



November 2016

Dear Friends,

We have experienced one of the most tumultuous election seasons in our nation's history. Harsh words have ruptured and divided people across the political spectrum. There has never been a more important time for the church to be a place of reconciliation and healing, uniting around the mission that God has entrusted to us. II Corinthians 5 reminds us that "he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us." Post-election anxiety has reminded us of the urgency of our message. People need the Good News of Jesus Christ more than ever!

Our church planting movement propels the delivery of this message of hope and reconciliation to more places and among more people. At this year's Covenant Annual Meeting, we welcomed Ascent Community Church (Louisville, CO) into membership. New Life Covenant Church (Wichita, KS) started gathering a launch team and began meeting in August. Two church planting residencies were started in Omaha, NE, and Erie, CO. A church planting couple out of Parker, CO, was approved and has begun their training. We have been blessed with a diverse group of church planters who join our existing churches as ambassadors of Good News.

In addition to these new beginnings, many established churches across the conference have been strengthened and are impacting the communities in which they have been planted. One church in Colorado called a Pastor of Community Supported Agriculture so the church can meet real needs in its community. A church in Kansas City has a ministry that walks alongside those who have been incarcerated to help them with successful re-entry into society. A church in Nebraska hosted a regional gathering to have a "Conversation on Race" to engage leaders around the topic of race reconciliation. I could relate story after hopeful story of the impact our existing churches are having on their communities.

We are churches working together to transform lives and communities. You have made this possible through your generous partnership. As 2016 comes to a close, I invite you to consider a special year-end gift to our MWC church planting fund so we can continue an aggressive and sustainable movement that reaches more people with the hope and reconciliation that is found in Jesus Christ.

As you prepare your budgets for 2017, please prayerfully consider the impact your partnership provides. Through your kingdom work, generous gifts, and devoted prayers for our shared work, we continue to plant new churches, strengthen existing churches, and develop missional leaders. Thank you!

To God be the Glory ~

Tammy Swanson-Draheim  
Superintendent