

The Profile of an EC Pastor

Pastors in the EC Church must understand their own identity in Christ, as well as their calling and gifts in relation to the body of believers so that the church is engaged for the work of ministry in the 21st century. They must know how to interpret their cultural setting and properly communicate kingdom values and instructions from God's Word in order to form and lead a healthy community of believers.

They must be shaped by a character that reflects God's love in their lives through authenticity, patience, compassion, integrity, and spiritual fervor. They must participate in a disciplined, lifelong journey that reveals teachability, hospitality, forgiveness, and most of all how to disciple others into these same Christ-like character traits.

They must be able to effectively communicate the faith—what it looks like and how it works—within and beyond their community of believers, while also recognizing and discerning false claims to the Gospel. They must demonstrate a disciple's life through their own ways of living the faith—serving, directing, giving, listening, and laughing with others in order to cultivate and empower flourishing among the community of believers and make an impact on the great community.

They must see God at work around them, enabling others to grasp hold of God's intentional love for them, and each person's own individual potential for ministry. They must not neglect the opportunities and threats in their midst, but rather reveal how God's kingdom intersects with the life of the church and their surrounding community.



Rev. Jeffrey Byerly

Ministerial
Development
Associate

570-294-3467

jgbyerly@bethesdaec.org

jgbyerly@eccenter.com

When pastors and other leaders are commissioned or ordained, our hope is that they will be able to stand before the members of the National Conference and state:

“I am a contributor to God's mission through the Evangelical Congregational Church, because I have felt the loving, supportive, accountable touch throughout the MDC process—shaping me into one prepared to minister with my EC brothers and sisters for God's Kingdom in our generation and the ones to follow.”

MINISTERIAL DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY



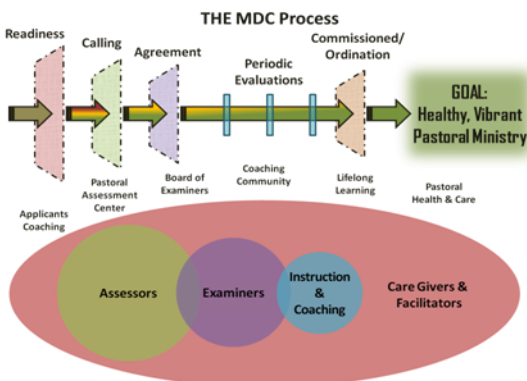
Evangelical Congregational Church
100 West Park Avenue, Myerstown, PA 17067

717-866-7581; www.eccenter.com

How do we develop our pastors and leaders for effective ministry?

The MDC has been tasked with the development of ministerial personnel in order for them to effectively lead our churches to fulfill God's mission within their local contexts. When hiring a pastor, you can be assured that we have 1) led him through a simple disciple-making process, 2) sent him to the Pastoral Assessment Center where he is assessed, provided him with tools for ministry, and introduced him to our EC methods for ministry, 3) educated him with appropriate theological and practical knowledge for ministry, and 4) provided him with a coach to guide him through critical decisions early in ministry.

Once a pastor completes his course of study and training, we are interested in seeing how well he has integrated what he has learned into what he does. When we provide a pastor with the title of elder, we ensure that he has been vetted in all things EC.



It's a community thing!"

How can our pastors help to transform our churches into living, breathing witnesses of truth to serve the world around us?

There was a day when our EC churches were cookie-cutter versions of one another, just varying in size. However, the American culture has shifted, and our churches sit within different contexts with different internal cultures. Likewise, the idea of preaching sermons delivered to "individuals" is being replaced by the need to develop the "communal life" of a congregation.

In order to consider these changing needs, we have developed a Profile of an EC Pastor. This profile reveals our expectations for what our pastors should *know, be, do, and see*. This critical evaluation tool provides pastoral candidates without intended outcomes for them, and helps the MDC evaluate each pastor through this constructive lens toward healthy ministry.

What opportunities will our pastors and leaders have for lifelong learning?

Within the breadth of American Christianity, God has been revealing a particular direction for the EC Church. Our theological framework is mining new depths that contain some prominent biblical concepts, such as discipleship, missionality, gospel, and kingdom. We are committed to a deeper exploration of these terms for the sake of the EC Church, and those who live in our midst. And that means that teachability and proper posture within our culture are indispensable.

If you, as a pastor or leader, find yourself struggling to lead in this current cultural setting, we will be providing educational modules and learning opportunities that are designed to provide relevant discussions around a variety of helpful topics.

What can your congregation do to help?

To do all this well, Evangelical Seminary is going to need to have your financial support, and students are going to need financial resources to keep their own debt to a minimum. Please prayerfully consider your investment in these two areas.