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Western Conference

Vision and Values

Introduction: The following material is the beginning process of articulating and formalizing our reasons for existing as a conference.

I. **PURPOSE:** Western Conference in its vision and mission exists for the purpose of assisting the local church in accomplishing its God given potential of Kingdom expansion.

II. **VISION:** Our vision in Western Conference is to have healthy, life-giving, prevailing and multiplying Pastors and Churches.

III. **MISSION**: Western Conference has as its mission a passion of raising up Kingdom minded ambassadors who are:

- *Desperate to know the heart of God*
- *Dedicated in "equipping the Saints" for the work of ministry*
- *Determined to reach the lost*

IV. **CORE VALUES:**

Healthy life-giving churches: All churches, new and established constantly need to evaluate their health based on Scriptural principles. Congregational diagnosis, community analysis and continued vision casting are vitally important for the life of the church.

Healthy life-giving pastors and leadership teams: Individuals who know the heart of God, know what to do and are willing to do it at all costs.

Multiplication: Establishing a multiplication mindset (DNA) with all new Church plants and established Churches.

Mentoring: This includes - A) Proper assessment of all individuals involved in ministry on the local and conference level. B) Strategic coaching of church planters, as well as redeveloping and restart churches. C) The continual training/equipping of all ministry personnel.

V. Therefore, the strategies and structures within our Conference Ministry Boards should be of such a nature whereby the various components work intentionally and strategically in accomplishing our common purpose, vision and mission.

Questions which all Directors and Board Members should ask themselves:

1) What difference is our board making in the life of the local church in our Western Conference?
2) What difference should it make? What would we like to see happen? What goals do we have in mind for this year?
3) Do we see the necessity of creating some new boards?
4) What difference would it make in the life of the local church if our board ceased to exist?
5) Is there a possibility that our board could merge with another?

VI. How is Your Board accomplishing the following mission?

A. By serving the Local Churches and Pastors
B. By equipping the Saints
C. By reaching the Pre-Christians

Western Conference

Vision Statement

"Healthy, life-giving, prevailing, and multiplying pastors and local churches"

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Western Conference 2012 Calendar

January 9-11	PESM
March 5-8	PESM
March 5-7	Spring Boards
April 23-24	Ministry Staff & Spouse Retreat
July 3-6	BMCR Family Camp
July 9-14	BMCR Super Summer Camp
July 16-21	BMCR Junior Camp
July 22-25	BMCR Family Camp
September 10-12	PESM
September 23-25	Prayer Summit
October 1-4	Denominational Board Meetings
November 5-7	PESM
November 5-7	Annual Conference – Harvest Church, Billings Heights

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STATUS CODES FOR MINISTERS

(A)	Active Intinerant Elder
(EIT)	Elder In Transit
(IWA)	Itinerant Without Assignment
(IA)	Inactive Itinerant Elder
(MS)	Ministerial Student Not Serving a Church
(MS1)	Ministerial Student Serving a Church
(P1)	Probationer Serving a Church
(P2)	Probationer Not Serving a Church
(R)	Retired
(SM)	Special Ministries Assignment

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Guerrero, JJ & Randi Billings Harvest	JJ & Randi Guerrero Casilla 141 Cochabamba, South America Bolivia
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IN MEMORIAM

"They rest from their labors, and their works do follow them"

OTTO H. SCHUSTER
1891—1930

M.S. BOVEY
1858—1935

W.M.SCHUSTER
1850—1935

N.A. ELLER
1887—1944

F.N. RICHERT
1915—1944

W.G. MENGES
1869—1948

H.S. TOOL
1869—1951

ULYSSA K. WINTER
1968—1951

G.K. BERGLAND
1894—1956

H.L. CALVERT
1886—1956

ANDREW ROUKEMA
1893—1966

D.C. VIOLETT
1880—1969

WEBSTER LASATER
1899—1969

REUBEN R. STRUTZ
1900—1976

ALBERT GACKLE
1920—2005

H.L. SPEAKMAN
1927—2005

W.G. STOCKER
1915—1982

E.J.SCHROEDER

GEORGE D. BROWN
1897—1983

CHARLES FOGG
1915—1986

CLARENCE D. SURERUS
???? - 1986

JOHN H. DOUGLAS
1904—1987

ELMER NEFF
1917—1988

R.J. ANDERSON
1905—1990

HARVEY BARTRAM
1899—1992

E.J. BOTT
1899—1992

EARLE WHIPPLE
1925—1992

JOE LINDLEY
1905—1993

W. FRANK CLINGMAN
1904—1998

H.C. KNUTH
1893—1979

C. LEE BIRDSALL
1906—1980

RICHARD KIENTIZ
1930—2008

MINISTERS AND THEIR RECORDS

NAME	BIRTH	LC/CM	ELDER	STATIONED	YEAR
Anderson, Scott	1968NC	2000MT	2001MT	Circle	1999 - 2007
Ashbaucher, Jay	1945OH	1971IL	1974MT	Glasgow	1972-
Baker, Bryan	1973MT	1998MT	2009MT	Lockwood Big Timber	1997-1999 1999-
Barnard, Warren	1957NE	2002MT		BMCR	2002 -
Bruckner, Ramona		2012MT		Chaplaincy	2012
Burgin, George	1967OK	1993MT		BIL Harvest	2005 -
Canen, Robert	1970CA	1996MN	2000MT	Glasgow Glendive	1998 - 2001 2001-
Collins, Dave			2012MT	Melstone	2012
Conover, Robert	1946MT	1970MT	1974MT	Reed Point Circle Rudyard Broadview Melstone Reed Point	1973 - 77 1977-85 1985 - 88 1988 - 2003 2002 - 03 2003 -
Dabner, Jack	1930MT	1951MT	1964MT	Bozeman Bozeman Hawthorne Calif. (film) Pastor Untd. Comm.	1953 - 54 1967-68 1968 1970-
Daniels, Bill	1956MA	2002MT		BMCR Alaska	2002 - 2008 2008-
Davies, Scott	1951OR	1977OR	1982OR	Beartooth Cnseling	2004 -
Dreiske, Mike	1976IL	2003MT		BMCR	2002-
Eder, Loren	1962MT	2003MT	2005MT	Broadview Columbus	2003 - 06 2006-
Edwards, Brandon		2007MT		Worship & Arts	2005
Elley, Jeramy		2008MT		BMCR	
Engel, Cory		1975MT	2000MT	HSCC GF	2000 -
Engel, Dwight	1944CO	1987IA	1992MT	Harlem Skyline GF HSCC GF	1990 - 94 1994-01 2002-
Erbele, J. Dale	1943ND	1964ND	1972MT	Lockwood Missoula Conf Supt.	1970 - 75 1974-2000 2000-2009
Erickson, Mark	1970MN	1993MN	2001MN	BIL Faith	2010
Forseth, Jay	1966CO	2001MT	2002MT	Columbus	2003 -
Fournier, Glenn			2011MT	Melstone BIL Living Wtr MT Rescue Mission	2010-2012 2012-
Gammill, Mike	1976MT	1999ND	2005MT	BIL Hope Other	1997 - 2000 2000-
Garrison, Mitch	1978MN	2003MT			
Gonzales, Benjamin	1948MT	2008MT	2009MT	BIL Hope	2008-2012
Griffin, Brad				Wheatland	2013
Griffin, Rod	1955SD		2007MT	BIL Faith	
Hamilton, Steve	1955CA	2002MT	2005MT	BIL Faith	1996 -
Hansen, Paul	1978MT	2001MT	2012MT	BIL Faith HSCC GF	2000 -2010 2011-
Hanson, Ronald	1966WY	2003MT	2006MT	BIL Lockwood	2005 - 2008
Hardesty, Donald	1950WA		2005MT	Rudyard Crystal Springs	2005-2008 2008-
Harriman, David	1974ID	KS	1998MT	Crystal Springs Harriman Min.	1991-2001 2001-
Hart, Butch	1958IN		2008MT	Circle	2008-2012
Helsby, Gery	1947VA	1979ND	2005MT	Melstone Broadview	2005 -2010 2010

NAME	BIRTH	LC/CM	ELDER	STATIONED	YEAR
Hopkins, Brian	1974MT	2000MT	2010MT	BIL Faith BIL Harvest Bozeman	1998 - 2002 2002-05 2005-
Huschka, Adam	1978	2003MT	2010MT	BIL Harvest Helena	2003 -2009 2009-
Hutchins, Greg	1957CA			Bitteroot YWAM	1999-2002 2002-
Inion, Bruce			2011MT	Glendive	2011-
Johnson, Marc	1953WY	1989OK	2005MT	BIL Faith BIL Hope	1992 -97 2000-
Johnson, Rob				BIL Faith	
Lee, Joe	1940NM	1978IL	1969NM	Gallup, NM	1978 -
Long, Derry			2006MT	Conf. Supr. Bozeman	2005-
Loyd, Don			2009MT	Bozeman	2009
Luhmann, John	1971ND	1997MT	2000MT	Bismarck Missoula	1999 -2005 2005-
Lundberg, Arlen	1957ND		1981ND	Beach	1996 - 2002
Maatta, John	1937MN	1975OR	1979ND	Rapelje Rudyard Retired	1976 - 79 1990-94 2002
Mahon, Michael		2011MT		Bozeman	2011
Maness, Jeff	1974OK	1998OK	2005MT	Gillette Cheyenne	2004 -
Maness, Gary			2009 MT	Gillette	
Marble, Kristen		2012MT		The Bridge/Glndve	2012
Massar, Clay		2010MT	2012MT	Rudyard	2011-
McMurrey, Charlie	1968TX		2005MT	AWARE BIL Harvest BIL Faith	2005-06 2006-08 2008-09
Morgan, Dan	1949IN	1974OR		Gillette	2004 -
Moutria, Joe				Langdon	2011-
Nelson, Fred	1952MT	2003MT		Pastoral Care	2003 -
Nymeyer, Brent	1957WA	2001MT	2002MT	BIL Lockwood Rapelje	2000-02 2002-
O'Connor, Jim		2004MT	2010MT	Glendive	2004 -
Olson, Adrian	1950ND	1999ND	2002MT	Rural Min.	1999 -
Otteson, J. Leslie	1926ND		1953IN	Crystal Springs Absarokee	1973-80 1980-92
Petersen, George	1930WA	1954WA	1957WA	BIL Faith BIL Hope Retired Reed Point	1971-88 1988-93 1993-99 1999-2003
Powell, Tyler		2011MT	2012MT	Bozeman	2011
Prichard, Jay	1941IA	1967CO	2002MT	Navigatores	1967 -
Rodda, Fred	1957PA	2004MT	2006MT	BIL Living Wtr	2004-
Runner, Jack	1952CO	2003MT	2006MT	BIL Lockwood Fallon	2003-05 2005-
Runner, Seth	1981	2004MT		Glasgow	2004-
Schaeffer, Clayton	1943ND	1964ND	1978MT	Crystal Springs Fallon Bismark Local Elder Crystal Springs	1968-73 1973-78 1984-85 1997 2002-04
Schieldt, Marvin	1959CO	1995MT	1999ND	BMCR	1994-2011
Schmierer, Alvin	1927SD	1972SD	1982MT	Roscoe/Tolstoy Retired	1982-2002 2002
Schock, Kenneth	1949ND	1982ND	1986ND	Jamestown BIL Lockwood Chaplaincy	1991-95 1995-2005 2005-
Shannon, Travis			2011MT	Gillette	2011

Smith, Jeff	1971OR	2004MT	2005MT	Crystal Sprngs	2004-
NAME	BIRTH	LC/CM	ELDER	STATIONED	YEAR
Solheim, Allen	1944ND	1966MT	1974MT	Crystal Sprngs Jamestown Canada B. Moore Min Glendive ABC/Absarokee Retired	1973 1973-78 1978-88 1988-95 1995-00 2000-2011 2011
Stablein, Michael		2004MT		Harlem	2003-05
Stambaugh, Michael			2009MT	Big Timber	2009
Stastny, Kerry	1962ND		1990ND	Bismarck Shiloh Chrst Ac.	1966+ 1997-99
Streeter, Vernon	1966MT	1993MT	2002MT	BIL Faith BIL Harvest	1990-00 2002-
Strutz, Robert	1928ND	1945MT	1953OR	Broadview Glasgow Pastor/Supt. Conf Supt. Melstone OMS Dir MT/ND Retired	1953-57 1957-69 1968-70 1970-78 1982-85 1995- 2001
Strutz, Roland	1933ND	1953MT	1960MT	Bozeman Broadview Great Falls Bismarck Columbus Retired	1955-56 1960-68 1968-86 1986-97 1997-2003
Strutz, Stephen	1954MT	1979ND	1980MT	BIL Faith Conf Supt	1979- 2009-
Summers, Sam	1950OR	1978OR	1980OR	BIL Faith Bozeman	1983-2008 2008-
Swift, Kent	1920ND	1957MT	1956 MT	Broadview Beach Glendive Hawthorne BIL Faith Retired	1947-53 1956-59 1959-1970 1970-1978 1978-97 1997
Taber, Robert	1928WI	1949IA	1953IA	Evangelist	1949-
Townley, Chris				Bozeman	
Troyer, Barry				Absarokee	2011-2012
Twigg, Keith		2011MT		Harvest:Cody	2011-
Wedel, Terri		2011MT		Glasgow	2011-
Weidlich, Tim	1961NC	1985		BIL Harvest	2005-
Wickman, Ryan	1957OR	2000MT	2001MT	Plentywood	1999-05
Wooton, Robert	1938ND	1989ND	1989MT	Fallon Great Falls Harlem Retired	1988-1991 1991-92 1994-01 2001
Workman, Rob	1947	Panama		BIL Hope YBC	2005-07 2007-
Youngs, Erin	1971IL	2000ND	2003ND	Gillette Jrny Counseling	2005-2012 2012-

TRUSTEES

Paul Anderson 291 W. Echeta Rd Gillette, WY 82716 Email: pandfam@hotmail.com	Home:	307.660.4654
Robert Conover (Ann) PO Box 1862 Red Lodge, MT 59068 Email: sheepdog@sidtheduck.com	Office: Cell: Home:	406.326.2263 406.780.1100 406.446.9871
Leonard Dailey 1202 Yale Avenue Billings, MT 59102 Email: eirealap@qwestoffice.net	Fax: Cell: Home:	406.254.0875 406.860.8568 406.256.9763
Jay Forseth 417 W 5th Avenue N Columbus, MT 59019 Email: jay@forseth.org	Office: Cell: Home:	406.322.5804 406.321.4087 406.322.8462
Don Smith HCR1, Box 47 Osnabrock, ND 58269 Email: dmsmith@utma.com	Cell: Home:	701.370.1780 701.256.5933
Richard Wiens 741 3rd Ave South Glasgow, MT 59230 Email: richard@chmspc.com	Office: Cell: Home:	406.228.9391 406.390.4687 406.228.4272

WIDOWS

Kienitz, Bethel 3140 Sweetwater Drive, #202 Billings, MT 59102 Email: dbkienitz@gmail.com	Home:	406.652.8502
Speakman, Lavonne 16902 Lake Tree Drive Yorba Linda, CA 92886		

REGIONAL OVERSEERS

BILLINGS

Johnson, Marc (Denice)
4380 Ridgewood Lane S
Billings, MT 59106

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Home: 406.652.4332

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NORTHWEST

Long, Derry (Marlyce)
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STILLWATER

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Rapelje MT 59067

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Cell: 406.371.1151
Home: 406.663.2264

Email: brentnymeyer@yahoo.com

WYOMING

Morgan, Dan (Liz)
500 Clarion
Gillette WY 82718

Office: 307.685.0044
Cell: 307.299.1677
Home: 307.685.4424

Email: pastordan@hpcchurch.com

LAY MEMBERS *(To Annual Conference)*

Absarokee	Stacey Vorhes Jr	1193 A Nye Rd, Fishtail, MT 59028
Beach	Mark Bosserman	125 4th Ave SW, Beach, ND 58621
Big Timber	None	
Billings Faith	None	
Billlings Harvest	None	
Billings Hope	None	
Billings Living Water	Todd Hunt	1127 Dorothy Lane, Billings, MT 59105
Bozeman	Shana Powell	1794 Baxter Lane East, Bozeman, MT 59718
	Bob Schwann	1794 Baxter Lane East, Bozeman, MT 59718
Broadview	Glenn Beckett	15632 Oswald Road, Broadview, MT 59015
Cheyenne	None	
Circle	Pauline Gaeckle	PO Box 513, Circle, MT 59215
Columbus	None	
Crystal Springs	Rick Mittleider	4190 40th Ave SE, Tappan, ND 58487
Fallon	Jason Higgins	PO Box 462, Terry, MT 59349
Gillette	none	
Glasgow	Doyle Euell	1003 4th Ave N, Glasgow, MT 59230
Glendive	None	
Great Falls	None	
Harlem	None	
Langdon	None	
Melstone	None	
Missoula	None	
Narrate	None	
Rapelje	Marlin Rhoades	PO Box 81, Rapelje, MT 59067
Reed Point	Bryan Hahn	28 Yellowstone Stage Tr, Reed Point, MT 59069
Rudyard	Delbert Anderson	PO Box 16, Joplin, MT 59531
Sheridan	None	

CONFERENCE COUNCIL

Superintendent:	Stephen Strutz
Conf. Chairman:	Jay Forseth
Secretary:	Robert Canen
Historian:	Robert Strutz
Statistician:	(Under Supr.)

TRUSTEES

Stephen Strutz, Director
Leonard Dailey, Chairman
Jay Forseth, Secretary
Don Smith
Bob Conover
Richard Wiens
Paul Anderson

REGIONAL OVERSEERS

Billings	Marc Johnson
Eastern	Jay Ashbaucher
North Dakota	J. Dale Erbele
Northwest	Derry Long
Stillwater	Brent Nymeyer
Wyoming	Dan Morgan

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Camping	Mike Drieske
Christian Education	Steve Hamilton
Church Planting	Brian Hopkins
Church Health	Cory Engel
Outreach	George Burgin
Missions	Paul Hansen
Ministry	Sam Summers
Pastoral Health	Erin Youngs
Prayer Life	Rod Griffin
Stewardship Finance	Jack Runner
Student Ministry	Michael Stambaugh
Women's Ministry	Theo Gonzales

Chairman of Superintendent Relations Committee: Jay Forseth

CONFERENCE BOARDS & COMMITTEES

CABINET
Supt. Stephen Strutz, Jay Forseth - Conference Chairman, Robert Canen - Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES *(3-year term)*
Supt. Steve Strutz, Director; Leonard Dailey, Chairman (2013); Robert Conover (2015); Don Smith (2015); Jay Forseth (2014); Paul Anderson (2015); Richard Wiens (2015)

JUDICIAL COMMITTEE *(5-year term)*
Jay Ashbaucher (2017); Allen Solheim (2013); J. Dale Erbele (2014); Sam Summers (2015); Robert Conover (2016)

CAMPING, Board of *(4-year term)*
Mike Dreiske (2016), Jay Faul (2016), Josh Daniels (2016)

DISCIPLESHIP, Board of ***(formerly Christian Education)*** *(4-year term)*
Steve Hamilton, Director (2016); Kim Baker (2015), Chris Caldwell (2013); Dan Nefzger (2013); Marvin Schieldt (2015); Lori Methany (2016); Merideth Iler (2016)

CHURCH HEALTH, Board of *(4-year term)*
Cory Engel, Director (2016); Supt. Steve Strutz; Marc Johnson (2013); Erin Youngs (2013); Glenn Fournier (2013); Andy Seitz (2013); Bryan Baker (2013); Fred Rodda (2013); Robert Canen (2013); Loren Eder (2013)

CHURCH PLANTING, Board of *(4-year term)*
Brian Hopkins, Director (2015); Vern Streeter (2015); Jeff Maness (2016); Don Smith (2015); Adam Huschka (2015); Crull Chambless (2016); Keith Twigg (2016)

MINISTRY, Board of *(4-year term)*
Allen Solheim, Director (2016); Supr. Steve Strutz; Sam Summers (2016); Jay Ashbaucher (2016); Dan Morgan (2016); Robert Canen (2016); Derry Long (2016); Brent Nymeyer (2016)

MISSIONS, Board of *(4-year term)*

Paul Hansen, Director (2016); Allen Solheim (2016); John Campbell (2016); David Collins (2016); Glenn Ewert (2016)

OUTREACH, Board of *(4-year term)*
George Burgin, Director (2015); Bryan Baker (2015); Andy Seitz (2016); Jim O'Connor (2016); Rob Johnson (2016); Don Roppel (2016); Julie Rodda (2016); Bryan Hahn (2016)

PASTORAL HEALTH, Board of *(4-year term)*
Erin Youngs, Director (2015); Benjamin Gonzales (2015); Scott Davies (2015); Dale Wolery (2015); Don Hardesty (2015); Marc Johnson (2015); Rod Griffin (2015)

PRAYER LIFE, Board of *(4-year term)*
Rod Griffin, Director (2016); Mark Carson (2016); Don Hardesty (2016); Robert Strutz (2015); Scott Anderson (2014), Clay Massar (2013); Doyle Euell (2013); Jude Fernandes (2013); Dwight Engel (2015)

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE, Board of *(4-year term)*
Jack Runner, Director (2015); Supr. Steve Strutz; Don Smith (2016); Jon Oakland (2015); Marvin Schieldt (2015); Stacey Vorhes (2016)

STUDENT MINISTRY, Board of *(4-year term)*
Michael Stambaugh, Director (2014); Seth Runner (2016); Roger Dayton (2016); Travis Shannon (2014); Josh Como (2014); Chris Townley (2014)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY, Board of *(4-year term)*
Theo Gonzales, Director (2015); Esther Schlichting (2015); Dawn Roppel (2015); Courtney Faul Luhman (2015); Dana Worthen (2015); Christy Vogel (2015)

CONFERENCE SUPERINTENDENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE *(4-year term)*
Jay Forseth, Chairman (2015); Supr. Steve Strutz; Dale Erbele (2015); Glenn Ewert (2015); Marc Johnson (2015); Dan Morgan (2015); Bill Howey (2016); Webb Mandeville (2015)

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Robert Strutz (2016)

COURT OF APPEALS

The Conference Cabinet

DENOMINATIONAL OFFICERS*

Discipline Commission:	Supt. Steve Strutz, Bryan Baker
Executive Council	Supt. Steve Strutz, Jay Forseth
Trustees	Richard Wiens
General Church Council	Supt. Steve Strutz, Jay Forseth Richard Wiens, Brian Hopkins
Board of Missions	Paul Hansen (Chairman of Brd of Missions)
Kingdom Resource Ministry	Jay Forseth, Richard Wiens
Harvest Ministries	Cory Engel (Chairman of Church Health) Brian Hopkins (Chairman of Church Planting)
Board of Ministry	Brent Nymeyer (for Allen Solheim, Chairman of Brd of Ministry)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE STANDING MINISTRIES

APPROPRIATIONS
The Conference Council of Administration

AUDIT
The Conference Council of Administration

CAMPING, MINISTRY of
board did not meet

CHURCH HEALTH, MINISTRY of
Cory Engel, Fred Rodda, Loren Eder, Marlin Rhoades, Bryan Baker, Dale Erbele, Tom Hougen, Joe Moutria

CHURCH PLANTING, MINISTRY of
Brian Hopkins, Steve Strutz, Vern Streeter, Jeff Maness, Don Smith, Adam Huschka, Crull Chambless, Brad Griffin,

DISCIPLESHIP, MINISTRY of *(formerly Christian Education)*
Steven Hamilton, Todd Hunt, Rachel Font, Robert Canen, Joe Windham, Mark Erickson, Jason Higgins, Dan Nefzger, Dave Robbins

MINISTRY, MINISTRY of
Sam Summers, Brent Nymeyer

MISSIONS, MINISTRY of
Paul Hansen, Bruce Moyer, Glenn Ewert, Dave Collins

OUTREACH, MINISTRY of
board did not meet

PASTORAL HEALTH, MINISTRY of
Marc Johnson, Scott Davies, Don Hardesty, Benjamin Gonzales, Werner Seibert

PRAYER, MINISTRY of
Rod Griffin, Clay Massar, Doyle Euell, Scott Anderson, Pauline Gaeckle, Delbert Anderson, Brian Hahn, Robert Strutz

STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE, MINISTRY of
Jack Runner, Jason Higgins

STUDENT MINISTRY, MINISTRY of

Michael Stambaugh, Seth Runner, Roger Dayton, Chris Townley, Travis Shannon, Seth Hirschkorn, Phil Wuerffel, Caleb Coder, Jeramy Elley

SUPERINTENDENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Jay Forseth, Steve Strutz, Marc Johnson Glenn Ewert, Dale Erbele

TRUSTEES

Leonard Dailey, Jay Forseth, Don Smith, Bob Conover

WOMENS MINISTRY, MINISTRY of

Theo Gonzales, Jan Hardesty, Christy Vogel

TELLERS, MINISTRY of

Bryan Baker

CONFERENCE AUXILIARIES OFFICIARY

TREASURERS

Western Conference Ministries; Student Aid Offering; Special Gifts send to:

Western Conference Office
3145 Sweetwater Drive
Billings, MT 59102
Email: conference@faithe.org
Phone: 406.252.9547

Beartooth Mountain Christian Ranch
Andy Salava
130 Trinity Trail
Fishtail, MT 59028
Email: officemanager@bmcrministries.org

Mount Carmel Camp
Don Smith
HCR1, Box 47
Osnabrock, ND 58269
Email: dmsmith@utma.com

CONFERENCE POLICIES & PROCEDURES

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURES

1.1 The Conference Secretary shall call the roll at the opening of the first business session only. All succeeding roll calls will be by monitor.

1.2 Any Annual Conference member who wishes to speak shall be within the established voting area of the Conference.

1.3 All motions and resolutions shall be presented in writing when requested by the chairman or the secretary.

1.4 The Annual Conference shall instruct representation of various causes reporting to the Annual Conference Session to limit their presentations to ten (10) minutes. A display area for information is to be provided by the Annual Conference.

1.5 When not otherwise provided in the Discipline, Roberts Rules of Order Revised shall govern our deliberations.

CONFERENCE POLICIES

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

2.1 It shall be the duty of each minister in charge of a church or mission to properly fill out the statistical blanks as ordered by the Annual Conference and submit the same to the Conference statistician on or before February 1.

2.2 The Conference Superintendent is authorized to collect and distribute one month prior to the Annual Conference with sufficient copies for each church's conference participants the following information:

a. The complete minutes of the Council of Administration, including the report on nominations and the Conference budget;

b. A summarized report prepared by the secretaries of all boards, committees, and agencies of actions taken and proposals made by said bodies; and

c. Recommendations outlines of all executive officers of the Conference. Full reports of all agencies, boards, committees and persons shall be duplicated and made available for distribution at the time the reports are given to the conference. Materials and reasonable secretary costs, particularly for the pre-conference report book shall become a part of the conference expense.

2.3 The printed report of the Conference Superintendent shall include

a summary statement of important Conference-wide activities not otherwise reported (i.e. Pastors/Wives Retreat, Seminars, Special Emphases, etc.) and the total written report shall be limited to 3,000 words.

2.4 A report of the evening services of our Conference session shall be recorded by the secretary in the proper consecutive position in the minutes of the Conference Session.

2.5 The report of the Nomination Committee (Conference Council of Administration) shall be distributed to each member of the Conference by noon of the first day of the Conference, with opportunity for nominations from the floor until noon of the following day when nominations will be closed and the election held.

2.6 The Annual Conference shall elect a secretary by open ballot for each quadrennium.

2.7 Churches wishing to host an Annual Conference Session shall submit their requests to the Conference Council. Every other year the Annual Conference of the Western Conference will be held in Billings.

2.8 All Committee minutes shall be in proper legible form with all corrections inserted in place before being given to the Conference Administrative Assistant. This responsibility is that of the Committee secretaries.

2.9 All licensed pastors who are not ordained and who are serving Conference Churches shall be granted the rights and privileges of a member of the Annual Conference; and shall be granted the right to sit within the designated bar of the Annual Conference.

2.10 The Conference guest speaker, the General Superintendent, the Conference Superintendent and his wife, the Conference Lay Trustees, the Conference Lay Leaders and Office Manager shall have their mileage, meals, lodging and registration provided by the Annual Conference, to be paid from the Annual Conference Budget. Conference secretarial staff will be paid an honorarium and their Conference registration. The Conference guest speaker(s) shall be paid an honorarium per session plus travel expenses, lodging and meals, as determined by the Conference Cabinet. If additional Annual Conference secretarial staff is needed, compensation will be set and granted by the Western Conference Administrative Assistant in consultation with the Superintendent.

2.11 Any missionaries or Para-church representatives who attend

Annual Conference shall have their meals, but not travel and lodging paid from the Annual Conference budget unless specifically invited by the Conference Superintendent.

STEWARDSHIP OF FINANCE

3.1 Local Churches a starting point for tithes and offerings:

a. Based upon the 10% Biblical concept of storehouse tithing (see Malachi 3:8 12 and Numbers 18:25-¬26 and 28).

b. Churches are asked to give a percentage of their income in support of our conference vision, ministries and leadership. 10% is the goal. Churches are encouraged to fast and prayerfully consider the amount of their annual giving to the Western Conference that will be joyfully shared, while at the same time the conference will extend wise grace in understanding that the local church may also be involved in global ministries, church planting and expanding building projects.

c. The Conference will be committed to maintaining a budget within the limits of the income given from the local churches. Communication will flow both ways in understanding the heart of both the local church and the Conference so that the budget may be finalized at Annual Conference each year.

d. The gift from the local church will be sent in monthly, by the 10th day of the next month (i.e., January's tithe would be sent in to the Conference Office by February 10).

e. In addition, local churches are asked voluntarily once a year to conduct a special offering for our denomination, separate from the tithe, titled "World Harvest Offering" that supports various needs of our denominational ministries.

3.2 All monies from each local congregation are to be sent to the Conference Treasurer by January 10 and the Conference Treasurer will close the books on January 20.

3.3 Allowances will be made for travel and meals in connection with the official attendances of:

a. Ministers serving within the Western Conference at the Annual Conference, the Pastors/Wives Retreat, and one camp session, (All three of the above items are to taken care of by the local church. See Item 4.11)

b. The local church is responsible for the payment of pulpit supply, when the pastor is on vacation or attending one seminar for the enrichment of his ministry. (See Item 4.6, 12).

c. All lay members of the Boards of the Western Conference should be reimbursed at the Federal Reimbursement level

when such boards are called to meet. It is expected that diligent efforts will be made to keep costs of travel and meals to a minimum. Because of the additional time required in trips over 500 miles one way, and potential of additional lodging required, this lodging will be paid for in addition to transportation and food. We recommend home lodging which will be available by the church hosting the board or committee meetings. With regard to unusual circumstances, motel expenses will only be paid by the Conference with unanimous approval by the Conference Executive Committee consisting of the Conference Superintendent, the Conference Chairman and the Conference Secretary.

3.4 The cost of the Conference Journal shall be paid from the Conference treasury.

3.5 The host church for Spring Boards shall be reimbursed for expenses and sent a letter of appreciation.

3.6 The Conference books are to be audited annually.

3.7 Boards responsible for the Conference Budget shall be as follows:

Item I. Conference Property: Board of Trustees
Item II. Office Expense: Board of Trustees
Item III. Superintendent: Conference Superintendent Relations
Item IV. Transportation: Conference Superintendent Relations
Item V. Conference Expense: Board of Trustees
Item VI. Conference Office Personnel: Conference Supr. Relations
Item VII. Denomination: Board of Stewardship & Finance
Item XII. Miscellaneous: Board of Stewardship & Finance
All other items: Conference Council

3.8 Tithing for New Churches:

Established Churches Joining or Restart Churches of our Conference – 5 year plan

1st Year	0% of Tithe
2nd Year	25%
3rd Year	50%
4th Year	75%
5th Year	100%

Church Plant – 6 year plan

1-2 Years	0% of Tithe

3rh Year	25%
4th Year	50%
5th Year	75%
6th Year	100%

CHURCH PLANT: A church that begins with 10 giving units or more. The time clock would be started with the 1st Annual Conference after the Church is organized. The organized clause will be defined by the Discipline Paragraph 702. The Board of Stewardship and Finance will be responsible for the giving process.

3.9 When Western Conference tithing revenues exceed the budget and result in a positive balance, the Conference will tithe on the Positive Cash Flow balance each year to the Denomination. The remaining balance will be distributed by the Conference Superintendent, The Conference Chairman, the Director of Stewardship and Finance and the Chairman of the conference Board of Trustees. Though the decisions can be made as to where excess funds are to be given, the actual disbursement of funds may only be done after Spring Boards meetings.

a. All previous "Carryover Account" line items will no longer have a "Carryover" status for unspent budget line items to be carried forward to the next year and held in a special savings account. In 2010 and forward, "unspent" budget will remain in the General Fund.

b. In any conference budget year, any amount not spent in: Board of Ministry, Ministerial Training School, Pastoral Care, Board of Church Extension, and Western Conference Church Plants be transferred to a WIF Account and put under the management of the Conference Trustees.

3.10 Church Lending/Conference Grants Criteria from the Western Conference

1. Loan amount should not be more than 2 times the church's income.
2. Debt service should not be more than 1/4 of the church's income.
3. Western Conference Trustees will consider applications for loans or grants.
4. Western Conference Trustees will review church's income including tithes/offerings, building fund collections, pledges made, pledges received (donations restricted for other purposes excluded) to ensure the income stream is ongoing and predictable.
5. Western Conference Trustees will evaluate the church's cash flow to determine financial solubility.

3.11 Requirements/Recommendations for Church Due Diligence

Requirements:

1. Articles of Incorporation (church charter) as filed with the state
2. Bylaws which describe: the Governing Law, IRC Rules, Office location, Membership, meeting(s) description, Governance structure, Committee structure, Description of church's officers and personnel, Indemnification clause, Processing checks/ loans/ deposits, Record keeping requirements, Dispute resolution process
3. Copies of the deed of the church property
4. Insurance coverage: property, professional liability, directors and officers liability
5. Clearly defined financial process/procedures and internal controls (monthly year to date financial reports) and an annual review or audit of financials by an outside firm
6. Copies of tax records – payroll tax forms, housing allowance designations, any records that are filed with the federal, state or local government
7. Accurate financial record keeping system for all donors
8. Accurate minutes of all board and committee meetings
9. Secure fire proof filing system for financial, legal, insurance, and employee documents
10. Background check system for all employees/volunteers(many insurance companies require)

Recommendations:

1. Clearly defined organizational structure for the church (e.g. a description of the requirements, duties/responsibilities of the governing board(s) of the church
2. List of members/attendees – periodic review of members/attendees list
3. An organizational chart illustrating lines of supervision/authority in the church and its relationship to the conference superintendent
4. Personnel policies/procedures manual
5. Position descriptions (job descriptions) for all employees and volunteers
6. Clearly defined employment procedures: application form, statement of belief sign off form
7. Personnel performance evaluation system – annual evaluations for all employees
8. A fire proof safe/repository for tithes/offerings

APPLICATION FOR CHURCH/MINISTRY MULTIPLICATION

Our vision for the Western Conference is for all churches and Pastors to be healthy, life-giving, *multiplying* and prevailing. To help churches fulfill their mission of being "multiplying," the Board of Church Planting is offering grants to Evangelical Churches in rural communities (towns under 5,000 in population) who desire to "multiply" a ministry into a neighboring community. If the above is a vision/desire of your Church, please fill out the following application. The enclosed application is for the purpose of accessing funds to fulfill your "multiplying" mission.

Name of Church:

Name of Pastor(s):

Contact person:
Phone #
E-mail:

Describe the "multiplying" ministry you're planning for a neighboring community:

When would you like this ministry to be started?

Dollar amount requested:

When do you need that amount?

Where should the $$ be sent?

Who/what should the check be made out to?

How will these funds be used?

Please mail to [*The Western Conference--3145 Sweetwater Dr.--Billings, MT 59102*]

How will you know if this ministry is fruitful and sustainable?

What is your local Church's investment in this ministry endeavor?

Tell us about your prayer plan for this new ministry:

Any other pertinent information that you would like us to know that would help us in processing this grant request?

MINISTRY

4.1 Students in seminary shall, during the time of their seminary education, be expected to attend at least one session of the Annual Conference. Each student shall be reimbursed for travel expense from the Student Aid Fund according to Federal Reimbursement rate. Registration expenses for the seminary students attending Annual Conference shall be paid from the Annual Conference Budget.

4.2 Ministers of other denominations who take work in the Western Conference must furnish written statements concerning their moral and financial integrity, said statements to be evaluated by the Conference Superintendent. A 1 (one) year probationary period must be served before such ministers are considered by the Board of Ministry for membership in the Western Conference.

4.3 A minister may make a claim for a salary deficit only before leaving the field of service.

4.4 In the event of the death of any minister, minister's wife, or minister's child, or minister's father or mother, or minister's wife's father or mother, the Conference Office Manager shall be notified immediately, and he or she, in turn, shall notify all ministers of the Conference as to time and place of the funeral. A suitable memorial shall be ordered by the Conference office manager and shall be paid from the Conference funds.

4.5 Each active pastor, unless excused for emergency reasons by the Conference Superintendent, shall be required to attend the following meetings: The Annual Conference Sessions, Pastors/Wives Retreat, Prayer Summit, and one Conference Camp. We ask that the local churches resource their pastor(s) to the aforementioned Conference activities.

4.6 All pastors of the Western Conference may be granted vacation time according to total accumulative pastoral service (including service as Conference Superintendent): One (1) through four (4) years of service two (2) Sundays vacation; five (5) through eleven (11) years of service three (3) Sundays vacation; and twelve (12) years and beyond four (4) Sundays vacation. The local church is to be responsible for the payment of pulpit supply.

a. Sick leave policy in cases where a pastor is unable to be serving the church due to a prolonged or disabling illness or injury: The local church of which the ill or injured pastor serves shall pay the pastor's salary for sick leave time accumulated over the total years of pastoral service in our Evangelical Denomination as follows: Sick leave time shall accrue at the rate of two weeks per year of service until a cap of three months is reached. Examples: A pastor

who has served two years will have one month of sick leave accumulated. A pastor who has served six years will have three months of sick leave accumulated. Each local church should understand this as a minimum guideline.

4.7 a. Before any pastor may accept regular gainful employment in other than his ministerial responsibilities, or engage in the pursuit of additional scholastic training, he must obtain permission from the Conference Superintendent and the local Church Council.

b. Each church of the Western Conference shall be required to provide a pension plan for their pastor(s) that meets the guidelines set by the IRS. The church shall pay at least 12% of all pastor(s) cash salary with a minimum of $1200 annually for a full time pastor regardless of the amount of cash salary to this pension plan.

c. Each church of the Western Conference shall be recommended to provide health insurance/life insurance for the pastor(s) with the following minimum requirements: (per discipline paragraph 943)

1. No more than a $1,000 deductible per family member OR
2. No more than $2,500 out of pocket expenses for each family member
3. No less than $25,000 life insurance is encouraged as well

4.8 Meals, lodging, and mileage shall be provided for all retired ministers of the Conference and their wives or widows who reside within the Conference boundaries at Annual Conference, Pastors/Wives Retreat, and camp. It is expected that diligent efforts will be made to keep the cost of traveling to a minimum.

4.9 Retiring ministers or a minister's widow who has been widowed while in active service with her husband shall be assisted with moving expenses to any point within the bounds of the Conference or to the Conference boundary.

4.10 The Conference Superintendent and his family shall have their camp fees absorbed by the camp they attend. The Conference Superintendent and his family shall have the costs of attending the Pastors/Wives Retreat paid out of the Conference expense budget. The Conference Superintendent and his family shall have the costs to attend the General Convention of our denomination paid out of the Conference expense budget.

4.11 The pastor may have at least one (1) Sunday per calendar year to

attend a seminar for the enrichment of his ministry; and one (1) Sunday per calendar year for ministry away from his own church. The local church is to be responsible for the pulpit supply.

a. The Conference Personnel may be granted vacation time according to total accumulative pastoral service (including service as Conference Superintendent): One (1) through four (4) years of service: two (2) weeks of vacation; five (5) through eleven (11) years of service: three (3) weeks of vacation; and twelve (12) years and beyond: four (4) weeks of vacation. The Conference Superintendent may have one week to attend a seminar for the enrichment of his ministry.

4.12 The Annual Conference shall license and commission Special Ministries personnel when needed. This will include Directors of Christian Education, Ministers of Music, Youth Ministers, Counselors, Interim Pastors, etc., who are not ordained elders. Requirements for a commissioning shall be the same as that of a Probationer. Training and experience leading to a formal "commissioning" will be determined by the Conference Board of Ministry. The equivalent of one year's service in their respective area of ministry and 3/4 majority vote of all ordained elders will be required before commissioning. These persons shall be responsible to the Conference Superintendent, Board of Ministry and the local church where they are serving. If they have completed seminary training or a comparable Conference Course of Study, they will be eligible to vote and hold office in the Annual Conference. Regular reports shall be made to the Conference Superintendent. If they are serving in a local church, their employment shall cease when the senior pastor leaves the field of service. They may continue temporarily and may be reassigned in consultation with the new senior pastor, Pastor/Parish Relations Committee and Conference Superintendent.

4.13 The local church (represented by whatever body they choose - Pastor/Parish Relations Committee, Council of Administration, local church elders or lay leaders, congregational vote, etc.) shall affirm any pastoral assignment made by the Conference Superintendent before such an assignment can become effective. A local church may be actively involved in the selection of a pastor. When a local church desires any change of pastor, or is seeking a pastor to fill a vacancy, the Conference Superintendent shall be the first one contacted. Any assignment shall not become effective until affirmed by the Superintendent.

In effect, it is being stated that any assignment of a minister to a local congregation must have the concurrence of all three parties involved: Superintendent, minister, and local church. Concurrence means "agreement, to be in one accord, acting together to bring something about." (Refer to the 2010

Discipline, paragraph 502 (1) b)

4.14 Each itinerant elder currently serving a Western Conference church, by accepting their assignment at Annual Conference is declaring their agreement with the "Declaration of Faith" Article IV of The Discipline of the Evangelical Church. This statement along with their names will be included as a page in the Conference Journal.

GENERAL

5.1 Included in each Conference Journal shall be a listing of the following:

a. The Ministerial Assignments for the Annual Conference.
b. Contact information for the following:
   i. Western Conference Churches
   ii. Western Conference Ministers (including their Records)
   iii. Western Conference Lay members
   iv. Missionaries of the Western Conference
   v. Affiliated organizations of the Western Conference
c. The Officer of the Conference, and the members of the Boards and Committees of the Conference.
d. The Officiary of the Conference Lay organizations, and Constitution of Conference organizations.
e. Conference Calendar, Conference Daily proceedings: Board & Committee reports, etc.

5.2 Each local church shall keep an official membership roll.

5.3 There shall be a Conference Superintendent Relations Committee composed of eight (8) persons: The Conference Chairman, a lay person from North Dakota, a lay person from Montana, and a lay person from Wyoming, a Regional Overseer from North Dakota, a Regional Overseer from Montana, and a Regional Overseer from Wyoming. All shall serve for the quadrennial. This Committee shall meet at least annually, with or without the superintendent's knowledge. The Conference Chairman shall serve as chairman and they shall elect their own secretary. The duties of this committee shall be to offer recommendations to the Conference Superintendent so as to make his supervision of the Conference more effective; and to the Council of Administration relative to the salary, travel expense, housing, and general welfare of the Conference Superintendent. The pension for the Conference Superintendent is figured on 12% of the stated cash salary.

5.4 The Conference shall elect each quadrennium a chairman nominated by the Conference Superintendent for the Annual Conference with the same

qualifications as the Superintendent. The Conference Chairman shall be a member of the Conference Cabinet, Conference Superintendent's Relations Committee, and shall preside as chairman and parliamentarian of the Annual Session and Conference Council of Administration. He shall also be a special counselor to the Superintendent.

5.5 The Conference Cabinet, as an advisory council to the Conference Superintendent, shall consist of the Superintendent, the Conference Chairman, and the Conference Secretary.

5.6 The Conference Trustees shall be members of the Council of Administration, and shall become voting members of Annual Conference.

5.7 The Conference Superintendent, by virtue of his office as Conference Superintendent, will be a voting member of the Board of Trustees.

SUPERINTENDENT

6.1 The Conference Superintendent shall be acquainted with the heart beat of each church (the vision, the needs, the budget, etc.) through regular communication.

6.2 The Conference Superintendent shall be editor in chief of the Conference news.

6.3 The Conference Superintendent shall be a pastor and caretaker to each pastor and his family.

6.4 The Conference Superintendent shall assess each pastor's skills and gifts; emphasizing the areas of Preaching, Communications, People Relationships, Visitation and Administration.

6.5 The Conference Superintendent shall give priority to helping pastors in areas where they need help and improvement.

6.6 The Conference Superintendent may develop pastoral teams for mentoring and accountability in order to promote improvement in leadership and people skills. He may also work through the Pastor Parish Relations Committee in the support of their pastor.

6.7 The Conference Superintendent shall work with the Conference Superintendent's Relations Committee and the Conference Office Manager to continually evaluate the ministry and ministry description of the Conference Office Manager.

6.8 The Superintendent Down payment Assistant Loan Fund shall be maintained only as a means for a Conference Superintendent to borrow from, for a down payment on a house. The amount in this fund is to be $60,000 with the Superintendent allowed to borrow up to $50,000. The remaining $10,000 along with pay back will be available for a new Superintendent to use until the old Superintendent completes payment of the loan. If the Superintendent is not using these funds during his term, the money will be available to be loaned out for a short time with the stipulation of immediate pay back if the Superintendent needs it. The payback of this loan will be done with a balloon payment at the end of a Superintendent term that can be refinanced. This is done to keep the payback payment more reasonable.

6.9 The Conference Superintendent term of office shall be four (4) year terms with no limitations on the terms of office (Discipline 26)

CHURCH HEALTH

7.1 We continue to see the value and vital importance of strategically assessing, training and coaching the leaders God sends us. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we intentionally provide each leader God sends us with the gift of a qualified assessment, specialized training that fits their ministry call and coaching that allows them to find their best place to "fit and flourish" in ministry.

TRUSTEES

8.1 When a Church has been placed in a restart mode, the assets (and title) of the Church are to be transferred into the receivership of the Trustees of the Western Conference. It is suggested that we keep a financial account open at a local bank with a designated treasurer and a local Church representative be appointed (until the transition time is completed with either a re-start, or final closure and liquidation). The Conference Superintendent and a Trustee are to be assigned to represent the Conference Trustees. The closure/restart process could follow the suggested model below:

a. Transfer of the title to the Western Conference and filing of proper legal paper work.
b. Inventory real and personal assets.
c. Transfer financial assets to Western Conference and appoint, a local representative if applicable.
d. Review insurance considerations and transfer policy to Western Conference.
e. Formulate a written rental agreement if necessary.
f. Inspect the property and take winterization into consideration.
g. All funds and property will be held in trust according to restart schedule.

REVISED PROPOSED POLICY REGARDING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT FOR CLERGY OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH (10-13-04)

1. We believe that pastors are called to a higher standard (see elder Scriptures, e.g. 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:6-9 and 1 Peter 5:14, See also James 3:1)
2. Rendering judgment is never easy but we are exhorted by Scripture to do so, especially when immoral behavior is involved. (I Corinthians 5:1-6,8)
3. Effort has been made to separate the consequences from the restoration process. This is under the belief that discipline in the biblical sense involves both aspects.
4. Always we are to be reminded that while rendering judgment we are to exercise forgiveness. (Ephesians 4:32l 11 Corinthians 2:5-11)
5. Immoral conduct among the clergy is not a new issue. However, there does appear to be a rise in the frequency and severity of the offenses or sins committed. This is due to several factors in our post-modern world: an increasingly permissive society which both condones and promotes these immoral behaviors; and emphasis on personal, immediate gratification; increased availability of porn-shops and pornography on the internet; the relative ease and privacy of viewing or participating in immoral activities; and "mosaic thinking," e.g. that what is done in the home has no relation to one's public ministry.
6. Even though some would make a distinction between violations dealing with those to whom the person in authority has a fiduciary responsibility (not just financial) and the general public, we affirm that the clergy's sexual misconduct, even outside the congregation, violates their God given responsibility to the congregation.
7. Even though some would argue that any involvement with pornography only hurts the individual, we affirm that such involvement victimizes the clergy's family and congregation.

   Definition: many behaviors contradict the moral code given in Scriptures. Most of these are already addressed in the Discipline. This policy is designed to address sexual misconduct. Sexual misconduct as defined here includes such things as adultery, pornography, molestation and homosexuality. Note some of these may be a criminal offense in which case there may be consequences, which will not permit restoration to pastoral ministry. In all the cases there is no guarantee of restoration. In all cases the procedures and consequences in III would be followed. The Discipline already addresses divorce and homosexuality Paragraphs 520.b.5; 539. The restoration policy is primarily intended for those who have been involved in other forms of sexual misconduct, which are not considered criminal offenses specifically not mentioned in the Discipline.

II. Rationale

A. Scripture: Matthew 18; Luke 17:14; Galations 6:1; 1 Timothy 3:1-7; Titus1:6-9; James 4:17; 1 Peter 5:1-4
B. The Discipline of the Evangelical Church: Paragraphs 591, 646, 663, 664, 686
C. Discipline must be administered to glorify God, address the issue, protect the flock, and encourage repentance and restoration.

III. Discipline upon first offense
A. Procedure
1. The offense is dealt with at whatever level the information has been disclosed. For instance, if the congregation is aware of the offense it should be dealt with at the congregational level. If the offense is known only at the Pastor-Parish level, then it should not go beyond that level. Once again criminal offense requires a broader but sensitive hand.
2. A non-repentant attitude on the part of the offender must be confronted and dealt with at the appropriate level.
B. Consequences
1. Immediate removal from the assignment/position of responsibility.
2. Loss of credentials: This is a reminder that credentials belong to the church ad are conferred upon the person to be held in trust.
3. Loss of future appointment

IV. Restoration Step 1 (minimum of 12 months) - to fellowship in the local church
A. Counseling: Release of information required so that the superintendent or his representative can be kept informed of counseling progress from the therapist. To avoid therapeutic alliance, the church/conference should provide the payment for the therapist. For the source of these funds see IV. D.
B. Accountability at least weekly, moving to twice a month with 3-4 persons approved by the superintendent and a local pastor designated as leader. This group will be called the Restoration Committee.
C. Peer Review by Board of Ministry (at least quarterly).
D. The person must get a productive job, not a stopgap job. A percentage of the funds would be payable to the conference to fund the restoration process.
E. Successful completion of all these steps could result in restoration to fellowship in the church.
V. Restoration Step 2 - Probationary Ministry Period (12 months)
A. This step is started only by the decision of the Superintendent after the following reports have been received:

1. A statement of release with recommendations from the counselor/ therapist
2. Supportive statements from the victims (including family and local church leadership) advocating the restoration of this person to ministry.
3. Favorable evaluation from the Restoration Committee:
4. Positive assessment form the Board of Ministry.

B. If assigned, there is a probationary period (minimum of 12 months), with monthly reports to the superintendent of his designee. Credentials are restored provisionally.

C. There will be a disclosure of offense to the Pastor Parish Relations Committee before stationing. This provides informed consent to the congregation representatives. If the person is stations elsewhere, it is assumed they have made good progress in their healing and unless mandated by lay, further disclosure is not required.

VI. Restoration Step 3 - Non Probationary Ministry

A. Successful completion of all of Step 2 by the individual may result in the Superintendent with the concurrence of the Board of Ministry presenting that person to the Elders at Annual Conference for reinstatement to credentials.

B. Upon a majority vote of the elders in the conference that person may be restored to active ministry

C. For the first year that individual in responsible to maintain on going accountability.

Note: Second offense results in no further credentials with the Evangelical Church .

Minutes of the
Forty-Fourth Annual Conference Session
of the
Western Conference of the Evangelical Church
Held at Harvest Church, Billings, Montana

Monday Afternoon, November 5, 2012

Welcome from Host Pastor - Pastor Vern Streeter welcomed all of us to the Forty-Fourth Annual Conference Session and the Harvest Worship Team led us in worship and prayer.

Opening of Conference Session - Conference Chairman Jay Forseth led us in a devotional and called the 2012 Annual Conference to order.

Introduction of New Participants to Annual Conference and Guests - Various guests and those who are first time attendees of Annual Conference were recognized throughout the conference session.

- Eric Foley, speaker
- Bruce Moyer, Director of EC Missions

It was M/S/C to give advisory status to guests.

Organizing the Conference Bar - It was M/S/C to assign the bar as all tables except for the outer three on the right and left.

Parliamentary Procedures - It was M/S/C to adopt Robert's Rules of Order and appoint Brent Nymeyer as parliamentarian and to adopt conference standing rules pages 9-21 in the binder. It was M/S/C to appoint Bryan Baker as the head teller.

Discussion of Boards/Committees - Those currently assigned to Boards will serve on that Committee at Annual Conference. If not assigned to a Board, then each individual has the freedom to attend their choice of Committee Meetings.

The nomination ballot for the boards/committees was presented and explanation was given. Nominations need to be turned in by 10am Tuesday.

Silent Roll was taken

Conference Business - It was M/S/C to refer all reports to their appropriate

committees at Annual Conference.

Adoption of the Agenda - The agenda was adopted and all Conference representatives were encouraged to participate in various ministry committees if they are not already assigned to one.

The Board of Ministry - The Board of Ministry report was presented. The ballot was also presented to the elders for voting on Tuesday. It was M/S/C to refer the ballot to the committee of elders.

The Examination of Ministers - Jay Forseth noted with praise that no ministers were brought up on charges this year.

Intro Session with Eric Foley who reported on God's work in North Korea

Ministry Committee/Board Meetings were held

Dinner Break

Monday Evening-November 5, 2012

Evening Worship - Journey Church led us in worship and we received a message from Stan Simmons.

Tuesday Morning-November 6, 2012

Worship and Prayer - Journey Church led us in worship and Vern Streeter shared thoughts on remaining in the vine.

Message: Stan Simmons gave a seminar on preaching.

Break

Conference Elders Meeting - The ballot from the Board of Ministry was distributed. The Elders met and considered the ballots. All candidates were approved. (See attached for results)

Elections to Boards and Ministries - It was M/S/C to cast a unanimous ballot for all those who have been nominated for all boards except for Board of Ministry. Those elected to the Board of Ministry are Marc Johnson and Dale Erbele. (See attached ballot)

Discipline Changes - In the spring we will be voting on the changes to

chapter 7 of the Discipline. Please refer to the section in the black binder for current reading and proposed changes.

All ministry reports this year were presented in question and answer format and all budget items, unless otherwise noted, were referred to Stewardship and Finance.

Ministry of Church Planting - Brian Hopkins presented the report for the Ministry of Church Planting.

Ministry of Church Health - Cory Engel presented the report for the ministry of Church Health.

Harvest Ministries - Dale Erbele presented a report on the Denominational work of Harvest Ministries.

Ministry of Pastoral Health - Benjamin Gonzales presented the report for the ministry of Pastoral Health.

Ministry of Missions - Paul Hansen presented the report for the ministry of Missions. Paul also presented the ministry of "Get Wet" which raises funds to drill wells in Africa with World Vision.

Evangelical Church Missions - Bruce Moyer presented the Evangelical Church Missions Denominational report.

Lunch - A meeting was held for rural pastors to discuss church planting.

Historian - Robert Strutz presented the Historian's report. The written report is found on page 87 of the black binder.

Ministry of Discipleship - Steve Hamilton presented the ministry of Discipleship report.

Ministry of Student Ministries - Michael Stambaugh presented the report for the ministry of Student Ministries.

BMCR - Jeremy Elley gave a report on BMCR.

Mt. Carmel Camp - Don Smith gave a report from Mt. Carmel Camp. Jay Forseth shared as he has been the speaker at Family Camp the last two years.

Arrowhead Bible College - Rachel Font presented a report on Arrowhead

Bible College.

Ministry of Prayer - Rod Griffin presented the Ministry of Prayer report.

Ministry of Women's Ministries - Theo Gonzales presented the Women's Ministries report.

Conference Policies and Procedures - Jay Forseth presented the Conference Policies and Procedures as revised by Jay and Steve. It was M/S/C to ratify 4.14 in the Conference Policies and Procedures.

Kingdom Resource Ministries - Jay Forseth gave a report for the Kingdom Resource Ministries of the Denomination. Jay presented a report on the World Harvest Offering.

Break

Message-Stan Simmons presented his journey and spoke on recovering from burnout.

Denominational Meetings - Cory Engel, Brent Nymeyer, Paul Hansen, Brian Hopkins and Bryan Baker gave a report on Denominational Meetings. Written reports can be found on pages 94-99 in the black binder.

Superintendent Relations Committee - Jay Forseth presented the Superintendent Relations Report. The Conference thanked Superintendent Steve Strutz for his service to the Conference. The Conference also thanked Karen Walton for her work as the Conference Office Secretary.

Conference Superintendent's Report - Steve Strutz presented his annual report.

Dinner

Tuesday Evening, November 6, 2012

Evening Worship & Ordination - Journey Church worship band led us in worship. One individual was licensed and three were ordained in the service and three were commissioned.

Wednesday Morning, November 7, 2012

Worship and Prayer - Journey Church led us in worship and we spent a time of prayer.

Ministry of Trustees - Bob Conover presented the Trustees report. $75,000 for the Wheatland church plant was approved. Money from next year's budget will be used to help fund the Butte church plant.

Ministry of Stewardship and Finance - Jack Runner presented the Stewardship and Finance report. The 2013 Budget was presented. It was M/S/C to adopt the 2013 Budget.

Interim Business Matters - It was M/S/C that all ad interim business be referred to the Conference Council.

General Superintendent's Report (pg. 91 of binder) - Superintendent Brian Eckhardt gave his report. He also presented the Discipline changes proposed in the binder. It was M/S/C to use a mail-in ballot after Spring Boards to decide on the changes to the Discipline.

Affixing Names to the Proceedings - It was M/S/C that we affix our names to the proceeding of this meeting.

Location of the 2013 Annual Conference - It was M/S/C to refer the location of 2013 Annual Conference to the Conference Council. The dates for conference will be November 4-6.

Secretary Robert Canen thanked the staff of Journey Church for their support throughout the 2012 Annual Conference. - Pastor Vern Streeter was thanked and encouraged to communicate our thanks to the church body.

Consecration to Fields of Service

Adjourned

COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION

Faith E Church, Billings, MT - March 6, 2012

Present: Dan Morgan, Brian Hopkins, Steve Hamilton, Don Hardesty, Jan Hardesty, Bob Strutz, Cory Engel, Dale Erbele, Brent Nymeyer, Jack Runner, Joe Moutria, Don Smith, Jay Ashbaucher, Bob Conover, Paul Hansen, Erin Youngs, Steve Strutz, Jay Forseth, Michael Stambaugh, Allen Solheim.

Jay Forseth gave an opening devotional from Mark 4 on the topic of Effectiveness in Ministry, and Paul Hansen opened in prayer.

Historian's Report was presented by Bob Strutz and it was M/S/C that it be received. Beach and Plentywood have been in existence for 100 years.

Mission's Report was presented by Paul Hansen and it was M/S/C that it be received. The need to fund the ECM home office was stressed by encouraging conference churches to give 1% of their annual budget to ECM.

Church Health Report was presented by Cory Engel and it was M/S/C that it be received. Living Water in Billings is currently pursuing other funding options that do not include being funded by the Board of Church Health. The Board has committed $6000 to Living Water for 2012 with the intent of Living Water pursuing other funding sources in the future.

Church Planting Report was presented by Brian Hopkins. The board did not meet so no minutes were presented. Brian did present some ideas on how we currently plant churches and how to plant churches in the future.

Outreach Report was not presented as the chairman of the board was not present.

Prayer Report was presented by Don Hardesty and it was M/S/C that it be received. The prayer summit was emphasized.

Christian Education Report was presented by Steve Hamilton and it was M/S/C that it be received. Michael Stambaugh mentioned the resource

by Walt Mueller called Center for Parent and Youth Understanding to help with the issue of technology and our youth. Their website is www.cpyu.org.

Women's Ministries Report was presented by Jan Hardesty and it was M/S/C that it be received.

Pastoral Health Report was presented by Erin Youngs and it was M/S/C that it be received.

Board of Ministry Report was presented by Allen Solheim and it was M/S/C that it be received. Allen gave a verbal report since a written report was not available.

Student Ministries Report was presented by Michael Stambaugh and it was M/S/C that it be received. It was stressed that each church is responsible for insurance coverage for the fun trailer. The conference does have insurance, but that insurance only covers the conference and not the local church.

Special Prayer Request: Glenn Ewert, from Langdon, ND, has been diagnosed with cancer.

Superintendent Relations Report was presented by Jay Forseth and it was M/S/C that it be received. Steve will be taking a sabbatical from June thru August.

Camping will make a report at annual conference

Stewardship and Finance Report was presented by Jack Runner and it was M/S/C that it be received. Initial estimates are for a 14% increase in conference spending for 2013.

Denominational Issues

- Spiritual and Moral Values-A revision to the spiritual and moral values section of the Discipline was presented and since the entire document failed because of certain sections, we will now vote section by section on the revisions. We were encouraged for those who were eligible for annual conference 2011 to vote on this document, paragraph by paragraph. It will be due by the end of May. Ballots will be sent to be

returned in May.

- Leadership Meeting in Colorado-Several pastors from across the denomination met to discuss what our purpose is and future plans for our denomination. Steve presented information from Superintendent Bryan Eckhardt.
- 2010 Statistical Analysis-Steve presented a report that shows the attendance and financial growth in our denomination.

Trustees Report was presented by Bob Conover and it was M/S/C that it be received. It was M/S/C to remove the $50,000 minimum requirement for the Knuth Fund (see Trustee minutes).

Annual Conference 2012: Harvest Church, Billings, MT will host conference from Nov 5-7.

Steve will work on putting together a creative thinking time to discuss the future of the Western Conference.

Steve and Jay Forseth have been working on our **Conference Policies and Procedures.** They presented the document and it was M/S/C to approve the document as revised. Steve and Jay will make any editorial changes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Canen
Conference Secretary

LOCAL CHURCH ELDER BOARD
(Lay Leader and Pastor Parish Committee)

Introduction: The structure as outlined in our Discipline concerning the lay leader(s) was so designed to give direction to a designated "class (lay)-leader". The lay leader was to fulfill the role of the pastor in the pastor's absence or to assist the pastor in his responsibilities.

The historical background has its setting in the ministry of the circuit riding small town/rural pastor. The originators of the Discipline could not conceive of the larger nor "mega" church structure. Therefore, the guidelines they provided for church polity are often very difficult to implement in our present situation. Today we must script a "new wineskin" for the paradigms we are facing, however, keeping with the intent of the "original" authors.

There are two areas in our current Discipline that deal with spiritual headship issues: Namely, paragraphs 730 – 736 (Lay Leader and Assistant Lay Leader) and paragraph 726 (Committee on Pastor-Parish Relations)

Our Discipline, in areas of polity, must always remain a somewhat fluid document changing where change is needed in order to enable and empower the church to be more effective. Hence, the need to address Biblical headship as it pertains to this concept of lay leaders/elder board.

I. NEW TESTAMENT ELDERS AND DEACONS: In the New Testament we find two groups which provide leadership for the church, and these two groups are known as elders (also referred to as overseers and pastors) and deacons.

That both were in existence in the churches can be seen in Philippians 1:1 "Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons," where overseers is synonymous with elders and in I Timothy 3 where Paul gives qualifications of an elder in verses 1 – 7, and then gives the qualifications for deacons in verses 8 – 13.

The elders provided spiritual oversight and direction for the ministry and teaching of the church, the deacons served in an administrative capacity, handling the financial and physical needs to equip the church's mission.
In our current church structure the function of the deacon is carried out by the trustees and other designated committees. However, the function of the elder is often officially and practically carried out through the position of the pastor alone. (Paragraph 725 states, "The Minister is the ranking officer of the local church and as such is the leader of its life and program".) So often, as "the ranking officer" he has very little authority to act except as given to him by the council.

The council is composed of designated officers from various ministry departments. They report to the council so every department can share in the common vision of the

church and offer mutual encouragement to one another.

The council in essence has become the spiritual headship of the entire church fulfilling the role of an elder even though they were not elected into office to carry out that function.

A headship provided by an elder board of godly men, of which the pastor is one of the elders, would be much more appropriate and effective. To leave the spiritual direction in the hands of one person (namely the pastor as presiding officer) is limited, narrow, and restrictive. It doe not utilize the different perspectives and insights of a team of elders. Leadership provided by a group of elders rather than a solo pastor would also provide more balance and accountability.

II. NEW TESTAMENT PATTERN: A PLURALITY OF ELDERS: There is a consistent pattern of plural elders as the main governing group in New Testament churches. In Acts 14:23 we read, "And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting, they committed them to the Lord in whom they believed." This is on Paul's first missionary journey, when he is returning through the cities of Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch. It indicates that Paul's normal procedure from the time of his first missionary journey was to establish a group of elders in each church shortly after the church began.

We know that Paul also established elders in the church at Ephesus, for we read, "From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church" (Acts 20:17).

Moreover, Paul's apostolic assistants apparently were instructed to carry out a similar process, for Paul wrote to Titus, "This is why I left you in Crete, that you might amend what was defective, and appoint elders in every town as I directed you" (Titus 1:5).

Shortly after a church has been established, once again we see elders being established in office, in "every town" in which there was a church. And Paul reminded Timothy of the time "when the elders laid their hands on you" (I Tim. 4:14).

James writes, "Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord" (James 5:14). In our current structure who would be called to anoint the sick…pastor, lay leader or technically the council? In James this is a significant statement because of the epistle of James is a general letter written to many churches, all the believers scattered abroad, whom James characterizes as "the twelve tribes in the Dispersion" (James 1:1). It indicates that James expected that there would be elders in every New Testament church to which his general epistle went…that is, in all the churches in existence at that time.

A similar conclusion can be drawn from I Peter. Peter writes, "So I exhort the elders among you…tend the flock of God that is your charge…" (I Peter 5:1 -2). First Peter is also a general epistle, written to dozens of churches scattered throughout four Roman

provinces in Asia Minor (I Peter 1:1, Bithynia and Pontus constituted on Roman province).

Far from expecting different kinds of church government when he was writing (around A.D. 62, more than thirty years after Pentecost), Peter assumes that all these churches, whether founded by Paul or by others, whether predominantly Gentile or predominantly Jewish or evenly divided in their make-up, would have elders leading them.

Moreover, there were elders in the Jerusalem church (Acts 11:30; 15:2), and though the word elders is not used, there is a plurality of leaders in the congregation to which the epistle to the Hebrew is directed, for the author says, "Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account" (Heb. 13:17).

Two significant conclusions may be drawn from this survey of the New Testament evidence:

- First, no passage suggests that any church, no matter how small, had only one elder. The consistent New Testament pattern is a plurality of elders "in every church" (Acts 14:23) and "in every town" (Titus 1:5)

- Second, we do not see a diversity of forms of government in the New Testament church, but a unified and consistent pattern in which every church had elders governing it and keeping watch over it (Acts 20:28; Heb. 13:17; I Peter 5:2-3).

III. THE FUNCTION OF AN ELDER BOARD: (See function/qualifications of Lay Leaders and PPR Committee Paragraphs 730 – 736 & 726-h)

The elders provide the overall spiritual headship and direction of the Church in fulfilling its vision and mission. Developing the visionary big picture and encouraging the body to function in their area of giftedness and basic God given "wiring".

They enlist others in developing strategies and structures in fulfilling the vision of the church through each ministry department of the local church.

Practically, the elder board would handle such matters as the teaching of the church, pastoral care, the direction for the worship service and other services of the church, follow-up, assimilation, church discipline, church membership, healing, and outreach.

A key function would be to make the church and its ministry relevant to the Culture.

It would also provide a better and more intentional system of guidance and accountability for the pastoral staff.

IV. QUALIFICATIONS FOR ELDERS: The Biblical qualifications for elders are presented most clearly in I Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-9, and further direction on this matter is given in I Peter 5:1-3.

I Timothy 3:1-7: Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church? He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into the disgrace and into the devil's trap.

Titus 1:5-9: The reason I left you in Crete was that you might straighten out what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. An elder must be blameless, the husband of but one wife, a man whose children believe and are not open to charge of being wild and disobedient. Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless- - not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it.

I Peter 5:1-3: To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers- - not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock.

1) Aspiration: I Timothy 3:1 – "If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer"

I Peter 5:2 – "not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be".

An elder should desire to serve as an elder and be willing to serve in such a capacity. It is the duty of elders to do their work with gladness and not under constraint. No man should feel that he is being forced to serve as an elder out of a sense of undesired obligation. No pressure should be used that would result in unwilling, half-hearted service.

2) Effective Management of Family: I Timothy 3:4-5, "He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with respect. If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?
Titus 1:6 "A man whose children believe and are not open to the charge of being wild

and disobedient."

The home is the proving ground for ministry. A family household is a "little church" over which the husband and father is the spiritual head. Therefore, if a man is ineffective in shepherding his family, he should not be placed in the position of shepherding the extended family of the church. This is also consistent with the words of Jesus in Matt 25: "You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things." Effectiveness in private leadership should always proceed opportunities for public leadership.
An elder candidate should have well-disciplined children. This does not mean perfect, but it does mean that they should not blatantly and regularly disregard the instructions of their parents. He should be a loving and responsible spiritual leader in the home. The faith and character of his wife and children should reveal the fruit of his godly headship.

This qualification does not require that a man be married or have children to be considered for an elder. Yet the same principle applies in this circumstance: effectiveness in private leadership should always proceed opportunities for public leadership.

3) A Good Reputation – Above Reproach – Worthy of Respect: I Timothy 3:2 & 7; Titus 1:6-7 (Note in I Tim. 3:10 the same holds true for a deacon).

A good reputation is important throughout the Bible. Luke records that "he was well spoken of by the brethren who were at Lystra and Iconium" (Acts 16:2). Concerning Timothy, Paul wrote about the genuine faith that was in him and was in his mother and grandmother. (2 Tim. 1:5)

Because of the public nature of the office of elder, a man's reputation with outsiders is very important. He should be the type of man who lives in a way that gives no cause for others to think badly of the church or the faith or our Lord. The focus here is not a person's relationship with the Lord, per se, but how others see him. Being above reproach means that there is not even room for suspicion of significant wrongdoing.
Paul believed that Christianity is serious business and Christians must be "worthy of respect" to accomplish that business.

- Christians represent the God of the universe, who is a holy and righteous God.
- Christians are children of the King of Kings and joint heirs with His Son, Jesus Christ.
- Christians should live in such a way as to be respected because of our high position and calling in Christ.

4) Godly, Mature Character: I Timothy 3:2-3, 6; Titus 3:7-8: I Peter 5:2-3
It is essential that an elder be <u>self-controlled</u> in all that he does, that his character reveals the fruit of years of God's purifying, sanctifying work in his life. He is to be free from sinful enslavements and instead have a consistent pattern of submitting to the lordship of Christ.

This godly, mature character is to be evident in any and every circumstance. He must not be violent, quarrelsome, or quick-tempered, because such traits will cause unnecessary division and conflict amidst the church; rather than causing dissension, he should be a peacemaker. He should not be overbearing or lord his authority over others, because this would be an abuse of his position which is rather intended to be a position of service. Forfeiting his self-control through a substance, such as alcohol, should never be an option. He must not be greedy, because this could cause him to selfishly misuse and abuse the responsibilities that have been entrusted to him. He should not only do the good but also love the good. His godly, nature character should be an example for other believers.

5) Hospitable: I Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8 & I Peter 5:2

Hospitality is a concrete expression of Christian love and family life. Giving oneself to the care of God's people means sharing one's life and home with others. An elder should be a man who loves strangers - - that is, who is given to being kind to newcomers and makes them feel at home. He should have a desire and ability to include others rather than hold others at arms length. His home should be open; for ministry, and he should not shrink back from having guest, since these can be effective opportunities for ministry. An elder should exhibit an openness to others and should therefore not be a withdrawn, private person.

6) Practice Generosity: What we do with our money and our wealth says so much about how we value our relationship with God. Elders are to not only be hospitable but also take the leadership role in modeling generosity.

7) Able to Teach: I Tim. 3:2; & Titus 1:9

Elders are to serve as proclaimers and guardians of the truth of God's word. He must know Biblical doctrine well and be able to explain it to people. He must be astute enough theologically that he can spot error and show a person why it is wrong and harmful (II Tim. 2:25-26). Part of the shepherding role of elders is to protect the flock from doctrinal error and its negative effects. The truth of God's word should not only be known but should also be held firmly and loved.
This does not necessarily mean that the man is an effective public speaker before large groups. I Tim. 5:17 indicates that not all elders devote all their time to formal teaching or preaching. Yet he should have a solid understanding of Biblical truth and have an ability to effectively communicate this truth to others. If a man knows the truth but is unable to explain it so that others can understand, he is probably not a suitable elder.

8) Gender Issues: Elders are always men in the Bible. This is consistent with the pattern of Biblical leadership, which flows from the intention with which God created us. Although men and women are equal and stand on level ground before God, God created men and women differently to fulfill different purposes. God has ordained that leadership in the church and family be provided by men.
There are three practical reasons for the above.

1) Godly spiritual men impact and attract other men to also consider becoming Christ followers.

2) If a man (husband) is interested in spiritual matters and models Biblical principles it flows much easier through the family (wife and children) then in the reverse order.

There are sometimes sensitive personal issues that need to be addressed and discussed with the pastor of whom only his wife and elders should know about and not other women in the church. (Currently this gender issue in our PPR committees can be very awkward)

A good resource: Why Men Hate Going To Church by David Murrow
Women should be highly honored and valued as fellow Kingdom builders. Many venues and opportunities present themselves in which they can contribute and influence the whole church. Women can serve in many fruitful positions of ministry within the life of the Church

V. MEMBERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:
An elder (lay leaders) must be a member and an active participant in the life of the local church. He shall be elected for a term of one year by the members of the local church in a congregational meeting.

An elder must meet the qualifications as stated above and also acquaint himself with, believe in, and live according to the doctrines and the Discipline of the Evangelical Church.

The elder board shall be members of the local Church council and report regularly to the local Church council.

The elder board will assume the responsibilities of the former Pastor-Parish Relations Committee as listed in paragraph 726(h) of the Discipline.

*They will endeavor to maintain an awareness of the relationship between the pastor(s) and the congregation and to communicate its assessment to the Conference Superintendent.

- Provide opportunity for counseling on matters pertaining to the relationship with the pastor and his staff, and with the congregation including: pulpit supply, initiating proposals for salary, housing, pension, insurance, social security, travel expenses, vacation time, refresher courses (continued education), and other matters related to the effectiveness, comfort and well-being of the pastor(s) and his family.

- They will play a key role along with the Conference Superintendent in the

matters of pastoral changes.

There will not be a set number of elders; rather the number will be determined by the number of men who desire to serve as elders and meet the qualifications. By setting a number we may be forced to make the mistake of lowering standards just to fill positions, or, on the other side, excluding some who are called and qualified because we had set an arbitrary number.

However, depending on the size of the church it could range anywhere from three to ten men, of whom one is the pastor(s). Once they are elected they will select their own chairman and vice chairman.

Special Note: The following "Flow Chart" is a work in progress!
Credits: Excerpts from: Systematic

MT. CARMEL CAMP
After attempting to contact several times with no response, there is not an update.

BEARTOOTH MOUNTAIN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

BMCR Report
It is with praise and excitement that this report is given. This summer there were 147 youth who committed their lives to Jesus Christ for the first time, with over 300 who rededicated their lives; furthermore the growth amongst the 31 summer staff and dozens of volunteers was amazing. It is to His glory and praise that we saw such fruit and the miracle of lives impacted for eternity. The summer was truly a blessing and God's provision was incredibly evident.

This summer through the generosity of the Western Conference in partnering with BMCM and the Gilhousen Foundation we were able to scholarship 67 foster children to attend Camp Velocity. The time at camp for these young children is truly a life changing experience. Many heard the Gospel for the first time and accepted Christ; Praise the Lord. Camp Velocity has the highest percentage of un-churched youth out of all our camps and is an incredible outreach to the hurting. Our desire is that Camp Velocity will become the premier camp for those in foster care throughout the state. It is an amazing week of Christ's love being shared.

I also want to extend a very heartfelt thank you. One year ago the ministry of Beartooth Mountain Christian Ranch was in financial stress, and it was through the generosity and provision from the Western Conference that we were able to make significant change in our financial stability. We are thankful for your commitment to Beartooth Mountain Christian Ministries.

Over the last year there have been numerous changes, and I would like to highlight a couple. We are officially Beartooth Mountain Christian Ministries, which is the umbrella organization of the

summer camping program (still) known as Beartooth Mountain Christian Ranch (BMCR) and the collegiate aspect of Arrowhead Bible College. As a short side note, after taking a year to regroup and restructure, Arrowhead has started this year with incredible energy, clarity and direction. Additionally we have established a relationship with a camp in Costa Rica with whom we have supported over the last couple of years and engaged in helping to reach the inner city slums with the message of hope; furthermore through this partnership, Arrowhead Costa Rica will be starting this February with two weeks of courses taught in Costa Rica. With an estimated 15 students from the US joining 15 students from Costa Rica this is sure to be an incredible time of learning. How the Lord has brought this together is nothing short of incredible.

While there are still hurdles to overcome and financial needs to meet, the Lord is leading and providing in many ways. We are thankful for all He has done and eagerly look forward to all He is going to do. It is our prayer that as He leads, we will have the sensitivity, courage, fortitude and faith to follow.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeramy Elley on behalf of The Board of Camping Ministry

Arrowhead Bible College Report

After a year's hiatus, hundreds of hours in prayer and a thorough refreshing of our purpose, Arrowhead Bible College lifted off this fall with great anticipation and excitement; This excitement was not unfounded and as a year's worth of planning came to fruition the handiwork for God has become very evident.

A solid group of students enrolled for the year and at the reading of this report we are eleven weeks into the school year. Already, great strides have been made in the young lives entrusted to us and it is a sweet pleasure to be a part of what God is doing in and through Arrowhead.

Arrowhead is modular in format, therefore, the professors come for a week at a time to instruct the students; Each student is also involved in a discipleship program, meeting in small groups with

other students and staff once a week; Through the teaching of God's Word, the relationships that are growing and the great work of the Holy Spirit, hearts are being transformed and minds renewed as we all mature in abiding with Christ.

Through the goodness of God, this past year we have developed a partnership with Campamento Roblealto—a camping ministry in the mountains outside of San Jose, Costa Rica; Through much prayer and the kindness of God, a joint mission has been established that will mutually benefit the purposes of each organization; In February our students will travel to Costa Rica to take two weeks of classes along with Costa Rican nationals who will join them; They will also host Hope Project during their time there, which is an outreach ministry to the extremely poor children within the greater San Jose area;
Arrowhead is pursuing Affiliate Status with the Association of Biblical Higher Education which will allow for a smoother transfer of credits. We are continuing to pray through this process, seeking the Lord's blessing and confirmation.

In our effort to effectively help people know Christ better, our prayer and objective is to be totally committed to the Bible as the Word of God and the Great Commission as our mandate; To be a servant to the body of Christ by training and preparing those in our care to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In all of our ambition, purpose and planning, we submit humbly to God as the author, orchestrator and sustainer of this endeavor; As we commit to faithfully and willingly doing our best, we submit the effectiveness and result of what we are doing to God; We are thankful for God's evident blessing and anointing that we have feverishly prayed for; With eager anticipation of the future, I ask for your prayers; Mostly that God would be honored, pleased and treasured at Arrowhead and this His blessing would be upon the ministry.

Respectfully submitted
Tom Miller
Arrowhead Director

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, Board of

Conference Call - March 5, 2012

Members Present: Stephen Hamilton, Dan Nefzger, Jason Higgins

Purpose: To serve as a resource as we promote and encourage discipleship in the local church.

Vision: To enhance the larger vision of the conference as we seek to have healthy, life-giving, prevailing, multiplying disciples resulting in healthy churches.

Stephen Hamilton gave a welcome, prayed and led a devotional thought from James 1:16-22. We reflected on reality of the Word Implanted, and our obligation to live out what Jesus has accomplished in us, by our words and deeds. This very Hebrew idea is to live out what we hear as this is the test of what we truly know. Don't be deceived, don't just listen to the word, do it! Amen.

1. **WHEREAS** there is the ongoing need to expand our conference library offerings based on the current needs and recommendations, after board discussion **BE IT RESOLVED** that these known curriculum titles be added as soon as practical: Daniel, and Believing God, Beth Moore, James: Mercy Triumphs, Beth Moore, Living by the Book, Howard Hendricks, Marriage 101, Becoming a Contagious Christian, Revised, Bill Hybels, One Minute after You Die, Erwin Lutzer, An additional copy of The Truth Project, and a second set of the True U series will be added.

2. **WHEREAS** ABC will again run the yearlong Bible school in the Fall 2012, **BE IT RESOLVED** that all conference churches establish a contact person to promote the year-long Bible program especially to their high school graduates. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Tom Miller will provide and distribute to the conference view books for ABC along with the yearly class schedule.

3. **WHEREAS** BMCR has published its summer camps, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the CE board will commit to encourage and support the camping program and the ministry of ABC Bible College.

4. **WHEREAS** the film Courageous is a wonderful men's discipleship challenge, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the conference churches take full advantage in the viewing and conducting the accompanying study guide.

5. **WHEREAS** social networking, cell phone features, the internet, and cultural technology trends in gaming, are both dangerous, seductive and yet potentially valuable, **BE IT RESOLVED** that these technologies be researched and communicated to our congregations in the accessible, educational, along with appropriate therapeutic suggestions. This will include gathering, identifying pertinent seminars, statistics, educational resources, and spiritual common sense. Be it further **RESOLVED** that these resources be collected and presented at the Annual Conference.

6. **WHEREAS** there are churches that have not yet seen or experienced The Truth Project, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the board recommends that all churches, during the coming year get training and work through this Biblical worldview curriculum.

7. **WHEREAS** the churches should be vigilant in protecting their harmony and unity, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the conference churches consider the new peacemaker series of resolving conflict.

8. **WHEREAS** some churches on the eastern end of the state were unable to attend, or unaware of the date and place of the small group leader training offered by Harvest Church, **BE IT RESOLVED** these conference churches be contacted and additional trainings be scheduled, even if those training be located in Billings.

9. **WHEREAS** the budget was discussed and the levels of funding are serving the purpose and vision of the C.E. board's priorities, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the same budget be put forward in 2013.

6070	Meeting/Event Exp	$300.
6100	Posted/Freight	$200.
6140	Subscript./Publication	$2,500.
6180	Training/Education	$3,000.
	Total	$6,000.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephen Hamilton

The Former Christian Education Board Now Known as

DISCIPLESHIP, Board of

Harvest Church, Billings MT – November 5, 2012

Members Present: Stephen Hamilton, Todd Hunt, Rachel Font, Robert Canen, Joe Windham, Mark Erickson, Jason Higgins, Dan Nefzger and Dave Robbins.

Purpose: To serve as a resource as we promote and encourage discipleship in the local church.

Vision: To enhance the larger vision of the conference as we seek to have healthy, life-giving, prevailing, multiplying disciples resulting in healthy churches.

Stephen Hamilton gave a welcome, prayed and led a devotional thought from Matt 28:19-20. We reflected on reality of the Great Commandment, the Great Commission and churches roll to "make disciples". To love God, obey Jesus' commands while training a disciple to do the same so they can also make disciples.

1. **WHEREAS** there is the need to add to the conference library based on current needs and recommendations, after board discussion, **BE IT RESOLVED** that these known curriculums be added: Ultimate Apologetics boxed set by Jason Lisle, Living by the Book by Howard Hendricks, Becoming a Contagious Christian DVS update (to replace VHS), Additional Truth Project by Focus on the Family's Del Tacket, True U 1 & 2 by Stephen Meyer, I Dig Dinosaurs by Buddy Davis. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** to look into training of Financial Peace University.

2. **WHEREAS** there is a felt need for training in disciple making **BE IT RESOLVED** that Joe Windham of Harvest Church will offer training on "30 Day Disciple" every other month. Joe can be contacted for upcoming dates at: joe@harvestweb.net. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that if needed the Christian Education Board will make travel funds available to attend.

3. **WHEREAS** all churches need the promotional materials for Arrowhead

Bible College, **BE IT RESOLVED** that packets are available and should be picked up at the ABC table during the Annual Conference. B**E IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ABC Posters via Rachel Font will be sent to each church along with a letter to the pastors. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we recommend an optional Super Summer information "frappe" to promote ABC to the campers.

4. **WHEREAS** there a felt need for the Board of Christian Education to be renamed and rethought as the Board of Discipleship **BE IT RESOLVED** that the board agreed to be renamed the Board of Discipleship. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the board felt the standing mission and vision statements fit precisely with this new designation.

5. **WHEREAS** BMCR needs to be promoted well and early to the churches, **BE IT RESOLVED**that we recommend early distribution of camp materials with emphasis on early bird incentives, along with church visits prior to camping season, better camper recruitment follow up, and recap DVDs going home with all the campers.

6. **WHEREAS** parental oversight in our children's communication, internet and social networking is vitally important to their safety and proper discipleship, **BE IT RESOLVED** the Board will develop a common bulleted list of guidelines and responsibilities so parents can wisely control Facebook, email, twitter, texting, internet and gaming.

7. **WHEREAS** with the thinking and reshaping of the C.E. into the Board of Discipleship there is need of discipleship minded members, **BE IT RESOLVED**t o add Joe Windham, Mark Erickson and Dave Robbins.

8. **WHEREAS** the budget was discussed and the levels of funding are serving the purpose and vision of the Board of Discipleship, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the same budget be put forward in 2013.

6070	Meeting/Event Exp.	$ 300.
6100	Posted/Freight	$ 200.
6140	Subscript./Publication	$2,500.
6180	Training/Education	$3,000.
	Total	$6,000.

Respectfully Submitted, Stephen Hamilton

CHURCH HEALTH, Board of

Via Conference Call –February 28, 2012

On the Call: Cory Engel (Chairman), Marc Johnson, Fred Rodda, Loren Eder, and Steve Strutz

I. Welcome (Cory Engel) – Prayer (Fred Rodda) - Devotional Thought
II. Review our Purpose

a. Why We Exist – The Board of Church Health exists to support and encourage healthy, life-giving, multiplying and prevailing churches in the Western Conference.

b. How We Do This – By facilitating church health assessment, by helping churches engage in peacemaking principles, by providing resources to churches looking to improve their health and vitality, and by keeping the importance of church health in front of our Conference churches.

c. Fresh Starts - A portion of our budget has been established for the purpose of

i. Supporting "turn-around" processes with a struggling church by:

1. Helping with a restart or re-development
2. Helping with external consulting/coaching fees
3. Specialized training/conferences
4. Re-branding

ii. Supporting the "peace-making" process with a church in conflict

1. Peacemaking resources and training
2. Subsidizing mediation or on-site consultation
3. Development of a peace-making team within the church family

iii. Supporting the "health assessment" process within a church

1. Engaging in the NCD survey with the Insights Report
2. NCD coaching and/or implementation expenses

III. The 2011 minutes were reviewed and discussed.
IV. New Stuff –

a. Peacemakers Training

i. The Peacemakers "Conflict Coaching and Mediation" Training was held in Billings on February 16-18, 2012. Seven of our conference churches were represented in some way. Several of the board members participated and shared positive feedback about its value.

ii. Bryan Baker (Not present) suggested via email that another potentially valuable training opportunity for Churches was a 1 Day

Seminar called "The Leadership Opportunity". This was discussed and the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS the Board of Church Health is committed to assisting Churches establish spiritually healthy practices within their Ministries;

AND WHEREAS we believe that a commitment to Biblical peacemaking principles within ministry is essential to the ongoing health of a Church and its ministry,

AND WHEREAS we see the Peacemakers "Leadership Opportunity" training seminar as a valuable tool to assisting Pastors and Leaders in establishing those Biblical Peacemaking Principles within their churches:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Bryan Baker work together with Cory Engel and Supt. Steve Strutz in establishing and organizing a "Leadership Opportunity" Seminar for our conference Churches, and their leadership, as soon as it is feasible to do so.

iii. There was considerable discussion on the value of investing in some of our conference pastors in the process of becoming certified conciliators. There are pro's and con's on both sides as to its merits. It was a valuable discussion and it was agreed that more dialog should had around this topic.

b. NCD/Health Assessments

i. A resolution was agreed upon at the 2011 Annual Conference to include questions on the current status of Health Assessments within a church on the Annual Reporting form. Because this will not appear on the Annual Reporting Form until next year, it was agreed that we would request Karen Walton, conference secretary, to submit a request to the conference churches to gather that information for 2011. Cory Engel will submit that email.

ii. A discussion was made regarding NCD Coaches and the possible need for more NCD specific coaches. Because the requests for NCD specific coaches have been relatively few, it was determined that the BOCH gather the data from the Conference Churches and evaluate further at the Annual Conference Meetings.

c. Grant Request

i. Hope Church has made a request for assistance regarding the Sabbatical Coaching Fees for the Sabbatical of their Pastor Marc Johnson coming this summer.

WHEREAS the BOCH sees Pastoral Health as a vital part of Church

Health and; **WHEREAS** purposeful and well coached sabbatical rests can restore and renew a Pastor for the next phase of ministry; **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, we grant the request of $1,500 to Hope Church for the purpose of covering the Coaching Fees associated with this sabbatical, payable at their request.

ii. There was concern expressed about how the conference funds sabbaticals for our conference Churches, and where those funds should come from. It seems wise for one board to handle all funding requests in this regard, rather than a church having to make multiple requests to multiple boards. It was agreed that Supt. Steve Strutz, Erin Youngs (Board of Pastoral Health), and Cory Engel (BOCH) meet in the near future to dialog about to whom requests should be made and for what purposes.

d. Areas of Awareness

i. Absarokee: Pastor Barry Troyer resigned in January and the Church is in Pastoral transition. Pray for them in their search.

ii. Langdon: In Pastoral Transition. Joe Motria has been assigned there and has been mentored the last few months by Allen Solheim. Healthy situation. Allen may have started a good pattern for us here.

iii. Beach: In Search of a Pastor. Ben Baker has been filling the pulpit and the prayerful process continues. Be praying.

iv. Two Churches have matters of conflicts on their Boards. This may be an area Church Health can bring some helpful training for Church leadership teams. i.e. The Leadership Opportunity

e. Looking toward 2013

i. OATS

1. Our preliminary budget for 2013 looks as follows:

a. Resources	$1,000
b. Training/Development	$5,750
c. NCD Assessments	$2,500
d. Fresh Starts	$23,000
e. Misc. $750	
f. Harvest Ministry Support	$2,000
	$35,000

CHURCH HEALTH, Board of

Harvest Church - November 5, 2012

Attendees: Cory Engle (Chair), Fred Rodda, Loren Eder, Marlin Rhoades, Bryan Baker, Dale Erbele, Tom Hougen, Joe Moutria
Devotional: Mark 2:1-12 - What does it take to be innovative? These guys in this passage were extremely innovative. Companies that were extremely innovative: Apple, Google, Facebook, and Twitter. Companies are innovative because they have creativity. Guys (of Mark 2) had the mindset… we must get our friend to Jesus. Lifechurch.tv… we will do anything short of sin to reach people for Christ.

Meeting Agenda: Review minutes from Conference Call and Board of Church Health pages 31-34… reminding us of our role and purpose.

Peacemaking: Peacemaking event was successful and there is still some conversation about hosting a Leadership Opportunity Event or more likely making the Leadership Opportunity Kit available to conference churches.

NCD Health Assessments: Annual Reporting Form – include NCD assessments on annual reporting form to gather information about whether or not churches are doing some kind of health assessment.

NCD Coach requests have been few, however several of the churches have been through the process and know how it works. Dale Erbele suggested that Regional Representatives go through training and get updated on it. If Regional representatives could be trained with most recent material it would help with follow through and effectiveness.

Discussion about Auxano – Vision Clarity Process: A suggestion was presented for our conference to give churches the opportunity to be a part of a co-lab – a vision clarity process. The per-church cost would be $1800 however the Board of Church Health could provide scholarships.

The Goals of this Process:

- Everyday Visionaries: help every pastor deliver vision to the congregation every day.
- Team Synergy: cultivate and sustain team synergy into and around

the vision.

- Unique Expression: uncover each church's unique expression of the great commission.
- Redemptive Passion: a by-product of this process is to help raise the level of redemptive passion in the congregation.

A motion has been made that the monies (up to $12,000) to support a co-lab would come out of the BOCH Fresh Starts Fund. A scholarship of $1000 would be made available for to churches interested in the process. If a church is interested in being a part of the process they can apply through the BOCH. Motion was made by Fred, seconded by Bryan and accepted.

Motion was made to keep the same budget (Fred Rodda and Loren Eder). Motion carried.

Motion was made to cover Dale's continuing education NCD expenses out of our 2012 budget. Dale will be reimbursed $1567.00. Motion made by Fred Rodda, seconded by Loren Eder and passed.

Budget – Our Preliminary Budget for 2013 / see page 32

Sabbatical Funding – coordinate with Board of Pastoral Health.

Bryan Baker

CHURCH PLANTING, Board of

Harvest Church, Billings, MT - November 5, 2012

Introductions were made of Board Members and Attendees to the Church Planting meeting.

Brian Hopkins opened up the discussion time with the question, "Why are we here?"
Answers given:

- Funding of church plants
- Fulfill God's call on us
- Reproducing ourselves
- A catalyst to planting churches and fulfilling God's call on our lives individually

Meeting was opened; agendas distributed
Vern Streeter - opened in a word of prayer

The question was posed, "How are we doing discipling leaders, multiplying in our churches?"

Missional communities and Journey Church – Gave a presentation on Missional Communities and its role in church planting.

- A Missional Community is defined as "the people of God partnering together with Him in His redemptive mission in the world by building evangelistic movements of multiplying disciples who display and declare the gospel in a defined context."
- These questions were posed, "How do we train up people to do the work of planting churches? Leaders to launch ministries? Who is the point person to plant a church? How well are we at growing our leaders? "
- Missional Communities is a "farm system" in which people can be intentional with the gospel and reach out and exercise leadership qualities, and get involved in kingdom work. This is a platform in which leaders can be built in order to further the work of church in planting churches, equipping, clustering, and "landmine reduction" (roadblocks to planting effective churches).

Church Planting Updates were given

- Harvest, Cody: 200 attendees per weekend. They are meeting in multiple sites (kids in one place, adults in another, etc.). Challenges: No kid's space. In the process of relocating the church to another

facility/ property.

Church Extension Grant Requests

- Harvest, Butte: Requesting 100k for a launch in 2013.
- Element, Wheatland: Requesting 75K for a 2013 launch in early 2013.

The question was posed, "How do we feel about the amount of money that we are contributing to fund church plants?" Brian mentioned that there is 165k in disbursable funds that can be allocated to church planting specifically.

The motion was made by Vern Streeter to allocate the funds to fully support the endeavors of Harvest: Butte, and Element: Wheatland in the amount of $175,000. Seconded by Jeff Maness; Motion Carried.

A budget proposal for the upcoming fiscal year was given by Brian. Last year's budget was $108,000. A motion was made by Vern Streeter to approach the finance committee to commit to the budget, $158,000 for the Board of Church Planting allocated to the following categories:

$4,000	Church & Mission Support
$4,000	Travel & Training
$150,000	Church Planting Grants

Seconded by Jeff Maness; Motion carried.

Eric Atherton and Brad Griffin were nominated to the Board.

Closed in Prayer; Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bruce Inion Sr.

MINISTRY, Board of

Faith Evangelical Church - March 5, 2012

Members Present: Allen Solheim, Steve Strutz, Jay Ashbaucher, Dan Morgan, Brent Nymeyer, and Sam Summers (Derry Long was in Arizona; Robert Canen was involved with doctor's appointments). Joe Motria from ND and Dale Erbele sat in to observe the Board process.

Dale Erbele opened with Prayer

BEN BAKER - Discussion began concerning Ben Baker's ministry at Glendive and his history with the license process. Ben's license period of 6 years ran out and we are re-establishing his process with the Board as a licensed probationer. Ben has now been preaching at Beach, ND church.

Ben met with the Board and gave us a short history of his ministry experience. He had his own drywall construction business and then has felt a return of his calling to be in ministry. It was MSC that we reinstate Ben's License. He is considering educational opportunities such as PESM. We as a Board recommend that he make a decision as to what training path he will pursue and move on it. Brent will be his advisor.

CHRIS STUCKY - Chris is the Children's Director at Journey Church. She met with the Board pursuing Commissioning. She graduated from MSU in Elementary Ed; taught at the Bozeman High School. She has been a missionary kid with OMS in Thailand. Her parents are Mennonite Pastors. She and her husband Doyle pastored in Bozeman for a time. They began attending Journey and were eventually hired at Journey.

She will pursue further education. We suggest that Sam and Derry help Chris find the education sources she will need. MSC that we assign Sam as her Advisor, and that she be assigned as a ministerial student.

PETER HOLMES - Peter shared a short history of his life and ministry. He is presently pastoring a church in Galveston TX that is part of the Presbyterian Church. He is a member at Journey Church since December 2011. But desires to continue to pastor in Texas while being ordained in the Evangelical Church. He desires to be ordained by the Evangelical Church. Derry was assigned to be his Advisor. The Board members will research some of Peter's materials and discuss their decision at the July meeting. We will then consider licensing Peter at the November 2012 Annual Conference.

JOE MOUTRIA - Joe shared a short history of his life and ministry. He

holds a BA in Philosophy. He began his theological education at Golden Gate seminary. Joe served with the Border Patrol through 2011. He is currently the pastor at Langdon Evangelical. He is currently pursuing his seminary Masters of Arts and Theological Studies degree at Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He desires to earn a M.Div. and possible PhD. Joe desires to be ordained by the Evangelical Church. Joe and Kayla have been assessed. It was MSC that Joe be listed as a ministerial student. Jay is assigned to be his advisor. It was suggested that we consider further interviews via Skype instead of enduring the long trip from Langdon. Joe expressed his appreciation for the mentoring he experienced with Allen Solheim. Joe's contact info is: Joe and Kayla Moutria, 1002 17th Avenue, Langdon, ND 58249; Email: jkrmoutria@me.com; Church: 701-256-2602

DAVE COLLINS - We met with Dave over the phone. He was raised in a missionary and pastoral family. He began to preach at other churches as he managed ranches. He has been at Melstone for several months and the people like him. He was given Brent as his Advisor. Sam will send him the information for licensing and ordination since he has interest in that process. He will try to attend the local pastors meeting as well.

Discussion was had on the following subjects:
KEN BECK's position with the Conference will be held in place until our next meeting at which time we will decide on his standing with the Conference. Steve will check in with Tim Weidlich about Ken's standing with Harvest. Steve will check on Kyle Reynolds and Willy Maxwell's standing as well.

Sam and Allen will meet to look over those ministers and staff that are not active and what to do with their relationship with the Conference.

There was discussion about standardizing of educational resources we would recommend for candidates to give them a common source of information and training that would accompany their formal academic training. It was suggested that we develop a list of excellent books, DVD's etc. that would help meet this need and that we look at the bibliographies of PESM classes for some of these resources.

Sam will send copies of the LOCR and other forms to Brent Nymeyer, Dave Collins and to Joe Moutria.

Allen closed in prayer

Respectfully Submitted, Sam Summers, Secretary Pro-tem

MINISTRY, Board of

Faith E Church, Billings, Montana - July 9, 2012

Members Present: Jay Ashbaucher, Dan Morgan, Brent Nymeyer, Sam Summers, Allen Solheim, Derry Long, and Robert Canen

Derry Long opened in prayer.

The board met with TIM WEIDLICH and discussed how to keep the Billings Harvest ministry team in the loop of credentialing. It was decided that Tim would serve as a liaison on the Board of Ministry for Harvest Church and those who are seeking credentialing.

The board met with JOSH COMO who has been on staff at Great Falls as the Youth and Tech Director for the past six years. Josh is meeting with the board with the intent of pursuing Ordination. He is currently attending PESM. Jay will be Josh's advisor. Josh will be listed as a Ministerial Student.

The Board met with DANIEL HARTZHEIM who is serving at Journey Church in Bozeman since 2007 as Worship Leader, full-time since 2010. Daniel is meeting with the Board with the intent of pursuing Commissioning. The board would like Daniel to pursue some coursework in Theology to complete his education for Commissioning. This will be determined by Sam and Derry. Derry will be Daniel's advisor. Daniel will be listed as a Ministerial Student.

The Board met with KIM GELDER from Bozeman. She is currently serving as Congregational Care Director at Journey Church in Bozeman. She is seeking to be Commissioned in the area of Congregational Care. Her paperwork is complete, but she will still need some educational work completed prior to Commissioning (i.e. one year of Bible). Sam will work with her on the educational issues and will be her advisor. It was M/S/C to recommend Kim for a Probationer's License at Annual Conference.

It was M/S/C to remove Lenny Eckert from the roster as a ministerial student.

It was M/S/C to designate Mike Gammill as an Ordained Elder on special assignment.

It was M/S/C to designate Marvin Schieldt as a local elder under the

Absarokee Church.

It was M/S/C to designate Scott Anderson as a local elder under Harvest Church.

It was M/S/C to remove KEN BECK as a ministerial student from the roster in light of his dismissal from Harvest Church's ministries.

The board met with KRISTEN MARBLE and went through the requirements for initial Licensing toward Commissioning. Kristen will attend the October board meeting for the doctrinal exam toward being Commissioned and Licensed at Annual Conference.

The Board met with CLAY MASSAR and administered the doctrinal exam for Ordination. It was M/S/C to recommend Clay for Ordination at Annual Conference.

The Board discussed PETER HOLMES and his desire to receive a Probationer's License. Peter was interviewed at our previous board meeting. It was M/S/C to recommend Peter for a Probationer's License at Annual Conference.

The Board discussed CHRIS STUCKY, the director of Children's Ministries at Journey Church. She met with the Board at our previous meeting. It was M/S/C to recommend Chris for a Probationer's License at Annual Conference.

The board spoke with BRAD GRIFFIN by phone. Brad is ordained with the Wesleyan Church in Kansas, and seeks to transfer credentials into the Evangelical Church. The Board will seek to meet with Brad in October or at Annual Conference.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Canen, Board Secretary

MINISTRY, Board of

Faith E Church, Billings, Montana - October 8, 2012

WHEREAS Paul Hansen has effectively completed the requirements for ordination, **BE IT RESOLVED**that we recommend him for ordination at the 2012 annual conference.

WHEREAS Harvest Church has a large number of ministry candidates **BE IT RESOLVED** that Tim Wiedlich be assigned as liaison between the Harvest candidates for ministry and the Board of Ministry. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we have a meeting at Harvest with their candidates for ministry. (Sam will contact Tim.)

WHEREAS all candidates are required to read the Board of Ministry handbook before the initial meeting with the board, **BE IT RESOLVED** to add reading handbook to step one of the introduction letter. After the first meeting an Assessment and DOW should be attended.

Initial meeting with TOM MILLER. Brent Nymeyer has been assigned as Tom's advisor. Tom is attending PESM and is classified as a ministerial student.

WHEREAS KRISTEN MARBLE has completed the requirements for commissioning, **BE IT RESOLVED** that she be commissioned at the 2012 Annual conference.

We met with RAMONA BRUCKNER for her initial interview towards commissioning. **WHEREAS** Ramona has extensive theological and counseling education, **BE IT RESOLVED** that she read the Evangelical Story and review the discipline, and write her answers to the doctrinal exam and upon completion be commissioned at the 2012 Annual Conference.

Intitial interview with DAN AND RACHEL KNUST. Dan Morgan was assigned as his advisor. He will be listed as a ministerial student and invited to the next DOW and Assessment.

WHEREAS TYLER POWELL has satisfactorily completed the doctrinal exam and the requirements for ordination, **BE IT RESOLVED** that he be ordained at the 2012 Annual Conference.

WHEREAS JJ GUERRERO has completed the requirements for commissioning, **BE IT RESOLVED** that he be commissioned at the 2012 Annual Conference.

MINISTRY, Board of

Harvest Church - November 5, 2012

WHEREAS Dave Collins is serving as the Pastor at Melstone and has been previously ordained in the Baptist Church, BE IT RESOLVED that he be added to the ballot as an Elder in Transfer.

WHEREAS James Gilbert has met with the board for an initial interview and is serving as the pastor of Vertical Church, BE IT RESOLVED that he be listed as a Ministerial Student.

WHEREAS Ben Baker is serving as the pastor of the Beach Church, BE IT RESOLVED that he have his Probationers License renewed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brent Nymeyer

MSSIONS, Board of

Via Conference Call – February 28, 2012

Present: Paul Hansen (Director), John Campbell, Allen Solheim, Glen Ewert, Dave Collins

Meeting opened with personal introductions by board member and prayer.

Paul began the meeting by expressing the purpose, vision, and mission of the Western Conference and reminding the board that the Conference exists to serve the local church and its pastors.

Several minutes were spent reviewing the minutes from the previous board of missions meeting as well as sharing how money allotted to the Board of Missions was spent in 2011.

Following that review, discussion was had regarding the purpose of the Board of Mission as well as assessing how funds had previously be used, and clarifying that the Board does not exist to "do missions" but more so assist and encourage conference pastors and churches to engage in missions globally.

This discussion led to asking the question, "are we currently aware of how churches in our conference are currently engaged in global outreach?"

WHEREAS, the Board feels as though we do not have a very good handle on how churches are currently engaged in global outreach or "missions" looks like at the majority of our conference churches, we believe it would be beneficial for the board as we move forward to gain a greater awareness of the involvement as well as the needs of churches regarding missions. **BE IT RESOLVED**, in spring of 2012 the board develop and release a survey/assessment through the conference to be taken by pastors of each conference church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as a follow-up to that assessment, one or more of the board members in the summer and fall of 2012 personally visits pastors for the sake of further exploring how the board of missions can assist their church in engaging missions is a greater way.

Discussion was facilitated around the topic of "what things help a pastor and churches" be intentionally and passionately engaged in missions?" ... Several key factors were identified, such ask personal buy-in from the Lead

Pastor, knowledgeable and passionate people in the church empowered to help lead, increased awareness and exposure, and first-hand experience.

WHEREAS, the Board desires to see conference pastors and church engage missions and believe that first-hand experiences and Lead Pastor buy-in are significant factors to fostering a churches heart for world, we encourage pastors who have not traveled outside of the United States on a vision missions trip, consider doing so. **WHEREAS**, Montana On A Mission is currently exploring creating a "pastors" trip to the Philippines in October 2012 for such a purpose, **BE IT RESOLVED** the board recommends that we make this opportunity known and available to conference pastors.

Discussion was then focused on the reality that some pastors and churches simply do not know where to begin, and often can be overwhelmed by how much is out there in regard to missions.

WHEREAS, the Board desires to give pastors some help in finding a place to start, **BE IT RESOLVED** the board of missions endorses Evangelical Church Missions (ECM), as well as Montana On A Mission (MOM) as missions organizations worth consideration.

* While these are two reputable organizations with significant ties to the Western Conference, the Board also recognizes that there are many other great organizations and opportunities out there as well and encourages churches to partner with ministries/organizations that align with God's leading and their heart and ministry focus.

Discussion was had on the current state of Evangelical Church Missions, and Allen Solheim made known information from a denominational level regarding how the mission fields (Bolivia, Brazil, and New Mexico) are doing. He also reminded the board that ECM's biggest obstacle currently is in the funding of the home office and leadership. The Denomination will shortly be putting out a challenge to all churches in the denomination to consider giving 1% of their annual budget to ECM's operations.

Discussion was had on the budgeted item of "Scholarship to Arrowhead Bible College". This line has not been used for that intended purpose for several years. Also Arrowhead Bible College has not been functioning for the 2011-2012 school year. The board will be in contact with Arrowhead leadership regarding the future plans for Arrowhead and what missions looks like in the context of their educational plan.

Current moneys will be kept in the budget for 2012.

2012 BUDGET

National Travel to USA	$ 2500
Worry Free Deputation	$ 1000
Miscellaneous Stuff (postage, etc.)	$ 50
Rep. to Denominational Missions Board	$ 500
Scholarships to Arrowhead Bible College	$ 2000
Conference Missionary Support	$ 3500
Total Budget	$ 9550

Recommended adjustments to 2012 Budget:

(1) Delete "Miscellaneous Stuff" line item and its budgeted $50.

(2) Scrap plan for bringing a national missionary to the US (not feasible at this time). That $ 2500 will be reallocated as follows:
$ 1000 for travel and expenses for personal assessment of conference churches current needs and missions involvement $1500 for assisting pastors interested in the pastor's vision trip to Philippines with MOM

(3) Conference Missionary Support be lowered to $2500. The remaining $1000 be reallocated to:
$1000 educating conference churches on missions

Revised Budget for 2012

Assessment of Conference Churches	$ 1000
Pastor Vision Trip	$ 1500
Worry Free Deputation	$ 1000
Rep. to Denominational Missions Board	$ 500
Scholarships to Arrowhead Bible College	$ 2000
Conference Missionary Support	$ 2500
Education / Awareness / Resources	$ 1000
Total Budget	$9500

REQUESTED Budget for 2013

National Travel to USA	$ 2500
Pastor Vision Trip	$ 1500
Worry Free Deputation	$ 1000
Rep. to Denominational Missions Board	$ 500
Scholarships to Arrowhead Bible College	$ 2000
Conference Missionary Support	$ 2500

Education / Awareness / Resources	$ 2000
Total Budget	$12000

Respectfully Submitted, Paul Hansen (Director)

MISSIONS, Board of

Harvest Church, Billings, MT – November 5, 2012

In Attendance: Bruce Moyer, Glenn Ewert, Dave Collins, Paul Hansen

The general discussion went along the following lines...

A review of the Spring Boards meeting set the direction for the agenda which focused on how the Board of Missions can move forward in becoming an asset and a tool to conference pastors and churches as they engage in missions, and be a part of transforming people mobilized on the mission of Christ.

Bruce Moyer gave an update on EC Missions and mission fields: Fiji, India, Brazil, Bolivia, and a new "partnership" with a church in Liberia, Africa. That partnership was approved as an official denominational affiliation and has been established through a connection with a church in Twin Cities of Liberian immigrants.

Bruce also mentioned a need for further support for the Guerrero's as they prepare to go back to Bolivia in June 2013. They plan on planting a new church focused on reaching youth/young adults. Bolivia is an "old field" but God is doing lots of "new" work ... church planting, missionary training of bolivian missionaries, tutoring center, etc.

WHEREAS the Church Missions Surveys are currently being received **BE IT RESOLVED** the Board will review and assess them in the coming months on how the Board of Missions can best offer support to Western Conference churches.

Further pursuit of partnering with Matthew Ellison of Sixteen:Fifteen Church Missions Coaching is planned for 2013, and the hope is to offer this service to churches in the Western Conference.

Putting together a pastor's vision trip is of high priority in 2013 to get

pastors who have never been on a mission trip on one together. Plans are underway for that to happen in the Philippines to offer church leadership development as well as biblical peacemaking training. Date is TBD.

WHEREAS Arrowhead Bible College has developed a partnership with a ministry in Costa Rica, and is taking its students for 2 weeks in January 2013, **BE IT RESOLVED** the funds established for "a scholarship of arrowhead student" be released to be used to help fund this trip. Discussion will occur at Spring Boards on whether we will continue to offer this support in coming years, as it will also be included in student tuition (but was not for this year as the opportunity arose after tuition and registration was established).

REQUESTED Budget for 2013

(6010)	National Travel to USA	$2500
(6180)	Pastor Vision Trip	$2000
(6010)	Worry Free Deputation	$1000
(6080)	Scholarships to Arrowhead Bible College	$2000
(6010)	Conference Missionary Support	$2500
(6180)	Education / Awareness / Resources	$2000
	Total Budget	$12000

6010	Church & Mission Support	$6000
6180	Training/Education	6000

Meeting was concluded with discussion of what is "missions" and how has the changing landscape locally created a need for us to address missions locally dealing with cross-cultural and cross-economic opportunities not just overseas, but also in our communities. Is that ministry part of "missions" as we know it now, or should a new board be established to lead in that? There is much discussion about this happening on a conference and also denominational level. Stay tuned.

Submitted by,
Paul Hansen

PASTORAL HEALTH, Board of

Conference Call – March 1, 2011

In Attendance: Erin Youngs, Steve Strutz, Rod Griffin, Marc Johnson, Benjamin Gonzales, Gary Maness, Don Hardesty, Dale Wolery, Kathleen Cullen

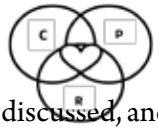
1) Received an update from each member regarding their current areas of ministry and current prayer requests.

2) Review of our purpose/vision:

a. Our Goal: To help pastors and their wives experience health personally, spiritually, relationally, mentally and emotionally.

i. The Board of Pastoral Health exists to promote and assist pastors and their families to be spiritually, physically, emotionally and relationally healthy.

ii. Three key areas have been identified as the focus of the board of pastoral health; 1) PREVENTATIVE/PROACTIVE care; 2) CRISIS care; 3) RESTORATION care. We are using the following picture to understand pastoral care and the following initials: C.P.R.



3) Sabbatical Funding: We discussed, and want to be a part of, sabbatical promotion, planning and implementation across our conference. Our hope is to meet with Derry, and possibly Kathleen, to understand how he arranges, plans, guides and coaches a pastor and a congregation through the Sabbatical process. Our desire is to assist pastors in this process. We also hope to promote a balanced daily, weekly and monthly life to pastors and their wives as well. We aren't waiting for a sabbatical to bring rest to a pastor but want to make sure they are taking their weekly sabbaticals.

a. A conference call will be planned at some point to connect with Derry with a few of our team to begin addressing how we can become a more active part of the Sabbatical process within our conference.

4) Pastors & Wives Retreat Scholarships: A few people have sent requests to the conference office for scholarships for the retreat. Once those requests are in we will divide the $1000 budget line item between those individuals to help them attend the retreat.

5) Partnership with the Board of Ministry: A discussion was had on how we could bring assistance to the Board of Ministry with regards to the Aassessment process of new pastors. The board of ministry has a set area of assessment with regards to doctrine as well as gifts and graces. The BOPH could bring help with assessment in the understanding of family dynamics, family of origin issues, the marital relationship and parenting issues. We want to assist to make sure that the incoming/new pastor starts ministry in a healthy way. An additional layer of assessment may also help in determining if a pastor is truly ready and called. We are going to discuss this further with the Board of Ministry and also offer any diagnostic tools that may help.

6) Potential Training Opportunities: We are going to further investigate training opportunities for our team as well as training opportunities that we can provide to pastors and wives on a Conference level.

7) New Ideas for the Pastoral Health Team: First, we want to request that our designated fund be refunded to the amount of $10,000 to be used as the conference sees fit. Second, we seek to bring assistance and help to our Conference Superintendent with regards to conflicts and crises within our conference. The superintendent typically handles issues that happen between a pastor and church. We hope to come alongside Steve and assist in any of theses crises to bring reconciliation, healing, and direction. We are available to be used by Steve as he needs and as he determines within any of these situations.

BUDGET FOR 2012

6010	Church & Mission Support	$ 1,000
6070	Meeting/Event Expenses	$ 6,000
6115	Professional Fees	$10,000
6140	Subscriptions/Publications	$ 1,000
6160	Supplies	$ 1,000
6180	Training/Education	$10,000
6190	Travel	$ 1,000
	TOTAL	$30,000

To-Do Items:

- Next Conference call scheduled for 4/26 at 1pm.

Erin closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Erin Youngs

PASTORAL HEALTH, Board of

Harvest Church – November 5, 2012

Team members present were: Marc Johnson, Scott Davies, Don Hardesty, and Benjamin Gonzales. Werner Seibert attended the meeting as a guest.

1. **WHEREAS**, there is consensus that this board expand its focus to include pastor's wives in our interest of crises, prevention, and restoration, to promote emotional, physical, and spiritual health, **BE IT RESOLVED** that this board will work more closely and collaborate more fully with the Board of Women's Ministry to assure that pastor's wives are given the same level of care that the pastors receive whenever necessary.

2. **WHEREAS**, there is often a period of time between a departing pastor and an incoming pastor that can cause a church to lose momentum or direction, **BE IT RESOLVED** that this board will work more closely and collaborate more fully with the Board of Church Health in including options for placing professional interim pastors in churches that would benefit from that arrangement.

3. **WHEREAS**, there is a recognized need for input from the pastors concerning their needs and expectations from this board, **BE IT RESOLVED** that more frequent surveys, phone calls, and face-to-face meetings will be held by this board with the local pastors.

Respectfully submitted,
Benjamin Gonzales sitting in for chairperson Erin Youngs

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2013

6010	Church & Mission Support	$1,000
6070	Meeting/Event Expenses	$6,000
6115	Professional Fees	$6,000
6140	Subscriptions/Publications	$1,000
6160	Supplies	$1,000
6180	Training/Education/Restoration	$10,000
6190	Travel	$5,000
	TOTAL	$30,000

PRAYER, Board of

Conference Call Meeting - March 2, 2012

Members present: Don Hardesty and Rod Griffin

Rod will not be able to represent the Prayer Life Board due to being on a mission trip to Honduras. Don Hardesty has agreed to be the representative.

Discussion regarding how to get more pastors to attend the Summit was brought. Attendance should be mandatory, but it shouldn't have to be mandatory. We do not request mandatory attendance, but that it is made known that pastors be expected to attend. Superintendent Strutz has said that "if a pastor is too busy to pray, that pastor is 'too busy'."

Being "Too busy" is the number one reason for not attending. We will send letters letting them know their attendance is expected. Letters will also be sent to each local board to ask them to let their pastor(s) know that they encourage and expect their pastor to attend the Prayer Summit. If a church cannot survive the absence of their pastor for a few days, how well have we equipped the saints?

We want to help with scholarships to pastors whose churches would be in hardship financially for their pastor to attend. We also want to supplement financially those who would travel greater distances.

Discussion was given to implementing a Pastor's prayer partner ministry, and a church of the week ministry.

Discussion was given to sending out a survey to see what churches are doing effectively regarding prayer ministries. Without prayer where would we be regarding our spiritual and relational health?

In faith we are expecting greater attendance this year at the Prayer Summit. Projected increases in fuel prices are predicted. Therefore more scholarships need to be available.

WHEREAS, we value spiritually healthy pastors and churches, and **WHEREAS**, it is impossible to be spiritually healthy and significantly fruitful without a meaningful prayer life, **BE IT RESOLVED** the Prayer Life Team provide a Prayer Summit scheduled for September 23-25, 2012. A speaker will be announced at a later date.

WHEREAS, we value prayer and unity, **BE IT RESOLVED** that all pastors within the conference are expected to attend the Summit and each local church leadership board expects their pastor(s) to attend the Prayer Summit. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that each first-year pastor and retired Itinerant Elders of the Western Conference would attend for free, and that requests for scholarships be reviewed and funds made available to those approved for such.

WHEREAS, prayer is vital to the health of the church and its ministries, **BE IT RESOLVED** that a survey be sent to each local church regarding their effective prayer ministries for the purpose of sharing ideas through networking to truly be "praying churches". **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the prayer needs throughout the Western Conference promote and support the denominational "I-Team". All prayer requests should be directed to the conference office (karen@faithe.org) or Prayer Board Chairman (rod@faithe.org) who will communicate the needs to the intercessors in our conference and denomination.

WHEREAS, prayer is a major factor in bringing and sustaining unity, **BE IT RESOLVED** that each pastor, Itinerant Elder, and ministerial student of the Western Conference be teamed with another pastor, Itinerant Elder, or ministerial student, to be a prayer partner for the duration of the conference year. Prayer partners are encouraged to pray for, encourage, bear each other's burdens, and celebrate praises on a regular basis. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the prayer partners will be announced at the time of the District Conference Meeting. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that each week a local church will be designated as a "church of the week". That church will be contacted to share praises and prayer requests. The information will be forwarded to each local congregation that we might be bound together in prayer and unity.

WHEREAS, we support the National Day of Prayer, **BE IT RESOLVED** that we encourage all churches to participate in the National Day of Prayer (www.ndptf.org) and See You at The Poll (www.syatp.com).

WHEREAS, there is a forecast for higher fuel costs and potential need for more scholarships, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the budget for 2013 be increased from $5,000 to $5,500.

Humbly Submitted,
Rod Griffin

PRAYER, Board of

Harvest Church, Billings, MT – November 5 2012

Present: Rod Griffin Chairman, Clay Massar, Doyle Euell, Scott Anderson. Others Present: Pauline Gaeckle, Delbert Anderson, Brian Hahn, Pastor Bob Strutz

Rod read the Sample Page for Committee Minutes. Spring Boards minutes were read and accepted by Doyle; and 2nd by Clay Massar.

Rod led discussion on, "What things can we do as a prayer board that can better facilitate Churches to be a praying church"? Doyle: in their area they recently started a prayer chain, and they also have prayer time with different denominations. Pauline: she thinks people are afraid to come to prayer times because they are afraid to pray out loud, or that they don't think their prayers are good enough and people have conveyed that to her before. Clay: listening is good too, and that quiet prayer and listening for God's voice is of great importance. Delbert: they have all denominations come together and pray, and has found that prayer is a non-denominational language.

PRAYER SUMMIT - Pastor Bob Strutz: how wonderful it was to get together and pray with other pastors to strengthen each other and lift each other up in prayer, also it is bonding of relationships. Pauline: Why is the Prayer Summit was only for men or Pastors? Rod: the Prayer Summit was begun as a vision to strengthen our Pastors and to hold each other up in prayer. As a Pastor, Scott said: it was an eye opening experience; it leveled the playing field for him, working and praying together hand and hand with other pastors such as Pastor Strutz and Pastor Erbele. Rod: the value of having the Pastors there is that they share things they would not normally share with layman present. While there we have corporate prayer, quiet time prayer and devotions. It is a wonderful 3 day sabbatical of lifting spirits and blessing each Pastor. However, pastors struggle with attending, partly because of finances and/or they have too much to do. The financial part has been dealt with, as there is a scholarship provided for those who need help, but pastors recognize the need of coming together and how it builds unity amongst each other. The Prayer Summit focus is the need to refresh and refuel every Pastor that attends.

Rod asked "How do we get our Churches on their knees and what does that look like? Discussion continued of perhaps having Regional or area Prayer Summits for not only Pastors to attend but layman as well. It was mentioned that some who are long distances away, could get together

with a conference call prayer time at their convenience, and perhaps we could get back to the church of the week for praying for each Church.

Rod read the O.A.T.S page and it was decided to add to the Regional Prayer Summit budget. Rod then closed with asking "Does it pay to pray?"

1. **WHEREAS** we value spiritually healthy pastors and churches, and **WHEREAS** it is impossible to be spiritually healthy and significantly fruitful without a meaningful prayer life, **BE IT RESOLVED** the Prayer Life Team provide a Prayer Summit scheduled for the last week of September 2013. A speaker will be announced at a later date.

2. **WHEREAS** we value prayer and unity, **BE IT RESOLVED** that all pastors within the Conference be expected to attend the Prayer Summit, and that local church leadership boards encourage their pastor(s) to attend the Prayer Summit. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that each first year pastor and retired Itinerant Elders of the Western Conference attend free and that requests for scholarships be reviewed and funds made available to those approved for such.

3. **WHEREAS** prayer is vital to the health of the church and its ministries, **BE IT RESOLVED** that a survey be sent to each local church regarding their effective prayer ministries for the purpose of sharing ideas through networking to truly be "praying churches". **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the pastors throughout the Western Conference promote and support the denominational "I-Team". All prayer requests should be directed to the conference office (karen@faithe.org) or Prayer Board Chairman (rod@faithe.org) who will communicate the needs to the intercessors in our conference and denomination.

4. **WHEREAS** prayer is a major factor in bringing and sustaining unity, **BE IT RESOLVED** that each pastor, Itinerant Elder and ministerial student of the Western Conference be teamed with another pastor, Itinerant Elder and ministerial student to be a prayer partner for the duration of the Conference year. Prayer partners are encouraged to pray for, encourage, bear each other's burdens, and celebrate praises on a regular basis. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the prayer partners will be announced at the time of the District Conference meeting. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that each week of a local church will be designated as a "church of the week". That church will be contacted to share praises and prayer requests. The information

Harvest Church - November 5, 2012

WESTERN CONFERENCE 2013 BUDGET

Income		
4010	Tithes Received	0
4020	Interest & Dividends	0
4025	Book Sales	0
4030	Misc. Income	0
Total Income		**$0.00**
1 General Operations		
6010	Church & Mission Support	1000.00
6020	Contract Services	18850.00
6030	Denomination Tithes	45697.00
6040	Dues & Fees	865.00
6060	Insurance	4422.00
6070	Meeting/Event Expenses	10900.00
6080	Miscellaneous Expense	3988.00
6090	Photocopying	12000.00
6100	Postage/Freight	1890.00
6110	Printing	4000.00
6115	Professional Fees	6700.00
6120	Regional Overseer Compensation	18000.00
6140	Subscriptions/Publications	500.00
6150	Superintendent Compensation	31227.00
6155	Superintendent Benefit	10242.00
6160	Supplies	6750.00
6170	Telecommunications	1000.00
6180	Training/Education	800.00
6190	Travel	17900.00
Total Expense		**$196,731.00**
2 Camping		
6050	Grants	6000.00
6160	Supplies	1000.00
6180	Training/Education	3500.00
6190	Travel	3500.00
Total		**$14,000.00**

WESTERN CONFERENCE 2013 BUDGET

3 Church Planting		
6010	Church & Mission Support	4000.00
6050	Grants	150000.00
6190	Travel	4000.00
Total		**$158,000.00**
4 Church Health		
6010	Church & Mission Support	25000.00
6080	Miscellaneous Expense	750.00
6160	Supplies	1000.00
6180	Training/Education	8250.00
Total		**$35,000.00**
5 Ministry/Training		
6010	Church & Mission Support	1000.00
6120	Regional Overseer Compensation	3000.00
6160	Supplies	500.00
6180	Training/Education	8500.00
Total		**$13,000.00**
6 Missions		
6010	Church & Mission Support	2500.00
6050	Grants	2000.00
6070	Meeting/Event Expenses	1000.00
6180	Training/Education	2000.00
6190	Travel	4500.00
Total		**$12,000.00**
7 Outreach		
6050	Grants	6000.00
6070	Meeting/Event Expenses	2500.00
6115	Professional Fees	4000.00
6160	Supplies	3500.00
Total		**$16,000.00**

WESTERN CONFERENCE 2013 BUDGET

8 Pastoral Health		
6010	Church & Mission Support	1000.00
6070	Meeting/Event Expenses	6000.00
6115	Professional Fees	10000.00
6140	Subscriptions/Publications	1000.00
6160	Supplies	1000.00
6180	Training/Education	10000.00
6190	Travel	1000.00
Total		**$30,000.00**
9 Prayer		
6070	Meeting/Event Expenses	2750.00
6080	Miscellaneous Expense	600.00
6115	Professional Fees	1750.00
6160	Supplies	400.00
Total		**$5,500.00**
10 Student Ministries		
6070	Meeting/Event Expenses	17000.00
6115	Professional Fees	500.00
6160	Supplies	5500.00
6180	Training/Education	6000.00
6190	Travel	2000.00
Total		**$31,000.00**
11 Women's Ministry		
6100	Postage/Freight	200.00
6140	Subscriptions/Publications	1000.00
6180	Training/Education	2000.00
6190	Travel	2800.00
Total		**$6,000.00**
12 Discipleship		
6070	Meeting/Event Expenses	300.00
6100	Postage/Freight	200.00
6140	Subscriptions/Publications	2,500.00
6180	Training/Education	3,000.00
Total		**$6,000.00**

will be forwarded to each local congregation that we might be bound together in prayer and unity.

5. **WHEREAS** we support the National Day of Prayer, **BE IT RESOLVED** that we encourage all churches to participate in the National Day of Prayer (www.ndptf.org) and See You At The Pole (www.syatp.com).

6. **WHEREAS** there is a forecast for higher fuel costs and potential need for more scholarships, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the budget for 2012 be increased from $5000 to $5500.

Humbly Submitted,
Rod Griffin

STUDENT MINISTRY, Board of

Via gotomeeting.com/Conference Call - March 1, 2012

Attendees: Seth Runner, Roger Dayton, Josh Como, Chris Townley, Travis Shannon, and Michael Stambaugh

Why the Board of Student Ministry Exists

Purpose: Unify the Student Ministry leadership of conference churches with the objective of enhancing ministries through the local church to reach students across the region, who don't know Jesus and to disciple those who do.

Vision:

1) Networking youth workers with one another to encourage, challenge, and steal ideas for creatively building the Kingdom.
2) Continued development of paid and volunteer leadership through training and resources.
3) Provide tools and resources for conference-wide ministry use.

Michael opened the meeting with a brief devotion thought from Hebrews 12:1-3 followed by opening prayer.

Review of 2011 Annual Conference Board of Student Ministry meeting minutes. Michael will bring up resolution regard in the scheduling conflict with Annual Conference and PESM at the Council of Administration.

Discussion about Soul Care Retreat

WHEREAS we resolved at the 2011 Annual Conference to plan the 2012 Soul Care Retreat in March 2012, **AND WHEREAS** the condo at Bridger Bowl is not available in March 2012, **BE IT RESOLVED** Seth Runner will check into the availability of housing at Big Sky for the possible dates of April 12-14, 2011 to begin planning the 2012 Soul Care Retreat for Student pastors within the conference.

Discussion of Fun Trailer:

- Michael is currently working on revising the Fun Trailer policy and procedure / rental agreement documents as well as working with the Conference office to provide online reservation for the Fun Trailer.
- Because Kyle Reynolds has moved out of the Conference, Michael will organize and clean the Fun Trailer and work on a training video to be completed before May 2012 as resolved at the 2012 Annual Conference Board meeting.

- The mechanical issues with the Fun Trailer will be addressed immediately before the next renter uses the Fun Trailer on April 6, 2012.
- Discussion regarding the stewardship of the Fun Trailer and the reoccurring problem of the trailer being returned unorganized causing Roger to spend his day off reorganizing the Fun Trailer.

WHEREAS stewardship of the Fun Trailer is a top priority for the Fun Trailer to be used and beneficial for the entire Conference, **AND WHEREAS** the Fun Trailer has been returned several times in a unacceptable manner requiring extra work from members of the Board of Student Ministry, **BE IT RESOLVED** that each new reservation of the Fun Trailer be required to submit a $200 deposit with the reservation of the Fun Trailer to be returned to the renter upon appropriate return as specified in the rental agreement (to be amended to the minutes upon completion of such form) of the Fun Trailer to the Conference Office.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if the Fun Trailer is not returned in an appropriate manner as specified in the rental agreement, the renter forfeits the $200 to be distributed as follows: $100 to the person(s) who clean up the Fun Trailer, $80 to the Board of Student Ministry's line item for Supplies, and $20 to the Board of Church Extension.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that churches/organizations who currently have reserved the Fun Trailer for 2012 be notified of the new procedures and expectations for the Fun Trailer. Current renters with reservations in 2012 will be assessed a $200 fine if the Fun Trailer is not returned according to the Rental Agreement.

Discussion regarding what else the Board of Student Ministry can do to fulfill its purpose as a Board.

WHEREAS it is beneficial to all student ministries in the Conference to share student ministry resources, **BE IT RESOLVED** the Board begin exploring options for making digital student resources available through the Western Conference website.

2013 Budget Proposal

6070	Meeting/Event Expenses	$17,000
6115	Professional Fees	$ 500
6160	Supplies	$ 5,500
6180	Training/Education	$ 6,000
6190	Travel	$ 2,000
	Total	$31,000

• Increase in Meeting/Event Expenses for Soul Care Retreat expenses to allow more Student Pastors to attend.
• Increase in Supplies to purchase a new inflatable in 2013 (suggested Bouncy Boxing approximately $3,000).
• Increase in Travel to accommodate rising gas prices to assist travel to Super Summer.

STUDENT MINISTRY, Board of

Harvest Church, Billings, MT - November 5, 2012

Attendees: Seth Runner, Roger Dayton, Chris Townley, Travis Shannon, Seth Hirschkorn, Phil Wuerffel, Caleb Coder, Jeramy Elley and Michael Stambaugh
WHEREAS the Board of Student Ministry has $2,000 dollars remaining in the Youth Ministry Development Fund, BE IT RESOLVED that the board gift $500 to 4 churches for the use in student ministry to use at their discretion. These four churches will be Reed Point, Fallon, Circle, and Columbus.

WHEREAS this year's student ministry Annual Conference Training Conversation was a good forum, we believe that it would be better to bring in a speaker. **BE IT RESOLVED** that in 2013 we begin a search for someone around the topics of youth ministry pastoral care. BE IT RESOLVED that a list of possibilities will be brought to Spring Boards and decided on at that time.

WHEREAS the following was accomplished with the Fun Trailer: reformatting of Rental Policy & Procedure document, organization of equipment, installing combination locks, requiring a $200 deposit for all rentals, online registration and calendar, adding replacement parts including harness, headgear, felt markers for bungee run, installing new tires on trailer, and adding a spare tire. **WHEREAS** the tires on the dolly are worn out, **BE IT RESOLVED** Roger Dayton buys and replaces these tires.

WHEREAS the fun trailer is a great investment for the ministries of the Western Conference we do not yet have a good bounce house possibility for children's ministry. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in 2013 we buy a bouncy boxing inflatable.

WHEREAS Michael Stambaugh has been the Fun Trailer Coordinator in Big Timber which is not logistically possible, **BE IT RESOLVED** Roger

Dayton now becomes the Fun Trailer Coordinator.

WHEREAS Super Summer was $3,000 dollars under budget **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board funnel those funds into BMCR's Super Summer scholarship fund.

WHEREAS we believe the Pastor's and Wives Retreat is a great time to be with our wives **BE IT RESOLVED** we feel that a soul care retreat allows youth pastors time to come together to talk about youth ministry and unwind in a retreat setting, not only to have fun, but build community within the Conference youth pastors. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Board will begin planning a Soul Care Retreat for 2013.

WHEREAS each year the Board sets aside money for youth pastors to travel and attend youth training events, and **WHEREAS** in 2012 no one requested to use this money, **BE IT RESOLVED** that each year we will appoint a church to send their youth pastor to these events. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, for the year 2013 the board of student ministries has selected Narrate Church to send representatives to a youth ministry event of their choosing.

WHEREAS our Conference is getting larger in area coverage and churches are needing to pick camps other than Super Summer to attend, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the travel budget for camp be extended to churches attending camps other than Super Summer to submit receipts by the end of August for reimbursement for travel.

2013 Budget Proposal

6070	Meeting / Event Expenses	$17,000
	Super Summer Junior High	$6,000
	Super Summer High School	$8,500
	Soul Care Retreat	$2,500
6115	Professional Fees	$500
	Super Summer Promo	$500
6160	Supplies	$4,500
	Fun Trailer	$4,500
6180	Training / Education	$6,000
	Travel & Training	$1,000
	Youth Ministry Development Fund	$2,000
	Annual Conf Youth Workers Training	$3,000
6190	Travel	$2,000
	Camp Travel	$2,000
	TOTAL	$30,000

SUPERINTENDENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

VIA "GO TO MEETING" - February 22, 2012

Members: Dale Erbele, Jay Forseth, Webb Mandeville, Bill Howey, Superintendent Steve Strutz, Marc Johnson and Dan Morgan (Glen Ewert excused from meeting)

Our Mission: Assist our Superintendent and his wife in being healthy and life giving (supports conference mission and vision to have life-giving, prevailing, multiplying and healthy churches and pastors)

WHEREAS we have two new committee lay members in Webb Mandeville (Columbus, MT) and Bill Howey (Gillette, WY), BE IT RESOLVED we welcome these two servants with appreciation.

Our fellow committee member Glen Ewert is facing treatments at Mayo for rectal cancer, so we extend to him our encouragement, we will pray for him, and we thank him for his dedicated service to the Western Conference and the Langdon church over many years.

Hearing the heartbeat of our Superintendent (and wife): Personally: batteries charged. Marriage is strong. Family doing well. Balancing of positions is positive. Faith E is also moving forward. Steve feels supported by conference and regions and his church. Janice and Steve both passed check-ups. No concerns at this time.

A few updates and progress Steve communicated:
A. Ongoing scenarios in a couple of local churches taking much emotional energy. Peacemaking strategies being utilized. Taking chunks of time, but working process and has good help.
B. Speaking at BMCR Men's Retreat this month. Speak at Helena Narrate after Easter. Will visit SHEC and Cheyenne later in Spring.
C. Spring Boards preparations occurring for March, also spoke at PESM for their chapel services.
D. Ongoing care of Langdon, Melstone, Beach, Absarokee, Sheridan, Rudyard & Harlem continues.

WHEREAS we see the benefit of a Sabbatical for the health of our Superintendent and wife, BE IT RESOLVED we further support the Summer 2012 Sabbatical for Steve. Derry Long is his coach, key folks are on the team, plans are being formulated, and will continue to be evaluated. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Karen, Marc, Brent, Jay and Steve will meet after Easter to formulate chain of command for this summer as far as

the conference is concerned, in our Superintendent's absence.

WHEREAS we are responsible to submit a 2013 budget, BE IT RESOLVED we stay in close communication with the leadership of Faith Evangelical and around August of 2012 and develop a Budget that coincides with the September fiscal year at Faith E. Currently we support:

Salary	23,815.88
Pension	2,859.75
Health Insurance	3,750
Workers Comp/Disability	392
Car Allowance	400
Social Security	0
Seminar/Cont. Ed	800
Books/Periodicals	400
Housing Allowance	6,816

Respectfully Submitted,
Jay Forseth
Conference Chairman

SUPERINTENDENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Via "Mega Meeting" Conference Call - October 26, 2012

Present: Dale Erbele, Glenn Ewert, Jay Forseth, Superintendent Steve Strutz, Marc Johnson. Absent: Webb Mandeville, Bill Howey, Dan Morgan

Welcome/Introduction/Prayer/Devotions

Steve's theme for this year: Disciples making disciples making disciples making disciples…
Fits into the Denomination's new tagline "Transformed People Mobilized on the Mission of Christ"

No carry over business from past minutes

Hearing the heartbeat of our Superintendent (and wife):
*Conference – Finances in good shape, grateful for good conference leadership, working ongoing scenarios at a couple of conference churches, gearing up for Annual Conference, great support of teams, visited

Glendive, Rapelje, Big Timber, Reed Point, Broadview, Great Falls and Helena the past 6 months; going to Beach, ND in early November.
*Personal – Janice doing well, health is good for both of them, Sabbatical was positive
*Sabbatical Highlights – Class on Spiritual Disciplines through George Fox, interviewed conference superintendents and pastors in other denominations, worshipped in a few rural venues, R & R, reading, poured into each member of the family (the top highlight was family)

WHEREAS, our committee and Faith E work together on the support package for Steve, BE IT RESOLVED we would like to carry the same 2% COLA increase for Superintendent Strutz's salary, retroactive to September 1, 2012.

Review of Western Conference Questionnaire and results—ongoing dialog forthcoming at Annual Conference 2012 (SEE ATTACHED RESULTS)

Green Light Thinking:

1. Encourage a quarterly Regional Overseer meeting by web
2. Encourage Prayer Board to pick back up the intercessor prayer ministry
3. Steve requests help in helping him assist our churches to be more effective

We prayed for our Superintendent and wife, and would encourage entire conference to do so regularly!

Respectfully Submitted,
Jay Forseth
Conference Chairman

WESTERN CONFERENCE QUESTIONNAIRE

The Western Conference exists for the benefit of the local church. How are we doing?

(Questions 1-8)	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
	5	4	3	2	1

1._____ I have had a meaningful contact from or with our Conference Superintendent and/or my Regional Overseer in the past three months. Comment:

2._____ I feel the door is open for me to contact my Conference Superintendent and/

or Regional Overseer if I need something and/or I have a question. Comment:

3._____ I appreciate being a part of the Western Conference Team and I believe this relationship benefits my local church. Comment:

4._____ The Western Conference website is beneficial to me and my local church. If so, or not, how? Comment:

5. _____ I am satisfied with the level of communication I receive from the Western Conference. Comment:

6. _____ The Western Conference is fulfilling its mission? (Healthy, life-giving, prevailing, multiplying pastors and churches) Comment:

7. _____ My church needs the Western Conference, and the Western Conference needs my church. Comment:

8. _____ When I have contacted the Conference Office, I have received a professional, timely, and helpful response. Comment:

(Questions 9 and 10) OF THE FOLLOWING WESTERN CONFERENCE BOARDS:

Church Health	Stewardship/Finance	Christian Education	Missions	Trustees
Pastoral Health	Church Planting	Women's Ministry	Outreach	Prayer
Student Ministry	Camping Ministry	Board of Ministry		

9. The Board of _____ has been MOST HELPFUL, followed by the Boards of _____ and_____. Comment:

10. The Board of _____ has been the LEAST HELPFUL, followed by the Boards of _____ and _____. Comment:

(Questions 11-14) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

11. In the past year I have participated in the following Western Conference opportunities: (check all that apply)

_____ Regional Gatherings _____ Annual Conference _____ Oratium Training
_____ Minister/Spouse Retreat _____ Prayer Summit _____ Board Member
_____ Camping Ministry _____ Stdnt Ministry Training _____ Outreach Training
_____ Peacemaker Training _____ Small Group Training _____ David Pals Training

12. How do you and/or your church feel about the amount of tithe you share with the Conference? Comment:

13. Do you and/or your church feel the Conference is stewarding the resources wisely? Comment:

14. Is there a specific way the Conference could help you and/or your church with any of

the following: empowering leadership, functional structures, inspiring worship, holistic small groups, loving relationships, gift-oriented ministry, passionate spirituality, need-oriented evangelism? Comment:

RESULTS - Western Conference Questionnaire – Summer 2012 -- 65% responded (2/3rds)

1. CONTACT FROM CONFERENCE - Average 4.17 (44% responded 5, 37% 4, 9% 3, 3% 2, 6% 1)
Comments (4): No contact past 2 years, no contact past 3 months, good contact with my regional overseer, I appreciate my regional overseer
2. OPEN DOOR TO CONFERENCE - Average 4.66 (83% responded 5, 10% 4, 6% 3)
Comments (0)

3. APPRECIATE WESTERN CONFERENCE - Average 4.59 (62% responded 5, 35% 4, 3% 3)
Comments (3): I believe it helps us stay together and connected, Help is available If needed, I like being part of something growing and forward looking

4. WEBSITE - Average 2.89 (4% responded 5, 15% 4, 67% 3, 4% 2, 15% 1)
Comments (11): Have not accessed it, haven't used it, rarely go there, never use it, use resources/calendar, add social media integration, not sure how much it does/does not benefit, don't use much, camp website has issues, never really used it but this is my fault, we need resources there for each board—discipline, licensing packets, etc.

5. COMMUNICATION - Average 4.03 (34% responded 5, 41% 4, 17% 3, 7% 2)
Comments (6): We are notified right away when prayer or help is needed, not much but I don't expect much, I don't participate in all it offers, videos were great, we could use update emails, communicate earlier upcoming events

6. FULFILLING CONFERENCE MISSION - Average 4.34 (48% responded 5, 38% 4, 14% 3)
Comments (3): They help where they can; churches that need help receive it for the most part. I don't see the conference strategically planting or resourcing plants/satellites or dealing openly with plants within regions

7. NEED EACH OTHER – Average 4.28 (45% responded 5, 41% 4, 10% 3, 3% 2)
Comments (4): None of us can survive alone, disorganized chaos/churches too independent without conference, we have support when we need it, our church has little conference interaction aside from my personal involvement

8. OFFICE STAFF – Average 4.54 (64% responded 5, 25% 4, 11% 3)
Comments (2): Good job, responses to email or phone often takes a couple of days

9. MOST HELPFUL BOARDS

Church Health-6	Steward/Finance-4	Christian Ed-2	Missions-1	Trustees-1
Pastoral Health-11	Ch Planting-6	Women's Min-1	Outreach-9	Prayer-1
Stdnt Ministry-6	Camping Ministry-2	Brd of Ministry-6		

10 LEAST HELPFUL BOARDS

Church Health-1	Steward/Finance-1	Christian Ed-4	Missions-6	Trustees-2
Pastoral Health-1	Church Planting-1	Women's Min-8	Outreach-1	Prayer-2
Stdnt Ministry-1	Camping Ministry-7	Brd of Ministry-0		

11. CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Regional Gatherings-19	Annual Conference-25	Oratium Training-15
Minister/Spouse Retreat-12	Prayer Summit-9	Board Member-17
Camping Ministry-7	Stdnt Ministry Training-1	Outreach Training-1
Peacemaker Training-9	Small Group Training-3	David Pals Training-6

12. TITHE TO CONFERENCE

Positive comments=16, Negative comments=0, Neutral comments=3

13. STEWARDSHIP

Positive comments =21, Negative comments=1, Neutral comments=1

14. HOW CAN WE HELP YOU? – see attached

GENERAL COMMENTS:

- We are losing traction on Natural Church Development
- In discussing this questionnaire with my PPR, they suggested we meet face to face instead
- Please help us with our future change of pastoral leadership
- Can't think of anything else we need
- Would like more seminars like Oratium at annual meetings
- All boards are helpful depending on your need at that time
- I have had no experience with the boards so cannot comment
- Sometimes it seems like we have big pots of money and people ask for it just because it is there
- Need help with functional structures—elder board, PPR, board of ministry, etc.
- My ministry has several denominations that work together, Evangelical is helpful because not as constrained by denominational boundaries, and I belong to this whole community
- Please help us with our church addition dedication
- None at this time
- Sometimes our church can actually be somewhat of a drain on the conference
- Have someone help us understand why the Church Health Tool would be beneficial to our church, help us walk through the process, I am sold but not all Elder board or council sees the need
- Already doing all you can do, I believe
- Help us with empowering leadership in developing new lay leaders
- Have a training session for worship leaders (inspiring worship)
- We are due for another NCD survey
- Speakers on inspiring worship, passionate spirituality, gift oriented ministry
- I feel the conference is doing everything it can to help my church
- Gift oriented ministry is our weakest area

TRUSTEES, Board of

"Go To Meeting" Web Cast, March 5, 2012

Members present: Leonard Dailey (Chairman), Bob Conover, Jay Forseth, Don Smith, Paul Anderson, Richard Weins and Steve Strutz (Conference Superintendent)

Leonard opened in Prayer.

WHEREAS, the Western Conference is paying the yearly premium for a Life Insurance policy on Rolly Strutz which will be payable to Beartooth Mt. Christian Ranch (BMCR) and WHEREAS, BMCR has agreed to reimburse the Conference for their payments made when the payout comes, BE IT RESOLVED a paper trail is maintained to keep an account of said amount to be reimbursed. This paper trail is on file at the Conference office.

WHEREAS, the Conference has been paying the operating cost for Associated Group Benefit Plan and Trust which is a group Health Insurance plan for some of the pastors in Montana near Billings and WHEREAS, this cost has increased by 1%, BE IT RESOLVED the Conference includes this increase amount.

WHEREAS, the Conference Trustees are responsible for liability and personal property including the Conference Fun Trailer, BE IT RESOLVED Leonard Daily check and make sure these insurance needs are being met.

WHEREAS, there is need for legal advice from time to time for the churches in the Conference and WHEREAS, there had been no one to do so for the states of North Dakota and Wyoming, BE IT RESOLVED Stan Wolfe from Gillette, WY and Cameron Sillers from Langdon, ND have agreed to do so.

WHEREAS, the transfer of property from the Conference to BMCR needed to be completed, BE IT RESOLVED Steve Strutz reported he had signed the papers to do so.

WHEREAS, the transfer of property from the Conference to Mt. Carmel Camp needs to be done, BE IT RESOLVED the Trustees encourage the Conference Council of Administration proceed with the transfer at Spring Boards 2012 to have a goal to be completed by the end of the year..

Don Smith reported that the Camp has filed for a 501-c3 status through a lawyer and hopes to have it completed by July 2012.
WHEREAS, there is a cost for legal fees to transfer the property to Mt. Carmel Camp, BE IT RESOLVED the funds in the Trustee budget of $2500 for this purpose be made available to Mt. Carmel Camp.

WHEREAS, there was question concerning the North Dakota Mineral Lease Payment and future royalty payments, BE IT RESOLVED the Conference office is keeping the matter current. Don Smith said he had given some legal property papers he had found to Karen at the Conference Office.

WHEREAS, the Trustees are to submit a proposed budget for the year 2013, BE IT RESOLVED the budget be:

Office Expense:	Supt. Administrative Assist.	$17,583
	Workman's Comp	212
	Financial Clerk	6,266
	Events Coordinator	1,160
	CPA	3,411

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has responsibility to oversee certain Conference funds invested in WIF, BE IT RESOLVED the balance and status of said funds as of January 31, 2012 is:

Revolving Loan Fund (for loaning) $38,218
(this fund has a loan to Harvest Church of $33,375 which is current and an expected transfer of income of $11,236)
House Fund (for loan) *(maintain $60,000 balance)* 70,715
Williston Fund *(granting for church planting)* 3,234
Knuth Fund *(granting for church planting)* 142,501
(this fund must maintain a balance of $50,000) (all but $50,000 has already been requested and granted by Board of Church Planting)
Emergency Savings Account 76,903
(this fund is an emergency fund to pay the Conference bills for a period of 3 months if needed)
Ministerial Training Fund 7,725
Pastoral Care Fund 3,268

These last two funds are funding by the positive cash flow that is determined at Spring Boards.

WHEREAS, a request was made from the floor of the 2011 Annual Conference to remove the balance requirement for the Knuth Fund and WHEREAS, Jay Forseth said he would try and locate any heirs to Rev. Knuth to determine if this could be done and WHEREAS no heirs could be found and WHEREAS no document from Rev. Knuth could be found which required the balance and WHEREAS, the only action requiring the balance came from Conference action, BE IT RESOLVED the Conference Trustees by a vote of approval on a motion recommend that the $50,000 balance requirement be lifted and all the funds be made available for church planting. Rev. Knuth had a vision for church planting and the Trustees determined this action was in the spirit of his wishes.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Conover
Appointed Secretary for the Board of Trustees for the Western Conference

TRUSTEES, BOARD of

Harvest Church, Billings, Montana- November 5, 2012

Members present: Leonard Dailey (Chairman), Jay Forseth, Don Smith and Bob Conover

WHEREAS there is still a need for legal advice in North Dakota, BE IT RESOLVED that an attorney be put on record for legal advice for churches in the state.

WHEREAS the process of updating Articles of Incorporation for each local church in the Western Conference has not been completed, BE IT RESOLVED that Leonard will check with Karen at the Conference Office on churches which have not done so and will contact them to encourage them to do so. A copy of the updated articles of incorporation from each local church needs to be sent to Karen to be on record.

WHEREAS the transfer of ownership of Beartooth Mt. Christian Ranch is still in progress but is progressing in the hands of capable attorneys, BE IT RESOLVED Leonard will continue to monitor this process, AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to instruct the Conference attorney, Andrew

Billstein, to have this process completed by Spring Boards 2013.

WHEREAS there needs to be official signatory for the Conference for the transfer of ownership of Beartooth Mt. Christian Ranch, BE IT RESOLVED Leonard Dailey and Steve Strutz are approved to do so by a vote of the Trustees.

WHEREAS Mt. Carmel Christian Camp should be incorporated by January 1, 2013 and will begin the process of applying for 501(c)3 status with the Federal Government, BE IT RESOLVED Don will monitor this process to be completed in order to eventually transfer ownership from the Conference to the Camp.

WHEREAS there needs to be official signatory of the Trustees for Mt. Carmel Christian Camp, BE IT RESOLVED Don Smith is approved to do so by a vote of the Trustees.

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees has responsibility to oversee certain Conference funds that are invested in WIF, BE IT RESOLVED the balance of said funds as of September 30, 2012 are:

Revolving Loan Fund *(for loaning)*	$50,598

(This fund has a note to Harvest Church of $33,375 which is current and due by April 1, 2014)

House Fund *(for loan) (maintain balance of $60,000)*	71,597
Williston Fund *(granting for church planting)*	35,937
Knuth Fund *(granting for church planting)*	69,277
Emergency Savings Account, Ministerial Training Fund And Pastoral Care Fund	77,862

(These funds are an emergency fund to pay Conference bills for 3 months and to help in Emergency Pastoral needs)

WHEREAS Faith Church has increased salaries of support staff by 2% and WHEREAS the Conference shares the staff and has set policy to match any increase set by Faith Church, BE IT RESOLVED the Conference budget items responsible by the Trustees be increased by 2% as follow and come from positive cash flows:

Office Expense	
Supt. Administrative Assistant	$17, 935
Workman's Comp	216

Financial Clerk	6,391
Events Coordinator	1,183
CPA	3,479

WHEREAS Element Church in Cheyenne, Wyoming is planting a church in Wheatland, Wyoming and needs $75,000 to do the plant, WHEREAS the Board of Church Planting has requested $15,000 from the Knuth Fund for this plant, BE IT RESOLVED said request be granted towards the church plant in Wheatland by vote of the Trustees.

WHEREAS the Board of Church Planting has requested $100,000 from the Trustees for a church plant in Butte, MT by Harvest Church in Billings, and WHEREAS there is only $90,184 available in the Knuth Fund, BE IT RESOLVED those funds will be available for cash flow needs for the church plant, but that the $100,000 be taken from next year's budget of the Board of Church Planting as is Conference policy. If there are monies paid out for cash flow needs, they need to be returned from the next year's budget.

WHEREAS the Conference is receiving monies from the mineral lease that is the responsibility of the Trustees, BE IT RESOLVED that said monies are to be deposited into the Williston Fund and to be annually reviewed by the Conference Trustees, ALSO BE IT RESOLVED that a tithe of 10% of these monies be sent to the Denomination Office to be used for their expenses. This is to be done before depositing into the Williston Fund.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Conover
Secretary for the Conference Trustees

WOMEN'S MINISTRY, Board of

Conference Call - February 28, 2012 – 12:00 (CT)

IN ATTENDANCE: Jan Hardesty, Esther Schlichting, Dana Worthen, Christy Vogel, and Theo Gonzales. Dawn Roppel and Courtney Luhmann were unable to attend.

PRAYER: Jan Hardesty opened in prayer. Each lady then shared what God was doing in their lives.

Reviewed Purpose and Mission of the Board of Women's Ministry: The Purpose of the Board of Women's Ministry is to encourage, empower, and equip the ladies of our local churches and our pastors' wives to be all that God uniquely created each one of them to be as Followers of Christ. Our Mission is to encourage, empower, and equip the ladies of local churches and our pastors' wives by providing leadership training, mentoring/coaching, newsletter/brochures, informative website, and educational materials.

Review of minutes from Annual Conference 2011 Conference and Meeting:

Jan Hardesty had sent the minutes from the previous Board meetings for members to review. No one had any questions about Old Business.

New Business:

Resources and Training Team Update: Christy Vogel gave an update on the training team and resources. She shared that the new resources that were purchased last fall (2011) were included on the Conference's website. It could be located under church resources under the drop-down menu under women's ministry. Christy shared that four ladies from the training team went to Nashville, TN for the Leadership Training in November last year. All the recorded sessions from that leadership training can also be found on the Conference's website for all churches to access for training purposes.

Christy is considering sending some ladies to this year's leadership training in November, further training for the existing leadership team and possibly other types of training. It was mentioned that some of training provided could be done regionally within the next 6 months.

Christy shared that one of the existing problems that she has is communication with some of the local churches and not having a good contact base for the local women's ministry. Some of the contact information goes into the churches' office or possibly the pastor's email box and gets lost. We felt as a Board that our pastors already have enough to do and do not want to continue to burden them with trying to get information out to members within the women's ministry.

Pastors' wives: Jan Hardesty shared with the members of the Board some concerns that she had regarding our pastors' wives. Through surveys, emails, and phone calls – Jan shared that it may be necessary to use some of our travel expense monies to get out to the local churches to have one-on-one contact with the pastors' wives. Several pastors' wives were excited that someone from the western conference would come and visit with them. Through discussion, it appeared that Jan Hardesty and Christy Vogel had similar ideas of what was needed for this year to get information out to the local churches and more communication taking place at the local level. It was decided that Jan Hardesty and Christy Vogel would meet in Billings, Mt during the first week in March, 2012 to work out the details for setting up meetings with the pastors' wives and leadership within the local churches.

NEWSLETTER AND FACEBOOK UPDATE: Dana Worthen shared with the members of the Board that she had the newsletter ready to send out within the next few days to the local churches. She will also contact Karen Walton to have it placed on the Conference website. There was a discussion about how well the newsletter and Facebook account for the Board of Women's Ministry was working out as far as getting information out to the local churches. WHEREAS the Board of Women's Ministry needs ways to get information out to the local churches, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Women's ministry will continue to provide the newsletter and Facebook account as ways to communicate with the local churches.

WEBSITE: Jan Hardesty shared that she had been in contact with Karen Walton from the Conference office and it was shared that if we get the information we needed on the website to her, that Karen would see that it was placed under women's ministry on the website.

BROCHURES: There was a discussion regarding putting out brochures. Dawn Roppel had assisted Jan Hardesty with putting together some ideas for the purpose and mission and ways to put that information together for using in a brochure. Since the Board has a purpose and mission

that was decided upon at our last Annual Conference, we will look for some professional help in designing a brochure that will be simple and informative. This discussion was tabled at this time.

Review of Budget for 2012: There was a discussion on the Budget for 2012 and it was decided that what the funds were being used for this year fit into the purpose and mission of the Board of Women's Ministry.

Proposal for 2013 Budget: There was a discussion about whether this next year would be a good time to ask for a larger budget. With the extra training that is planning to be provided at the regional level and other travel expenses to visit with local churches, it was decided that it would be beneficial for the Board to seek more monies to help in the travel expenses of the training team to be able to set up training sessions and also providing information to the local churches. WHEREAS the Women's Board of Ministry has found the building base for the needs of women's ministry and pastors' wives over the past two years in order to meet our purpose and mission for Women's Ministry at the conference level, BE IT RESOLVED that the Women's Board of Ministry will ask for $6,000 for our proposed budget for 2013.

Steve Strutz had asked each chairperson to discuss the Western Conference's mission, vision and value statement with our Board as we met for Spring Boards. Jan Hardesty reviewed the questions that were presented by Steve Strutz to the members of the Board. As a Board we felt that our purpose and our mission were in line with the mission, vision and values of the Western Conference.

Christy Vogel closed the meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan Hardesty
Chair for the Board of Women's Ministry

WOMEN'S MINISTRY, Board of

Harvest Church, Billings, MT - November 5, 2012

In Attendance: Jan Hardesty, Theo Gonzales, and Christy Vogel. Dana Worthen and Courtney Luhmann were not able to attend.

Devotional/Prayer: Devotional and prayer was led by Theo Gonzales on

Matthew 28:19-20- Go and make disciples.

The Purpose: Western Conference Women's Ministry in its vision and mission exists for the purpose of assisting local churches in accomplishing its God-given potential of Kingdom expansion by encouraging women in their roles as: follower of Christ, wife, mother, and community member.

The minutes from Spring Boards for 2012 were read and reviewed. As a Board of Women's Ministry, we were pleased with the accomplishments that were made for the year. We were able to complete the packet of information about our Board of Women's Ministry to help pastors and local churches know more about what we offer as a Board at the conference level.

There was a discussion about ways we saw God at work in our individual lives and also within our local churches.

There was discussion regarding ways that we would be good stewards of the monies provided for our Board to minister to local churches and to pastors' wives.

WHEREAS, the Women's Ministries is requesting a budget for 2013, BE IT RESOLVED, a budget of $6,000 for 2013 will be used to further the purpose and mission of Women's Ministries.

Theo Gonzales will contact Jack Runner regarding the final financial categories for the budget.

WHEREAS, the Women's Ministries has set our purpose and vision in assisting the local churches and pastors' wives, BE IT RESOLVED, that we will set our goals for 2013 as follows: to continue to work on our contact base by getting our information packets out to the local churches; to visit our local churches; to work on setting up a retreat for pastors' wives; to find ways to connect women at our Annual Conference meetings; and to continue to update resources for women's ministry at the conference level.

The meeting was adjourned and we closed in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jan Hardesty
Secretary for the Board of Women's Ministry

HISTORY REPORT

44th Annual Conference – November 2012

Last year our Annual Session was held in Gillette, WY. The High Plains congregation under the leadership of Pastor Dan Morgan and his assistant, Gary Maness was the best. Liz Morgan and crew did a great job of entertaining. The new building was one of the finest in the Conference.

My life has been affected for the best by the guest speaker, Dr. H.B. London. He is retired but came to the session, feeling a mandate from God to speak words of encouragement to the Conference filled with young men in ministry. His health was threatening but he came. His message was a needed factor in the future of our Western Conference.

Two very special laymen were honored. Marvin Schieldt, retired from 20 years plus in the development of Beartooth Mountain Christian Ranch, and Irvin Haidle was translated to heaven from a lifetime of great service to the Western Conference and the Evangelical Church. These are great examples of lay leadership that had served the Lord in building His Kingdom on earth with us.

Vernon Aarness, Director of Kingdom Resources had a report that illustrated the lives of both Marvin and Irv. In the wake of great leaders like Herman Knuth and Andrew Roukema, along with lay people from the Holiness Methodist Church and others, who gave sacrificial gifts that made the advancement of new churches and the Conference possible.

Programs were proposed and adopted to help strengthen churches and pastors for better service in the work of the church. New boards and committees were created to help build pastors, churches and a good camping ministry. These are earnest efforts to challenge true believers and churches to build, serve, grow, and to fulfill the challenge of Matthew 28:18-20, along with helping to avoid burn out and to stay spiritually and physically alert in fulfilling their call to Christian service. The Superintendent reported a good number of pastors who are in training and wanting to be used in Christian service. He also mentioned groups of believers who were waiting in the wings to be recognized by our fellowship to become part of the Western Conference and its work around the world.

God is giving us this day and these opportunities as stepping stones for a great future for Him. Let's accept the challenge and move forward to a glorious future that will continue to glorify His name!

HISTORIAN ADDENDUM

Melstone Bible Church Centennial

Melstone Bible Church celebrated its 100th Anniversary. This church joined our conference in 1984. Your historian had the privilege of pastoring this congregation for nine years from 1984 to 1993. It was a thrill to be present for this, their great milestone. Some of our pastors and laymen have shared in the ministry of the church over the years and were present to help celebrate the 100th Anniversary. One highlight was that Kelly Jennaway, a son of this congregation brought the message. Melstone Bible Church may not be the largest church, but it will serve as a lighthouse for Jesus in a very large ranching community.

"An anniversary is a time to celebrate
the joys of today, the memories of yesterday,
and the hopes of tomorrow."
-Author unknown

Joanne Swift, November 5, 1919 – June 7, 2012

On June 12, a memorial service was held for Joanne Swift, wife of Rev. Kent Swift, at Faith Evangelical Church. She was a faithful mate, lovable mother, great grandmother, and tremendous hostess to many friends of our Conference.

Western Conference Superintendent Report
2012 Annual Conference ■ Harvest Church

Vision: Healthy, life-giving, multiplying and prevailing Pastors and Churches.

2011 Theme: ABIDE! I cannot and you should not overlook the line that Jesus says in John 15:5, "Apart from Me, you can do NOTHING!" Our total life and ministry is dependent the Lord Jesus and our remaining, abiding, living in Him. Book: Secrets of the Vine by Wilkerson

During this past year some key events that took place:

November 2011: Annual Conference was hosted at the new facility of High Plains Community Church in Gillette, Wyoming (Pastor Dan Morgan). H.B. London who is a Pastor to Pastors was the keynote speaker.

February 2012: A Peacemaker training event was held in Billings. This was a skill development event in Coaching and Mediation Skills for dealing with conflict Biblically.

March 2012: Spring Boards meetings were held (many via "go to meeting").

Spring 2012: Outreach through Small Groups, etc.

April 2012: The Pastors (ministry personnel) and Spouse Retreat was held in Billings. The primary purpose is to give the couples a chance to be refreshed and renew their relationship with one another. A half-day skill development seminar was added to the front end for Leadership Development (i.e. decision making, creative thinking, etc.).

May 2012: Oratium Seminar: Another skill development seminar on enhancing our communication skills. Thus far, about 40+ of our ministry personnel have been through the training, with one more Oratium event being scheduled in early 2013.

Summer of 2012: A variety of fruitful camping ministries took place. Also, the Western Conference/Faith E. allowed for me to take a three month Sabbatical. I see it as an absolute gift and I am extremely grateful to you for that privilege (sabbatical nuggets at end of report). As a team you filled in the gaps with me gone and dealt with whatever came up and you handled it extremely well! Thanks! With the help of the Pastoral Health Team on the Conference level, let's see if we can't get Sabbaticals embedded into our Local Church's DNA.

September of 2012: Prayer Summit at BMCR. Outstanding! Thanks Prayer Board!

Continued Emphasis:

1. A.C.T.S. (Assessment, Coaching, Training and Strategic Plans)

2. Church Planting: How can we multiply churches and ministries? Let's keep praying and doing this. Looks like several plants, etc. are on target for 2013.
3. Church Health Evaluation: We recommend NCD (Natural Church Development), but there are other tools available. All of us as individuals and Churches should want to do some sort of check-up to make sure we are as healthy as possible so that we can bear as much fruit as possible. We will not force you to do such a check-up, you should want to, and we will help you.
4. Pastoral Health: Off to a great start, but I have a question, "How are our ministers wives doing? Should we be doing something specifically for their health?
5. Regional Overseers and gatherings…let's do this together. I will connect with the Regional Overseers more intentionally in 2013.

Fresh thinking and questions of direction:

1. 2013 Western Conference Theme "MULTIPLYING DISCIPLES WHO MULTIPLY DISCIPLES WHO MULTIPLY DISCIPLES WHO…"
   "DISCIPLE" = ONE WHO IS PASSIONATELY COMMITTED TO FOLLOWING AND BECOMING LIKE JESUS
   Evangelical Church Denominational Theme: TRANSFORMED PEOPLE MOBILIZED ON THE MISSION OF CHRIST.
2. Vision team: Permission has been granted for myself and a small group (personally selected) to look at our Conference and ask the BIG questions. i.e. If we were to start all over, what would it look like? Strengths? Weaknesses? Opportunities? Threats? Where should we be in 5-10 years? etc.
3. A fresh look at our "structure" i.e. boards, committees, website, etc. I am sensing they are somewhat inefficient in helping our local churches flourish where God has placed them. Let's dialogue about this.
4. PRAYER: This is nothing new, but are we leading on our knees? Let's bring the level of prayer up in our Conference and Church life. What does that look like for us as individuals, for our churches, our conference, and our denomination? Prayer Board can you help us?
5. DISCIPLE MAKING: Let's revamp the C.E. Board and create a DISCIPLEMAKING BOARD. Let's broaden the perspective of that group as it moves into the future.

Opportunities and matters of prayer as we move into 2013:

1. New works are scheduled to start this year: Wheatland, Wyoming (Element), Butte, Montana (Harvest), Missional Communities (Journey), and others?
2. Several ministers are beginning to explore a process for transitioning out of or redefining their role in ministry in their fourth quarter of life and ministry. Pray that the batons are of leadership/ministry are passed well.
3. Conflicted churches. It seems like conflict is a part of our life and ministry. Pray that God will show up in wisdom, peace and power in our Churches and that we will, "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:3

ABOUT MY SABBATICAL:

Once again, I and Janice are extremely grateful! Thank you. I would like to express my appreciation for the many who filled in and led in my absence. They did a fantastic ministry and stepped up to the plate and dealt with some amazing situations in a great way. Good job!

People ask, "Steve, what did you do on Sabbatical?", and "Steve what did you learn on Sabbatical?" In a "nut shell", this is what I did:

1. Course at George Fox Seminary: Spiritual Life taught by Dr. Dan Brunner. Rethinking the Spiritual Disciplines/Soul Training, etc.
2. Met with a Church near Roseburg, Oregon and also a Four Square Supt. in Tacoma. Both impacted me highly.
3. Read and read: Everything from the Hunger Games and Calico Joe to N.T. Wrights commentary on the Gospel of Mark… to Transition (looking myself at how to transition well out of and into ministry in the fourth quarter of my life).
4. Slept a lot! Fished a lot! Golfed a lot (and by the way, new clubs and playing often does not lower your score!)
5. Spent much time with my wife. Sometimes we as ministers forget what our wives have gone through with and for us in ministry. Janice and I had a delightful time doing many fun things together. I appreciate my wife Janice so much.
6. Spent individual time with each of my children. They too were on the journey with Janice and I in ministry, so we honored them and gifted them with some fun adventures and much time. It was a highlight!
7. Cabin time. Spent some alone time to renew, refresh and refuel. Also, it was great to be able to listen to the Lord on those times.

What did I learn? Let me give you four big things that caught my heart

These may not be earthshaking to you, but they were heart-shaking to me.

1. It's about a river, not a puddle! We are never finished in our journey with God. And like a river, our life with God is always moving, always going somewhere. Sometimes through deep and slow water, and sometimes rapids, but always moving. However, there are things that we as individuals allow into our lives that create a puddle situation and not a river. We stop and if not corrected stagnate and dry up. Am I "puddled" in any realm of my life and ministry with Jesus? Also, it caused me to think about our Churches and Conference, and if we unwittingly create ministry to puddle up our people/churches and not let them flow in their growth/journey with God like a river. Colossians 2:6,7
2. It's about keeping the main thing the main thing! In reading through the Gospel of Mark, I was absolutely struck about how Jesus truly addresses every single person and situation with grace, truth and power. There is nothing that He cannot address! It caused me to be renewed with a passion within that WE ARE IN THE RIGHT BUSINESS! THAT TRULY JESUS IS THE ANSWER! LET'S GET AFTER MINISTRY AND LIFE IN HIM! THERE IS NO OTHER ANWER TO THE PROBLEMS OF THIS WORLD AND THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE! Let's keep the main thing (the Gospel) the main thing!
   i. The Gospel: 1 Corinthians 15:2 "By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures."

   Rom 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes:
   iii. Our purpose: Matt 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."
   iv. Are you/we still all about the "main thing"?
3. It's about the blessed life!
   i. The BLESSSED LIFE! (no matter if we are experiencing good times or tough times) The blessed life (God's best and blessed for us) is our life with Jesus.
   ii. John 15… "remain in ME"…Jesus /STAY CONNECTED

TO THE VINE

iii. Psalm 1…The blessed person

iv. No matter what, are you experiencing the "blessed" life by walking with Jesus?

4. It's about how much Sabbath matters

i. Exodus 20:8-11

1. Teaches us to RELY on God. I take Him at His word and observe the Sabbath and trust that somehow he will make up the extra work/ministry that I am putting on hold; or that He will make up the extra dollars that I am not making on that day. It is a matter of trust.
2. Gives us needed REST. I often say, each week as my Sabbath comes to an end, "boy did I need this day! God sure knew what He was doing when He commanded us to observe a Sabbath!"
3. It allows us to RELATE to God and His people in a unique way that our usual days to not.

ii. How are you with the Sabbath? THIS IS HUGE!

There were many other things that I learned about myself and God during the Sabbatical. Hopefully they will come out of my life as we move ahead on the journey together.

Thanks again. It's a privilege to serve with you.

All about making disciples who make disciples who make disciples who…

Steve Strutz
Western Conference Superintendent

General Superintendent Report
Western Annual Conference
Billings, Montana ■ November 5-7, 2012

Greetings to my brothers and sisters of the Western Conference in the name of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, our Savior, Jesus Christ! All glory, praise and honor belong to our omnipotent King, who was and is and is to come. He is the only true God and he has dominion over the whole earth. Our God reigns. He has already triumphed over sin, death and the devil. We wait in anticipation for his final victory over all evil.

It is with great joy that I am able to rejoice with you for the gracious work of God in our denomination during 2011. God has blessed our churches in many ways. There have been many spiritual victories with people being saved from their life of sin, being sanctified and baptized with the Holy Spirit, being called to serve his kingdom in many different ways and growing more and more in the likeness and fullness of Jesus Christ. It is a joy to see people in many of our churches being transformed by the grace of God and mobilized to participate in the mission of Jesus Christ.

As we praise God for the victories of 2011, we also recognize that many of our people and churches have also experienced seasons of great trial and disappointments. We have lost congregations and individuals. Some have fallen in the heat of the battle. Our hearts are always grieved when people lose their way, but even in these trying and sorrow filled circumstances we can see God working for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose. We praise him for his presence, grace and mercy in the difficult times as well as the good.

Following our board meetings last Fall, I felt God laid it upon my heart to invite a group of Elders to brain storm with me about the future direction of our denomination. In early January eleven Elders met with me. While many things were discussed in that meeting, three items became the focal point of the discussion.

1. The goal of our denomination is for people to be transformed into the likeness of Jesus and mobilized on his mission.
2. Our organizational DNA is more conference oriented than denominational oriented.
3. Evangelical Church Missions needs a clear philosophy of missions that serves the church by allowing for innovative approaches to missions that will enable our people to be mobilized globally on the mission of Christ.

The following explains how we will follow through and develop these three main issues. Concerning item #2, a proposal is being prepared that will represent a denominational level structure which recognizes and respects the conference orientation of our denomination. This structure will be focused on simplicity and the task of the denominational boards providing support to the Annual Conference boards as they seek to assist the local church in fulfilling our goal. The plan is to have this proposal approved by the Cabinet and then presented to our General Church Council at our October 2012 meeting.

Concerning item #3, the Board of Missions has approved the development of a philosophy of missions for Evangelical Church Missions. The main focus of this philosophy is to provide the foundation upon which Evangelical Church Missions can be a vehicle through which the local church can mobilize transformed people into the harvest fields in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the far reaches of the earth. It will be a comprehensive philosophy that considers not only the work of Evangelical Church Missions, but also the other forms of mission work found among the members of our denomination. We want a denominational missions program that embraces various approaches to local and global mission efforts that are consistent with our goal and can effectively mobilize Evangelicals on the mission of Christ. Our plan is to present this philosophy to the Board of Missions in their October 2012 meeting.

Concerning item #1, work is proceeding in the following manner. First, a document is being prepared that would explain according to our Wesleyan-Arminian theological interpretation of scripture what is involved in people being transformed and then mobilized on the mission of Christ. This work will be done with the advice and feedback of the Council of Superintendents. Secondly, a proposal is being prepared that would incorporate this goal into the purpose statement of our denomination as expressed in ¶309 of The Discipline. I hope this will be approved by the General Church Council this October to be sent to the Commission on the Discipline. Finally, I want to develop, in cooperation with the Council of Superintendents, a means by which each pastor and church can evaluate and discuss their effectiveness in fulfilling this goal.

It seems to me that a goal, a mission or purpose statement is simply a way for us to restate the goal and purpose of Jesus for the church as expressed in the Great Commission. Stating our goal or purpose is really useless unless we ask ourselves through reflection and evaluation if we are actually achieving our goal. I believe it is time for us to evaluate and discuss whether or not we are achieving our goal. Therefore, I want to

begin by asking you some questions.

Are we truly fulfilling our goal?
If the goal of The Evangelical Church is to see people transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ and mobilized on his mission, then the question before us is, "Are we truly fulfilling our goal?"

Are people in your church being transformed into the likeness of Jesus?
Jesus said, "If anyone wants to follow me, he must deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." Do we present this as the standard for people to follow Jesus? Is this the experience of people in your church?

Transformation: Conversion
Are people being truly converted, passing from death to life, from darkness to light? Are people turning in repentance from their old way of life to serve and follow Jesus? Are people leaving the life of unrighteousness and ungodliness to live a life of righteousness and holiness? Are people being born again? Are people being recreated anew in the image of Jesus Christ?

Transformation: Sanctification & Baptism of the Holy Spirit
Jesus prayed in John 17 that His followers would be sanctified or made holy. He told the disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The success of the church in the book of Acts to accomplish their goal was that the disciples were sanctified through the purifying baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and were filled with power to fulfill Christ's mission through the fullness of the Spirit in their lives.

Are people in your church experiencing their own Pentecost? Are they being sanctified? Are they consecrating or committing their whole life to God? Are they committed to follow Jesus wherever His will takes them? Are they being purified by the work of the Holy Spirit in their heart? Are they experiencing freedom from the sinful nature that hates God and opposes His will? Are they being filled with the Holy Spirit?

Transformation: Living Daily in the Fullness of the Spirit and Growing in Christ
Are the people in your church using the spiritual disciplines/means of grace to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ? Are they maturing in their faith and walk with Christ? Are the fruits of the Spirit evident in their life? Are they incorporating the values and principles of scripture into their daily life? Are they presenting themselves as living sacrifices to God? Are they being renewed in their mind to think like

Jesus? Are they demonstrating a whole hearted love for God and a Christ-like love for their neighbor?
Mobilized on the Mission of Jesus

The mission of Jesus is that people of all nationalities would become his disciples and live according to all he has taught. It is the will of Jesus that all his disciples are involved in his mission of making disciples.

Are the people of your church being mobilized to engage in the mission of Jesus? Are they praying for the salvation of the lost? Are they giving of their financial means to support the mission of Jesus? Are they serving others demonstrating the love of Christ to the lost? Are they serving Jesus according to their gifts and abilities? Are they following the Spirit's leading to share the Gospel with the lost?

In other words we may simply ask, "Are we making disciples?" Or, we could ask, "Are we building New Testament Christians?"

Do we have a clear model of what a disciple of Jesus should look like? Do we know how to make disciples? Do we have a model or models of how this can be done? We have models of what a healthy church looks like. People have done great research to understand what a healthy church is. They have methods to help the church become a healthy life-giving body. But, do we know what a healthy disciple looks like? Do we know how to instruct and lead someone to spiritual health?

The Evangelical Church must be engaged in making disciples. We need to know what makes a healthy holy disciple of Jesus. We need to build disciples whose faith is impervious to the surrounding circumstances. We need disciples who stand strong in their faith demonstrating the likeness of Jesus regardless of the amount of religious freedom they enjoy or the amount of money in their pocket.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Brian Eckhardt
General Superintendent

2012 Denomination Meeting Report: Harvest Ministries

A handful of us gathered from across The Evangelical Church on October 2 to take up matters related to "Harvest Ministries".

A "40,000 foot" report on some things we worked on:

1. Heard from Harvest Ministries Director, Dale Erbele, on what vision, focus, and direction his work was taking him in these days.

2. Heard an update from each Conference about what "Harvest Ministries" looked like in their context.

3. Made some budgetary adjustments to better facilitate the ministry of the Harvest Ministry Director and Harvest Ministries as a whole.

4. Heard from Superintendent Eckhardt about a proposed new vision statement for the Denomination: "Transformed people mobilized on the mission of Christ"

5. Were challenged by Superintendent Eckhardt to consider Harvest Ministries role in "fleshing out" that new vision.

6. Spent time mulling over what it looks like for the Board of Harvest Ministry to walk that new vision out.

7. Developed a "draft" proposed purpose statement for the Board of Harvest Ministry: "To assist in transforming churches to be mobilized on the mission of Christ."

8. Worked on what it looks like for us to continue to have a denominational "torch bearer" for Harvest Ministries.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Hopkins
Western Conference Representative
Board of Church Planting

2012 Denomination Meeting Report: Harvest Ministries

The Denominational Harvest Ministries Board, which is comprised of both the Board of Church Planting and the Board of Church Health, met in Minneapolis the first week of October 2012. The meeting was chaired by Don Hohensee, with assistance from Dale Erbele, who functions as the Denominational Harvest Ministry Director.

Reports were given by the various conferences concerning the status of Church planting and Church Health in each region. There are many things to celebrate in our denomination, as there are new works being launched and considered, and a greater intensity on Church health is being talked about and focused on. Although there are areas that garner attention, it seems as if the momentum is swinging in a positive direction.

There have been some gifts that have been given to the Denomination that have helped fund the position of Harvest Ministries Director in a more formal way for the next year. This has been a tremendous blessing as it has helped answer a question about how to fund the Director position, which has been before the conference for some time. Dale has been a tremendous resource and has provided valuable leadership in this arena across the denomination.

Much focus was given to the Denomination's new vision statement of "Transformed people mobilized on the Mission of Christ". This is the reason why the Harvest Board exists, to facilitate this within our conference Churches.

The Board talked about the importance of having a quality and passionate leader over this area in our Denomination and we affirmed the need for a Harvest Director. The budget was adjusted to facilitate an increase in travel expenses for Dale and to provide more flexibility for him to lead within our conferences.

Cory Engel
Western Conference Representative
Board of Church Health

2012 Denomination Meeting Report: Board of Ministry

Denominational Purpose: To Glorify God by living the Great Commission and the Great Commandment so that people might be transformed into disciples of Jesus Christ mobilized to serve on His mission.

Mission: Discipling disciple-makers. Provide training and encouragement (pastoral care) to pastors to develop disciples for Christ.

There was considerable discussion on several important questions:

- What should a minister look like and how do we help get them there?
  - It was suggested that we raise the bar for soul winning- it should be our first duty.
  - The role of the board of ministry should be to disciple disciple-makers.
- Is our current "grid" of training developing disciple-makers?
- Is the education we are requiring producing the desired quality of ministers needed to lead our churches?

Consequently, the board charged Dr. Bruce Moyer to explore developing a "PESM East" to meet the need of pastoral training in our eastern conferences.

A webinar was scheduled with Rev. Darrell Mischler on "MAP based ministry mentoring" on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 9:00am MST.

Concern was expressed that we are not ministering effectively to our pastoral families. The Denomination agreed to engage Dr. H.B. London to consult with conference leadership to encourage the health of pastoral families.

There was discussion on how to develop a ministry to pastor's wives. It was suggested to explore reproducing Pacific Conference's Pastor's Wives Retreat (Nov. 2-4). Representatives from the Conferences are welcome to join them. Linda Eckhardt is also a great resource for ideas and encouragement.

The next Denominational Orientation Week is scheduled for May 18-22, 2013 at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park, CO. There was discussion about revising some of the material to be relevant to pastoral couples to encourage them to be disciple-makers: possibly having a wives session, plus Wed. morning a panel discussion of ministry issues.

A study commission was assigned (Don Hohensee, Allen Sollheim, Doug Gilmore and Clyde Pritchett) to explore the issues of the Theology of Ordination and Ministry including the role of women in ministry. They are to work as a resource with the Commission on the Discipline as they rewrite chapter 5- Ministry of the Church.

There was great spirit of seeking to follow God as He leads into the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Brent Nymeyer
Western Conference Representative
Board of Ministry

Board of Missions

A good meeting was held at the Denominational gathering this past October. While much detail could be shared regarding EC Missions finances, policy, structure, fields, and personnel, I will sum it up by saying there is overall a general level of good health and forward progress in regard to those things as they relate to The Evangelical Church Missions organization. Our EC Missions and partnerships with organizations such as Wycliff and OMS are good things for us to be involved in and continue to develop.

The most vibrant part of the meeting however revolved around opening the door for discussion regarding the vision and purpose of the Board of Missions on a Denominational Level (and thus also on a Conference level). This discussion was a great beginning place as we move forward. Traditionally the "Board of Missions" has been mostly relegated to and understood to be "EC Missions" the sending agency and field organization. While EC Missions is an important piece, it is not and should not be viewed as the entire picture. As we move forward into 2013 we are beginning to discuss how the Board of Missions can help conferences mobilize churches on the mission of Christ. EC Missions is one piece of that, but we also understand there is much more out there beyond the reach and scope of EC Missions and their current mission fields. We are beginning to expand our understanding of what & where mission(s) is and how we as churches are engaged in it. The Board of Missions is to be a tool to help conferences and churches develop that into their DNA.

Paul Hansen
Western Conference Representative
Board of Missions

2012 Denomination Meeting Report: Commission on the Discipline

It has been a privilege to serve as a Western Conference Representative on the COD (something I never thought I would say)! It's great to work with a team of committed leaders as we seek to lead with theological and structural integrity in a changing world where our message doesn't change, but our approaches to getting the message out often do.

Unfortunately, these changes often move at the speed of church, which is often painfully slow. That said, good things are happening!

The working document being submitted has increased flexibility for local church structures, language clarity in the area of those structures and in some points of theological wording. In my humble opinion, nothing has been sacrificed and much has been gained.

Could more have been done and are more changes needed? Probably, yes, and absolutely is the answer.

I encourage and challenge you to read through the Discipline, notice the changes, and ask questions. But I also want to ask you to enthusiastically endorse the work that has been done. Do so however with insight and investigation. Steve Strutz and I are both available to answer any questions, and your questions will help us to do an even better job as time moves forward.

Thanks!

Sincerely,
Bryan Baker
Western Conference Representative
Commission On The Discipline
Big Timber, Montana

2012 Denomination Meeting Report: Board of Trustees

Following are the highlights of the meeting:

1. Duane Erickson resigned from the board and as President. Phil McCoy was elected to serve as President.
2. A full CPA audit will be conducted on the General Church Council's financial statements. An audit was completed on the Missions financial statements with a number of recommendations for improvements.
3. Approved the purchase of non-profit accounting software.
4. Approved a contract with Evangelical Church Missions for financial management of the denominational office at 20 % of the expenses related to the staff position.
5. Approved a 5% compensation package increase for the General Superintendent for 2013 and raises for the administrative staff.
6. Authorized the General Supt and The Board of Trustees to consult with Legal Counsel concerning Article 12 of the Articles of Incorporation to determine the need for bonding and E & O insurance.

The above recommendation was then made to the General Church Council for approval, and was approved.

Richard Wiens
Western Conference Representative
Board of Trustees

Report of the Pacific Evangelical School of Ministry

We have concluded our thirteenth year of serving The Evangelical Church. The 2012 graduation services were held in Millen Auditorium at the Jennings Lodge Retreat Center and at Journey Church in Bozeman, Montana. Ten graduated on April 21 in Jennings Lodge. We had our first two women graduates from PESM. We also now have two parent/child graduates among our alumni. Rev. Tom Hurt brought the commencement address at this service. Tyler Powell and Clay Massar received their diplomas in Bozeman. The graduation service was part of the National Day of Prayer services at Journey Church on May 3.

Four classes were offered this past year: Church Growth, taught by Dr. Donald Hohensee; Christian Education, taught by Rev. Sam Summers; Church History, taught by Dr. Mark Weinert; and Inductive Bible Study with focus on the Old Testament, taught by Dr. Bill Vermillion. We also led fourteen students/spouses and pastors on a study tour in Israel, February 8-16, 2912. Four of the students took the trip for class credit.

The chapel program continues to be a blessing to students and faculty alike. Rev. Winston Thurton spoke on The Pastor as … in September. Dr. Bruce Moyer spoke on ECM and missions in general in November. In January, Rev. Steve Strutz spoke on the Dials/Dashboard Indicators in Ministry. In March we had three speakers focus on the pastor and funerals.

For the 2012-2013 school year the following courses are being offered: Dr. Bill Vermillion will teach Inductive Bible Study Methods with emphasis on the New Testament; Christian Holiness to be taught by Dr. Donald Hohensee; and Pastoral Counseling to be taught by Dr. Darrell Mishler. Dr. Vermillion's class was offered in September this year rather than in March which has been our practice for the past several years.

The faculty wrestled with the possibility of beginning a second cohort for the 2012-2013 school year. We were prepared to move in that direction but the enrollment for this new school year did not make that necessary or practical. We will either do that or begin an extension campus in Indiana this next year. We are looking seriously at this possibility.

We are giving serious attention to the identifying of new professors for PESM. We realize that while all of us are growing older, it is beginning to

be much more serious for several of us. We would appreciate your prayers for this matter.

I want to express appreciation for the assistance that Supt. Strutz has given to PESM in regard to helping the students understand the nature of ministry and the demands it puts on a person and a family. He has blessed us with his chapel presentations and the DVD he sent to remind us of the things he shared in the chapels.

I want to God for this privilege of serving as the dean of PESM. At times it keeps me quite busy but it is a task I enjoy. I count it a high honor to assist in the training of men and women who feel God is calling them into ministry in this the second decade of the 21st century. My desire is to see God move in a deep way in the lives of those He is bringing to PESM.

Dr. Donald Hohensee
Dean of PESM
10/11/12

2012 Report of the Director of Kingdom Resources

Last January General Superintendent, Brian Eckhardt, met with a number of people of influence in The Evangelical Church. The purpose of the meeting was to consider God's direction for our denomination, and how we could cooperate with Him in order to accomplish His purpose. Two major issues resulted from the discussions.

The first is that "Our goal (purpose, mission, vision) is to see people's lives transformed by the grace of God and empowered to work on the mission of Jesus." One summary of the discussion was "Transformed people mobilized on the mission of Jesus." Supt. Eckhardt is providing leadership to continue to endeavor to clarify how this will play out across our part of the Lord's body.

The second issue discussed has direct implications on how the denomination will relate to the conferences and the local churches. It is this: "The DNA of our denomination is a conference culture more than a denominational culture. This means that we are established to accomplish more at the conference level than the denominational level. We are endeavoring to work with this DNA*. This means that we work to establish strong conference board(s) or committees to help assist the local church in accomplishing the goal of transform(ing) lives. The question is; what does this mean for denominational level boards, committees and directors." (* Emphasis mine, VLA)

It will significantly affect the Kingdom Resource Ministries department of the church. There will be, the Lord helping us, a shift from working on a denominational level to becoming more effective in stewardship ministries on the conference level. There are funds available that will enable the denomination to help make this possible in our Conferences.

My thoughts about this are totally positive. Through the seven years of functioning as the director of Kingdom Resource Ministries, I have often seen the difficulty of connecting with all of the local churches. My dream was to see trained, capable and Spirit-filled stewardship leaders in each conference. Another factor has been my own age and continuing struggles with health issues that would indicate that the need for a change in my ministry is appropriate.

It has been a privilege to serve the church body that I love and to work with Brian Eckhardt and other denominational leaders. Jay Forseth has been especially helpful in these last years and, I believe, will continue to be instrumental in what God wants to do in the future.

Respectfully submitted,
Vernon L. Aarnes Director of Kingdom Resource Ministries

Harvest Ministry Director Report
Western Conference ■ November 5 - 7, 2012

I am completing my second year as your director of Harvest Ministries. It has been an interesting journey encouraging and working with Conference Superintendents, Conference Boards, Annual Conferences, Individual Pastors, Lay People and Churches at large. I have served in every conference except the Four Corners Conference.

Throughout our Denomination I have passionately tried to stress the importance of dealing with Church Health issues because healthy organisms are reproducing organisms. You cannot plant a successful new Church from a weak or unhealthy base. It takes a lot of resources as vision, prayer, people willing to be part of a new Church plant, properly assessed and coached Church planting couples, and a lot of finances.

There is only so much we can do as a Denomination. It has been discussed in other venues that the ministry and DNA of our Denomination is in reality conference driven. We are not a "top down" legislative or mandatory organization. Therefore, I have tried to encourage each conference to take seriously this whole matter of Church Health and Church Planting. I have endeavored to do Church Health Seminars in order to motivate people and provide resources through NCD. I desire for each conference to understand and use this viable and time tested process of bringing needed changes for greater Church Health and therefore greater Kingdom expansion!

My heart's desire is to see every conference Superintendent, Harvest and Church Planting directors trained and certified in understanding and implementing the NCD process. We dare not be content with the "status quo"! If we are open, honest and transparent with each other, taken as a whole, we are not a very healthy denomination…according to the statistics of the past decade. Yes, there are a couple of conferences making good progress and within each conference there are certainly bright spots.

Here in lies the challenge not everyone seems interested in diagnosing and evaluating their Church's health. So, I work with those who are willing to face the challenge. My goal has been to work with each Superintendent, appropriate conference boards and directors, and coach/mentor a couple of Churches in each conference as I am invited to do so. Slowly we are making progress!!

Within each conference and across conference boundaries we have a

variety of ministries and resources that are working so let us share and coach each other. Some of our smaller conferences have limited personnel and resources but we can encourage and resource each other…that is why we exist. Example: We have discovered that proper assessing of our ministry personnel is invaluable in order to see them "fit and flourish". However, not every conference has the capabilities of properly doing assessment. But we do have two conferences that are strong in that area and have a proven track record; namely Pacific Conference with Darrell Mishler and Western Conference with Brent Nymeyer. So why not send your people in that direction? Another example would be Church Planting. Why not connect with our successful Church Planter and have them come and share? Boot Camps is another area…why not use the resources that already exist within the body of Christ? Example: Church Multiplication Training Centers for Church Planter and Discipleship. NCD has also developed some excellent materials on Discipleship… "Transform One" is an excellent resource focusing on Personal Transformation, Church Transformation and Community Transformation. The list could go on so let us unite in using what God has already provided.

One more item: The Denomination has asked me to serve another year in my current ministry.

Thanks for your investment and giving me the privilege of serving The Kingdom in this capacity! Eternity is at stake for millions of souls so let us keep our focus on Transformed People Mobilized on the Mission of Christ"

J. Dale Erbele
Director of Harvest Ministries

Western Conference
BALANCE SHEET
As of December 31, 2012

ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
1001 · Operating Checking	177,133.78
Total Checking/Savings	177,133.78
Other Current Assets	
1200 · Prepaid Insurance	9,342.05
1250 · Prepaid Expenses	0.00
1300 · Notes Receivable	
1310 · N/R - Harvest Church	33,375.00
Total 1300 · Notes Receivable	33,375.00
Total Other Current Assets	42,717.05
Total Current Assets	219,850.83
Fixed Assets	
1400 · Furniture & Equipment	36,073.46
Total Fixed Assets	36,073.46
Other Assets	
1510 · WIF acct 8318 Revolving Loan	51,840.74
1520 · WIF acct 8319 House Fund	72,409.08
1530 · WIF acct 8320 Williston Fund	44,644.80
1540 · WIF acct 8321 Knuth Fund	70,271.52
1550 · WIF Savings acct	78,745.74
Total Other Assets	317,911.88
TOTAL ASSETS	**573,836.17**
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
2000 · Accounts Payable	6,967.98
Total Current Liabilities	6,967.98
Total Liabilities	6,967.98
Equity	
3150 · Designated Fund Balances	
3152 · Fund Balance - Church Extension	114,916.32
3154 · Fund Balance - Church Loan	85,215.74
3156 · Fund Balance - House Funds	72,409.08
3158 · Fund Balance - Other	30,000.00
Total 3150 · Designated Fund Balances	302,541.14
3200 · Undesignated Fund Balance	109,989.24
Net Income	154,337.81
Total Equity	566,868.19
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	**573,836.17**

Western Conference

Note 1: Church Extension Fund balance equals:

WIF - Williston Fund	44,644.80
WIF - Knuth Fund	70,271.52
Total	114,916.32

Note 2: Church Loan Fund balance equals:

Notes Receivable - Harvest	33,375.00
WIF - Revolving Loan Fund	51,840.74
Pending transfer to WIF	0.00
Total	85,215.74

Note 3: House Fund balance equals:

WIF - House Fund	72,409.08
Total	72,409.08

Note 4: Fund Balance -Other equals:

Ministerial Training/Education	15,000.00
Pastoral Care	15,000.00
Total	30,000.00

Western Conference
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
December 2012

	Dec 12	Jan - Dec 12
Income		
4010 · Tithes Received	35,411.55	470,815.56
4020 · Interest & Dividends	3,656.78	9,126.45
4025 · Book Sales	120.00	558.00
4030 · Misc. Income	2,574.51	52,652.30
Total Income	41,762.84	533,152.31
Expense		
6010 · Church & Mission Support	10,616.47	31,767.07
6020 · Contract Services	1,629.24	19,867.52
6030 · Denomination Tithes	3,397.00	48,593.88
6040 · Dues & Fees	0.00	915.00
6050 · Grants	40,000.00	95,500.00
6060 · Insurance	447.75	9,302.75
6065 · Interest Expense	111.25	1,335.00
6070 · Meeting/Event Expenses	-642.38	32,639.38
6080 · Miscellaneous Expense	225.02	1,736.63
6090 · Photocopying	1,112.79	12,500.69
6100 · Postage/Freight	135.02	1,464.81
6115 · Professional Fees	172.50	6,503.80
6120 · Regional Overseer Compensation	1,700.00	20,400.00
6140 · Subscriptions/Publications	451.34	1,217.23
6150 · Superintendent Compensation	2,877.92	34,083.68
6155 · Superintendent Benefits	600.34	7,208.72
6160 · Supplies	0.00	2,822.50
6170 · Telecommunications	162.15	872.39
6180 · Training/Education	1,907.05	24,308.97
6190 · Travel	1,107.05	25,774.48
Total Expense	66,010.51	378,814.50
Net Income	**-24,247.67**	**154,337.81**

Western Conference
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES BY BOARD
January - December 2012

	1-General Operations	2-Camping Board	3-Church Planting Board	4-Church Health Board	5-Ministry/Training Board	6-Missions Board	7-Outreach Board
Income							
4010 · Tithes Received	470,815.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4020 · Interest & Dividends	6,049.89	0.00	3,076.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4025 · Book Sales	558.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4030 · Misc. Income	52,452.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total Income	529,875.75	0.00	3,076.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Expense							
6010 · Church & Mission Support	1,300.00	0.00	5,581.44	11,500.08	0.00	9,649.80	3,735.75
6020 · Contract Services	19,867.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6030 · Denomination Tithes	48,593.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6040 · Dues & Fees	915.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6050 · Grants	6,000.00	8,000.00	80,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
6060 · Insurance	9,302.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6065 · Interest Expense	0.00	0.00	1,335.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6070 · Meeting/Event Expenses	7,179.23	0.00	0.00	26.53	128.83	0.00	2,134.80
6080 · Miscellaneous Expense	1,736.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6090 · Photocopying	12,500.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6100 · Postage/Freight	1,403.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6115 · Professional Fees	5,341.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6120 · Regional Overseer Compensation	18,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,400.00	0.00	0.00
6140 · Subscriptions/Publications	428.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6150 · Superintendent Compensation	34,083.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6155 · Superintendent Benefits	7,208.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6160 · Supplies	1,179.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6170 · Telecommunications	872.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6180 · Training/Education	-75.00	0.00	0.00	4,154.05	8,499.00	2,000.00	0.00
6190 · Travel	16,456.93	786.63	301.70	0.00	5,318.65	350.20	0.00
Total Expense	192,296.26	8,786.63	87,218.14	15,680.66	16,346.48	12,000.00	7,370.55
Net Income	**337,579.49**	**-8,786.63**	**-84,141.58**	**-15,680.66**	**-16,346.48**	**-12,000.00**	**-7,370.55**

Western Conference
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES BY BOARD
January - December 2012

	8-Pastoral Health Board	9-Prayer Board	10-Student Ministry Board	11-Women's Ministry Board	12-Discipleship Board	TOTAL
Income						
4010 · Tithes Received	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	470,815.56
4020 · Interest & Dividends	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,126.45
4025 · Book Sales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	558.00
4030 · Misc. Income	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	52,652.30
Total Income	0.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	0.00	533,152.31
Expense						
6010 · Church & Mission Support	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	31,767.07
6020 · Contract Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19,867.52
6030 · Denomination Tithes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48,593.88
6040 · Dues & Fees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	915.00
6050 · Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	95,500.00
6060 · Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,302.75
6065 · Interest Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,335.00
6070 · Meeting/Event Expenses	1,965.89	3,854.98	16,635.46	713.66	0.00	32,639.38
6080 · Miscellaneous Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,736.63
6090 · Photocopying	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,500.69
6100 · Postage/Freight	0.00	0.00	16.00	45.00	0.00	1,464.81
6115 · Professional Fees	1,161.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,503.80
6120 · Regional Overseer Compensation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,400.00
6140 · Subscriptions/Publications	250.00	0.00	0.00	538.24	0.00	1,217.23
6150 · Superintendent Compensation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34,083.68
6155 · Superintendent Benefits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,208.72
6160 · Supplies	0.00	0.00	989.05	413.43	240.90	2,822.50
6170 · Telecommunications	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	872.39
6180 · Training/Education	5,000.00	0.00	2,194.92	1,184.00	1,352.00	24,308.97
6190 · Travel	448.82	465.70	997.86	147.99	500.00	25,774.48
Total Expense	8,826.59	4,320.68	20,833.29	3,042.32	2,092.90	378,814.50
Net Income	**-8,826.59**	**-4,320.68**	**-20,633.29**	**-3,042.32**	**-2,092.90**	**154,337.81**

The foregoing proceedings, reports, appointments, assignments and recommendations, together with all items included therein, constitute the record of the official business of the Western Conference of The Evangelical Church, in their Forty Fourth Annual Session held at Harvest Church in Billings, Montana, November 5-7, 2012. The following signatures were ordered affixed to the proceedings of the Session in acquiescence and obedience to the will of the Session and the will of Almighty God.

MINISTERIAL MEMBERS

Scott Anderson
Bryan Baker
Bob Conover
Loren Eder
J. Dale Erbele
Glenn Fournier
Brad Griffin
Steve Hamilton
Butch Hart
Adam Huschka
Marc Johnson
Jeff Maness
Joe Moutria
James O'Connor
Jack Runner
Travis Shannon
Vern Streeter
Sam Summers

Jay Ashbaucher
Robert Canen
Scott Davies
Jeramy Elley
Mark Erickson
Mike Gammill
Rod Griffin
Paul Hansen
Gery Helsby
Seth Hirschkorn
Derry Long
Clay Massar
Derek Mowery
Tyler Powell
Seth Runner
Tait Sougstad
Robert Strutz
Chris Townley

Ben Baker
David Collins
Roger Dayton
Cory Engel
Jay Forseth
James Gilbert
Benjamin Gonzales
Don Hardesty
Brian Hopkins
Bruce Inion
John Luhmann
Dan Morgan
Brent Nymeyer
Fred Rodda
Werner Seibert
Michael Stambaugh
Steve Strutz
Terri Wedel

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY

We do hereby certify that these are the minutes and the records of the Forty Fourth Annual Business Session of the Western Conference of the Evangelical Church, held at Harvest Church in Billings, Montana, November 5-7, 2012.

Delbert Anderson
Glen Beckett
Caleb Coder
Doyle Euell
Theo Gonzales
Todd Hunt
Dan Nefzger
Bridget Rebo
David Robbins
David Ulrichs
Joe Windham

Eric Atherton
Sarah Bremer
Steve Doolin
Rachel Font
Bryan Hahn
KJ Keogh
Shana Powell
Marlin Rhoades
Bob Schwann
Tyler Velin
Phil Wuerffel

Mark Bosserman
Crull Chambless
Glenn Ewert
Pauline Gaekle
Jason Higgins
Rick Mittleider
Casey Ramage
Don Roppel
Don Smith
Stacy Vorhes
Leon Young

SIGNED

Superintendent

MINISTRY OF RESOLUTIONS

November 7, 2012
Harvest Church, Billings, Montana

WHEREAS Harvest Church has been so gracious and joyful in their efforts to make our stay an enjoyable experience and **WHEREAS** they have provided wonderful meals, refreshments and ministry space for us and **WHEREAS** they have provided an extremely competent tech staff that was able to meet all our sound, audio and video needs, **BE IT RESOLVED** that we give them an enthusiastic and audible thank you via a standing ovation.

WHEREAS Karen Walton our conference administrative assistant and the staff at Harvest Church have worked so efficiently and cheerfully to provide our reports and information needs, **BE IT RESOLVED** that we corporately and personally thank them for their excellent ministry to us and our ministries.

WHEREAS there have been many of our friends in ministry who have sent their greetings to us and who pray God's blessing on our work for the Kingdom, **BE IT RESOLVED** that we ask Superintendent Strutz to convey our love and appreciation to those he meets in his travels.

WHEREAS these resolutions have been presented at the 44th Annual Conference of the Western Conference, **BE IT RESOLVED**, we adopt them and place them in the journal.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robert Canen, Conference Secretary
Karen Walton, Conference Administrative Assistant

Western Conference
2013 Calendar

January 7-9	PESM
February 1	Deadline for Statistical Reports
March 4-7	PESM
March 4-5	Spring Boards
April 15-17	Ministry Staff & Spouse Retreat
May 18-22	DOW *(at YMCA of the Rockies - Estes Park, CO)*
July 8-13	BMCR Super Summer Camp *(Youth)*
July 15-20	BMCR Junior Camp
July 28-31	BMCR Family Camp
September 9-12	PESM
September 22-25	Prayer Summit
Sept 30-October 4	Denominational Board Meetings *(LaQuinta, CA)*
November 4-6	PESM
November 4-6	Annual Conference *(Element Church, Cheyenne, WY)*