

NATIONAL CONFERENCE SECRETARY

The National Conference Secretary's Report to this May 2019 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 Leesport, Bethany EC Church.

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. The Executive Director often attends these meetings as a non-voting member.

Over the last conference year, the National Executive Committee dealt with the following matters:

- Worked with the Episcopacy Committee on matters relating to the Bishop's sabbatical.
- Oversaw and approved changes in the National Conference banking relationships and internal regulations.
- Monitored ongoing legal situations involving the National Conference.
- Assisted the Bishop in working with churches that are struggling with their ability to continue in ministry.
- Accepted the 2017 audit report.
- Approved the 2018 National Conference Minutes in compliance with "standing rule O" of the National Conference.
- Worked with the Bishop in handling special circumstances that developed with Stationing Elders for the 2018 stationing year.
- Worked with the Bishop in planning the structural evaluation of the denominational structure on preparation for the amendment of the *Discipline*.

Summary of National Ministry Team Actions

The National Ministry Team met for its regular fall meeting on October 18, 2018 (minutes attached). In summary, at that session of the NMT:

- The Kingdom Extension and Global Ministries Community budgets were approved.
- The NMT participated in the structural evaluation of the denomination.
- The NMT approved and recommended to National Conference a series of rule changes recommended by the Ministerial Development Community.

The National Ministry met for its regular spring meeting March 21, 2019 (minutes attached). In summary, at that session of the NMT:

- The NMT witnessed Dr. Timothy Valentino affirmatively answer the disciplinary questions in preparation for credentialing at National Conference.
- The NMT reviewed proposed changes to the Twin Pines Articles of Incorporation which will be presented to National Conference.
- The NMT reviewed proposed changes to the rules of National Conference which will be presented to National Conference for final action.
- The NMT passed along to National Conference the results of the evaluation of the denominational structure and made recommendations for the amendment of the *Discipline*.

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

Thursday, October 18, 2018

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.

Word & Prayer Rev. J. "Ted" Rathman, newly installed Global Ministries Associate, presented a message from Genesis 12 about being on mission with God. He also offered the opening prayer.

Attendance Each member of the NMT present introduced him or herself to the group and the secretary recorded the attendance (attached).

Minutes Rev. Kirk R. Marks, National Conference Secretary, presented the minutes from the March 15, 2018 NMT meeting (attached). **On motion**, the minutes were adopted.

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 his report on the work of the National Executive Committee (attached). **On motion**, the report was adopted.

Treasurer's Report Mrs. Debra Patterson, National Conference Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report (attached) and highlighted some items from the report. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

Housing Allowances Mrs. Debra Patterson, National Conference Treasurer, presented the 2019 Housing Allowances for National Conference employees:

Rick Christman	Church Planter	\$15,000
Bruce Hill	Bishop	\$21,000
Timothy King	Church Planter	\$ 8,400
Gary Kuehner	Associate and DFD	\$15,600
Gordy Lewis	DFD	\$10,000
Dana Logan	Chaplain – StoneRidge	\$ 8,000
Keith Miller	DFD	\$10,000
Patricia Strain	Deputy Director GMC	\$10,000
Ralph Owens	DFD	\$ 8,000
Sterling Trimmer	DFD	\$ 7,000

On motion, the housing allowances were approved.

Strategic Evaluation Following up on items introduced in his report, Bishop Hill described the process that has been developed to evaluate our current denominational structure. He began with the four "Covenant" statements that set us on the course of restructuring the denomination. He described what has already been done in this evaluation process and outlined for the NMT their part in evaluating various parts of the structure.

The Team was divided into four discussion groups and associates facilitated a guided discussion evaluating the Community, Conference Network Team, and Conference Support Team structures of the denomination.

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

- Twin Pines** Mr. Shawn Fetterhoff, Executive Director of Twin Pines Camp and Conference Center, presented a verbal report on the ministry, facility and growing partnerships of Twin Pines. PowerPoint slides to help churches publicize each event coming up at Twin Pines will soon be available to all our churches. A tentative schedule for summer camp and a calendar of events for 2019 is available, and on-line summer camp registration will become available in January.
- ETS** Dr. Tony Blair, president of Evangelical Theological Seminary, brought greetings and an update from the seminary. Enrollment for this academic year is up significantly, thanks in large part to the addition of the new Doctor of Theology program, and the Master's degree enrollment is also up. The final accreditation approval for completely online programs has now come through. Seminary business office services are now being outsourced with Lancaster Bible College, and the seminary has entered into several other resource sharing consortiums. Giving to the seminary, both from EC Churches and other sources is up from previous years.
- CNT** Bishop Hill presented the report of the Conference Network Team (attached). **On motion**, the CNT report was adopted.
- Conference Support Team** Mr. Kevin Henry, Executive Director of the National Conference, presented the Conference Support Team's report (attached). **On motion**, this report was adopted.
- L & I Committee** Mr. Kevin Henry 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). He emphasized the resources made available at no cost by the CHC and the willingness of resource leaders to come to any church no matter the distance from Myerstown. He also described the help the CHC can bring in moving churches from Official Boards to Ministry Councils.
- Global Ministries Community** Rev. Ted Rathman, Global Ministries Associate, presented this report (attached). He also shared a verbal/ PowerPoint presentation on the future of the GMC as it restructures in response to the recommendations of their task force that reported last year. Ted invited churches and districts to be in contact with him to volunteer individuals with a heart to serve in one of the areas within the GMC. **On motion**, the report was adopted.
- GMC Budget** Mr. Kevin Henry presented the GMC budget as recommended by the GMC (attached). Kevin provided some narrative to explain the significant changes from the 2018 budget to the 2019 budget. **On motion**, the budget was adopted.
- Kingdom Extension Community** Rev. Les Cool, Kingdom Extension Associate, presented the Kingdom Extension Community's report (attached). He highlighted the "plant versus church" conversations noted in his report. He also amended his report to reflect (1) that the Palmerton "Fire Escape" work is no longer operating and (2) Tim King will no longer be financially funded through KEC because he no longer needs that funding. KEC will pay his coaching costs. **On motion**, the report as amended was adopted.
- KEC Budget** Mr. Kevin Henry distributed the KEC budget recommendation (attached). **On motion**, the KEC budget was adopted.
- Ministerial Development Community** Rev. Jeffrey Byerly, Ministerial Development Associate, presented his community's report (attached). Jeff described the various ways that the MDC has sought to fulfill its mandate from the restructuring. He reported that evaluation of the MDC as a new structure has already begun within this group. **On motion**, the narrative portion of this report was adopted.

Rule Changes	Jeff then drew attention to the MDC proposed rule changes included with his report. On motion , the “Recommended Changes to the Rules of Conference” section of this report was recommended to National Conference for adoption.
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. Bishop Hill recognized and expressed his appreciation for Rev. Dr. Ken Miller, who has led the Faith and Doctrine Committee for some time. Dr. Miller has resigned from that committee and Rev. Kirk R. Marks has been appointed to chair the Faith and Doctrine Committee. He also highlighted the Heritage Committee’s work and progress on renovating the ground level of Church Center. The EC Archives will be moved there soon. He also highlighted the increasingly mobile work of the Prayer Mobilization Team and the work of the Spiritual Warfare Advance Team (SWAT). On motion , the report was adopted.
Benefits Corporation	Mr. Kevin Henry, Executive Director of the EC Church, gave a verbal report from the Benefits Corporation and highlighted the need for both lay and ministerial trustees for the Benefits Corporation board. Changes in the fund availability within the 403b retirement plan are coming in January. On motion , the report was adopted.
District News	Bishop Hill invited district representatives to share news, events, ideas, or prayer requests from their districts and a number of items were shared.
Thanks	Bishop Hill expressed his thanks to the NMT members for participating in the structural evaluation in this meeting. He reminded the Team that we will be making a recommendation to National Conference for <i>Discipline</i> amendments on our structure at our next meeting.
Adjournment	Rev. Charles Campbell closed the National Ministry Team meeting with a word of prayer. On motion , the meeting was adjourned.
Upcoming Meetings	The 2019 meetings of the National Ministry Team are scheduled for March 21, 2019 and October 10, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Kirk R. Marks, Secretary

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

Thursday, March 21, 2019

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 describing the business of the day.
Word & Prayer	Rev. Timothy King, pastor of Christ House Church in Ephrata, PA, opened the session in prayer and presented a message from Psalm 88. A season of prayer followed.
Attendance	Each member of the NMT present introduced him or herself to the group and the Secretary recorded the attendance (attached). The Secretary reported that all members of the NMT were present for this session, along with four advisory members.
Minutes	Rev. Kirk R. Marks, National Conference Secretary, presented the minutes from the October 18, 2018 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. 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	Rev. Kirk R. Marks, National Conference Secretary, presented the

- Report** minutes of the March 15, 2019 National Executive Committee (attached). NEC members answered questions related to NEC business items. **On motion**, the report was approved.
- Treasurer's Report** Mrs. Debra Patterson, National Conference Treasurer, presented the treasurer's report (attached) and also reported that the Finance Committee met last week and developed a budget for the 2020 fiscal year, which will be presented for adoption at Conference. **On motion**, the report was adopted.
- CNT** Bishop Hill presented the report of the Conference Network Team (attached). **On motion**, the CNT report was adopted.
- Conference Support Team** Mr. Kevin Henry, Executive Director of the National Conference, presented the Conference Support Team's report (attached). Kevin gave verbal highlights and answered questions on the report. **On motion**, this 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.

The NMT stood at recess for 15 minutes.

Thursday, March 21, 2019

11:00 AM

- Global Ministries Community** Rev. John "Ted" Rathman, Global Ministries Associate, presented this report (attached) and gave some highlights and updates. The GMC is working on developing criteria for the formation of missionary care teams. Identifying people with the right gifts and skills, and some training will be needed. Ted described the ministry partnership GMC is developing with TEAM missions through Barry Winchell, who is a member at Grace Community at Willow Street. TEAM has resources to help us with mobilizing those called to missions onto the field and missionary coaching. **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 gave an update on his travel to and experiences at the Exponential 2019 event. September 21, 2019 is the finalized date for the one-day Men's Ministry event at Royersford. The EC YouthNet has established a Facebook page for EC youth leaders to interact. Gary will be traveling to Illinois, Western PA and Ohio to present CHC resourcing for those churches this September. **On motion**, the report was adopted.
- Kingdom Extension Community** Rev. Les Cool, Kingdom Extension Associate, presented the Kingdom Extension Community's report(attached). He highlighted some items from the report. "Zoom" meetings/conversations have been held on various discussion topics. Les posed some thought-provoking questions about how we help our pastors and local churches identify and equip new leaders. Les answered questions on his report and gave some further details on plans for discipleship training. **On motion**, the report was adopted.
- Ministerial Development Community** Rev. Jeffrey Byerly, Ministerial Development Associate, presented his community's report (attached). Jeff described the process and the progress in moving individuals through the ordination process. He described the importance of the "guiding document" of the "Profile of an EC Pastor." The credential of "Certified Lay Preacher" is being suspended as it is not being used. Those holding that credential will be continued. The MDC is restructuring a bit under the areas of restorative pastor health to better provide for this area. **On motion**, the report was adopted.
- Missional Alignment Community** Bishop Hill presented the Missional Alignment Community report (attached) and highlighted items from the Faith and Doctrine Committee, the Heritage Committee, and the Prayer Mobilization Network. **On motion**, the report was adopted.
- Disciplinary Questions** Rev. Timothy Valentino appeared before the NMT and answered the disciplinary questions to transfer credentials into the EC ministry.

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

Thursday, March 21, 2019

1:00 PM

ETS Dr. Anthony Blair, President of Evangelical Theological Seminary, brought greetings and an update from the seminary. Rev. Jeff Byerly led the NMT in prayer for Dr. Blair in the passing of his mother this week. Dr. Blair gave an update on the progression of the ThD program and digital marketing and program delivery.

Dr. Blair reported on the growing institutional partnerships Evangelical is working in and exploring going forward. Many conversations and options are on the table. The Team gave some feedback about various aspects of partnerships for the seminary. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

Twin Pines Mr. Shawn Fetterhoff, Executive Director of Twin Pines Camp and Conference Center, gave a verbal report on the work of the Camp. He reported on the "Spring Fling" retreat program for elementary school children and the "Winter Thaw" retreat program for teens. He shared some needs for the summer program and the changing camping picture in the Poconos.

Mr. Fetterhoff presented the proposed changes to Twin Pines Articles of Incorporation (attached). These changes would enable the Camp to operate more independently and better structure its board. These changes were part of the report and received for information; they will be voted on at National Conference. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

Episcopacy Committee Rev. Marlin Lafferty, chair of the Episcopacy Committee, presented this report (attached). The report describes and proposes to National Conference a sixty-day sabbatical for Bishop Hill, July 1, 2019 through September 2, 2019. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

Benefits Corporation Mr. Kevin Henry, Executive Director of the EC Church, gave a verbal report from the Benefits Corporation. The most immediate need for the Board of Pensions is for lay leaders to fill positions on the Corporation's Board of Trustees. **On motion**, the report was adopted.

Rule Changes Bishop Hill presented a list of changes to the Rules of Conference (attached) that will be presented to National Conference. No action was taken on any of these items; they were simply reviewed and discussed as recommended to National Conference.

Strategic Evaluation Bishop Hill presented the document entitled "The Strategic Evaluation of the EC Denominational Structure" (attached). The Team discussed the summarized results and conclusion of the evaluation.

On motion, the National Ministry Team recommends that this report of the evaluation of the denominational structure be presented to National Conference with the National Ministry Team's further recommendation that the National Conference instruct the Amendments Committee to prepare amendments to the EC *Discipline* such that the *Discipline* can be amended to formalize and approve this structure that is currently in place as an experiment under section 409.11. We further recommend that these amendments be presented to National Conference at its 2020 session for first reading so that they can be considered for final approval and *Discipline* change at the 2021 session of the National Conference.

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

Adjournment Rev. Dennis Snyder 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 10, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Kirk R. Marks, Secretary