

**Southern Conference Annual Meeting  
Franklinton Center at Bricks  
Eastern North Carolina Association President's Report  
September 17-18, 2010**

The Eastern North Carolina Association (ENCA) held its forty-third annual meeting October 10, 2009 at Community Congregational United Church of Christ in Southern Pines. This was a joyous day as we celebrated our theme, "Abundance is in the Movement," from I Kings 17:8 –16, our youth preformed a dramatization of the scripture by bringing forth grain and oil to the altar. There were great workshops on Leadership Development, Financial 101, Polity and Identity, and Abundance & Scarcity.

I am approaching the end of my first year as President of ENCA, and I can truly say, this has been an exciting and challenging experience. I am excited to be working for the Association and to represent ENCA on the Southern Conference Board of Directors and their Executive Committee. With the resignation of our conference minister came a great challenge to find a temporary Interim Conference Minister and an Intentional Interim Conference Minister. After many meetings, it was decided that we would not hire an Intentional Conference Minister at this time, but hire a Consultant to help us discern how do we, as a Conference, move forward?

This year, the Reverends Phil Hardy and K. Ray Hill, part-time Area Conference Ministers, completed their assignments with the Association. We are very grateful to Phil and K. Ray who served us out of their love and passion for the Association. During this transition, the Reverend Vertie Powers was reinstated to her full time position as Association Conference Minister. This has truly been a year of ups and downs for the local churches, the association, and the conference with several changes in staffing and salaries. As a result of our weak economy, Reverend Powers' position is split as follows: 75% of her time as ACM and supports the Conference 25%. This is a temporary position that began July 1, 2010 and ends June 2011.

Yes, there were many challenges, but in spite of it all, we are still doing ministry and I continue to be excited about the things that are happening in ENCA.

- Five persons have been ordained into Christian Ministry and seven have been installed as pastors.
- Two new church starts, a Hispanic congregation in Sanford, NC and an African American congregation in Durham, NC.
- A new church start, Word of Life, will be submitted to the ENCA annual gathering for full standing within the Association.

- We will continue to strengthen our relationship with the local churches by improving our communication with our Pastors and Champions, who are lay persons.
- We will continue to provide assistance in preparing individuals and congregations to identify their specific calls to ministries and look for ways to be partners in the covenantal process.
- We endeavor to continue to provide the necessary counseling to congregations who are in conflict.
- We initiated a new program to conduct training sessions each quarter.
  - We began with Deacon's training in the Henderson program district.
  - A gathering for new pastors and their spouses or partners was held in March at Pilgrim UCC. This was a time for food, conversation, and a presentation of who we are as the Association and Conference. It also afforded the pastors the opportunity to get acquainted with other persons they normally would not come in contact with because of geographic locations.
  - A Boundary Training Workshop will be held on September 21, 2010, for all ordained, commissioned, and licensed pastors.
  - We are planning a gathering for Chaplains later this year.

When I reflect over this past year, I see God's hand moving within this Association. God gives us people with numerous gifts and talents that enable us to do ministry in the local church, the association, and the conference. I would like to say thanks to the staff and the ENCA Board of Directors for your continued prayers and support.

I pray God's continued blessing on each of you.

Reverend Yvonne E. Riddick  
President,  
Eastern North Carolina Association