
From the desk of the Reverend Thaddaeus B. Allen

at the beginning of a new year in ministry together, January 2, 2018

“How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!” Psalm 133 NRSV

Dearest Members and Friends of the Northeastern Region of the Disciples of Christ:

You have been patient over the last year, and this communique is intended to help share with you where our region stands in terms of leadership and our immediate future path. This is a thumbnail sketch and not a deep dive.

Over the course of the past several months (perhaps even years) it was determined that there were not financial resources in place to call and support a full time regional minister. Costs associated with this position include salary, housing, health care, pension, travel costs, administrative help, technology, etc. Given our lack of financial capacity the ministry with the Reverend Mary Anne Glover had to come to a close. It was prudent for both the region and Mary Anne to be careful and judicious with this transition. The period of prudence was confusing and exhausting for the many. This period has now appropriately come to a graceful close.

During this time, governance functions were confusing and leadership was a moving target. Frustration grows increasingly in situations where there is financial stress, leadership vacuums, and little to no communication. We had all three of these things happening. Thus, the opening lines of this letter - you have been patient.

Perhaps some headlines will be helpful:

- The regional assembly elected a regional board and this is now the seated/called governing board. This is appropriate as the Assembly has acted and there should be no concern over the legitimacy of the leadership. Where concern exists, let us work together to alleviate it.
- The board in late Fall called me to walk with you as your Acting Regional Minister. This is a very part time engagement, but I am a total time regional minister serving the WV and PA regions. I am in my 11th year of this, and have a team that knows this work.
- The board received and approved a balanced budget. We will live within our means and will not spend money that we do not have.
- Ministerial standing is an issue that has arisen over the course of the year. For 2018 all ministers with standing will be automatically renewed. There will be no forms this year. We will be deliberate in the coming year to resource the ministry well. We will hope to bring a spirit of collegiality and life long learning to our midst. The commission on ministry (in all the ways it manifests itself) is a steward of the ministry.
- Our infrastructure needs attention. We will hope to bring a newsletter on board and rebuild our database.
- Wisdom, generosity and collegiality will likely be major themes for us moving forward.
- Your congregations will be called upon to honor our covenantal funding system through Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Christmas offering. These resources support our work and the work of the whole church. We need to be faithful to this call, as the congregations of this region and no one else have the responsibility to fund our life together.

We do have a regional assembly scheduled for September 14-15, 2018 in Brooklyn, NY. I envision a time of renewal and celebration. It will be a joy to gather around the stories of what Christ is doing in our midst. It will be a joy to gather around each other to share this life that we have been called to live with one another. It will be a joy to gather around the table of our Lord where bread and wine remind us still that Emmanuel is with us, and where we are re-membered and made one with God and each other. As we proclaim in our beloved preamble "At the table of the Lord we celebrate with thanksgiving the saving acts and presence of Christ."

We do have much to be thankful for. We stand in the very presence and peace of God. We stand together.

Love,

+ Thaddaeus

Thaddaeus

(304) 633 2428 is my cell phone and you are welcome to call it
thaddaeus1969@gmail.com is my email and I welcome hearing from you
I will seek to get back to you as soon as possible via both of these mediums