



Brethren in Christ U.S.

Leadership Council

The Leadership Council (LC) of BIC U.S. met February 8-10, 2022.

An item of business that is part of the regular schedule is a report from each member of LC on his or her area of responsibility. Each of the seven bishops report on their Regional Conferences, the Director of World Missions reports on the global work of the Church, and the Director of Finance and Shared Services provides finance and other operational reports. Some of the items shared and discussed included:

- The continuing impact of the Covid pandemic on individuals, congregations and Regional Conference events and activities.
- Pastoral transitions
- Church planting activity and information about some independent congregations considering joining BIC U.S.
- Global ministry opportunities
- Plans for General Assembly in Salina, Kansas
- The recommendation from LC to the General Conference Board (GCB) that Fellistus Munakombwe, from the Harrisburg BIC (Pa.) congregation, should be appointed to become a member of the Commission for World Missions

Leadership Council specifically prayed for Perry Engle as he concludes his almost 20 years as Bishop of the Pacific Regional Conference to become lead pastor of the Upland BIC congregation in Upland, California.

LC also discussed the search process for a Bishop for the Susquehanna Regional Conference and the search process for a Bishop for the Pacific Regional Conference.

Adam Forry, chair of the Governance Committee of the General Conference Board (GCB), attended a session of the LC meeting to discuss the proposed changes to the Manual of Doctrine and Government of BIC U.S. These changes will be brought to the 2022 General Assembly.

The Leadership Council Advisory Team (LCAT) joined LC for a full day of meetings. During this combined meeting some of the items on the agenda included:

- A presentation from Jonathan Owen, Mission Project Coordinator, on the development of a new online Learning Management System (LMS) called Pathwright. This new system will eventually be used across many aspects of the work of the Church including the screening of potential ministers, credentialing, and education.



Brethren in Christ U.S.

- A presentation from Jennifer Lancaster, Project 250 Coordinator, on the ongoing efforts on Project 250. Jennifer shared a new tool called MissionInsite that will be made available to all congregations to help them better know and understand their communities. During the Fall of 2022 we will offer a special seminar on how to use this new tool most effectively. Jennifer also shared that there is ongoing work to develop a proposal for the updating of the book *Focusing Our Faith*.
- A presentation from Mark Templeton, Development Office for BIC U.S., on his work, especially the initiation of a BIC U.S. Legacy Society. This society will recognize people who have made a provision in their estate plans for the ministry of the BIC. One goal of the Legacy Society is to have 50 members by the 2022 General Assembly, and 250 members by the 2028 General Assembly when we will celebrate the 250th birthday of the BIC.
- LC and LCAT also discussed a Ministerial Conduct Policy. This policy has been developed after extensive work that included outside expert sources in order to help the Church in the event of allegations of ministerial misconduct.
- The Women in Ministry Taskforce, chaired by Pauline Peifer, met with LC and the LCAT. The taskforce presented the report that was based on extensive interviews with individuals and a church-wide online survey conducted during 2021. The report included both findings and recommendations. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the taskforce. Further work will be undertaken to prepare a final report in time for General Assembly.

General Conference Board

The General Conference Board (GCB) of BIC U.S. met on February 10 - 11, 2022. The meeting on February 10 was with the Leadership Council.

Each member of Leadership Council presented his or her report to the GCB and answered questions from the GCB members. Other reports included Project 250, Development, and the new Ministerial Misconduct Policy.

The GCB Governance Committee and the GCB Finance Committee presented reports. These reports were received, and recommendations were approved.

GCB received and discussed the report from the Women in Leadership taskforce. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the taskforce. It was agreed that a final report should be prepared for General Assembly.



Brethren in Christ U.S.

Specific resolutions that were discussed and adopted/approved by GCB included:

1. The approval of the minutes from the GCB meeting on September 16-17, 2021, as distributed.
2. The approval of the nomination by the Board of Directors of the Susquehanna Regional Conference that Heather Beaty should be appointed as the Bishop of the Susquehanna Regional Conference.
3. The approval of Fellistus Munakombwe to serve as a member of the Commission for World Missions.
4. The approval of the recommendation from Leadership Council that the Crossroads, Maytown BIC congregation, and the New Beginnings BIC congregation, both from the Atlantic Conference, should be closed.
5. To receive the reports from Messiah University, Messiah Lifeways, Paxton Ministries, and Pacific Lifeline.
6. The approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Paxton Ministries.
7. The approval of new BIC persons to serve as members of the Board of Messiah Lifeways.
8. The approval of the 2022 BIC U.S. budget.
9. The approval of board designated assets for Project 250.
10. The approval of new GCB officers:
 - a. Tom Law- Board Chair
 - b. Brian Mbuu- Vice Chair
 - c. Julie Stout- Treasurer
 - d. Rachel Diaz- Secretary
11. The approval of proposed revisions to Regional Conference Bylaws
12. Following the meeting, the GCB utilized an electronic vote to approve Jonathan Lloyd for a new six-year term as Director of BIC U.S. World Missions.