



NOVEMBER 2018

From the Bishop:

Most of you remember that our current denominational structure went into effect on July 1, 2016. When we started down the road to restructuring I said we would eventually have to evaluate how it was working. Now is the time to begin that process.

What we will now do on multiple levels is to compare our current structure to what came before it. It really is a strategic evaluation: what are our current structure's strengths, its weaknesses, and what did we miss? Basically, we're looking at three areas of focus based on the promises made in the Covenant which was adopted in the 2014 National Conference: operational, relational, and financial. We will evaluate our current structure as we ask a question passed on those three areas:

- Operational: How well is the structure helping us to more effectively accomplish the mission to "raise up healthy churches pro-

claiming Christ to a hurting world?"

- Relational: How well is the structure enhancing the care for and equipping of pastors and churches?



- Financial: How is the structure helping us to steward our resources so more money is available for ministry in/through the local church so we can accomplish our mission?

To borrow a term we use in our

Pastoral Assessment Center, I have developed a multiplicity of evaluations; multiple individuals and groups will be asked to evaluate multiple aspects of our structure.

- Districts (pastors and lay delegates) at special District meetings will be asked to evaluate the District structure, as well as, the Community structure.

- Bishop's Prayer & Praise
- News from the Executive Director
- Global Ministries Community
- Ministerial Development Community
- NC 2018 Educational Experience
- StoneRidge Retirement Community
- Twin Pines Camp



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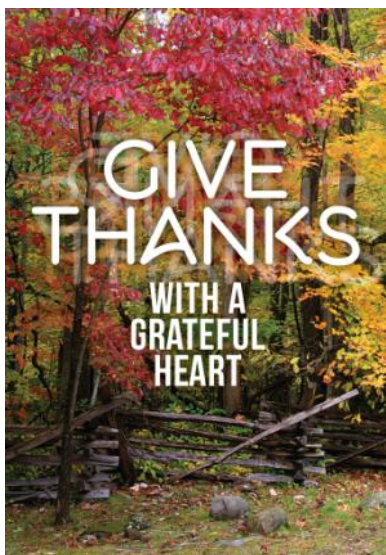
- The District Field Directors will be asked to do a self-evaluation of the District Field Director position.
- Each Community and Associate will be asked to conduct a self-evaluation.
- The National Ministry Team has the biggest job as we evaluate the Community structure, the Conference Network Team structure, the Conference Support Team structure and National Conference (the event) structure.
- The National Conference gets the last word as they then speak to the overall denominational structure.

The goal is for the strategic evaluation to be completed so that the National Ministry Team can make a formal recommendation to the members of the National Conference 2019 for adoption and to move ahead with preparation of possible Disciplinary amendments. Please join me in praying for this process and by participating in your district meeting when you are invited to be a part of one of our strategic evaluation conversations.

In Christ's service,



Bishop's Top Ten Prayer & Praise List



1. Please pray for understanding for all involved in our process of strategically evaluating our current denominational structure.
2. Pray for safe travels and a meaningful experience as Gloria and I travel to Bloomington, Minnesota for the National Association of Evangelicals' denominational executives' retreat.
3. Ask the Lord to lead me as I plan for National Conference 2019 which meets May 29, 30, 31 at Messiah College.
4. Remember to keep praying for the Stationing Committee as we try to wrap up this year's pastoral assignments before next year's begin.
5. Pray that Gloria can be patient as she waits for the return of 80 degree weather! (Though I'm enjoying the beautiful autumn days.)
6. Thank God for a productive National Ministry Team meeting in October; lots of good questions and discussion.
7. Praise God for the high quality of men and women our Board of Examiners is meeting with as they seek various credentials in the EC Church.
8. Thank the Lord for opportunities to gather with family and friends over the fall holiday season.
9. Praise God for the growth being experienced in a number of EC congregations this fall.
10. Praise the Lord for venison in the freezer!

News from the Executive Director

The EC Benefits Trustees have renewed the active pastor's health insurance with Capital Blue Cross (CBC) effective October 1, 2018. The rates to the local church did not increase the rates and are listed on the EC Church website (www.eccenter.com). There were no significant changes in benefits with the plan renewal. The annual maximum out of pocket for covered medical expenses, excluding co-pays, remains at \$500 with the HRA paying costs above \$500. The maximum out of pocket for prescriptions and outpatient therapy services (physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, respiratory therapy and manipulative therapy) also remains at \$1,800 annually.

The limited dental plan, Value Plan 75, was not renewed.

If you have incurred medical expenses above \$500 or prescription or outpatient therapy costs above \$1,800 you may be eligible for reimbursement of your out of pocket costs from the HRA. The HRA plan year ends on September 30, 2018 and all requests for reimbursement for the October 2016—September 2018 plan year must be received by PrimePay, our HRA administrator, by December 29, 2018, ninety days after the end of the plan year. If you need assistance with PrimePay please contact Dave King or me at the EC Church Center and we will walk you through the process.

The EC Benefits Trustees are very aware of the tension caused by the cost of health insurance and they are committed to serving the pastors and the local EC church. The US health insurance market is constantly in flux. The circumstances surrounding the annual plan renewal are different every year. However, the trend to push responsibility for healthcare and lifestyle decision onto the individual is continuing with your pocketbook feeling the most pain. Planning for long term health is just as important as planning for your retirement. Accidents and illnesses are going to happen but many healthcare conditions are preventable and manageable with healthy lifestyle choices.

HIGHMARK FREEDOM BLUE

The retiree Medicare supplemental plan, Highmark Freedom Blue, is increasing by \$10/mon to \$234 per person per month, effective January 1, 2018, with no minor changes in coverage levels.

As approved by the members of the EC Benefits Corporation at the May 2015 EC Benefits Annual Corporation Meeting, beginning in 2016 and annually through 2019, the EC Church contribution to the cost of the Medicare Supplemental premium will be eliminated. The retiree is responsible for the remaining portion of the premium not paid by the EC Church.

COST SHARING AMOUNTS FOR 2019 (single policy)

Year of Medicare Eligibility	Current	January 1, 2019
2005 or before	\$134.40	\$187.20
2006	\$156.80	\$198.80
2007	\$179.20	\$210.60
2008	\$201.60	\$222.30
2009 and after	\$224.00	\$234.00

For a husband and wife on Freedom Blue double the amounts above.

The open enrollment period for the Highmark Freedom Blue plan is from October 15, 2018 through December 7, 2018. Retirees enrolled in another Medicare supplemental plan or not in any Medicare supplemental plan may join the Freedom Blue plan only during the open enrollment period. The open enrollment period does not affect pastors that plan on retiring after December 7, 2018. Medicare eligible pastors may join Freedom Blue at the time they are superannuated from pastoral service.

It is very important that the retiree does not fall behind on payments to Highmark Freedom Blue. If a retiree is having difficulty paying the monthly premium the Manna Fund is available for financial assistance. Please contact David King in the EC Benefits office for a Manna Fund application.

There are many Medicare Advantage plans available even some at no cost to the participant. However each plan will have positives and negatives in terms of participating providers and benefits provided. Please investigate thoroughly any Medicare Advantage plan before switching plans. If a retiree does not have the financial means to assume a larger portion of the Freedom Blue plan the Manna Fund is available to financially assist the retiree.

MANNA FUND

The Manna Fund was established to assist our retired clergy and surviving spouses with financial needs. The income limits to qualify for a Manna Fund distribution were recently changed to 200% of the federal poverty level as defined by the US Department of Health and Human Services, the current Manna Fund income limits are \$24,120 for a single and \$32,480 for a couple. If you are aware of any of our retired clergy or surviving spouses that could benefit from a Manna Fund distribution please encourage them to complete an application for assistance. Manna Fund applications are mailed to retired clergy and surviving spouses in April and an application can also be received from the Benefits Administrator at the EC Church Center.

News from the Executive Director continued...

We are quickly approaching the end of the calendar year and we are encouraging all the local church pastors, treasurers or administrators to begin planning for the required year end reporting. Required reporting includes year end tax forms, giving statements, denominational annual reports and pastor compensation forms. A small amount of preparation and planning early in the process will save time and frustration later.

Due dates for year-end reporting:

Due to EC Church Center—Compensation & Benefit Administrator

Pastor Salary Forms 1/15/2019 (copy to Benefits Administrator, Dave King)

Annual Reports 1/25/2019

Please note the earlier filing deadlines of W-2s and 1099-MISC forms:

Form W-2 (pastors and church employees) 1/31/2019

Filed with Social Security 1/31/2019
(paper & electronic forms)

Form 1099-MISC (independent contractors) 1/31/2019

Filed with IRS 1/31/2019
(paper & electronic forms)

Pastors are employees of the local church and should receive a W-2 with federal, state, and local taxes withheld from every paycheck.

Please contact Dave King, dking@eccenter.com or Kevin Henry, khenry@eccenter.com with any questions or problems.

Kevin Henry
Executive Director

David King
Benefits Administrator



PASTORAL COMPENSATION

Per the approved Pastoral Compensation report the annual Social Security Administration Cost of Living Adjustment (SSA COLA) will be used as the 2019 annual recommended pastoral salary increase. The Social Security Administration released their 2019 COLA increase at 2.8% (.028).

Churches unable to give at least a 2.8% salary increase must notify their District Field Director prior to any official action taken to set the pastor's salary for 2019.

Churches that are financially able are encouraged to give either a larger percentage increase or to consider an additional increase as a merit raise in salary for each pastor. This merit raise would be in addition to the approved percentage salary increase.

Most if not all denominations are struggling with pastor salaries. There are many reasons (controllable and uncontrollable) why this has occurred and pointing fingers and affixing blame is not the solution. The credentialed men and women of the EC Church are good people and the lay leadership in the local EC Church are men and women of integrity. Both groups are encouraged to prayerfully work together with open honest dialogue on pastoral compensation. The answer may not be financial. Maybe the church can offer an extra week of vacation (also encourage the pastor to take the extra week of vacation) or ease the pastor's workload by the congregation assuming a time consuming duty. Be careful with cash gifts or bonuses, any cash payments to a pastor is taxable income. Please treat your pastoral staff with the appreciation and admiration they deserve.

Please remember to use the new pastor salary forms available on the EC website (www.eccenter.com).

CLERGY HOUSING ALLOWANCE

The clergy housing allowance is once again in the news. A federal judge in Wisconsin found the clergy housing allowance to be unconstitutional however at this time there are no changes in the legality of the housing allowance. Churches should approve the pastoral housing allowance for 2019. An appeal will be filed with the appellate court in Chicago and most likely this case will be heard before the US Supreme Court. A final decision on the clergy housing allowance is multiple years in the future. As information becomes available it will be passed along. Please ask any questions.

News from the Global Ministries Community

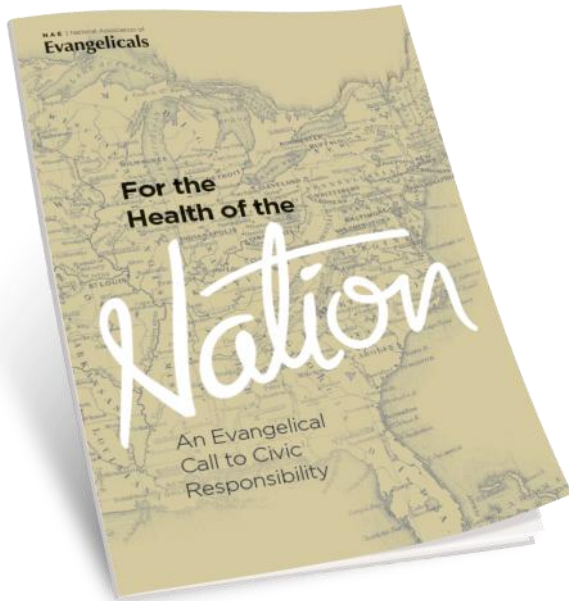
- **Brian, Missy Wagner and son Micah** will be home for a brief visit at the end of this month so that Micah can visit prospective colleges. Keep them in prayer as Brian and Micah travel, and that they may know God's will in this matter. Missy will be spending time with her mother and daughters.
- **Jonathan & Kathy Wilson** return to SIL headquarters in Ukarumpa, PNG around November 7th after spending a couple of months in their village, working on the Bi-nandere scripture translation with local translators. Pray for safety in travel and that it has been a fruitful time in the village.
- **CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR MISSIONARIES:** This is the annual reminder for individuals or churches who wish to give monetary Christmas gifts to our EC missionaries. If the missionary serves overseas, it is better to give the monetary gift through either the GMC office or the mission agency with which the missionary serves. Cashing checks overseas always costs the recipient a lot in fees, plus it may open your check to being altered and cashed for a much higher amount than you intended. DO NOT SEND CARDS TO THE GMC OFFICE TO BE FORWARDED TO MISSIONARIES. If the missionary is in the USA, either permanently or on furlough, then mail the card, check and/or gift directly to them. If you need current mailing addresses, contact Pat (pstrain@eccenter.com or 717-866-7584) at the GMC office for the information. Thanks!
- **A number of our missionaries** are struggling with severe support shortages. If you would like to help them, even with a one-time gift, please contact Pat at the Global Ministries office for a list of needs. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of these needs.
- **Val Schubert** gives praise that the surgeries on her legs went well and that she was able to get up and around shortly after them. The surgeries involved the arteries in both legs.



News from the Ministerial Development Community

The **Ministerial Development Community** is starting something new that we are excited to announce to you. In partnership with Evangelical Seminary, the Center for EC Studies is releasing courses that we believe are going to be helpful to you. Pastors in the credentialing pipeline take required courses offered by the Center, courses like EC History and Polity, or the new EC Ethos class. But we are also creating course offerings for all pastors, with the goal of addressing areas of concern that many pastors face. We'd like to introduce the first of these elective classes, which will be held on April 5 & 6, 2019: **Self Care** (taught by **Beth & Gene Stevenson**). This course highlights the importance of caring for the emotional, spiritual, and physical needs of oneself and one's family (the pastor's first church) in the midst of the rigors of congregational ministry. We will address issues of ministerial identity, boundaries, congregational expectations, and work/life balance.

In that same vein, we also want to encourage you to learn about and participate in a new initiative at the seminary: **Refresh**. Evangelical Seminary, in partnership with River of Hope Counseling Center, has created a program called Refresh to promote the spiritual, mental, emotional health of ministry leaders and their families. This is accomplished through a unique blend of therapeutic support, academic offerings, and guided spiritual direction. Most importantly, the program is designed to provide a relational interview process resulting in a fully customized course of enrichment, renewal, and retooling. Even the timeframe of the program is adjustable, though it's intended to take place over the course of 3-4 months. Visit www.evangelical.edu/refresh to register.



Bishop Hill recently had the opportunity to participate in the National Association of Evangelicals Board meeting of which he is a member. During that meeting a new resource “For the Health of the Nation, An Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility” was released.

Galen Carey, NAE vice president of government relations, has described the booklet, which was first released in 2004 as “an initiative to deepen the biblical foundations for evangelical civic engagement.” “Through a consultative process, evangelical leaders and scholars reflected on our history of prophetic advocacy and lamented missed opportunities. The result was a short work entitled, “For the Health of the Nation: An Evangelical Call to Civic Engagement.”

“For the Health of the Nation” outlined the basis and methods for evangelical advocacy, and detailed seven areas of particular concern: religious freedom, children and families, sanctity of life, poverty, human rights, peace, and care of God’s creation.

Recently the NAE decided to revisit and update “For the Health of the Nation.” While the underlying principles have not changed, the American political context has shifted significantly. Civic discourse has coarsened, abetted by partisan online news silos and social media echo chambers. Indeed, some leaders who sought to cooperate across party lines have been voted out of office.

There have also been deepening divisions among Americans on key moral principles. Evangelical convictions on family and human sexuality are now a minority position in many parts of the country. Religious freedom—once supported across the political spectrum—is now caricatured by many as the special pleading of groups who don’t want to treat others fairly.

New attention has been called to long-time social ills, including our broken immigration system, sexual harassment and abuse, human trafficking, racial injustice and white supremacy. Concern about these issues is implicit in the original document and is further elaborated in the updated edition, notably through the addition of a new section on racial justice and reconciliation.

Thoughtful evangelical civic engagement is urgently needed. Sadly, the very term “evangelical” has been co-opted and radicalized by political scientists, reporters and pundits as shorthand for white conservative Protestant Christians. This has led some who don’t fit the media stereotype to avoid the evangelical label as misleading.

In fact, NAE research shows that African American and Hispanic Americans are more likely than white Americans to strongly endorse core evangelical beliefs. A close reading of “For the Health of the Nation” reveals a biblically grounded, principled portfolio of concerns that do not fit neatly into the platform of any political party.

When contemporary political rhetoric descends into a fact-free slugfest, we can show that there is a better, more honorable path. “For the Health of the Nation” equips evangelicals for well-reasoned political engagement grounded in both truth and love, and to do so with humility and gentleness (1 Peter 3:15).

A single copy can be downloaded from the NAE website (www.nae.net). Hardcopies can also be ordered in bulk through their website.

National Conference 2018 Education Experience

Theme... ALL IN; Session Two, Article Two

He died for everyone so that those who receive his new life
will no longer live for themselves.
Instead, they will live for Christ, who died and was raised for them.
2 Corinthians 5:15 (NLT)

If YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE captured the content of the first two articles I recently offered, then WE ARE WHO WE ARE is the meat of the current two articles (the approximate text of the teaching I provided at National Conference this past May 2018). In the last article we introduced the shift from “me” to “we.” We noted the nature of the corporate Body, the congregation. We considered the initiative we must undertake to learn about “we.”

NOW... LET’S LOOK AT THE PROCESS...

Let’s think about your current practices...

Assess the leadership structure for function. Who actually leads? We’re not talking about the model in the bylaws. We’re thinking in terms of the real leader: pastor, people, a church boss; maybe no one, each thinking the other is. Sadly, we can easily find examples of each model.

How is decision-making processed? Again, we’re not talking about what is in the bylaws. We’re talking reality: power position rules, congregational votes, or allowing inactivity to make choices for us. (The debate over fixing the roof versus painting the bathrooms ends when the roof leaks and the dissolves Martha’s grandmother’s donated-decades-ago handmade, ceramic nativity pieces.)

Assess the discipleship process. (That would be the process of making reproducing disciples.) How do you disciple? Not the tool (NAVS, 3DM, 4TD, etc.), but the method. Are you “destination” focused? Are you disciplined when you complete ABC or attend XYZ or know QRS? Are you “direction” focused? Are you being disciplined, that is, heading toward and becoming more like Jesus.

Congregations will focus on one model or the other, discipleship as a destination or discipleship as a direction. The destination model produces people who know, but who might not know what to do with what they know. The direction model tends to produce people who know Jesus, who are becoming more like Jesus in how they do daily life.

Further, it is also essential for the pastor/leadership team to know the people. Who can do what functions? Who carries which passions? Who has transferrable skills and abilities?

If you use a survey, you will realize results between 5% and 30%. Check the experts! If you use interviews, your results will be closer to 100%. Pastor,

bite the bullet and schedule time to talk with each and every member of your leadership team. Create a list of questions, get to know your people. (Drop me an email—rev cool@ptd.net—I’ll send you my interview questions.) You could take this survey even deeper into your congregation by having church leaders visit with each individual or family.

Let’s think about possible assessment tools...

You need to know that there are many possible tools and agencies designed to meet you where you are and take you where you need to go. This is just a sample of what is available.

- **Natural Church Development (NCD)**
NCD is an assessment tool that involves a survey taken of actively involved church members, report that identifies strengths and weaknesses in various aspects of church life, and coaching to process the shifts necessary to realize greater congregational health. There is a fee.
- **Show Me Health (NCD lite)**
The Show Me Health assessment tool is similar to the NCD except the surveys are one-page per area of church life. It is usually self-administered, though outside coaching is advised for best end results. This is free! Which makes it attractive.
- **GRIP-Birkman Assessment (GB)**
This two-part assessment looks at the whole person...the natural man/woman and the supernatural (in Christ) man/woman. Fee-based, the GB helps the individual see himself more clearly, as well as others around him/her. Team play is also a key aspect of this tool.
- **No Silver Bullet (by Daniel Im)**
Daniel Im takes us on a valuable journey toward a new life for our congregations. Ideologies that impact church systems and discipleship are studied; options for health and growth are explained.
- **Gary Kuehner and the Church Health Community Team**
Our own team of practitioners and experts are available for conversation, assessments, and coaching. Gary can be a good first step as you look to tools to lead you to new heights in ministry.

I like the GRIP-Birkman Assessment, a self-revealing assessment, in that you define yourself. Birkman measures the natural man/woman, who you are under

the skin, what you might be wired to be or to do. Your report provides a self-portrait, your interests, preferences, needs, and behaviors. Your Leadership GRIP addresses your spiritual empowerment, you under the Holy Spirit's power. This helps you identify "how you are powerful" for/with God. (NOT how powerful you are!) Your report addresses your spiritual gifts (Holy Spirit enable-ments for service), team styles (how you work with others), and body building roles (what you bring to the team for ministry). This is NOT a pass-fail type of test. It is more a self-discovery tool. And to learn about your team.

We also need to think about the work ethic/culture of your church. The pastor. The people. The community you have become.

What do you expect out of the pastor? To complete or satisfy a detailed job description? Honor Ephesians 4? OR some of each? On call ALL OF THE time, always connected? Or do you help him be healthy to better serve the congregation? "Take your day off, pastor!"

What do you expect out of the people? Do church, attend discipleship functions, serve in a ministry role? Let's fill all the positions? OR "Fit and Flourish." Know this? Do this? Attend this? OR live and serve out of gifting, skills and passions? Fit and Flourish is a noble goal, the right person in the right role for the right reason!

Now, it's nice to know these many things about the individuals who make up a leadership team or congregation. But if we simply stopped here, we would still be a mile short of "actually knowing" What we're capable of doing. The assessment tools I have already mentioned help us identify and measure capacity for ministry.

- This is what interests me.
- This is what gets me out of bed in the morning.
- That is how I get along with others.
- This explains that behavior.
- That is why I react as I do in certain situations.

We can develop a clever grid that plots people and skill and gifts, and assuming all things are the same, spit out lists of "functions or duties" that match. Many, perhaps most, spiritual gift inventories do just that. "If you have gift combo ABC, then you should be doing XYZ." I think we can do much better than this!

I would like to suggest there are other details about the lives of people who make up a congregation that must be known to best guide people toward ministry. If we are to fit and flourish we must know a few more details.

For quite a few years, I have been playing with an assessment that goes a bit deeper and wider than

that which we often grab first. I am not saying the assessments I have mentioned are somehow deficient or less than useful. I'm simply suggesting there might be more we can determine with a couple of well-designed questions.

I suggest a two-question inventory. You will note that this inventory is about people as well as about the resources these people provide and have access to as they serve the church and community. The two questions...

1. ... What do you think are the assets and strengths of a congregation?
2. ... What do you think are the assets and strengths of your/our congregation?

Notice that there is no mention of weaknesses, problems or hurdles. This is not about "what we can't." This is about "what we can."

There are three focal points that apply to both questions...

- People, about the individuals involved;
- Property, about your meeting location/facilities; and
- Presence, about how you are perceived by the community (your neighbors).

If you are doing this as a group activity, let people think about this. If you rush them or speak for them, you may miss what only they can see. Don't let silence scare you. Thinking takes time!

This is what this might look like...

Set question #1 before the group (You will notice that this is a generic pass at the topic. The reality is that most people can talk in the abstract or about others more rapidly than about themselves.) The question: What do you think are the assets and strengths of a congregation? After a while, offer the group the three focal points. Let them run for a while.

Then set question #2 before the group. (You will notice that you have shifted thinking about "out there" to "right there.") This is where the rubber hits the road. Now you get to talk about your own church. The question: What do you think are the assets and strengths of our congregation?

You may have noticed that these two questions are actually the same question. Here's the deal: You need to know your discussion group. I've observed that many people need to start with generic ideas (other churches) before they can get personal (my church). But not all! You might get by with one pass at the question!

Let me flesh out the three focal points...

- People
 - Gifts and graces (This was the content of session one.)
 - Skills and abilities
 - Do you know the names of your nurses?
 - Do you know the names of your handymen?
 - Handymen you would let work on your

house!

- Do you know the names of your mechanics?
 - Mechanics you would let work on your car or pickup.
- Interests & availability
- Professional skills (Which do not always overlap spiritual gifts, but are worth knowing.)
- Financial generosity (Is your church a giving church?)
 - How so? Money? Things?
- Stewardship of time, talents and treasures (Is your church a serving church?)
- Property
 - Building & land
 - Furnishings (tables, chairs, kitchen, etc.)
 - Technology (internet, Wi-Fi, projection capable, anything portable, etc.)
- Presence
 - Are you known around the community (or not)?
 - Have you made a good impression on the community (or not)?
 - Do you have connections with/into the community?
 - Do you offer a soup kitchen, kids' ministry, counseling center, etc.?
 - Do you enjoy partnerships with community services?
 - Do some of your people live in the immediate community?

The most important aspect of this kind of self-study is that the end product can be encouraging. It is possible to walk away from this activity thinking, "We are stronger than we think we are." And this kind of discovery can restore soul-deep hope! Often, a little hope is all a congregation really needs.

Les Cool, Kingdom Extension Associate

Discussion Questions:

- What did you hear/read?
- What do you think about what you heard/read?
- What will you do because of what you have heard/read?
- When do you think you will do this?
- Who do you think needs to be part of this conversation?



Some Advice from a Loving Couple



Ted Maurer was 19 years old when, on St. Patrick's Day, 1944, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy as a Navy Air Force Mechanic. While on leave, he married the love of his life, Elizabeth "Betty" Romberger, on August 5, 1944. Both were born in the coal region of Pennsylvania, Ted in the town of Hegins,

PA, and Betty was born in the nearby town of Valley View. They had three boys who were just three years apart. Two of the boys followed their father's example and joined the service; the oldest was in the Korean Conflict and the youngest was involved in heavy fighting in Viet Nam. Their middle son followed the other strong suit of the Maurer family, faith in God, and has been a minister for over 40 years.

When asked about advice he might share with young married couples today, Ted laughed and quickly shared, "Husbands should begin the habit of saying 'Yes, dear.'" After 74 years of marriage, they affirm that "Through life, we have tried to live out what God has taught us." They also stress the importance of giving. As a family, they helped build youth camps, operated a food closet for over 20 years, were leaders in the music ministry in their church and served as delegates at annual conference. Lastly and very important, they encourage everyone to "always pray."



A KEC Announcement:

Missio Alliance National Gathering 2019

(<https://www.missioalliance.org/gatherings/awakenings-gathering-2019/>)

This exciting teaching-learning experience will be held March 28-30, 2019 at the Alfred Street Baptist Church in Alexandria, MD. Early registration is only \$149 (before November 18). The theme is "Awakenings: The Life of the Church for the Sake of the World." The big question behind the gathering is: If we really lean into the reality that the mission of God, the Holy Spirit, is the very source of the church's life, how will this influence our posture, witness, and engagement in this world that God so deeply loves?

Sessions will include:

- *Conversations about the biblical nature of the church*
- *Conversations about her witness amid the political and cultural challenges of our day*
- *Conversations about the character of those we look to as leaders*
- *Conversations about the missionary expressions of the church invited by the future we are moving toward*

The inspiring speakers, stimulating conversations, and exposure to new ideas are reasons enough to attend. That you will gather with about 1,000 peers in ministry passionate about the same things makes this one of the most significant events of the year.

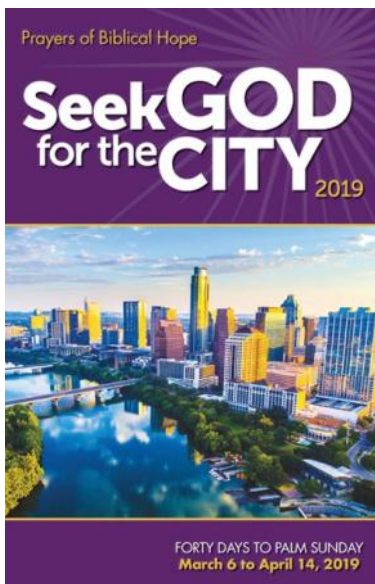
Need-based scholarships are available through the Kingdom Extension Community. Contact Les Cool (revcool@ptd.net or 717-951-8433) for more information.



Prayers that anchor your hope in God.

Seek God for the City 2019 is a resource designed to mobilize many to pray with united, sustained vision for people of your community. The daily prayers are all new and different from last year's prayer guide. The scriptures and topics help God's people pray with passionate, full-hearted hope. This timely guide will help God's people in your congregation to pray beyond themselves with confidence and clarity.

Using this resource will help you Seek God in two simple ways: First seek God's face and then seek His kingdom. And as we come to God, seeking His face, then He comes to us bringing His kingdom. These are prayers you don't want to pray alone; you can use the guidebooks to invite your whole congregation to pray along with you. Even better, think about joining your prayers with a few other churches in your district and/or community.



The forty days to Palm Sunday makes an ideal time to venture into a season of sustained, hope-filled prayer: March 6-April 14, 2019.

Pastors and prayer leaders can request a complimentary review copy of the **Seek God for the City 2019** prayer guide for a limited time. Call Waymakers now at 800-264-5214 or 512-419-7729 to request a review copy.

They also will soon have an app that makes it possible to help many to keep their prayers rolling in the midst of busy lifestyles and schedules. The app will be available in January 2019.



What's happening at Twin Pines Camp?

Jr. & Sr. High Fall Retreat – Nov 3-5

The youth had fun at camp this past summer, and now they have a chance to enjoy it AGAIN! Join friends, summer staff, and other campers for a weekend of games, campfires, and growing in your relationship with Christ.

Holiday Craft Show & Flea Market – Dec 1

Join us for the 2nd Annual Holiday Craft Show and Flea Market sponsored by Twin Pines. There is something for everyone: hand-crafted items, repurposed, renewed, and reused items, holiday items, and gifts for your friends and family.

VENDORS are needed. Contact Nicole Stuart to be a vendor at 484-269-6252 or nicole@twinpines.org.

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Looking into the Future

Set these dates on your calendars for youth and children can attend these great weekends



Theme:



John 1:16

www.bit.ly/WT2019

Winter Thaw-A (WT-A) ~ Jan 18-20, 2019

Speaker: Ajay Kunarasa

Ajay is a New Yorker born and bred, who has a passion for working with youth in the inner city. He graduated from Summit International School of Ministry and Lancaster Bible College. Currently, he serves at Lebanon Valley Youth for Christ as the Middle School Director. He and his wife Asia, moved to Lebanon, PA in September of 2016. They had their first child, May 2018.

Winter Thaw-B (WT-B) ~ Feb 15-17, 2019

Speaker: Garrett Lowe

Garrett Lowe currently serves as the NextGen Pastor at Living Word Community Church in York, PA. He and his wife, Heather, have a daughter named Cherith, and a cute puppy named Cali. Garrett and Heather love to travel, and even spent almost 3 months living in a VW van as they traveled the country!



www.bit.ly/2019SF

Spring Fling Children's Retreat

April 26-28, 2019

For children in grades 3rd to 5th.

If your ministry includes 6th graders, they may attend as well.

A Twin Pines Royal Weekend

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Learn more about all of these at www.twinpines.org

Evangelical Congregational Church

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



Leading Teams in Effective Decision Making



Too often, team dysfunction can be traced back to flawed decision making. This seminar offers a straightforward framework for leaders to develop skills to create an environment that gives everyone a clear understanding of the core issues, a common language for discussion, and an authentic invitation to engage in productive decision-making.

Friday, November 9, 2018 | 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Grace Community Church
212 Peach Bottom Road, Willow Street, PA

Learn More/Register at: www.evangelical.edu/decision

Co-sponsored by: Barnabas Initiatives &
Anabaptist Center at Evangelical Seminary

November 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Thanksgiving (voluntary) to: EC Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 (designate: <i>Thanksgiving</i>)				1	2	3
Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension	5	6	7	8	9	10
	12	13	14	15	16	17
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Insurance Payments to:
Benefits Corp.
100 W. Park Ave.
Myerstown, PA 17067

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

December 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT	3	4	5	6	7	1
<i>Day of Prayer for Kingdom Extension</i>					<i>Day of Prayer for the E.C. Church</i>	8
9 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Info for January EC Leader Due				Health Insurance Due	
16 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT	17	18	19	20	21	22
			Church Center Christmas Party Office will be closed		StoneRidge Open House	
23 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT	24	25	26	27	28	29
<i>Christmas Missionary Offering</i>	CHRISTMAS EVE Church Center Closed	CHRISTMAS DAY Church Center Closed	Church Center Closed	Church Center Closed		
30	31	NEW YEAR'S EVE Church Center Closed Ministry Funds to: EC Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 Insurance Payments to: Benefits Corp. 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 Christmas Missionary Offering to: EC Church 100 W. Park Ave. Myerstown, PA 17067 <i>(designate: Christmas Missionary Offering)</i>				