

MARCH 2020

EC LEADER

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From the Bishop

I enjoy going to the zoo, especially now that we have grandchildren. The variety of God's creatures is amazing. The problem is many of the animals don't seem to realize how special they are. I remember going to see a pride of lions and, to be honest, I've seen stuffed lions that looked more alive. I could barely see them breathing. I have seen bald Eagles on display in enclosures, but it wasn't until I saw my first wild bald eagle soaring above the treetops that I came to understand how majestic it really is.

The theme for National Conference 2020 is "Made for More" based on Ephesians 3:20-21 "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen." [NLT]

I wonder if many Christians today are more like the lion or the eagle on display in the zoo then we are the wonderful creatures that God has created to live in the world. In the church there is safety. In the church we are fed and cared for. That's good and nice; but is that all we were created for? Or are we called by God, saved through his Son, Jesus, and empowered by his Holy Spirit for something more? We, personally and corporately as the church, cannot not be satisfied with





maintaining the status quo. We should not simply sit and be comfortable in our churches while we watch our culture crash around us. What could the church be if we really believed and acted on Paul's words that the Lord wants to give us the power to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think? Animals are safe in the zoo, but that's not where they're created to be.

I wonder what the animals are thinking about as they live their lives in an enclosure. Do they think that's all that life is to be? Or is there something deep inside them that yearns to be free? During the days of National Conference 2020, I pray God's Holy Spirit will lead us to discover, to believe, and to live out the full and abundant life Jesus gives. We are made for more!

In Christ's Service,

Rev. Bruce D. Hill
Bishop

Made for More

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more that we might ask or think"

Ephesians 3:20





Bishop's Top 10 Prayer & Praise

1. Please continue to pray with me for the Lord's clear leading in the stationing process.
2. Pray for our denominational leaders as the Global Ministries Community, Conference Network Team, and National Ministry Team all hold bi-annual meetings in March.
3. Ask the Lord to provide guidance as I continue to prepare for National Conference 2020.
4. Join in prayer for a number of our pastors and their family members who are dealing with significant health problems.
5. Pray for the Episcopal Nominating Committee as they continue their vital work.
6. Thank the Lord for our committed Associates who facilitate the work of our Communities: Church Health, Global Ministries, Kingdom Extension, and Ministerial Development.
7. Praise God for the many opportunities to re-tell the story of his wonderful grace expressed in the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
8. Thank God for the opportunities I have to preach in various congregations throughout the month.
9. Praise the Lord for the assurance that he is always with us and leading us.
10. Thank the Lord that, even though it's been a mild winter in Myerstown, spring is on the way!





Thanks to everyone who has returned the Worker's Compensation audit forms in a timely manner. The return rate this year is very good. It is important that we receive all the salary information to obtain an accurate worker's compensation billing. Missing information will be estimated and most likely estimated higher than actual, resulting in a higher bill. Please help yourself and other EC Churches by returning the Worker's Compensation audit forms.

The annual disability premium, \$100, was due January 15 and the Benefit Corporation administrative fee, \$125, is due by April 15, 2020, **retirees are not subject to the administrative fee**. Both of these fees are listed in the Treasurer's Guide available on the EC website. Many have remitted the disability fee in a timely manner and a few have submitted the administrative fee and we thank you for your diligence and hard work.

Treasurer's please begin using the 2020 Ministry Fund forms for January offerings. Offerings collected in December 2019 should be remitted on the 2019 Ministry Fund forms.

Pastoral Compensation Forms

To date only about 50% of pastoral compensation forms have been returned. We will be reminding non-compliant churches to complete and submit their pastoral compensation forms. Please save Dave King some work by submitting your pastoral compensation forms as soon as possible.

Pastors and churches are permitted to obtain health insurance outside of the denominational sponsored plan. If you have obtained health insurance outside of the denominational plan, please be aware of the possible tax consequences and be diligent in the compliance requirements.

As always please contact Dave King, Benefits Administrator, or Kevin Henry, Controller, with any questions or problems, dking@eccenter.com, khenry@eccenter.com or 717-866-7581.

National Conference Registration

Registration for the 2020 National Conference will be available early March 2020. We will follow the same electronic registration process as last year. Paper registration is available on request. There will be multiple educational experiences offered on Thursday afternoon, remember to register for one educational session in each of the three sessions. To be compliant with the safety and security policies of Messiah College all national conference attendees must register. An attendee is defined as anyone entering the campus of Messiah College with the purpose of attending the EC National Conference. An Episcopal election always attracts a big crowd. If you are eligible to vote in the Episcopal election but do not register, we will not know you are coming and we will not have a ballot prepared for you.

Pricing for the 2020 National Conference is as follows:

Conference Registration:	\$75.00* (through April 30)
Late Registration:	\$100.00* (May 1 – May 15)
Meals:	
Meal Plan A:	\$85.00
B:	\$75.00
Individual Meals:	\$15.00
Housing:	
Dormitory – single:	\$60.00/night
Dormitory - double:	\$45.00/night
Apartment:	\$55.00/night

**Superannuated/retired pastors not serving a church do not pay the registration fee. Spouses of pastors, active or retired, do not pay the registration fee.*

Additional billing policies will be released when the registration period opens.

To be a good steward of our environment Messiah College is requiring that the plastic meal cards be returned at the end of conference. If a certain number of the total meal cards supplied for national conference are not returned a fee will be assessed to the National Conference by Messiah College. The EC conference services team will collect the meal cards at the end of conference.

The conference services team is looking forward to seeing everyone at national conference.

Kevin Henry
Executive Director



Global Ministries Community

- > Keep the **EC Church of India** in prayer as they will be electing a new General Director at their annual conference next month (April). Pray for **Rev. Kaitinkap Vaiphei**, the current General Director, that he will clearly know where God would have him serve when his term is finished.
- > **Rev. Ron Anderson**, who serves under ECMI as a church planting consultant in Spain, also works with the Lausanne Movement. He spent 10 days in Ethiopia (February 7-17) working with pastors there in a church planting network consultation. Ron reports that Ethiopia has seen tremendous growth in churches, and there is great spiritual hunger there to know the Word. Praise!
- > **SAVE THE DATE!** The Global Ministries Community will once again be sponsoring a **Delaware Region Missions Brunch** this spring. The date is **Thursday morning, March 26th**, the time is 10 a.m. – noon, and the location this year will again be **Hope Community Church in Fogelsville**. Brian & Missy Wagner will be sharing with us, and GMC Associate Rev. Ted Rathman will be bringing highlights about our international churches as well as his recent trip to Liberia.
- > Reservations are necessary so we can get a head count for the food. There is no charge, but an offering to offset the cost of the food will be taken. More information will be sent out by email and hard copy soon. Save the date and hope to see you there!
- > **Tomoyuki & Jessica Abe** along with their two daughters will be visiting the USA in July. They will be staying at the Lititz Missionary apartment for that time but have need of a vehicle so they can visit churches. If anyone has a car they are willing to loan for a month, please contact Pat at the Global Ministries office. Phone – (717) 866-7584, or email ecglobal@eccenter.com.
- > We have heard that mail sent to retired missionary **Gwen Melger** is being returned as ‘attempted, not known.’ At this time, we don’t have any other contact information for Miss Melger. Please do not send her any mail until we can provide you with an update. Thank you.



Ministerial Development Community

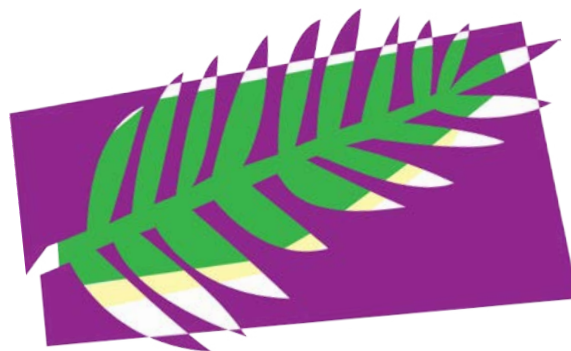
The Steps That Lead to Credentials in the EC Church

The Ministerial Development Community consists of several sincere, well-trained, and experienced leaders who have been equipped to guide individuals toward fruitful, vibrant ministry within their potential callings. Below is a simple checklist for an individual who may be sensing a ministry calling.

- Discuss your ministry calling with as many sincere people that you know. Since a ministry calling is always affirmed by the church, a good place to start is with your pastor(s) and other trusted leaders within your congregational setting.
- Do NOT develop a plan of action on your own. Before enrolling in any educational pursuit, please contact the Ministerial Development Associate (MDA) in order to discuss the overall picture of callings, credentials, discipleship, and education. A meeting between the MDA, your pastor, and you can help to simplify your considerations early within the process.
- When you have completed the steps above, you should enroll in the next available Pastoral Assessment Center (PAC)—the next one is scheduled for January 2021. This assessment process is designed to help you understand where God is currently using you and how best to proceed toward your next steps in ministry. Enrollment is open for this process beginning now until June 1 of this year, when online huddles are formed and begin to meet.
- Take your time. When God calls, he equips. With each calling, we receive passion, and our passions tend to drive us into a hurried approach to start doing the thing that we expect will bring us greater fulfillment with God—to do his work. However, this process requires patience and steadfastness that will pay dividends in the end if we submit to a slower timeframe.

Sensing a Calling? Please speak with your lead pastor and then contact our Ministerial Development Associate, Jeffrey Byerly (jgbyerly@eccenter.com) to arrange a time to discuss the process toward fulfilling that calling within the Evangelical Congregational Church.

A Special Note for Lead Pastors: If someone within your congregation is sensing a call to ministry, you are an instrumental part of their development in ministry. Begin now to meet with them, test their gifts, utilize their passions in ministry, and disciple them into healthy practices and a deep relationship with Jesus Christ. As your applicant enters the process, we expect your assistance to continue within their personal development as we guide them toward ministry in the kingdom.



Kingdom Extension Community

Fresh Expressions National Gathering 2020

Wednesday, April 1, 2020, 9:00 AM - Friday, April 3, 2020, 12:30 PM

Heritage Fellowship Church

2501 Fox Mill Road; Reston, VA 20191

Cost: \$149/person

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fresh-expressions-national-gathering-2020-tickets-67103346917>

Description

This is a moment of hopeful opportunity for the Church in America. Perhaps you feel the pain of a dwindling congregation or denomination. Perhaps this makes you concerned for the future. But we have evidence that God is at work future-fitting the church. We see the unfolding of Present Future Church that is breathing life and hope into existing congregations and the neighborhoods and networks around them.

This gathering will reconnect you with hope for the Church

- > Hope for facing tomorrow's difficulties with 2,000 years of missionary experience
- > Hope from practitioners who have blended new and inherited forms of Church

Three days of immersive learning, expert advice and missional inspiration, including:

- > Introductory training for people who are new to fresh expressions
- > Advanced, strategic training for those who have already begun to pioneer new expressions of Church
- > Immersive experiences that model what a fresh expression can look like
- > Peer-level meetups to learn from others who have similar needs
- > *And much more!*

Join us and catch the vision for a church that is filled with hope and anticipation as we journey into the mission landscape where God's Spirit beckons us.



2020 Vision: Seeing As God Sees

The Kingdom Extension Community endorses RHMA's "2020 Vision: Seeing As God Sees" as a good investment in church health and Kingdom ministry. Talk with Les Cool (717-951-8433 or revcool@ptd.net) if money is the only thing that will keep you from attending.

Check out the details (speakers, seminars, event schedule, and much more) at:

<https://www.rhma.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/online-early-registration.pdf>

Register at: <https://rhma.simplechurchcrm.com/external/form/79f2b48d-c30d-49cc-b830-6dcf6e576d4c>

2020 Small-Town Pastors' Conference

2020 Vision

Seeing as God Sees

Over 15 specialized seminars focused on small-town ministry

Go to www.rhma.org/conferences for a list of topics

Some of our featured speakers

Bill Allison



Founder and Executive Director, Cadre Ministries; former small-town youth pastor; conference speaker; author, including *The Disciplemaking Genius of Jesus*

D. A. Carson



Distinguished Emeritus Professor of New Testament, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School; President/Founder, The Gospel Coalition; small-church pastor's son; author of many books, including a biography of his father, *Memoirs of an Ordinary Pastor*

Lee Eclov



Retiring in February after 22 years as senior pastor of Village Church, Lincolnshire, Illinois, to focus on ministry to pastors; grew up in a rural South Dakota church; prolific author, including *Feels Like Home: How Rediscovering the Church as Family Changes Everything*

David Pinckney



Pastor, River of Grace Church, Concord, New Hampshire; rural pastor's son; member, Small Town Summits leadership team; member, The Gospel Coalition New England steering committee

April 20-22

Morton, Illinois



Pre-Conference Meetings

National Conference 2020 will be days filled with worship, educational opportunities, and lots of business. A partial list of business includes the election of our next Bishop who will take office July 1, 2021, amendments to the book of Discipline, the credentialing of men for ministry, and various workshops to help our leaders to discover fresh opportunities and new perspectives in ministry both in the local church and the community.

A full slate of Pre-Conference meetings has been planned to help us prepare for the work of National Conference. Please participate in the meeting that is most convenient for you. All times are Eastern time.

- Thursday, May 7 @ 7:00 PM – Mohn’s Memorial EC Church, 708 Mohn’s Hill Road, Reading, PA
- Saturday, May 9 @ 9:00 AM – Christ EC Church, 2135 Tilghman Street, Allentown, PA
- Tuesday, May 12 @ 7:00 PM – Reich’s EC Church, 338 Stackstown Road, Marietta, PA
- Thursday, May 14 @ 7:00 PM – Grace EC Church, 15 Earl Stoyer Road, Schuylkill Haven, PA
- Saturday, May 16 @ 10:00 AM – Lakeside EC Church, 3203 North Hermitage Road, Transfer, PA AND Bethel EC Church, 131 North Court, Dixon, IL



Twin Pines Camp

2020 Winter & Spring Happenings

Craft Retreat – March 19-22	
	Enjoy a laid-back weekend of fellowship and Bible study while working on your crafts. Fellowship as you work on things you have put off, such as knitting, quilting, scrapbooks, crocheting, etc. bit.ly/2020SpringCR
Men's Weekend – March 27-29	
	Speaker: Eli Tyler Eli is the Pocono/Slate Belt Ministry Coordinator for Youth For Christ. Men will appreciate a weekend together with other men to focus on strengthening their relationship and discipleship of Jesus Christ. bit.ly/2020MensWeekend
Spring Fling – April 24-26	
	Theme: <i>A Rootin' Tootin' Weekend</i> A weekend retreat focused on children currently in grades 3-5. Come and enjoy Twin Pines Camp and learn about some Biblical outlaws. Participating groups must provide chaperones for the weekend.

Spring Spruce-Up – May 5-7*	
	Join other volunteers for a mid-week volunteer opportunity to help the ministry “spruce-up” camp and prepare for summer ministry! Projects include both indoor and outdoor sprucing-up. There are always tasks for volunteers of any skill level! bit.ly/2020TPSF
For Ladies Only Retreat – May 12-14*	
	Speaker: Sue Duffield A relaxing and laugh-filled mid-week retreat “for ladies only.” Enjoy fellowship, worship, and in-depth Bible sessions. bit.ly/2020ForLadiesRetreat
Summer Camp – June 14-August 8	
	The summer starts with a week for Adults, who are matched with summer staff as prayer partners. The summer continues with 7 weeks of a variety of camps for a range of ages and interests. Check out the list of camps offered during Summer 2020 at bit.ly/20SumSchedule . Then choose which camp you will attend and/or send someone to.

*These dates are different from previously publicized. They are now correct.





Evangelical Congregational Church

100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067
717-866-7581
www.eccenter.com



Who We Are

“...you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God’s very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light”.

1 Peter 2:9

JODI EARHART
KEVIN HENRY
BISHOP BRUCE HILL

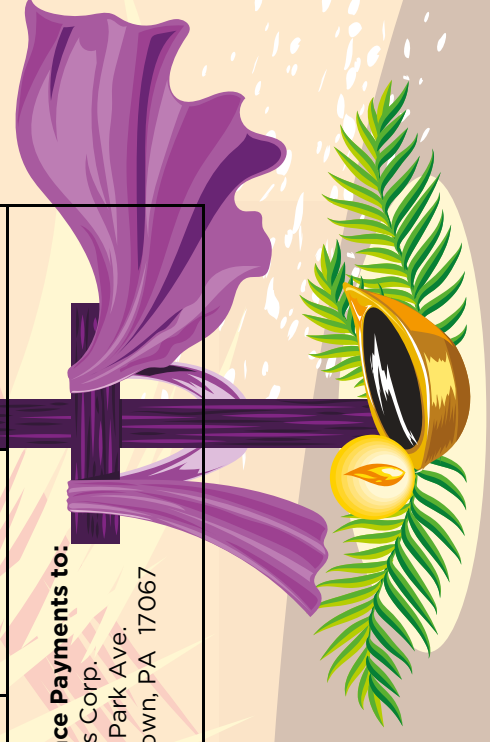
DAVID KING
SHIRLEY LONG
REV. TED RATHMAN

PATRICIA STRAIN
PATRICIA WOLFE
ABIGAIL ZIMMERMAN



March 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extensions	2	3	4	5	6 Finance Committee Day of Prayer for the EC Church	7
8 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Daylight Savings Begins Self Denial Offering	9	10 Global Ministries Community Mtg.	11 Prayer Mobilization Team Mtg. Heritage Comm. Mtg.	12	13 Health Insurance Due	14
15 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	16	17 Loan & Investment Comm. Mtg.	18 Conference Network Team Strategic Mtg.	19 National Ministry Team Mtg.	20 Info for the April EC Leader is Due	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Twin Pines Craft Retreat		Twin Pines Craft Retreat		Twin Pines Men's Weekend		
29 PASSION SUNDAY Twin Pines Men's Weekend	30	31	Ministry Funds to: EC Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067	Insurance Payments to: Benefits Corp. 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067		



April 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Ministry Funds to: EC Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067	Insurance Payments to: Benefits Corp. 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067	1	2	3	4	
5 PALM SUNDAY Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extensions	6 Prayer Mobilization Team Mtg.	7	8	9 MAUNDY THURSDAY	10 GOOD FRIDAY CHURCH CENTER CLOSED	11
12 EASTER SUNDAY	13 CHURCH CENTER CLOSED	14	15 Health Insurance Due	16	17 Twin Pines Board Mtg.	18
19	20 Info. for the May EC Leader is Due	21 StoneRidge Board Mtg.	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	Twin Pines Spring Fling: Children's Retreat	

