Welcome from Host Pastor
Pastor Dan Morgan welcomed all of us to the Forty-Third Annual Conference Session and led us in prayer.

Opening of Conference Session
Superintendent Brian Eckhardt called the 2011 Annual Conference to order.

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

H.B. London - Conference Speaker
Jeremy Kochendorfer - Stateside EC Missions Coordinator

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 the full two center sections and all rows except for the last row on each side.

Parliamentary Procedures
It was M/S/C to allow the conference chair to restructure the conference as needed for time.
It was M/S/C to adopt Robert’s Rules of Order and appoint Jay Forseth as parliamentarian and conference standing rules pages 9-16 in the binder.
It was M/S/C to appoint Vern Streeter as 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.
Superintendent Brian Eckhardt explained the need for a Ministerial Relations Committee and we will be receiving nominations for that committee on 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. Members were encouraged to look at the Board of Ministry minutes found in their binders on page 47-50. 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 Commission on the Discipline report is found on pages 107-110. When we vote on the document, we will vote paragraph by paragraph instead of the document as a whole. We won’t be voting at this annual conference but discussion will be held and a mail-in ballot will be taken at a later date.

The Examination of Ministers
Superintendent Steve Strutz noted with praise that no ministers were brought up on charges this year. Pastor Allen Solheim led in a prayer of thanksgiving.

Intro Session with Dr. H.B. London

Ministry Committee/Board Meetings were held

Dinner Break

Monday Evening-November 7, 2011

Evening Worship
High Plains Church led us in worship and we received a message from Dr. HB London.

Tuesday Morning-November 8, 2011

Worship and Prayer
High Plains Church led us in worship and Superintendent Steve Strutz shared thoughts on remaining in the vine.

Message: Dr. HB London continued his encouraging messages speaking on joy in ministry.

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 Allen Solheim, Derry Long, Jay Ashbaucher, Brent Nymeyer, Sam Summers, Dan Morgan, and Robert Canen. (See attached ballot)
It was M/S/C to refer the nominations for Board of Ministerial Relations to the Conference Council.
It was M/S/C to form a Board of Camping Ministry to connect camping to the lifeblood of our conference. Jay Forseth nominated Joy Faul and Mike Dreiske (chairman) to the board of Camping Ministry. The remainder will be determined by the Conference Council.

Ministry of Church Planting
Vern Streeter presented the report for the Ministry of Church Planting. It was M/S/C to approve the motion to allocate $25,000 to Evangelical Church Harvest Ministries to hire a Harvest Ministries Director. It was M/S/C to refer the 2012 budget items to the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

Irv Haldle Tribute
Scott and Kim Anderson honored Irv and Marilyn and shared about the accident that took Irv’s life. We were encouraged to pray for Marilyn as she recovers from a bone graft in her femur. A memorial service for Irv is not confirmed, but looking at December 30 at Faith E in Billings.

Superintendent Steve Strutz shared a memorial letter from Gery Helsby.


Jay Forseth shared about the life insurance policy that Irv had taken out on him to help plant churches after he was gone.

Robert Strutz shared in a prayer of thanksgiving for the lives of Irv and Marilyn and how they have blessed so many.

It was M/S/C to make this tribute a part of the record for the 2011 Annual Conference.

Interview with Bob Strutz and Kent Swift
Bob and Kent were honored as we learned from them keys to ministry life.

Lunch
The outreach board presented a video and discussion during lunch.
Ministry of Church Health
Marc Johnson presented the report for the ministry of Church Health. It was M/S/C to refer the motion to offer the remaining funds from the 2011 budget as a one-time, designated gift for this need. It was also M/S/C to refer the 2012 budget items to the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

Ministry of Pastoral Health
Erin Youngs presented the report for the ministry of Pastoral Health. It was M/S/C to refer the 2012 budget items to the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

Ministry of Missions
Butch Hart gave the Missions report. It was M/S/C to refer the 2012 budget items to the Stewardship and Finance Committee. Allen Solheim presented information from his attending the Denominational Missions meetings in California. It was recommended that each conference and church consider giving 1% toward Denominational Missions in order to fund the two directors of our Missions. It was M/S/C to refer this idea to the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

Bryan Baker presented the work of Montana on a Mission and its work in the Philippines.

Ministry of Outreach
George Burgin presented the ministry of Outreach report. It was M/S/C to refer the 2012 budget items to the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

Ministry of Christian Education
Steve Hamilton presented the ministry of CE report. It was M/S/C to refer the 2012 budget items to the Stewardship and Finance Committee. It was also M/S/C to add $10,000 for scholarships to camping and Arrowhead Bible College and refer to the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

Ministry of Student Ministries
Michael Stambaugh presented the report for the ministry of Student Ministries. It was M/S/C to refer request for resolving timing conflict between Annual Conference and PESM to the Conference Council. It was M/S/C to refer the 2012 budget items to the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

Ministry of Camping
Mike Dreiske presented the camping ministry report. There is no written report because this board was recently formed. Mike reported on a camp that BMCR is holding for foster children and adopted children. It was M/S/C to propose $20,000 toward this camp and refer this proposal to the Stewardship and Finance Committee. Mike expressed his thanks to Kyle Reynolds for his help on Super Summer. The BMCR board is requesting $30,000 from the Western Conference to help with start up costs after becoming an independent entity. It was M/S/C to refer this request to Stewardship and Finance. It was expressed that Mt. Carmel camp is in need of a camping director and if anyone has an idea for a director to talk to Don Smith.
Arrowhead Bible College
Tom Miller presented a report on Arrowhead Bible College.

Break

Message: Dr. HB London presented a message on dreaming dreams and living out those dreams.

Ministry of Prayer
Loren Eder presented the Prayer report. It was M/S/C to appoint Rod Griffin as director of the Board of Prayer. It was M/S/C to refer the 2012 budget items to Stewardship and Finance.

Ministry of Women’s Ministries
Jan Hardesty presented the Women’s Ministries Report. It was M/S/C to refer the 2012 budget items to Stewardship and Finance.

Superintendent Relations Committee
Jay Forseth presented the Superintendent Relations Report. It was M/S/C to refer the 2012 budget items to Stewardship and Finance and to approve all action items on the 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.

Evangelical Missions and Denominational Meetings
Jeremy Kochendorfer gave a report on the work of Evangelical Church Missions. Superintendent Eckhardt gave a report on Denominational Meetings. Allen Solheim gave a further report on the denominational board of missions and on the denominational board of ministry (See pg. 112 in binder).

Commission on the Discipline
Bryan Baker gave a report on the Denominational Meetings. (See pg. 106ff in the binder)

Kingdom Resource Ministries
Jay Forseth gave a report for the Kingdom Resource Ministries in the stead of Vernon Aarnes. (See pg 111 in binder)

Dinner

Tuesday Evening, November 8, 2011

Evening Worship & Ordination
High Plains Community Church worship band led us in worship. Superintendent Brian Eckhardt spoke on the topic, “Living in Unity” from John 17. Four men were licensed and three were ordained in the service and one lady was commissioned. The offering for the evening was raised for a vehicle for Virgil Chee, a Navajo pastor in New Mexico.
Wednesday Morning, November 9, 2011

Worship and Prayer
High Plains Community Church led us in worship and Bruce Inion gave his testimony.

Historian’s Report
Bob Strutz presented the Historian’s Report. It was M/S/C to adopt the report.

It was M/S/C to refer the changes to the Conference Policies and Procedures found on pages 115-125 to the Conference Council.

Ministry of Trustees
Bob Conover presented the Trustees report. Reference was made to notebook pages 92-93. It was M/S/C to adopt page 93 in the notebook as conference rule 3.11. It was M/S/C to refer financial changes to Stewardship and Finance.

Motion on Bismarck Church
WHEREAS, the Evangelical work in Bismarck, ND is no longer in practice connected to the Western Conference, and

WHEREAS the former pastor of Bridge Church, Scott Jordan turned in his credentials in the fall of 2010, and

WHEREAS, a registered letter was sent to the leadership of the Bridge Church in the fall of 2010 to request they let us know their intent concerning their relationship with the Western Conference and the Evangelical Church, and

WHEREAS, they have taken no steps to be in relationship with the Western Conference or the Evangelical Church; and

WHEREAS, no Pastor will be assigned to the Bridge Church,

BE IT RESOLVED that we remove the Bridge Church from the roles of the Western Conference and the Evangelical Church.

It was M/S/C to adopt this motion.

It was M/S/C to refer the possibility of planting a church in Bismarck, ND to the Board of Church Planting.

Denominational Harvest Ministries
Dale Erbele presented the report for Denominational Harvest Ministries.

Ministry of Stewardship and Finance
Jack Runner presented the Stewardship and Finance report. The 2012 Budget was presented. It was M/S/C to adopt the 2012 Budget.
Interim Business Matters
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.

Location of the 2012 Annual Conference
It was M/S/C to designate Harvest Church, Billings, MT as the location of 2012 Annual Conference. It was M/S/C to refer to the Conference Council the actual date for conference. We will try to avoid a date conflict with PESM next year.

General Superintendent’s Report (pg. 101 of binder)
Superintendent Brian Eckhardt gave his report.

Secretary Robert Canen thanked the staff of High Plains Community Church for their support throughout the 2012 Annual Conference. Pastor Dan Morgan was thanked and encouraged to communicate our thanks to the church body.

Conference Superintendent’s Report
Steve Strutz presented his report.

Consecration to Fields of Service

Adjourned