

MISSIONAL ALIGNMENT

The Missional Alignment Community is to:

1. Discuss the latest missional alignment concepts—stirring the team’s thinking through reading books and exploring web-related resources together.
2. Discuss opportunities and solutions for missional alignment in our cultural setting.
3. Discuss issues derived from district cohorts concerning missional alignment.
4. Explore together missional alignment for congregations in our cultural setting.
5. Focus a segment of the National Conference gathering to missional alignment—providing a district or national level speaker as requested.

The Community is to be made up of six (6) committees:

- **Amendments**

The committee receives and prepares amendment proposals which will be presented to the National Ministry Team for consideration according to the amendment process set forth in the *Discipline*.

The bulk of its *Discipline* work was completed with the final adoption of the Amendments to the *Discipline* during the 2016 National Conference. The new 2016 edition of the *Discipline* has now been published and is available for purchase. The revised *Discipline* is also posted on the EC Center website.

- **Faith & Doctrine Committee**

The committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. Ken Miller, is to provide clear, concise and contemporary doctrinal statements that accurately reflect the Articles of Faith. It is also available to review, restate, and through recommendation to the National Conference (NC), expand the spiritual, moral and social standards. The committee shall be vigilant and develop for recommendation to the NC position papers that respond to pressing contemporary moral and social concerns.

The committee continues to study a number of items as they relate to our orthodox faith but does not have any action items or position papers to present or submit to the National Conference at the present time. Of course the committee is available to respond to expressed needs from the members of Conference.

- **Heritage Committee**

The purpose of the committee is to gather, preserve and organize historical data, records, books, literature, artifacts and other property related to the origin and development of the Evangelical Congregational Church and to stimulate and encourage historical research and appreciation.

The committee, which has its roots in the Historical Society, has undergone a significant change under the leadership of its new chairman, Rev. Jonathan Brown. In addition to a large turnover in members, Mrs. Julie Miller has resigned her role as archivist due to increased work schedule at Evangelical Seminary. Therefore the Committee is currently in the process of identifying candidates for this volunteer position. The EC Archives themselves are undergoing change as they were relocated from Evangelical Seminary to the third floor of the Church Center building. A permanent home is now being designed for the archives in the lower level of the building. The design will make the archives easier to access while providing more space for research.

The committee is also working on a script for a new denominational video which can be used in conjunction with or in place of the “Streams of Influence” video.

- **Nexus**

This committee serves to help us all live out the fifth core value of the E.C. Church: “United in the Body of Christ as demonstrated by the networking of churches and the Evangelical Congregational Church and the larger Kingdom of God.” Gene Stevenson is the chairman of this committee.

They continue to look for opportunities to promote the visible unity of the Body of Christ at both the local and denominational levels. Once again this year they hosted their annual Clergy Fellowship Gathering in the Church Center conference room in October.

This year the committee also sent out announcements encouraging our congregations to observe the International Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January.

In the coming year Nexus will be looking at what role it might play in fostering unity and understanding within our own ranks. This seems to be a necessary step to take if we are to be successful in extending fellowship to brothers and sisters in non-E.C. traditions.

- **Prayer Mobilization Team (PMT)**

The Prayer Mobilization Team develops the corporate prayer life of the Evangelical Congregational Church by: emphasizing worldwide, denominational and local church prayer movements, coordinating prayer initiatives and events, and providing prayer training and resources.

Rev. Mike Campbell is now serving as the chairman of the PMT. The PMT has developed a schedule of district meetings so the PMT members can spend time in prayer for the districts while they are meeting. In addition, they are investigating opportunities to provide resources and workshops on prayer for districts and individual congregations when practical. One of the more unique ministries they can supply in the PMT SWAT Team (Spiritual Warfare Advance Team). They are available to respond to prayer needs should such a need be expressed by any of our congregations. They have already shared this intercessory prayer ministry in a few local congregations to focus on specific congregation-wide prayer concerns. Please contact Mike Campbell or another member of the PMT.

During the coming year the PMT will be trying to identify how they can help mobilize pastors to a deeper prayer life. In addition, they hope to encourage lay delegates in prayer support for their pastor, perhaps through using a book like “Pastors at Greater Risk” by H.B. London.

- **Social Response and Action Committee**

This committee is to resource pastors and lay leaders to recognize and respond to “cultural crises” with Christ-like concern, grace, and action and will network our denomination with para-church ministries that are effectively responding to and addressing these cultural issues.

This year there will be a time of intentional emphasis in populating this committee so they can take an active role in developing resources for our pastors and congregations.

Respectfully submitted,

Bishop Bruce D. Hill