

Evangelical Congregational Church

E.C. National News

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SUMMER 2016

Bishop addresses Fourteenth National Conference

Bishop Hill delivered his annual Episcopal Address during the opening session of the Fourteenth National Conference of the E.C. Church at Messiah College, Grantham, PA on Wednesday, May 25. He focused on the Conference theme, "One," based on Ephesians 4:4-6, which speaks of "one body, one spirit, one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God and Father." He began by stating, "It is Jesus who brings us together and makes us one."



In reviewing his first term as Bishop and anticipating the second, Bruce noted that his first vision statement said nothing about denominational restructuring. He had emphasized that "We must become a transformational church...allowing the Holy Spirit to transform our hearts, minds, and lives."

He continued that he believes we have made huge strides toward that goal. This is seen in "reaching out to neighbors, church planting, focusing on discipleship, excitement about missions, and qualified candidates, who did not grow up E.C., wanting to be part of our denomination...we are getting closer to being the movement of God we have prayed for and worked for."

The Bishop commented that "being one is a counter-cultural position." He referred to an article in *USA Today*, which stated, "In America, we live, breathe, and die by invented divides."

"In contrast, in John 17:21, Jesus prayed for the unity of his disciples. It's not our job to establish it, because it already exists. It is given by God. What we need to do is value and maintain it. One of the keys to maintaining unity is found in the 'one another's' spread throughout the New Testament."

Bruce recalled that National Conference 2015 was historic, as 90 percent of delegates voted

to adopt a new denominational structure. This began with the appointment of Mr. Kevin Henry to serve as Executive Director. In addition, three Associates were selected: Rev. Gary Kuehner, Church Health; Rev. Les Cool, Kingdom Extension; and Rev. Jeff Byerly, Ministerial Development.

The next step was the appointment of District Field Directors. Bruce described their role as "perhaps the key position on which all of this rises and falls...I see them as building even greater connectivity not only between pastors and congregations, but with the denomination."

He added, "We want to encourage and resource local congregations, because that is where the action is. The role of the National Conference, Bishop, Executive Director, Associates, Communities, Teams, and Committees is to resource and encourage each congregation and to strengthen the connective aspects of their ministries...one of my goals is for pastors to pray together, forming a 'Viking shield wall' for protection against the enemy in spiritual battle."

He listed our new disciple-making communities, formerly called commissions, as Church Health, Global Ministries, Kingdom Extension, Ministerial Development, and Missional Alignment. He commented, "We have for years talked about sharing out time, talent, and treasure." I think we need to consider another T-word — Touch."

In regards to finances, the Bishop reported that for the second year, ministry funds received were greater than in the previous year. Ninety-five percent of congregations contributed, with most sending their full share. The budget for 2017 will include another reduction in ministry fund asking.

Bruce outlined leadership changes that are occurring throughout the denomination. Rev. G.





Abraham Powell was elected Bishop of the E.C. Church in Liberia, and Dr. Kaitikap Vaiphei was appointed General Director of the church in India. He recognized Rev. Gordy Lewis, Rev. Gary Kuehner, and Rev. Charles Campbell, who are coming to the end of service as Conference Ministers and moving on to other ministries.

He also pointed out, "We are being hit with the first wave of baby boomers who are reaching

the end of their active ministries. Along with other factors, a total of 13 congregations are experiencing pastoral leadership changes. Please continue to pray for the congregations who are awaiting assignment as well as for the work of the Stationing Committee."

The Bishop urged the Conference to maintain oneness in following the words of Paul: "Always be humble and gentle, be patient with each other, making allowances for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace." (Ephesians 4:2-3)

Bruce concluded with thanks to the many who work with him and pray for him, making special mention of the "spousal cooperation" of his wife, Gloria.

Rev. Michael Sigman moved that the Conference adopt, with thanks, Bishop Hill's report. It was received with a standing ovation.

Small-town pastors are invited to conference

"Ordinary Pastor, Extraordinary God" is the theme for the small-town pastors and wives' conference at Calvary Church, 1052 Landis Valley Road, Lancaster, PA October 3-5. The event is sponsored by the Rural Home Missionary Association of Morton, Illinois. General sessions and 15 workshops will be included.

Cost of registration is \$115 per individual and \$160 per couple. Lodging is additional. Discounts are available for students. To register online, go to www.rhma.org. For more information, contact Rev. Jim Price at 610-451-5908 or revjfp@comcast.net.

Seminary shreds mortgage, Jim Ehrman joins faculty

On February 23, a mortgage, which partially financed major renovations to Christ Hall at Evangelical Seminary, Myerstown was shredded in a ceremony in Dech Chapel. Building improvements were completed in 2006. A one-time gift from the E.C. Church made possible the early payment of the remaining amount of nearly \$200,000. President Tony Blair and Bishop Bruce Hill fed the document into the shredder.



Jim Ehrman recently came from New Haven, CT to Evangelical to serve as interim Academic Dean and Professor of Leadership and Culture. He is also director of Love 146, which aids victims of human trafficking, and is a member of the board of Riverdell Institute at Yale University. Jim's wife, Aiyana, partners with Michelle Kime in Imagine Goods.

Field Directors are installed

Thirteen Field Directors, one for each dis-



trict, along with denominational Associates, were installed during National Conference. They are as follows:

Berks—Marlin Lafferty
North East—Ken Ogden
Lehigh Valley—Gary Kuehner
Penn Jersey—Ralph Owens
Schuylkill—Jim Price
Allegheny—Gary Brown
Buckeye—Chuck Campbell
Illinois—Dave Carr
Anthracite—Brad Hatter
Conestoga—Keith Miller
Capital/Lebanon—Gordy Lewis
Red Rose—Jeff Schell
Susquehanna—Sterling Trimmer



Their job description is “to assist pastors and church in carrying out the Great Commission.” Main tasks are to educate, encourage, equip, and evaluate. The directors took office on July 1.

Imagine Good brings hope to Cambodian Women

A report by Michelle Kime

You might call us (Michelle Kime and Aiyana Ehrman) “Accidental entrepreneurs.” We never really intended to start a business. We had been working as a non-profit in Cambodia since 2006 and slowly came to the realization that providing employment was the most powerful project we had seen. By giving people the opportunity to work, we give them hope and the empowerment to change their lives.

So, we do things a bit differently. People matter to us way more than the bottom line. We try to take a close look at the entire chain of people who are involved in sewing Imagine Goods products. Are they earning a living wage? Are they being empowered? That’s why we call ourselves a “Sustainable Supply Company.” We believe that when we buy a product, the cost of the item should be able to sustain



with a living wage every person connected to it.

In order to really get to know the people who make our products, we travel to Cambodia several times a year. We shop in the markets for fabrics—the stall owners

love to see us walking up—and visit the organizations that make our products. The workshops are run by non-profits with the express purpose of finding marginalized and vulnerable people, many of whom are survivors of trafficking.

This past June, I (Michelle) made the trip. It was an added bonus that my husband, Joel, pastor at Lancaster Faith, came along. I have traveled to Cambodia more than 25 times. This was Joel’s first time, and it was great for him to be able to see what he has been supporting for the past eight years. Our 17-year-old son, Connor, came with us and took a side trip to visit my sister and her family in Malaysia.

After three days in the markets, I delivered the carefully chosen fabrics for our fall and winter line to our partners. I love visiting the workshops. When I walk in and see smiles, a safe work environment, and

survivors who are now artisans, I am humbled and awed to think of the hard work that brought them to this place.

As I sat down with the head seamstress, the manager, and others, I was excited to discuss new products, show them new fabrics, and learn about new programs in progress. I saw once again how vital Imagine Goods jobs are to survivors.

When individuals are rescued, they receive counseling and health care, while many other needs are met. When they are given job training, they receive hope, dignity, and an empowered future. Without the opportunity for work, a rescued survivor has little choice but to return to the life from which she was rescued.

I learned that more jobs are needed, and more girls need to be rescued. The availability of jobs is directly linked to individual success and the ability of teams to perform rescues.

Without the support of the E.C. Church, we would not have been able to achieve our yearly goal of increasing our inventory. To those of you who gave, prayed, and shopped our website, **thank you!** Empowerment through employment isn’t possible without supporters like you!

For more information go to imagine-goods.com or contact Michelle at jmtckime@hotmail.com



New at Camp ECCO

During mid-June, Annette Carr moved from Illinois to Carrollton, Ohio to serve as Marketing and Development Director for Camp ECCO. Her job is “to promote Camp ECCO to the Carrollton community, E.C. Churches, and the general public.” Annette’s home church is Grace E.C. in Afolkey. She is a recent graduate of Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais and grew up attending Rock River Bible Camp near Dixon.



Family News

Anniversary

Rev. Robert Hower and wife, Joan, of Carlisle, PA celebrated their sixtieth wedding anniversary on June 16. Rev. Hower served a number of churches and taught at Evangelical Seminary.



Degrees

Chaplain Juliana Lesher of San Antonio, Texas recently received a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Organizational Leadership from Regent University School of Business and Leadership in Virginia Beach, VA. She is Chief of Chaplain Services for the South Texas Veterans Health Care System.



Joshua Reinders received the Master of Arts in Religion Degree from Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA on May 14. He is a

former pastor of Seneca E.C. Church and works for the American Association of Theological Schools. Wife is Rachel.

Remembering loved ones...

Richard Krcal, Jr., 59, son of retired pastor, Rev. Richard Krcal, Sr. and wife, Alice, of Findlay, Ohio, passed away on March 29. He lived in Akron and was a district manager for J and K Subway of North Canton. He is survived by children, Richard III and Kayla, who were raised by his sister, Karen, and husband, Rev. Donald Howell of Clarks Mills, PA Countryside.

Vesta McCauley, 98, a long-time lay delegate for Clarks Valley, PA Zion, passed away on April 8. She was the first woman postmaster for the United States Postal Service. She volunteered at the E.C.C. Retirement Village and Twin Pines Camp. She was preceded in death by husband, Harry.

Retired pastor, **Rev. Eugene Beam**, 89, of Rutherford, PA passed away on April 25. He was founding pastor of Harrisburg Faith and also served Clarks Valley Zion. He was in the PA Air National Guard and the United States Army. He was preceded

in death by first wife, Joanne. He is survived by wife, Muan Kim; son, Eugene Jr., and daughters, Carol and Wendy.

Retired pastor, **Rev. George Drupp**, 71, of Lebanon, PA, passed away on May 2. He served the Birdsboro, Reading First, and Frackville churches. He was on the board of the ECC Retirement Village and founded the Kids' Café after-school program in Berks County. He was preceded in death by wife, Mary Jane. He is survived by sons, George Jr., Joseph, Thomas, and John.

Frederick Moury, Sr., 98, of Palmyra, PA passed away on June 1. He was an electrical engineer and helped assemble the first electrical system for Rift Valley Academy in Kenya. Fred was active in the Aldam Union Church in Delaware County and Lebanon Valley Bible Church. He is survived by son Fred Jr., retired pastor in Lititz.; son, Andrew; grandsons, Jamie Farr and Daniel Moury, missionaries in Orlando; and son-in-law, James (Joan) Farr, missionary in Papua New Guinea. He was preceded in death by wife, Almira, and daughter Cynthia, missionary and James' first wife.

Leroy Huffman, 74, who served many years as lay delegate from Seneca, PA, passed away on June 6. He was employed by United National Gas, Reno Box Plant, and Continental Can Company. He also drive school bus for the Cranberry District. He is survived by wife, Delores; sons, Brent and Brian, and daughter, Shelly.



William Bell, 84, a long-time lay delegate for Knox, PA Grace, passed away on June 27. He was employed as an accountant and bookkeeper. He is remembered for his love of singing. He is survived by wife, Joanne; son, Tim, Regional Director for One Mission Society; son, Ray; and daughters Christine and Pamela.

Lois Zook, 90, wife of retired pastor, Rev. Robert Zook, passed away on June 30. Her home was in Temple, Texas. She was an executive secretary for the Housing and Urban Development De-

partment of the Federal Government. She was preceded in death by first husband, Arnon Little, and daughter, Barbara. She is survived by Rev. Zook and daughters, Susan and Elizabeth.

Retired pastor, **Rev. Lewis Bollinger**, 81, of Sinking Spring, PA passed away on July 2. "Lewie" served seven churches in PA. He was a chaplain for the Civil Air Patrol and a sergeant in the United States Army. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sandra. He is survived by daughter, Heather; and sons, Eric and Michael.

Frances Pond, 93, wife of the late Rev. James Pond Jr., passed away on July 14. She was a member of Lebanon, PA First Church. She was preceded in death by son, James Pond III. She is survived by daughter, Frances, and son, Edward.

Stanley "Bud" Miller, 90, twenty-year lay delegate for Temple, PA Faith, passed away on July 15. He served on the Board of Pensions and Benefits Corporation for 31 years and was a trustee of the StoneRidge Retirement Community. He served in the United States Navy and was employed by Prudential Financial. He was preceded in death by wife, Jane. He is survived by daughter, Eilene.



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