

E.C. Leader

Strategic Planning

In the March issue of the **EC LEADER** I promised I would give you an update on the Transformational Strategic Plan Retreat that was held at the end of February. Since that time we have experienced a couple of interesting developments which are shaping our progress in strategic planning.

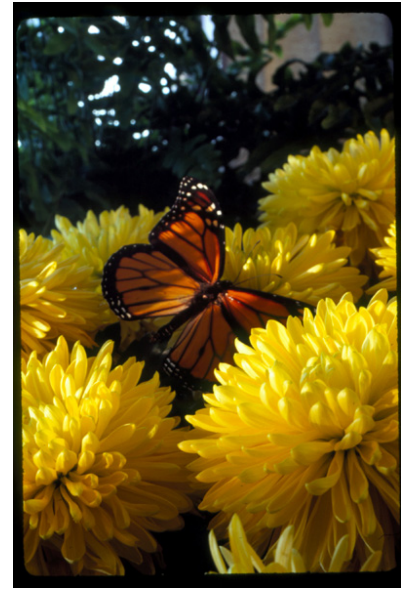
February’s Transformational Strategic Plan Retreat for ECC leaders reviewed the Strategic Plan that was accepted at the National Conference 2010. That Plan identified four strategic recommendations:

1. Enhance our capacity to communicate and celebrate God’s work among us.
2. Develop a network of affinity-based groups as catalysts for ministry.
3. Clarify a biblical approach to leadership for effective local ministry.
4. Establish disciple making as the ultimate objective for all our ministries.

The retreat group accepted those initiatives, encouraging us to continue to develop them while discovering ways to integrate them into the life of our local congregations and the denomination. And it identified a number of additional areas we need to address in order for our denomination to effectively and efficiently minister in the 21st century.

Soon after the strategic retreat the Global Ministries Commission’s Strategic Task Force completed its work and presented a report to the National Ministry Team. As the NMT worked through the GMC Task Force recommendations it became obvious that we must take a “big picture” view of the various elements that affect National Conference commissions, committees, and ministries and how we support them financially. The National Ministry Team then voted to have the Bishop appoint a Task

(continued on page 2)



Inside this issue

Bishop’s TOP TEN Prayer & Praise Items	3
News from Evangelical	4
Pre-Conference Meetings/ Ordination Service	5
News from Global Ministries	6
News from Benefits/ Compensation	6



Evangelical Congregational Church
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067
717-866-7581

www.eccenter.com
eccenter@eccenter.com

(Strategic Planning continued from page 1)

Force to wrestle with the question of “what should the denomination fund by mandate?”, and comprehensively review all financial structures with the National Conference of the EC Church. While the action of the NMT deals primarily with financial structures, that will simply be the first step in a comprehensive review of how we “do” denomination in the future. My goal is to be able to make a preliminary report to the National Ministry Team at their October 2012 meeting and then to present more definitive recommendations at the March 2013 NMT meeting and at the National Conference 2013.



I do not have a grand plan to announce today. I firmly believe that as we begin this process we must put everything out on the table and up for discussion in a creative and positive atmosphere. I can assure you that there are numerous initiatives which will be studied and developed in the coming months and years. If we are to become a “movement of God” we will have to make changes. That doesn’t mean we will destroy structures but that we may have to redefine our structures and say “good-bye” to some things to reflect not just what we’re doing right now but where we want to be as a denomination in the years to come. I believe the National Conference will have to look at ways to provide value to our churches in the coming years. Can we creatively find other ways to “do denomination” to encourage greater creativity and effectiveness for local churches? That will be a long-term goal.

I am now in the process of gathering names for a new Strategic Planning Task Force to carry out the mandate of the National Ministry Team. Please join in prayer as we begin this exciting chapter in the life of the Evangelical Congregational Church. I’m not sure where this path will lead, but I know the Lord is leading us. I am excited to see what the Lord has in store for us as we seek His will and faithfully follow Him!

In Christ’s service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zoya".

PASSION  N

*"You must
love the LORD
your God with all your
heart, all your soul, all your
mind, and all your strength...
Love your neighbor as
yourself."*
—MATTHEW 22:37-39

2012 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Wed. May 23 to Fri. May 25

Messiah College

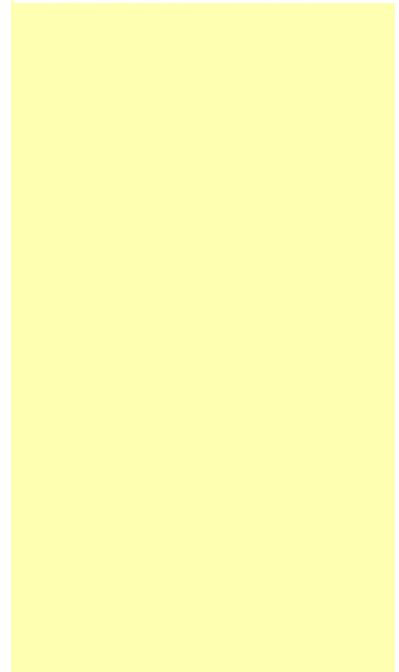
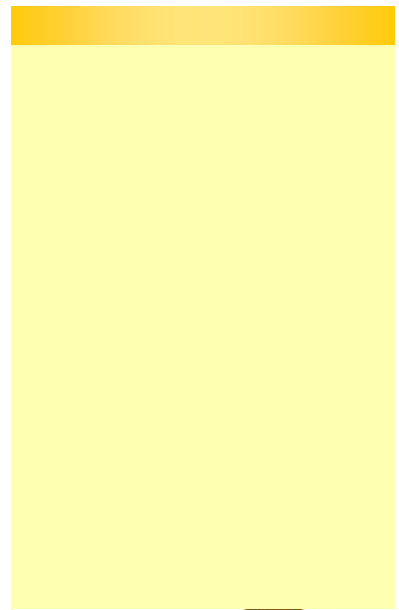
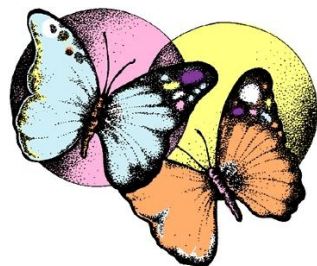
Grantham, PA

- Registration at Messiah College begins at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 23
 - **Holy Communion will be held at 1:00 p.m. in the Brubaker Auditorium, Eisenhower Center.**



The Bishop's TOP TEN Prayer & Praise Items

1. Join me in prayer for the upcoming National Conference 2012, that we would have a clear sense of the Lord's leading and blessing.
2. Pray for our camps, ECCO, Rock River Bible Camp and Twin Pines Camp, as they prepare for their summer seasons of ministry.
3. Pray for all the students graduating from Evangelical Seminary this month as they continue on their journeys of following and serving Jesus here and around the world.
4. Be in prayer for Evangelical Seminary as they recruit new students and prepare to launch new initiatives for the fall semester.
5. Pray with me for the Stationing Committee and the churches and pastors who are in the process of making changes.
6. This one is a combination prayer and praise item. As I write this we are awaiting the birth of our sixth grandchild (Tim & Steph's first) any day. So, depending on the timing of the birth and when you read this: pray and praise.
7. Praise the Lord for the wonderful reports we're hearing of significant ministry taking place during the recent Easter season.
8. Praise God for the number of churches who are reaching into their neighborhoods through missional ministry.
9. Thank the Lord for the creative ministries being conducted through our church planting efforts.
10. Praise God for the growing number of Districts that are re-starting and refocusing after a period of inactivity.



News from Evangelical Seminary



FAITH IN THE MARKETPLACE BREAKFAST — Buck Jacobs, founder of The C12 Group, a consortium of Christian business owners and CEOs, will speak at this season's final breakfast on Thursday, May 3, at 7:30 a.m. in Zinn Commons. He will also lead a separate workshop from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Check www.evangelical.edu for complete details and online registration.



COMMENCEMENT 2012 — Twenty-seven students will receive degrees and graduate certificates during the 57th Annual Commencement in Dech Chapel on Saturday, May 12, at 10:00 a.m. Dr. Johnny Miller, former pastor of Lancaster's Calvary Church, is the speaker. Admission is by ticket only, but we ask your thoughts and prayers for our graduates on this special day.



TEE OFF FOR EVANGELICAL! — The 27th annual Evangelical Golf Tournament will take place at Lebanon's Fairview Golf Course on Thursday, May 17, at 7:30 a.m. The day offers great golf, wonderful fellowship, special prizes, a delicious hot buffet dinner, and the opportunity to help support Evangelical as well. Check the website (www.evangelical.edu) for information and online registration by May 10.



NEW PROGRAMS COMING — Pending approval, this fall Evangelical will offer an M.Div. program at Messiah College's Harrisburg Institute. Our current faculty will teach the courses, and students who successfully complete five years of Monday classes (4:00-10:00 p.m.) will receive the M.Div. at the end of that time. Also pending approval, the new Master of Arts in Christian Leadership (MACL) will begin this fall on our Myerstown campus. Call the seminary (717-866-5775) or check the website for complete details.



REGISTRATION is underway for both summer sessions and the fall semester. Check out the course offerings, spread the word about Evangelical, and pray for your seminary as it seeks to prepare students for transformational ministry in our broken and complex world.

PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS

National Conference 2012 will soon be here so a number of pre-conference meetings have been scheduled in preparation for the annual gathering. The agenda for the pre-conference meetings will be rather simple:

1. An overview of National Conference 2012 including changes to the way we usually do things and highlights of the agenda.
2. A video presentation and discussion on the National Conference Relations Pastoral Reclassification Project.
3. A time of prayer.

Please attend the meeting that is closest to you or best fits your schedule:

- Sunday, April 29—6:30 p.m. at Zion ECC, Clarks Valley, PA
- Tuesday, May 1—7:00 p.m. at Bethel ECC, Dixon, IL
- Wednesday, May 2—7:00 p.m. at Faith ECC, Lancaster, PA
- Sunday, May 6—7:00 p.m. at Lakeside ECC, Transfer, PA
- Thursday, May 10—7:00 p.m. at Bethesda ECC (Reedsville), Schuylkill Haven, PA
- Tuesday, May 15—7:00 p.m. at St. Matthew's ECC, Emmaus, PA



You are invited to attend the
2012 National Conference Ordination Service

The ordination of Andrew D. Miller
First E.C. Church
1501 Broad Avenue, NW
Canton, Ohio
Preacher: Rev. Richard Osberg
Sunday, May 27, 4:30 p.m.
A light reception will follow.

News from Global Ministries



The National Ministry Team Executive Committee approved the request by the Global Ministries Commission to postpone TEACH from 2013 until a later date. GMC requested this postponement due to their current financial situation and to coincide with the strategic planning initiatives of the denomination.



News from Benefits/Compensation

We are half way through our first year under the Capital Blue Cross Health Insurance plan and the results are mixed. Thanks to those that have voiced their frustrations and concerns. We do care and listen to all your concerns, and we try our best to resolve them. Also, our insurance broker Power Kunkle and Capital Blue Cross will be at National Conference this year, please stop by their table.

One issue that we have heard you express concern for is regarding the reimbursement of covered expenses from the HRA plan. Dave and I have had one meeting with Prime Pay discussing the concerns raised by our pastors. This is another area where Dave and I would welcome additional feedback. We cannot promise monumental changes but the more information we can gather will help with future decisions.

Workers Compensation invoices have been mailed to the churches participating in the plan and most churches should see about a 10% decrease in rates. Workers Compensation invoices are due 30 days after receipt. Also, the Benefits Corp services fee is due on April 15. The fee is payable from any church with an assigned pastor(s), active or superannuated.

With any questions or problems please contact Dave King or myself at the EC Church Center, 1-800-866-7581 or dking@eccenter.com, khenry@eccenter.com.

Kevin Henry
Controller

