

July, 2008

## E.C. Leader

### Our Vision

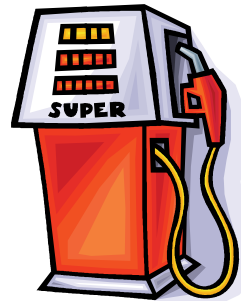
*The Evangelical Congregational Church will be a dynamic movement of God that is led by pastors and laity who have a burning passion for God and a missionary zeal to reach the lost. We will creatively obey the Great Commission by transforming plateaued and declining churches into healthy, disciple-making 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

## SAVE TIME AND GAS ...

Check out the revamped  
Leadership Contact!



Leadership Contact will again be offered on Tuesday evenings this fall on the campus of Evangelical Theological Seminary in Myerstown. **BUT... instead of having two classes a night for the entire 14 week semester, the more user-friendly format offers one class per night for 7 weeks.** If you can't make long-term commitments, this new plan is for you! Better yet, you'll cut down on driving... and if you gather a group from your church, carpooling can lower your costs and develop even richer fellowship as you commute and study together.

Rev. Tim Valentino will teach New Testament Survey on Tuesdays, September 2 through October 14, from 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm. Deadline to register is August 26.

Rev. Jeff Byerly will teach The Healthy Church on Tuesdays, October 21 through December 9, from 6:30 pm to 9:15 pm. Deadline to register is October 14.

Cost per course is \$175. Watch for registration forms that will be sent to all pastors shortly.

The Leadership Contact program is a denominational-sponsored training program that includes 16 courses in biblical and related studies. Local pastors and lay preachers are required to participate, but the classes are open to all interested lay leaders. Spread the word and take advantage of this exciting enrichment opportunity!



### Inside this issue:

Special Events	2
Bishop's Travels	3
News from the Benefits	3
Be In Prayer For...	5
WorldFest	5



*“For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows... because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.” 2 Corinthians 1:5 & 7*

Thank you! Once again we want you to know how much your prayers and cards strengthen and encourage us through our sorrow. It’s been hard in this year of many goodbyes, to lose Deb’s dad almost four months to the day after my father died. But God’s grace and your kindness to our extended family have been real and renewing.

Blessings!

Bishop Kevin Leibensperger




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### Special Events:



- October 31-November 1 **“Pray Big, Pray Bold, Pray Better”** The eastern regional conference of the Church Prayers Leaders Network will be held at ETS in Myerstown. [www.prayerleader.com](http://www.prayerleader.com)

- 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.



## Bishop's Travels August 2008

### Bishop Kevin

August 3 Bethany, Sunbury  
 17 Vera Cruz Homecoming  
 18-31 Vacation




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## News from the Benefits Corporation & Compensation Committee . . .

### IRS MILEAGE RATE INCREASE —

Effective July 1, 2008 the IRS increased the standard mileage rate reimbursement from 50.5 cents to 58.5 cents through the end of 2008. Churches should begin reimbursing their pastors, using the 58.5 cents/mile as of July 1.

To Pastors and Church Leaders — In light of this IRS mileage increase, churches should evaluate whether the amount designated for travel reimbursement in their pastor's 2008 Compensation package is sufficient to cover all of their pastor's mileage reimbursement through the remainder of 2008. The amount set for 2008 is allowed to be adjusted but cannot be retroactive.

### LONG TERM CARE INSURANCE —

Over the last several months the Benefits Corporation has made information available to our participants regarding Long Term Care Insurance from John Hancock Insurance Company. The terms of our agreement with John Hancock Insurance Company was that we would have 5 applications within the first 60 days or our agreement would be voided. This agreement ends on July 31, 2008.

This group sponsored plan is available to any of the Benefits Corporation's active health insurance or pension plan participants. The Benefits Corporation is only sponsoring the group plan so that our participants may take advantage of the group discounts on premiums. Information packets are available from Ken Wiest (717-866-7581). For all question regarding enrollment, costs, billing etc. contact Jennifer Buehler, our Wachovia Securities representative, at 1-800-468-8685.

### 2009 PASTOR'S COMPENSATION INFORMATION —

The 2009 pastor's salary and compensation information as approved by the 2008 National Conference is available on the website under Pastoral Compensation. Please note the following for 2009: the minimum salary increase is 2.3%; the minimum amount set for pastor's continuing education is \$750; and the church contribution to their pastor's pension account will be \$140/mo for full-time and \$70/mo for part-time. The IRS will announce the 2009 mileage rate in November. {The recently announced IRS mileage rate of 58.5 cents is in effect through December 31, 2008.}

The 2009 Pastor's Compensation forms and 2009 Health Insurance Rate Chart will be available online by September 1, 2008.

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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 CoachNet is our presenter. Overnight housing is available. Registration information will be forthcoming.

## 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.

## National Conference Journals

The 2008 National Conference Journal will be available **August 1st**. If you have not placed your order, call Pat at 1-800-866-7581.



## 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.





- The ongoing development of a “Governance Manual: building an E.C. Leadership Team.” This tool will be a companion piece to the updated Discipline assisting churches in adopting a principle based and missional focused leadership structure.
- The Bishop’s appointment of a special committee to explore our options for coping with the rising costs of Health Insurance for our pastors.
- The pursuit and fulfillment of our goal to plant at least seven new churches in the next five years. The dream is that each of our three regions will be the site of a minimum of one new start, and that four of the seven churches will be launched by another church or district rather than the Church Planting Commission. We need the planters, places (plan), and partners (for giving and prayer) to make it happen!

## 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)

