

NATIONAL CONFERENCE SECRETARY

May 2017

The National Conference Secretary's Report to this May 2017 session of National Conference includes the minutes of the two National Ministry Team meetings (omitting the documents listed as attached to the minutes) that took place this conference year and a summary of the National Executive Committee's work in this past conference year.

The full minutes of all National Executive Committee and National Ministry Team meetings, including all of the supporting documents, are kept in the official National Conference Secretary files, currently housed at Reamstown St. Paul's.

Summary of National Executive Committee Work

In accordance with responsibilities assigned to it by the *Discipline* and the National Conference Rules, the Executive Committee of the National Conference continues to meet to monitor situations between Conference and National Ministry Team sessions and take action on emergency situations. The National Executive Committee is made up of the Bishop, the Vice-Chair of Conference, the National Conference Secretary, and the National Conference Treasurer.

Over the last conference year, the National Executive Committee has handled the following situations:

- Sale of the denomination's vehicles formerly used by Conference Ministers
- Election of Rev. Dr. Gordon Lewis as interim Vice Chair of National Conference to serve until the next Conference Network Team session.
- Sale/rental and sub-division of the former Muir EC Church property.
- Resolution of the Twin Pines deed matter.
- Appointment of an interim Stationing Elder for the Great Lakes Region.
- Ongoing monitoring of our lawsuit in Pakistan, denominational ACA compliance, and the reassignment of residual supervisory functions under the new structure.

Summary of National Ministry Team Actions

The National Ministry Team met for its regular fall meeting on October 13, 2016 (minutes attached). In summary, at that session of the NMT:

- The Kingdom Extension and Global Ministries Commissions' budgets were approved.
- The NMT granted authority to the Executive Director to pursue a group insurance option for our churches with Church Mutual.
- The GMC was granted approval to invite a delegation of leaders from our EC Churches in Mexico to attend National Conference for the conferring of National Conference status upon our Mexico work.

The National Ministry met for its regular spring meeting March 16th, 2017 (minutes attached). In summary, at that session of the NMT:

- A recommendation from the Conference Network Team was approved for referral to National Conference to reassign our Pleasantville Church to the Berks district.
- A recommendation from the Ministerial Development Community was approved for referral to National Conference to change the rules to provide for the use of "Pastoral Restoration Teams."

Minutes of the National Ministry Team Meeting
Zinn Commons of Evangelical Theological Seminary

Thursday, October 13, 2016

9:00 AM

Opening	The National Ministry Team met in regular session on the above date. Bishop Bruce D. Hill opened the meeting by welcoming the delegates and explaining the agenda.
Word & Prayer	Rev. Jonathan Brown, chairman of the new EC Heritage Committee and pastoral representative to NMT from the Conestoga District, presented a devotional message on seeing our world in the grip of the story of the gospel and opened the session with prayer.
Attendance	Each member of the NMT present introduced him or herself to the group and the secretary recorded the attendance (attached).
Minutes	Bishop Hill presented the minutes from the March 10, 2016 NMT meeting (attached). On motion , the minutes were approved.
Bishop's Report	Bishop Hill vacated the chair. Rev. Gary Brown, National Conference Vice-Chairman, assumed the chair of the meeting. Bishop Hill presented his report in two parts. The first part of his report was a review of the changes brought to NMT by the new denominational structure which took effect July 1, 2016. The second part of his report described his and the denomination's work since National Conference. A written copy of the second part of this report was distributed (attached). On motion , the report was adopted. Bishop Hill reassumed the chair.

The NMT stood at recess for five minutes.

Secretary's Report

Rev. Kirk R. Marks, National Conference Secretary, reported that the reporting of the National Conference Secretary to the NMT remains largely unchanged as a result of the denomination's restructuring. He presented the minutes of the National Executive Committee's June 9, 2016 and August 18, 2016 meetings (attached). **On motion**, the report was adopted.

Treasurer's Report

Mrs. Debra Patterson, National Conference Treasurer, presented her report (attached). The Treasurer also presented the 2017 Housing Allowance recommendations that require NMT approval as follows:

Rick Christman	Church Planter	\$15,000
Bruce Hill	Bishop	\$21,000
Timothy King	Church Planter	\$10,200
Gary Kuehner	Associate & DFD	\$15,600
Gordy Lewis	DFD	\$10,000
Dana Logan	StoneRidge Chaplain	\$ 8,000
Keith Miller	DFD	\$13,000
Patricia Strain	GMC Deputy Director	\$13,500

On motion, the Housing Allowance recommendations were approved.

On motion, the Treasurer's report was adopted.

CNT

Bishop Hill presented the report of the Conference Network Team (attached) and verbally described the way this group has been meeting and operating. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

Conference Support Team

Mr. Kevin Henry, Executive Director of the National Conference presented the Conference Support Team's report (attached). Kevin described some changes that have come to church property insurance coverage and some opportunities we have to purchase group insurance as a denomination through Church Mutual. The NMT discussed the pros, cons, and concerns.

On motion, the NMT empowered the Executive Director to continue to pursue the group insurance option through Church Mutual and report in the future.

On motion, the Conference Support Team report was adopted.

L & I Committee

Mr. Kevin Henry, Executive Director of the National Conference, presented the report of the Loan and Investment Committee (attached) and added that two additional loans have been made through the fund since the report was printed. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

Church Health Community

Rev. Dr. Gary Kuehner, Church Health Associate, presented the Church Health Community's report (attached). Gary described the process involved in having a church undergo NCD assessment. **On motion**, the

report was adopted.

On motion, the National Ministry Team stood at recess for lunch.

Thursday, October 13, 2016

1:00 PM

ETS

Mr. James Ehrman, interim Dean of Academic Programs at Evangelical Theological Seminary, brought greetings and an update from the seminary.

Global Ministries Community

Rev. Randy Sizemore, Global Ministries Associate, presented this report (attached). Rev. Sizemore reported as an update to the written report that Cassie Wells and Ivy Limbert have been approved as EC missionaries. Rev. Sizemore described the process our Mexico churches have gone through to prepare themselves for establishing themselves as a National Conference in Latin America. He then made the following request:

The Global Ministries Community has received and approved the document from the Latin American Evangelical Congregational Church (EC Church of Mexico) proving their ability to sustain themselves as a self-governing, self-supporting and self-propagating National Conference. It is our pleasure to seek the approval of the National Ministry Team to invite a delegation from the EC Church of Mexico to join us at the sessions of our National Conference gathering at Messiah College in May of 2017 in order to present them before the body for an official vote conferring upon them National Conference status.

On motion, the request was approved.

Rev. Sizemore distributed the 2017 budget for the Global Ministries Community. **On motion**, the budget was adopted.

On motion, the GMC report was approved.

Kingdom Extension Community

Rev. Les Cool, Kingdom Extension Associate, presented the Kingdom Extension Community's Report (attached). He showed a short video on seeing people as the Lord sees them.

Rev. Cool distributed the 2017 Kingdom Extension Community budget.

On motion, the budget was approved.

On motion, the Kingdom Extension Community's report was adopted.

The National Ministry Team stood at recess for ten minutes.

Ministerial Development Community

Rev. Jeff Byerly, Ministerial Development Associate, presented his community's report (attached). He also explained the changes that have come to our credentialing process with the restructuring and under the

Ministry Development Community. He answered questions on his report. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

Missional Alignment Community

Bishop Hill presented the Missional Alignment Community's report (attached) which outlines the constituent groups of this community and each group's work. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

Benefits Corporation

Kevin Henry gave some updates from the Benefits Corporation. The Benefits Corporation is consulting an attorney to help them navigate the current regulatory environment and significant outcomes of this work will be reviewed at the February Benefits Corporation meeting. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

Episcopal Evaluation

Bishop Hill reported that it is time for the evaluation of the Bishop according to Conference Rules. A significant discussion ensued on the subject of the nature, purpose and timing of the Bishop's evaluation. **On motion**, the National Ministry Team empowered the Episcopal Committee to handle the evaluation of the Bishop required in the 2016-2017 conference year.

On motion, the NMT recommended that the Bishop and Secretary research the rules and logic governing the timing and nature of the evaluation of the Bishop.

District News

A number of district representatives gave reports on various district level ministries and activities, prayer requests and celebrations.

Adjournment

Rev. Bill Stoffel closed the National Ministry Team meeting with a word of prayer. **On motion**, the meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the National Ministry Team is scheduled for March 16, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk R. Marks, Secretary

Thursday, March 16, 2017

9:00 AM

- Opening** The National Ministry Team met in regular session on the above date. Bishop Bruce D. Hill opened the meeting by welcoming the delegates. He thanked the delegates for making the trip in the wintry weather and explained the agenda and its adjustments.
- Word & Prayer** Rev. Rick Sergi, pastoral representative from the Lehigh District, presented a devotional message and opened the session with prayer.
- Attendance** Each member of the NMT present introduced him or herself to the group and the secretary recorded the attendance (attached).
- Minutes** Bishop Hill presented the minutes from the October 13, 2016 NMT meeting (attached). **On motion**, the minutes were approved.
- Bishop's Report** Bishop Hill vacated the chair. Rev. Gary Brown, National Conference Vice-Chairman, assumed the chair of the meeting. Bishop Hill presented his report. A written copy of this report was distributed (attached). **On motion**, the report was adopted. Bishop Hill reassumed the chair.
- Secretary's Report** Rev. Kirk R. Marks, National Conference Secretary, presented the minutes of the National Executive Committee's January 26, 2017 meeting (attached). **On motion**, the report was adopted.
- Treasurer's Report** Mr. Kevin Henry, Executive Director of the National Conference, presented the treasurer's report (attached) for the Treasurer who was excused from the meeting. **On motion**, the report was adopted.
- CNT** Bishop Hill presented the report of the Conference Network Team (attached) and presented the included action item, regarding the transfer of the Bethany Pleasantville Church from the Penn-Jersey District to the Berks District, for recommendation to National Conference.
- On motion**, the item was recommended to National Conference.
- On motion**, the CNT report was adopted.

The NMT stood at recess for fifteen minutes.

Thursday, March 16, 2017

11:00 AM

- Conference Support Team** Mr. Kevin Henry, Executive Director of the National Conference presented the Conference Support Team's report (attached). Kevin invited input and directed questions from our pastors and churches

directly to the communities and committees as listed in section two of the Conference Journal. The Finance Committee is now responsible for pastoral compensation and this committee is in the process of rewriting the pastoral compensation rules for purposes of clarity.

On motion, the Conference Support Team report was adopted.

L & I Committee

Mr. Kevin Henry, Executive Director of the National Conference, presented the report of the Loan and Investment Committee (attached).

On motion, the report was adopted.

Church Health Community

Rev. Dr. Gary Kuehner, Church Health Associate, presented the Church Health Community's report (attached). Gary described the church revitalization training this community has available and which churches would most benefit from it. A team of coaches for this kind of ministry is being developed. Gary also described some of the work being done by the Youth Network and Men's Ministry that are in this community.

On motion, the report was adopted.

Global Ministries Community

Rev. Randy Sizemore, Global Ministries Associate, presented this report (attached). Rev. Sizemore also gave a slide presentation from OMS introducing their "Billion Global" initiative. The NMT discussed the value and dynamics of the EC Church joining this initiative. The consensus of the group was that we will stay in touch with OMS with this venture, but not commit to joining it at this time.

On motion, the GMC report was tabled.

On motion, the National Ministry Team stood at recess for lunch.

Thursday, March 16, 2017

1:00 PM

Twin Pines

Mr. Shawn Fetterhoff, Executive Director of Twin Pines Camp, Conference and Retreat Center, reported to the NMT. Shawn described the recent staff transitions at Twin Pines. Twin Pines recently had the largest number of retreat guests over a weekend they have ever had. He described some of the new programming they are doing and planning for the summer and fall. Promotional videos for Twin Pines and summer camp will be offered soon. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

ETS

Dr. Tony Blair, president of Evangelical Theological Seminary, brought greetings and an update from the seminary. He noted the passing of several members of the seminary's "founder generation" in 2017. He described some grant opportunities the school is pursuing and the new MAMin program and other new degree programs. Tony also described the status of partnerships with other institutions and denominations.

On motion, the GMC report was taken from the table.

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GMC

Rev. Sizemore reviewed the list of active missionaries on his report. He also gave some verbal updates on our EC fields. He reported that giving to GMC through voluntary funding was down 31% for 2016. June 2018 has been chosen as the target date for the task force to present its final report on its review of the GMC. Rev. Sizemore shared that his term will be up at that time and he announced that he will not be seeking a further term as Global Ministries Associate. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

Kingdom Extension Community

Rev. Les Cool, Kingdom Extension Associate, presented the Kingdom Extension Community's report (attached). He shared his passion for the church and gave an overview of the kind of stories he hears in local churches. The *Partners* newsletter continues to be major conduit for sharing those stories. He highlighted some items in the report. **On motion**, the Kingdom Extension Community's report was adopted.

Ministerial Development Community

Rev. Jeffrey Byerly, Ministerial Development Associate, presented his community's report (attached). He reviewed the "credentialing update" section of the report and gave some new information. He reviewed his report and highlighted the new opportunity we have for a new life-long learning community through the EC Studies Center at ETS. This is still developing. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

Rule Change

Jeff reported that a "Pastoral Restoration Team" is being established to replace the former "committee of concern" system to address the needs of pastors in crisis. He provided proposed rule changes to set up this system (attached). **On motion**, these rule changes were recommended to National Conference.

Missional Alignment Community

Bishop Hill presented the Missional Alignment Community's report (attached) which outlines the constituent groups of this community and each group's work. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

The National Ministry Team stood at recess for ten minutes.

Benefits Corporation

Kevin Henry presented the Benefits Corporation report (attached). The Benefits Corporation has consulted an attorney to help them navigate the current regulatory environment and her findings are in the report. Overall, this was a positive outcome for the denomination. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

National Conference 2017

Bishop Hill reported that he has developed a “National Conference Preview” (attached) that outlines a new agenda for that meeting. He reviewed the changes for the group and answered questions.

District News

A number of district representatives gave reports on various district level ministries and activities, prayer requests and celebrations.

Adjournment

Mary Martin, lay representative from the Conestoga District, who is retiring from the National Ministry Team after this meeting, closed the National Ministry Team meeting with a word of prayer. **On motion**, the meeting was adjourned.

Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting of the National Ministry Team is scheduled for October 19, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Kirk R. Marks, Secretary