

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Rev. Russ Gonzales, delegates, and friends of the Florida District Family. As I write this report I am reminded that with God in control, we have no worries, He will see us through our journey in life and ministry.

In this eleventh year in office, I have continued working toward our mission to multiply disciples, servant leaders and churches.

MULTIPLICATION OF BELIEVERS

I praise God for the many people who came to Christ this past year. Our churches reported 515 salvations, and 163 baptisms. Our average worship attendance was 3,338. God is building His church and we praise the Lord for the harvest of souls.

MULTIPLICATION OF LEADERS

Our leaders continue to develop. We have 15 students enrolled in two of our Wesleyan universities and Wesley Seminary. This past year we disbursed \$13,000 for leadership development making a nine year total of \$368,000 disbursed for our students. Giving scholarships to students attending our Wesleyan Schools and District extension courses is a Florida District priority. We are putting resources into leadership development because these leaders are the future of our district.

A new program we started for churches is helping people with their general well-being. We have established a counseling partnership with "Winning at Home Tampa Bay" led by Rev. Phil Lewis for all those Florida Wesleyans who need or desire counseling or coaching for their life. Phil Lewis says more than 60 clients from our district have used their services this past year.

A new program we started for pastors is helping with Student Loan Debt. This scholarship program in conjunction with the Thrive Initiative is helping pastors to get out of student loan debt more quickly. This first year for the program we had eight pastors take advantage of the student loan debt retirement program, while a total of 20 pastors took the opportunity of the general thrive initiative to help pastors flourish.

Some pastoral changes are taking place this year. Rev. John & Kristia Wickstrom have accepted the call to Oakridge Wesleyan Church in Largo. Rev. Eric (Toby) Allen has accepted the call to Salem Wesleyan Church in Sneads. Rev. Nowell Hardin has accepted the appointment to Savanna Church in Wesley Chapel. Rev. Arthur and Judy Baxter have accepted the appointment to Deland Wesleyan Church. Rev. Jonathan Bledsoe has accepted the appointment to Community Wesleyan Church in Pensacola. I expect these pastors to do a great job leading their churches to reach people for Christ in their community.

MULTIPLICATION OF CHURCHES

Momentum is growing in the multiplication of churches. This year we started two new Wesleyan works in the following communities: Eight Mile Rock, GB Island and Middleburg, Florida. They are church plant projects in the early stage of

development. One of these churches is English speaking and one is creole speaking. We have these pastors Raymond Simozne and Jean Mercius and their families with us today.

Overseas we have partnered with the Western District of Cuba by giving financial support to the district helping them to purchase/remodel buildings in Cuba for new Church locations. Florida pastors have preached in their churches and helped with the build out of facilities for church buildings. We have partnered with the national church in Colombia by giving financial support to help start their work on a mission outpost in the Amazon. We have partnered with the Guyanese District by giving scholarship money to the bible school students to equip them to do ministry. We also have had several churches involved in Guatemala serving those in need through Impacto Ministries.

MULTIPLICATION OF RESOURCES

Momentum is growing in support of our vision. We increased our income in the operations account from \$610,000 to \$644,000. We also had a good year in our multiplication fund with \$183,000 coming in. God has provided for our vision in amazing ways.

I want to thank all of our donors for their generosity toward the District mission to multiply disciples, servant leaders, and churches.

SUMMARY

Our mission is to fulfill the Great Commission in the Spirit of the Great Commandment. Our Multiplication movement focuses on multiplying disciples, servant leaders and churches throughout the Florida District and beyond. Fanning the flame for multiplication through changed lives and disciple making for God's glory is who we are as a district team. I hope all who connect with us will recognize the Florida District as a culture which brings freedom and life to those we serve.

I thank you for allowing me to serve as your leader. I give God the glory for the great things He has done among us. I also believe there are greater things yet to come for the Florida District as we continue to follow God. May God bless you all as we work together for the cause of His Kingdom!

Rev. Patrick Styers

Florida District Superintendent

DISTRICT MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

- Led district conference
- Led a new pastor's orientation meeting
- Led a pastor's team meeting
- Participated in an ordination service
- Met with all lead (sr./solo) pastors individually for a half day of dialogue
- Toured all local church property in Florida District within the conference year
- Chaired six (6) DBA meetings
- Chaired one (1) investment committee meeting
- Chaired one (1) nominating committee meeting
- Chaired one (1) budget committee meeting
- Participated in four (4) DBMD meetings
- Participated in four (4) conference planning committee meetings
- Participated in one (1) spiritual formation committee meeting
- Chaired three (3) pastoral reviews
- Participated in five (5) pastoral searches
- Led three (3) local church meetings
- Led three (3) local board meetings
- Preached in four (4) local church services
- Participated in youth and children's camp
- Participated in the men's retreat
- Led six (6) planter and pastor mentoring meetings
- Participated in three (3) church grand opening services
- Conducted three (3) pastoral installation services
- Participated in one (1) Hispanic pastors meeting
- Participated in one (1) Haitian pastors meeting
- Led connection and communication efforts for hurricane recovery in the Florida district

DENOMINATIONAL OR AT LARGE MEETINGS

- Participated in the DS Institute
- Participated in The Gathering
- Participated in eight (8) DS zoom meetings
- Participated in two (2) Regional DS Meetings
- Participated in One (1) Wesleyan Education Council trustees meeting
- Participated in one (1) Southern Wesleyan University religion department meeting
- Participated in two (2) Southern Wesleyan University Board of Trustees Meetings
- Participated in two (2) Kingswood University Board of Trustees Meetings
- Participated in three (3) USF Task Force meetings
- Participated in one (1) Wesleyan Holiness Connection steering committee meeting
- Participated in three (3) Wesleyan Holiness Connection regional meetings
- Participated in Exponential Conference for planters & sponsoring agencies

LEGAL TRANSACTIONS

- Signed a contract for purchase for a Keystone Heights property
- Signed a contract for purchase for a Land O Lakes property
- Signed an agreement to convey property to us in Lorida
- Signed a contract for sale on a Port Charlotte property
- Signed a contract for sale on the Leesburg property
- Signed one (1) cooperative use agreement at the Bonita Springs property

CREDENTIALS TRANSFERRED OUT

- Carey Sanders-Ordained Minister-Pacific Southwest

CREDENTIALS TRANSFERRED IN

- Barry Goodman-Ordained Minister- Indiana South
- Ray Seldon-Ordained Minister-Shenandoah
- James Leininger-Commissioned Minister- Western PA
- Joseph Liddick-Ordained Minister-Central N.Y.
- Janet Bernard-Ordained Minister-Caribbean General Conference
- Donald Bernard-Ordained Minister-Caribbean General Conference
- Daniel Orshaw-Ordained Minister-Chesapeake
- John Wickstrom-Ordained Minister- Great Lakes
- Kristia Wickstrom-Ordained Minister-Great Lakes
- Daniel Lemke-Ordained Minister-Greater Ohio
- Eric Allen-Ordained Minister-Greater Ohio
- Jason Page-Reinstatement Ordained Minister-Shenandoah

VOLUNTARILY WITHDRAWN

- Lee Carnahan-Commissioned Minister