



connect

"We loved you so much that we shared with you
not only God's Good News but our own lives, too."
— 1 Thessalonians 2:8

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EC Leader



JULY 2014

From the Bishop

During our recent National Conference the pastors and lay delegates unanimously adopted a Covenant presented by the Futures Initiative. Based on our understanding of the church, we believe it is the role and proper function of the denomination to enhance opportunities for local congregations to bless the world and fulfill their part of the Great Commission. We believe the best way for the denomination to help local churches is not by going away, but by changing. In furtherance of this role in the future, we believe taking the following strategic steps on denominational connections and resources needed by our congregations in the 21st century.

The Covenant

- We will move to a regional shared ministry and leadership model** without losing the ability to provide the essential functions of the Conference Minister office.
 - This change would involve a shift from a full time to part time structure for our Conference Ministers by way of adopting a shared ministry and regional leadership model (as already modeled by our Director of Global Ministries and anticipated by our Susquehanna Region Conference Minister). The goal would be to look to similar changes for other Conference Ministers over the next 2 to 3 years, unless shared ministry opportunities are available sooner.
- We will reevaluate our denominational relationships with affiliate ministries,** particularly our direct financial support.
 - This change would involve the release of our affiliates (Evangelical Seminary, Camps, etc.) to secure other forms of financial and leadership support and would ultimately result in a reduction of mandated EC financial support over the next few years. Though we love and recognize the kingdom value of our affiliate ministries, we also believe there are better ways to support their work and fulfill our partnership than direct denominational funding.
- We will substantially reduce denominational operating expenses;** the cost of providing essential administration, connectional ministry and support, and our current resource structure.
 - This reduction of costs could include, but not limited to, changing how we communicate, where we meet or conduct business, essential staffing, as well as sharing space with other ministries.

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Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise



For what other **great nation** has a god so near to it as the **LORD our God** is whenever we call to him?

DEUTERONOMY 4:7, NRSV

1. Pray for me as I now bring together a team to make recommendations of how we implement the four points of our newly adopted Covenant into the daily life of our denomination.
2. Ask our heavenly Father to bless the ministry of our camps (ECCO, OH; Rock River, IL; Twin Pines, PA) as they share the gospel with many during this busy summer season.
3. Thank the Lord for the good stories, God stories, we heard at National Conference. He is at work in EC congregations!
4. Independence Day is a time when many of us think about our country. Be sure to thank the Lord for all we have been blessed with and pray for our national leaders to be open to God's leading.
5. Pray for the outreach events many of our congregations will be involved in during the summer: Vacation Bible School, community picnics, service projects, etc.
6. Thank the Lord for a very good National Conference. We prayed for the Holy Spirit to move our hearts and he did! Thank you to all who responded with notes and emails of encouragement and appreciation.
7. Praise God for the birth of Cohen Townsend Beck to our daughter and son-in-law Jen & Chuck Beck; their fourth son and our eighth grandchild.
8. Praise the Lord that we can be bright lights in a dark and lost culture; leading people closer to Jesus.
9. Praise the Lord for Rev. Chuck Campbell, our new Great Lakes Conference Minister, and for his brand new bride, Nettie. Pray for them and encourage them as they deal with many transitions in their life.
10. Thank the Lord for the many ways we have to CONNECT with our neighbors and community during this time of the year when most people are outside enjoying the summer weather.

(continued from page 1)

4. We will significantly reduce ministry fund asking from local churches over the next few years in response to the concerns of our churches, those struggling to pay their ministry funds and those paying increasingly larger amounts as they grow.
 - The above noted changes, shift to a regional leadership model, reevaluated relationships with our affiliates, and a downsizing of our administrative footprint, should all serve to make a significant reduction of our ministry fund percentage a real expectation.

The above four points of the covenant may seem daunting. However, we believe that God has prepared us and called us to rise to this occasion. We recognize that these changes brush against some of the elements of church and denominational life we have grown to expect, to enjoy, and to depend upon. But I believe we will discover how to implement this Covenant into the structure and daily life of our denomination as we pray, work, and seek the Lord's leading.

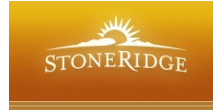
In Christ's service,



On June 7, 2014, Pastor Chuck Campbell (Great Lakes Conference Minister) and Nettie Wells (Wedgewood Park EC, Youngstown, OH) exchanged their marriage vows. The ceremony was held at Wedgewood Park, officiated by retired EC Pastor James Hansen. The wedding was well attended by many EC pastors and lay people, along with family and friends. Rev. & Mrs. Campbell would like to thank everyone for helping to make their day special!



News from StoneRidge Retirement Living



THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT STONERIDGE COMMUNITIES

Just so you don't think we sit around and pass the time; a couple pictures will show you that we are busy and having fun. The community at Carlisle, Church of God Home, held its Annual Parents Day picnic complete with bar-be-qed chicken and all the trimmings. Two hundred people came out to enjoy the day with their resident loved-ones.



At the Poplar Run campus of StoneRidge in Myerstown, the first Senior Prom was held the end of May for residents and community guests. A delightful dance band provided the music for dancing and a delicious dinner was presented by the dining services. This summer StoneRidge will be sponsoring "Summer Night Music" with big band concerts in June, July and August. That's why we say at StoneRidge: LIVING Abundantly!

News from Evangelical

Thanks to the 80 pastors, lay delegates and guests who attended the Evangelical Dinner at National Conference in late May. Dr. Robb Palmer, a Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) professor at the Seminary and always an engaging presenter, shared helpful information for improving marriages. To hear Dr. Palmer and the other MFT faculty members speak more about this subject, join us at the Leadership Forum on September 25.

Please pray for the 31 men and women who graduated from Evangelical in May, asking God to wonderfully bless the ministries where they are serving. Also pray for the new students who will begin their studies in late summer. We thank the Lord that enrollment seems to be inching back up and ask Him to lead many more students to Evangelical.



Dates to remember:

September 5, 2014—Leadership Forum
 Theme: Healing Relationships in our Broken World
 Presenters: Marriage and Family Therapy Faculty

October 17, 2014—Friends of Evangelical Banquet
 Special Guest and Presenter:
 Dr. Kyle Strobel, Assistant Professor of Spiritual Theology and Formation at Talbot School of Theology (beginning Fall 2014)



If you have not ordered your 2014 National Conference Journal do it now!

Call or email Brenda at 1-800-866-7581 or blong@eccenter.com

Each church will be sent a Journal on CD FREE of charge.

Cost:
 Binder—\$7.00
 Indexes—\$4.00
 Printed Contents—\$14.00
 Additional CD—\$5.00

Please DO NOT include payment with your order. An invoice will be sent with your order.



Church Health Commission

Natural Church Development

Christian Swartz has done extensive research worldwide and found that healthy, growing churches seem to share eight quality characteristics. These characteristics are:

- Empowering Leadership—moving from “Me” to “We”, delegation and sharing of ministry
- Gift-oriented Ministry—integrating gifts into ministry, support and equipping for ministry
- Passionate Spirituality—experiencing God and passion for the church, passion for devotions, spiritual interconnectedness
- Functional Structures—effective planning, organization and change
- Inspiring Worship Service—personal transformation in worship, visitor friendly, anticipation for worship, relevance of message



- Holistic Small Groups—developing a spiritually-oriented community, multiplication of disciples, leaders and groups
- Need-Oriented Evangelism—compassion, corporate and personal evangelism, seeker-sensitive church
- Loving Relationships—affirmation, encouragement, joy, trust, conflict resolution and deepening relationships

Schwarz uses the illustration of a barrel with eight staves to symbolize the eight quality characteristics. The barrel can only hold water to the height of the lowest stave. So too, Schwarz argues, a church can only grow as far as their “Minimum Factor,” which is the lowest of the eight quality characteristics in their church.

NCD is not a program to be implemented but rather a God-directed process. Presently we have a few churches involved (Williams Valley, Kinderhook, Brownstown and Lenhartsville) with a few others on tap. The cost is \$400 at the present time which includes materials, survey results and coaching. Should your church be interested contact Rev. Dr. Gordon R. Lewis at glewis@eccenter.com; 1-800-866-7581.

News from Benefits Corporation

Thank you to everyone that has registered for the upcoming Employee Benefits Seminars at Salem EC, Lenhartsville on June 19, First EC, Palmyra on July 18, and Lakeside EC, Transfer on August 11. It appears that the events will be well attended and there is plenty of room for more participants. Please see the EC website, www.eccenter.com, to register. Registration is not required but encouraged for planning purposes. Also, thanks to the pastors and staffs of Salem, First and Lakeside for hosting the events. For those not able to attend one of the semi-

nars please contact Dave King or Kevin Henry and we will send you the seminar handouts. Some of the material will be posted on the website but unfortunately, not all of the material to be presented can be posted due to compliance and regulatory issues.

Other news from EC Benefits:

Workers Compensation: Thank to all that have timely paid the worker's compensation invoices. For those that haven't the due date was May 15. Payment for the Disability and Benefit Corp Services fee were due January 15 and April 15 respectively, both fees

are listed on the 2014 Treasurer's Guide available on www.eccenter.com

If there are any questions 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.



Healthy Pastors Team: National Conference 2014

The 2nd Annual Rev Run Walk Bike was held Wednesday morning, May 28th and got the National Conference off with: "On Your Mark, Get Set, Go!" The four bikers took off at 9 am winding their way on a ten mile tour of the scenic area at Messiah College. Shirley Long was the "Official Timer" of the event and "Newly Weds To Be" Nettie Wells and Chuck Campbell came to cheer on the bikers as well as Bob Long.

The bikers followed the course set by Ralph Owens. Ralph's son Nathan brought in the fastest time with Ralph, Bishop Bruce



and Wilmer Stoltzfus rounding out the finish. Yep, that's our Bishop in the orange sneakers! We thank Bishop Bruce for his support and the example he sets for a healthy lifestyle.

Nathan & Ralph Owens hopped off their bikes to join the runners and walkers in the 5K around the

Messiah Campus. Joel Kime gives the course instructions to the group who were ready to go on an over-cast morning which was perfect for the event.

The participants were: Matt Hill, Joel Kime, Nathan Owens, Kevin Henry, Daniel Roland, Ralph Owens, Glenn Lambert, Wayne Houck, Al

Giles, Justin Stauffer, Paul Miller, John Friedlund, Bob Long, Mike Snedeker, Gordy Lewis, Phil Bartelt, Michelle Roland, Jackie latesta, Bill Griffis, Margie Miller, Nettie Wells and Chuck Campbell. Matt Hill won the event with Joel Kime right behind, Nathan Owens finished third. Glenn Lambert received the "come from behind" award after he arrived well after the start of the race and placed 7th. It was a fun event with everyone getting their heart rates up,



burning off some calories and invigorated for the start of conference.

The event once again raised over \$600.00 for Church Planting! Thank you to all who participated, cheered people on and bought t-shirts.

A special thank you to the Rev Run Walk Bike Committee: Joel Kime, Margie Miller, Keith Miller, Shirley Long, Brenda Long, Glenn Lambert, Kathy Friedlund, Ralph Owens, Kevin Henry and Jackie latesta.

So oil up your bikes, get a pair of sneakers and start "training" now for the 3rd Annual Rev Run Walk Bike! See you then!



News from Global Ministries

MISSIONARY UPDATES

Jane Heck: After three years of inactive service, Jane Heck is now considered supernumerary (she is retaining her credentials but not raising or receiving missionary support) by the Global Ministries Commission. Jane remains in Southington, OH where she is caring for her parents and teaching in a Christian school.

Marcia Hopley: After many decades of service as an EC missionary both in Kenya and in the USA, Marcia Hopley has retired from active service with InterVarsity as of the end of June. Of course, she will continue to mentor young men and women within the urban setting and the church plant she attends in Philadelphia. If you would like to send a card or note to Marcia thanking her for ministry to the EC Church and the Body of Christ, her address is: 1535 South 15th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19146. Email is: anne-hopley@aol.com.

David & Conce Roof: The Roofs will be returning to Brazil in mid-July to continue their work with OMS as church planters in Belem.

John & Carolyn Miller: John & Carolyn plan to return to Thailand to continue their translation work with Wycliffe in July.

Chris & Deb Bowers: Chris & Deb Bowers had their second daughter, Emily on May 28th in Australia. They return to the USA in early July.

2014 VBS PROJECT IS LIBERIA

The GMC has designated that the 2014 VBS project funds go to help support the Youth Camp program for EC Church of Liberia. The funds will go to help with the purchase of a generator, video equipment, Bibles, teaching materials, bedding and other supplies for this camping program. Five minute lessons that you can use in your Vacation Bible School are posted to our EC website www.eccenter.com



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 July and August 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.



July 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY Church Center closed	5
6 Day of Prayer for Church Planting	7	8	9 Church Health Commission Mtg.	10	11	12
			WALDHEIM CAMPMEETING			
13	14	15 Church Pension Contribution due Health Insurance Premium due Benefit Corp Mtg	16	17	18	19
WALDHEIM CAMPMEETING					HERNDON CAMPMEETING	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			HERNDON CAMPMEETING			
27	28	29	30	31		
HERNDON CAMPMEETING			ROSEDALE CAMPMEETING (through Aug 3)			

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

Manna Fund to:

Benefits Corporation
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067
(designate Manna Fund)

August 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Day of Prayer for The EC Church	2 Twin Pines Summer Staff Sing
3 Day of Prayer for Church Planting	4	5	6	7	8	9
ROSEDALE CAMPMEETING						
10	11 Benefits Seminar— Lakeside, Transfer	12	13	14	15 Church Pension Contribution due Health Insurance Premium due	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Stone Ridge Retirement Living Board Meeting	27	28	29	30

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 100 W. Park Ave.
 Myerstown, PA 17067

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

Manna Fund to:
 Benefits Corporation
 100 W. Park Ave.
 Myerstown, PA 17067
(designate Manna Fund)

Twin Pines Offering to:
 Twin Pines Camp
 3000 Twin Pines Camp Road
 Stroudsburg, PA 18360

