



The Eighth National Conference of the Evangelical Congregational Church

2010 National Conference Theme

A New Thing—Our Future as a Movement of God

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland.” –Isaiah 43:19

Tuesday

Tuesday featured a pre-conference Gettysburg Tour led by Dr. Tom Clegg (President and Founder of the Missional Transformation Network).

The Conference began Tuesday evening with the opening presentation by Tom Clegg who provided statistical data concerning America as a great mission field and spoke about the need to examine our traditional definition of evangelism.

A number of ministries were represented in the display area of Conference.

Wednesday

Wednesday began with a devotional time which featured a traditional praise experience led by Rev. David Bailey and

Rachel Stevenson followed by a presentation by Tom Clegg who spoke about redefining evangelism from fearfully “learning what to say” to relationally “learning how to love.”

Following the devotional time the National Conference cared for the parliamentary procedural items necessary to open the business sessions.

Bishop Kevin Leibensperger delivered the Episcopal address, which was based on Isaiah 43:19 and focused on understanding opportunities for transformational change, and participating in God’s new thing.

Copies of this message were made available to conference delegates, who were encouraged to make this ad-

dress available to their congregations.

The Conference Ministers—Rev. Gary Brown, Dr. Fred Moury, and Rev. B. Bruce Wagner made personal comments, highlighted the positive elements of coaching and new innovative ministries, and were available to respond to questions in reference to their reports.

Mrs. Debra Patterson, treasurer, presented an audited report of the Conference finances. Rev. Gregory Dimmick presented the memorial report of deaths among pastors, pastors’ wives, and lay delegates.

The conference recognized six retiring pastors—Revs. George Drupp, Tom Griffin, Glen Hansen, Fred Moury, Allen Kline, and Jack Ward.

The afternoon reconvened with devotions of exercise led by the parish nurses followed by praise led by Revs. Dan Blank and Carlos Kelly.

Tom Clegg presented a new paradigm for interacting with our culture by learning to speak their language and providing the perfect fit to the soul through “becoming, believing, and belonging.”

Elections were held for the Regional Conference Relations Committees. Rev. Nathan Fry (DR) and Rev. Pat Teaford (SR) were elected.

Howard Brooks, Andrew Carr, Marisel Mieses, John Miranda, Abimael Montanez, and Mark Ralph answered the disciplinary questions.

Rev. Jeffrey Byerly presented the report of the National Conference Relations Committee. Raymond Newlin was approved for the itinerancy. Joel Kime and Ken Wiest were granted Itinerant Elder’s orders.

Howard Brooks, John Ewing, Jr., John Miranda, and Mark Ralph were approved as Traveling Local Preachers. Andrew Carr, Abimael Montanez, and Ronald Shipman were granted Traveling Licentiate status. Phillip Bartelt was approved as a Licentiate – Subject to Annual Renewal. Mercedes Mendez was ordained in the Alternative to Pastoral Ministry in the area

of Christian Education. Marisel Mieses was granted Alternative Pastoral Ministry status in the area of Discipleship. George Drupp, Glenn Hansen, Thomas Griffin, Allen Kline, Fred Moury, and John Ward were transferred to the Superannuated classification. Donald Kunkel was transferred to the Retired – not in the Itinerancy classification. Donald Kerns was transferred to the Local Preacher – Subject to annual renewal classification.

All annual renewals of credentials in the report were granted. Jaime Bonnelly, Brian Butz, Yanira Kelly, and Angel Rosado were removed from our ministerial rolls.

Three credentialing changes to the Rules of Conference were approved from the National Conference Relations Committee report.

Rev. Ken Schmoyer presented the report of the Stationing Committee. Dr. Alan Pense was granted the opportunity to present the concept of the District Student Aid program from the Student Aid Leadership Team report. Rev. Gary Brown, the Conference Historian, presented his report. Rev. Kirk Marks reported for the National Executive Committee and the National Ministry Team. Rev. Scott Carr presented a partial report for Camp ECCO.

The evening session began with a praise experience led by Countryside Fellowship Worship Team.

Tom Clegg presented his final message featuring practical things that our churches can do to be a part of God’s harvest.

Thursday

The morning began with a devotional time which featured praise led by a collection of performers and featured a devotional from Dr. Fred Moury.

A ballot was cast for Rev. Jeffrey Schell to be a Stationing Elder for the Susquehanna region. Rev. B. Bruce Wagner reported for the Supervisory Committee. Rev. Gerald Baum presented the Moving Report. Rev. Robert Shuey presented the report for the Great Lakes Region Conference Minister evaluation process.

Rev. Kevin Roberts presented the report of the Nominating Committee for Delaware Region Conference Minister. The conference prayed, a ballot was cast, and Rev. Gary Kuehner was elected.

Rev. Jeffrey Byerly presented four proposals within the Transformational Strategic Plan—1) *communicating and celebrating God’s work among us*, 2) *developing an affinity-based network*, 3) *clarifying a biblical approach to*

leadership, and 4) establishing a disciple making culture. Items to be referred and deferred were also approved from the report.

Rev. James Price reported for the Church Health Commission by highlighting some of the resources for the commission. Rev. Les Cool provided emphasis for the healthy pastor initiative.

Rev. Les Cool reported for the Church Planting Commission and featured a few church planting situations to provide updates to the conference.

Rev. Ryan Taylor presented the report for the Evangelism and Discipleship Commission. Ms. Carolyn Bousom and Navigators representative John Radcliffe spoke concerning the issues of becoming a disciple making movement. Rev. Mark Brooks provided a report for Christian Education.

The audit, Faith in Doctrine, property, and Health Insurance Task Force reports were presented.

Rev. Bruce Hill presented the Episcopacy report, and described the vast variety of issues that come through the bishop's office.

The afternoon began with breakout sessions that focused on the messages from Dr. Clegg's book *Missing in America*. The sessions recon-

vened with devotions of exercise led by "Effie and Emma."

A ballot was taken for Evangelical Theological Seminary trustees—Revs. Kirk Marks, Bob Mavis, James Price and Barry Rebert were elected, as well as Christine Pense, David Roland, and Bill Worley as lay trustees.

Becky Reigle presented the report for the Benefits Corporation, and conducted its annual meeting. A ballot was cast for Rev. Ryan Taylor and Mr. Stanley Miller to the Benefits Corporation Board of Trustees. By-law revisions to allow pastors after to 59 ½ years of age to withdraw 403(b) contributions for a home purchase were granted by the delegates.

Director Rev. Randy Sizemore reported for the Global Ministries Commission, indicating that they have completed a comprehensive missionary review and giving a tour of EC field work around the world.

President Michael Sigman introduced the leadership team for the Evangelical Theological Seminary, which presented highlights from their designated areas of responsibility.

Mr. Steve Reiter presented the report for New Dawn Christian Community Services and reported that the Benevolent Care Fund is in dire need

of contributions from local churches. A ballot was cast for Revs. Charles Campbell and Steven Minnich and lay representatives Donald Styer, Mary Good, Nancy Wertman, Lois Wade, Robert Long, and Stanley Miller.

The nominating, stewardship, ILCAP and PCAP reports were approved.

The National Conference participated in a Love Feast celebration of communion during their evening meal.

The evening session began when ballots were cast for the election of the Twin Pines board of directors—Jack Echnacht was elected, and the Conference Relations Committee in the Great Lakes Region—Scott Carr was elected to a five year term and Robert Mavis was elected to fulfill a partial term.

Mark Chicchinelli, Shawn Fetterhoff, and Gary Brown presented reports on behalf of their respective camps.

Rev. Jeffrey Byerly presented the 3rd space ministry of LifeTree Café.

Friday

The morning began with a devotional time led by the Prayer Mobilization Team, which also featured praise led by Mrs. Karen Jacobs.

Rev. Harry Dow presented the Leadership Commission

report and highlighted chaplaincy ministries, the increase in bivocational ministry, and the clarifying discussion about the relationship between the denomination and seminary.

Actions were taken to adopt the resolutions for the closure of Calvary EC Church (Birdsboro, PA), the disaffiliation of the Highland Park EC Church, (Chicago, IL), and the title transfer of Arlington EC Church, (Red Lion, PA).

The Compensation Committee Report was presented by

Rev. Robert Shuey. The report included the following items:

- The base 2011 pastoral salaries were established to be increased by 1.0%, but if possible are encouraged to grant larger increases.
- The Conference leadership salaries for bishop and Conference Ministers were maintained and established at 2010 levels.
- Items of information focused on establishing Conference salaries, pension

figures, honorariums, moving regulations, housing, vacation schedules, and ministry leaves.

The following reports were presented and approved: Historical Society, Loan and Investment, Statistical, Finance, Rules & Content, and Conference Services.

The budget was approved with a Ministry Fund calculation of 8.7% plus camp funds.

The 2010 National Conference adjourned with singing and with prayer.