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Dear Members of the Annual Conference of the South Carolina United Methodist Church,

On behalf of the congregation of Advent United Methodist Church and the Greenville District, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to Greenville.

This year's theme, "See the Possibilities: What do you see? Can you see anything?" (Mark 8:22–26), invites us to reflect on the story of Jesus healing the blind man at Bethsaida. In that moment, sight came gradually—first blurred, then clear. It reminds us that God continues to open our eyes so we may see the work of the Spirit unfolding among us and the possibilities that lie ahead for the church we love.

As we gather in Greenville, it is my prayer that we will experience not only meaningful worship, discernment, and connection, but also a renewed vision for what God is calling us to become. Annual Conference is a sacred gathering. May we see with fresh clarity the future God is shaping for the United Methodist Church in South Carolina.

At Advent United Methodist Church, we believe that God calls the church to create spaces of belonging, connect people, and call everyone to a life in Christ. Our vision is rooted in the conviction that when people encounter Christ in authentic community, they begin to see new possibilities for their lives, their faith, and their service.

We pray that during our time together we will experience that same spirit of welcoming, belonging, and hope. May this gathering help us all see more clearly how God is moving among us and inspire us to live faithfully into the promises God has given to the church.

As we embrace the theme "See the Possibilities, Live the Promises!", may the Holy Spirit open our eyes, strengthen our unity, and renew our courage to follow where Christ leads.

In Christ,

Rev. W. Russell Freeman