or after fellowship lunch is proving to be a convenient time. Keep in mind that these special times of prayer are not primarily for sermonizing or book studying, but for earnest sharing and heartfelt prayer. A great template for prayer meeting is found in Acts 4:23-31. In *Selected Messages*, p. 121, the author reaffirms the necessity of prayer in order to experience revival in the East and highlights some key condition for receiving the promise.

"A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work. There must be earnest effort to obtain the blessing of the Lord, not because God is not willing to bestow His blessings upon us, but because we are unprepared to receive it. Our Heavenly Father is more willing to give His Spirit to them that ask Him, than are earthly parents to give good gifts to their children. But it is our work by confession, humiliation, repentance, and earnest prayer, to fulfill the conditions upon which God has promised to grant His blessing. A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer." 1SM 121.1



# INTERGENERATIONAL

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According to Acts 2:17-21, the Holy Spirit is attracted to intergenerational churches! This is good news for Adventists since our church was started by young and old working together. In fact, from our very genesis, we were an intergenerational “phenomenon!”

“Age diversity was a historic phenomenon that gave the Adventist movement a strong start. If replicated, the authentic combination of older and younger members working together will once again be a catalyst as we near the end of time.”

(Alberto R Timm, James R. Nix, Lessons from Battle Creek, p. 82) Interestingly, the Seventh-day Adventist church was NOT started by young people, but by young and old working together to reach the world with the Three Angels’ Messages!

Recently, our new 20th Edition Church Manual came out and designated five new church board positions. Each of these are designed to bring more youth leaders around the leadership table, ensuring that intergenerational ministry does happen in our local churches (p. 112, 136). Superhuman efforts need to be made by every member, and particularly church leaders, to reach young people in their churches and communities, mentor them in the Lord, and find ministries for them to do according to their gifts and maturity level. Attracting youth and young adults can be done by providing the following: daycare programs, Vacation Bible Schools, Fun Learning About God Camps (FLAG), consistent and interactive Sabbath Schools, homeschooling groups, Pathfinders, social media ministries, Youth Sabbaths, Global Youth Day, Public Campus Ministries, and mission trips.

Check out [www.gcyyouthministries.org](http://www.gcyyouthministries.org) to learn about all the youth ministries options out there.

# Intergenerational

Amazingly, all the above can be organized and even led by the older generation if necessary! This is important to note, especially for churches that lack youth and young adults. In other words, God will bless the intergenerational efforts the members of our churches are making to reach the younger generation!



Second only to Christ-led families, Adventist education is the most effective means of raising young disciples for Jesus. In NNEC this includes nine beautiful schools and many homeschooling families, Summer Camp (Lawroweld) and Club Ministries.

## Adventist education

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Day after day, summer after summer, year after year, these precious ministries are teaching the Bible, leading our children to Jesus, and shaping the next generation of Adventist Leaders!

## Summer Camp

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In a world that is rapidly straying from God's word and heading for shipwreck, these entities are spiritual lighthouses and often the very last defense against destructive worldviews. Our schools, homes, camps and clubs are also places where the younger generation can be equipped by the older generation to be the army of God.

## Club Ministries



"With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen and soon-coming Saviour might be carried to the whole world! How soon might the end come - the end of suffering and sorrow and sin!" (Education p. 271)



Like "arrows in the hands of a warrior" our young people were designed to be sent as missionaries into the world (Psalms 127:4).

We want to sincerely thank our parents, pastors, teachers, camp staff and youth leaders for their dedication to the youth of the Northern New England Conference!



Because of you, there is not a church on the face of the earth more dedicated to young people than the Adventist church!

# MEN'S AND WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



It is a wonderful thing to also see our Men's and Women's Ministries attracting so many members of all ages to their events and retreats. Many throughout our Conference, irrespective of age, are being discipled for Christ through these two vibrant and growing ministries. To learn more and to register for one of these very active intergenerational ministries, go to [www.nnec.org](http://www.nnec.org).



# UNITY

God is not looking for uniformity and we do not need to be twins to be siblings, but the Holy Spirit is looking for churches where the members are pressing closer and closer to one another in love and reconciliation (Acts 1:14, 2:1).

Churches that won't allow themselves to be divided by toxic people or philosophies but churches who "seek peace and pursue it" are attractive places for the Holy Spirit (Psalms 34:14).



One way to create unity in our churches is to communicate regularly with each other. Someone once said, "People are down on what they are not up on."

Once a month via Zoom, the Northern New England Conference meets with our pastors and lay-pastors around the Conference to share ministry updates and to connect with each other. We call this pastoral meeting "Gatekeepers."

In 2024, we are also planning to start a monthly Zoom meeting with all our elders in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont for the same reasons. We want them to also be in the loop and have access to resources and training designed to bless their ministries.

Also, every Wednesday at 10:30 am, we have Connect Live, so that our constituency can know what we are up to as a Conference and so they can get inspired by the live conversations we have weekly with various and interesting members of our church. Join us live and check out our over fifty episodes at [www.nnec.org](http://www.nnec.org). These episodes can be showed during church or Sabbath School as well.

Finally, if you haven't already, please be sure to sign up to receive our free weekly Conference newsletter (via email) and our Connection Magazine that goes out three times a year. This way you will never be at a loss regarding church activities and events happening in Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

"People are down on what they are not up on."





We are so proud of our Communications Department that works hard to make this possible. In the next five years we intend to build our media ministry by inviting volunteers throughout the Conference to participate and contribute. We also intend through our media ministry to train our local churches to effectively use social media to promote and preach the Three Angels' Messages!

Yes, revival is coming to the East, and we want to be ready to receive this wonderful outpouring of The Holy Spirit. May God bless us mightily in the next five years as we align ourselves with His Spirit through obedience, prayer, intergenerational ministry and unity.



"There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the ways by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation... When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come." (Review and Herald, March 22, 1887) May God help us remove "every hinderance" so we can experience His promised blessing.

## Revival in the East!



# APPENDIX

## The Glad Reaper Challenge



"Even now the one who reaps draws a wage and harvests a crop for eternal life that the sower and THE REAPER may be GLAD together." John 4:35-37

1. Train our members in personal evangelism
2. Encourage them to participate in Fill the Baptistry Sabbaths (Apr. 13th and Oct. 5th)
3. Lead at least one evangelistic meeting between Camp Meeting and the New Year!
4. Love our communities by consistently ministering to their felt needs.

Go everywhere in the world, and T.E.L.L  
the Good News to everyone!



# CALENDAR



Mark your calendar  
for these important dates!

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- Connect Academy
  - March 7 - April 11
  - Thursdays at 7pm
- Fill the Baptistry
  - Apr. 13th - Oct. 5th
- Camp Meeting
  - June 21-29
- Regenerate
  - October 18th & 19th
- Gatekeepers (9am) and Elders Connect (7pm)
  - 2/6, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7, 6/4, 8/4, 9/3, 10/1, 11/12, 12/3

# REVIVAL

## *In The East*



*Northern New England Conference*

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