Greetings from Camp Washington

In 1917 the first seeds of Camp Washington were planted by The Rev. Floyd Kenyon as a place of refreshment, renewal and growth. A place for boys to escape city life and experience God the creator in the beauty of the natural surroundings of Camp Washington. Since those early days, camp has become co-ed, the campus has expanded to include year-round housing and meeting space for conference and retreats, and the property is alive with activity 12 months a year. These original seeds have been nurtured by hundreds of summer counselors, chaplains, nurses, volunteers, mentors, and others. This September more than 150 people gathered at camp to celebrate our centennial with a wonderful weekend filled with alumni campers and staff, current campers and families, clergy and lay people from around the ECCT, neighbors and other friends. We sang, prayed and worshipped God, we gave thanks, we ate well, we laughed and reminisced, and re-connected. We honored the past and looked toward the future - the next 100 years of exploring God’s mission in this place we love so deeply.

This year our accredited summer camp program welcomed nearly 500 campers, provided $48,000 of financial aid to 83 campers, in addition 57 weeks of camp were provided to children at risk through the generosity of the Bishops’ Fund for Children. Through the nurturing leadership and love of 43 summer counselors and 11 chaplains, we provided over 1000 hours of fun, friendship and opportunity for spiritual growth and discipleship. We successfully held our first HAPPENING weekend, and #2 is scheduled for March.

We continue to grow our year-round programming offering opportunities to explore discipleship through adult retreat weekends, youth weekends, Family Advent Day, and Holy Week programs. We welcomed more than 75 people to Second Sunday gatherings throughout the year, a wonderful program offering community and hospitality. We continue our relationship with Nature’s Classroom, offering an opportunity for outdoor learning to more than 1500 students. Our conference business remains strong serving more than 900 people throughout the year.
In September, the Mission Council voted unanimously to fund a request for immediate maintenance needs to keep our facilities safe for all who use our campus. These important improvements to our driveway, parking, and lighting, walkways, and main buildings have begun and will continue through next spring. The Camp Washington board is committed to creating a long term strategic capital plan that will allow us to continue the stewardship of our 300-acre campus and 15+ buildings as we plan for future growth and expansion.

Camp Washington is acceptance. Camp Washington is love. It is a privilege to create safe space that challenges our minds, encourages curiosity, fosters creativity, and produces joy. A space for all that inspires, connects, and transforms.

Faithfully,

Bart Geissinger
Executive Director