

EC Leader

APRIL 2016



From the Bishop

Spring is in the air which means, for pastors and lay delegates of the E.C. Church, that our National Conference can't be too far away. I know some of you are aware of that because you have already registered for Conference on the denomination's website. The approach of National Conference also means that pre-Conference meetings are just around the corner.

You may wonder why we have pre-Conference meetings since we're coming to National Conference



and going to be dealing with the same items there. Our pre-Conference meetings are an important part in the process of conferencing. It provides us with the

opportunity to gather together and talk about the things that are important to us. We all realize that National Conference time is precious—there's just so much to do and so little time! The pre-Conference meetings help us get a head start as we look at some of the more significant items of business which will be brought to National Conference.

This year our pre-Conference meetings will feature an overview of the NC 2016 agenda as well as a number of more specific items:

- We will take a little time to review our new denominational structure which goes into effect on July 1, 2016. There are new people, new communities, and new ways of doing things so another opportunity to review the "new normal" will be helpful to all of us.
- Soon after National Conference I realized we had very little "official" explanation or statement on how the denomination would function in

the new structure. In order to strengthen our denominational trust and accountability I felt it was very important that the Rules of Conference represent and guide us in the new structure. Therefore, we will be reviewing proposed amendments to the Rules of Conference which will provide healthy boundaries as we move into the future.

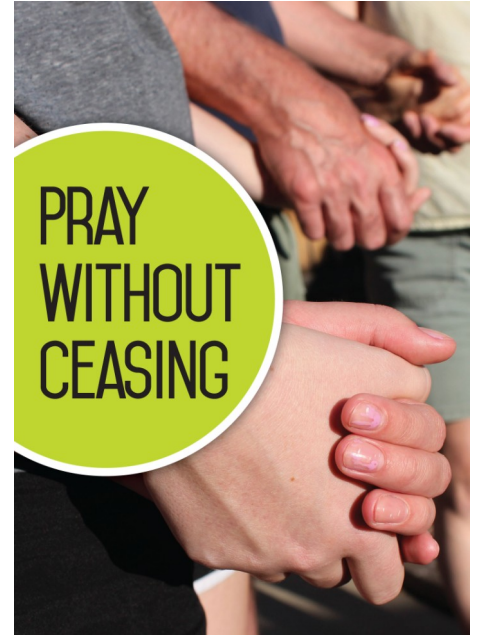
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Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise

1. I feel like broken record here BUT please keep praying for the Stationing Committee. We are experiencing an unprecedented number of pastoral retirements and resignations as the first big wave of baby boomers reach the end of their active ministries. I am personally growing increasingly frustrated at the amount and pace of stationing this year so join me in praying for trust in the Lord's timing in all our stationing work.
2. Pray for safety and effectiveness in upcoming trips to our international churches: Randy Sizemore, Carlos Kelly and I go to Mexico, March 28-April 4; Randy and I travel to North-east India, April 20-28.
3. Ask the Lord to lead the delegates to the EC Church of India's General Conference as they vote for the next General Director of their Conference.
4. Pray for our nation as we continue the process of selecting candidates for our upcoming presidential election.
5. Continue to pray for me as I work on all the various aspects of our National Conference which will be held at Messiah College in Grantham, PA on May 25-27.
6. Praise the Lord for his leading in our spring National Ministry Team meeting.
7. Praise God for the victory over sin and death that in ours in Christ Jesus who conquered the grave and lives and reigns today!
8. Thank the Lord for the many opportunities to worship, remember, and celebrate the Good News about his wonderful grace with many people during the Easter season.
9. Thank God for his continued guidance and safety as I travel around the conference preaching and participating in meetings.
10. As we begin to wind-down our denomination's commissions, thank the Lord for the faithfulness of our chair people and the volunteer members of our commissions and committees. Their interest and participation is a great encouragement.



From the Bishop

- The National Conference will include the second, and final, step in amending our EC DISCIPLINE. Remember, amending the DISCIPLINE is a two-step process: last year we debated the proposed amendments, in some cases amended the amendments, and then voted on the amendments. This year we may comment on the proposed amendments but we cannot amend them. Following the opportunity to speak, we will vote on each amendment. That vote is binding and will set our disciplinary rules for the next five years.
 - News from the Benefits Corporation regarding the mandate for pastors to be on the denominational health insurance plan will be shared.
- The dates and times of the pre-Conference meetings are listed in a separate announcement in this issue of the EC LEADER. Please come to the meeting that works best in your schedule and be in prayer for this year's National

Conference. I hope to see you there!

In Christ's Service,



News from Evangelical

Wesley Forum 2016



Evangelical Seminary is honored to welcome Dr. Justo L. Gonzalez to present at our 2016 Wesley Forum. He will discuss, “Can Christianity’s past be a road map for a hopeful future?” Specific topics will include, “Shifting Maps,” and “Remembering Backwards.” Evangelical alumni may remember him as the author of the book, *The Story of Christianity*, the two volume tome that Dr. Schwenk, Dr. Blair, and other profs have used as the Church History textbook. We would love to have you join us for the day. For more information and to register, visit www.evangelical.edu/wesley. The event is sponsored by Boehm’s Chapel. If you have questions, please contact Ken Nafziger at knafziger@evangelical.edu

2016 Evangelical Seminary Golf Tournament



Get ready for Spring and Golf. Mark your calendar for Evangelical Seminary’s 31st Annual Golf Tournament, May 19 at Fairview Golf Course. This year we will be joined by WGAL’s chief meteorologist, Joe Calhoun. Watch for more details to follow. If you have questions, please contact Ken Nafziger at knafziger@evangelical.edu



News from Global Ministries

Mission Speakers Available:

Roy and Sue Haglund are coming east for two weeks in April to do deputation and catch up with friends in central and eastern PA. They will be here from Sunday, April 3 to Sunday, April 17. Their Sunday mornings are already booked, but they have Sunday evenings, weekdays and evenings, plus Saturdays still open. Roy and Sue would love to speak at small groups, Bible studies, youth or senior meetings, mission committee gatherings. They will be staying in the Steelstown area.

Please call or email the GMC office to make arrangements to have them come and speak at your church or with your groups. The phone number is 717-866-7584 or 1-800-866-7584, and email is ecglobal@eccenter.com.

VBS Project:

The GMC VBS project this year will be for the children’s outreach being developed in our EC Church of Mexico known as IGLEKids. This Bible-based program will help combat the growing problem of Mexico’s “street children” who are either without parents, are unsupervised and/or spend a lot of time on the streets working, selling or begging to help support themselves and their families. Unfortunately, the drug cartels prey upon such vulnerable children and youth, offering them a better life if they join or work for the cartels. Our goal is set at \$10,000. The funds collected will be used to put a roof on and a secure chain link fence around an existing patio connected to one of our churches. This space will provide a safe place for the children to meet and for other congregations to come and learn how to implement the program in their communities. Watch the website for lessons and more information.



News from Benefits Corporation

THANKS to almost everyone for completing the workers' compensation forms on a timely basis. The workers' compensation audit was completed and the invoices will be sent to the churches by mid April. Early estimates indicated there will be a decrease to the workers' compensation premiums and all churches in the group workers' compensation program will see a decrease in their premiums.

Churches not included in the denominational workers' compensation group policy; Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky churches, however your individual states mandate workers' compensation coverage. Please confirm that all employees of the church are covered by workers' compensation insurance. 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:

E.C. Benefits
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067
OR Fax 717-866-7553 or email dking@eccenter.com



The annual **Disability Premium** was due January 15 and the Benefit Corporation administrative fee is due by April 15, 2016, retirees are not subject to the administrative fee. Both of these fees are listed in the Treasurer's Guide available on the EC website (www.eccenter.com). Many have remitted the disability fee timely and a few have already submitted the administrative fee and we thank you for your diligence and hard work.

Treasurers please confirm that you are remitting your **ministry fund payments** on the correct monthly form. In 2016 the ministry fund percentage decreased to 8.0% and Camp ECCO opted out of receiving ministry funds from the Great Lakes Region churches.

Churches in the Brotherhood Mutual group **insurance program** should have received or will shortly be receiving their last group premium dividend from Brotherhood Mutual. Brotherhood Mutual was required by state insurance regulators to discontinue their group premium dividend program due to a reorganization of Brotherhood Mutual into a national corporation. Church Mutual Insurance has offered a replacement group policy dividend program to EC Churches. Each chartered EC Church will be receiving a letter shortly concerning the premium dividend policy from Church Mutual. Churches are not required to switch insurance carriers to Church Mutual however the group dividend program is based upon a minimum number of churches participating. Please review the information from Church Mutual when it is received and consider joining the Church Mutual group dividend rebate program.

As always, please contact Dave King, Benefits Administrator (dking@eccenter.com), or Kevin Henry, Controller (khenry@eccenter.com), or call 717-866-7581 with any questions or problems.



News from National Ministry Team

During the recent National Ministry Team meeting the members received and affirmed a list of individuals to serve as District Field Directors, effective July 1, 2016. It was noted that since stationing is not completed, if any of the District Field Director appointments are affected by stationing in 2016, the National Executive Committee will be empowered to affirm the changes.

Each District Field Director's ministry objective is to assist pastors and churches in reaching their potential in carrying out the Great Commission in cooperation with the Bishop's agenda/direction for the EC Church. Their essential functions are:

1. Educate:
 - Communicate denominational vision.
 - Communicate the various resources and opportunities available to pastors and churches.
2. Encourage:
 - Build relationships with pastors and churches.
 - Give basic pastoral care to pastors and facilitate more advanced care.
 - Facilitate communication/interaction between the pastors & churches in the region to foster a team/family mentality.
3. Equip:
 - Facilitate resources available to pastors and churches.
 - Facilitate opportunities for evangelism, discipleship, church health, etc.
4. Evaluate:
 - Personnel
 - Provide accountability for credentialed personnel within the district.
 - Shall communicate with the Bishop, Conference Network Team, district personnel, and district churches concerning accountability issues as necessary.

- Churches
 - Responsible for basic church health assessment for churches in the district.

Recommended District Field Directors

Delaware Region

Berks District—Marlin Lafferty
 North East District—Ken Ogden
 Lehigh Valley District—Gary Kuehner
 Penn Jersey District—Ralph Owens
 Schuylkill District—Jim Price

Great Lakes Region

Allegheny—To be determined
 Buckeye—To be determined
 Illinois—Dave Carr

Susquehanna Region

Anthracite Region—Brad Hatter
 Conestoga District—Keith Miller
 Capital/Lebanon District—Gordon Lewis
 Red Rose District—Jeff Schell
 Susquehanna District—Sterling Trimmer



News from Twin Pines

Craft Retreat

April 8-10, 2016

This laid-back weekend will allow you time away for relaxation as you work on craft projects and fellowship with friends new and old. Bible study will be presented in the context of crafts and creation while you experience the beauty of God's creation in the setting of the Pocono Mountains. Participants should bring their own craft projects to work on.

For more information, contact the Twin Pines office at (570)629-2411 or e-mail retreats@twinpines.org.



You can register at <https://tpcraftretreat.eventbrite.com> or download a brochure from our website www.twinpines.org.

Mountain Men 2016

April 22-23, 2016

This is a weekend just for men. Enjoy fellowship, manly events, and Bible study as you discover what it means to be a godly man. The speakers this year include Art Remington, Rev. Dale Miller, and Rev. Gary Kuehner.

For more information, contact the Twin Pines office at (570)629-2411 or e-mail retreats@twinpines.org. You can register at <https://mountainmen2016.eventbrite.com> or download a brochure from our website www.twinpines.org



Spring Spruce-Up

April 26-28, 2016

This is our annual work retreat! Join us to help "spruce-up" camp as we prepare for summer camp! There are projects for volunteers of any skill level! Join us for the entire time or

come for part of the time.

Let us know you are coming by contacting the office at (570)629-2411 or e-mail linda@twinpines.org.

For Ladies Only Retreat

May 10-12, 2016

An exciting mid-week retreat "for ladies only", women will enjoy fellowship, worship, and Bible study as they

look at what it means to be a woman of God. This year's speaker is singer/songwriter, and former radio personality, Sue Duffield.

For more information, contact the Twin Pines office at (570)629-2411 or e-mail retreats@twinpines.org. You can download a brochure from our website www.twinpines.org or request it be mailed to you.

Summer Camp

June 19-August 13, 2016

Summer is just around the corner! It's time to start thinking about what you and your kids are doing during those school free months. Twin Pines will be continuing its decades-long tradition of providing quality summer camp programs that are fun and spiritually-challenging. From Elementary Igniters to Marital Arts, and beyond, we have programs for any interests. New for 2016 are Science Camp and Comic-Camp! The Summer Camp brochure is now available on our website or in a physical copy. Register by April 30th and we'll take \$15.00 off your registration fee (Day Camp and Lotsa' Love are not eligible for this discount). For more information, contact the Twin Pines office at (570)629-2411 or e-mail summer@twinpines.org



Now Hiring Summer Staff!

Twin Pines is looking for loving, mature, and dedicated young people to serve on the 2016 Summer Staff. This will be a rewarding experience that changes lives forever. Come join us as we spread the Gospel through Bible study, fun & games, and fellowship. There are plenty of positions till available. Contact Shawn at (570)629-2411 or e-mail shawn@twinpines.org for more information.



REGISTRATION for MOUNTAIN MEN 2016 is open. Just click this link:
<http://mountainmen2016.eventbrite.com>

- **WHEN:** Friday, April 22 at 6:00 pm—Saturday, April 23 at 6:00 pm
- **WHERE:** Twin Pines Camp, Conference & Retreat Center

The speakers this year are:

- **ART REMINGTON**—Pastor Art has been blessed to serve with many national men's ministries; as the Staff Pastor with Promise Keepers & Men At The Cross, as a speaker with Christian Men's Network, Encourage Men To Pray, Iron Sharpens Iron, and has had the opportunity to speak and interact with Pastors and Men's Leaders all across our nation and the world. He wants to see the Holy Spirit bring an end to "Spiritual Fatherlessness" by awakening every Christian man to their high calling to "make disciples of all nations" and fulfilling the Great Commission.
- **DALE MILLER**—Pastor Dale Miller grew up in Douglassville. He attended Central Christian College of the Bible in MO, where he had the opportunity to serve in youth ministry for two years. After receiving this Bachelor of Arts degree in Preaching, he became a student at Dallas Theological Seminary and graduated with a Master's degree in Pastoral Counseling and Spiritual Formation. While in Dallas he worked in youth ministry at Northwest Bible Church as well as college ministry at Southern Methodist University. Dale has a desire to see students grow in their knowledge of and passion for Jesus Christ. Through teaching and discipleship balanced with evangelism and outreach he strives to encourage students to discover their personal walk with Christ.
- **REV. DR. GARY KUEHNER**—Prior to being elected as Conference Minister of the Delaware Region of the Evangelical Congregational Church in 2011 he served as the pastor of the EC Church in Lenhartsville. He also served as pastor of EC Churches in Frackville and Hamburg. Dr. Kuehner has served as a Delaware Region Stationing Elder. Prior to entering pastoral ministry, Gary taught math in the public school system and worked as a carpenter and cement finisher. He enjoys reading non-fiction Christian books, walking, and weight training.





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



"For there is **one** body and **one** Spirit, just as you have all been called to **one** glorious hope for the future.

There is **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism, and **one** God and Father, who is over all and in all and living through all."

EPHESIANS 4: 4-6

2016 National Conference

May 25-27

Messiah College, Grantham, PA

Registration forms are available on the denominational website—www.eccenter.com

Once again, we can expect a rather busy National Conference as we deal with amendments to the DISCIPLINE and amendments to the Rules of Conference, in addition to our normal times of prayer and worship (and that's what we know about now!). Therefore we are planning on a series of **pre-Conference meetings** this spring. Here are the dates and times and locations. The agenda at each meeting will be the same so simply choose the meeting that suits your schedule best.

- April 7 @ 7:00 p.m.—Susquehanna Region—Zion EC Church, Clarks Valley
210 McKelvey Road, Dauphin, PA 17018
- April 9 @ 9:00 a.m.—Delaware Region—Bethany EC Church, Leesport
308 Main Street, Leesport, PA 19533
- April 14 @ 7:00 p.m.—Delaware Region—Christ EC Church, Allentown
2135 Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA 18104
- April 16 @ 9:00 a.m.—Susquehanna Region—Trinity EC Church, Lancaster
322 Hershey Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17602
- May 7 - Great Lakes Region— meeting live at Transfer, Lakeside and video conference with Dixon Bethel, IL
@ 10:00 a.m. (eastern)-Lakeside EC Church, Transfer
3203 North Hermitage Road, Transfer, PA

April 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Day of Prayer	2
3 Day of Prayer for Church Planting	4	5	6	7 Pre-Conference Mtg.—Clarks Valley	8	9 Pre-Conference Mtg.—Leesport
10	11	12 ETS Wesley Forum Evangelism & Discipleship Mtg.	13	14 Pre-Conference Mtg.—Allentown, Christ	15 Church Pension Contribution due Health Insurance Premium due Estimated tax due	16 Pre-Conference Mtg.—Lancaster, Trinity Mountain Men Retreat
17	18 E.C. Leader Articles due	19	20	21 ETS Praise Dinner	22	23
24	25	26 Stone Ridge Bd. Mtg.	27	28 ETS Bd. Mtg.	29	30

Ministry Funds to:
E.C. Church
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

Insurance/Pension Payments to:
Benefits Corporation
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Day of Prayer for Church Planting	2	3	4	5 National Day of Prayer	6 Day of Prayer for the E.C.Church	7 Pre-Conference Mtg.—Lakeside, Transfer & Bethel Dixon
8 MOTHER'S DAY	9	10	11	12 Evangelical Seminary Board Mtg.	13 Evangelical Seminary Commencement	14
15 PENTECOST Church Pension due Health Insurance Premium due	16	17	18	19 ETS Golf Tournament	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 MEMORIAL DAY Church Center closed	31	NATIONAL CONFERENCE			

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