



**Assemblies of God**  
**Appalachian Ministry Network**  
P.O. Box 310  
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David W. Dillon  
Pastor/Superintendent

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Dear District/Network Ministry Family Member:

**A NEW DAY HAS DAWNED FOR THE APPALACHIAN DISTRICT MINISTRY NETWORK!**

Last Friday a historic event in the life of our Appalachian ministry fellowship—perhaps the most significant in a quarter of a century—took place in Charleston, West Virginia. At that time, myself, Assistant Superintendent John Jordan, and Executive Secretary/Treasurer Tony Raffa executed the documents that closed the sale of a portion of the district camp and conference center property located on Flat Top Mountain in Ghent, bringing to an end a process that had been underway for the last five years.

At the 2009 District Council and upon the recommendation of former District Superintendent Marvin Dennis, the ministers and churches of the district authorized “the district presbytery to examine the needs of the district’s ministries, explore the benefits of selling the Camp and Conference Center property, and, if deemed to be in the best interests of the district, to place the property on the market and sell” for an appropriate price. Over the course of the next year the presbytery conducted its evaluation and decided that it was beneficial to sell the Camp and Conference Center. In May 2010 a realtor was contracted to sell the property; however, after 18 months of no success the decision was made to continue the effort to sell but without the assistance of a realtor.

Over the course of the next two years a few interested individuals looked at the property but no offers to buy were made. Then, last October, a party came forth and made a credible offer. After some negotiations a purchase/sell agreement was reached, one that culminated with last Friday’s closing. As per the terms of the sale, the district retained its office building, parsonage and approximately 2-3 acres of land surrounding these two buildings. The remaining acreage and buildings (motel, multi-purpose building, dormitory, bathhouse, maintenance shed) were sold to Skyline Management Company, which plans to invest a great deal of capital into the property and develop it as a year-round lodging and event center. Through the sale process, we’ve been able to cultivate an excellent working relationship with the new owners and are excited about their business plan for the property. Their planned upgrades and eventual success will not only be a blessing to the community, but will increase the value of the property we have retained through this transaction.

The proceeds from the sale had an immediate impact on the financial well-being of our district ministry network. We were able to eliminate our entire indebtedness (\$1.145 million) and the accrued deficit in the Camp and Conference Center fund (negative \$182,000) and realize a gain of approximately \$35,000. Simply stated, this means the Appalachian District Ministry Network is debt free for the first time in 35 years or so! Someone shout, “PRAISE THE LORD!” (Also, not having to pay a realtor’s commission saved us nearly \$82,000, another great blessing.)

As your Superintendent let me express my most sincere thanks to the members of your district leadership team, past and present, for the godly wisdom and sincerity they have demonstrated concerning the Camp and Conference Center property, especially during the sale effort of the last few years. Each member of the presbytery has placed the overall welfare of our district constituency (ministers and churches) and the fulfillment of the Appalachian District Ministry Network's threefold mission (Empowering Leaders, Equipping Ministry, and Encouraging Community) at the forefront of the decisions made concerning the property. Without their prayers, support and input, the sale of the Camp and Conference Center would not have been possible, and we owe each of them our appreciation. As I've said many times before, I'm blessed to have such a godly group of leaders serving alongside me.

Also, the first person I called after the sale was completed was Brother Dennis. I wanted him to know that the initiative he began in 2009 and felt was in the best interests of our district network's future had finally come to pass. Needless to say, he was very excited. I'm thankful too and very grateful for his leadership in this matter.

When I became your Superintendent in 2011, I had a strong conviction that the sale of the Camp and Conference Center was the last mountain peak for our district network to scale before reaching the fertile plains of a new existence that was beyond our ability to even imagine. Couple this with the prophetic word that the Lord gave to me last year for our district fellowship—*"Your future shall be greater than your past!"*—and what's just taken place, and I think it's obvious that the Lord is bringing us into a new day of mission and ministry. Wow!

In light of all this we must be vigilant to maintain our total trust and dependence on the Lord for everything we need as a community of like-minded, Spirit-filled Christ-followers to accomplish His plans and purposes. May we never, not even for a moment, yield to the temptation to trust in anything other than the faithfulness of our God! We are called and have been commissioned by Him to spread the gospel and build His Kingdom across Appalachia. So long as that remains our first and foremost priority, He will provide all that we need to be His people and do His work (Matthew 6:33).

We're thankful for all the good things that took place at the Camp and Conference Center during its 23 years of operation (1989-2012) and to all those who worked so hard to make it the best it could be. The facility served us well during its time and we have many special memories of that place. Now a new season stands before us, one that is filled with new challenges and opportunities. But there is also a new hope and a new promise that are deeply rooted in the great faithfulness of our God. I say let's move forward, let's follow hard after Him and see where He leads! Who's with me?

For Christ and you,

**Pastor Dave**

David W. Dillon  
District Pastor/Superintendent