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# MINUTES

## Partial Index to National Conference Minutes

<b>Item Indexed</b>	<b>Time</b>
Andrew Fund Offering	Friday Morning
Benefits Corporation	Thursday Morning
Benefits Corporation Trustee Election	Thursday Morning
Budget Approval	Thursday Morning
Closing Motions	Friday Morning
Committee Appointments	Friday Morning
Compensation Report	Thursday Morning
Conference Historian Election	Wednesday Afternoon
Correspondence	Wednesday Afternoon
Credentialing	Friday Morning
Disciplinary Questions	Friday Morning
Episcopal Address	Wednesday Afternoon
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Evangelical Theological Seminary	Thursday Morning
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Kingdom and Community Experience	Thursday Afternoon

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Lord's Supper	Wednesday Afternoon
Memorial Secretary	Friday Morning
Milestone Recognitions	Friday Morning
National Conference Secretary	Wednesday Afternoon
Organization of Conf. /Standing Rules & Roll	Wednesday Afternoon
Resolution Grace EC East Petersburg, PA	Thursday Morning
Retirement Recognition	Friday Morning
Roundtable Discussion Communities & Teams	Wednesday Afternoon
Rule Changes	Thursday Morning
Stationing Committee Report	Wednesday Afternoon
Stationing Elder Election	Wednesday Afternoon
StoneRidge Retirement Living	Thursday Morning
Treasurer's Report	Wednesday Afternoon
Twin Pines	Thursday Morning
Voting Rights/Conference Boundary	Wednesday Afternoon

## **National Conference Election Results**

Conference Historian	Rev. Gary Brown
Delaware Region Stationing Elder	Rev. Gary Kuehner
EC Benefits Corporation	Rev. Franklin Schock

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**The Minutes of the  
Fifteenth National Conference of the Evangelical Congregational Church  
2018  
Campus of Messiah College  
Grantham, PA**

**First Day – Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Morning Session**

- Opening** The sessions of the sixteenth National Conference of the Evangelical Congregational Church convened at Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania on Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018.
- Workshop** A training event for first time lay delegates was held prior to the opening of the Conference session.
- Rev Run** The “REV RUN 5K Rev Run/Walk” event sponsored by the Healthy Pastors Team & the Kingdom Extension Community was held to financially support the work of kingdom extension and Imaging Goods and to promote physical activity among our pastors and lay delegates.

**First Day – Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
1:00 P.M.  
Communion**

The Conference gathering was begun with a service of Holy Communion led by Bishop Bruce D. Hill in the Messiah College’s Hostetter Chapel.

**First Day – Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Afternoon Session 2:30 P.M.**

- Opening** Rev. Bruce D. Hill, fourteenth Bishop of the Evangelical Congregational Church, called the business sessions of the sixteenth session of the National Conference of the Evangelical Congregational Church to order at 2:30 PM in the Eisenhower Center of Messiah College. He opened the session with prayer.
- Discipline** Rev. Jeffrey G. Byerly, First Assistant Secretary, read from the *Discipline*.
- Voting Rights** Bishop Hill explained the voting rights to the delegates of the National Conference.
- Standing Rules** **On motion**, the Standing Business Rules as found in the Conference Journal and in the report packet were adopted.
- Conference Roll** **On motion**, the Conference roll as distributed in the packet was adopted.
- Conference Boundary** **On motion**, the Conference Boundary, in keeping with section D of the Standing Rules, was established.
- Correspondence** Rev. Kirk R. Marks, National Conference Secretary, reported that one item of correspondence was received in the form of a letter from Rev. David E. Dick. The letter was read.
- Episcopal Address** Conference Vice Chairman, Rev. Gary Brown, assumed the chair and Bishop

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Hill presented his Episcopal Address. **On motion**, the address was adopted with appreciation.

**Women's Program** Bishop Hill announced the women's program for this Conference session and dismissed the participants.

The Conference session stood at recess for ten minutes.

**NC Secretary** Rev. Kirk R. Marks, National Conference Secretary, presented his report. This report comprises a summary of the work of the National Executive Committee for the past conference year and the complete minutes of the two sessions of the National Ministry Team from this past conference year. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

**Treasurer's Report** Mrs. Debra Patterson, National Conference Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report and the narrative portion of the Finance Committee report. **On motion**, these reports were adopted.

**Episcopacy Committee** Rev. Marlin Lafferty, chair of the Episcopacy Committee, presented the Episcopacy Committee's report. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

**Episcopal Fund** An offering was taken for the Episcopal Fund. Bishop Hill announced that the offering amounted to \$1,294.05.

**Roundtable Discussion** Bishop Hill vacated the chair and Conference Vice Chairman, Rev. Gary Brown, assumed the chair. Bishop Hill then led a roundtable discussion with the Executive Director and Associates. The group discussed the resources that the various communities and the executive director's office make available to local churches. **On motion**, the individual reports of the Associates and the Executive Director were adopted.

**Ballot** Bishop Hill announced that there is a vacancy for the office of Stationing Elder from the Delaware Region and the only applicant for that position is Rev. Gary Kuehner. Rev. Dennis Snyder, a pastor from the Delaware Region, moved that the Secretary cast the ballot for Gary Kuehner for Delaware Region Stationing Elder and it was seconded. **The motion was adopted** by a vote of the delegates from the Delaware Region and the Secretary cast the ballot for Rev. Kuehner.

**Ballot** Bishop Hill announced that the term of the National Conference Historian is up for election. Incumbent Historian Rev. Gary Brown is willing to continue to serve. **On motion**, the Secretary was directed to cast the ballot for Gary Brown for Conference Historian and the Secretary cast the ballot in that way.

**Stationing Committee** Rev. Richard Nahodil presented the stationing report. **On motion**, the report was adopted. Printed copies were made available to the delegates.

**On motion**, the session was adjourned.

**First Day – Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Evening Session 6:30 P.M.**

**Worship** The Conference celebrated a service of worship led by a team led by David Julian.

**Message** Rev. Gary Kuehner, Church Health Associate, brought the message on the Conference theme "ALL IN" focusing on the discipleship of Matthew.

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**Recognition** Bishop Hill facilitated a time of recognition for Randy Sizemore in celebration of his ten years of service leading Global Ministries. Robert Schaeffer, Ron Anderson, Yorioshi Abe and Bishop Hill all spoke about Randy's service.

**On motion**, the Conference session was adjourned. An ice cream, cake and pie social followed in celebration of the service of Randy Sizemore as Global Ministries Associate.

## **Second Day – Thursday, May 31st, 2018 Morning Session 8:30 A.M.**

**Worship** The Conference was led in worship by the team led by David Julian.

**Message** Rev. Randy Sizemore, out-going Global Ministries Associate, brought the message on the Conference theme of "ALL IN" based on the life of David.

**Discipline** The secretary read from the *Discipline*.

**EC Benefits Corporation** **On motion**, the Conference adjourned to reconvene as a meeting of the EC Benefits Corporation.

**On motion**, the Conference reconvened.

**Ballot Announced** Bishop Hill announced that during the meeting of the EC Benefits Corporation, Rev. Franklin Schock was reelected as a ministerial representative to the Benefits Corporation Board of Trustees.

**ETS** Mr. Jim Ehrman, Vice-President for Academic Affairs at the Evangelical Seminary, presented the seminary report. Jim described the seminary's "transformational plan" for the future. **On motion**, the report was approved.

**Enduring Covenant** Bishop Hill presented the "Enduring Covenant" document describing the relationship between the denomination and seminary. Bishop Hill and Dr. Blair have developed this document. The Board of the seminary has already approved this document. **On motion**, the document was approved.

**StoneRidge Retirement Living** Mr. Steven Reiter, CEO and President of StoneRidge Retirement Living, presented this report and gave some verbal updates on the challenges of doing their ministry. **On motion**, the report was approved.

**Twin Pines** Mr. Shawn Fetterhoff, Executive Director of Twin Pines, presented this report. He also gave some verbal highlights and described new events and relationships Twin Pines has developed. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

The Conference session stood at recess for ten minutes.

**Budget** Mrs. Debra Patterson, National Conference Treasurer, and Mr. Kevin Henry, National Conference Executive Director, presented the National Conference budget for 2019. **On motion**, the budget was adopted.

**Compensation** Mrs. Debra Patterson, National Conference Treasurer, and Mr. Kevin Henry, National Conference Executive Director, presented the compensation recommendations from the Budget Committee. Editorial corrections were made to this report prior to its consideration.

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**On motion**, item #2 was adopted.

**On motion**, item #3 was adopted.

**On motion**, item #4 was adopted.

**On motion**, item #5 was adopted.

**On motion**, item #6 was adopted.

**On motion**, item #7 was adopted.

**On motion**, the Finance Committee's report as a whole was adopted.

## **Rule Changes**

Bishop Hill presented the proposed rule changes. The Bishop indicated that the rule changes will be considered and approved by section.

**On motion**, the proposed changes to sections 403.1 and 504.3 were adopted.

**On motion**, the proposed changes to sections 801.2 – 801.4.1.3 were adopted.

**On motion**, the proposed changes to section 808 were adopted.

**On motion**, the proposed changes to section 908 (which also results in changes to 805.2.1.1.5, 805.2.3, 805.5.3) were adopted.

**On motion**, the proposed changes to section 910.2.4 were adopted.

**Motion, and second** to adopt the proposed changes to section 1000.

**Motion, and second, to amend** the item by replacing "owns their own home" with "does not reside in a church provided parsonage" within the item. The motion to amend was approved.

The motion to adopt section 1000 was approved.

**On motion**, the report on rule changes was adopted as a whole.

## **Resolution**

The Secretary reported the following recommended resolution:

"The Grace Evangelical Congregational Church, East Petersburg, Pennsylvania convened a congregational meeting on September 3, 2017 to consider the dissolution of Grace Evangelical Congregational Church, East Petersburg. Following an appropriate motion and second, a vote was taken and those entitled to cast a ballot voted to approve the motion to close effective September 24, 2017 and be declared dissolved effective upon the adoption of a resolution of dissolution by the National Conference of the Evangelical Congregational Church no later than June 2, 2018. The congregation took all actions required by Section 324.4 of the *Discipline* as to the call of the meeting, notice to members, entitlement to vote and vote required to dissolve.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the closure of Grace Evangelical Congregational Church, East Petersburg, Pennsylvania is hereby approved by the National Conference of the Evangelical Congregational Church, to be effective upon the repayment of any claims of the National Conference being adequately satisfied."

**On motion**, the resolution was adopted.

## **Special Privilege**

Rev. Paul Miller, pastor of Bushkill EC Church, gave an update on their church's facility challenges and described some ways in which other churches can help them.

The Conference stood at recess for lunch.

**Second Day – Thursday, May 31st, 2018**  
**Afternoon Session 1:30 P.M.**

## **Kingdom and**

The Conference reconvened with delegates meeting separately in district groups

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## Community Experience

for delegates to participate in the Kingdom and Community Experience. Presentations were made by Bishop Hill and Kingdom Extension Associate Les Cool and discussions led by District Field Directors were held in those district groups.

### Second Day – Thursday, May 31st, 2018 Evening Session 6:30 P.M.

## Worship

The Conference was led in worship by the team led by David Julian. Rev. Jeffrey Byerly, Ministerial Development Associate, brought the message on the Conference theme of “ALL IN” from the perspective of Ruth and focused on vulnerability.

### Third Day – Friday, June 1st, 2018 Morning Session 8:30 A.M.

## Opening

Bishop Hill called the session to order and the secretary read from the *Discipline*.

## Credentials

Rev. N. Patrick Teaford, Chairman of the Ministerial Development Community’s Board of Examiners presented the Board’s report.

## Disciplinary Questions

The following individuals answered the disciplinary questions: Manuel Arias, Lawrence Bentz, and Mark Reigle. Bishop Hill led the Conference in prayer for these candidates.

## Executive Session

**On motion**, the Conference moved into executive session.

The Conference reconvened into open session.

## Credentials

Rev. Teaford resumed the Board of Examiner’s report:

We recommend that L. Donald Kerns be transferred to a Local Elder. **On motion**, this item was approved.

We recommend that Manuel Arias be received as a Local Candidate. **On motion**, the item was approved.

We recommend that Lawrence Bentz be received as a Local Candidate. **On motion**, the item was approved.

We recommend that Mark Reigle be received as a Local Candidate. **On motion**, the item was approved.

We recommend that Gerald Klopp be reinstated as a Certified Lay Preacher. **On motion**, the item was approved.

We recommend that Gary Bosler be transferred from a Licensed Pastor to a Local Pastor at his request. **On motion**, the item was approved.

We recommend that Jeffrey Martin and Ralph Owens be transferred to the Superannuated classification. **On motion**, the item was approved.

We recommend that Stephen Holubec be transferred to the Supernumerary

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classification. **On motion**, the item was approved.

The following information items were report from the Board of Examiners:

Shawn Morgan was granted Approved Elder status by the Board of Examiners.

David Wood has surrendered his credentials and has been removed from our ministerial rolls.

Ronald Bachman, James Danielson, John Haub, and Jeffrey Miller have been removed from our ministerial rolls as a result of their failure to renew credentials, and Andrew Sekellick and Kerry Watson have been removed from our ministerial rolls at their request.

We have granted annual renewals for the following credentialed individuals:

- Deacon/Deaconess – John Baker, Lisa Custer, Marisel Mieses, Timothy Reigle, and Leroy Walbert
- Licensed Candidate – Philip Bartelt, and Joshua Nemeth
- Local Candidate – Andrew Brubaker and Jeffrey Hain
- Lay Preacher Certification – Robert Fritz, Donald Romberger, Paul VanOsten and Ronald West

**On motion**, the report of the Ministerial Development Community was adopted as a whole.

**Ballot Announced** Bishop Hill announced the results of the balloting that was taken during the executive session. Addison Roberts has been accepted into the Itinerancy by a 2/3 vote of the Itinerant members of the Conference

**Ballot Announced** Bishop Hill announced the result of the vote that was taken during the executive session. William White was received as a Licensed Pastor.

The Conference session stood at recess for 15 minutes.

**Worship** The Conference session resumed with worship led by the Conference worship team. Rev. Kirk R. marks, National Conference Secretary, presented the morning message on the Conference theme “ALL IN” highlighting the experience of the prophets of the Old Testament and specifically focusing on the experience of Amos from Amos 7:10-17.

**Memorial Secretary** The report of Rev. Adam Roberts, National Conference Memorial Secretary, was presented by Rev. Jonathan Brown. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

**Andrew Fund** An offering was taken for the Andrew Fund and the Conference worship team led the singing of *At The Cross*. The offering amounted to \$1,166.75.

**Retirement Recognition** Bishop Hill announced the list of retirees. Those retiree couples who were recognized were Jeffrey and Dawn Martin and Ralph and Connie Owens. Bishop Hill made the retiree presentations and Rev. Keith Miller led the Conference in prayer for these retirees.

**Milestone Recognitions** Bishop Hill recognized Rev. Don and Martha Metz, Rev. Bob and Barb Nissly, and Rev. Franklin and Eileen Schock for achieving 50 years of service with the EC credentials. Rev. Dr. Kenneth Miller led the Conference in prayer of thanksgiving for these years of service.



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<b>New Credentials</b>	Bishop Hill called forward and recognized those who received new pastoral credentials at this Conference. Rev. Carlos Kelly led the Conference in prayer for them.
<b>Installation</b>	Bishop Hill and Rev. Randy Sizemore led a service of installation for Rev. John Theodore Rathman as Global Ministries Associate.
<b>Conference Digest</b>	Bishop Hill announced that the National Conference Digest has been prepared and it was distributed. It will also be posted on the website and has been distributed by e-mail.
<b>2019 Conference</b>	National Conference for 2019 is scheduled for May 29-31, 2019 at the campus of Messiah College.
<b>Conference Roll</b>	<b>On motion</b> , the National Conference Secretary was authorized to update the Conference Ministerial Rolls.
<b>Committee Appointments</b>	<b>On motion</b> , the Bishop and Associates were authorized to appoint committees for the 2018-2019 Conference year.
<b>Minutes</b>	<b>On motion</b> , the Secretary was authorized to affix signatures to the minutes.
<b>Adjournment</b>	The Conference session was concluded with the singing of <i>Wonderful Grace of Jesus</i> .  <b>On motion</b> , the sixteenth National Conference of the Evangelical Congregational Church was adjourned. Bishop Hill led the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Rev. Kirk R. Marks**, National Conference Secretary