

## REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Henry J. Fordham, III

*“Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name!”  
-Psalm 103:1*

“The office of the Secretariat of the Allegheny East Conference is committed to providing accurate data, to convey the status of corporate responsibility and growth, and to aid the President, Executive Committee, employees, and constituency in the achievement of the spiritual and the corporate goals of the Conference.”

I am most grateful to our Conference Administrators, Pastors, Bible Workers, Teachers, Literature Evangelists, Department Directors, Office Secretaries, Support Staff, and last, but not least, the constituent members of this Conference who day by day faithfully strive to serve the Lord to the best of their abilities. A special thanks to all our Church Clerks, it is through them that we are able to collect the statistical information to realize our membership growth.

It is my pleasure to officially announce that AEC is currently “live” on the e-Adventist.net membership program from the North American Division. Currently, we have fifteen churches on line; able to complete membership transfers and input their membership information for our Conference membership database.

*“Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture”- Psalm 100:3*

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 must also count our losses, 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.

Year	Starting Membership	Professions Gained				Professions Lost			Ending Membership	Percentage Growth
		Baptisms	POF	Letter	Letter	Death	Dropped	Missing		
2004	29,810	921	95	416	372	93	167	4	30,606	2.67%
2005	30,606	720	70	366	404	105	24	16	31,213	1.98%
2006	31,213	932	76	301	477	123	29	178	31,715	1.61%
2007	31,904	686	129	215	318	112	139	28	32,337	1.36%
<b>Added Growth</b>		<b>3,259</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>1,298</b>	<b>1,571</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>359</b>	<b>226</b>		<b>7.62%</b>

Praise be to God for the significant multicultural growth that this Conference continues to experience, validation, not only the mission of the Allegheny East Conference, but also the Divine mandate of Matthew 28: 19-20. 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. Multicultural 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		
Multicultural 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: the Philadelphia Ghana Company, Philadelphia, PA; the East African Company, Wilmington, DE; Mt. Nebo Haitian Co., Philadelphia, PA; Brazilian Company, Philadelphia, PA; New Joy Fellowship, Hagerstown, MD, Bethlehem French Co., Reading, PA; Garden of Prayer, Baltimore, MD and Mt. Pocono, Tobyhanna, PA.

In addition, a total of five 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 (African) in Wilmington, Delaware;
- ♦Maranatha Fellowship Church (African) in Laurel, Maryland and the
- ♦Voice of Truth Church in Wilmington, Delaware.

Two new districts were created during this last quadrennium. For the Maryland area;

New Joy Fellowship Church in Hagerstown  
and the New Hope Church in Frederick  
were joined to establish a new district within that area.

And, in the Virginia area the union of the

Sharon Church in Crewe  
and the Bread of Life Church in Emporia form a new district.

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 and
- ♦ Six (6) ministers were ordained.

We employed:

- ♦ Fifteen (15) new pastors,
- ♦ One (1) Bible Worker,
- ♦ Four (4) office staff members and
- ♦ Nineteen (19) new teachers to contribute in the implementation of our mission.

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

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation for the invaluable assistance of Ileana Ocasio, who is a vital key to the success of our department. I would like to thank our constituents for electing me to serve the great Allegheny East as their Conference Secretary for the past eight years. Thank you for your continued support and prayers through both good and difficult times.

