

**GATEWAY LEADERSHIP SUMMIT  
ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION  
FIRST SITTING – April 22, 2016**

The first sitting of the 138<sup>th</sup> session of the Gateway Annual Conference of the Free Methodist Church of North America convened on Friday, April 22, 2016 at 8:30 a.m. at the Greenville Free Methodist Church in Greenville, IL with Bishop David Kendall presiding.

A time of worship was led by Joel Gropp of the Greenville Free Methodist Church.

Bishop David Kendall's message was entitled "Well and Whole?" and the scripture reading was from John 5:1-9a. Where the Spirit of God is welcomed and obeyed, God works in powerful and life-changing ways. Our anticipation is that God may do something incredible in our day. But do we want that or do we want to get left? Do we want to play the game? The world needs love, true disciples, and wholeness. People live in fear and anxiety. At times the church seems clueless, incapable, or both. It is possible that we don't see that we need help. Do we want to be well? Is that the game we want to play? That is the question Jesus puts to the man. Jesus wants to know if you still have hope or do you just cope? God visits in ways that save and heal. The good news: Jesus comes to us! Jesus' people do what Jesus does. His followers followed – that is the game. He calls them into being with no other thing in mind. We need to learn new ways of being and doing. Work with those to restore or create for the first time capacities they never had or deactivated years ago. How do we know if we need help and healing? Scripture says to be free from arrogance; love is not rude, not easily angered; be gracious and kind; never rejoice in the wrong, but rejoice in what is right and true; speak the truth in love (Matthew 5-7; I Corinthians 13; Colossians 3:1-17; I Peter 1:13-2:10; II Peter 1:1-11). You can never be sure if you don't have a good profile from which to look. Bishop Kendall closed with prayer.

The bar of the conference was established and voting members were urged to be seated.

The conference was called to order by Bishop Kendall.

ON MOTION from Roy Abbott, the agenda was adopted.

ON MOTION from Roy Abbott, the Standing Rules were approved.

ON MOTION from Steve Neville, Standing Rule #9 was amended to allow three collecting tellers and three counting tellers. Recommended collecting tellers were Chadwick Anderson, Clifford Dyas, and Randy Sands; counting tellers were Annette Feneley, David Hooks, and Jeremy Martin.

The Nominating Committee ballots were presented by Steve Neville.

Barb Sands was elected secretary by consensus.

Roll call was read by Barb Sands.

## **ELECTION OF BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION:**

Clergy (vote for one):

\_\_\_\_\_Mike Aden  
\_\_\_\_\_Write-in

Lay (vote for two):

\_\_\_\_\_Mark Whitlock  
\_\_\_\_\_Ron Gines  
\_\_\_\_\_Randy Marshall  
\_\_\_\_\_Aaron Fitzgerald  
\_\_\_\_\_Write-in

Treasurer:

\_\_\_\_\_Jerry Graber  
\_\_\_\_\_Write-in

## **ELECTION OF MINISTERIAL EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE AND APPOINTMENTS (MEGA)**

Clergy (vote for one):

\_\_\_\_\_Brian Hartley  
\_\_\_\_\_Tyler Boyer  
\_\_\_\_\_Steve Neville  
\_\_\_\_\_Write-in

Lay (vote for two):

\_\_\_\_\_Carolyn Martin  
\_\_\_\_\_Christy Coates  
\_\_\_\_\_Mike Richards  
\_\_\_\_\_Write-in

## **ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Clergy (vote for one):

\_\_\_\_\_Randy Sands  
\_\_\_\_\_Barry Long  
\_\_\_\_\_Oliver Beans  
\_\_\_\_\_Write-in

Lay (vote for one):

\_\_\_\_\_Charles "Doc" Smith  
\_\_\_\_\_Donna Smith  
\_\_\_\_\_Beverly Boehm  
\_\_\_\_\_Write-in

Ginger Coakley reported on behalf of Set Free and Eden's Glory.

Superintendent BenTolly noted the various summer training opportunities.

Peter Hough promoted a seminar in Alton regarding the church's missionary calling. Forge America is partnering in the event.

Steve Neville reported on the election of positions nominated by the nominating committee.

Election of clergy to serve on the Board of Administration (BOA) –

Mike Aden (66 votes)

Steve Neville (1 vote)

Election of lay to serve on the Board of Administration (BOA) –

Mark Whitlock (46 votes)

Ron Gines (45 votes)

Randy Marshall (19 votes)

Aaron Fitzgerald (21 votes)

Election of Conference Treasurer

Jerry Graber (70 votes)

Election of lay to serve on the Ministerial Education and Guidance and Appointments (MEGA) Board –

Carolyn Martin (52 votes)

Christy Coates (45 votes)

Mike Richards (32 votes)

Election of clergy to serve on the Nominating Committee (nominated by BOA) –

Randy Sands (42 votes)

Barry Long (10 votes)

Oliver Beans (16 votes)

There were 70 ballots cast for MEGA clergy and Nominating Committee lay, necessary to elect 36, and there was no election. Ballots were distributed for a second vote.

President Filby reported on behalf of Greenville College. Willard Frost led in prayer for the institution.

Bishop Kendall reported on the second election of positions nominated by the nominating committee.

Election of clergy to serve on the Ministerial Education and Guidance and Appointments (MEGA) Board –

Brian Hartley (41 votes)

Tyler Boyer (17 votes)

Steve Neville (12 votes)

There were 66 ballots cast for Nominating Committee lay, necessary to elect 34, and there was no election. Ballots were distributed for a third vote.

Carolyn Martin, secretary, gave the report for the MEGA Board:

1. That the following persons be **received by transfer**:

Linda Alf (E), North Central Conference

Pat Heston (E), First Christian Church

Dan Maurer (E), Wabash Conference

The actions of the MEGA were affirmed by consensus.

2. That the following persons be **ordained as Elders**:

Oliver Beans

Jennifer Dunkley

Javier Quintana

3. That the following person be received as **conference ministerial candidates**.

Kathie Filby

Matthew Scandrett

The actions of the MEGA were affirmed by consensus.

4. That the following persons be **continued as conference ministerial candidates**:

Amanda DiMiele (2)

Zachary DiMiele (3)

Niquita Reinhard Hohm (3)

Gloelma Rivera (3)

The actions of the MEGA were affirmed by consensus.

5. That the following persons be **discontinued as conference ministerial candidates**:

Debbie Lewis

Lloyd Lewis

6. That the following person serve as a **Licensed Pastor**:

Debbie Lewis as Camp Director at Durley Camp & Retreat Center

7. That the following person be **returned to Itinerant Service**:

Andrew Brandt (E)

The actions of the MEGA were affirmed by consensus.

8. That the following persons be given a **certificate of standing**:

None

9. That the following persons continue to be **located**:

Steven LaFleur (E)                      Decatur, Moundford

Ronald Tucker (E)                      Decatur, Moundford

10. Upon recommendation by the various pastors and local boards of administration of the churches where they are located, and based on the conversations with the Elders/Deacons, the MEG Board reviewed and affirmed the integrity and Christian discipleship of the located deacons and located elders.

11. The Ministerial Education and Guidance Board has given due consideration to the character and performance of each ministerial member of the Gateway Conference. Based on the information available to the MEG Board through the minister's annual Confidential Report, and input from the Superintendent, the MEG Board recommends passing on the integrity and Christian discipleship of the ministers in accord with paragraphs 5300-5310 of the 2011 *Book of Discipline*.

Bishop Kendall reported on the third election of positions nominated by the nominating committee.

Election of lay persons to serve on the Nominating Committee (nominated by BOA) –  
Charles “Doc” Smith (14 votes)  
Donna Smith (45 votes)  
Beverly Boehm (7 votes)

Michael Aden, chair, gave the report for the Board of Administration. Katie Myette was introduced from Restore Network, a recipient of one of the grants distributed.

Chaplain John Hubbs of the U.S. Army led in prayer as the conference dismissed for lunch.

The Conference reconvened at 1:30 p.m.

Superintendent Ben Tolly presented the finance report.

Reports were given by representatives from various institutions:

Oakdale Christian Academy – Scott McFarlane  
Durley Camp – Greg Groves  
Free Methodist Foundation – Tim Burkhart  
Marston Memorial Historical Center – Cathy Robling  
Light & Life Communications, FMCUSA – Jay Cordova  
International Child Care Ministries – Jennifer Finley

The conference dismissed for break-out sessions:

Suzanne Davis – Leadership Development  
Carl Brannon – Discipleship  
Pedro Valentin – Embrace All/Multicultural

Reports were given by representatives from various areas:

Harry Winslow, missionary, promoted the upcoming event in Alton – Sharing Christ with Bosnian Muslims.  
Assistant Area Director of Asia – Gerald Coates

The conference reconvened for reports from each break-out session.

Leadership Development – Chuck Miller

The model of Jesus is one who lived with the 12 disciples. Real leadership comes from mentoring others by first caring and spending time with them. The church is afraid of failure, but we learn more from failure than success.

ON MOTION from the leadership committee, it was approved by the raising of hands to refer the matter to the MEGA Board for the further development of mentoring and coaching opportunities.

Disciple Deeply – Oliver Beans

Up refers to the love of God; In refers to the love of those inside the church; and UP refers to love of those outside the church. It is not a one size fits all. Insight and context needs to be identified as well as training.

ON MOTION from the discipleship committee, it was approved by the raising of hands that the BOA assign a task force to provide churches insight on best practices for discipleship.

Embrace All – A.J. French

What is missing? Who is missing? What resources do we have within our congregation that we could share with others? What do we need to pursue the path?

ON MOTION from the embrace all committee, it was approved by the raising of hands that each congregation discuss the four questions and in three months submit a report to the BOA.

ON MOTION from the embrace all committee, it was approved by the raising of hands that the MEGA Board oversee and promote a plan regarding women in ministry within the local church.

The conference adjourned for dinner at 5:29 p.m.

Service awards were presented after dinner to the following:

Randy Sands – 30 years

Steve Neville – 25 years

Greg Pennington – 25 years

Tyler Boyer – 10 years

David Sain – 10 years

Ted Cunningham – 10 years

The 7:00 evening service opened with worship led by Joel Gropp and team members from other churches including the dance team from MAPS.

Bishop Kendall's message focused on three points. (1) Weeping with Jesus – On The Pastor's (and Church's) Prophetic Role from John 11:1-35. Comparisons were made of the Westboro Baptist Church's responses to those of Jesus. Consider the instances of Jesus' weeping as a tool that the church needs in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. What are the things that move us and concern us, even devastate us to tears? Jesus entered human pain at the death of Lazarus demonstrating He is an agent of hope. He entered into the broken humanity of it all declaring the presence of the resurrection and the life as an agent of grace.

(2) Luke 19:41 – Expressing Prophetic Passion – Jesus was taking a special opportunity to coach the 12 on what it truly meant to be a follower. The crowds gathered at the temple praising Him while the leaders protested. Jesus wept as He approached the city. He wept because they will not receive him nor benefit from his mighty acts of salvation. If there was less trash talking in Jesus' name, maybe there would be more showers of blessing. Maybe our witness would register in

ways it never could otherwise in a world where it seems that anything goes and a terrorist could strike at any time.

(3) Matthew 26 – Making Missional Sacrifice – In the garden of Gethsemane, He became so sorrowful even to the point of death. Luke’s gospel says that He sweat drops of blood. It is hard to think he wasn’t crying at that moment. We can go with Jesus to places where he weeps and join him in the weeping, and see what He may do as we stand with Him. Those who sow with tears will reap a harvest of joy. What we long to see will just happen. Bishop Kendall closed in prayer.

Those ordained were Oliver Beans, Jennifer Dunkley, and Javier Quintana.

Greenville College provided an ice cream social following the service.

## **SECOND SITTING – April 23, 2016**

The second sitting of the 138<sup>th</sup> session of the Gateway Annual Conference of the Free Methodist Church of North America convened on Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Greenville Free Methodist Church in Greenville, IL with Bishop David Kendall presiding.

Superintendent Ben Tolly opened with prayer, and worship was led by Joel Gropp.

Superintendent Ben Tolly presented his State of the Work address emphasizing the theme – Winning God’s Way. Phil 2:13 – “for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.” God is the energy-driver in your life. It is not through will power – that is the recipe for burn out. Cooperation with His Spirit and other believers is what pleases God. It requires improvisation.

Gateway churches need to do four things – (1) move on the obvious; (2) embrace formation; (3) decide faithfully; and (4) over accept. We are called to the tension of our culture being steeped in tradition. We need to be forming a state of trust where people can learn to do things they’ve never done before

1. Move on the obvious – Strengthen the Base – We can now offer bookkeeping support to church treasurers. Activate the Assets – Paul Sunderland provides worship arts support. Pursue the Opportunities – Laurel House, Jerseyville satellite, Alton Mission.
2. Embrace formation – The moment of decision cannot begin a formation; it is based on tradition.
3. Decide faithfully – Pastors, look for giftedness before sending individuals to the MEGA Board. Develop a leadership plan that is effective. Look back on tradition and hit issues head on keeping the goal in mind.
4. Over accept – We fit the smaller story and invite others into a larger story; Jesus over accepted the cross and gives hope. There is an over acceptance of difficulty throughout the Bible. We must create a focus of trust to know what God is doing and then over accept with a desire to please him. Over acceptance is walking a pathway with Javier and Glo Quintana and a new church in Honduras.

A connectional nature can be leveraged to move all ministries forward. It will only be achieved by willing people. Are we willing to shake off the things that hinder us from winning God’s way?

The conference was dismissed for break-out sessions:

Leading Worship – Paul Sunderland

Overcoming Challenges in Children’s Ministry – Christie Kessinger

The Blessings and Challenges of Multi-Cultural Relations in the Church – Pedro Valentin

Planning for FMYC and Beyond – Greg Groves

Bookkeeping Support – Ron Gines

Craftsmen – Julie Hinrichs and Andy Hellrung

Role of Consecrated Deacons – Tyler Boyer

Bishop Kendall shared thoughts from I Peter 4:7-11. Allegiance to Jesus will alienate you from the status quo. Live only in the fear of God. Rid yourself of all toxicants and focus intently so you can pray. Love others fervently and offer hospitality to the stranger. Serve with whatever gift you have been given.



The end of all things is near. The end is just the beginning for the child of God. Bishop Kendall led in prayer.

The conference celebrated communion together.

Appointments were read by Bishop Kendall. (See appointments.)

Conference was adjourned with a benediction from Bishop David Kendall.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Barb Sands". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Barb Sands, Conference Secretary

# 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, 2016

## Roll Call

### Elders

Abbott, Roy D.	X
Aden, Michael	X
Allen, Thomas, P.	
Anderson, Chadwick	X
Atkins, Brian K.	X
Bonney, M. Doane	
Borwick, Steve	X
Boyer, Tyler	X
Brandt, Andrew	X
Brannon, W. Carl	X
Busch, Thomas	X
Carrell, Jon	
Coakley, Ginger	X
Coates, Gerald W.	X
Coates, Herbert H.	X
Coates, Stephen M.	
Coleman, Jerry D.	
Cox, Judy	X
Dunkley, Eugene	X
Dyas, Clifford James	X
Dyas, Stephanie	X
Feneley, Kurt	X
Fish, Greg	X
Frost, Willard W.	X
Fry, Timothy L.	X
Gaffner, Lori	X
Glennon, John	X
Griggs, Dale V.	
Grimmett, Tim	X
Groves, Gregory W.	X
Hall, Norman	
Hartley, Brian	X
Heaney, James R.	
Hough, Peter	X
Hubbs, John D.	X
Huston, Ruth Winslow	
Jackson, Michael Scott	
Janicke, Martin	
Jordahl, Donald C.	
Keefe, Jr., Victor	
Kirkham, J. Robert	
Long, Barry W.	X
Mallory, Dennis R.	
Marshall, Kristine	

### Elders cont.

Martin, Jeremy	X
McPeak, Rick	X
Mehlig, Mark D.	
Morris, Charles	
Neville, Steven	X
Newton, Douglas M.	X
Newton, Margie	X
Ogden, Gary	
Pennington, Greg	X
Reinhard, James A.	X
Richardson, Bruce	
Robart, Vaughn	X
Ross, Rosalee K.	
Rovenstine, Loren D.	
Sain, David	X
Samuel, Robert	X
Sands, Randall L.	X
Scandrett, Mark E.	X
Scandrett-Leatherman, Craig	
Seifert, Lewis H.	
Smith, Robert L.	X
Sussenbach, Ward V.	X
Thompson, Frank H.	
Tippey, James	X
Tolly, Benjamin Joel	X
Wan, Peter	X
Ward, Phillip D.	
Wayman, Benjamin J.	X

### Deacons

Fuller, Earl	
Newman, Ronald	X

### Ministerial Candidates (senior appt)

Beans, Oliver	X
Quintana, Javier	X

### Licensed Pastor (seat, but no vote)

Cunningham, Ted	
-----------------	--

### Located

LaFleur, Steven J.	
Tucker, Ron	

Lay Delegates

Alton- Bob Mueller	X
Alton- Louann Prough	X
Alton Mission Fellowship- Ashburn-	
Bethany- Phillip Spracklen	X
Centralia- Mike Richards	X
Coffeen- Bryan Vollintine	X
Cowden- David Hooks	X
Decatur- Charles Coates	X
Decatur – Mac Dunaway	X
Decatur- LeRoy Mills	X
Decatur- Larry Ditty	R
Edwardsville- Regina Donsbach	X
Ferges- Lana Peck	
Greenville- Brent Shaw	X
Greenville- Kent Krober	X
Greenville- Carolyn Martin	X
Greenville- Laura Pierce	X
Greenville- Dustin Swarm	X
Greenville, St. Paul's- Elise Cranston	X
Greenville, St. Paul's- Georgann Kurtz-Shaw	X
Greenville, St. Paul's- Pedro Valentin	R
Hannibal- Ginny Kennedy	
Hillsboro- Larry Hewitt	X
Hillsboro- Charles Shelhamer	X
Hillsboro- Zachary Frailey	R
Hillsboro- Amanda Cunningham	
Lewistown- Stowanna Goforth	
Pontoon Beach, Solid Rock- Charles Finley	X
Rushville- Trent Chockley	R
STL Lighthouse- Jiangping Li	X
MAPS Fellowship-	
STL Open Door- Robin Kline	X
Salem- Donna Smith	X
Springfield- Steve Griffin	X
Tower Hill- Archie Fox	X
Vandalia – Kenny Montgomery	X

Reserves

Mary Tribe

Elise Cranston

Robbie Shipman

Chuck Cunningham

Appointments  
**GATEWAY CONFERENCE**  
 2016-2017

(3) Ben Tolly (E), Conference Superintendent  
 (Third year of a four-year term)

Alton, Emmanuel .....	(32) Mark Scandrett (E)
	(1) Andrew Brandt (E)
	(1) Pat Heston (E)
Alton Mission Fellowship.....	(4) Peter Hough (E)
Ashburn .....	(10) Victor Keefe, Jr. (E)
Bethany .....	(9) Barry Long (E)
Centralia .....	(5) Jeremy Martin (E)
Coffeen .....	(10) Eugene Dunkley (E)
	(3) Jennifer Dunkley (E)
Cowden .....	(7) Steve Neville (E)
Decatur, Moundford.....	(8) Gerald W. Coates (E)
.....	(14) Roy Abbott (E), AP, MW, MM
.....	(10) Chadwick Anderson (E), AP, MY
Edwardsville, The Bridge .....	(2) Oliver Beans (E)
Ferges .....	(12) Ted Cunningham (LP)
Greenville .....	(12) Doug Newton (E)
.....	(31) Gregory W. Groves (E), AP, MY
.....	(10) Carl Brannon (E), AP, MO, MD
.....	(8) Margie Newton (E), AP
.....	(1) Kathie Filby (CMC)
Greenville, St. Paul's .....	(18) Rick McPeak (E)
.....	(10) Ben Wayman (E), AP
.....	(4) Judy Cox (E), AP
Hannibal .....	Under the Superintendent
Hillsboro .....	(30) Randall L. Sands (E)
.....	(14) Brian Atkins (E), AP
.....	(6) Clifford James Dyas (E), AP
.....	(6) Stephanie Dyas (E), AP
Lewistown, Crossroads .....	Under the Superintendent

Pana, Beacon of Hope .....	Closed
Pontoon Beach, The Solid Rock .....	(7) Michael L. Aden (E)
Rushville .....	(3) Gregory Fish (E)
St. Louis, Lighthouse Chinese .....	(26) Peter Wan (E)
Ministerio Apostolico Plantio del Senor Fellowship	(4) Javier Quintana (E)
	(3) Gloelma Rivera (CMC)
Open Door .....	Under the Superintendent
Salem .....	(5) Jeremy Martin (E)
Springfield, Knox Knolls .....	(4) Tyler Boyer, (E)
Tower Hill .....	(5) Kurt Feneley (E)
Vandalia, Parkview .....	(7) John Glennon (E)

## **SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS AND RELATIONSHIPS**

### **RETIRED:**

Tom Allen (E)	Mark Mehlig (E)
M. Doane Bonney (E)	Charles Morris (E)
Steve Borwick (E)	Ronald Newman (D)
Herbert H. Coates (E)	Gary Ogden (E)
Willard W. Frost (E)	James A. Reinhard (E)
Earl Fuller (D)	Bruce Richardson (E)
Dale V. Griggs (E)	Rosalee Ross (E)
James R. Heaney (E)	Loren D. Rovenstine (E)
Michael Jackson (E)	Lewis H. Seifert (E)
Martin Janicke (E)	Robert L. Smith (E)
Donald C. Jordahl (E)	Ward Sussenbach (E)
J. Robert Kirkham (E)	Frank H. Thompson (E)
Dennis Mallory (E)	Phillip D. Ward (E)

### **DENOMINATIONAL SERVICE:**

LT CMDR Stephen M. Coates (E), Chaplain, U.S. Navy  
Timothy L. Fry (E), Chaplain, Federal Bureau of Prisons  
Lori Gaffner (E), Greenville College  
Norman Hall (E), Greenville College  
Brian Hartley (E), Greenville College  
Major John D. Hubbs (E), Chaplain, U.S. Army  
Ruth W. Huston (E), Greenville College  
Greg Pennington (E), Greenville College  
Vaughn Robart (E), Chaplain, Almira Manor  
David Sain (E), Chaplain, Civil Air Patrol  
Benjamin Wayman (E), Greenville College

### **ATTENDING SCHOOL:**

Amanda DiMiele (CMC)  
Zachary DiMiele (CMC)  
Niquita Reinhard Hohm (CMC)  
Matthew Scandrett (CMC)

### **GATEWAY MINISTRIES:**

Linda Alf (E), Global Associate, Greenville Prison  
Ginger Coakley (E), Global Associate, the Set Free Movement  
Tim Grimmett (E), Global Associate, "Blessings To Others"  
Debbie Lewis (LP), Durley Camp & Retreat Center

### **RELEASED FOR MINISTRY OUTSIDE THE DENOMINATION:**

Tom Busch (E), serving another evangelical church  
Jon Carrell (E), serving another evangelical church  
Jerry Coleman (E), director of Francis Asbury Society International  
Kristine Marshall (E), serving another evangelical church  
Dan Maurer (E), Joy Song Global  
Robert J. Samuel (E), serving in a Christian College

Craig Scandrett-Leatherman (E), serving in a secular university  
James E. Tippey (E), secular work

**LICENSED PASTOR:**

Ted Cunningham  
Debbie Lewis

**LOCATED:**

Steve LaFleur (E)  
Ron Tucker (E)

\* \* \* \*

**KEY:**

(E) Elder	AP Associate Pastor
(D) Deacon	ASP Assistant Pastor
(CMC) Conference Ministerial Candidate	ATP Assistant to the Pastor
(LP) Licensed Pastor	EP Executive Pastor
	FLM Family Life Ministries
	MD Minister of Discipleship
	MM Minister of Music
	MO Minister of Outreach
	MW Minister of Worship
	MY Minister of Youth