

**Minutes of the
Forty-Seventh Annual Conference Session of the
Western Conference of the Evangelical Church
Held at Harvest Church in Billings, Montana
November 2-3, 2015**

Harvest Church worship team led us in a time of praise and worship and Vern Streeter welcomed us to Annual Conference.

Chap Clark presented information on adoptive youth ministry and its role in guiding the church into its role to proclaim the kingdom of God.

Opening of Conference Session

Superintendent Brian Eckhardt called the 2015 Annual Conference to order and opened in prayer.

Silent Roll was taken.

It was M/S/C to elect Brent Nymeyer as co-chair of the conference session.

Introduction of New Participants to Annual Conference and Guests and greetings from various individuals.

Various guests and those who are first time attendees of Annual Conference were recognized throughout the conference session. Greetings were offered from the various Conference Superintendents. It was M/S/C to grant advisory status to guests.

Probationer's Status

It was M/S/C to allow probationers who are serving conference churches voting status.

It was M/S/C to adopt the agenda as presented and allow the conference superintendent to adjust agenda as needed.

Organizing the Conference Bar

It was M/S/C to assign all tables in the sanctuary as the official voting section for annual

The Examination of Ministers

Steve Strutz noted with praise that no ministers were brought up on charges this year.

Brent Nymeyer led us in a prayer of thanksgiving.

Council of Administration Actions

It was M/S/C to ratify the actions of the Council of Administration for 2015.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Brian Eckhardt gave a report on the state of the denomination and it's OnMission initiative. His

written report is found on pages 57-58.

Kingdom Resource Ministries

Jay Forseth gave a report for the Kingdom Resource Ministries of the denomination. The written report is located on page 61-62.

Evangelical Church Missions Report

Jack O'Neill presented the ministry of Evangelical Church Missions.

Lisa Forseth presented a ministry being promoted in Columbus and being offered to the conference through a program entitled Path to Purity.

Credentialing Ballot

It was M/S/C to refer the credentialing ballot to the itinerant elders. The results of the ballot are attached with all candidates approved for credentialing.

Werner Seibert (Absarokee) gave a presentation on small-town outreach.

Joe Windham (Harvest) gave a presentation on small group ministry.

Benjamin Gonzalez (retired) gave a presentation on the work of the Pastoral Health Board.

Cory Engel (Great Falls) gave a presentation on the work of the Church Health Board.

Hot Topic Panel Discussion

Steve moderated a discussion on the use of alcohol.

Evening Ordination Service

Brian Eckhardt challenged conference attendees as we conferred credentials on numerous individuals. We presented a probationer's license to 5 men and ordained 5 men. Thank God for His continued work in our conference.

Harvest Worship Team led us in worship through song and Rory Adams (pastor at Billings

Hope) shared his testimony tying it into 2 Timothy 3:16.

Mike Gammill (Auxano) presented a seminar on developing a leadership pipeline.

Harvest Church is celebrating 15 years and shared a video made to honor that milestone.

Conference Business

Steve Strutz presented conference and denominational information found on pages 20-22.

Brent Nymeyer gave an initial presentation of the ministry ballot with those who were nominated. An opportunity for further nominations was given but no further nominations were made. A vote will be held later.

A vote was held to fill the open position on the Judicial Committee. Jay Forseth was elected to serve a five year term with 64% of the vote.

The Superintendent Relations Committee made the recommendation that the conference cover the cost of Social Security for Steve and Brent. In order to maintain a balanced budget, the board of Church Planting lowered their proposed amount by \$5000 with the understanding that if needed, money from undesignated funds could be used to fund church planting projects. It was M/S/C to make this adjustment. It was then M/S/C to approve the budget for 2016 of \$475,000.

Glendive Dinosaur & Fossil Museum

Robert Canen gave a presentation on the ministry of the Glendive Dinosaur & Fossil Museum in Glendive, MT.

For lunch, various tables were set-up with an area expert (i.e. Joe Windham-small groups, Jay Forseth-Stewardship, etc.). Conference participants were encouraged to sit at a table of interest and have a conversation based on the expertise of the area expert.

Mike Gammill gave a presentation on building a culture of generosity in your church.

Jim Neifert (director of BMCM) shared what God is doing at the camp.

Josh Roberts (Harvest Church) gave a presentation on developing volunteers in churches.

It was M/S/C to cast a unanimous ballot for all those who have been nominated for all boards.

Interim Business Matter

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

Affixing Names to the Proceedings

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

Probationer's to perform the sacraments

It was M/S/C to allow probationers serving churches to perform the sacraments.

It was M/S/C to thank the leadership and staff of Harvest Church for their hospitality and servant hearts as they hosted the 2015 Annual Conference.

Brent Nymeyer and Karen Walton presented the tool of the Conference website as well as insight into Zoom. Dan Morgan was presented a camera to "equip" him to participate in Missions Presentation

Paul Hansen shared mission's opportunities with the conference.

LGBTQ Issue Presentation

Scott Anderson shared his family's personal journey and a conference he and Kim attended in dealing with this issue. Steve Strutz and Brian Eckhardt also shared on the legal aspects of the Supreme Court decision for our churches.

Keith Twigg presented the church plant that is in process in Boise, ID. The projected launch date is September, 2016.

Steve Strutz shared on the topic of dealing with erosion in our spiritual lives and the annual conference shared in communion.

Consecration to Fields of Service

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Canen

Conference Secretary