

# EC LEADER

A publication of the Evangelical Congregational Church



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## FROM THE DESK

Bishop Randy Sizemore

### Breaking Camp

*"We want to be a dynamic movement of God, not a settlement.*

*The difference between a settlement and a movement is whether or not we are willing to break camp."*



**Click [HERE](#) for Bishop's March video message.**



#### Speaking Schedule for 2023

Bishop Randy is now scheduling his 2023 preaching schedule.

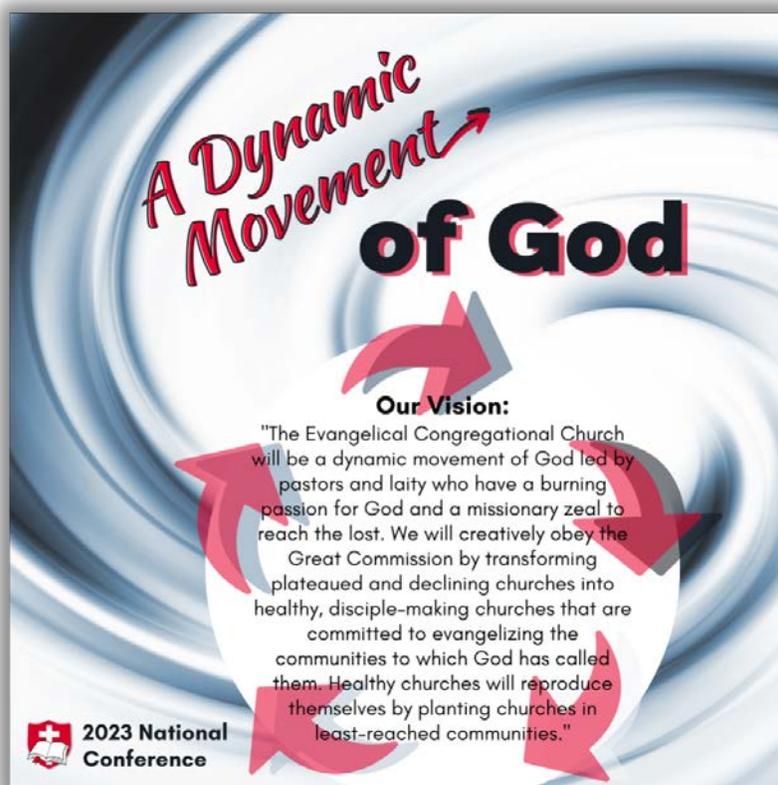
If you would like to schedule him at your church, please contact Bishop Randy directly at [rsizemore@eccenter.com](mailto:rsizemore@eccenter.com).

# NATIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS

## NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2023

**May 24 through May 26 at Messiah University**

If you are planning to secure hotel accommodations for the conference dates, there is a large event going on in the area the week of conference. Therefore, hotel space may be limited, and it may be best to book early.



### **Pre-Conference Meetings Schedule**

**Sunday, April 30**

**Buckeye District at Cottage Grove E.C., 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.**

**Monday, May 1**

**Allegheny District (Location to be determined), 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, May 4**

**Illinois District at Bethel E.C., 4:45 - 6:45 p.m.**

**Tuesday, May 9**

**Susquehanna Region at Reich's Church, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, May 13**

**Delaware Region at Allentown Christ Church, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

**Monday, May 15**

**Susquehanna Region at Mohn's Hill, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, May 18**

**Delaware Region at Pitman Zion, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.**

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEWS KEVIN HENRY



Thanks to everyone who has returned the Worker's Compensation audit forms in a timely manner. If you have not returned yours yet, please try to have them returned by February 28, 2023. A simple online reporting form was developed and distributed this year. If you cannot find the link please contact me and we will get it to you. Paper forms, that were used in previous years, are an option as well.

The annual disability premium, \$100, *was due January 15*, and the Benefit Corporation administrative fee, \$125, *is due by April 15, 2023 (retirees are not subject to the administrative fee)*. Both of these fees are listed in the Treasurer's Guide available on the EC website. Many have remitted the disability fee in a timely manner, and a few have submitted the administrative fee; we thank you for your diligence and hard work.

Treasurers, please begin using the 2023 Ministry Fund forms for January offerings. Offerings collected in December 2022 should be remitted on the 2022 Ministry Fund forms.

## Pastoral Compensation Forms

To date only about 50% of pastoral compensation forms have been returned. We will be reminding non-compliant churches to complete and submit their pastoral compensation forms. Please save Dave King some work by submitting your pastoral compensation forms as soon as possible.

Pastors and churches are permitted to obtain health insurance outside of the denominational sponsored plan. If you have obtained health insurance outside of the denominational plan, please be aware of the possible tax consequences and be diligent in the compliance requirements.

As always please contact Dave King, Benefits Administrator, or Kevin Henry, Executive Director, with any questions or problems at [dking@eccenter.com](mailto:dking@eccenter.com), [khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com) or 717-866-7581.



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEWS KEVIN HENRY

*continued...*



## *403(b) Pension Plan Transition*

### **In Summary:**

All of the practical details of moving the ECC 403(b) Pension Plan from Empower Retirement / Prudential to Nationwide are finally known and ready for distribution. The current plan with Empower Retirement / Prudential will enter the blackout period on Thursday, March 16, 2023 and remain in the blackout period until Monday, April 4, 2023. In the blackout period, the plan is frozen with no deposits or withdrawals allowed and no participant reallocation of investments. A blackout period is a standard procedure when plan assets are moved between providers and allows the individual accounts in the plan to maintain a consistent balance for a few days to facilitate an accurate transfer of funds to the new provider.

The assets in the plan are scheduled to be liquidated and transferred out of Empower Retirement/Prudential on March 21, 2023 and be received by Nationwide the next day on March 22, 2023. Nationwide will begin

repurchasing the securities as soon as they are able. As soon as the plan assets are reinvested by Nationwide, all plan participants would be considered "back in the market" receiving interest, dividends and investment gains and losses. Nationwide will take a few days to reconcile the transfer of funds and redistribute the funds and investments back to the individual accounts. At the latest, the plan will come out of the blackout period by Monday, April 4, maybe a day or two sooner. Once the blackout period has ended, the plan will accept contributions, process withdrawals and participants may initiate investment changes.

Additional information can be found at <https://retirement.eccenter.com>.

Churches will begin processing the pension plan contributions by April 4, 2023. Please complete and return the Nationwide Affiliate Set-up form as soon as possible. The last online training session, via Zoom, will be on Tuesday, 2/28, at 6:30 p.m. You can register for the training session by going to <https://retirement.eccenter.com> and clicking the blue box. If you cannot make Tuesday, 2/28, we will be recording one of the training sessions and posting on our YouTube channel as well as putting an instructional document together.

Please contact Dave King, [dking@eccenter.com](mailto:dking@eccenter.com), Kevin Henry, [khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com), or 717-866-7581 with any questions.



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEWS KEVIN HENRY

*continued...*

## *Conference Support Team Updates*

We are starting to rollout the ability to pay your monthly Ministry Funds via an ACH transfer and remit the Ministry Fund report via an online reporting form. A few churches have volunteered to test the ACH remittance process with us as we work out some of the wrinkles. We hope to be able to release the process to all churches by the due date of the March 2023 Ministry Fund payment of April 15th.

Since we do not have the funds to develop a custom application, we have built a two-step process:

- Step One: The church will complete the online Ministry Fund report. The online Ministry Fund report will require the treasurer to enter the church name and location, the name and contact information of the person completing the form and the monthly income for the church. The amount of ministry funds due will be calculated. A date is given by the treasurer as to when the funds can be withdrawn from the bank account, a box is checked to authorize the withdraw and then click submit. The Ministry Fund report is sent to Church Center, and a copy is emailed to the contact information on the form. Done. There are no hard copies to send in or Adobe forms to download.
- Step Two: The business office will process an ACH transfer with our online banking software based on the information received on the Ministry Fund form for the amount and date to perform the withdrawal. A precursor to this step will be for the church to provide their banking account information to Church Center to perform the ACH transfer. The banking information will only need to be provided once and will be kept on file.

If any church is interested in helping with the testing process, please contact me,

*Kevin Henry*

Executive Director

[khenry@eccenter.com](mailto:khenry@eccenter.com) or 717-628-2171.

*We also have some additional website updates which we hope you may find helpful.*

A directory with all individuals who are currently credentialed in the denomination is now available on the member login portion of the website. This contains addresses and phone numbers for both the individuals and their assigned churches, if applicable, along with links for email addresses and associated websites. For those who had pictures taken at last year's conference, these photos are also included. If you did not have your photo taken and would like to have one included, please email a current photo to [office@eccenter.com](mailto:office@eccenter.com). It would be helpful if this photo is a closeup that clearly shows your face.

If as an assigned pastor, you note that some of the information we have in the directory is not correct, we invite you to use the new [form](#) that has been added to submit updated information for your church. This will replace the annual surveys that were previously sent out. New contact information, new employees or updates in your church leadership board may all be submitted using this form. If you are not currently assigned to a church, please email any changes / updates to [office@eccenter.com](mailto:office@eccenter.com).

Since this update form is found in the member login portal of the website, if your church administrator / secretary does not already have login credentials, please have them request them through the website or by emailing [wbeard@eccenter.com](mailto:wbeard@eccenter.com).

# GMC

Global Ministries Community of the Evangelical Congregational Church



## FROM THE DESK Rev. J. Ted Rathman

*Facilitating Mission Workers*  
*Empowering National Churches*  
*Engaging the Local Church*

2023 is the year of RELATIONSHIPS!

In the GMC office in Myerstown, it is the first and foremost priority on the whiteboard for this year. We desire to strengthen relationships with our EC missionaries, grow our relationships with our international fields' pastors and leaders, explore the plethora of relationships available to us by way of all the pastors and missions leaders in our EC churches, and birth new relationships by believing the Lord to raise up the next generation of missions workers!

Bishop Randy's focus for the EC Church is to once again step into the stream of being a movement of God - and the Global Ministries Community is committed to embracing that vision by engaging the local church, resourcing the local church, and assisting the local church in raising up the next missionary to...well, anywhere in the world!

Jeffrey Max Edwards, President of One Mission Society (of whom David and Conce Roof - EC missionaries in Brazil - serve under) wrote this past fall\*:



*"[OMS] believes God is raising up new generations to help carry forward the commission Jesus gave His followers. Millennials and Generation Zers are defined by several characteristics God will use in mission work.*

*They want to find meaning and contribute to society.*

*They are also digital natives, desire diversity, and have an entrepreneurial mindset.*

*These traits align significantly with service opportunities around the world...*

*these younger generations can make a difference in the lives of their peers. In our instant media world, our own brokenness, pain, and spiritual darkness are more evident than ever before.*

***We believe NOW is the time for God to raise up missionary leaders from these generations who will significantly impact broken and dark places."***

# GMC

Global Ministries Community of the Evangelical Congregational Church



## FROM THE DESK Rev. J. Ted Rathman

*continued...*

*Facilitating Mission Workers  
Empowering National Churches  
Engaging the Local Church*

Both Dee Jaramillo, the GMC Deputy Director, and I are available to come to your church, district meeting, or missions meetings and events to speak about the GMC and world missions - about how we can all be a part of being on mission with Christ to reach His world and being the movement of God that significantly impacts our world, changes culture, and helps to populate heaven!

Is there a young adult or couple from your church interested in exploring answering the call to become a missionary? Begin praying for opportunities for the Lord to speak to them clearly; to get connected with serving on a trip; and for them to begin dreaming God-sized dreams of how they can fulfill God's great commission.

Are you a pastor desiring to offer your gifts and graces to help equip our EC brothers and sisters in Mexico, Japan, India, Liberia or Nepal? Reach out to the GMC office and let's begin conversation to make that happen.

Above all, would you pray with us for the Lord to continue to be glorified as we endeavor to fulfill His command to "go?" Thank you for faithfulness to the Lord and to the Global Ministries Community.

\*OMS Outreach, Sep-Dec 2022, pg. 3

*Ted Rathman*



To know how your church can partner directly with an EC missionary or an International EC Church, call the GMC office at 717-866-7581 x 1109; or email [ecglobal@eccenter.com](mailto:ecglobal@eccenter.com).



Connect with us on Facebook: Global Ministries Community



# Kingdom Extension Community News



## FROM THE DESK

Rev. Mike Snedeker, KEC Associate

### *Mobilizing An Army*

A few of the leaders of our denomination have been participating in a cohort learning opportunity to learn how to move to a multiplication mindset as we envision the future of the EC Church and the Kingdom Extension Community. An article a few months ago in the EC Leader looked at the importance of shifting to a multiplication mindset as pastors and church leaders. One of the things that was a challenge in this learning community was moving to a “Home Depot” mindset in terms of the equipping and mobilizing work of the church.

Home Depot has strategically shifted how they communicate their purposes. They still desire to sell building materials and equipment, but they have understood the importance of moving the focus of their advertising from themselves to their customers. In making this shift, they picked up slogans like, “Helping doers get things done” and “You can do it, we can help”. What is being communicated in these statements is that Home Depot’s desire is not to take advantage of a customer base that can simply accomplish the company’s goal of generating revenue, but their hope is to partner with “weekend warriors” to accomplish their goals.

As church leaders, we often find ourselves seeing people as tools to help us accomplish our vision and purposes. Paul challenges this mindset in Ephesians 4 when he says, “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” The clear design is for church leaders to be equipping the body of Christ to accomplish the things God gives them to accomplish. Church leaders are “equippers” meant not to accomplish our purposes but to release people to accomplish God’s purposes for them.

What is God’s purpose? To “go and make disciples!” How well are we equipping the members of the body to accomplish those purposes? How well are we mobilizing the army God has brought together in your church for the mission God has for that army? The process of building up the body for mission is daunting at times, but not nearly as impossible as it seems. Often our churches are not accomplishing the mission of God because we have spent countless hours recruiting and developing teams to accomplish our purposes rather than equipping and releasing people to fulfill God’s great purpose for each of them.

*Mike*



# Kingdom Extension Community News

## FROM THE DESK

Rev. Mike Snedeker, KEC Associate  
*continued...*



Please continue to pray this month for the following new church planting opportunities that God is raising up:

**Mike Coulson and People's EC Church in the Virtual Space** – Mike is leading a team that is exploring a Virtual Reality Church. Their church name is Echo and is impacting people around the country and around the world. Pray for Echo and its team as they are constantly needing to flex to the rapidly changing virtual world, and they are needing to be stretched to meet people where they are and begin to multiply disciples in this new realm.

**Manuel and Luz Arias in Lexington, South Carolina** – The Arias family is starting a new EC Church. Les and Carol Cool and I had a chance to spend a few days with Manuel and Luz and their family in early December. They are learning the culture and meeting new families, as well as strategizing ways to share the gospel in tangible ways. Pray for wisdom, strength, and renewed energy for this couple.

**Haitian Church Plant** – One of our couples who recently went through our Pastoral Assessment Center are feeling called to plant a church in Reading, PA or Lancaster, PA specifically targeting the Haitian community! Pray as God gathers the planting team, gives them a specific vision for the future and energizes them for this task.

**New Church Planters** – We have four other individuals/couples that are exploring their potential call to become church planters with the EC Church. Please pray for clear vision for these couples. Also pray for courage as they consider taking a difficult step in a uncertain ministry realm.

**Greater Impact** – Please pray for churches across our denomination as they look to expand and even multiply their impact on their communities. Pray for wisdom for our pastors and leaders. Pray for eyes to see the needs of their communities and pray for creativity as they step into the opportunities to meet those needs with the love of Christ.



## FROM THE DESK

Rev. Matt Hill, MDA Associate

### PAC Recap

*The Evangelical Congregational Church will work side-by-side with one who believes he is called into the ministry from the time he indicates his belief of his call until he is ordained or no longer seeks to be ordained in the Evangelical Congregational Church."  
- 504.1 Discipline of the ECC Denomination*

One of the greatest joys in the work of the Ministerial Development Community is to help affirm the divine call to ministry. In an effort to walk side-by-side, every year we provide a Pastoral Assessment Center (PAC) where applicants and their spouses are provided direction, resources, and insight about their callings to ministry. Our assessment teams provide applicants the special attention that helps them evaluate their personal strengths and weaknesses for potential pastoral leadership.

While PAC 2023 wraps up, we celebrate the Lord's faithfulness in the lives of our eight candidates, our assessment teams, and our PAC director. I want to personally thank our assessment teams for their tireless efforts in walking hand-in-hand with our candidates in clarifying the call. In addition, I want to thank our PAC director, Rev. Les Cool, for his leadership; we could not have succeeded without it!

We now look forward to PAC 2024. Although it may seem far off, PAC 2024 begins now. We are actively praying for the Lord to bring candidates forward as we seek to be a movement of God. If you know someone who is looking to clarify a calling to pastoral ministry, we would invite them to apply for consideration in the PAC class of 2024. Individuals seeking acceptance into PAC are required to turn in a PAC registration form and letter of reference from their pastor before being considered for PAC 2024.

For the PAC registration form, or for more information about the pastoral assessment center, please visit [www.mdc.eccenter.com](http://www.mdc.eccenter.com).

Matt



# Ministerial Development Community News

...continued

## Institute for Church Leadership

**Rev. Dr. Joel Kime**

Our winter class, Hermeneutics, is underway, so mark your calendars for our spring class. See all the details below. This class would be excellent for your congregation to participate in. Students can either audit the class for \$50 or take it for ICL credit for a \$50/month subscription.

### **Old Testament Survey Tuesdays, May 2 – June 13, 6:30-9:15 p.m.**

**Instructor:** Tim Valentino

**Course Description:** In this course the student surveys Old Testament literature, history, geography, culture, theology, and structure to understand and communicate what the Old Testament reveals about God. Additional issues addressed include:

- Who are the important people and nations?
- What the significant events, and where do they happen?
- How is the Old Testament put together?
- How does the Old Testament apply to us today?
- What resources are available to understand, teach, and preach the Old Testament?

To sign up or get more information, contact Joel Kime: [joel.faithchurch@gmail.com](mailto:joel.faithchurch@gmail.com).

**"Small Towns, Big Challenges"** is the theme for Rural Home Missionary Association's annual Small-Town Pastors' Conference, Monday through Wednesday, April 17 to 19. Location is Grace Church in Morton, Illinois. Pastors and wives are welcome. The conference features general sessions and a variety of seminars as well as a women's track. Cost is \$120 per pastor, \$160 per couple, \$60 for students, and \$100 for a student and wife. Area hotels offer reduced rates. Registrations should be postmarked by April 3. For more information, go to <https://www.rhma.org/conferences/> or call 866-263-2350.



# WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WINTER AT...

*Twin Pines has many things scheduled for the winter and coming up in the spring. Mark your calendar now and check the website for updates.*



What Young Adults or Older Teens do you know that want to make impacts that last for eternity?



## **Spring Fling Children's Retreat – April 21-23**



A great weekend to minister to your local church's children and a way to introduce them to the ministry of Twin Pines Camp. The retreat includes outdoor fun (weather permitting), singing worship songs, and learning more about Jesus with active lessons.

For more details and group registration information, go to [bit.ly/2023TPSF](http://bit.ly/2023TPSF).

## **Spring Spruce Up – March 16-19**



Volunteer during a mid-week to help the ministry "spruce-up" camp and prepare for summer ministry! Projects include both indoor and outdoor sprucing-up. There are always tasks for volunteers of any skill level!

You may choose to participate for all or part of the time. To register: call the office-570.629.2411; send an email to [beverly@twinpines.org](mailto:beverly@twinpines.org).

## **For Ladies Only Retreat – May 16-18**



Due to her overwhelming popularity, Sue Duffield will return as the speaker for the For Ladies Only Retreat. Ladies from your church will not want to miss out on this great mid-week retreat of spiritual growth and challenge. Registration information is available at [bit.ly/2023FLORetreat](http://bit.ly/2023FLORetreat).

## **Summer Camp 2023**



# CALENDAR



## **MARCH 2023**

### **Friday, March 3**

Day of Prayer for the EC Church

### **Sunday, March 5**

Second Sunday of Lent

Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension Community  
Liturgical Color - Purple

### **Tuesday, March 7**

Finance Committee Meeting

### **Sunday, March 12**

Third Sunday of Lent

**Self-Denial Offering\***

Liturgical Color - Purple

### **Wednesday, March 15**

EC Benefits Service Fee Due  
Health Insurance Due

### **Thursday, March 16**

National Ministry Team Meeting

### **Friday, March 17**

Episcopacy Meeting

### **Sunday, March 19**

Fourth Sunday of Lent  
Liturgical Color - Purple

### **Tuesday, March 21**

Loan & Investment Committee Meeting

### **Wednesday, March 22**

Faith & Doctrine Meeting

### **Friday, March 24 to Saturday, March 25**

EC History & Polity Class at Grace Community Church  
of Willow Street

### **Sunday, March 26**

Passion Sunday  
Liturgical Color - Purple

### **Wednesday, March 29**

GMC Board Meeting

## **APRIL 2023**

### **Sunday, April 2**

Palm Sunday

Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension Community  
Liturgical Color - Purple

### **Thursday, April 6**

Maundy Thursday

### **Friday, April 7**

Good Friday

Day of Prayer for the EC Church  
EC Church Center Closed

### **Sunday, April 9**

Easter Sunday  
Liturgical Color - White

### **Monday, April 10**

EC Church Center Closed

### **Saturday, April 15**

Health Insurance Due

### **Sunday, April 16**

Liturgical Color - White

### **Sunday, April 23**

Liturgical Color - White

### **Sunday, April 30**

2023 Pre-Conference Meeting: Buckeye District at  
Cottage Grove EC Church  
Liturgical Color - White

## **Ministry Funds, Insurance & Benefits and \*Special Offerings**

**Mail to:**

**EC Church Center  
100 W. Park Ave.  
Myerstown, PA 17067**

*(\*Designate in the memo line the Special Offering that it is for March - Self-Denial.)*



## Overflowing Hope

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may OVERFLOW with HOPE by the power of the Holy Spirit."  
Romans 15:13

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Office Hours: Monday - Thursday  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



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**Rev. Matthew Hill**  
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**Wendy Beard**

March 2023 Edition - Editor/Art Design

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