



Wednesday

The Conference began in the afternoon at Hostetter Chapel with the consecration service of our fifteenth Bishop, Rev. Randy Sizemore, which was presided over by Bishop Bruce Hill. Bishop Sizemore's first act as Bishop was to lead the entire Conference in sharing the sacrament of Holy Communion.

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

Bishop Randy Sizemore delivered the Episcopal address, using an introductory illustration of Humpty Dumpty's fall from the wall to relate to the decline of the Church in America. He impressed on us the theme "Overflowing Hope" that "Our hope comes from who we are, not what we are! . . . We are The Evangelical Congregational Church of Jesus Christ, gathered in local congregations, connected with one another and shepherded by

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pastors." In returning to the Humpty Dumpty illustration, Bishop Sizemore stated that our transition to a flexible community helps "us embrace our awkward slide off that wall with grace and purpose, keeping us intact enough to become a movement instead of a monument!"

The National Conference Treasurer's Report was made by outgoing Treasurer Mrs. Debra Patterson. Executive Director Kevin Henry presented a gift to Debra for her years of service.

The Episcopacy Committee report was given by Rev. Marlin Lafferty, followed by the Conference Network Team and the Conference Support Team.

The National Conference Communities were given some time to share a few things about the Community over which they serve. Rev. Dr. Gary Kuehner, the Church Health Associate, emphasized the importance of sharing testimonies, making disciples, and having small groups that help believers become better followers of Jesus. Global Ministries Community Associate, Rev. Ted Rathman, shared a video from E.C. leaders around the world who expressed gratitude for the leadership of Bishop Emeritus Bruce Hill and Bishop Randy Sizemore. The Kingdom Extension Associate, Les Cool,

shared his last report and introduced the new Associate, Rev. Mike Snedeker, who stressed the importance of all believers in our congregations to have a part in reaching our communities for Christ.

Rev. Charles Campbell was elected to another term as Stationing Elder from the Great Lakes Region.

After the evening meal, the worship team from Grace Community Church, Willow Street, PA led in worship. Special speaker, Dr. Douglas Buckwalter of Evangelical Seminary, shared the message using a powerful visual illustration of Jesus taking on our sin. He concluded by pointing us to the truth that God lavishes His grace on us.

The evening session closed with refreshments and fellowship with a spirit of unity.

Thursday

The morning began with worship and featured a message from Dr. Douglas Buckwalter reminding us that "in the midst of tension, we can have peace with God."

Rev. Frank Schock gave the report for the Benefits Corporation. Dr. Tony Blair, President of Evangelical Seminary, gave an update on their ministry. Executive Director Shawn Fetterhoff

updated us on the ministry of Twin Pines Camp. The Finance Committee report was presented Mrs. Debra Patterson and Executive Director Kevin Henry and Carl Butler was introduced as the new National Conference Treasurer. The Finance Committee report included the adoption of the following compensation items:

- The base 2023 pastoral salaries were established to be increased by the COLA percentage that will be posted on the church website once it is released.
- The 2023 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 2023.

It was also announced that Ministry Funds will stay the same at the rate of 5.65%. The conference budget was also approved.

Bishop Randy Sizemore addressed the proposed changes to the Rules of Conference, which were approved.

After the break, the proposed amendments to the Discipline were presented by Rev. Dr. Joel Kime. They were approved as amended.

During the afternoon, members of Conference enjoyed an Equipping Experience evaluating and discussing results from the Grip Berkman Assessment and listening to sessions by Rev. Les Cool, our

outgoing Kingdom Extension Associate.

Following the Equipping Experience, the Conference celebrated the years of service of Bishop Emeritus Hill with a celebration dinner. Special speakers shared memories of life and ministry before and during his time as Bishop, which included messages from his son Rev. Matthew Hill and others. They were also presented with gifts in thanks for their many years of service. They were also presented with gifts from members of the Evangelical Congregational Church.

Friday

Executive Director Kevin Henry presented Resolutions and Rev. Pat Teaford presented the Credentialing Report.

The following statuses were approved:

Itinerant Elder: Daniel Dixon; **Licensed Candidate:** Andrew Parry; **Licensed Pastor:** Jared Yordy; **Local Elder:** John Baker, James “Janor” Bestwick, Gary Bosler, Robert Dunbar, Jeffrey Merwine; **Local Pastor:** Frank Miller, Sr.; **Approved Pastor status:** Tanner Cosgrave, Michael Lewis; **Superannuation classification:** Glenn Compton, Michael Eck, Michael Garrison, Bruce Hill; **Notification of Transfer:** Scott Phillips

The annual renewals of credentials, notifications of transfer and notifications of removal were granted.

The following were removed from our ministerial roles:

Brian Betsworth, Scott Carr, and Rob Romig.

The worship session was filled with songs of praise and with an encouraging message of thankfulness for pastors by Bishop Randy Sizemore.

The Conference concluded with the Memorial Report and recognition of retirees, including Glenn Compton, Michael Eck, Michael Garrison, and Bishop Emeritus Bruce Hill. A special recognition was given to Rev. Robert Brown and Rev. Robert Stahl for achieving 50 years of holding credentials in the Evangelical Congregational Church.

The 2022 National Conference adjourned by singing together *Wonderful Grace of Jesus*, followed by prayer.