

EASTERN REGION OF THE MISSIONARY CHURCH

REGIONAL DIRECTOR & REGIONAL OVERSIGHT COUNCIL SECRETARY COMBINED REPORT 2024

October 18-19, 2024

The Eastern Regional Conference theme for 2024 is “Many Generations, One Outpouring”. At last year’s conference we agreed to pray this prayer: “May Jesus reveal Himself to each of us, our cultures, our cities, and our churches. May we passionately follow His ways, obey His words, and be useful in His work. May our Region represent Jesus well”. At the last conference, we sent each other out with this prayer in mind.

All glory to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! God has answered this prayer as we have been deployed across the Eastern US to make disciples of Jesus Christ and to serve the Church. Our conference celebrates the harvest work that this region of churches and leaders have seen accomplished in 2024. We truly are many generations dependent on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on our lives and ministries.

-- Jeff Getz, Regional Director

REGIONAL DIRECTOR’S REPORT

IN 2024, I HAVE INVESTED IN PROJECTS AND PRIORITIES SUCH AS:

1. Re-aligned staff and board responsibilities around the leadership structure adopted at 2023 conference, spreading responsibilities to Ministry Leadership Team members and to the Regional Oversight Council. The Regional Oversight Council has moved to focus on organizational matters, while our Ministry Leadership Team utilizes the leadership gifts of women and men who represent each of the five relational districts and focus on collaboration and community within geographical proximity. Transition of most administrative aspects to Marcos Crespo Sr. is freeing me to be more engaged with Connection leaders, church planting, new ministries, leadership development, and do other catalytic activity. The official handoff of most administrative responsibilities to Marcos Crespo Sr. (Regional Administrator - 20 hr/week) occurred on June 1, 2024. Other responsibilities have been assigned to our admin assistant, Rosa Reyes (12hr/week). This allows me to work with more leaders who are doing apostolic work, yielding desired results as seen in number of emerging parenting churches, incoming churches/church plants, and in numbers of new/young leaders
2. Re-designed Regional Conference format and Seminar Saturday with relevant training tracks: this year will be the first year where we feature children’s ministry seminars, church administration seminars
3. Initiated new staff: Heidi Foreman (director of communications)
4. Fully transitioned to our geographical "Connections" have their own leadership, community-building events, pastoral care, strong relationships between pastors and churches to help us overcome our geographical expanse. Each Connection will assume responsibility for the care and community to pastors/women of ministry in their geographical area, as well as increasing communication, assisting in crises, and planning ways to collaborate in mission.
5. Assisted various leaders through religious worker visa processes and related projects
6. Coached church planters, recruited prospective churches, guided incoming churches, connected with ministries and DMC’s, and served on the Missionary Church’s Church Multiplication Task Force, finding ways to better coach, train, and resource church plants and multiplying churches.
7. Attended The Evangelical Church conference; officially welcomed four Evangelical Churches and onboarded them into the Missionary Church Inc.
8. Invested time in the start-up of BU@ImmergeNetwork, a virtual site of Bethel University
9. Mentored young leaders from ERMIC churches as an example that each church pastor should prioritize raising up the next generation of disciple makers/young leaders (2 Timothy 2:2). We are seeing incredible disciple making passion among our emerging leaders.

IN 2025, I COMMIT TO LEAD US TO PRAY AND WORK TOGETHER TOWARD THE FOLLOWING:

1. **CLARIFYING OUR VISION THROUGH CONCERTED PRAYER** -- Viewing our future together (vision) through concerted prayer; seeking a unified commitment and shared expectation of what God wants to do through us, especially around the following “possible prayers”.

PRAYER 1 -- FOR EVERY STATE -- Pray that, by October 2025, we have at least 3 churches in each state on our Region that currently have no churches: Maine (no churches) Vermont (no churches) New Hampshire (no churches) Upstate New York (no churches) Maryland (one church plant) Rhode Island (no churches) and Connecticut (two new churches).

PRAYER 2 -- FOR APOSTOLIC TEAMS TO EMERGE ACROSS THE EAST COAST -- Pray that, by October of 2025, we are partnering with at least one apostolic leader (a multiplication-minded leader who raises up and sends out leaders and churches to reach an area) in each major language group in each Connection.

PRAYER 3 -- FOR EVERY CHURCH’S ROLE IN CHURCH MULTIPLICATION -- Pray that, by October of 2025, every single local church has discovered and is engaged in one of the following roles in multiplying new churches and ministries: parenting a daughter church, sending out people or leaders to plant a new church, providing strong financial support to a new church, praying regularly for the church multiplication efforts of the ERMC, or opening their facility to host another church (in different language, for example)

PRAYER 4 -- FOR CHURCHES TO HAVE “ADDED TO THEIR NUMBERS DAILY” -- Pray that, by October of 2026, the 64 current organized churches, recognized church plants, disciple making communities and ministries that call ERMC their Tribe would multiply to be 100 in number.

PRAYER 5 -- FOR REGIONAL GROWTH AND EMERGENCE OF MINISTRY IN DISTRICTS -- Pray that, by October of 2026, each of our 5 Connections would grow to include 15-20 churches each, and that they would be led by separate teams to provide a higher level of care and community for each other and eventually be more effective at doing what the Region strains to do now (eventually organizing into Districts within one Region)

PRAYER 6 -- FOR CHURCHES TO BLESS EACH OTHER FINANCIALLY THROUGH GIVING TO THE REGION -- Pray that, by October of 2026, 100% of our churches are keeping their commitment to share 5% of their financial resources with each other through the Region. As we grow in number of churches and increase in expenses, our purposeful “spend-down” of investments and savings will need to be replaced by an increase in the churches’ “Investment in Shared Ministry” if we are to maintain the staff who currently serve us.

PRAYER 7 -- TO RAISE UP THE NEXT GENERATION OF DISCIPLE MAKERS -- If we make disciples, some of those will be young, some old, some male, some female, some will plant churches, some of those disciples will reach new towns, some of those disciples will multiply leaders, some of those disciples will sacrifice financially, some of those disciples will oversee groups of churches, some of those disciples will be sent as missionaries. Everything in the six prayers above must flow from disciple making.

2. **CONNECTIONS DEVELOPMENT** – Our geographical Connections are at very different points in their development and have immediate needs to address. Each Connection will soon have a team in place to plan Care, Community, and Collaboration between local churches of that geographical Connection.
3. **NEXT GEN MINISTRY** - Developing our NextGen Ministry (Youth Directors, Children’s Ministry Leaders, and Young Adult Ministry leaders) is our calling. Our NextGen Directors Marcos and Mary Crespo Jr. will assist each Connection to discover how that Connection will equip and build peer community among local church NextGen leaders. A Children’s Ministry seminar track at our conference led by Jeff Weldon (Belonging CC) will kickstart the resourcing of our local church’s children’s ministry leaders.
4. **WOMEN OF MINISTRY EXPANSION**– We are transitioning our regional Women of Ministry Initiative to be led within each Connection. Aurea Marciano and I believe we cannot, as a broad Region, connect and care for our women of ministry like they deserve (female pastors and leaders and wives of pastors)

5. **CHURCH MULTIPLICATION** -- With the help of the MC's Church Multiplication Task Force to develop a stronger coaching/support system for pastors, church planters, multiplying churches, and disciple makers
6. **WORKING WITH OTHER REGIONS** -- Collaborate with other MC regions such as Connect Region and Building Bridges Network which have churches in proximity to our churches.
7. **NATIONAL AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS** -- Raising local church participation levels in the Missionary Church's national and global work such as: World Partners, WP Latino, MC Investment Foundation, and other denominational initiatives including promoting opportunities to serve and give to national church planting and humanitarian relief.
8. **BETHEL UNIVERSITY** -- Emphasizing Bethel University as the university to be considered first by our prospective college students, and offering virtual university through BU@ImmergeNetwork

REGIONAL OVERSIGHT COUNCIL'S (ROC)/BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Ron Eade, ROC Secretary, reports the following official activities of the ERMCA Regional Oversight Council, which held three Board meetings (January 22, June 17, September 23) as well as conducted many other business actions digitally.

CERTIFICATION OF CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES: The ROC certified an official list of churches, ministries, and disciple making communities using new categorizations and presented this to MC as of June 17, 2024

CLASSIFICATION OF CHURCHES AND MINISTRIES: The ROC carefully reviewed and ratified the classifications of each of our churches, as per new denominational requirements:

“Churches” will either be: “Congregational” or “Disciple Making Hubs” (three DMC's under MC leader)

“Ministries” are entities such as non-profits, community-serving, mental health, non-profits, parachurch.

“Disciple Making Communities (DMCs)” are single groups for disciple making, such as a cell/house church.

MANDATORY ATTENDANCE/CHURCH REPRESENTATIVE POLICY: The following policy was adopted regarding the MC Constitution requirement for all credentialed pastors to attend Regional Conference:

- 1) all credentialed leaders are required to attend unless excused in writing by Regional Director
- 2) even if the lead pastor has an excused absence, the church must send someone to represent the church
- 3) the Regional Director must inform credentialed leaders who missed the past two conferences that they must attend the next regional conference if they want to keep their minister's credentials
- 4) the ROC requests that each church send at least one official delegate in addition to credentialed pastors

CHURCHES -- Actions taken related to churches:

Approved Iglesia Visión de lo Alto of Lake Worth, FL as full-member Missionary Church

Received churches from The Evangelical Church at their final conference on May 4, 2024:

New Beginning Evangelical Church, Youngwood, PA

Sawyer Evangelical Church, Bradford PA

Trinity Evangelical Fellowship, Mapleton Depot PA (Huntington County)

Turtlepoint Evangelical Church, Turtlepoint PA (McKean County)

Approved World Family Church of Stamford, Connecticut as a full-member Missionary Church

Approved Naugatuck Family Church of Naugatuck, Connecticut as a full-member Missionary Church

Assigned Igreja Batista Peniel to regional governance according to the MC Constitution

Belonging Community Church recognized as our first Church Plant in Maryland

CREDENTIALS -- Actions related to ministerial credentials:

Approved for Ordination: Marcos Crespo, Jr.

Approved for Ministerial License: Adriana Ferreira, Ulisses Moreira, Brooke Palmer, Marcos Augusto

Recognition of ministerial credentials from The Evangelical Church denomination:

Rob Rosenbaum, Homer Williams, Anthony Edgell, Adam Morgan; Stan Morgan (Special Ministry License)

GENERAL ACTIONS taken by the Regional Oversight Council:

The Boston Mission District is now officially called the New England Connection.
Marcos Crespo, Jr. was appointed NextGen Ministry Director
Budget 2025 was proposed to the Regional Conference via email
Ballot (w/8 nominees for ROC members-at-large with the goal of electing 4) was proposed via email
Approved names for appointment to serve on a Finance Team
Approved that Homer Williams (Sawyer Ev.Ch.) be asked to serve in advisory ROC role for purpose of representing The Evangelical Churches who joined the ERMCM.

RELIGIOUS WORKER VISAS -- A standing committee comprising Tulio Abel de Sousa and Cleonir Rabelo was tasked to review these matters and to advise the Regional Director. In the meantime, the Region will not sponsor anyone for I-129 (R-1) visas unless they are connected to an approved Missionary Church project and they are able to financially support the required salary without depending upon Regional or denominational funding.

FINANCIAL UPDATE and the 2025 PROPOSED BUDGET EXPLANATION:

Investment in Shared Ministry (ISM 5%) – With a deficit in our 2024 budget that exceeds our Planned Spend-down of investments, the ROC will be more proactive about motivating the local churches to meet their ISM 5% giving to the ERMCM. The Regional leadership desires to present a positive message regarding 5%ISM information and achieve broader participation in 2025. Regional leaders will find ways for our churches to be accountable to each other, supportive of struggling churches so that they can fulfill this responsibility, celebrating the faithfulness of generous churches, and informing the Region about each church’s giving history.

We are spending our investment savings at a faster pace than expected for 2025 due to inflation costs, commitments to existing staff, increased expenses of a growing region, the economic challenges of some churches, and because some churches aren’t participating in ISM 5%. For the short-term, the ROC sees this year’s extra spending as acceptable (as our proposed budget will reflect) rather than make any immediate cuts to staff or current services. But we will review this at end of first quarter FY2025 and we will adjust our spending (including staff) if an upward giving trajectory is not attained.

The purposeful Spend-Down Plan came because of funds that we received through the sale of two properties in Pennsylvania and one in New York years ago. The ERMCM board chose to invest those funds in ministry rather than spend the money all at once or only spend the interest. At that time, it was predicted that with reasonable investment returns, we would “spend down” these funds over the course of 8-10 years. Our treasurer reported that we are now going into year 8 of this plan and still have approximately 2-3 years until it would be depleted at our typical rate of \$48,000 per year.

The ROC sees this financial concern as a matter of prayer now, and we discussed solutions that will lead to additional Investment in Shared Ministry (ISM5%) such as: more faithfulness to ISM from existing churches; creative funding ideas, support grants for church planting, and for the first-time an appeal to individual donors to see the ERMCM as missions giving. This is, most of all, an OPPORTUNITY to see God answer our prayers and provide!

The Eastern Region demonstrates that the “Many Generations, One Outpouring” can be a lived experience in this life. Many generations of disciple makers have made our current ministry possible. Many generations of harvest workers have reached our people and our nations, and we have the privilege of being the next generation of disciple makers, church planters, and churches who continue this generational movement.

Submitted by:

Jeff Getz, Regional Director

Ron Eade, Board Secretary

**ROSTER OF CHURCHES, MINISTRIES, and DMC's
(including Incoming Churches and Church Plants)**

NAME of Church/Ministry/DMC	Lead Pastor(s) or Leader	City	State	Connection
Abundant Living Ministries	John Charles	Lititz	PA	EPA
All Saints Church of God Inc	Dominique Jourdain	Westbury	NY	NY
Antioch Christian Church	Odilio Laranjeira	Armonk	NY	NY
Belonging Community Church	Brooke Palmer	Urbana	MD	EPA
Beth Shalom Church	Mauro de Freitas	Philadelphia	PA	EPA
Bethel Brazilian Missionary Church (FL)	Luiz / Ana Abreu	Coconut Creek	FL	FLSE
Brazilian Missionary Church	Paulo Marciano	Long Island City	NY	NY
Bridgehope Community Church	Trevor Chin	Paterson	NJ	NJ
Casa de Bendicion MC Bronx	Odalis Tiburcio	Bronx	NY	NY
ChineseChurch/Baltimore-English Min	Tom Tofilon	Baltimore	MD	EPA
Church International of Peace	Edson / Kelly Lima	Deerfield Beach	FL	FLSE
Clarksville Missionary Church	Charles Tracy	Clarksville	PA	WPA
Eglise de Dieu de Galilee	Joseph Marcellus	DorchesterCenter	MA	NE
Eglise Vivifiante Inc.	Prosper Dormeus	Saint Albans	NY	NY
Emanuel Church USA	Tulio Souza	Newark	NJ	NJ
Faith Fellowship	Clifford Voss	Big Run	PA	WPA
Fleetwood Bible Church	Drew Toucher	Fleetwood	PA	EPA
Fountain for the Nations/Alabama	Marcos Martins	Gulf Shores	AL	FLSE
Fountain for the Nations/New York	Almir Passoni	Mount Vernon	NY	FLSE
Frankstown Park Missionary Church	Roland Cadle	Hollidaysburg	PA	WPA
Geracao Eleita (Chosen Generation)	Jose Azevedo	Kearny	NJ	NJ
Gilbertsville PA DMC	Scott Childs	Gilbertsville	PA	EPA
Grace Fellowship Church (non-MC; guest)	Bryan Swan	Everson	PA	WPA
Haitian Missionary Church of God	Mezilvoix Lazar	Brooklyn	NY	NY
Haitian Missionary Church of God	Alcesse Mednard	Hollis	NY	NY
Hope Kingdom Church	Thiago Cavalcanti Gomes	Windermere	FL	FLSE
Hopkinton NH Disciplemaking Community	Patrick Slaven	Hopkinton	NH	NE
House of Reconciliation	Alexander Alvarado	York	PA	EPA
Iglesia Corazones Agradecidos	Caleb Colon	Eagle Lake	FL	FLSE
Iglesia Cristo Para Todas Las Naciones	Luis Sierra Rojas	Bristol	PA	EPA
Iglesia Evangelica Ministerios Getsemani	Nehemias Rodriguez Hernandez	Revere	MA	NE
Iglesia Evangelica Misionera	Emidio Payero	Lebanon	PA	EPA
Iglesia Evangelica Misionera Del Bronx	Margarita Collado	Bronx	NY	NY
Iglesia Evangelica Misionera of Brooklyn	Felipe Arias	Glendale	NY	NY
Iglesia Misionera De Jesucristo Betesda	Alvaro Luna	Methuen	MA	NE

Iglesia Resurreccion de Cristo	Adolfo Turcio	East Boston	MA	NE
Iglesia Rey dos Rey's (King of Kings Ch.)	Jose Juan Lagos	Saugus	MA	NE
Iglesia Vision de lo Alto	Kervin Gomez	Lake Worth	FL	FLSE
Igreja Batista Peniel	Mario Carneiro	Winthrop	MA	NE
Igreja Evangelical Pentecostal	Judite Biscaia	Peabody	MA	NE
Igreja Missionaria Betel	Cleonir Rabelo	East Boston	MA	NE
Igrejinha (Little Church) Kissimmee	Thiago Santos	Kissimmee	FL	FLSE
Immerge Network Inc.	Jeff Getz / Daniel Martins	Lakeland	FL	--
Jesus Restaurando Vidas	Reginaldo da Silva Bretas	Newark	NJ	NJ
Life Missionary Church	Claudiney Carvalho	Orlando	FL	FLSE
Mental Health Center	Adriana Ferreira	Union	NJ	NJ
Ministerio La Brecha	Joe Bello	Glendale	NY	NY
Ministerio para las Naciones Lluvias de Gracia	Samuel Abreu / Jesus Gonzalez	Philadelphia	PA	EPA
Missionary Church of the Living Word	Guips Noel	East Freetown	MA	NE
Mount Zion International Community	Ricardo Pereira	Harrison	NJ	NJ
Naugatuck Family Church	Ulisses Moreira	Naugatuck	CT	NY
New Beginning Evangelical Church	Rob Rosenbaum	Youngwood	PA	WPA
New Life Community Church of Altoona	Terry Farr	Altoona	PA	WPA
New Life Missionary Church	Widclef Marcellus	Goldsboro	NC	FLSE
Oasis Missionary Church	Josue Colon	Easton	PA	EPA
Primera de Corintios 13	Edwin Colon	Allentown	PA	EPA
Redemption Baptist Church	Gladimir LaForest	Randolph	MA	NE
Sawyer Evangelical Church	Homer Williams	Bradford	PA	WPA
Synago 31st Street House of Worship	Richard Shingler	Altoona	PA	WPA
The Table - Lancaster County	John Viselli	Mt Joy	PA	EPA
Trinity Evangelical Fellowship	Stan Morgan	Mapleton Depot	PA	WPA
Turtlepoint Evangelical Church	Anthony Edgell	Turtlepoint	PA	WPA
Upper Room Missionary Church	Kenneth Gibson	York	PA	EPA
Walpole MA Disciple Making Community	Marcelo Calado	Walpole	MA	NE
West Loop Missionary Church	David Foor	Hollidaysburg	PA	WPA
World Family Church	Marcos Augusto	Stamford	CT	NY