



National Conference 2013 is on the way and that means it will soon be time for pre-conference meetings. The pre-conference meetings are to give extra time to talk about what's coming up on the National Conference agenda. It is important to attend a pre-conference meeting so we have time to talk through issues of importance to us, and to help us move through the items we need to deal with during National Conference. This year, we have two significant items to talk about.

During National Conference 2012 we approved a National Conference Relations Committee's (CRC) Pastoral Reclassification Project. When we accepted that conceptual report we gave permission to the CRC to re-write the National Conference Jour-

nal Rule 800 "Ministerial Credentialing and Classifications." The CRC has completed that work and will be presenting a new Rule 800 to the National Conference for approval. I understand that for most people the Rules of Conference are not very exciting. But it is important that we understand the CRC proposal before we vote to accept it at National Conference. Prior to the pre-conference meetings pastors and lay delegates will receive an email containing an overview of the Reclassification project and the proposed new Rule 800.

Last year the National Conference also approved my Episcopal Address recommendation to "take a 'big picture' view of the various elements that affect National Conference commissions, committees, and min-

istries," and conduct "a comprehensive review and strategic plan of how we 'do denomination' in the future." The Futures Initiative Team was formed to do that. The Team made a presentation to the recent National Ministry Team (NMT) and while the NMT did not endorse the report, they thought it important enough to advance it on to the pre-conference meetings for additional discussion. The Futures Initiative Team information will also be emailed to all pastoral and lay delegates prior to the pre-conference meetings. It will include an overview of our current situation, a proposed Ecclesiology Statement, and the Futures Initiative Team report.

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Pre-Conference Meetings

- Thursday, April 4 @ 7:00 pm at St. Matthew's E.C. Church, Emmaus, PA
- ♦ Sunday, April 7 @ 6:00 pm at Lakeside EC Church, Transfer, PA
- ♦ Tuesday, April 9 @ 7:00 pm at Trinity E.C. Church, Manheim, PA
- ♦ Thursday, April 11 @ 7:00 pm at Bethesda E.C. Church (Reedsville) Schuylkill Haven, PA
- Tuesday, April 16 @ 7:00 pm at Zion E.C. Church, Pitman, PA
- Wednesday, May 1 @ 7:00 pm at Bethel EC Church, Dixon, IL

The Bishop's TOP TEN Prayer & Praise Items



1. Please continue to be in prayer for the work of the Stationing Committee. Ask the Lord to provide wisdom and clarity to both pastors and local congregations.
2. Be in prayer for our Director of Global Ministries, Rev. Randy Sizemore, as he travels to Mexico (April 2-9) to participate in their National Conference.
3. Pray for our camp ministries: Camp ECCO in Ohio; Rock River Camp in Illinois; and Twin Pines Camp in Pennsylvania as they prepare for a full and fruitful summer camping season.
4. Pray for our upcoming National Conference: for the Holy Spirit to lead us and for us to make wise decisions as we deal with the many reports and recommendations that will be presented.
5. Pray for our three regional Conference Relations Committees as they interview new candidates for ministry and those seeking ordination.
6. Praise the Lord for the people who continue to assure me that they pray for the Bishop regularly. I depend on that!
7. Praise God for opportunities during Holy Week and Easter to share with lots of people the miraculous message of a Savior who died for our sins and rose from the dead, conquering sin and death.
8. Praise the Lord for the changing seasons, as not only is the daylight getting longer and temperatures getting a little warmer (which Gloria likes) but it is all more evidence of God's great faithfulness.
9. Thank God for the growing sense of brotherhood we see between the the EC Church in the countries of India, Japan, Liberia, Mexico, Nepal, and USA.
10. Praise the Lord for the men and women who are responding to the Lord's call on their lives and applying for various credentials with the EC Church.

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I know receiving all this information will seem somewhat overwhelming to you. But I believe it will be very important to be able to take the time prior to National Conference to talk together about at least a few of the items which will come before us at Conference. Please be in prayer for the pre-conference meetings and for our National Conference. And please join me in working together to advance the Kingdom of God.

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Bruce D. Hill



News from Evangelical

Rev. George Davis became Director of Enrollment Management on March 11th. A former pastor and independent businessman, he is excited about connecting the seminary with potential students from all walks of life.

Rev. Dr. Bruce Farrell (US Army Colonel-Ret.) has joined the seminary team as Director of our Four Chaplains Scholarship Program. After decades of service to the U.S. Army Chaplain Corps, Farrell will attract and advise qualified military chaplaincy candidates for Evangelical's MDiv program.

Dr. David A.

Dorsey, Distinguished Professor of Old Testament, has announced his plans to retire at the end of the 2013-2014 academic year. That means all who have always wanted to enroll in (or audit) one of his classes have just one more year to benefit from the teaching of this very special man of God. Dr. Dorsey plans to complete several books on the Old Testament law following his retirement.

April is an exciting month at Evangelical Seminary! Plan to participate in any of the fol-

lowing events—or tell someone else who might be interested. Complete details and online registration (where required) are available at www.evangelical.edu.

Wesley Forum

2013 on April 4 features eminent United Methodist historian and author, Dr. Charles Yrigoyen. Formerly an adjunct professor and director of UM studies at Evangelical, Dr. Yrigoyen will focus on "The Wesleys Still Speak." There is a fee for the lectures and lunch; please register by March 28.



Lancaster Faith in the Marketplace Breakfast is set for April 11 at Lancaster Mennonite High School. Speaker is Dale Yoder, president of Cornerstone Design-Architects and graduate of Gordon-Conwell Seminary. Cost is \$25; register by April 4.

Spring Open Houses are great opportunities for prospective students to explore Evangelical by sitting in on classes and interacting with faculty and students. The Myerstown campus will host its open house on April 11, from 6:30-9:30 p.m., and the

Harrisburg MDiv open house will be held April 15, from 7:00-10:00 p.m. Come yourself, or spread the word! Contact admissions@evangelical.edu to reserve a place.

The **2013 Wenger Foundation Praise Dinner** will be held at the Lebanon Expo Center on April 18. Special guests are Matthew Hagee, of San Antonio, TX, and the talented Southern Gospel Quartet, Canton Junction. Evangelical is blessed to be one of the beneficiaries of the funds raised by this annual event. Again, you can register on the seminary website.

And...speaking of the website...check it out! In this 60th year of our existence, we're highlighting 60 of our 800 "Awesome Alums." Five new profiles are added each week... Plus you can learn all about what YOUR seminary has to offer! We're so grateful for all the ECers who faithfully support us with your prayers, finances, and active involvement. Thank you!



April is an
exciting month at
Evangelical
Seminary!!!

News from Global Ministries



Update for the Mexico Trip: Randy will be leading a GMC delegation to visit the EC Church of Mexico for their Annual Conference and El Retiro Board Meeting, April 2-9, 2013. Please pray for the team as they prepare to go and minister with our brothers and sisters in Mexico. The team members include: Rev. Randy & Carla Sizemore; Rev. Jim & Kathy Price; Rev. Carlos Kelly (translator). **Rev. Angam, General Director (Bishop) of the EC Church of India was invited to join the team but was not granted a visa.**

Missionaries need vehicles: Brian & Missy Wagner will be returning from RVA



for home assignment August 2013-July 2014 and will need to secure an SUV/van for transportation while they are here at the least possible cost. If you know of anyone who can help with this need, please contact Pat Strain (pstrain@eccenter.com or 1-800-866-7584) in the GMC office.

evening, weekday/night or any-time that fits your church's schedule, contact him at rsizemore@eccenter.com or call the GMC office at 717-866-7584.

GMC Luncheon at National Conference: The GMC will host a luncheon during National Conference at Messiah College on Thursday, May 30th. EC Missionaries **BJ & Rachel Whitaker** serving with ECMI as church planters in Alcora, Spain will be our keynote speakers. Registration is required through the National Conference registration form or email Brenda Long at blong@eccenter.com. **Deadline for reservations for this meal is May 1st.**



Randy is now scheduling speaking engagements for 2013-14. To schedule Randy for Sunday school, worship, Sunday



News from Benefits Corporation



Thanks to everyone for completing the **Workers Compensation** forms on a timely basis. The audit was recently completed and we are awaiting the annual premium notice from our insurance carrier. We anticipate having the workers compensation invoices to the churches by mid April. But we did receive a refund from the 2011 workers compensation policy which we will apply against the 2013 invoices that should mitigate the increase somewhat. Payment for the workers compensation invoices are due 30 days after receipt of the invoice.

Churches not included in the denominational workers compensation group policy (those in Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky); your individual state mandates workers compensation coverage. Please confirm that all employees of the church are covered by workers compensation insur-

ance. Per EC Benefits Corporation policy H.3.b, churches not covered by the denomination group workers compensation policy shall submit proof of workers compensation coverage by July 1 of each year. Please submit proof of your workers compensation coverage to:

EC Benefits
 100 W. Park Avenue
 Myerstown, PA 17067
 Or fax 717-866-7553
 or email
dking@eccenter.com

The major provisions of the **Affordable Care Act** (ACA) will be enacted beginning January 1, 2014. Two of the most significant changes will be the health insurance exchanges and offering health insurance to full time employees defined under the ADA as averaging more than 30 hours a week or 130 hours a month. These changes will affect us with our health insur-

ance plan renewal on October 1, 2013. The EC Benefits Board along with our health insurance broker, PowerKunkle, is working through the potential impact these changes will have to our denominational group health insurance plan. Unfortunately, guidance or the practical application of the new law is slowly being released by Washington, so many of our questions do not have answers. And most likely there will be additional legislative and legal challenges to the ACA as January 2014 approaches that may or may not change the law. What we do know is that changes are coming that will affect our group health insurance plan but how drastic those changes will be is unknown at this time.

Please contact Dave King
 (dking@eccenter.com),
 Benefits Administrator or
 Kevin Henry
 (khenry@eccenter.com),
 Controller with any
 questions.



“As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.”

JOHN 20:21 (NLTSE)



Seminar Speaker:

Dr. Chris Backert

National Director of Fresh Expressions US

2013 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Wednesday, May 29 to Friday, May 31

Messiah College, Grantham, PA

REGISTRATION FORMS and more
information are available
on the website www.eccenter.com
DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION is
April 16



Calling all Runners and Walkers!!

The First Annual EC National Conference 5K

Sponsored by Healthy Pastors Team & Church Planting Commission

Wednesday, May 29, 2013 - 10:00 AM

Messiah College, Grantham, PA

Advance Registration - \$20

Day of Race Registration - \$25



Additional Sponsorship Encouraged! ("Fill a Sneaker"?)
Donations Benefit EC Church Planting

For ALL delegates and
anyone else interested!

Registration form is
available on the
website www.eccenter.com