Imagination - *Have enough light to see the hope of God’s call* – Ephesians 1:18

*Come, imagine with me new generations of disciples, vital congregations and a transformed world.*

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I am looking forward to learning where our imagination will take us at our 2016 Annual Conference session. Together we will praise God, celebrate ministry, worship, fellowship with one another and engage in the business of the conference, including an update from our General Conference delegation and considering candidates for bishop.

We will share stories of transformation. We will imagine the possibilities that God has in store. We will light up the world with our testimony of God’s great work in Greater New Jersey. We are hearing stories of transformation through Team Vital, PaCE groups, Communities of Hope and coaching. We will see the hope of God in our missional work through initiatives like A Future With Hope and CAMP YDP. We will share how God’s call is working through our youth at IGNITE.

God has imagined great things for Greater New Jersey. I invite you to prepare for our conferencing together by praying that we have the imagination to hear God’s call for love, unity and healing. Pray that our imaginations will help us create space for holy conferencing on issues that unite and divide us. Pray that we can use God’s light to make disciples of Christ and transform the world.

I also ask you to prepare by giving. Three years ago, we enacted a strategic plan that called for us to raise $12 million for a Mission Fund to put an end to deaths by malaria in Africa and rebuild more than 300 homes for families that experienced loss during Superstorm Sandy. We are halfway to our goal and need to recommit ourselves to the vital task before us. I invite you to plan an offering with your congregation for the Mission Fund between now and May and bring that offering to Annual Conference. We have rebuilt more than 200 homes and have saved more than 90,000 children from malaria with our donations. Your gifts now will help us reach our goals.

Greater New Jersey was truly blessed in 2015. I ask you to IMAGINE the great things God has in store for us for the remainder of 2016.

Keep The Faith!

John R. Schol, Bishop

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