



SIEZE THE DAY

Discipleship. Arctic Missions. Youth.

Alyeskan

News & Views for Alaska's Seventh-day Adventists

LOOKING UP

2020 | Issue 2

Hope In A Time Of Crisis

Kevin Miller, President



Kevin Miller

Who could have guessed what this last year was going to be like? Who could have thought that in a matter of weeks, life as we know it was upended and new realities set in due to a virus? Who could have predicted the polarizing effect this unseen enemy would have on us? And who can lead us out of it? There is only one answer and that "who" is Christ Jesus.

When we look back, we can see His tracks through our lives and experiences. As we reflect on where we've been and where we are, we can hear His still small voice encouraging us to continue the journey. Our turbulent world is no surprise or overload for Jesus. As we continue to follow Him, He is handling it and taking us with Him as we allow Him to. The enduring saints (Rev 14:12) do not waiver in their adherence to Christ.

That is why we look forward to 2021. We cannot see what it will bring other than new opportunities and experiences with Jesus. We are planning on camp meetings, a ministry convention, enhancing our media platforms, and spotlighting evangelism and outreach. We realize that contingency plans may be enacted due to changing circumstances, requiring us to remain flexible yet engaged.

We hold on to this promise that the Lord is not slack concerning His promise.

Beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

2 Peter 3:8-9

We know He still has all things, including us and our plans for the future, well within His purview. He will not let us go as evidenced through this last year. We can look with anticipation to the future.

Does that mean it will be easy or revert back to where we were? That seems unlikely, but we will continue drawing nearer to the moment when Jesus Himself welcomes us home. He will roll up this sin-wracked planet and usher us into a new reality that will wash away this one. He has promised He will rescue us.

Until that moment, He calls us to continue the mission here. That mission is simply to love one another while getting the Word out that He loves the people of this world and that He's personally returning for those who accept His invitation of grace.

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Growing Disciples For Christ

Melvin Santos, Vice-President of Administration

I am excited to share new goals and strategic objectives for next year and beyond in five areas of discipleship: leadership development, networking & collaboration, Kingdom growth, training and resources, and church planting.

Leadership and Mentoring

Our focus is setting up a new culture and understanding of what it really means to be a disciple of Jesus and the responsibilities and expectations of being one. This means working on leadership development and reaching Alaska churches with Discipleship Master Plan (DMP) training. Our target is to reach 75% of our churches with the DMP TRAINING PHASE. Parts I & II focuses on changing the operating system and laying the foundation. Part III is the coaching phase in developing leadership and mentoring in every aspect of church ministry.

Networking & Collaboration

Another goal is to improve networking and integration of disciple-making ministries for our young people within the church, school and family settings. We want to bridge this gap and provide opportunities for pastors and teachers to collaborate with families in mentoring their children for spiritual success.

Kingdom Growth

The third goal is to increase the percentage of active members involved in soul-winning by 10% per year. By 2024, we hope to realize

an increase of 40% in active membership! That's right, we want more effective players engaged in expanding God's Kingdom. Don't expect mass evangelism, but an increase of Holy Spirit-filled Christians intentionally winning family and friends for Jesus.

Training and Resources

Our fourth goal is to develop digital and online training platforms, resources and opportunities. This is especially vital during the COVID-19 pandemic. Faced with having to work within the confines of travel restrictions and limited large gatherings, the conference is working to develop digital training in the DMP curriculum to be accessible via online, DVDs, or smart phones. An array of modules on practical Christianity will include *Helping People Develop a Deeper Walk with Jesus*, *How to be Effective in Winning Your Family and Friends for Jesus*, and *How to Help Your Church Grow!*

Church Planting

The final area of discipleship development is to provide church planting education and training. The end goal is to plant mission groups within populated areas and Arctic regions on a regular basis. We want to cultivate healthy DNA in churches that will plant new groups and then complete the process by growing Alaska mission groups and church companies to full church status.



Melvin Santos

ALASKA CONFERENCE 2021 CALENDAR SNAPSHOT

December 3, 2020 Town Hall	February 10-11, 2021 AMA Workshop New In Ministry	March 26-28, 2021 Bethel Camp Meeting	May 16, 2021 ACEC	June 27-July 3, 2021 Camp Tuk Juniors
December 13, 2020 ACEC	February 19-21, 2021 Nome Camp Meeting	April 9-11, 2021 Barrow Camp Meeting	May 21-23, 2021 Alaska Ministry Convention	July 4-10, 2021 Teen xTreme
January 12, 2021 Conference Town Hall	March 12-14, 2021 Bristol Bay Camp Meeting	April 13, 2021 Town Hall	May 29, 2021 Annual AMA Offering	July 6, 2021 Town Hall
January 22-23, 2021 Elders Meetings	March 25, 2021 Board of Education	April 24, 2021 Youth Prayer Conference	May 30-June 5 2021 Camp Cresendo	July 11-17, 2021 Camp Polaris
January 24, 2021 ACEC	March 26-28, 2021 Bethel Camp Meeting	April 30-May 2, 2021 St Lawrence Camp Mtg	June 6-26, 2021 YA Disciple Trek	July 15-18, 2021 Alaska Men's Retreat
February 7-9, 2021 Pastors & Teachers Meeting		April 3-5, 2021 Conference Team Planning	June 20-26 2021 Alaska Camps Staff Trng	July 20-24, 2021 Southcentral Camp Mtg

Time To Shine

Jim Jensen, Vice-President of Treasury

Isn't it amazing that we were all created differently? Every creature on this planet was deliberately shaped by God and has a particular role to play. Animals are a perfect example of this; some run, some hop, some swim and some fly. The same is true for humans. Each of us is uniquely designed, or "shaped" to do certain things. The bible says we are "wonderfully complex." A beautiful combination of spiritual gifts, heart values, abilities, personality and experiences. If we can begin to identify and understand the things that make us US, we can begin to discover God's will for our lives. You are the way you are because you were made for a specific purpose. So embrace the things that make you different, lean in to the things that make you stand out and ask yourself: How can I use my unique SHAPE to share God with people?

-Leah Wolfgramm

The Bible also talks about how God's people will be known. It is how we work together and treat each other, no matter who our fellow church member voted for in the election. How do we support each other in a church setting? I found notes from a generation or two ago and they contained the following types of phrases:

"You don't know how much your visit meant to each of us."

"The courage with which you are facing your difficulties is an inspiration to all of us."

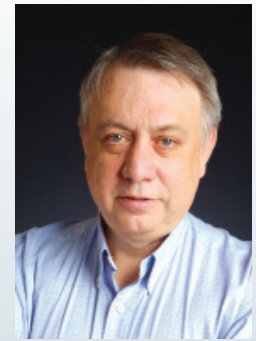
"Have I told you lately what a wonderful person you are? Never forget how much your friends and family love and admire you."

Who would not love to be part of a church team with cheerleaders like that? Of course this must be sincere, but many times I hold back making that type of comment because I think it sounds too corny.

There is an old story from the University of Wisconsin. A group of brilliant young men gathered to read a story or essay they had written and submit it to the group for criticism. Each offering was mercilessly dissected. They dubbed themselves, "The Stranglers."

Naturally the ladies formed a comparable group which they called, "The Wranglers," They too read their manuscripts to one another, but they hunted for kind things to say; all efforts were encouraged. Twenty years later, when an Alumnus made an analysis of his classmates careers, not one of the Stranglers had made any kind of literary career. Out of the Wranglers, there were half-a-dozen successful writers including Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings who wrote, "The Yearling."

Continued on Page 10



Jim Jensen

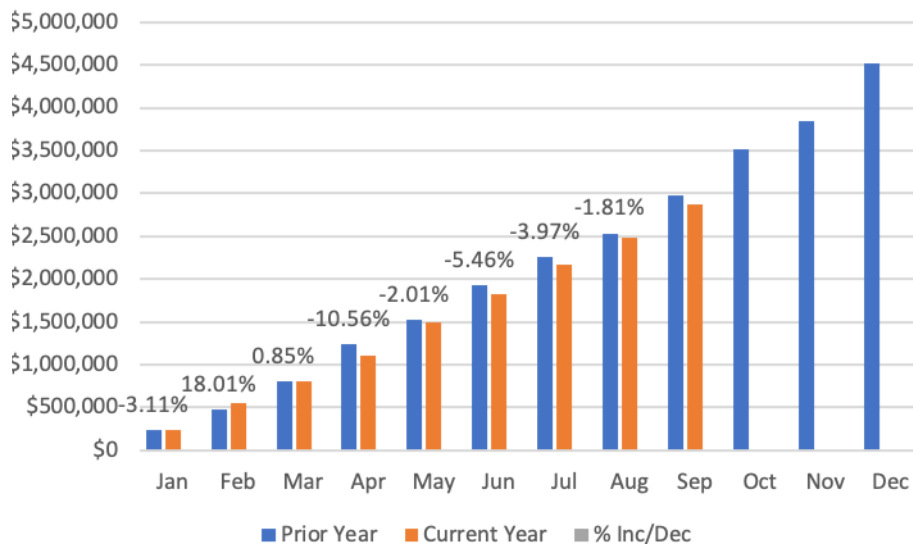
A CHALLENGE

Tithe around the conference for September was down -13% which means adjusted year-to-date tithe is down -3.48%. It is not great, but still a blessing. A big **THANK YOU** to all who have remained faithful during this pandemic.

Here is a challenge to those who have not partnered with God in the past. He is a promise keeper. His instructions to us for tithe and offerings are not for His benefit or even for the benefit of the church. It is designed to remind us to trust God in every area of our lives. He wants each of us to have a part in helping others. Following God's instructions in this area is one of the best tools He has to change a heart. This is a long process that will not be completed until heaven. Hopefully as each of us look back on our lives, it won't be a straight line, but it will be a long obedience in the same direction. Keep looking up!

CONFERENCE YEAR-TO-DATE TITHE

Current vs. Prior Year





U-Neat And In-Creatable Ministry

Tobin Dodge, Director of AMA, Radio & Youth/Young Adults

As I look to 2021, I am excited about the opportunities, yet if I'm honest, a bit concerned with the climate and culture as it relates to my areas of ministry. One of the biggest things we learned in 2020 was that, "WE TRULY NEED EACH OTHER" (if, somehow, we had forgotten...). The idea of being separated, social distanced and for many in a constant state of fear is not healthy. We experienced a huge increase in depression and suicides during the lockdowns and isolations. Our young people having to be separated from school, routines and friends is extremely difficult on their state of mental health.

For this reason and many more, we are planning to do ministry in a modified way so that unless there are serious "handcuffs" put on, we will be doing some "U-neat" and "In-Cre-ate-able" ministry especially targeted to the youth and young adults.

Young Adults

We have five churches that have signed up with *Growing Young Adventist* as part of the intentional focus on our young adults. It is crucial that we pray and support our local churches, pastors, teachers and Arctic Mission Adventure (AMA) workers on the front lines of ministry here in Alaska. Feel free to reach out and pray for them as well as send care packages or notes of love and encouragement to everyone in ministry in the Alaska territory.

Alaska Camps

Our summer camp programs, both resident & day, are planning to run all camps, but differently because of the recommendations that should keep us from receiving a lawsuit related to the Corona-crazy, sue-happy culture we live in. Don't expect to be able to go back to "NORMAL" as we were accustomed to anytime in the near future. I believe ministry to our youth

is paramount and possible even in these challenging times. Specific details will be out Spring of 2021.

Radio

Radio broadcasting continues to expand on the vision of spreading the love of Jesus through targeted radio stations in villages and cities where it can have the greatest impact. As funds are available, the radio network plans to expand to additional villages to grow the Kingdom of God even though we may not have an Adventist presence in the community. By 2024, we plan to bring online six additional stations already in process and fund a few more that have submitted requests.

Pathfinders

Even though Pathfinders is a branch of youth ministries, it is necessary to grow the leaders and young people within the program. Pathfinders has a character development curriculum built-in that challenges both the youth and the leaders to grow in the knowledge of and experience with God to make it personal and bless others on the journey. This is something our area coordinators both celebrate and demonstrate while blessing those they lead. We plan to grow more leaders and involve more young people in order to double active Pathfinder participation by 2024.

Arctic Mission Adventure

AMA has a variety of ministry blessings and opportunities for growth. In the current climate of travel challenges and quarantines, our AMA ministers in the Bush have to be creative to continue to bring the hope that is in Jesus and the blessings of ministry to people both young and old! The conference plans to fund and fill all vacant positions while developing a strategy to grow the work in the Bush.



Tobin Dodge

JOIN OUR REMOTE SABBATH SCHOOL CLASS!
Sabbath Mornings at 9:30 a.m.
1-800-719-6100 | Access Code: 4760107

Reaching The Mission Field In Bush Alaska

Tandi Perkins, Director of Development

Conference administration identified a need for a full-time fundraiser during the 2016 Alaska Conference Leadership Retreat. After almost two years of candidate recruitment, I was hired in February 2018 to serve as the director of development for the conference. My primary task was to raise awareness and funds for AMA and financially stabilize the down trending ministry. Secondly, I was tasked to consult other conference church entities with their fundraising efforts.

Many appreciate how unique AMA is within the Alaska Conference with its spiritual, physical and community outreach within Alaska Native villages. However, many do not know that AMA is 100% donor supported. I believe that God called me to Alaska to open just a small window into the lives of our Bible workers and the lives of our Alaska Native communities. Through stories, video, and testimonials, we are reaching out beyond Alaska, into the Lower 48 and all around the world, showing that there is a mission field in Alaska and that God is moving and changing lives in this mission field.

Each year, it is vital that we raise \$400,000 to make AMA financially sustainable. This covers two ministry functions: operations (\$300,000) and programs (\$100,000). It is very costly to keep our Bible workers and parsonages/churches supported in remote Alaska. Heat, electricity, travel, worker wages and parsonage upkeep are just a few things that are covered by our operational budget. Through donations, our AMA partners have supported Alaska Native community programs such as food and clothing resources, church planting, Vacation Bible Schools and summer camp programs, and a venue for survivors of sexual abuse in Anchorage and Nome.

Over the past two years, God has richly blessed us through our donors. In 2018 and 2019, donations to AMA increased 144% and 265% over 2017, respectively. Likewise, donations for 2019 were 49% higher than in 2018 (Fig. 1.). The number of donors giving to AMA increased 75%

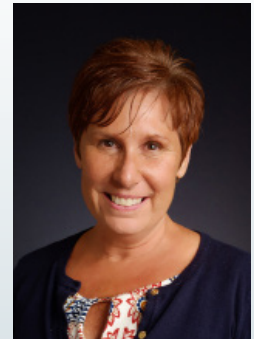
from 96, in 2018 to 168, in 2019. Finally, the number of churches that adopted a village in 2018 doubled in 2019 (four and eight, respectively).

Donations during the first eight months of 2020 have been affected by COVID-19 and to-date, we will need to raise \$100,000 to reach our sustainability goal. As we move into year-end giving, we ask that you prayerfully commit to financially supporting AMA and keep the Gospel of Jesus Christ touching those in our Native villages.

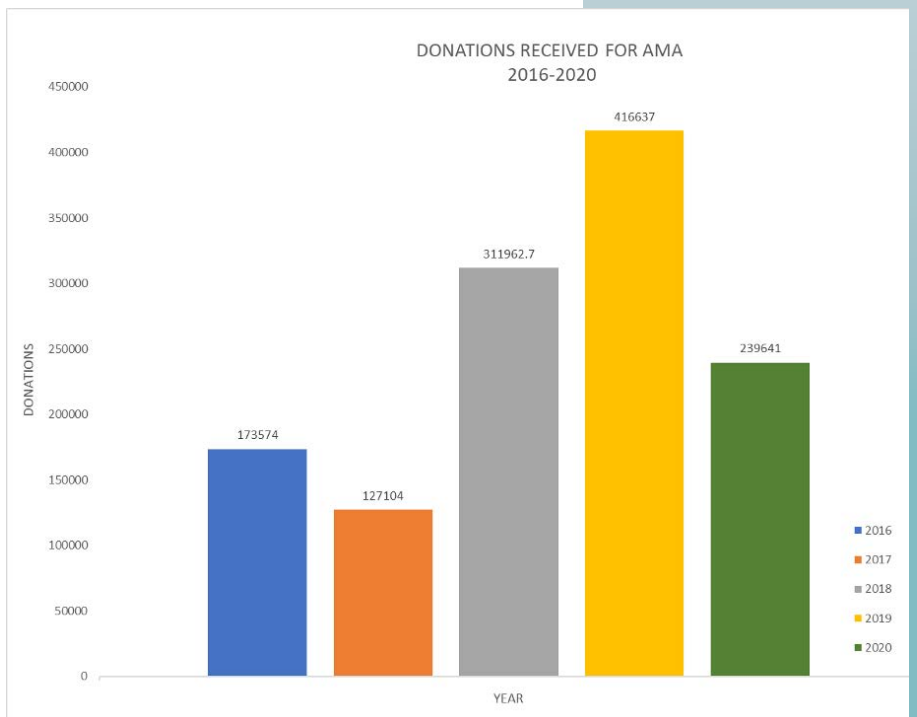
Strategic Planning for Development

As we move forward into the new year, I will continue to work towards building sustainability and growth of AMA through fundraising initiatives. Specific fundraising efforts will support the goals presented in the 2020 conference strategic planning session:

- 1) Outreach to Alaska Native village communities.
- 2) Staff current AMA positions.
- 3) Operations to keep parsonage and churches open.
- 4) Support of day camps, and
- 5) Grow the number of new North American Division churches that commit to adopting an AMA Alaska Native village.



Tandis Perkins





Sharing, Strengthening & Shaping Alaska

Brenda Campbell-Johnson, Director of Communications

As a communications director, I am constantly overwhelmed with the sheer amount of technology that is at our fingertips. Social media, email, websites, texts, telephone calls, and apps galore: WhatsApp, SnapChat, and the old (by today's standards) Facebook. The list continues to grow! The conference continually evaluates current and emerging technologies to best reach our members with the standard of whatever we do, be it—evangelism, communications, camps, camp meeting—it is done with the utmost level of professionalism. The challenge is knowing when to embrace a new medium or continue with current practices.

As we look forward to a new constituency period, the focus will be on sharing stories, growing our Alaska Adventist family and continuing to shape our brand, both in the Adventist and secular communities.

Sharing Stories

Communication IS sharing stories, whether it centers around what Christ has done in someone's life, the work of the church or a successful ministry. The conference is here to connect our churches and schools, ministries and outreach. But we can't do it alone; we need you to share what is happening in your "neck of the woods" and perhaps inspire someone to launch a ministry or community project.

Strengthening Culture

Because of Alaska's geographic vastness, our members and staff often feel isolated

from fellow believers. Add the past several months of COVID-19 that has made social circles even smaller, many are experiencing an even more pronounced feeling of loneliness. We'd like to bridge this gap by providing regular, engaged contact and help bring a feeling of connectedness to our Alaska church family and the greater Adventist movement.

Shaping Our Brand

We have a great Advent message to share! It is our responsibility to present ourselves in a cohesive manner so others can easily identify this association and bring a validity to the message presented. This applies to internet content, social media, written and printed materials, direct mail as well as our physical churches and schools. The World Church has provided global identity guidelines for use by Adventist organizations so people know they are viewing Adventist materials. You can learn more by visiting identity.adventist.org.

In 2021, my focus will be enhancing communication processes that are in place: Facebook, YouTube, conference and AMA websites, and MailChimp. A major outcome from the 2020 virtual camp meeting is the expanded reach of video. As a result, the conference is creating a small, in-house studio to produce video. If your church or school has a need to create content, the studio will be available for use.

If you have a story or ideas to share, please email me at brenda.johnson@alaskaconference.org. Blessings!



Brenda Campbell Johnson

PHONE EXTENSIONS

- Kevin Miller 1011
- Melvin Santos 1012
- Jim Jensen 1013
- Tobin Dodge 1017
- Rod Rau 1018
- Tandi Perkins 1020
- JoAnn Stevens 1010
- Nita Larson 1015
- Brenda Johnson 1000

CONTACTING THE CONFERENCE

Phone

The conference office recently upgraded its phone system. With all things new, there have been challenges and we thank you for your patience. Extensions have remained the same; you can reach your party by entering the extension during the greeting.



Email

Conference emails have changed to the alaska conference domain. To reach staff at their new email, use the format: `firstname.lastname@alaskaconference.org`.



Growing Up

Steve Evenson, Ministerial Director

Growing up in an Adventist home and educated in public schools in my primary years, most of my friends were from public school. Our little Adventist church had about 30-35 members and few my age.

Each fall I looked forward to Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas. There were reasons for this: Thanksgiving and Christmas meant school was out and lots of fun community activities. Halloween meant that you could dress up like ghosts or other scary things, and get candy by asking strangers at their homes, "Trick or Treat?" No one ever asked for a trick. It was more like, "Here's the candy, now go on!" I don't know what I would have done if someone asked for a trick; probably a blank stare on my part.

Thanksgiving was a time of family, friends and food. My paternal grandma was from Norway and a good cook. She made some of the best Norwegian treats! There was one dish though that I didn't like: Lutefisk. Yuk! If you didn't eat everything in sight, Grandma would look at you with a questioning face and say with a Norwegian brogue, "What's the matter? Are you sick?" Needless to say, after a holiday meal I would lay on the floor in agony because I was too stuffed.

Christmas was another fun time of year. It seemed that after Thanksgiving the stores turned their attention to December 25. My dad would take me out to the woods where we would select a tree, cut it down, and take it home. Then we did the appropriate limbing to give the tree a shape that would be easy to decorate. The lights, tinsel, and bulbs made it look very pretty. In December of 1968, I had just started to learn to play the electric guitar and needed to plug my guitar amp into the wall between the Christmas tree and the piano. You guessed it. I bumped the tree just enough to knock it over and heard the sound of the bulbs breaking with horror. Dad wasn't home from work yet...

Ingathering also happened at Christmas. My sister and I would always be "available" to ingather. Northern Minnesota could be very cold that time of year. Ingathering, meant

going door-to-door soliciting donations and the competition was on! Who would bring in the most money for missions? After sunset, we would make our way to the church for Saturday night activities. Almost without fail, the ladies of the church would have goodies for the kids when we returned with frozen feet. Sadly, when we opened the door, we smelled trouble; someone burned the hot chocolate!

These are all fond memories of my childhood. Who would have thought then that Halloween and Christmas weren't what I thought they were? But Thanksgiving was truly a delight with real meaning.

Halloween is the biggest cover up in modern history. The greatest event in the last 500+ years in the Protestant world would be masked by ghosts and goblins, and little kids dressed up as such, satisfying their sweet tooth. Martin Luther so many years ago bravely posted his 95 Theses on October 31. The door of the Wittenberg Church became the poster for stating differences with the mother church. He had to have been filled with determination because those who went before him had also stated differences with the mother church. They didn't die a natural death, but Luther did.

I was in the Seattle airport sometime back and a young lady was trying to get my attention by saying, "Happy Halloween" as she waved an Alaska Airline flyer my way. I responded by saying, "Happy Reformation Day!" This caught her attention and presented an opportunity to explain what was important to me about what happened on October 31 so many years ago.

When I learned that Jesus wasn't born on December 25, I couldn't believe it! Say it isn't so! I knew that there were three kings who brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Wait, three kings? Hmmm...as

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Steve Evenson





Executive Committee Minutes

March 12, 2020—Melvin Santos, VP of Administration

Present	ZOOM: Melvin Santos, Jim Jensen, John Loor, Jr., Joe Chythlook, Elsa Coronado, Steve Evenson, Missy Harriss, David King, Steve Lewis, Warren Libby, Ed Mangena, Alice Moncher, Adrian Neacsu, Tau Siaki, Ryan Woehler
Absent	Kevin Miller
NPUC Representative	Bill McClendon
Prayer	Melvin Santos
REPORTS	
COVID-19 Contingency Plan (20-17)	<p>VOTED to move the COVID-19 Mitigation Plan to RED Alert status effective immediately for three weeks and follow it's guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strongly recommend temporarily closing all in-person meetings and transition to online or telecommunications • All work-related staff/pastor travel is cancelled until further notice • All AKC sponsored events and in-person meetings are cancelled until end of May
Closing Prayer	Bill McClendon



Melvin Santos

Executive Committee Minutes

April 20, 2020—Melvin Santos, VP of Administration

Present	ZOOM: Kevin Miller, Melvin Santos, Jim Jensen, John Loor, Jr., Joe Chythlook, Steve Evenson, Missy Harriss, David King, Warren Libby, Ed Mangena, Alice Moncher, Adrian Neacsu, Rau Siaki, Ryan Woehler
Invitees	Tobin Dodge, Tandi Perkins, Rod Rau
Absent	Elsa Coronado, Steve Lewis
NPUC Representative	Bill McClendon
Prayer	Kevin Miller
REPORTS	
COVID-19 Contingency Plan (20-17)	VOTED to approve the summer COVID-19 contingency plans.
Treasurer's Report (20-18)	VOTED to approve the December 2019 financial report, subject to audit.
Community Church Land Purchase (20-19)	VOTED to approve Community Church to purchase property (corner of Boundary & Newell).
Fairbanks Land Donation (20-20)	VOTED to accept the donation of property for Adventist Community Services (ACS) in Fairbanks, subject to environmental survey, title insurance and appraisal on property.
Summer COVID-19 Contingency Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtual Camp Meeting on July 21-25 to replace all other camp meetings (Interior, Southcentral and Southeast) • Constituency Meeting moved to September 20, 2020 from July 26, 2020 • Cancel all resident camps and day camps • Vacation Bible School for churches to replace camps • Temporary travel ban • Hiring freeze • Postpone pay increase from July 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021
Closing Prayer	Bill McClendon

Executive Committee Minutes

June 14, 2020—Melvin Santos, VP of Administration



Present	Kevin Miller, Melvin Santos, Jim Jensen, Joe Chythlook, Steve Evenson, Missy Harriss, Warren Libby, Ed Mangena, Alice Moncher, Adrian Neacsu, Tau Siaki, Ryan Woehler
Invitees	Tobin Dodge, Tandi Perkins
Absent	Steve Lewis, Rod Rau (Invitee)
NPUC Representative	Bill McClendon
Devotional	Kevin Miller
REPORTS	
Minutes (20-22)	VOTED to approve April 20, 2020 minutes.
President's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kevin shared the challenges of COVID-19 pandemic affecting our churches and schools. Pastors and teachers have done a great job in being creative to minister to their churches and schools. Social Justice: Kevin shared the issues our country is dealing with surrounding the death of George Floyd. Our conference will be issuing a letter in response to this. A diversity taskforce is in discussion to address these current challenges and how to better minister to marginalized groups.
Vice-President's Report	<u>Membership & Growth Report</u> : Melvin Santos reported that at the end of May 2020, the Alaska Conference membership stood at 3,817 members. As of May 2020, there were 36 baptisms, eight Professions of Faith, and two rebaptisms for a total of 46 additions to the church. A statewide evangelistic meeting ended with candidates for baptisms waiting to be baptized due to the COVID-19 shutdown of churches.
(20-23)	<p>VOTED to accept the transfers of names to and from the Alaska Church conference.</p> <p>Melvin shared that to help the conference reach one of its major goals: Discipleship, the Discipleship Master Plan (DMP) was launched in September 2018. The vision was to set a soul-winning platform in developing every pastor and member of the Alaska Conference to be disciples and disciplemakers for Christ. To date, 14 out of 36 churches have received DMP Part I training and six DMP Part II training.</p> <p>In 2019, the Decipleship, Evangelism, Church Plant Advisory Team (DECAT) was set up comprising of 12 lay members, pastors and conference leaders. DECAT's main role is to provide strategic objectives for soul-winning in the conference, active leadership development, advocate and champion the mission and vision of DECAT that will bring honor and glory to GOD.</p>
Treasurer's Report	Jim Jensen shared that through April 2020, tithe stands at \$296,033 which is an increase of 4.19%. Since there were five weeks in April, the adjusted percentage is a 16.65% loss.
(20-24)	VOTED to approve the April 30, 2020 financial report, subject to audit.
NPUC Report	NPUC Representative Bill McClendon reported on how the COVID-19 pandemic affected the evangelistic meetings of Vision 2020. Baptisms are down during the winter quarter, except for the Alaska Conference.
	Andre Wang is taking on additional responsibilities as Religious Liberty representative.
Departmental Reports	<p>Kevin shared how the 2016 strategic plans added key leaders to help fulfill the mission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Ministerial Director</u>: Steve Evenson shared department-provided pastoral visitations, development of North American Division (NAD) ministerial manual and continuing education units from Adventist Learning Center for pastors. <u>Education</u>: Kevin shared how enrollment of several schools in the past years have increased and Amazing Grace Academy being approved for full academy status by NAD. <u>Youth AMA Director</u>: Tobin Dodge shared 120 Pathfinders and staff attend the Oshkosh Camporee. Seventeen baptisms between resident camps and staff. <u>Camp Tuk</u> met all four conditions set up by 2016 constituency. <u>Development Director</u>: Tandi Perkins shared how the department raised over \$945,000 since 2018 for Arctic Missions.

Do you receive the
**AROUND THE
ALASKA CONFERENCE**
monthly email?

To join our mailing list
or submit a news item,
send an email to
alaskainfo@ac.npuc.org

Around the Conference goes
out the 1st of each month.
If you have a news item to
include, please submit them
at least three days prior.



Executive Committee Minutes

June 14, 2020 Minutes continued

Re-Opening Plan (20-25)	VOTED to approve the current re-opening plans set up by Administration.
Strategic Plan	Kevin shared the conference's strategic plan based on the theme: Seize the DAY for Jesus. DAY stands for Discipleship, Arctic Missions Adventure, Youth & Young Adults.
Constituency Meeting (20-26) (20-27) (20-28)	VOTED to approve the 18th Regular Constituency Session agenda. VOTED to approve Andre Wang as the parliamentarian to constituency session. VOTED to add the communications department to the list of positions that need to be nominated.
Virtual Camp Meeting Update	Kevin shared a brief report by the camp meeting planning session.
IT Update	Kevin shared that the conference will be transitioning to another IT company in the next few months.
Credentials & Licensing (20-29)	VOTED to approve the credentials and licenses for AKC employees September 20, 2020 - December 31, 2024.
Camp Lorraine (20-30)	VOTED to accept tractor donation for Camp Lorraine.
Camp Polaris (20-31)	VOTED to accept the boat donation for Camp Polaris.
Personnel Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adrian Neacsu, new pastor for Wasilla/Talkeetna district, is moving from Ketchikan to Wasilla on July 8-9. • Todd Parker, pastor for Dillingham/Togiak district, is leaving June 21 to drive from Mississippi to Anchorage. • Kenai/Homer district update: Waiting until end of summer because of hiring freeze. • Potential joint agreement with Washington Conference for part-time pastor/lay minister.

Executive Committee Minutes

August 11, 2020—E-VOTE

Motion	To recommend James Cazort and Bill Starn to represent the Alaska Conference in serving in the NPUC Constituion and Bylaws Committee. MOTION PASSED
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Hope In A Time Of Crisis

Continued from Page 1

The year 2021 may be smoother, calmer, and better than 2020; it may not. Whatever the case, we can still anticipate the new year knowing Jesus is not slack concerning His promise to us. Therefore, we continue to move forward with the church and its mission, listening to His call and trusting His promise.

A Time To Shine

Continued from Page 3

Jesus said, “A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another;” but affection is not much good unless it is expressed.

So my friends, I challenge you to create a church that is so encouraging that members want to stay and share their church home with those that have not experienced God's love. We have been through interesting and challenging years and the future will have more of the same. Let's listen for that still small voice and express our encouragement to those in our church family. There is no better time to shine.

This holiday season send
the gift of the Gospel
to Alaska Native
Villages!



AMA
6100 O'Malley Road
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Growing Up

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I discovered what the Bible said, there could have been a whole bunch of kings. We get the three kings because of the song, not the Bible. Fooled again.

As I've grown, had children of my own, and now grandchildren, I've seen the gradual commercialization of December 25. Months in advance gifts are promoted. Sayings have been modified to Xmas, Happy Holidays, and Seasons Greetings. Even though the date is wrong about Jesus' birth, it's good that the world takes note of who this season is about. But every year, the emphasis on Christ diminishes and spending money on gifts, that will eventually lose their value, increases. Parties, get togethers, and vacations are the main focus instead of Jesus, the real reason for the season. But Thanksgiving is the real deal. Why do I say that? The Pilgrims gave thanks to God for His provisions, not for football. They wanted to be free from the mother church and be free to worship as they chose. They wanted the freedom that a new world offered.

God has always had a people that have chosen to follow after Him and His ways. These were the people that were coming out from the Dark Ages into the light, in a land where worship could be true worship. It took time for Roger Williams to get the idea across that people should be free to worship as they please. He was a staunch advocate for religious freedom, and separation of church and state. He wanted fair dealings with the Natives and was one of the first abolitionists. He died a little over 100 years before our constitution was written. We enjoy our religious freedom because of those who came before us seeking to live in a country where worship could be freely practiced.

As we enter this holiday season, let us remember what it is really about. When we have the opportunity, share with someone the real meaning of Reformation Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.



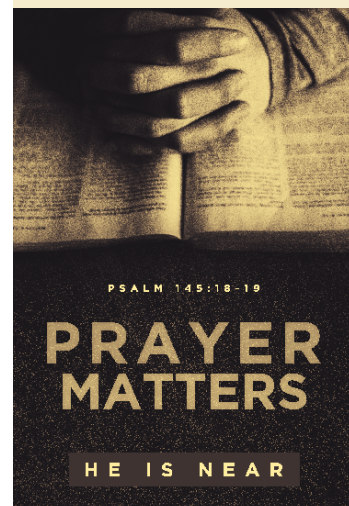
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Adventist® Community Services In Action

Virlyn Dodge, Director of Alaska Adventist Community Services

As we look back over the last ten months, Adventist Community Services (ACS) has stayed very busy in Alaska. We were blessed to receive a \$25,000 grant for food which made it possible for small churches to provide their members and communities with provisions.

Pastor Tobin Dodge and Elder Jim Kincaid transported the much-needed supplies to several villages which included 55,000 masks that were distributed around the state. Through a series of events, ACS was blessed once again and received over \$400,000 in personal protection equipment and medical for distribution throughout Alaska.

There are so many stories to tell, but there are those who have chosen to remain anonymous in their faithful service. In working with these volunteers, I am so proud of our Alaska ACS team. Everyone is 100% dedicated to serving their churches and communities and it would be impossible to compensate them for their dedication. Expressing our appreciation and gratitude to these front-line workers seems so small in comparison to what they have accomplished. They truly are a group that finds it difficult to accept praise and thanks because all they do is simply an expression of who they are.



AMA Bible Worker Jose Estrella receives supplies for Selawik



Alaska's Barney Baty assists Oregon Conference with fire relief efforts



Over \$400,000 in medical supplies and PPE received for Alaska



Edna Estrella and neighbor bring food donations for distribution