



The Eighteenth National Conference of the Evangelical Congregational Church

Wednesday

The conference convened in the afternoon at Brubaker Auditorium with the entire conference sharing in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Bishop Hill offered a challenging and inspiring message encouraging the Conference to strive to know Jesus better and love Him more.

Following the service of Holy Communion, the National Conference reconvened at Brubaker Auditorium and cared for the parliamentary procedural items necessary to open the business sessions.

Bishop Bruce Hill delivered the Episcopal address, pointing the Conference to Jesus, encouraging us to know Him better and love Him more even in the midst of the myriad of challenges that the pandemic thrust upon us. Copies of the Episcopal address were made available to conference delegates, who were encouraged to make

this address available to their congregations.

Rev. Kenneth Ogden gave the report of the Episcopal Nominating Committee. The Conference then embarked on a season of focused prayer for the election of our next Bishop.

After prayer, voting members participated in voting for the next Bishop of the Evangelical Congregational Church.

The Executive Director and Associates each shared "one big thing" happening in their respective areas of ministry.

Bishop Hill presented the report of National Conference Teams. Kevin Henry presented the Conference Support Team report. Rev. Marlin Lafferty reported for the Episcopacy Committee. A collection was taken for the Episcopal Fund of \$822.01.

After dinner, the worship team from Grace Community Church, Willow Street, PA led in worship. Dr. Douglas Buckwalter offered an encouraging message reminding the Conference of God's personal presence with us,

even amid the most recent challenges faced during the pandemic.

The evening session closed with fellowship.

Thursday

The morning began with worship and featured a message from Dr. Douglas Buckwalter on the hospitality of God.

Kirk Marks, National Conference Secretary, presented his report. Mrs. Debra Patterson, treasurer, presented a report of the Conference finances.

Dr. Tony Blair, President of Evangelical Theological Seminary, presented its report. Rev. David Carr presented the report of Rock River Bible Camp. Shawn Fetterhoff presented the report of Twin Pines Camp.

The following Stationing Elders were elected by region: Delaware: Rev. Kevin Roberts; Great Lakes: Rev. David Carr; Susquehanna: Rev. Daniel Blank and Rev. Jeffrey Schell.

Rev. Franklin Schock presented the report for the Benefits

Corporation and conducted its annual meeting. A ballot was cast for Rev. Michael Coulson, Bruce Leonard, Debra Patterson, Rev. Ryan Taylor, Brandi Wenger, and Deborah Zerbe to the Benefits Corporation Board of Trustees.

Kevin Henry, Executive Director, and Mrs. Debra Patterson, National Conference Treasurer, gave the reports of the Finance Committee.

The budget for the National Conference was approved, which will assign Ministry Funds for 2022 at 5.65 %.

The Finance Committee report included the adoption of the following compensation items:

- The base 2022 pastoral salaries were established to be increased by the COLA percentage that will be posted on the church website once it is released.
- The 2022 Conference administrative salaries were established according to the reports.
- Items of information focused on establishing other conference salaries and wages, pension figures, honorariums, vacation schedules, and ministry leaves for 2022.

The Conference approved all proposed changes to the Rules of Conference.

Through a process to modify and clarify the Amendments, the Conference approved proposed changes to the Amendments.

For the afternoon session, Rev. Dr. Gary Brown offered scripture reading and prayer.

The Conference then approved the Amendments Committee report as a whole.

The afternoon included workshops led by various members of the E.C. family.

The evening session included worship by the conference worship team. Dr. Douglas Buckwalter brought an inspiring message on prayer.

Friday

Rev. Jeff Byerly, Ministerial Development Associate, presented the Credentialing Report.

The following statuses were approved:

Itinerant Elder: Jonathan Brown, Michael Garrison, David Mennig; **Ordained Elder – Not in the Itinerancy:** Stewart MacDonald; **Itinerancy:** Timothy Valentino; **Ordained Elder by Transfer from Another Denomination:** Donald Julian; **Licensed Pastor:** Jesse Bills, Christopher Cunningham, Zachary Van Dyke; **Licensed Candidate:** Daniel Meyers; **Local Pastor:** Ronald Rivers; **Local Elder:** Mark Ammerman, Brian Kern, Paul “Buddy” Johnson; **Approved Elder:** Richard Weagraff; **Licensed Deacon (with specialization Chaplaincy – Triple Tree Ministries):** Lawrence Bentz; **Licensed Deaconess-Hospital Chaplaincy:** Michelle Deibler; **Licensed Deacon (with specialization of Motorcycle Ministry):** Charles Moore; **Licensed**

Deaconess (with specialization of Faith Community Nursing): Janet Watt; **Approved Pastor:** Mark Weaver; **Superannuations:** George Custer, David Dick, L. Allen Giles, Franklin Schock,, Scott Shay; **Retired-Ordained (Not in the Itinerancy):** Donald Both, Gregory DeLong; **Retired-Local Elder:** Donald Kerns, Richard Kuhn, William White; **Interim Pastor:** Walter Alpaugh.

The annual renewals of credentials were granted.

The following were removed from our ministerial roles:

Baxter Becker, Jeffrey Hain, James Heckman, Gerald Klopp, Bruce Ray, Mark Reigle, Timothy Reigle, Donald Romberger, and Paul VanOsten.

The conference band led in worship and Bishop Hill presented an encouraging message from Hebrews 12:1 on the heritage of relationship that is the E.C. Church.

The Conference concluded with the Memorial Report and recognition of retirees.

The 2021 National Conference adjourned by singing together *Wonderful Grace of Jesus* followed by prayer.