

August, 2008

E.C. Leader

Our Vision

The Evangelical Congregational Church will be a dynamic movement of God that is led by pastors and laity who have a burning passion for God and a missionary zeal to reach the lost. We will creatively obey the Great Commission by transforming plateaued and declining churches into healthy, disciple-making churches that are committed to evangelizing the communities to which God has called them. Healthy churches will reproduce themselves by planting churches in least-reached communities. Interdependence will be the distinguishing mark of the Evangelical Congregational Church as local churches network with one another and ministries beyond the E.C. family to proclaim the Gospel to the world.



**Evangelical
Congregational
Church**

Paperwork or Postcards



Paperwork is a collective term for one of the “necessary evils” of denominational life. Filling out the forms for Quarterly Reports, Monthly Ministry Funds, and Annual Salary Statements can seem like just another obligation on your “to do” list. But they’re not mere busy work. Regular reporting is an important tool for accountability and assessment. It’s one of the things we’ve agreed to do “for one another” as part of belonging to our family of churches.

Complete and current data enables us to assess our progress and anticipate problems. At times the information we ask for is necessary to insure that we are in compliance with civil law or insurance rules. In some cases such as church planting, having an accurate snapshot of your ministry is an important fund raising tool. If we can’t provide prospective donors with a clear picture of how their gifts are being used, we can’t expect them to give at all.

So fill out your forms. See them as postcards from the frontlines, not paperwork. Regard them as messages sent back home from those in the trenches to let everyone know how you are doing and what challenges you are facing. Your “letters” from the battlefield help us understand your setbacks as well as victories. If there’s ever a problem completing the forms or meeting your financial commitments — talk to us! Sometimes the silence is deafening from those we do not hear from. When we know the need we can find a way to deal with it together.

Bishop Kevin

“They gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith...” Acts 14:27

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Stationing Reminder

While the formal deadline for requests for changes in pastoral assignment is not until January 15, the next few months are the time when pastors and church leaders should be prayerfully assessing their partnership together. Our objective to make appointments where congregations and pastors “fit and flourish” together is best accomplished when all involved have thought through the vision and goals the Lord is giving them. Pastors who may be contemplating retirement next year are urged to contact their Conference Minister and the Benefits and Compensation Administrator as far in advance as possible. This better enables you to evaluate your options as well as insure that all the changes in insurance and income coverage can be made in a timely manner.

Health Insurance Task Force Formed

The first meeting of this work group is planned for September 11. They are tasked with three assignments.



1. To examine and clarify our goals and priorities regarding our denominational health care coverage.
2. To explore and evaluate our options to accomplish those goals while containing and controlling costs.
3. To report back to National Conference in a format that will enable the delegates to make informed and intentional decisions on our health insurance strategy. There are no “easy answers” to these challenges, but there may be “better solutions.” Be praying for the work of this team.



Special Events:

- October 31-November 1 **“Pray Big, Pray Bold, Pray Better”** The first Eastern Regional Conference of the Church Prayers Leaders Network will be held at ETS in Myerstown. We are excited to announce an exclusive offer for E.C.’s!! Watch for the letter and registration form in your mail this week.
 - November 18-19 **Evangelical Leadership Academy** will be held from noon to noon at Grace Community E.C. Church in Willow Street PA. The topic is “Becoming A Healthy Pastor. Dr. Tom Clegg of CoachNet is the presenter.
 - March 14, 2009—**Multiply**—an event for leaders of churches interested in planting churches with resource person Phil Alessi. Location to be announced.
 - May 2, 2009—**Reaching People Without Christ with Life to Life Discipleship** This seminar is extended to help churches involved in disciple making to take that process to the next level. Milfred Minatrea, author of “Shaped By God’s Heart” will be the featured speaker. Location: Wyndamere Heights E.C., Lewisberry.
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Bishop's Travels September 2008

Bishop Kevin

September	7	AM	York, Paul
	14	PM	Daniel Moury Ordination, Lititz Trinity
	21	AM	Hosensack Grace
		PM	Raymond Newlin Ordination, East Berlin Countryside Fellowship
	28	AM	Allentown Seibert



News from the Benefits Corporation & Compensation Committee . . .

HEALTH INSURANCE —

The Benefits Corporation has again approved Aetna Health Insurance as our carrier for 2009. They presented us with the most competitive rate quotes. All benefits within the plan remain unchanged for 2009.

Corporate Synergies, our insurance broker, sent our participant information to the following companies: CIGNA and United Health Care declined to submit a rate quote; Capital Blue Cross, Geisinger, and Highmark Blue Shield submitted quotes but they were not at all competitive with Aetna; and Health America submitted a quote but it was higher than Aetna.

For your information: During the 12 months ending May, 2008, our participant's office visits were down, but our use of the emergency room was up, considerably. Inpatient surgeries were down and outpatient surgeries were up. This follows the national trend for surgery. One area of concern was an increase in admissions to out-of-network medical facilities. We are at 99.6% use of in-network doctors but have 20% of all hospital admissions with out-of-network hospitals. This does have an affect on our rates. Our pharmacy use showed a 5% decrease in brand name prescriptions and a 5% increase in generic prescriptions, which is also a good trend.

Please remember that you can significantly on prescriptions for generic medications, by purchasing them at one of the retail stores, such as Wal-Mart, that offer 90-day prescription refills for \$10 or \$4 for a month's supply. (See June, 2008 EC Leader or Wellness Newsletter for more information.)

ALL ONE Health Management Wellness Program —



As part of our 2009 Aetna Health Insurance renewal, the Benefits Corporation is contracting with ALL ONE, located in Wilkes-Barre, PA to provide our participants with a Wellness program. Health insurance companies are looking for groups who are interested in improving the overall health of their participants. This is a three year contract and it is our goal that over the next 3 years, we will have healthier pastors and families. WATCH for more information on how our pastors and their families can benefit from participation in this Health Management Wellness Program.

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ELA Reminder

This year's Evangelical Leadership Academy will be held on November 18-19 from noon to noon at Grace Community E.C. In Willow Street, PA. The topic is "Becoming a Healthy Pastor." Dr. Tom Clegg of Coach-Net is our presenter. Overnight housing is available. Registration information will be forthcoming.



National Conference Journals

The 2008 National Conference Journal is available. Call Pat at 1-800-866-7581.



E.C. LINK

FREE!! You will receive a "free" copy of the DVD "Streams of Influence: the history of the E.C. Church" with the purchase of 3 or more E.C. Link. If you didn't get a chance to pick up copies of the new "E.C. LINK" at the National Conference, call Pat at 1-800-866-7581 to place an order. The cost is \$6.00 for each book plus shipping.



FOR SALE:

The Global Ministries Commission is selling of its cars. It's a 2001 Volvo XC70 with 128,400 miles. It's loaded with all wheel drive. It was well maintained and runs very well. \$7800. Call the GMC office if you would like to see it.

Free Pew Bibles

St. Paul's Church, Rothsville, PA has 50 hardcover KJV Pew Bibles they will give to your church FREE. Call or email Rev. Abe Rhoads for more information (1-717-733-1796 or abevie@dejazzd.com)



Local Church Historians

Gary Brown, National Conference Historian, will present an evening training at ETS, room 110 on Monday, October 27 at 6:30 pm. This will be for **Local Church Historians**. It will be a workshop on "*How to and Why Do Local Church History.*"

Benefits & Compensation continued

2009 HEALTH INSURANCE RATES —

The 2009 health insurance rate chart will be available online at www.eccenter.com under Benefits Corporation by August 30. The new rates are effective for January 1, 2009. The first payment using the new rates is due to the Benefits Corporation by December 15, 2008.

2009 Pastoral Compensation Forms —

The forms will be available online at www.eccenter.com under Pastoral Compensation by August 30. Please print and read the instructions for the forms before completing them.

For questions on the new Aetna contract or the ALL ONE Health Management Wellness Program, contact Becky Reigle, President, Benefits Corporation, 610-776-1535.

For questions on the 2009 Health Insurance rates or Compensation Forms, contact Ken Wiest, Benefits-Compensation Administrator, 717-866-7581.

WorldFest!!

Mark Your Calendar!!

- September 13th Bethel EC, Dixon, IL 8:00 am—2:30 pm (continental breakfast & lunch provided)
- September 26, 27th Wedgewood Park EC, Youngstown, OH
 - Friday Youth Lock-In 9:30pm-9:00am Sat.
 - Saturday general sessions 8:00am-2:30pm (continental breakfast & lunch provided)
- October 10, 11th Evangelical Theological Seminary
 - Friday Pastor's, church Leaders' gathering 12:00-2:30 pm
 - Saturday general sessions 8:00am-2:30pm (continental breakfast & lunch provided)



Evangelical Theological Seminary Presidential Search

Evangelical Theological Seminary invites applications for the position of president to succeed Dr. Dennis P. Hollinger, who left office to become the President of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. The Seminary's seventh president will be a passionate follower of Jesus Christ and a person of the highest personal and professional integrity. The Seminary seeks a team-focused, visionary and energetic leader who is able to communicate Evangelical's story with confidence and enthusiasm.

The Seminary was founded in 1953 to provide a Wesleyan-Arminian education for pastors of the Evangelical Congregational Church. From its earliest years, Evangelical has welcomed all who respect this Wesleyan and evangelical heritage. The Seminary currently enrolls students representing more than 25 Christian denominations.

Nominations and applications should be received by October 31, and directed to: Dr. William Worley, Chair, Presidential Search Committee, Evangelical Theological Seminary, P.O. Box 482, Myerstown, PA 17067 or e-mail at gscheirer@evangelical.edu. For more information, visit the Seminary's web site at www.evangelical.edu.

Christian Ed on the Web

Visit the denominational web site (www.eccenter.com) of the EC Church and click on the Christian Education link. View opportunities through the Youth Network; see resources available through the Resource Library; connect with Rev. Rick Christman or Maxine Waldman with any concerns, difficulties, needed direction, or questions in the area of Children's Ministries; obtain information pertaining to the development of protection policies for your congregation's children and youth ministries. Your denominational Christian Education resource is only a click of your mouse away — take a peek!!!



Available

Rev. Dirk Pogue has secured copies of the following books pertaining to EC history and would like to sell them to any EC pastor or laity that might be interested...

- * The Life of Bishop Seybert, by SP Spreng (1888) — two copies available
- * Jacob Albright: The Evangelical Pioneer, by RS Wilson (1940)
- * Landmarks of the Evangelical Association, by SC Breyfogel (1888)
- * History of Evangelical Missions, by Paul Himmel Eller (1942)
- * Flashlights on Evangelical History, by A. Stapleton (1908)
- * Evangelical Missions, by Niebel & Dubs (1919)
- * Jacob Albright and His Co-Laborers, by R. Yeakel (1883)
- * The Sinner and His Saviour: the Way of Salvation Made Plain—from the Albright Series, by Samuel Spreng (1906)
- * Evangelical Centennial Celebration 1816-1916 (1917)
- * History of the Evangelical Congregational Church, by RS Wilson (1975)
- * Jacob Albright, by RS Wilson (1976)



Price range would be probably be from three to ten dollars. Any interested person should contact Dirk by email at gdpogue@yahoo.com.

Evangelical Theological Seminary

- ETS's new academic year begins Tuesday, September 2, with an 11:00 Convocation in Dech Chapel. The search committee for Evangelical's next president will be commissioned, and Dr. Jim Schwenk, Professor of Church History will present the annual Wittmaier Lecture. His topic is "Stories that Really Matter": Life and Its Meaning in the Fantasy Works of J.R.R. Tolkien. Schwenk's lecture is based on a presentation he gave at England's Oxford University this summer and is of particular interest to devotees of Tolkien and C.S. Lewis. The public is invited to attend.
- The first Faith in the Marketplace breakfast for 2008-2009 will be held in Zinn Commons on Thursday, September 25, from 7:00-8:30 a.m. Andrew Samuel, Chairman, CEO, and President of Graystone Bank, will speak on "Influencing People's Lives Positively." You are invited! The cost is \$15, and reservations should be made with Marilyn Taylor at ETS by September 19.
- It's still not too late to register for the first fall Leadership Contact course, which meets Tuesday nights, September 2 through October 14, from 6:30-9:15 p.m. in Zinn Commons. Rev. Tim Valentino will teach New Testament Survey in a class designed for anyone interested in spiritual enrichment and leadership development. Contact Miriam Moury in the Center for Servant Leadership by August 26 for information and registration.

Great Lakes Local Conference Schedule

Unless otherwise noted, each meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. Contact Rev. Gary Brown if you need to change a date.

September			
Knox Grace	17	Clarion	24
Emlenton	18	Transfer	25
Seneca	22	Bethany Crossroads	28
Clarks Mills	23	Fern Trinity	29
October			
Leavittsburg	6	Canton	13
Delightful	7	Hooppole	20
Akron, Cottage Grove	8	Dixon, Bethel	21
Akron, First	9	Youngstown	23
November			
Dixon, St. James	4	Canyon Falls	16
Winnebago	5	Highland Park	23
Rock Falls	6 (afternoon)	Highland Park, Maranatha	23
Afolkey	6	Cedarville	24
December			
Chicago, Kimball Avenue	28		

2008 National Conference Ordination Services

The ordination of **Rev. Daniel J. Moury**
 Trinity E C Church
 40 East Orange Street, Lititz, PA
 Preacher: Rev. Nathan Fry
 Sunday, September 14, 4:00 p.m.



The ordination of **Rev. Raymond J. Newlin, Jr.**
 Countryside Fellowship E C Church
 1214 Big Mount Road, Dover, PA
 Preacher: Bishop Kevin Leibensperger
 Sunday, September 21, 4:00 p.m.

The ordination of **Rev. Byron J. Whitaker**
 Evangelical Theological Seminary
 121 South College Street, Myerstown, PA
 Preacher: Rev. Michael W. Sigman
 Sunday, November 2, 3:00 p.m.

The ordination of **Juliana M. Leshner**
 ECC Retirement Village—StoneRidge Campus
 440 East Lincoln Avenue, Myerstown, PA
 Preacher: Rev. Dana Logan
 Monday, December 22, 7:00 p.m.

2008 National Conference Journal – CHANGES

- E-mail changes...
 - Rev. Robert M. Daneker, Sr. — barbob.daneker@gmail.com
 - Jim Ehrman — jim.ehrman@yale.edu (effective mid-September)
 - Rev. Don Metz — donmetz@dejazzd.com
 - Rev. Robert Stahl — rjscas@verizon.net
 - Schuylkill Haven, Grace EC Church — findgracehere@comcast.net
 - Rev. Noel Blancaflor — noelblancaflor@kadena.af.mil
 - Rev. Timothy Christman — timothychristman@gmail.com
 - Debra Patterson (Conference Treasurer) — pattersondl56@verizon.net
 - Rev. John Haag — pastor@faithecchurch.org
 - Rev. Ronald Bachman — pastorbacho@yahoo.com
- New phone number...
 - Rev. Salvador Cardoso — (847)528-5363
 - Rev. John Haag — (610-927-6159 (Parsonage))
- New Address...
 - Rev. William Stephens, 106 Holly Hall, Middletown, PA 17057; (717)944-1581
 - James Ehrman, 50 Exchange Street, New Haven, CT 06513

