



The Ninth National Conference of the Evangelical Congrega- tional Church

Wednesday

The Ninth National Conference of the Evangelical Congregational Church began Wednesday afternoon with a worship experience led by the Conference worship team followed by an opening presentation by H.B. London from *Focus on the Family*, who presented a message about the identity problem within the body of Christ.

Following the devotional time chairman Dr. Fred Moury called the National Conference into session and the delegates cared for the parliamentary procedural items necessary to open the business sessions.

The first order of business was the election of bishop. After a season of prayer for the candidates led by the Prayer Mobilization Team, the report of the Episcopal Nominating Committee was presented by the chairman, Rev. James Price. The con-

ference delegates elected Rev. Bruce Hill as the fourteenth bishop of the EC Church.

Dr. Fred Moury presented a report as the National Conference chairperson. The Conference Ministers – Rev. B. Bruce Wagner, Rev. Gary Brown, and Rev. Gordon Lewis made personal comments in review of their reports.

Rev. Kirk Marks reported for the National Ministry Team and the National Executive Committee. Rev. B. Bruce Wagner reported for the Supervisory Committee.

Rev. David Heffner reported for the Episcopacy Committee. New guidelines were approved for the next bishop in terms of his health and transition.

The reports for moving, property, and loan and investment were presented.

The Compensation Committee Report was presented by

Rick Glauthier. The report included the following items:

- The base 2012 pastoral salaries were established to be increased by 1%, but if possible are encouraged to grant larger increases.
- The Conference leadership salaries for bishop and Conference Ministers were established for 2012.
- Items of information focused on establishing Conference salaries, pension figures, honorariums, moving regulations, housing, vacation schedules, and ministry leaves.

Rev. Matthew Gueh, field superintendent of the EC Church of Liberia presented Bishop-elect Bruce Hill with a special gift.

The evening featured a service of the Lord's Supper at Grantham Brethren in Christ Church. Afterwards, delegates were invited to an ice cream social event and the display area was opened.

Thursday

The morning began with a devotional time, which featured praise led by performers from Vida Nueva and featured a message by H.B. London highlighting the concept of expectancy in the Gospel of Matthew.

Rev. Jeff Byerly presented the report of the National Conference Relations Committee.

John Abner, Mark Ammerman, James Bestwick, Christopher Bronico, Charles Cotherman, Lisa Custer, Michael Garrison, James Heckman, Wayne Houck, Gerald Klopp, and Robert Valentine answered the questions for applicants.

Joshua Metz was approved for the itinerancy. Brian Parker was granted Itinerant Elder's orders.

Charles Cotherman and Mark Ammerman were approved as Traveling Licentiates. Andrew Carr transferred to a Licentiate – Subject to Annual Renewal classification. Michael Garrison was approved as a Licentiate – Subject to Annual Renewal. Donald Kerns was granted a permanent Local Preacher's license and Gerald Klopp and Robert Valentine were granted Local Preachers licenses.

John Abner, Janor Bestwick, Christopher Bronico, and Wayne Houck were received as Approved Candidates.

Margie Miller was granted ordination as a Parish Nurse in the Alternative to Pastoral Ministry classification. James Heckman was received as a Counselor in the Alternative to Pastoral Ministry classification. Lisa Custer was granted a license in the Alternative to Pastoral Ministry classification in the area of chaplaincy visitation.

James Bound, Gary Luckenbill, Wilmer Martin, Bruce Wagner, and Don Wert were transferred to the Supernuanced classification.

Barry Zimmerman was transferred to the Retired – not in the Itinerancy classification.

Dirk Pogue was transferred to the Supernumerary classification.

All annual renewals of credentials in the report were granted. Nathan Hempel, Mark Inman, and Mark Meister were removed from our ministerial rolls.

Elections were held for the Regional Conference Relations Committees. Rev. Jeff Byerly and Rev. Ralph Owens (DR), Rev. Kirk Marks (SR), and Rev. David Carr (GLR) were elected.

Rev. Les Cool reported for the Church Planting Com-

mission and featured a focus on missional ministry opportunities from some of our churches and church plants.

The conference approved the petition of Buenas Nuevas EC Church of West Hazleton as a charter member of the EC Church.

Rev. Ken Schmoyer presented a report for the Stationing Committee which featured the process by which a church can seek a non-EC pastor.

Dr. Ken Miller presented a report for the Faith and Doctrine Committee that highlighted the preparation and progress of some recent projects.

Rev. Gregory Dimick presented the memorial report of deaths among pastors, pastors' wives, lay delegates, and missionaries—of special note was the death of Bishop Kevin Leibensperger.

The conference recognized six retiring pastoral couples—James & Bonnie Bound, Gary & Metra Luckenbill, Wilmer & Barbara Martin, B. Bruce & Barbara Wagner, Don & Rita Wert, and Barry & Linda Zimmerman.

The afternoon reconvened with devotions led by Bishop-elect Bruce Hill.

Rev. Gordon Lewis reported for the Church Health Com-

mission by highlighting new affinity groups within the commission. Presentations were made by New Church Specialties and the Healthy Pastors Team.

Elections were held for Regional Stationing Elders. Rev. Robert Stahl (DR) and Rev. Jeff Martin (SR) were elected. Elections were also held for Trial Court and for the Triers of Appeals.

Rev. Ryan Taylor presented the report for the Evangelism and Discipleship Commission. Carolyn Boussum spoke concerning the need for disciple making. Sue Yarnall spoke concerning women's ministry. Rev. Stephen Holubec reported for Christian Education.

President Michael Sigman reported for Evangelical Theological Seminary, provided updates concerning approval within the United Methodist Church, and lastly introduced the newly selected president, Dr. Tony Blair, who addressed the conference.

Mr. Steve Reiter presented the report for New Dawn Christian Community Services and highlighted that con-

struction on the Main Street project at Poplar Run has begun. Rev. Charles Campbell and lay representatives Robert Long and Stanley Miller were elected to the board of trustees.

Deb Patterson and Kevin Henry presented the report for the finance committee with all recommendations being approved. The budget committee was approved and the ministry fund calculation was reduced from 8.7% to 8.65%.

The evening session began with an experience led by the Prayer Mobilization Team.

Rev. Frank Schock convened the executive session of the Benefits Corporation, and conducted its annual meeting. Election results for the ballot of trustees selected Rev. Kenneth Wiest, Kristin Parker, and Deborah Zerbe.

Rev. Randy Sizemore, Director of Global Ministries showed a slide and video presentation of the EC Church around the world. Special guest speaker, Rev. Matthew Gueh challenged the conference to make disciples rather than converts.

Rev. Harold Scanlin and Rev. Gary Brown presented the Historical report.

Friday

The morning session began with a devotional time led by the Conference worship team, and followed by H.B. London highlighting the significance of the local church in reaching her community and world.

Rev. Robert Stahl was elected to the Twin Pines Board of Directors.

Rev. Harry Dow presented the report for the Leadership Commission. Information regarding Future Watch, Student Aid, Bi-vocational Ministry, and Leadership Contact were highlighted. Reports were presented for the conference camps.

Reports for auditing and the Rules of Journal were presented.

The gavel for the chair of the Conference was presented to Bishop-elect Bruce Hill.

The 2011 National Conference adjourned with singing and with prayer.