

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE
April 22, 2010
Open Door Missionary Church, Sandusky, MI

PRAISE AND WORSHIP The Annual Conference of the Michigan District of the Missionary Church was held April 22, 2010 at the Open Door Missionary Church, Sandusky, MI. The Conference began at 10:00 AM with praise and worship led by Rev. Jon and Jodi Sherry of Open Door Missionary Church. Pastor Jon then greeted the conference and provided some instructions. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Keller then presented to Pastor Jon the 4-volume set – Zondervan Background Bible Commentary as a gift of appreciation for hosting the conference.

A devotional message was presented by our District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Keller, who spoke on the theme, “Transformed.” In his challenge to the District he encouraged us from Romans 12:1-2 and 2 Corinthians 3:12ff to see this transforming work of God as a lifelong, enduring process.

CALL TO ORDER The first business meeting was called to order at 10:55 a.m.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE The First Report of the Credentials Committee was presented by Rev. Cliff Jordan as follows:

Delegates - 55
District Officials - 2
D.S. Appointed - 2
Licensed Ministers - 12
Ordained - 76
Total voting members: 147

This report was received by unanimous consent. M/S/A

AGENDA The agenda for the Conference was presented by the District Superintendent.

RESOLVED, that the Agenda be adopted. M/S/A

RULES OF ORDER The Rules of Order were read by the District Secretary from page one of the conference journal.

RESOLVED, that the Rules of Order be adopted. M/S/A

CONFERENCE APPOINTMENTS The following Appointments were presented for approval:

Parliamentarian: Rev. Don Severance, Chairman; Rev. Karl Yoder, Assistant

Conference Program Manager: Dr. Alan Yerke
Assistant Secretary: Rev. Jonathan Boyer

Recommendations and Resolutions Committee: Rev. Doug Connelly, Chairman; Rev. Bill Barnwell, Rev. Jim Jordan, Jr., Rev. Larry Salsburey

Introductions Committee: Rev. Jeff Hossler, Chairman; Rev. Jim Thompson

Tellers-Ushers-Greeters: Pastor Chris Glantz, Chairman; Rev. Neil Davis, Pastor Dan Hamrick, Rev. Tim Patch, Rev. Jason Rohde, Pastor Brant Wilson.

RESOLVED, the Conference Appointments be approved. M/S/A

CONFERENCE BAR

The Conference Bar was established by the District Superintendent as the center sections of the auditorium and the first four rows of the side sections. M/S/A

INTRODUCTIONS COMMITTEE

The first report of the Introductions Committee was presented by Rev. Jeff Hossler. The following guests were warmly welcomed by the Michigan District:

- Rev. Sam Birkey, Regional Director of World Partners
- Dr. Dennis Engbrecht, Vice-President of Bethel College
- Dr. Bill Hossler, President of the Missionary Church
- Mr. Edward Kim, World Partners Staff
- Dr. Tom Murphy, Director of Development/Communications
- Mr. Eric Smith, Missionary Church Investment Foundation
- Ray and Tammy Sanford, missionaries with Pioneer Bible Translators in Guinea
- Rev. Paul DeMerchant, former Michigan District Superintendent
- Don Pierce, Brotherhood Mutual
- Dr. Harold Burgess, Francis Asbury Society
- Dr. Dennis Engbrecht, Senior Vice President at Bethel College

BETHEL COLLEGE GREETING

Dr. Dennis Engbrecht, Senior Vice-President of Bethel College, greeted the conference on behalf of Bethel College and its President, Dr. Steve Cramer. Dr. Engbrecht began by thanking the Conference for their prayer support and then shared how Bethel has had a wonderful year to the glory of God. He shared, among other things, about the work of the Lord in a recent visit from the Equality Ride, a powerful series of messages on holiness by Sergio Scataglini, God's amazing financial provision, and positive enrollment commitments for next year. Rev. Josh Hossler then led the conference in a prayer of blessing on Dr. Engbrecht and the ministry of Bethel College.

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT and MEMORIAL REPORT

Our District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Keller, made comments regarding his report.

Highlights included: Introduction of newly licensed and ordained pastors and Rev. Jim Keller then asked Rev. Larry VanSlambrook to lead the

conference in prayer about open churches in the district. He moved on to encourage churches regarding their apportionments, and referred to his supplemental DS report. M/S/A

The Memorial Report was presented by Rev. Larry VanSlambrook and Rev. Tom Knight.

RESOLVED, to adopt the District Superintendent's Report and the Memorial Report. Rev. Larry VanSlambrook then led the conference in a time of reflection and thanksgiving for those included in the memorial report. M/S/A

**MISSIONARY CHURCH
GREETINGS**

Rev. Bill Hossler, President of the Missionary Church, brought greetings on behalf of the Denomination using a PowerPoint presentation, highlighted the current denominational publications, the gaining momentum in the area of perpetual prayer and encouraged pastors in their personal prayer life to make a commitment to spend at least one day a month in fasting and prayer. Rev. Hossler then continued by sharing the church planting goal of 40 new churches in 2010, gave an update regarding several new churches across the US and Puerto Rico, and presented a copy of The Valley of Vision: A Collection of Puritan Prayers & Devotions to each senior pastor in the District. Rev. Hossler then wrapped up his greeting by presenting a leather-bound copy of the book to our District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Keller.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE
BOARD REPORT**

The report of the District Executive Board was presented by Dr. Mike Cadrette.

RESOLVED, to adopt the District Executive Board Report. M/S/A

ADJOURNMENT

Conference adjourned for lunch at 12:10 as Rev. Robert Johnson led the conference in a word of blessing for the meal.

RECONVENE

The afternoon session began at 1:20pm.

**CREDENTIALS
COMMITTEE**

The Second Report of the Credentials Committee was presented as follows:

Second report of the Credentials Committee update

Delegates - 57

District Officials - 3

D.S. Appointed - 2

Licensed Ministers - 12

Ordained - 78

Total voting members: 152 total delegates

This report was received by unanimous consent. M/S/A

**DISTRICT MINISTRIES
AND FINANCIAL
REPORTS**

Dr. Al Yerke introduced the various District Directors and Committee Chairpersons. Appreciation was expressed to these leaders.

The following Committee reports were presented to the Conference:

Director of District Ministries and Christian Education (Dr. Al Yerke),
Family And Children's Team (Rev. Christine Crocker);
Youth Ministry and Youth Work Account (Rev. Tim Patch);
Church Multiplication Team (Rev. Tom Blaylock);
Healthy Church Initiative (Rev. Stanley Liechty);
Hispanic Director (Rev. Martin Roman);
Brown City Camp Board (Mr. Walt McLavy);
Happy Time Children's Camp (Rev. Bart Adams);
Mancelona Camp Board (Rev. Jim Jordan);
Pastoral Benefits Committee (District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Keller);
Committee on Ordination and Licensing (Dr. Al Yerke);
Building Committee (Mr. Walt McLavy);
Women's Ministries (Mrs. Laurie Schaffer);
Nominating Committee (Rev. Larry VanSlambrook);
Vice DS Nominating Committee (Mr. Steve Severance)
MMLI (Mr. Darrell Schlabach);
Christian Ministries Institute (Rev. Bill Barnwell).

RESOLVED, to adopt the above Reports. M/S/A

**TREASURER'S REPORT
AND THE 2010
CONFERENCE BUDGET**

District Treasurer, Mr. Harlan Gingrich, presented the Treasurer's Report and the Report of the Auditors.

RESOLVED, to adopt the Auditor's Report. M/S/A

RESOLVED, to adopt the Treasurer's Report. M/S/A

RESOLVED, to adopt the 2010 Conference Budget. M/S/A

**CONFERENCE BALLOT
FOR MICHIGAN
DISTRICT**

The Nominating Committee presented the ballot for the Vice DS. The ballot was presented and time was allowed for nominations from the floor after which nominations were closed. M/S/A

The ballot was cast.

Ballot with the remaining conference positions was presented.

Under the leadership of Rev. Larry VanSlambrook, the floor was opened for nominations from the floor for each section of the ballot. Nominations were closed for each section of the ballot, after which ballots were cast.

GREETINGS

Mr. Edward Kim, World Partners' Staff, shared greetings with a brief video presentation and news of his ministry. Rev. Sam Birkey led the conference in prayer for Mr. Edward Kim's ministry.

Mr. Eric Smith, Missionary Church Investment Foundation, shared an update on several denominational financial matters and in particular focused on our pension and the long term disability plan

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Rev. Christine Crocker, District Children's Director, distributed a "FACT" sheet, highlighted the upcoming May 1st training event at Colonial Woods Missionary Church, and shared a verbal report on the ministry of the Family And Children's Team (FACT).

Rev. Tom Blaylock, District Director of Church Planting, shared highlights of Church Multiplication in Michigan, to include updates about The Metro Lead Team, Evident Church in Macomb, VOX in Chesterfield Township, and the Thumb Lead Team. Rev. Bob Sweeny then led the conference in prayer for church planting.

RECESS

The conference was pronounced in a short recess at 2:30 pm for the Annual Meeting of Michigan Missionary Loans and Investments.

RECONVENE

The Third Meeting began at 2:51 PM

DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Rev. Stan Liechty, District Church Health Director, gave a report on the ministry of the Church Health Team. Rev. Liechty invited Rev. Anthony Ferriell to share how the coaching with the Healthy Church Team has assisted his ministry.

Rev. Martin Roman, District Director of Hispanic Ministries, shared a report on our Hispanic churches, especially how the churches are working to embrace the five priorities outlined in the restructuring documents. Rev. Roman closed out his report with a heartfelt statement of gratitude for all the years of ministry here in Michigan and a pledge to continue working in missions. District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Keller called the Hispanic pastors and delegates to the front and presented a card and a gift to Rev. Martin in appreciation of his ministry in the District. Rev. Martin and his family will be moving this summer to plant a church in San Antonio, Texas. The conference then showed its appreciation for Rev. Martin with a standing ovation. Our District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Keller then led the conference in a season of prayer for Rev. Martin's ministry and transition to Texas.

Rev. Tim Patch, District Youth Director, highlighted the work of the Youth Ministry Team, the challenges of working at Mancelona and Brown City Camp, and described the current Sonlife training and coaching process.

ELECTION REPORT

A motion was made to read the election results and not the number of votes cast for each candidate. **M/S/A**

The election results were presented by Rev. Larry VanSlambrook as follows:

- Rev. Jim Jordan and Mr. Steve Severance were elected to the District Executive Board
- Rev. Tom Knight was elected as Vice District Superintendent
- Rev. Bart Adams and Dr. Larry Salsburey were elected to the Christian Education Board
- Susie Gardner and Marcy Wagley were elected to the Brown City Camp Board
- Wayne Fries and Michelle Scott were elected to the Mancelona Camp Board
- Jack D’Arcy, Don Faupel, Doug Moxlow, and Marvin Ramseyer were elected as laypersons to the MML&I Board of Directors

RECESS

The conference was pronounced in a short recess at 3:20 PM.

RECONVENE

The Fourth Meeting began at 3:37 with Rev. Jon Sherry leading us in a season of worship.

BYLAW CHANGE

Rev. Don Severance presented the following recommended Bylaw change regarding Mission Conferences.

RESOLVED, that a deletion be made in the Michigan District Missionary Church Bylaws under ARTICLE III, DISTRICT OFFICERS, A., DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, 2., DUTIES, d., “He shall arrange for annual missions conferences within the District.”

RESOLVED, that the change be approved. M/S/A

GREETINGS

Dr. Tom Murphy, Missionary Church Director of Communications and Development, brought greetings and offered his assistance to churches in the area of finances.

Rev. Sam Birkey, Regional Director for World Partners, shared a report on denominational missions by describing the coming restructuring of World Partners and the current state of the church in Haiti.

RESTRUCTURING PROPOSAL

A report from the Task Force on Restructuring, having been appointed by the District Executive Board, was presented by District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Keller, Rev. Larry VanSlambrook, Dr. Alan Yerke, Rev. Doug Connelly, and Denominational President Rev. Bill Hossler. These Task Force members gave a presentation describing how to transition the District into a Region with multiple Districts titled, “The Michigan Region - A Proposal.”

RESOLVED, that the Michigan District, based on its Statement of Vision, Mission, Values and Five-Year Goals, adopt in principle the concept of becoming the Michigan Region. This Region will be initially comprised of all current District churches, pastors and ministries.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, as time, resources, vision, etc., permit, new mission districts within the Michigan Region be formed.

Regional leadership will seek to provide an environment for local churches to multiply and establish new and mission districts. Rather than dictate and impose structure for the development of new and mission districts, Regional leadership will partner with churches so they can create vision, take ownership and develop leadership for the organic formation of new and mission districts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that current District ministries (e.g., camping, retreats, HCT, CMT, Youth Ministry Team, Family and Children's Team, etc.) continue to operate under the new Regional structure, but be thoroughly evaluated as to their effectiveness in fulfilling our Statement of Vision, Mission, Values, and Five-year Goals.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that an implementation team will be appointed by the District Executive Board to develop a strategy to guide the District through a period of transition. This team will seek input from District churches and pastors, in order to prepare a new set of bylaws, various job descriptions and other key documents that will be presented to District Conference in April 2011. If approved by the 2011 District Conference, July 1, 2011 will become the target date for the appropriate legal action and bylaw changes to be implemented. At that time, the Michigan District will be known as the Michigan Region, the District Office as the Michigan Regional Resource Center and the District Superintendent as the Michigan Regional Director. Additionally, appropriate modification, bylaw changes and adjustments will be completed by July 1, 2011 for the various positions and job descriptions of current District staff, directors, boards, committees and ministry teams.

A time for questions and answers followed the presentation. The question was called for. M/S/A

The restructuring proposal was then approved. M/S/A

**DISTRICT PASTORAL
APPRECIATION
PRESENTATION**

Rev. Larry VanSlambrook presented to District Superintendent, Rev. Jim and Brenda Keller along with Dr. Alan and Kim Yerke their pastoral appreciation gifts. President Bill Hossler then led the conference in a time of prayerful blessing for Rev. Jim and Brenda Keller and Dr. Al and Kim Yerke.

**RECOMMENDATIONS
AND RESOLUTIONS**

Rev. Doug Connelly presented the report from the Recommendations Committee. There were no recommendations forwarded to the conference.

The Resolutions Committee Report was presented by Rev. Doug Connelly as follows:

The Recommendations and Resolutions Committee was given no recommendations to bring forward, but it submits the following resolutions for the consideration of the Conference Body:

WHEREAS our District Superintendent, Rev. James Keller, has challenged us to a continuous transformation by the Holy Spirit, BE IT RESOLVED that we renew our commitment to whole-hearted surrender and obedience to our Lord with a hearty “AMEN!” (“ROCK ON!”)

WHEREAS Rev. Martin Roman has served faithfully and energetically as our District Director of Hispanic Ministries since 1997, BE IT RESOLVED that we commend him and his wife to their new ministry work in Texas with a rousing “THANK YOU MARTIN!”

WHEREAS District Vice-District Superintendent Rev. Larry Van Slambrook has done a poor job of retirement but a great job as our Vice-District Superintendent, BE IT RESOLVED that we show him our appreciation with a ringing, “THANK YOU LARRY!”

WHEREAS Open Door Missionary Church has graciously hosted the 2010 District Conference and has provided for us an excellent noon meal; and WHEREAS Pastor Jon and Jodi Sherry and their ministry team have led us in joyful worship, BE IT RESOLVED that we show our appreciation for their ministry and service with a standing ovation of thanks.

(PLEASE REMAIN STANDING)

WHEREAS our District Conference has affirmed a new vision and direction as a Michigan Region, BE IT RESOLVED that we prayerfully commit ourselves to the pursuit of an expanded outreach and ministry for the accomplishment of the Great Commission in the state of Michigan with a resounding verse of the hymn “Great is Thy Faithfulness.”

RESOLVED, to adopt the Resolutions Report. M/S/A

UNFINISHED BUSINESS RESOLVED: to refer any unfinished business to the District Executive Board for action. M/S/A

CONFERENCE MINUTES RESOLVED: to suspend the rules and forego the reading of the minutes for the entire District Conference and submit them to a Committee of Dr. Mike Cadrette, Rev. Jonathan Boyer, and Rev. Karl Yoder. M/S/A

CLOSING PRAYER District Superintendent, Rev. Jim Keller reviewed the commitment to the Call to Prayer and Fasting that is in the conference journal and dismissed us in prayer.

ADJOURNMENT The 2010 District Conference of the Michigan District of the Missionary Church was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Michael S. Cadrette, Secretary

BALLOT

District Executive Board	
Clergy: (Elect 1 for 3 year term)	
Doug Connelly	
Jim Jordan	X
Layperson: (Elect 1 for 3 year term)	
Steve Severance	X
Vice District Superintendent (Elect 1 for 2 year term)	
Mike Cadrette	
Tom Knight	X
Christian Education Board (Elect 2 for 2 year term)	
Bart Adams	X
Larry Salsburey	X
Brown City Camp Board (Elect 2 for 3 year term)	
Laypersons:	
Susie Gardner	X
Marcy Wagley	X
Mancelona Camp Board (Elect 2 for 3 year term)	
Laypersons:	
Wayne Fries	X
Michelle Scott	X
MML&I Inc., Board of Directors (Elect 4 for 3 year term)	
Laypersons:	
Jack D'Arcy	X
Don Faupel	X
Doug Muxlow	X
Marvin Ramseyer	X
X	Indicates Person Elected