

FOREWORD

“**N**OW THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent,” John 17:3, NIV.

Eternal life is a relationship, not a religion. The living God who made you and knows you wants you to know him. Whether you realize it or not, his love has been pursuing you since the day you were born. You’ve been invited to connect with God and belong to his family by turning your life over to Jesus.

The *E.C. Link* is a tool designed to help you make and strengthen that connection with the Lord and his people. This manual and its companion adult and youth study guides will explain the links that exist between you, the Evangelical Congregational Church, and God’s mission to transform our world. They will equip you to connect with the purpose and promises God has for your life and the place he has prepared for you in ministry.

Like the church, the *Link* is an expression of the networking of insights and efforts of many different people. Each contributor participated with the goal of honoring Christ and helping his disciples live for him. A special thank-you goes to the editorial team that launched the project and saw this long-term endeavor through to completion.

Although serving as a general reference manual, the *E.C. Link* will also continue the heritage of catechetical instruction originally found in *The Threshold of the Church*. May God now use the *Link* to help advance his Kingdom as we move toward our glorious future with him.

In Christ,

Bishop Kevin Leibensperger