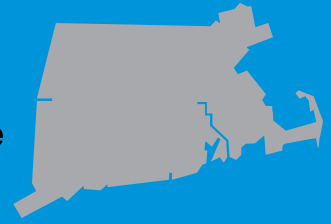


DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

38TH CONSTITUENCY SESSION

Southern New England Conference
of Seventh-day Adventists

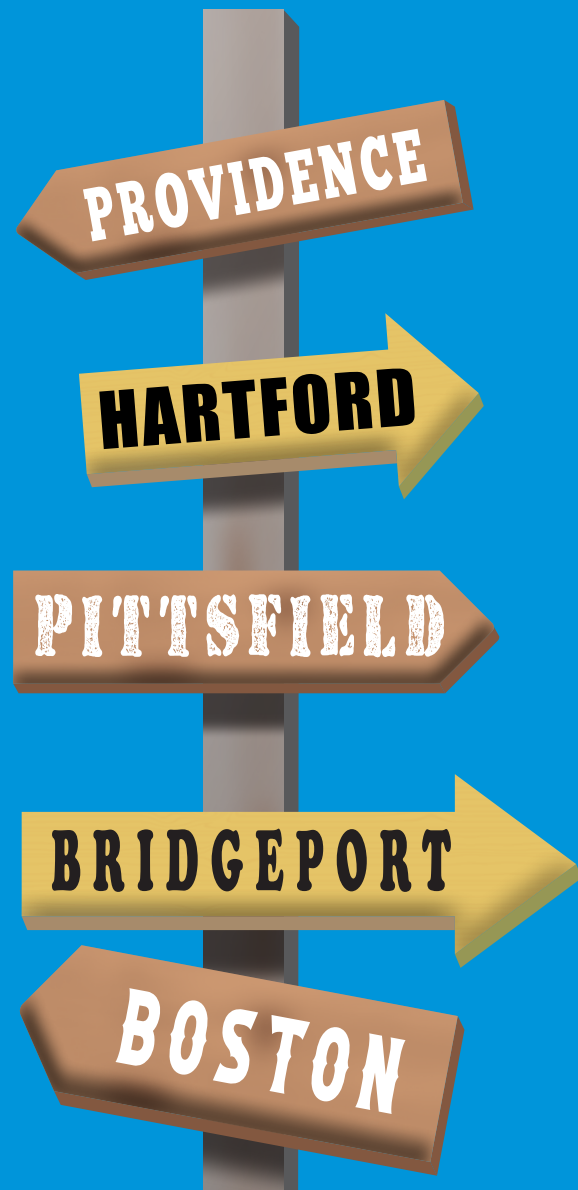


MINISTERIAL & EVANGELISM

John K Amoah
Director

Alex Palmeira
Church Planting Coordinator

Carolyn Woods
Administrative Assistant



Ministerial & Evangelism

During the past five years, as I responded to the call to serve the two departments of Ministerial and Evangelism, I have been greatly blessed to be a part of a dedicated and committed team of ministerial workers serving the Southern New England Conference. This report covers the summary of the activities of both departments for the last five years.

Ministerial Department

The mission of the ministerial department has been to "empower the pastoral team in advancing the kingdom of God by leading individuals, families, and churches to bring hope to their communities".

The emergence of the pandemic in 2020 created a checkered situation in a period of steadiness and gradual growth. However, the Lord did not leave us without a vision. Two years before the pandemic and its related lockdowns, Southern New England Conference built two zoom studios in the conference office to facilitate training sessions, meetings, and virtual needs. This provided the opportunity for SNEC pastors to learn to use zoom for local church meetings and training as well. Consequently, this made the pastors in the Southern New England Conference ready when the unexpected pandemic occurred. Our pastors were able to make smooth transitions into virtual ministries where they were needed.

Promotion, Training and Resourcing:

To help Pastors, as well as local church leaders, in developing and implementing strategic vision and plan for their churches

Crisis Intervention training to help pastors deal with trauma and crisis situations

Annual Church Officers workshop and training to equip local church officers with skills and resources to be effective in their respective ministries.

Annual Elders Retreat to equip elders with resources for ministry

Approaches to Outreach and Evangelism

A monthly Joshua's Group Meeting provided support, mentorship, resourcing, and counseling for pastors who have not been ordained or commissioned



Promotion and Development of core competencies of Pastors, providing pastors with benchmarks of professional growth

Biennial pastoral evaluations are conducted in accordance with the SNEC Working Policy to assist

Ministerial & Evangelism

pastors to continually improve their ministerial skills and to become better pastors

Visiting and providing support to pastoral families in spiritual counsel, mentorship, preaching, training, troubleshooting, and programming

Annual Ministerial retreats to provide training and resources for Pastoral families

Providing support to pastoral families during time of transition into new districts

Visiting and supporting pastoral students at the Adventist Theological Seminary, Andrews University

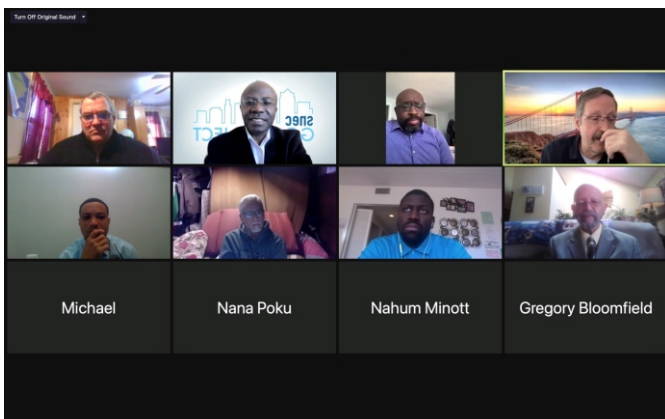
A free counseling service, through the Ministry Care Line, assists pastors and their families with the rigorous demands of ministry

Sharing ministry focused “Article for the Month” to share ministry ideas

Developing and implementing Mission and educational trips

Development of Web-App (SNECAPP) to streamline communication activities between the office and pastors

A continuing education program, utilizing the Adventist Learning Community software and other resources to provide assist pastors as they pursue their educational goals and to enhance their ministry



Visiting and Meeting Local Church leadership to provide counsel during time of pastoral transition

Educational trips to Germany, Austria and Italy (Reformation Tour), and Jordan and Israel (Religious/Spiritual Tour)

Volunteer Lay Pastor Track: After years of researching, strategizing and organizing, Volunteer Lay Pastor (VLP) was launched on October 2021. A volunteer lay pastor is an individual who has not been professionally trained for ministry, has not worked as a licensed unordained/commissioned minister, and is not a ministerial retiree but has a passion plant a church or

be assigned by the conference to serve as a lay pastor The lay pastor is strongly encouraged and must be involved in a continuing training process for certification as a lay pastor.

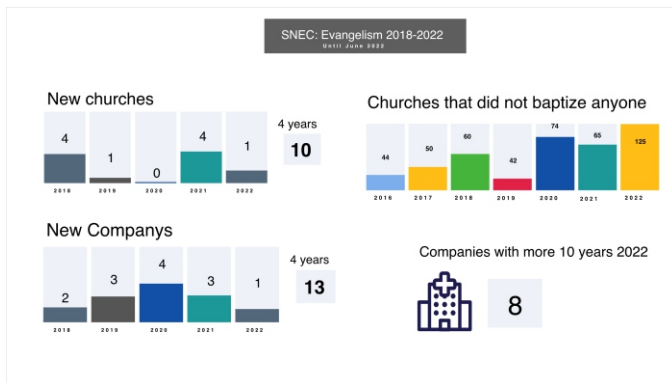
In addition to the responsibilities of the two departments, I served as the interim pastor for the three-church district of Fitchburg, Gardner, and Townsend for eight months during the pandemic lockdown. And currently serve the Athol church as the pastor.

The following four area coordinators and three ethnic coordinators who serve as ministerial assistants have contributed tremendously to the progress of the work in this conference. Their support and assistance have been a blessing to the ministerial and administrative team. With much gratitude I acknowledge the work of faithful area and ethnic coordinators:

Ministerial & Evangelism

Michael Henry: Greater Boston
 Einar Rom Central and Western Massachusetts
 Tom Dombrowski: Connecticut/W-MA
 Joseph Pireson/Luis Peguero: Rhode Island and Southeast Massachusetts
 Edgardo Herrera: Hispanic
 Kleber Hernandez: Portuguese
 Yves Francis: Haitian

Evangelism Department



One principle, among many, that informs the vision of the Evangelism activities of the Southern New England conference is found in Ellen G. White's statement, "The work of God in the earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church members rally to the work and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers" (Gospel Workers, p. 352).

As Adventists, we do, breathe, sing, and live, outreach and evangelism. Perhaps this encapsulates what we do as a movement. Centered on the gospel commission found in Matt 28:16-20 and the three angels' message

in Rev. 14:6-12, proclamation of the good news has been and continues to be the tenor and fabric of the Southern New England Conference.

The work of the Evangelism department included but not limited to the following activities:

Training

EvHuddle: Annual Evangelism Conference to promote outreach and evangelism, provide training and resources.

Church Planting

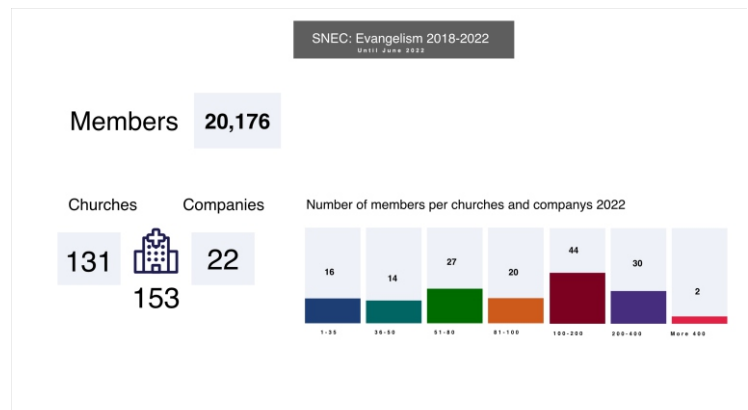
Church Planting support system was formerly launched with office created in June 2019 under the evangelism department. Subsequently, a coordinator was appointed to develop the training system.

To date, two cohorts have been trained, going through four modules per cohort.

The graduates from these training are currently engaged in planting churches across our conference.

There have been 18 church plants in our conference territory during the last five years and some of the plants have either been organized as companies or churches.

Although the effects and impacts of the pandemic slowed down certain ministry activities, there have been 12 church plants during the pandemic – Glory be to God!



Ministerial & Evangelism



ACTS: As an expansion of a larger vision, SNEC appointed a church planting coordinator and created church planting office under the evangelism department to focus on assessment, coaching training and sending (ACTS) of pastors as well as church members to engage in church planting across the SNEC territory that serves over 11 million people. Thanks to Alex Palmeira the current coordinator who brings a lot experience and expertise to our church planting activities, as well as the larger evangelistic thrust.

SEEDs (Core, Vision): Two major SEEDS Training weekends (2019; 2022)

Mission Works: An ongoing training to provide tools and resources for pastors and their churches to form mission groups in their respective local churches to focus on mission in their varied communities.

Projects

Other Projects – Southern New England Conference sponsored approximately 556 outreach and evangelistic projects in the last four years.

Outreach – Personally engaged in active Evangelistic meetings once a year in churches across our conference

Baptisms

There have been 2098 baptisms that are reported for the last four and a half years and we know of other baptisms that are yet to be formally reported to our office. This is the work and power of the Holy Spirit. Praise the Lord!

Literature Evangelism (LE)

Southern New England re-introduced Literature Evangelism ministry as part of our outreach activities.

Two Summer Student LE programs were conducted with over 12 students in each session

Regular LE's worked in our territory, and several were trained.



Clearly the Lord continues to bless our conference through your generous spirit and giving and that helps us to continue to advance His kingdom here at Southern New England Conference. And we thank God for you.