



JULY 2015

Evangelical Congregational Church



EC Leader

From the Bishop

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National Conference is over! In the Bishop's office life begins to return to normal; whatever "normal" is. While it was a busy National Conference, we accomplished a lot of work with the adoption of Amendments to the Discipline, the Covenant Implementation Team proposals, and the Benefits Corporation proposal. Those were the big things, but there was much more to conference than that. I am thankful that, even with all the business, we took time for praise, worship and our Community Conversations. When I think back on this National Conference I really enjoyed observing two things in particular: loud times and quiet times.

The loud times occurred just before and after the sessions of conference and when we were able to take a break. It was then that all the delegates were able to stand and talk together; to talk with old and new friends. One of the great things about National Conference is that it provides us with the opportunity to see people we may not

have seen since last year. In that respect, National Conference becomes our family reunion. And just like family reunions it would get pretty loud as animated conversations, story-telling, and just catching up on each other's lives became the focus of our attention. Being on the platform and watching all the conversations was wonderful for me to see. The pastors and lay delegates of the E.C. Church really love each other and it shows in our conversations.

The quiet times that occurred during conference are also an evidence of the love we have for each other. This year I often looked out, sometimes even during the loud times, and saw small groups of pastors and delegates gathered in a circle for prayer. It was not unusual for me to see a few people standing or sitting in a circle together; many times holding hands, heads bowed in prayer. Not only do we each enjoy each other's company; we enjoy the opportunities to support each other in prayer before our great God. The Bible calls for us to pray for

each other and the delegates to National Conference believe that and practice it!

I guess what I'm trying to say is that I praise God and I'm thankful to the pastors and lay delegates who attended National Conference 2015, where our theme was COMMUNITY, we lived that out. My prayer is that the spirit of National Conference, the spirit of COMMUNITY, will continue long after conference is over and our schedules return to normal. May we always be connected to each other as a COMMUNITY of faith; praying for and with each other, and looking for additional opportunities to enjoy each other's company. And may we put that love into action outside the church as we touch the lives of those all around us. May we build COMMUNITY through the gift and grace of hospitality and prayer.

In Christ's service,



Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise



1. Pray for me as I begin to lead our denomination in making the Covenant Implementation Team's proposal, which were adopted by the members of National Conference, a reality in the life of our church.
2. Pray for those who will work with me this summer to make a recommendation to the National Ministry Team regarding the defunding of our affiliates, the nature and pace, so that its implementation respects the health and long term viability of both our affiliates and the denomination.
3. Pray for the pastors and congregations who are saying "good-bye" and "hello" this summer as new pastoral assignments take effect on July 1, the beginning of a new Conference year.
4. Ask the Lord to show you new ways to develop real COMMUNITY both inside and outside the walls of your church.
5. Pray for all the young people who will be getting to know Jesus through traditional summertime ministries like local vacation Bible schools and our camping ministries (Camp ECCO in Ohio, Rock River Bible Camp in Illinois, and Twin Pines Camp in Pennsylvania).
6. Praise the Lord for the wonderful spirit of National Conference 2015! The many people who have witnessed that the presence of God's Holy Spirit was evident many times throughout the conference.
7. Thank the Lord for opportunities to take vacation time to relax with family and friends.
8. Praise God for the new students registering for classes at Evangelical Seminary and for new programs like the Master of Arts in Ministry degree.
9. Praise the Lord for our denomination's commissions and committees as they continue to look for innovative ways to make Christ known in our culture.
10. Praise God for the opportunity to visit another church and learn how they do "church" and worship with a different community of believers while on vacation.



2015 National Conference Journal

If you have not already done so...now is the time to place your order for the 2015 National Conference Journal.

We are again offering a three-ring binder (\$7.00 ea.); section dividers (\$4.00 ea.); printed contents (\$14.00 ea.); additional CD—WORD format (\$5.00 ea.) and a name & address directory (\$5.00 ea.).

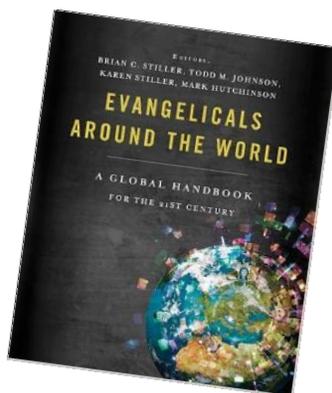
PLEASE TAKE NOTE: Each church will receive one (1) copy of the Journal on CD FREE of charge.

Contact Brenda (blong@eccenter.com or 717-866-7581) at the EC Church Center to place your order.

The Evangelical Congregational Church is a member denomination of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE). The NAE has two books that may of interest to the people of our churches and should be considered for inclusion in your church library. For more information or to order copies for your church please check out the brand new NAE website www.NAE.net

When God and Science Meet

The NAE released its booklet “When God and Science Meet: Surprising Discoveries of Agreement” addressing questions that arise at the intersection of faith and science. Many people perceive tension—and sometimes even hostility—between faith and science. But there’s more agreement than many realize. Leith Anderson, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, describes the difficulty of engaging in meaningful conversation that respects both faith and science. As laypersons we sometimes wonder if we know enough about science or religion to ask the right questions of either. As scientists we may welcome serious conversations but wonder if others tilt more toward controversy or more toward truth. As pastors we often keep silent on science, because we don’t know what to say or because we don’t want to engage or escalate unwanted debates. Now there’s a resource to inspire and inform your evangelical voice with trusted insight as you explore the surprising discoveries of agreement. The booklet does not answer all the questions, but it unites the conversation in a way that values and respects both faith and science. It features 10 essays from leading evangelicals and scientists and can be downloaded, ordered singly, or in a 10-pack.



Evangelicals Around the World

Ever wonder how many evangelicals there are in China? What issues face our fellow believers in Africa? A landmark new reference work from the World Evangelical Alliance, “Evangelicals Around the World: A Global Handbook for the 21st Century,” was just released in June. There are an estimated 600 million Evangelicals in the world today, crossing cultures, histories, languages, politics, and nationalities. Evangelicals Around the World: A Global Handbook for the 21st Century introduces the fastest-growing segment of the global Christian church to the world and to each other. Bringing together a team of multi-disciplines scholars, writers, activists, and leaders around the world, this handbook provides a compelling look at the diverse group we call Evangelicals. In this guide, written by those who know the movement the best, the issues that divide and the beliefs that unite this global Christian movement are presented in a journalistic fashion. Evangelicals Around the World describes the past and the present, the unique characters, and the powerful ministries of Evangelicals. With a large trim size and colorful page design, this book includes articles, charts, maps and statistics not available anywhere else.

News from Leadership Commission



At National Conference, held May 27-29, 2015, the theme was “Community”. The Chaplaincy Committee of the Leadership Commission had a display table with information about military chaplaincy. Pastor Bob Brown, our denominational Chaplain Endorser and pastor at Plymouth Meeting, also acquired many free Army and Navy gifts, provided by the respective chaplaincy recruiters, including water bottles and mugs, hats, shirts, towels, pens and pencils and bumper stickers. Delegates were excited to pick up these items for themselves or family members who had served or are serving in the military. Every church was invited to take back a set of four prayer cards for our full-time military and VA chaplains. Chaplain MAJ Josh Metz, US Army and CPT Noel Blancaflor, US Air Force, were present and



given to opportunity to bring greetings; and Noel presented a US flag flown over a combat zone to Bishop Hill. On Thursday, Bob Brown, a retired Navy chaplain, asked all chaplains, full-time and part-time, who were serving or who had ever served as chaplains to come front for a photo. We were overwhelmed at the number of those who responded. On Friday morning, the assembly room was chilly, and the Bishop

donned an Army watch cap, and was thus Army strong! All our EC members are encouraged to pray daily for those who serve as pastoral counselors and chaplains to the military, the Veteran’s Administration, and local fire and police forces, at hospitals and nursing homes, and in prisons—communities with great needs and people God loves outside our local congregations.

Chaplain prayer cards are still available if anyone would like a set or an individual one.

Contact Rev. Robert Brown, pastorbob.brown@gmail.com; 610-828-6650



News from Global Ministries



Nepal Update: Rev. Janga and Mercy have returned to Nepal and are actively engaged in helping earthquake victims in various ways as well as making arrangements to secure a more permanent place for themselves and the boys of Mercy Home. A little over \$16,000 has been donated to help with earthquake relief in Nepal through the GMC World Emergency Fund—Thank You!!

The GMC VBS offerings collected this summer will also now be applied to the immediate need of building a permanent structure that will serve as the ECCN headquarters, Mercy Home and the parsonage for Janga and his family.

Liberia Bike Tour Update: Goal \$20,000—Amount to date: \$1,700

In June and July 2015 Ralph Owens and Steve Lockoff are riding their bicycles from Seattle, WA to St. Louis, MO in an effort to raise support to Help Stop Ebola in Liberia. Though media reports indicate no new cases of Ebola in Liberia, this is only true for cities like Monrovia and along the coast. The situation for the ‘inaccessible’ interior of Liberia is a different story.

We have a volunteer team trained and ready to help in

these remote area. Necessary supplies have been donated. However, transporting the supplies has proved to be a challenge. Partnering with the Global Ministries Commission, our goal is to raise \$20,000 to purchase a heavy duty four wheel drive truck that is capable of transporting large quantities of disinfectant, supplies, and response team members into these remote villages that are still waiting to help. Not only will your support save lives now, it will provide a valuable ministry tool following Ebola’s defeat.

You can follow the daily progress of the bike tour at: <https://helpliberiabiketour.wordpress.com/our-blog-2/>

Missionary Updates:

- Summer may barely be here, but some folks have to plan ahead. **Dave Hershey**, who serves as a campus minister at Penn State Berks Campus, is asking for folks to help him with the preparation of goody bags for new students arriving on campus in late August. For a specific list of what can and cannot be included, go to our website at www.eccenter.com, look under Structures, then GMC, the Mission Workers. Under Dave’s

bio, you will find a pdf you can print out. Or you can email to Dave at campusminister_dave@yahoo.com. (NOTE: there is an underline between ‘campusminister’ and ‘dave’ in email address.)

- **Jonathan and Kathy Wilson** arrived in the USA in late June to begin a year of home assignment. They will be living in the New York area from July until the end of December. Contact the Global Ministries office if you need their mailing address. Their email address will remain the same.
- **David, Conce and Andrew Roof** will be coming to the USA for a brief home assignment as well. They arrive in late July and will be staying until mid-October. David is accepting some speaking engagements, but his calendar is filling fast. Contact the GMC office if you want him to speak in your church. Phone 1-800-866-7581 or email to ecglobal@eccenter.com.



News from Benefits Corporation



The annual EC Benefits Corporation meeting was held on the Thursday (May 28) afternoon session of the EC National Conference. The Insurance Task Force report was presented and members of the National Conference are encouraged to read the report that was included with your National Conference reports. Action was not required to accept the task force report. Action was taken and approved to put into action the Retiree Health Insurance proposal. The Retiree Health Insurance proposal will reduce the amount of retiree health insurance paid by the National Conference by 20% per year for five years beginning January 1, 2016. By January 1, 2020 all retirees enrolled on the denominational sponsored Medicare Supplemental plan will pay 100% of the premium cost.



The Trustees of the EC Benefits Corporation realize that this action will impose a financial burden on some retirees and as such the Manna Fund can be utilized by retirees to receive

financial assistance. At the EC Benefits Trustee meeting in July, the Trustees will be reviewing the income limits of the Manna Fund and suggesting, if necessary, an increase in the income levels to allow more retirees to qualify for the Manna Fund. The Manna Fund has regulations it must follow to maintain its status as a tax-exempt benevolent fund. And, some of those regulations may seem contrary to practicing Christian love and burdensome to potential recipients however the rules are what the rules are. Violating the prescribed rules and regulations could jeopardize the entire fund.

Each retiree should have received an income survey in the mail from the EC Benefits Corporation. The purpose of the survey is to ascertain what EC retiree income levels are and possibly adjust the income limits of the Manna Fund to increase the opportunity to financially assist more retirees. The survey is designed to be completed confidentially and confidentiality is en-

couraged. Names and addresses on the forms are not required. Please return the survey as soon as possible. The more surveys we receive the more accurate the information that can lead to a better informed decision making process.

Other news from EC Benefits

Workers Compensation:

Thank-you to all that have timely paid the worker's compensation invoices. For those that haven't, the due date was May 15. Payment for the Disability and Benefit Corp Services fee were due January 15 and April 15 respectively, both fees are listed on the 2015 Treasurer's Guide available on www.eccenter.com.

If there are any questions please contact Dave King, Benefits Administrator, or Kevin Henry, Controller, with any questions or problems, dking@eccenter.com, khenry@eccenter.com or 717-866-7581.

You are invited to attend the
2015 National Conference Ordination Services

The ordination of *Rev. Michael E. Campbell*
Faith Evangelical Congregational Church ~ Bair
York, Pennsylvania
Sunday, August 23, 4:00 p.m.



The ordination of *Rev. Kyle R. Roth*
Faith Evangelical Congregational Church ~ Williams Valley
Wiconisco, Pennsylvania
Sunday, August 30, 4:00 p.m.



The ordination of *Rev. Bradley D. Hatter*
Peifer's Evangelical Congregational Church ~ Mandata
Herndon, Pennsylvania
Sunday, September 27, 4:00 p.m.



The ordination of *Rev. Kenneth B. Kalisz*
Hope Community Evangelical Congregational Church
Fogelsville, Pennsylvania
Sunday, October 11, 4:00 p.m.



The ordination of *Rev. Keith A. Blank*
Trinity Evangelical Congregational Church
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Sunday, October 18, 4:00 p.m.

Evangelical Congregational Church

E.C. Church Center
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

Phone: 717-866-7581

Web: www.eccenter.com

Email: eccenter@eccenter.com



The Church Center will be closed on Fridays starting
with Friday, July 3rd through
September 8th.



2015 Rosedale Campmeeting

**Sunday, July 26 -
Sunday, August 2**

Monday—Friday—10 am

Bible Study with Rev. Robert Kramer

Monday—Friday—6:30 pm

VBS program for kids

Sunday, July 26

6:30 pm Bishop Bruce Hill

Monday, July 27

6:30 pm Rev. James Price

Tuesday, July 28

6:30 pm Rev. Brett Kindig

Wednesday, July 29

6:30 pm Rev. Brooke Solberg

Thursday, July 30

6:30 pm Rev. Matt Hill

Friday, July 31

6:30 pm Rev. Kirk Marks

Saturday, August 1

6:30 pm Rev. Ted Rathman

Sunday, August 2

6:30 pm Rev. Mike Snedeker

2015 Herndon Campmeeting

**Sunday, July 17 -
Sunday, July 26**

Evangelists

July 17-21, 7:00 pm

Dr. Gary Kuehner

July 22-26, 7:00 pm

Rev. Rich Stevenson

Bible Teacher

July 20-24, 10:00 am

Dr. Kenneth Miller

Special Services

Sunday, July 19

10 am Worship—Dr. Fred Moury

3 pm Concert by The Shrount Family

Saturday, July 25

3 pm Missionary Rally

Dave & Conce Roof

Sunday, July 26

10 am Worship—Bishop Bruce Hill

3 pm Concert by Brothers in Grace

2015 Waldheim Summer Program

7 pm Sunday, July 5
Patriotic Program with
Our Waldheim Park Choir

**7 pm Monday, July 6—Friday,
July 10**

Bible Study with Rev. Robert Schaeffer

7 pm Sunday, July 12
Witness

7 pm Sunday, July 19
Grace Notes

7 pm Sunday, July 26
Rev. Rick Sergi

7 pm Sunday, August 2
New Bethany EC Church Worship

7 pm Sunday, August 9
Teen Challenge Choir

7 pm Sunday, August 16
Youth of Zion Praise Band

7 pm Sunday, August 23
Paul Van Ostin in concert

7 pm Sunday, August 30
Shalom Choir

July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Church Ctr. Closed Day of Prayer for the E C Church	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY
5 Day of Prayer for Church Planting	6	7	8 Church Health Commission Mtg.	9	10 Church Ctr. Closed	11
		WALDHEIM BIBLE STUDY				
12	13	14	15 Church Pension Contribution due Health Insurance Due	16	17 Church Ctr. Closed	18 Berks District Mtg.
					HERNDON CAMPMEETING	
19	20	21 Benefits Corp. Mtg.	22 1st Appointment Orientation	23	24 Church Ctr. Closed	25
			HERNDON CAMPMEETING			
26	27	28	29	30 Affiliate Funding Committee	31 Church Ctr. Closed	
HERNDON			ROSEDALE CAMPMEETING (through Aug 2)			

Ministry Funds to:
 E.C. Church
 100 W. Park Ave.
 Myerstown, PA 17067

Insurance/Pension Payments to:
 Benefits Corporation
 100 W. Park Ave.
 Myerstown, PA 17067

Manna Fund to:
 Benefits Corporation
 100 W. Park Ave.
 Myerstown, PA 17067

August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Rev. Kyle Roth Ordination	31					1
2 Day of Prayer for Church Planting Rosedale Camp- meeting	3	4	5	6	7 Church Ctr. Closed	8
9	10	11 Affiliate Funding Committee	12 Episcopacy Committee	13 Finance Committee	14 Church Ctr. Closed	15 Church Pension Contribution due Health Insurance <u>Premium due</u>
16	17	18	19	20	21 Church Ctr. Closed	22
23 Rev. Michael Campbell Ordination	24	25	26	27	28 Church Ctr. Closed	29

Ministry Funds to:
E.C. Church
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

Insurance/Pension Payments to:
Benefits Corporation
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

Twin Pines Offering to:
Twin Pines Camp
3000 Twin Pines Road

Manna Fund to:
Benefits Corporation
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

