



For Immediate Release

Converge Northeast Announces the Closing of Lakeside Christian Camp

Pittsfield, MA, April 1, 2020 — For over 40 years, Lakeside Christian Camp and Retreat Center has served generations of families, youth and children in providing Christian formation ministry through retreats and camps.

At present, due to the mandatory restrictions imposed on public gatherings in order to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic, normal camping operations at Lakeside have been interrupted and suspended. Lakeside is not alone, as most if not all camps in New England are experiencing the same pressures as church and youth groups cancel outings and state and federal authorities impose regulations.

The COVID-19 crisis and its impact to camp operations and event bookings, as well as the related economic forecast, has magnified the financial pressure on the camp. Again, Lakeside is not alone as other ministries face the same financial pressures. These urgent stressors, however, have only exacerbated the financial pressures on camps like Lakeside which have seen a sea-change in the camping ministry. Many camps in the Northeast have closed as fewer families are attending camp and the nature of the camping ministry has changed over the last decade. Lakeside has not been immune to these changes and the resulting financial pressures.

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, Lakeside cannot legally conduct its camping and conference ministries for the foreseeable future. These factors have contributed to the decision to permanently close camp operations with a final closing of the property sometime in 2021. The Board of Trustees has begun the process of winding down the ministry starting April 1, 2020. The camp will be maintained by skeleton staff. In the meantime, the camp will be utilized for church denomination and leadership matters if legally permitted under applicable legal regulations and as restricted by financial realities. Over the next months, Converge Northeast member churches must make the final determination as to the next steps for the ministry and property in accordance with its charter and bylaws. Those decisions by Converge Northeast churches will be made later this year.

We are grateful to God who has blessed Lakeside Christian Camp and its ministries for these past four decades. We are extremely proud of our dedicated staff and volunteers who have stewarded the ministry and positively affected many lives. We seek to continue to glorify God and to spread the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ through the ministry of Lakeside as it completes its mission over the next months. We seek to utilize the camp and its properties as we are legally permitted and consistent with our fiduciary responsibilities. Lakeside Christian Camp will

continue to assist our community and the Commonwealth in the fight to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic and to bring Glory to God through the preaching of the Gospel.

Converge Northeast is a movement of churches working to help people meet, know and follow Jesus. We do this by starting and strengthening churches together worldwide.

If you would like more information, please email tim@convergenortheast.org or mail: Converge Northeast, ATTN: Board of Trustees, 150 Cook Hill Road, Cheshire, CT 06410