Pastor Fredrick Russell Accepts New Post in Atlanta

Fredrick A. Russell, president of the Allegheny West Conference, has accepted a call to the South Atlantic Conference where he will be the senior pastor of the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church in Atlanta, Ga. He is replacing Dr. Carlton Byrd, speaker/director of Breath of Life Ministries, who accepted a call to serve as senior pastor at the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Ala.

Pastor Russell has led the Allegheny West Conference for almost three and a half years. During his tenure, the Conference has been led to focus pastors and members on experiencing daily the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the power and primacy of prayer. Russell has also led, in conjunction with the leadership team, in developing a top-notched pastoral staff via recruitment and professional development, changing the way the conference office and ministry directors deliver services to the churches, and a major refocusing on evangelism as the main priority of the Conference.

Relative to evangelism, almost 20 new churches and worshipping groups have been planted, almost 2,000 souls have been baptized and nearly $800,000 has been raised for evangelism.

As part of the vision that God birthed in Pastor Russell to cast at the last Constituency meeting, the Conference is on tap to established at least two additional schools in 2012.

Pastor Russell instituted the Annual Leadership Conference and the Church Planting Conference. He has also been instrumental with God’s favor in attracting major funding grants that have underwritten youth ministry and church planting initiatives in the Conference.

During his tenure, a church planting director, full-time educational director, prayer coordinator and a church growth director were added to the team.

Pastor Russell believes that the Allegheny West Conference’s best days are clearly in front of it, and counts it a signal honor to have led at such a transformative season in Allegheny West. He’s exceptionally grateful that he had the privilege of coming along side a group of outstanding pastors, an incredible executive committee and the awesome members of the Allegheny West Conference.

But supremely, he has enjoyed working along side two wonderful officers, Pastor Robert Moore, executive secretary; and Ms. Zenobia Seward, treasurer.

Elder David Weigley, Columbia Union Conference president, will be working with Pastor Moore to established a date to meet with the executive Committee who is tasked with the responsibility of establishing the time and process for electing the new president of the Allegheny West Conference. Pastor Russell will assume his new duties in January 2012.

--- written by Bryant Taylor, communication director, Allegheny West Conference