



## The Sixteenth National Conference of the Evangelical Congregational Church

### Wednesday

Wednesday featured a 5K Run/Walk in support of Kingdom Extension during the registration process. The conference convened in the afternoon at Hostetter Chapel with the entire conference sharing in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Bishop Hill presented an inspiring message spurring the conference toward being “all in” in our relationship with Jesus and His calling on our lives.

Following the service of Holy Communion, the National Conference reconvened at Brubaker Auditorium and cared for the parliamentary procedural items necessary to open the business sessions.

Bishop Bruce Hill delivered the Episcopal address, where he moved the conference to go “all in” as pastors, delegates, church leaders, and congregations. He challenged the conference delegates against complacency and toward building God’s

kingdom in our communities and around the world. Copies of the Episcopal address were made available to conference delegates, who were encouraged to make this address available to their congregations.

Rev. Kirk Marks, National Conference Secretary, presented his report. Mrs. Debra Patterson, treasurer, presented a report of the Conference finances. Rev. Marlin Lafferty reported for the Episcopacy Committee.

A collection was taken for the Episcopal Fund of \$1,254.00.

Bishop Bruce Hill led a roundtable discussion with the Executive Director and Associates. They described their work, how God is at work in each of their areas, as well as the resources that various Communities make available to local churches.

The Secretary cast the ballot for Rev. Gary Brown as National Conference Historian and Rev. Dr. Gary Kuehner as Delaware Region Stationing Elder.

The report of the Stationing Committee was presented to the conference.

After dinner, the worship team from Grace Community Church, Willow Street, PA led in worship. Rev. Dr. Gary Kuehner, Church Health Associate presented a message on going “all in” with Jesus.

The conference celebrated the work of Rev. Randy Sizemore, Global Ministries Associate, for his ten years of service to the global work of the E.C. Church.

The evening session closed with an invitation to a pie and ice cream fellowship.

### Thursday

The morning began with worship and featured devotions from Global Ministries Associate, Rev. Randy Sizemore, offered devotions on going “all in” in the midst of loss.

Rev. Ryan Taylor presented the report for the Benefits Corporation and conducted its annual meeting. A ballot was cast for Rev. Franklin Schock to the

Benefits Corporation Board of Trustees.

Mr. Jim Ehrman, Dean of Academic Affairs, presented the report for Evangelical Theological Seminary. The conference adopted the “Enduring Covenant” with Evangelical Theological Seminary.

Mr. Steven Reiter, representing StoneRidge Retirement Living, presented an update on the work of their ministry.

A report was heard from Twin Pines Camp.

Kevin Henry, Executive Director, and Mrs. Debra Patterson, National Conference Treasurer, gave the reports of the Finance Committee, which included the following compensation items:

- The base 2019 pastoral salaries were established to be increased by the COLA percentage that will be posted on the church website once it is released.
- The 2019 Conference administrative salaries were established according to the reports.
- Items of information focused on establishing other conference salaries and wages, pension figures, honorariums, vacation schedules, and ministry leaves for 2019.

The budget for the National Conference was approved, which will assign Ministry Funds for 2019 at 6.05% and the Twin Pines supplement at .12%.

Bishop Hill presented the changes to the Rules of Conference. All changes were approved.

The conference approved a resolution regarding the closure of Grace Evangelical Congregational Church, East Petersburg, PA.

The afternoon included the Kingdom and Community Experience. Pastors and delegates were organized into districts and moved to various areas to hear about how the new Communities function and what they offer churches.

The evening session included worship by the conference worship team. Rev. Jeffrey Byerly, Ministerial Development Associate, brought the message from the book of Ruth and how to be “all in” despite vulnerability.

### Friday

Rev. Pat Teaford, the Chairman of the Ministerial Development Community’s Board of Examiners, presented the Credentialing Report.

The following statuses were approved:

**Itinerancy:** Addison Roberts. **Licensed Pastor:** William White; **Local Elder:** Donald Kerns; **Local Candidate:** Manuel Arias; Lawrence Bentz; Mark Reigle; **Certified Lay Preacher:** Gerald Klopp. **Local Pastor.** Gary Bosler; **Approved Elder.** Shawn Morgan; **Superannuations:**

Jeffrey Martin; Ralph Owens; **Superannumerary:** Stephen Holubec.

The annual renewals of credentials were granted.

The following were removed from our ministerial roles:

Ronald Bachman; James Danielson; John Haub; Jeffrey Miller; Andrew Sekellick; Kerry Watson; David Wood.

The conference band led in praise and worship, while Rev. Kirk Marks, National Conference Secretary, provided a message focused on Amos and how to be “all in” despite resistance.

The Conference concluded with the Memorial Report and recognition of retirees.

The 2018 National Conference adjourned by singing together *Wonderful Grace of Jesus* followed by prayer.