

## **2021 Midsouth Ministerium Report**

The Midsouth Ministerium weathered many storms over the last year both figuratively and literally. But most significantly, we endured the trials together and that has made a profound difference. The difficulty of the last year cannot be overstated. Yet, in the midst of great trial and discouragement we also discovered a greater gift from God, a deeper missional friendship.

Over the years it has been a common observation that the Midsouth was full of excellent missional leaders. This hasn't changed. We are a conference full of leaders. But the challenge of being in such a wide geographic region has made it a real difficulty to be better friends.

The development of our Tuesday morning zoom calls was hands-down the most influential change this year. It's a simple meeting from 11AM to Noon. Through it we've been able to share, pray for another, mobilize help when needed, and talk through relevant topics ranging from Black History Month to Dealing with Grief and Loss and much more. While not everyone can make it every week, it is consistent and allows for pastors, chaplains, church planters and ministry leaders to connect. A huge THANK YOU goes to our Superintendent Garth Bolinder for his leadership and pastoral presence over this weekly call.

In addition to our weekly meeting, our life together over the past year was enriched by offerings from the National Ministerium. While we weren't able to have our normal rhythm of conferences and meeting, the Ministerium was able to make great adjustments to host online conferences and resources.

As we head into a new year with more challenges I encourage all of you to stay connected. We live in troubled times with ongoing threats that never seem to let up - the virus, racism, misogyny, divisive politics and media, and economic upheaval. There is never a time now when something isn't a cause for worry. But we follow Christ who is victorious over sin and death and invites us into His rest. Rest assured in the One who has called you and has called us to walk together as brothers and sisters.

Grace and Peace,

Ted Law  
Ministerium Chair