



To: Bishop, Pastors, Delegates & Other Attendees - FMCiC General Conference

On behalf of the entire volunteer Staff at Echo Lake Camp I would like to bring you greetings with thanksgiving.

Praise be to Jesus, by the grace of God we have emerged from Covid having renewed our mission of “Winning Youth to Christ and Equipping them to Glorify God”. Having said that, the renewed mission definitely looks different than it pre-Covid.

Over the course of the last 2 years Echo has re-opened camps for Spring, Summer and Fall retreats with significantly less campers than we have hosted in pre-Covid era. While this can give us reason to pause and even be discouraged, we recognize that God is at work even when numbers are fewer. We would encourage our pastors and Free Methodist churches to take advantage of our camping ministries such as Echo Lake. We are here to serve you and your teens.

The 2023 camping season was one we will remember fondly for a return to normal camping routines. Covid protocols were removed and we were able to enjoy a season of camp without the restrictions we experienced in the prior years.

Our finances remain strong, we continue to operate without debt and are grateful for the way in which God has sustained this ministry through the giving of His people.

A camping highlight in 2023 was having Pastor Morgan Mitchell (from San Diego) return to Echo as our speaker. I say “return” as the last time Morgan was with us he was a camper. It was a unique pleasure to have him minister to our group knowing his experience as both a former camper and Team Leader. We were also blessed by Pastor Jenn Wagar who spoke at our Fall Camp. Jenn had been both camper and staff in years past and accepted the speaking role on very short notice.

Camper registration continues to be a concern for us as Staff. We are praying that God will speak to the many parents and teens who have not prioritized camp in recent years, freeing them from fear and anxiety as well as other commitments. Would you pray for us in this specific way? We would be so thankful.

The 2024 camping season will no doubt be challenging with our numbers, but as a Staff we are committed to serving God at His camp. We will not be discouraged but rather blessed in serving Him at this incredible place.

We ask God’s blessings on all of you through this year’s Conference and beyond.

Respectively submitted,

Brent Brown
Executive Director