November 9, 2019

Dear Friends:

At the end of our Conversations with the Conference Minister during last month Annual Meeting, I was asked a really engaging question that I wish I had more time to speak to. The question was, “Can you name something you see happening in our local churches that really excites you?” Because of time limitations, I chose one thing for one church to highlight. But the truth is if that had been the first questions asked I could have filled the entire hour with stories of things that are exciting me in our local churches.

To me, there are two reasons conferences exist and I love to tell the stories of how we are about both of these things. The first reason is to resource our local churches to thrive in ministry. The Conference engages this task through pastoral search support, consultations regarding sustainability, programming to develop the capacity of both lay and clergy leadership (i.e. Prepared to Serve, Boundary Training, Clergy Days, Clergy Convocation), assessment and growth opportunities like the Creating and Leading the 21st Century Church program, and networking churches working on similar projects. The second reason is to enable us to work together on the things that we can better do together than apart. The development of a guidebook for helping local churches become Racial Justice churches, our immigration support and advocacy, the Ukama partnership and the transformative ministries that take place at Horton Center are just a few such examples I can think of from this past year.

Witnessing the work our local churches are about, individually and collectively, is one of the best parts of my job. It is only surpassed by the gift of being able to use the resources of the Conference to help our local churches take their ministries to yet to be imagined levels.

I now invite you to partner with me in helping to provide resources that allow our local churches to thrive. Believe me, your gifts to Friends of the Conference make a direct difference to those whom we serve.

To offer your support, you can either write a check to “New Hampshire Conference” or go online to the Conference website (www.nhcucc.org) and donate online. We are truly grateful for every way in which you are a Friend of the Conference! And we are inspired and humbled by the way in which you seek to live out the servant call of Christ.

Blessings,

Gordon Rankin
Conference, New Hampshire Conference