

April 2026

Dear NFAMLP friends,

We are in the midst of Holy Week in the life of the Church, and for many of us that means extra responsibilities—whether we serve full-time or part-time. This season can add a layer of stress to already full lives as we navigate the people and systems that make up the Church. However, I do not want to focus on stress; I want to focus on joy.

There is joy in being called to share God's Word and to lead a flock of God's children. There is joy in the Church when we preside at the Communion Table and when we baptize—whether an infant or an adult. There is joy in weddings. Even as we celebrate the lives of the saints at their funerals, there can be joy—both in honoring a life well lived and in the sacred privilege we have as clergy to hold loved ones in their grief. There is joy in the everyday, the mundane, and the frustrating because God is with us.

There is also joy to be found in this Holy Week as we pause and remember Jesus' choice to stand for you and me. In the awe, the weeping, the sadness, and the pain, there is still joy, because through it all God remains faithful and present with us. There is joy in the hope and the reminder that, through it all, the Resurrection is coming. May you find time for yourself in the busyness of this season to pause and marvel in the joy we have through our hope, faith, and trust in the Lord.

There is also joy, hope, and anticipation from your NFAMLP leadership as we plan and prepare for our upcoming Annual Meeting and Training, to be held September 15–17, 2026, in Ocala, Florida. We will be learning with Rev. Dr. Michael Beck, an ordained elder in the Florida Conference and the Director of Fresh Expressions for the UMC. Our conversations will be based on his newest book, *Deep Roots, Wild Branches: Revitalizing the Church in the Blended Ecology*. A pre-conference session is also being planned for the afternoon of September 15 for further discussion and planning related to GC2028 legislation.

**It is with great joy that I share with you that online registration for our 2026 Annual Meeting and Training is now available on our website ([nfamplp.org](http://nfamplp.org)).** The brochure is being finalized for distribution and as soon as it is available. It will be on our website as well as in the files on this page. If you would like a copy sent to you by email, please let me know at [marikaygreen@gmail.com](mailto:marikaygreen@gmail.com)

May your Easter celebrations be joyful and overflowing with the good news that Christ is risen indeed.

God bless you, and may you find the joy of the Lord daily,  
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