

June 16, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters, as the summer season is in full-swing, I wanted to make sure you are aware of some important events between now and the end of the year.

However, before looking ahead, allow me to share about a recent event from earlier this month. Our second annual New Minister Conference took place the second weekend of June. Those who have recently been, or soon will be, reinstated or ordained into ministry, gathered in Newark, New Jersey for our conference. 11 deacons and 22 priests joined together for a weekend of learning which included seminars, workshops, small group discussions, and an exhibition. It is important to the advancement of the gospel that those entering or returning to ordained ministry are up-to-date on the church's teachings and developments. Please join me in praying for this year's cohort of new ministers and thanking God for them responding to the call to serve in ordained ministry.

Now, looking to September, Chief Apostle Schneider will conduct a divine service in Buffalo, New York on Sunday, September 24th. As was announced last summer already, in this service I will be retired and the Chief Apostle will appoint Apostle John Schnabel as the District Apostle for the USA district. This service, beginning at noon Eastern / 9am Pacific, will be webcast to all USA district congregations. Members who would like to attend in person may do so by registering at the website below. After July 14th, registration to attend in person will be open to our brothers and sisters in Canada as well. And now, I'd like to introduce Apostle John Schnabel.

Hello brothers and sisters. I've had the opportunity already this year to travel around and meet a few of you and, in my new role, I look forward to getting to know more and more of the membership in our district. A little about myself, I've served in various ministries since my ordination as a sub-deacon in 1981. Since 2006, I was the District Elder of the New York district before being ordained into the Apostle ministry last year. I am humbled by the responsibility ahead of me and pray for the focus, strength, and wisdom to serve God by serving you. Please know, we will continue the course in striving to be a church in which people feel at home. Obviously, we will continue to teach and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the responsibility of all Christians to transform their nature using Jesus as our example; and the church exists to equip us and aid in this lifelong journey.

God has provided everything we need for our salvation; we have so much to be thankful for. October 8th begins our season of Thanksgiving, the 6 weeks of focus and preparation, culminating with our church's Thanksgiving Sunday on November 19th.

Two weeks later, we will have a national webcast service on Sunday, December 3rd. This will be a wonderful opportunity to start the Advent season together. The exact details will be forthcoming, but please save the date since we all know that December usually fills up very quickly.

And so, dear ones, we have many exciting events and developments to look forward to in our USA district. Above all, we know that God is faithful and continues to lead His church.

As we approach the second half of the year, we wish you much joy and peace, knowing that we remain, together in Christ.