

2026 Report of the Committee on Church Health and Multiplication  
To the Northeastern District and Prayer Conference  
Lockport Alliance Church, Lockport, NY  
May 4-6, 2026

*“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other, as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” – Colossians 3:12-17*

It is with great admiration and appreciation we thank David Linn and the other members of the district team: Sally Fry for her eager development of leaders, Ed Lyau for his faithfulness caring for the finances of the district, Dave “Murph” Murphy for his investment in growing leaders and mission awareness, Lisa Vogan for her passionate leadership in making and growing disciples of all ages, Melanie Thornton for her committed service to the administrative details, Terri Groh for her loving leadership of Alliance Women in the district, and John Coykendal for his willingness to step up to lead the men’s ministry of the district. Thank you all for leading the district family with compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. We thank God for your wise and selfless servant leadership. Each of you have been examples to us through your intentional relationship building, mentoring, coaching and general accessibility. In your own ways your ministries have greatly impacted the team and the District.

Dave, the Northeastern District has become a place where we are “making growth happen by engaging everyone as a full ministry partner” because you have been faithful and obedient to God, willing to serve, and open to thinking outside of the traditional ministry boxes. You have been a stable encourager for us as you modeled meekness, patience, humility, serving, optimism for growth, working with others, deep intentionality, care for leaders, and community building within the District family. Thank you for the ways you have sought to empower women, and develop leaders both young and old, create more pathways to onboard new leaders, and to make ministry happen and grow. We are a stronger, more loving and unified district family as a result.

We celebrate the growth seen under the district team’s leadership: the 200 women who came to Christ through Alliance Women the past ten years; the 800 professions of faith and 845 baptisms since District Conference 2024; the growth in giving to the GCF totaling almost \$3,000,000; the wise leadership & good stewardship of district funds investing in the growth of leaders, churches, missions and the Kingdom of God.

Finally, it is with sadness & joy, prayer & blessing that we send Dave, Barb and Sally off to plant a new church in West Virginia. May the Lord bless you and keep you as you take the gospel to those who have yet to receive it. And, as the delegates of the Northeastern District of The Christian & Missionary Alliance will be electing the next district superintendent on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, we as a committee, offer encouragement to the district superintendent and team yet to be named. Our prayer is for the district family to receive you as God's appointed leader for the Northeastern District, and we look forward to following you and your team in continuing to "*do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him*".

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Richard E. Sheets, secretary  
Rev. James "PJ" E. Bogoniewski, Jr., chairman