

**2004 – 2008 Quadrennial Report from the President
Of the
Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**

Giving honor and Praise to God in the assembly of the Constituency, Delegates, Honored Guests, and visitors, I present to you today an overview of the accomplishments, the challenges of the last four years and the forward direction of the ministry and the development of the Great Allegheny East Conference. Following the guidelines of our Strategic Plan, we have accepted a legacy and practice the mandates of our mission statement:

The Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists exists to promote the sharing of the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ ethnically [TA ETHANE - “to all people groups”] within its assigned territory through Christ centered leadership and responsible resource management.

Our Mission is to preach and follow the methods of Jesus Christ
Our directed group is to all people groups regardless of nationality, language or race.

Visual Parade of Nations in the Allegheny East Conference

Our territory is primarily the urban, inner-city, and metropolitan centers in the territory of Baltimore and Extended Area, Bay Area, Delaware Valley Area, Northern, New Jersey Area, Virginia / West Virginia Area, and the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Area.

In this mission we have directed our ministry in Christ centered leadership and through our resource management as we will note in our treasury and ministry reports.

Our Vision Is:

We see the Allegheny East Conference becoming the prime model for efficient, pacesetting Seventh-day Adventist Church organizations, worldwide. It will be Christ-centered, dynamic, powered by the Holy Spirit. It will be the prototype of unified leadership, of responsible resource management, of innovative methods, of excellence in ministry. Within its congregations, it will nurture, edify, train and develop all of God’s people for His service. It will go forth, beautiful as “an army with banners”:

Following these mandates we will give the highlights of our progress and our challenges for the last four years. The full report is in your folders and on the AEC Web page @ www.myalleghenyeast.com.

Statistics

During the last quadrennium our conference gained 3,259 members by baptism, 370 members by profession of faith and 1,298 members by letter, establishing a 7.62%

growth since 2004. We suffered the loss of 433 members by death, 1,571 by letter, 359 members were dropped and 226 members were declared missing from our membership books.

The conference sustained significant multi-cultural growth, again validating our conference mission. Our current membership includes people groups of: African Americans, East Africans, West Africans, Haitians, Latinos, East Indians, Indonesians, Koreans, Anglo-Americans, Romanians, Brazilians and others. Multi-cultural Ministries constitute a 37.48% of our membership as follows:

	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Baptisms</u>	<u>Professions of Faith</u>
African-Americans	20,218	2,846	311
Africans	313	60	
Anglo-American	150	5	4
French	9,486	290	34
Indonesian	394	4	
Korean	895	48	18
Latino	732	5	3
East Indians	146	1	
Brazilian	12		
Romanian	27		
Multi-cultural Ministries total	12,119	413	59
Total Membership	32,337	3,259	370

During this quadrennium a total of nine groups were organized into companies:

- Philadelphia Ghanaian Company, Philadelphia, PA;
- Angaza East African Company, Wilmington, DE;
- Mt. Nebo Haitian Company, Philadelphia, PA;
- Brazilian Company, Philadelphia, PA;
- New Joy Fellowship, Hagerstown, MD,
- Bethlehem French Company, Reading, PA;
- Garden of Prayer, Baltimore, MD
- Mt. Pocono, Tobyhanna, PA.

In addition, a total of five Church Companies have been recommended to be part of the sisterhood of Churches of the Allegheny East Conference as a full Church status:

- The Korean Church, Ft. Lee, New Jersey;
- Romanian Church, Hazelton, Pennsylvania;
- Angaza Sharon Church, Wilmington, Delaware;
- Maranatha Fellowship Church, Laurel, Maryland
- Voice of Truth Church, New Castle, Delaware.

Two new districts were created during this last quadrennium. The New Joy Fellowship Church in Hagerstown and the New Hope Church in Frederick were joined to establish a new district within the Maryland Area. The union of the Sharon Church in Crewe and the Bread of Life Church in Emporia form a new district in the Virginia Area.

As our membership and congregations continue to grow the following additions were made to our staff expanding our workforce.

- Six (6) Seminary Sponsorships were granted
- Six (6) ministers were ordained.

We employed to contribute in the implementation of our mission.

- Fifteen (15) new Pastors,
- One (1) Bible Worker
- Four (4) office staff members
- Nineteen (19) new Teachers

From 2004 through 2007 sixteen (16) employees retired, each with at least thirteen years and beyond of faithful service.

Adventist Community Services

The Adventist Community Department, under the direction of Minnie McNeil, has seen a very active quadrennium involving the resources of the conference in meeting some of the challenges in society that the church is mandated to address. Space and time will not permit me to dwell in depth on any one topic. I will give a few highlights as they were presented to me. The entire report can be read under the Adventist Community Services Department report.

However, we have documented reports showing that some 250,000 individuals have been serviced by the Allegheny East Conference ACS, and, nearly 400,000 pieces of literature have been distributed by 1400 volunteers.

During the quadrennium, we increased our Metropolitan Ministries that were begun in 1999, by four. Metro Ministries were created to increase the visibility of Seventh-day Adventists in the urban centers of the conference. The four centers included are, Greater Wilmington ACS, Baltimore ACS, Philadelphia's Adventist Humanitarian Resource Center, and Newark, New Jersey's Adventist Community Development Center. Each center is operated with an executive director and a board.

We are proud of the fact that when Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast in 2004 and the other natural disasters, the tsunami and Hurricane Rita; the Allegheny East Conference members rallied their support for the victims in the form of nearly \$131,000 to ADRA. We also took the lead in facilitating a \$50,000 grant for the Katrina Evacuees.

Office of Education

Allegheny East Conference education systems are strong. According to J. P. Willis, Allegheny East Conference Superintendent of Schools, the latest North American Division Office of Education study called, *Cognitive Genesis*, Adventist education across the board is strong in helping students develop their faith while in our schools. Academically, the students in grades 3 to 9 and grade 11 who were tested by the Iowa Test of Basic Skills scored **above the national norm in all grades and in all subject areas tested, and, at all levels of ability, on the average, have higher achievement scores than predicted by their ability.**

Midway through the quadrennium Dr. Lolethia Kibble, who was serving as the Associate Superintendent of Schools retired and was replaced by Mrs. Gloria Perry, an experienced educator in both the public and Adventists systems. Teacher certification is approximately 97% on the elementary level and 70% on the academy level.

Enrollment in our schools continues to be a concern. We suffered a loss of 206 students out of our elementary schools over the past four years. The reduction in students has resulted in the reduction of staff. Staff reduction generally leads to other problems such as program restriction. Our inability to convert parents to send their children to Adventist schools continues to be our greatest challenge even in light of the positive reports, such as the one previously mentioned, are issued.

Some highlights during the quadrennium show that there are still substantial investments being made in the progress of Adventist education:

- 2006 the Pine Forge Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Walnut Street Community Seventh-day Adventist Church and their respective pastors, Pastor Joel Johnson and Pastor Vernon Waters were honored for the collaborative effort of building the Jesse R. Wagner Seventh-day Adventist School.
- During the 2006-2007 school year Pine Forge Academy underwent a complete \$1.6 million renovation, as a result of the collaborative leadership and support of the Pine Forge Academy alumni and the Allegheny East Conference, which completely modernized the interior of the administration building and providing a

new science lab, a new computer lab and wireless internet throughout the building.

- In 2007 the constituent churches that support Baltimore Junior Academy banded together under the leadership of Pastor Charlie Jenkins to construct a brand-new gymnasium/auditorium adjacent to the school.
- At the end of 2007 we made a leap forward by increasing the aid for education that came from the **Three-way Scholarship Program** from \$300 for Oakwood College (Oakwood University) students, \$150 for Columbia Union College students and \$100 for Pine Forge Academy students, to up to \$1000 for college students and \$500 for academy students.

The future of Adventist Education in the Allegheny East Conference is only challenged by the desire and will of the constituents to support it. From all the indicators we have from God we are certain that He is willing and able to do what He has promised.

Family Life Ministries

If we were to take a realistic look at the families and the components of families in our congregations in would be evident to most that the need for relationship ministry is one of the greatest challenges we face. Individual, married couples and families are under direct attack by the enemy of souls. However, the Family Life Department, under the leadership of Dr. John Trusty, is gallantly, and under the supervision of the Holy Spirit, attempting to provide confidential counseling for families, for singles and for men. It is providing remarriage counseling for couples contemplating marriage, conducting divorce recovery seminars, parenting seminars and spiritual Family Revivals, in an effort to stave off family crises in this conference. To accomplish the department goals, Dr. Trusty has been creative and innovative.

Health Ministries

In every corner of society the major topic is that of health. In the Allegheny East Conference the charge is that of lifestyle change, led by the exciting and passionate Health Ministries Director, A. Leah Scott, whose battle cry is, ***“Take Charge of Your Health!”*** The greatest challenge facing the Health Ministries Department, according to Scott, is the motivation of the members of the churches to healthier, happier lifestyles and the modeling of those lifestyles to those individuals in their communities who are knowledgeable about the uniqueness of the Adventist health message.

Trying to get the message of lifestyle change to the members was a daunting task. So, in 2006 the Health Ministries ***“Dream Team”*** was added to the department as a support group. This group, formally known as the Health Ministries Department Area Coordinators, serves as resource persons in the field to help the local church health leaders plan and implement programs they have devised for community outreach. In some cases they make suggestions as to the best and most effective methods to reach the community.

One of specialties of the Health Ministries Department is the annual conducting of the FIT 4 YOU Retreat™, the fitness camp started some 30 years ago by Gwen Foster, who at that time was serving as the first Health Ministries Director in the Allegheny East Conference. FIT FOR YOU Retreat™ is the only Adventist operated fitness camp in the nation. Each year it gets larger and more effective than the year before with persons coming from across the nation and from countries outside the nation. Leah Scott has led her focus group into developing a strategic plan for health ministries in the conference that you can read and study in the department reports.

Ministerial Department

We are fortunate in the Allegheny East Conference to have a well educated, experienced workforce composed of pastors who are open to growth; interns who are willing to learn and Bible Instructors/Minister of Discipleship who are willing to teach under the direction of Pastor S. Peter Campbell, our Ministerial Director. For 52 weeks a year this workforce, teamed with the Elders, Deacons, Deaconesses and other church officers, monitor and care for the spiritual health and kingdom preparation of the members of this vast conference. They feed the flock, marry the couples, bless the babies, care for the bereaved, and encourage commitment to the goals and standards of the Adventist Church. If you question whether or not it is an exacting task, think back to your last church board or church business meeting. In addition to the mentioned pastoral duties our pastors have been challenged to encourage the members to help in preparation for evangelism in making friends in their communities and showing the love of Jesus through deeds of kindness.

However, all the credit cannot be given to the workforce. It was not their sacrifices alone that erected, renovated, and purchased houses of worship, raised conference goals, cared for the sick, fed the hungry, clothed the naked, and gave encouragement to the disenchanting. It was you. And, I must stop and interject that acknowledgement here. The Allegheny East Conference of Seventh-day Adventists exists today because of its faithful members, those that try every day to live up to the creeds they dedicated themselves to. It is your time, your money, your sacrifices that make the church the church. God bless you for that.

Ministries Development

It is as a direct need to harness your energies, talents and spiritual gifts that the Ministries Development Department was created during this quadrennium. The Ministries Development, under the leadership of Pastor Colin Brathwaite, serves as a joint ministry with Sabbath School, Personal Ministries, and Religious Liberty, to provide conference-wide resources and coordination in the people ministries of the church. Its three main goals are to bring accountability, discovery, and implementation to every member regarding their spiritual gifts and the role those gifts must play in the finishing of the work of the Gospel.

Publishing

In the Fall of 2005 there was an event held in Washington, D.C. called, “*The Million More March!*” Right in the midst of this throng of people was a small supposedly insignificant group with its own project called, “*Operation Lift Him Up!*” led by Joan Cummings, Allegheny East Conference Publishing Director. During that Million More March Joan Cummings and her team of dedicated literature evangelists distributed 80,000 copies of *Steps to Christ*, 20,000 copies of *Bible Answers* and encouraged the hearts of thousands with the hope of better choices for life’s calamities.

Joan Cummings and her team showed up again passing out truth-filled literature during the Pope’s Visit. During the quadrennium they managed to distribute 148,184 pieces of literature, make sales totaling \$897,828, baptize 35 persons and enroll more than 3099 in Bible Courses. Two associates were added to the department in the persons of Reginald Alexander and Rodney Grissom. Sister Geneva Washington retired after 33 years of fruitful service.

Stewardship

The end of the quadrennium saw the end of Elder Thaddious M. Privette’s service as Allegheny East Conference’s Stewardship Director. We will always be in his debt, as well as appreciative of his services. As he enters into retirement our wishes go with him.

During the 2004-2007 period conference stewardship was on target with the objectives of its mission to educate and encourage every members towards to goals and rewards of being faithful stewards. As a result, the conference experienced more than a \$4 million increase in tithe; going from \$26,264,276 in 2004 to \$30,406,595 in 2007, for a total of \$115,533,888. Praise the Lord! However, the national economy started dwindling and the church was affected. Even with the recession we were able to build a new Conference with state of the art kitchen facilities and seating capacity for banquets and larger meeting.

Pastor Jackson Doggette, Esq. has been asked to assume the position of Philanthropy Director.

Trust Services

The Trust Services Department, under the leadership of Elder Daniel Davis, His report to me indicated that there are more than 560 documents (Wills, Trust, Power of Attorney, etc) in the vaults; that the work of God has been blessed with more than \$4 million for local church, conference, and world-wide programs.

The three Allegheny East Conference Senior Citizen Housing facilities-Chillum Oaks, Fort Washington, and Dupont Park are operating successfully in their communities. Sites

for further construction are presently being investigated in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and New Jersey.

Youth and Children

One of the busiest and most effective directors serving the Allegheny East conference is Pastor Claude Harris who serves as the Director of the following departments and entities of the conference:

- Adventist Youth Society (AYS)
- Adventurers
- Children's Ministries
- Eager Beavers
- Little Lambs
- Pathfinders
- The National Serviceman's Organization (NSO)
- Vacation Bible School (VBS)
- Youth Federations
- Young Adult Ministries
- Camp Davis

To read the complete report you must read the Youth Department report in your booklet.

The influence of the youth of Allegheny East Conference is nation-wide. From the annual African and African-American History Bee in Philadelphia to the mission fields of Thailand in 2005 and 2006, and, the World Conference on Youth and Community Service in 2007, Allegheny East Conference Youth have been challenged to be all that they can be.

The Pathfinder leaders and staff are constantly undergoing training that keeps the Allegheny East Conference Pathfinders at the top of the list as the finest trained group in the denomination. They now measure more than 1200 and look good in uniforms, as you can see on Pathfinder Sunday during camp meeting.

Young, but steadily growing in size and importance are the Adventurers, who are in training to become Pathfinders.

Camp Davis, our youth camp continues to fill up during the summer. At the end of the quadrennium the Challenge Course was near completion. The Challenge Course will prove to be an effective training tool for Youth and adults.

Communication Technology

Communication Technology Department, under the leadership of Elder Robert L. Booker bears the burden of developing this report and other communication media used in the services of the departments and administration. Charles Williams is one of the denominations top media specialists. Pastor Ron Reeves, a communication specialist- in

the area of intranet and video conferencing became a part of the communication technology team. Jacqueline O'Bryant adds her skills as the website monitor. Karl Ford is the graphics specialist. Robert Booker also services as the Assistant to the President. There are things you are seeing now that if it were not for the skills and dedication of the communication technology team would not exist. At the close of the quadrennium the Allegheny East conference had not been launched. However, as this meeting is being held the website is functioning.

Closing Statement

I end this report with some observations that I feel are important. The department directors, administrative assistants, and specialty staff have provided service for this conference that we could not have done without. The successes that we achieved were a team success; the churches, pastors, teachers, office staff combined our efforts to make this conference the leading Regional conference and put it in the top three conferences world-wide. There was no one group responsible for that. It was, and has to be recognized as a team effort; all entities working under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. I thank God for the privilege of being on our team.

Let us praise His name as we go into the 4th Quadrennium of the Great Allegheny East Conference.