

New South Conference  
Trustees Report  
2026 Annual Conference

The 2025/2026 Conference year has been a wonderful year for change, but then again, aren't most years that way?

The merger of the two conferences is now "complete" and that means, well, that means there is lots of work to do and lots of things to still figure out. So, welcome to 2026/2027 Conference year and the opportunities that await us. It's going to be a wonderful year with good things in store for all.

As we head into this conference "change" and anticipate the possibility of Gateway joining us, it may be a good time to review all of your church's legal documents, such as deeds, loans, mortgages, by-laws, secretary of state filings, etc. States may have unique requirements for when a legal structure and name change happens so some of your church's documents may need to be updated.

As a rule, it's a good practice to visit your local county courthouse (or other appropriate government office) every so often to review any legal documents that may have been, knowingly or unknowingly, filed. If you haven't done this (ever), you may be surprised to find that documents of record are outdated, mortgages haven't been released, or that the church you are pastoring really doesn't exist because the last name change never happened and all of the officers are, are, are...well...they've been "graduated to glory" for some time now.

If you've never done this sort of search and recovery of records before, go ahead and do it. You may be surprised what you find. For what it's worth, if you are apprehensive about doing this, I have found most of the staff in those offices are eager to help. Oh, one more thing! Before making the drive across town, you may want to make several calls to see which office or offices you will need to visit. Or, since this is the 21<sup>st</sup> century, all of those documents may be online. If so, a couple of clicks and you're on your way to new beginnings with your old information.

Blessings to all as we embark on this new adventure.

Sincerely,

Dwight W Winter  
Trustee Chair