

Dear Beloved Disciples of North Carolina,



I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. — Philippians 1:3-5

As we stand on the threshold of 2026, I am filled with a profound sense of gratitude and awe for the spirit of faithfulness that defines our Region. Looking back on 2025, it is clear that your devotion has been the bedrock of our shared mission. Because of your prayers, your presence, and your generous support, we have not only sustained our ministries—we have seen them flourish.

This past year was marked by milestones that will resonate for years to come. Together, we:

- **Gathered in Spirit:** We successfully hosted a meaningful 177th Regional Assembly, reconnecting our "covenantal community" in worship and discernment, as we became a Green Chalice Region.
- **Nurtured the Future:** Our youth ministry retreats and camps provided sacred spaces for our young people to encounter Christ and build lifelong friendships.
- **Responded with Love:** The tireless work of our Disaster Response Team and Trauma Ministry brought tangible hope and healing to neighbors in their most vulnerable moments.
- **Cultivated Leadership:** We remained steadfast in supporting the Commission on Ministry, ensuring our leaders are equipped for commissioned and ordained ministry.
- **Pursued Justice:** We took intentional, courageous steps toward our goal of becoming an Anti-Racist and Pro-Reconciling church, while breathing life into our New and Emerging Church Ministries

One of our most significant victories this year is our **Financial Improvement**. Thanks to the diligent work of our Finance Team and Regional Board, we walk into 2026 with an approved budget that will significantly reduce our deficit. We can see our future more clearly because we have taken this big step together! This fiscal responsibility ensures that our mission is built on a solid foundation for years to come.

As we step into this new year, may you feel the warmth of God's grace in your homes and your pews. May 2026 hold a special blessing for each of you, as we continue to walk the path of discipleship together.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus in North Carolina. Happy New Year!

With Kingdom Purpose,
Bishop Valerie Melvin, Regional Minister & CEO
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in NC

Happy New Year!
2026

