



November 2017

Dear Friends,

As I reflect on the amazing work God is doing throughout the Midwest Conference, I am deeply grateful for your commitment to living out our shared mission to transform lives and communities. I am truly blessed to partner with you in ministry!

This has been an especially exciting year as we have embraced a God-sized, 10-year vision to reach 8000 more disciples, through 140 churches, with 25% of those churches being ethnic or multi-ethnic, with increased gender diversity (30% of credentialed ministers and at least 15% of lead or co-lead pastors being female). As we shared this vision with pastors this past spring and gained feedback from delegates to the Annual Ministry Celebration, it became clear that MWC staff needed to reflect what we are trying to accomplish through this vision. As a result, we recently welcomed to the team David Williams, Director of Connection and Development; Patty Thompson, Director of Prayer and Leadership Mobilization; and Fil Nesta, Director of Hispanic Ministries. I have been greatly encouraged by the enthusiastic welcome of new staff by pastors and church leadership as we have traveled the conference this fall.

Your encouragement, perseverance in prayer, and generous partnership are essential to realizing this shared vision. I invite you to join us at the Annual Ministry Celebration to be held at Grace Place in Berthoud, Colorado, on April 20-21, 2018, where we will celebrate the steps churches have taken to accomplish the good work God has called us to.

As your congregation gathers for its own Annual Meeting, I pray that it, too, will be a celebration of all that God is doing within your local context. I encourage you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to engage in this shared vision. What steps can you take over the next year to join other churches in reaching the tremendous goals God has set before us?

Thank you for the privilege of serving alongside you in ministry. We pray for you and give thanks to God for the difference you are making throughout the Midwest.

To God be the glory!

Tammy Swanson-Draheim
Superintendent