

E. C. Leader

JANUARY 2010

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.



"Making Plans"

The "Transformation" strategic planning team has sensed your prayers for this important process. By the time you receive this edition of the Leader the third major planning meeting will be completed. It's been a lively conversation and a faith stretching adventure.

Input from the District based SWOT assessment was reviewed at the December session. This evaluation was fed into a second analysis of denominational strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats by the entire strategic planning team (Forecast Group). A day long examination of those materials was reduced to a preliminary list of seven potential action items. Each of the seven points was assigned to smaller groups from the team for additional refinement and research. An additional work group is reviewing the wording and format of our current purpose, mission, vision, and values statements to insure that they express the reality of who we are in a relevant way.

The January meeting will resume the conversation over these action items. Since they are only tentative and may be substantially reworked or even replaced, it is premature to publish them to the entire church family. The Development Group will continue to assess and shape these initial items into a coherent draft of a strategic plan designed to maintain our momentum towards becoming a vital missional "movement of God." The draft plan will be further reviewed by the larger Forecast Group and Lord willing, be ready for its first formal presentation to the National Ministry Team in March.

If the plan gets a "green light" from the National Ministry Team, it will be prepared for distribution to our National Conference delegates in time for the pre-conference briefings scheduled for this spring. The plan will then be placed on the National Conference agenda for final action in May.

Intercessors from our Prayer Mobilization Team have been present on site for every session to immerse and frame our planning efforts in worship and prayer. They have been invited to "speak into" the process by sharing what they are hearing from God. Thank you for being part of the "prayer cover" for this initiative, and keep on praying. Without a change of heart and renewal of attitudes even the best plan can be no more than a piece of paper in the end!

For Jesus,
Bishop Kevin

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ANNOUNCEMENTS ...

We rejoice with **Bishop Emeritus Michael Sigman** who was awarded an honorary doctoral degree from Lancaster Bible College in recognition of his leadership in the E.C. Church, Lancaster National Day of Prayer Committee, and Rawlinsville Campmeeting. Remember Mike in your prayers as he serves as President of Evangelical Theological Seminary, while working toward the completion of an earned doctoral program.

BISHOP'S TRAVELS...

FEBRUARY 2010

5-6	Evangelical Theological Seminary Board Retreat, Lebanon
7	Rexmont E.C., Rexmont
14	Trinity E.C., Lancaster
28	Bethel E.C., Conestoga



BISHOP'S PRAYER LIST...



† Praise for God's provision and the generosity of His people in faithfully providing for the needs and opportunities of the National Conference.

† Praise for churches with a re-fired determination to go out into their world and build loving relationships that empower evangelism and disciple making.

† Ask for God's ever present direction and intervention in the Stationing process.

† Ask for the Holy Spirit's anointing on every aspect of our Strategic Planning

initiative.

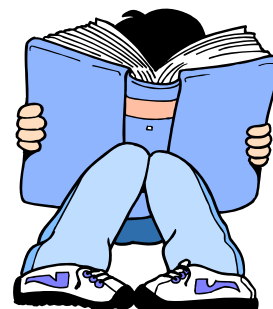
- † Seek the Lord's blessing on the preparations for National Conference. May it be an event that inspires, informs, and invites us into more effective ministry.
- † Pray for the efforts of the Budget and Compensation committees as they undertake their tasks in an uncertain economic environment.
- † Pray for the Church Center staff. Administrative Assistant Jodi Earhart resumed her duties on a part time basis on 1/6/10.

Resources & miscellaneous:

"The Generous Life" - stewardship resources and devotionals
www.kluth.org/order.htm 1-866-935-5884

"Seek God For The City 2010" Prayer guides
www.waymakers.org 1-800-264-5214

Internet Evangelism Day Sunday, April 25
www.InternetEvangelismDay.com



DO NOT FORGET to SAVE-A-DATE:

The 2010 in-service opportunities will be sponsored by the **Christian Education Committee**. Focus will be upon both children and youth ministries. ALL pastors are invited to this 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. event, in addition to children and youth workers from your church. Select one of the five dates which best fits your schedule – remembering to call Brenda at Church Center at least two weeks in advance of your in-service so the host church can be better prepared.

- Feb. 11 – Bethesda EC Church (Reedsville), Schuylkill Haven
- Feb. 18 – Mohn's Memorial EC Church (Mohn's Hill), Reading
- March 2 – Emmanuel EC Church, Cedarville, IL
- March 8 – Grace EC Church, Knox
- March 13 – Grace Community EC Church, Willow Street



REMEMBER: Children and youth are not only the future, they are the present!!!

NEWS FROM BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION...

WOW! Amazing! Incredible! Pat yourselves on the back. Do a little happy dance. The final numbers are in from our first year with the ALLONE wellness program and you did a great job:

- 67% of Pastors and National Conference employees completed their Health Risk Assessment (HRA) with ALLONE and received a \$25 VISA gift card
- 36% of Pastors and National Conference employees completed their HRA, completed two coaching calls and completed the physician form for a \$75 VISA gift card
- 70% of Pastors and National Conference employees completed at least one of these two requirements
- 35% of spouses completed their HRA



Your participation in ALLONE was a direct component of our smaller than anticipated increase in your group health insurance premiums. You are to be commended for your efforts. But please don't stop now. Additional participation incentives and wellness incentives are coming in 2010. Let's maintain our momentum for a healthier denomination.

Reminder, the Administrative Services fee of \$100 is payable to the EC Benefits Corporation and due by April 15, 2010. This is a new fee that replaces an administrative add on fee that was previously included with the health insurance premiums. The fee is due for every assigned pastor and/or participant in any of the benefits programs administered by the EC Benefits Corporation. Please contact Ken Wiest with questions.

End of year tax statement time. W-2s for pastors and church employees and 1099-MISC forms for independent contractors should be issued by January 31. Remitting those forms to the Social Security Administration and IRS normally follows a month later but check the latest regulations for filing deadlines.



Kevin Henry
Controller



NEWS FROM THE GLOBAL MINISTRIES COMMISSION...

1. On behalf of the entire Global Ministries Commission please accept our sincere thanks and appreciation for your faithful partnership, prayer and financial support of our EC missionaries, international EC churches and the GMC office in 2009!
2. Tomoyuki & Jessica Abe, EC church planters in Japan, now have a newsletter. Contact Jessica at jn.poirier@yahoo.fr or harbowtomo@yahoo.co.jp
3. Randy has the following Sundays available for speaking engagements this spring:
 - February 7, 14, 21
 - April 18
 - May 23, 30
4. We are in the process of recruiting and training individuals and/or couples as “Mission Mobilizers” to help GMC rebuild the grass roots of our denomination’s mission program. See Ministry Description below:



GLOBAL MINISTRIES MISSION MOBILIZER

“Mobilizer”: a person who assembles others into readiness for action and forward momentum.

APPOINTMENT & TERMS:

- Appointed by Director, with ratification from GMC
- No term. Yearly review by Director of Global Ministries & Global Ministries Commission
- Person can remove themselves with a letter of resignation
- Person can be removed by DGM & GMC

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Member in good standing within EC Church
- Exemplary Christian lifestyle
- Passion for global ministry (missions)

QUALITIES:

- Highly motivated/self-starter
- Organized, reliable, dependable
- Teachable, willing to learn
- Able to communicate & teach others
- Works well with individuals and in groups

RESPONSIBILITIES/DUTIES:

- Meet with DGM for training, planning and coaching
- Maintain regular contact with DGM via email, phone, in person
- Interact with the local church to create and sustain healthy, effective mission strategy and promote communication/connection between the local church and the Global Ministries Commission. This will involve:

1. **Education:**

Helping the local church establish and maintain an active mission committee and/or strategy through training, coaching and other educational opportunities.



2. **Communication:**

Keeping each local church informed of the plans, programs and needs of the GMC and keeping the GMC informed of the mission work, needs, concerns and progress of the local church.

3. **Evaluation:**

Provide input of the overall GMC strategic plan in relation to the local church and to provide evaluation to the GMC of the local church's involvement in global ministries.

- May serve on the GMC as a commission member
- Expected to attend GMC meetings with invited

If you are interested or know of someone who may be, contact Randy at rsizemore@eccenter.com

5, **Reminder:** The GMC District event, WORD (World Out Reach Day) usually held the last Saturday of April has been cancelled and replaced with a "Spring Training" Seminar format that you and a few area churches can schedule at your convenience: see below

SEMINAR #1



Building Missions Into Your Congregation's DNA:

This seminar will explore creative ways to overcome the current attitudes, perceptions and real-life reasons that keep the people in your church from being excited, interested and involved in missions.

Teaching material based on the workbook, "[How To Get Your Congregation Involved In Missions](#)" by David Mays. Copies will be available for purchase. (*approx. 4 hours with registration & breaks*)

SEMINAR #2



Money, Missionaries & Missions:

This seminar explores how congregations gather, raise and distribute support funds for missionaries and mission projects. Topics include:

- Where does our mission money come from?
- Who is responsible for our mission budget?
- How do we determine which missionaries/ministries to support?
- How do we decide how much support we give each missionary or ministry?

(*approx. 4 hours including registration and breaks*)

Suggested format for both blocks: 8:30 am – 4:00 p.m. (including registration, breaks and lunch)



How to Host a GMC Spring Training Event:

For maximum impact network with other area EC Churches.

1. Form a task force or committee to plan and execute the training event.
2. Determine the location, time frame, and several tentative dates.
3. Contact Director Randy Sizemore to confirm date, location, time, etc.
4. Begin promotion and planning of training event.



CREATIVE EVANGELISM IDEAS

from Bethany Church, Sunbury, PA and Pastor Keith Blank

- Handing out Tootsie Pops, in the community, which have the pastor's card attached. On the back is printed "Pop in to see us, you'll like what's inside." They have been v
- We have one major outreach per month, i.e. yard sale, hot dog roast, chicken bar-b-que, and we advertise each one in the paper, with signs, ailings, etc.



- A twice monthly soup and sandwich fellowship time on every other Wednesday, just before our evening prayer service. These times are advertised directly to the senior citizens in the neighborhood and transportation offered. An interesting presentation is given with each meal, i.e. a travel slide show, or discussion of "days gone past."



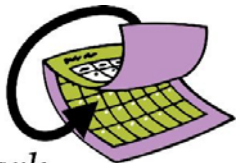
Please share your stories of how your church is becoming more missional and what God is doing to transform lives!

HAPPY NEW YEAR from WOMEN'S MINISTRIES!

We pray that 2010 will be a year of spiritual growth for you as you grow in His Word, and serve the Lord in new and exciting ways. May you sense His daily presence in your life, home, work, and your church.



<http://ecwomen.web.officelive.com/default.aspx>



Mark
Your Calendar

Don't forget to mark your calendar, and invite your friends to attend our upcoming Women's Retreats.

ALLEGHENY/BUCKEYE DISTRICTS
MARCH 26,27, 2010

DELAWARE/SUSQUEHANNA DISTRICTS
"A TIME APART"
APRIL 16, 17, 2010

NEWS FROM TWIN PINES:

Summer Camp

Now is the time to register for summer camp at Twin Pines. There are camps for kids and adults of all ages. If you like the outdoors you may want to try the "On The Edge" program or the "Green Scene" program. For fathers and sons there is "Dads 'n' Lads" camp and for moms and daughters there is "Moms 'n' Gals" camp. Both programs are only half a week and provide a great opportunity for parents to connect with their kids. For the whole family Twin Pines offers "Family Frolic", with activities for every member of the family. Another opportunity for adults is "Adult Camp", a special week for spiritual renewal, fun, fellowship, and interaction with other adults and the Twin Pines summer staff. New for 2010 is the "All Sports Camp", directed by the staff of "Push the Rock", a Christian based sports camp and seminar organization. Twin Pines also offers a wide variety of programs for kids of all ages. If you are unsure of what camp you would like to attend, take a look at the summer camp schedule on the Twin Pines website, www.twinpines.org.



Summer Staff

Twin Pines is currently in search of young people interested in Christian service. There are opportunities for summer staff available. If you or someone you know may be interested in serving on summer staff in 2010 please contact Shawn Fetterhoff at shawn@twinpines.org. If you are looking for a life changing service experience, don't hesitate and apply today!

Summer Volunteers



Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer this summer? Are you 21 or older and willing to help in the kitchen or on maintenance? If you answered yes to these questions you may be interested in signing up to volunteer for a week at Twin Pines this summer. If interested in volunteering please contact Shawn Fetterhoff at shawn@twinpines.org.

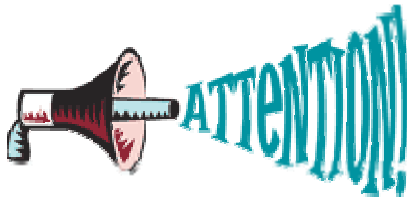


Calling All Ladies!

Do you enjoy Scrapbooking but can't find the time to work on your albums? Join us for the first ever Twin Pines Scrapbooking Retreat on March 26-27, 2010. Come join us for fellowship, devotions, seminars, and of course, scrapbooking! Creative Memories consultant, Julie Kindig will be here to help with all your questions and will have scrapbooking tools on hand for you to try out and purchase. Twenty percent of all Creative Memories purchases will be donated to Twin Pines. The Angel Company and Close to My Heart will also have some stamping and other materials on hand for you to use.



Registration is limited, so sign up today to secure your place! For more information or to get a registration form, please call the office or email our Guest Services Coordinator, Jill Matarazzi, at jill@twinpines.org. Registrations are to be received no later than March 1st. See you there!



If you have not already done so, PLEASE E-MAIL (or "snail mail") your lay delegate & alternate lay delegate information for 2010 before February 1st to Brenda at blong@eccenter.com

Needed: name, address, phone number, e-mail address.

Coach Training - April 8-9, 2010 - Seneca EC

A two-day baseline training featuring Tim Roehl and using his book "Transformissional Coaching".

Further details will be coming.



Trinity EC, Mount Joy has 40 green choir robes free to another EC Church.

Contact Rev. Peter Marsden at 1-717-627-1587

Pre-Conference Meeting Dates

- Mon., April 26th – Emmaus
- Tues., April 27th – Harrisburg, Faith
- Mon., May 3rd – Dixon, St. James
- Thurs., May 6th – Sch. Haven
- Mon., May 10th – Akron, First (OH)
- Tues., May 11th – Countryside, Clarks Mills
- Thurs., May 13th – Akron, Grace (PA)

Pencil these dates

