

January 22, 2019

Dear Member of the ENC Family,

It's been a couple of months since we updated you on our progress toward a promising future. Last Friday, our Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees met with our new president to continue our conversations that are leading up to his assuming fulltime responsibilities on April 1, 2019. Dr. Connell has been engaged as much as possible as he completes his work with Houghton College. We are grateful for the smooth handoff between Dr. Timothy Wooster and the cabinet and Dr. Connell.

Prior to the Executive Committee meetings, I had the opportunity to represent ENC at the Philadelphia Pastors' Prayer Retreat. It was heartwarming to hear participants interceding on behalf of the college. I was humbled by the reception we were given and encouraged as I interacted with leaders who are feeling the impact of our ministry on their local churches. We had an opportunity to thank them for their support and particularly for the extra budget payments that a number of our churches made last year. It was also gratifying to meet with pastors who had sent Work and Witness teams last summer.

In October, we had an interim visit from our accrediting body and part of the review was for the team to meet with a couple of board members. Dr. Robert Antonucci was one of the participants who is president emeritus at Fitchburg State. Having participated in many of these reviews, he is well aware of the challenges that small colleges have these days. At one point in the conversation he looked across the table and said, "There is something unique about this college. You have a real gem here."

We aren't just another college, and that's why we have been working so diligently to write the next chapter in a way that will glorify God and advance his purposes. God has entrusted us with a large number of students who truly want to make a difference in the world.

Dr. Connell's story of how he came to ENC is a reminder that God still calls gifted individuals to lead His cause in challenging times. I hope you will have an opportunity to meet Jack as he makes his stops to our eight District Assemblies beginning in April with the Mid Atlantic district. He will also be on campus during Festival of Life.

Please keep the prayers coming our way.

Russ Long

Chair of the ENC Board of Trustees