



MEDIA RELEASE

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**North Carolina's
Northeast Commission**

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Living Waters Trail Opens Avenues for Tourists

Church Trail to Attract Group Tours

Elizabeth City, NC – Northeast Tourism (NET) is requesting information about the history of church structures that have been preserved for over 100 years and that are able to be opened for tour groups. NET is establishing a Living Waters Trail for visitors to be able to follow the long-term history of the church structures within the region.

Churches that meet the structural requirement of having an existing structure that has been preserved for over 100 years should contact your local Living Waters Coordinators, Charlotte Underwood, Elizabeth City Area CVB at (252) 335-5330 director@discoverec.org or Donna Stewart, Dismal Swamp Canal Welcome Center at dscwelcome@camdencountync.gov, 252-771-8333 to obtain an application. Churches that complete an application and document the original architectural origins of the church structure will be submitted for inclusion on the regional tour trail. The submitted churches will be reviewed for uniqueness, architecture, history, documented story, and ability to attract and welcome tourists.

An independent committee of regional tourism representatives will perform the final selection of church structures to be placed on the regional Living Waters Trail. For those church structures that do not meet the regional requirements, there will be a county-wide list of Living Waters Historical Churches.

“Our region is rich in history and the Living Waters Trail helps organize the existing sites so that visitors can easily find their way through the region,” stated Sara Phelps, Chair of NET. “Our regional tourism professionals are working to market the region for Hub and Spoke tourism to encourage visitors traveling through the region to stop at some of the wonderful places we have in the small towns and countryside.”

Vann Rogerson, President/CEO of North Carolina's Northeast Commission stated, “Tourism is an economic driver for North Carolina's Northeast Region, and we can combine our resources for more group tour activities. Bringing visitors to the area also brings jobs and investment.”

About North Carolina's Northeast Commission:

North Carolina's Northeast Commission is dedicated to increasing the standard of living for citizens in its sixteen-county region through tourism, industrial, and business development. The 16 counties that comprise the regional Commission are: Beaufort,

Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington. For more information about the North Carolina's Northeast Commission, contact us at www.ncnortheast.com.

About Northeast Tourism (NET):

Northeast Tourism is a subcommittee of and operates with support from North Carolina's Northeast Commission. NET is made up of tourism representatives from the 16 counties of the northeast region of North Carolina. The group meets monthly to develop tourism activities, determine regional advertising niches, and to better promote regional tourism.



Edenton Baptist Church, Chowan County St. Thomas Church, Bath, Beaufort County

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