

EC Leader



February 2014

Special points of interest:

- 2014 National Prayer Summits
- Fresh Expressions National Gathering
- Church Leadership 101 "The Healthy Pastoral Relations Committee"

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From the Bishop

Last month I began what will be a series of articles on the subject of ministry funds, the money local churches give to the denomination. In order to resource, encourage and equip one another our National Conference asks every local congregation to contribute a percentage of their income to the National Conference in order to accomplish "together" ministries. There are basically four areas of expense for the National Conference: Commissions & Committees, Church Center operations and denominational leadership, affiliate support, and heritage care. This month I want to look at the work of our five commissions.

The **Church Health Commission** serves the local church that is in decline and in need of renewal. Through this commission local congregations can access Natural Church Development consultations and surveys which serve as "health screenings" for churches; conflict mediation, which is used when congregational conflict cannot be resolved by the congregation's leadership; and yoked ministry when two or three congregations yoke together and share a pastor or ministries. The commission

can also coordinate congregational mentoring where a healthy congregation provides encouragement, counsel, resources, and personnel to mentor congregations which desire to become healthy.

Our **Church Planting Commission** works with congregations who want to develop a philosophy and strategy of multiplication church planting. Multiplication church planting is defined as local churches planting local churches. Church plants multiply when local churches lead the way. The commission provides promotional and teaching resources and events that will help Evangelical Congregational churches and individuals identify their role in church planting as it encourages prayer support, planter assessment and training, planter coaching and care, and financial support.

The **Evangelism and Discipleship Commission** aids the local church by providing direction, training, and resources that enable local churches to make disciples of Jesus. There are currently committees providing encouragement and help in

the area of Christian education and youth, discipleship and prayer mobilization, evangelism, men's ministries, and women's ministries. This commission also serves to resource leaders to recognize and respond to "cultural crises" with Christ-like concern and action.

Rather than receiving ministry funds, the **Global Ministries Commission** depends on the donations of local churches and individuals who have a passion for fulfilling the Great Commission to the ends of the earth. The commission provides missionary recruitment and assessment; identifying those whom God is calling to this ministry, examining their giftedness, guiding them through adequate preparation, and enabling their appointment to areas of needed ministry. Once a missionary is on the field the commission coordinates missionary care which includes spiritual, emotional and financial support. Another significant area of commission oversight is our work with E.C. mission conferences around the world with

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Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise



1. Pray for Randy Sizemore and I as we travel to Ukraine January 28-February 4 to ordain missionary Ken Sears. (The Ukraine is not the happiest of places as I write this and Gloria keeps watching the news.)
2. We just wrapped up our denomination's Pastoral Assessment Center. Lift up in prayer the eight candidates who are following the Lord's leading in various areas of ministry.
3. Pray for the Lord's leading of our Stationing Committee as we discover new opportunities for pastors and congregations to "fit and flourish" together in ministry.
4. Ask the Lord to bless this period of transition in our Great Lakes Region leadership. That He would clearly reveal the next chapter of ministry to outgoing Conference Minister Gary & Ann Brown, and that the Lord would strengthen and encourage Chuck Campbell as he prepares to serve in this important new role.
5. Praise the Lord that the technology for the special meeting to elect a new Conference Minister worked well as we conducted one meeting in two locations: Transfer, PA and Dixon, IL. Thank the Lord for people who set it all up and tried to calm the Bishop's worries. (Thank you Kevin and Don!)
6. Thank the Lord that Gloria and I had some Sundays off around the holidays to re-connect with our home congregation at Community Evangelical Church, Sinking Spring, PA.
7. February means Valentine's Day! Praise the Lord for those you love and pray for those you have trouble loving.
8. Praise the Lord for the opportunity Gloria and I had to visit our son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter in their new home in Washington, PA. (And don't forget grand-dogs, Otis and Sophie!)
9. Celebrate the grace of God as you walk in (or look outside at) the beauty of a landscape of fresh new snow! (And remember: *"Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow."* Isaiah 1:18 PTL!)
10. Praise God for the good reports we're hearing of active children and youth ministries going on in many of our local congregations.

the goal of developing self-sustaining international conferences.

The **Leadership Commission** serves the local congregations by recruiting, assessing, and training pastoral leaders within the Evangelical Congregational Church and by providing leadership resources and training for local church leaders, both pastoral and lay. The commission's Chaplaincy Committee provides oversight of our denomination's military chaplains as well as other types of chap-

laincy. This commission also serves as a liaison with Evangelical Seminary as we invest in the lives of men and women in building the Kingdom of God.

I am thankful that through ministry funds we can support these commissions which play a vital role in the life of our denomination by providing resources and encouragement with the goal of empowering our local congregations to make Christ known in our communities and world. Each commission is made up of volun-

teers who give their time and talents to strengthen our "together" ministries. Please join me in praying for the effectiveness of these commissions as they serve our local churches so that, together, we can share the Good News about Jesus to our lost and hurting world.



In Christ's service,

News from Global Ministries

GMC FAMILY MISSION RALLY: Trinity EC Church, Boyertown, PA

February 28th 11:30-3:00 Pastor's Luncheon
 March 1st 8:30 registration—3:00 Family Mission Rally for adults, Mission Minded Kids & teens

Watch your mail for more detailed information and registration.

EC Missionary Pastor Ken Sears to be ordained Elder in Ukraine

Bishop Bruce Hill and DGM Randy Sizemore will travel to Zaporozhye, Ukraine on January 28-February 4 to ordain Ken Sears to the office of Elder. Pastor Ken was ordained a Deacon under the old double ordination system of Deacon/Elder before he left for the mission field quite a few years ago. We believe ordaining Ken as Elder on his field of service with his colleagues and local church family will be a great encouragement to both him and his mission. Please be in prayer for the travel logistics and the spiritual impact of this trip.

Deadline for GMC Alaska Work Team Extended

There is still time to sign up to participate in the GMC Alaska Work Team. The new deadline is February 15, 2014. Information and application forms can be found at www.eccenter.com or by contacting the GMC office at 717-866-7584.

Available Speaking Dates: 2014

Randy will be traveling back to Pennsylvania a few times in 2014 and currently has the following dates open for speaking:

- March 2 (pm)
 - March 9 (am)
 - March 12 (Wednesday: something in the morning like a breakfast/brunch gathering)
 - May 18 (am & pm)
 - May 25 (am & pm)
 - September 7 (pm)
 - October 19 (pm)
- Please contact Randy directly at rsizemore@eccenter.com to schedule him at your church or event.



Rev. Charles “Chuck” Campbell has chosen Sunday, April 27, 2014 as the date for his installation service. It will be held at 3:00 pm in New Zion E.C. Church, Emlenton.



News from Evangelical



Dr. David A. Dorsey, Distinguished Professor of Old Testament, finished his earthly

race on January 2, 2014, and went to be with the Savior he loved and served so well. During his 34 years at Evangelical, Dave inspired generations of students, wrote books that opened new vistas on the Old Testament, contributed to the New Living Translation of the Bible, and organized the seminary's archaeology museum. Beyond his academic brilliance

and achievements, though, Dave was a gentle, humble man with great compassion, quick wit, and a Christ like character that has left an indelible impression on countless lives and the ministry of Evangelical Seminary. We grieve the passing of our dear friend and extend loving sympathy to his wife Jan, daughter Sarah, sons Jonathan and Benjamin, and their families. “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.”

Spring semester begins January 23. Check the website at www.evangelical.edu for information and last minute registration opportunities. The

Institute for Church Leadership offers a course in pastoral leadership on Tuesday evenings from January 28 through March 11. Details and registration are available at Lifelong Learning on the seminary website.

Last call for Four Chaplains Scholarship Run on February 8! This 10:00 am event is a 4 mile run/walk or a 1 1/2 mile fun run/walk to benefit the seminary's military scholarship program. It begins and ends in a heated tent on Evangelical's campus and takes place regardless of weather. Information and registration are on the website.



Church Health Commission—Healthy Pastors Team

The **Healthy Pastor's Team** promotes wellness to mind, body and spirit. It also serves to encourage and assist our pastors and churches to be

“healthy.” This month we sought out Pastor Ralph Owens of Trinity EC in Royersford, PA who is in the “hot” seat a lot these days.

Ralph, what was your defining moment in changing your lifestyle?

Seven-eight years ago at my annual physical I complained of being exhausted all the time. The doctor firmly suggested exercise so I went home and spoke to my wife Connie and we decided on purchasing a Hybrid bike. I started slowly biking 3 times a week, 1/2 mile at 6-7 MPH and I was exhausted after each ride. I kept going and getting up to 8 miles at a time and going faster. It was getting easier and I was enjoying it. Next season, I was riding daily and longer rides of 20 miles on Saturdays at Green Lane Park. Then, toward the end of summer, I went to the bike shop as the Comfort bike was no longer comfortable. I purchased a road bike, and increased daily miles to 20-30 miles at the time the Launch Liberia initiative was announced. With the GMC's help, we formed two cycling teams and raised \$20,000 for the campaign. I arrived at conference with my son Nathan and others after riding 930 miles over 14 days.

We took Sundays off visiting our EC



churches in Chicago, IL and Transfer, PA.

Pastoral ministry is not considered an “active” ministry but you

seem to have an active one.

I also do some running, cross training, free weights, bike ride from my house to the office (3 1/2 miles one way) and at times to visitations at homes. We have a shower at church, which helps, and everyone is grateful I can shower before working.

Before that what was your attitude toward your “health”?

I was active off and on, but nothing like I am now. I was tired of being tired and knew a change was in order.

What other changes did you make?

A lot of fuel is needed to bike, I actually eat more, but also eat more fruit and veggies than in the past, and I have tried to cut back on the Coke and fries.

How difficult were the changes?

In the beginning it was tough, but the goal was achievable. I started out weighing 215, am down to 192 and on target to weigh 175 by Spring of 2015. My goal is to ride coast to coast in 2015. Steve Lockhoff, from St. Matthew's in Emmaus and my sons Nathan and Jeremy will join me on various legs of the trip.

What support did you receive? Does the congregation join you?

Throughout the summer, Tuesday is Family Ride Night for the church. We bike 12 miles round trip from Linfield

to Phoenixville using the newly opened SRT rail to trail. Four to ten people usually attend. We also explored the D&L (Delaware and Lehigh Rail system) two Saturdays a month from June through September. They also pray for us and follow along our long rides on Strava or Facebook. My wife Connie rides on Tuesday night when she is able. My job description has also been modified to read, “A. Devote time to develop in spiritual mental, and physical health. B. Take allotted vacation and keep family time and ministry needs in healthy balance.”



What was the impact on your spiritual life?

Attention span definitely improved, I can concentrate to read and study. Work has improved and so has my health, and I am no longer lethargic.

Thanks Ralph. Don't be surprised if you see Ralph and others biking at National Conference this year, how about you?

Your Healthy Pastor Team



2014 National Prayer Summits

“Can You Hear Me Now?”



Delaware & Susquehanna Regions

March 28-29

Camp Swatara

Seeking and Finding God's Will and Power in Group Prayer

Registrations forms have been mailed but you can also register online at the EC website

www.eccenter.com

Great Lakes Region

March 29

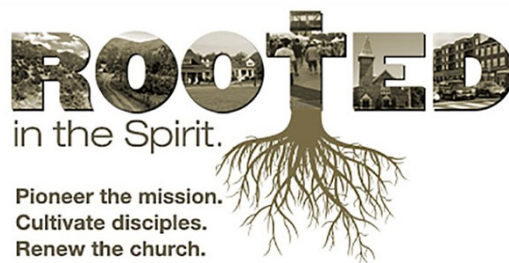
Delightful E.C. Church, Southington, OH

“In God's Presence”

Registration forms will be available soon.



DEADLINE for registrations for both Summits is March 10th.



The EC Church is once again a sponsor of the Fresh Expressions US National Gathering in Alexandria, VA, March 28-29, 2014. As a pastor/leader from a sponsoring denomination you can attend the national gathering at a discounted rate!

Anyone who's been in church knows the story of Israel in Egypt. During their captivity, the people of Israel helped build a great civilization. When they were released, it took 40 years of wandering in the desert (and lots of wishful thinking about the way things used to be) before Israel finally crossed the Jordan River into the Promised Land. The Church faces a similar situation today. Throughout history and in spite of persecution, we helped build a great civilization. Time and again, we've renewed our roots in the ancient faith. But the culture has changed. In many ways, we've been released from the captivity of Christendom. This is good news. In cities and towns, large and small, we're finding our way back to the land. We're learning to cooperate with God's mission again in ways that are attentive to the people and contexts in which we live and work and play. And the fields are ripe for the harvest.

This year's national gathering takes us back to the Church's roots. It's about who we are, and whose we are—A people on the move in a world restored by the One who beckons us to be rooted in the Spirit. This is how Fresh Expressions of church develop and grow. Make plans to join Graham Cray, Alan Roxburgh, Cherith Fee Nordling, Don Coleman and others committed to joining God's work in the world to pioneer the mission, cultivate disciples and renew the Church.

To register and receive your discount, go to www.freshexpressionsus.org/national-gathering. When you register, use the discount code ECChurch to receive a \$20 discount on each individual registration.

SAVE the DATE



This Spring the Bishop and Conference Ministers will be leading a number of training seminars for pastors, lay delegates and members of local Pastoral Relations Committees; Church Leadership 101 “The Healthy Pastoral Relations Committee.” The purpose of the PRC is to help the pastor, and any additional members of the pastoral staff, to effectively serve the needs and programs of a local congregation. It meets to confer and counsel with the pastor as he leads the church. A healthy PRC is vital to maintaining a healthy ministry, pastor and congregation. But how do you develop and maintain a healthy Pastoral Relations Committee? That’s what we want to explore with you and the members of your PRC. The seminar will be presented twice in each region. You simply need to find the date and location that works best for you and mark it on your calendar today. More specific information will be provided

as we get closer to the dates. (If you really like to plan ahead, Leadership 101 “The Church Treasurer” is being planned for 2015!)

Church Leadership 101 “The Healthy Pastoral Relations Committee”

All meetings are scheduled for Saturday mornings, 9:00am—12:00pm

- Delaware Region: May 10 & 17
- Great Lakes Region: Ohio/Pennsylvania: May 10
- Susquehanna Region: April 26 & May 3

The Church Health Commission is offering “Effective Biblical Preaching Seminar” to the Great Lakes Region.

Thursday, February 13, 2014; 9:00am-3:00pm

Wedgewood Park E.C. Church, 1944 South Meridian Road, Youngstown, OH 44511

Featuring: Rev. Dr. Randal Pelton, Senior Pastor of Calvary Bible Church, Mount Joy, PA

Cost: \$20 includes lunch

Registrations forms have been mailed to pastors and lay delegates.



If you’re looking for a place to get away, relax and hear an outstanding seminar speaker check out the Billy Graham Training Center at The Cove, just outside of Asheville, NC. When Billy and Ruth Graham started The Cove their thought was that it become a place of impact, intercession, in-

struction, and inspiration; a place for retreat, rest, relaxation, and renewal. Each year thousands of believers from around the world attend seminars and discover a home away from home where personal transformation occurs through powerful encounters with God’s Word. For a complete listing of all the seminars and events being offered

throughout the year and lots of other useful information check them out online at www.thecove.org.



News from Benefits Corporation

E.C. Church Center
100 West Park Avenue
Myerstown, PA 17067

Phone: 717-866-7581
E-mail:
eccenter@eccenter.com

We're on the Web
www.eccenter.com

We've attached calendars for February and March and will attach subsequent calendars in the future issues so you can keep up-to-date with what is happening in the EC denomination. These calendars are also available on the EC website

www.eccenter.com.

If there is an event you would like to have included on the calendar please contact Brenda at blong@eccenter.com or call 717-866-7581.



While the federal government has delayed the processing of individual tax returns the due dates for issuing W-2s and 1099s has not changed. Also, most state and local governments have not delayed their tax return processing deadlines. As such the deadline to distribute W-2s to employees, including pastors, is January 31 with the employer filing deadline of February 28 if filed on paper or March 31 if filed electronically. Social Security Administration's Business Services Online (BSO),

www.ssa.gov/bsa, is an easy convenient method for producing the employee and employer copies of the W-2 on white paper, no forms, and for filing the W-2s electronically with SSA. We encourage all church treasurers that produce their W-2s in-house to use the SSA BSO services.

Reporting the cost of employer health insurance plans is not required on 2013 W-2s filed in 2014. This is a change from last year. It has been determined that the EC Church is a small employer, thus removing the requirement to report the cost of health insurance.

- Due Dates:
Disability Payment
\$100.00 due Jan. 15
- Annual Statistical Reports due Jan. 25
- Workers Compensation Insurance Informa-

tion due 30 days after receipt of the request for payroll information.

Please remember that the EC Benefits administrative fee is due from churches on April 15, 2014, retirees are not subject to the fee. The 2014 disability premiums are due January 15, 2014. Please remit them as soon as possible. The due dates for the administrative fee and disability premium are listed on the Treasurer's Guide available on the EC Church website, www.eccenter.com

Please begin using the 2014 Ministry Fund forms for January offerings. Offerings collected in December 2013 should be remitted on the 2013 Ministry Fund forms.

The Annual Reports and fourth quarter Ministerial Update forms are both due by January 25, 2014 to Rev. Ken Wiest, Statistician, at the EC Church Center. OR can be emailed to blong@eccenter.com

The 2013 Business Mileage Reimbursement decreased to \$.56/mile on January 1, 2014.

Year end giving statements to donors must include a phrase similar to or contain the words "no goods or services were exchanged for these contribu-

tions." The IRS has resources available, www.irs.gov, to assist with charitable contributions; Tax Guide for Churches and Religious Organizations and Publication 526 Charitable Contributions.

As always please contact David King, Benefits Administrator, dking@eccenter.com or myself khenry@eccenter.com with any questions, 1-800-866-7584

Kevin Henry, Controller
David King, Benefits Admin.



February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Church Planting Offering Day of Prayer for Church Planting	3	4 StoneRidge Retirement Living Board Mtg.	5	6 Evangelical Seminary Board Mtg.	7 Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church National Exec. Mtg.	8 Four Chaplains Scholarship Run
9	10	11 Church Planting Commission Mtg.	12 Stationing Committee Futures Initiative Mtg.	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Church Pension Contribution due Health Insurance Premium due
16	17 Presidents' Day	18 Benefits Corporation Mtg.	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Finance Comm. Mtg.	28 Pastor's Mission Luncheon Boyertown	

Ministry Funds to:
E.C. Church
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

Church Planters' Offering to:
E.C. Church
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067
(designate—Church Planters' Offering)

Insurance/Pension Payments to:
Benefits Corporation
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Day of Prayer for Church Planting	Global Ministries Commission Mtg.	ASH WEDNESDAY Global Ministries Commission Mtg.	Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church	Family Mission Festival Boyertown		
9 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT Self-Denial Offering <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	10 National CRC Mtg. Historical Society Mtg.	11	12 Church Health Commission Mtg.	13 National Ministry Team Mtg.	14	15 Church Pension Contribution due Health Insurance Premium due
16 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT	24	25	26	27	28 Susquehanna/Delaware	29 Regions Prayer Summit Great Lakes Region Prayer Summit
30 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT	31					

Ministry Funds to:
E.C. Church
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

Insurance/Pension Payments to:
Benefits Corporation
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

Self-Denial Offering to:
E.C. Church
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067
(designate—Self-Denial Offering)