

BFC Conference Proceedings – 2025

First meeting

Monday, April 28, 2025, 1:30 P.M.

The 142nd Conference of the Bible Fellowship Church was called to order by Conference Moderator Daniel L. Williams at 1:30 p.m. in Pinebrook Bible Conference's Fellowship Hall. Williams cited Ephesians 4 and read Romans 15:1-2, where the focus is on unity and humility, as a guiding principle for what will take place over the next three days, and then prayed for God's guidance on the proceedings to follow.

The Conference Moderator announced the following appointments:

Timekeeper: Mark L. Morrison

Registrar: Joel B. Klase

Assistant Registrar: Jules J. Hull III

Parliamentarian: Randall A. Grossman

Committee on Minutes of the 142nd BFC Conference: Joshua P. Gibson, Philip G. Norris, Thomas P. Shorb, Richard E. Taylor, R. Daniel Wagner. Because of a fall that resulted in a significant injury, Taylor is unable to fulfill his role.

Committee on Resolutions: Brad L. Boyer, Daniel Z. Krall, Michael C. Meadows.

Resolved, that the appointments be ratified.

Report of the Registrar:

Resolved, that the roll of eligible members of the 142nd BFC Conference constitute the Conference Bar for the 142nd BFC Conference.

The roll of the 142nd BFC Conference was established as follows:

Allentown, PA (Cedar Crest)	Jason L. Hoy, Adam K. Crain, Jules J. Hull III, Christopher M. Von Holt, Nathan G. Trommler (Probationer), Scott Allen, David L. Tress, Rick D. Whitmire
Allentown, PA (Citylight)	Stephen A. Diaz, Richard L. Dobrowolski (Probationer), Michael Whiteford
Bethlehem, PA	R. Scott Wright, Jeremy L. Harkins, Michael J. Notary, Swannie W. Griffin III, Travis Schanely, Joshua Von Holt
Blandon, PA	Daniel L. Williams, R. Jerry Brush, Brad D. Kunkle

Boyertown, PA	Andrew J. Vassel (Probationer), Lucas Parsons
Breinigsville, PA	Benjamin J. Triestman, John E. Schleicher
Brick, NJ	L. Marc Sweet, Edwin Ramos
Camden, DE	R. Daniel Wagner, Albert F. Biddle, Jr.
Cape May Court House, NJ	Brad L. Boyer, Michael Polach
Carmel, NY	(Vacant)
Clinton Corners, NY	(Vacant), Wayne M. Chadwell
Coopersburg, PA	Peter C. Bogert (Probationer), Jacob B. Dearmon (Probationer), David E. Speel
Dauphin, PA	Mark E. Barninger, Scott Bogdon
Denville, NJ	Daniel A. Cali (Probationer), Steven Kay
Emmaus, PA	David A. Smith, Jared M. Burkholder, Scott A. Hoffman
Ephrata, PA	Daniel Z. Krall, David J. Parsons (Probationer), Benjamin C. Ross (Probationer), Anthony Iezzi
Exeter, PA	William A. Burton III, Shawn McAnulty
Finesville, NJ	Brandon D. Olbrys (Probationer)
Forks, PA	Timothy M. Zuck, Greg Swigart
Gettysburg, PA	John J. Hanner, R. Edward Snyder-Ritter
Graterford, PA	Mark R. Orton, Geoffrey Sobeck
Harleysville, PA	Andrew T. Crossgrove, Michael W. Walker, Andrew J. Miller, B.K. Roberts
Harmony, NJ	Richard J. Paquette (Probationer), Robert W. Burnett
Harrisburg, PA (Grace BFC)	Joshua P. Miller, Andrew W. Barnes, Steven J. DelDuco, Richard Prensner

Harrisburg, PA (Grace Fellowship)	(Vacant), Jayonn C. Folks
Hatfield, PA	Joel B. Klase, Harold K. Schoonover
Hellertown, PA	Keith A. Strunk, Dwayne Kemmerer
Kutztown, PA	Sandy J. Holbert (Probationer), Doug Steffy
LaGrangeville, NY	Interim, Evan T. Climpson
Lancaster, PA (Christ Alone)*	Juan Carlos Morales, Wayne Cooley
Lancaster, PA (Faith BFC)	Keith M. Long, Neil J. Franklin, Jr., William C. Verdon II, Nathaniel A. Miller (Probationer), Joseph A. Kim
Las Cruces, NM	David M. Poland
Lebanon, PA	Jarrold J. Cruise, Eric E. Herb, Jr. (Probationer), Eric Herb, Sr.
Lehighton, PA	Robert A. Johnson II, Steven Ramos
Long Neck, DE	Richard F. Bickings, Tom Lioy
Merida, MEXICO	Marcos G. Ramirez
Mt. Carmel, PA	Roger L. Siegrist, A. Mark Cassel
Mt. Pocono, PA	James L. Farver (Probationer), Ronald E. Miller
Nazareth, PA	John P. Sullivan (Probationer), James W. Preslar
Newark, DE	Andrew R. Hebel, Jonathan Limm (Probationer), David Bradford, Kenneth J. Klein
Newark, NJ	Ron Burgess, Melvin Hinton
Oley, PA	Scott A. Allison, Christian D. Lefko (Probationer), Todd Heath, Timothy Spacek
Paradise, PA	Jesse A. Benack, Daniel J. Eckman
Philadelphia, PA	Ralph E. Ritter

Piscataway, NJ	(Interim), Ryan Beauchea, Jerry Shan
Quakertown, PA	Ronald L. Kohl, Robert E. Smith
Reading, PA (Grace BFC)	Randall A. Grossman, Greg Fairbanks, Timothy G. Faust
Reading, PA (La Roca)	Carlos G. Rodriguez, Luis Beltran, Vladimir L. Caba, Alexis Ramirez
Red Hill, PA	Michael C. Meadows, J. Rob Vaughn
Royersford, PA	Daniel W. King, Michael Gangwer
Shamokin, PA	Ferdie R. Madara
Sinking Spring, PA	S. Wayne Rissmiller, Paul Harvey, Donald D. McKinney, Donald M. Eenigenburg, Timothy P. Stump, John R. Weller
Spring City, PA	Jeffrey A. Kauffman, Sean P. McNamara
Stroudsburg, PA	Beau E. Coffman, Eddie Coover
Sunbury, PA	Joshua P. Gibson, Douglas A. Gaugler
Terre Hill, PA	Kevin W. Kirkpatrick, Andrew S. Littlejohn
Topton, PA	Daniel J. Hoffstetter, Larry Davies, Steven K. Myers (Probationer)
Townsend, DE	(Vacant)
W. Norriton, PA (Redeemer)	(Vacant), Rodger Eastman
Wallingford, PA	Aaron J. Susek, Mark A. Bickel, Mark E. Kessler
Walnutport, PA	Aaron D. Smith, Jason P. Musselman
Whitehall, PA	Timothy J. Schmoyer, Daryl A. Crawford (Probationer), Philip E. Yerrington, Mark Hargrove
Woodbury Heights, NJ	Timothy R. Nessler, Harry Nessler

York, PA

Wesley H. Bunting, Kenneth L. Good

Zionsville, PA

Benenz J. Hitchcock (Probationer), Jim Pruitt

*Contingent upon their graduation as a particular church at this Conference

Ordained Ministers Serving in Bible Fellowship Ministries:

BFC Executive Director — David T. Allen

Conference Pastor — Ralph M. Soper

Church Extension — David E. Gundrum (Director), Raymond R. Bertolet, Freddy A. Chi, Joshua P. Dupiche, Jason A. Filbert, Tracy D. Haines (Probationer), Mark L. Morrison, Stephen J. Morton, Timothy S. Radcliff, James D. Reff

Board of Missions — James D. MacArthur (Director)

Ordained Missionaries:

Scott B. Evans, James D. Head, D.B.H., Daniel Istrate, Walter M. Johnston, Jerry L. Moyer, David W. Riddell, John C. Studenroth

Ordained Ministers Working in the Chaplaincy Under the Sponsorship of the BFC:

Ezekiel R. Mack, Jacob J. Susek, Jr.

Ordained Ministers Working in Other Christian Ministries:

Timothy J. Bertolet, Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr., David E. Brandt, Kevin W. Clineff, William J. Dunn, Jordan K. Eyster

Ordained Ministers in Retirement or on Permanent Disability:

William C. Aukamp, Delbert R. Baker II, Kenneth F. Barber, Clifford B. Boone, Leonard E. Buck, Dennis M. Cahill, G. Wayne Clapier, Charles E. Cole, Hugh C. Coulbourn, Jr., Richard C. Dodson, Bruce A. Ellingson, Ronald C. Erb, Glenn R. Felty, Carl J. Fischer, Jr., Richard J. Gehman, Richard D. Harris, LeRoy S. Heller, John H. Herb, Ronald W. Hoyle, David H. Jones, W. Scott Kappes, Donald E. Kuntzman, Dennis J. Lawrence, Francis E. Lenahan, John R. LoRusso, Ronald C. Mahurin, David L. Manney, Philip E. Morrison, Duane E. Moyer, Richard A. Moyer, Philip G. Norris, Richard T. Paashauss (acting as delegate for Finesville, NJ), Barry T.

Parsons, Keith E. Plows, Thomas A. Pollock, Louis Pronnicki, Richard B. Ravis, Calvin T. Reed, Roger L. Reitz, Jeffrey L. Ruhl, David K. Schlonecker, William G. Schlonecker, David N. Schoen, Thomas P. Shorb, Robert A. Sloan, Jr., Gene W. Smith, Ronald B. Smith, Dennis W. Spinney, Michael J. Tannous, Richard E. Taylor, Gregory A. Uhrich, John C. Vandegriff, Jr., David R. Way, Dana E. Weller, Howard N. Wells, Byron Widger, Paul G. Zimmerman.

Ordained Ministers Between Calls:

Timothy S. Hogan, Carl T. Martin, Thomas H. Morrison.

Additional Lay Members of the BFC Executive Board:

Gary E. Karch, Ronald W. Reed, L. James Roberts, Byron D. Roth, John W. Sullivan II, William J. Walters.

The following first-time delegates were introduced to Conference:

Scott J. Bogdon, Dauphin, PA; Robert W. Burnett, Harmony, NJ; A. Mark Cassel, Mt. Carmel, PA; Greg Fairbanks, Reading; Eric Herb Sr., Lebanon, PA; Dwayne Kemmerer, Hellertown, PA; Christian D. Lefko, Oley, PA; Jon Limm, Newark, DE; Nathanael Miller, Lancaster, PA; Steven K. Myers, Topton, PA; Brandon D. Olbrys, Finesville, NJ; David J. Parsons, Ephrata, PA; Edwin Ramos, Brick, NJ; B. K. Roberts, Harleysville, PA; Travis Schanely, Bethlehem, PA; Geoffrey Sobeck, Graterford, PA; Nathan G. Trommler, Allentown, PA.

Report of the Committee on Agenda & Arrangements: (see page)

Resolved, that the report be accepted.

Resolved, that the proposed agenda for the 142nd BFC Conference be accepted as the guide for our deliberations.

Resolved, that the Registrar be authorized to seat alternate delegates as required during the Conference and report them to Conference in his report at the conclusion of Conference.

Resolved, that the 143rd BFC Conference be held at a site and date to be determined.

Resolved, that committee reports for the 143rd BFC Conference be sent in digital format to the BFC Conference Secretary by February 15, 2026 at sportspastor33@gmail.com.

Conference Secretary Ronald L. Kohl appointed Timothy S. Radcliff as Assistant Secretary and Samuel Janney and Shawn Rohrbach as Assistants to the Secretary.

Resolved, that the appointments be ratified.

Pinebrook Bible Conference site director Richard B. Brewer and Spruce Lake/Pinebrook's Chief Executive Officer Stephanie Gehman officially welcomed the pastors and delegates to Pinebrook Bible Conference. Gehman succeeded Mark Swartley as CEO in January, 2025.

Resolved, that all minutes of the 141st BFC Conference be approved.

Report of the Conference Judiciary: (see page)

Resolved, that the report be accepted.

Randall A. Grossman read the report, noting that for the first time, the Conference Judiciary was called upon to preside over a trial. "As far as the judiciary is concerned, we're satisfied that we've done our duty and that the matter is closed, and that we're ready to move on," he concluded.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Resolved, that the report be accepted.

The following were elected to boards or committees:

BFC Executive Board (ministers):

Steven J. DelDuco (3 years)

Daniel L. Williams (3 years)

BFC Executive Board (elders):

L. James Roberts Jr. (3 years)

Byron D. Roth (3 years)

Ministerial Relations Committee (ministers):

Randall A. Grossman (3 years)

Committee on Nominations (ministers):

R. Daniel Wagner (3 years)

Committee on Nominations (laypersons):

Jill Davidson (3 years)

Special Appellate Judiciary (ministers):

Daniel Z. Krall (3 years)

R. Scott Wright (3 years)

Special Appellate Judicatory (elders):

Ken Lord (3 years)

Ronald Miller (3 years)

Officers of the 143rd BFC Conference

Secretary

Ronald L. Kohl (1 year)

Daniel W. King prayed for the elections to be held on Tuesday.

Report of the Ministerial Credentials Committee: (see page)

Resolved, that the report be accepted.

Whereas, the Ministerial Candidate Committee has recommended ordination for James L. Farver Jr., Tracy D. Haines, Eric E. Herb Jr., and Sandy H. Holbert, and

Whereas, the Ministerial Candidate Committee has recommended Richard L. Dobrowolski for recognition of previous ordination, and

Whereas, these brothers have served acceptably as ministers of the Bible Fellowship Church for the required period of time or the equivalent thereof, and

Whereas, after examination, the Ministerial Credentials Committee believes these men to be called of God to the gospel ministry and to be in accord with the Faith & Order of the Bible Fellowship Church, therefore be it

Resolved, that James L. Farver Jr., Tracy D. Haines, Eric E. Herb Jr., and Sandy H. Holbert be ordained to the gospel ministry of the Bible Fellowship Church, and that Richard L. Dobrowolski be recommended for recognition of previous ordination.

Resolved, that an Ordination Service be held at the 142nd BFC Conference, and be it further

Resolved, that Pocono Mountain Bible Fellowship Church, Mt. Pocono, PA, Grace Community Bible Fellowship Church, Chestertown, MD, Lebanon Bible Fellowship Church, Lebanon, PA, and Kutztown Bible Fellowship Church, Kutztown, PA be encouraged to hold services in recognition of the ordinations of James L. Farver Jr., Tracy D. Haines, Eric E. Herb Jr., and Sandy H. Holbert, respectively, and that the Citylight Bible Fellowship Church, Allentown, PA, be encouraged to hold a service in recognition of previous ordination for Richard L. Dobrowolski and that each church be encouraged to invite the Ministerial Credentials Committee to send representation to be present at these services.

Report of the Ministerial Candidate Committee: (see page)

Resolved, that the report be accepted.

Resolved, that the list of men under the care of the Ministerial Candidate Committee be approved.

The following men who are under the care of the Ministerial Candidate Committee introduced themselves to Conference:

Peter C. Bogert, Coopersburg, PA; Daniel A. Cali, Denville, NJ; Richard L. Dobrowolski, Allentown, PA; James L. Farver Jr., Mt. Pocono, PA; Eric E. Herb Jr., Lebanon, PA; Benenz J. Hitchcock, Zionsville, PA; Sandy H. Holbert, Kutztown, PA; Christian D. Lefko, Oley, PA; Jonathan Limm, Newark, DE; Nathanael A. Miller, Lancaster, PA; Steven K. Myers, Topton, PA; Brandon D. Olbrys, Finesville, NJ; Richard J. Paquette, Harmony, NJ; David J. Parsons, Ephrata, PA; Nathan G. Trommler, Allentown, PA; Andrew J. Vassel, Boyertown, PA; Joshua P. Von Holt, Bethlehem, PA.

Michael W. Walker of the Prayer Committee led the pastors, delegates, and guests in a time of corporate prayer, using passages from Philippians 1 and 2 as a guide.

Following the afternoon break and citing excerpts from Psalm 66, the Moderator allotted time for pastors and delegates to share praiseworthy stories from our respective churches. After prayer, Conference turned to musical worship as David Pooler of New Life BFC in Oley, PA, with the capable assistance of musicians Thomas Heath, Steven K. Myers, Aaron Susek, and Kevin Weber, led the pastors, delegates, and guests in the singing of “How Firm a Foundation,” “His Mercy is More,” and “There is One Gospel.”

The keynote address, “Unity under the Word of God,” was delivered by Jason L. Hoy of Cedar Crest BFC, Allentown, PA. His text was Matthew 15:1-9. Hoy noted that he had been asked to preach a sermon he had preached a few months before at Cedar Crest BFC. Referring to that sermon, he said, “There is nothing more that I hate than getting the text wrong. We must be precise in the handling of God’s Word.”

True unity, Hoy said, will only come if we submit ourselves to the teaching of the Word of God. As such, if we as a denomination wish to remain unified, we must reject man-made traditions “in our lives and in our preaching, and we must be on the lookout for it in our people.”

“Sinners do not need outward religious ritual based on man’s teaching,” he stressed. They need regeneration by the Spirit of God through the Word of God.

In dealing with a text that sees Jesus engage in battle with the Pharisees and scribes over the matter of ceremonial hand-washing – in which he accuses them of actually violating the Fifth Commandment (the honoring of parents) for the sake of their traditions, Hoy asked himself the following questions: What is true Christian unity? Do I deeply desire it for my church and for my denomination? “If we do, how do we get there? How do we make it a reality?”

Man-made traditions, he argued, can be deeply-rooted in a church. “Don’t be surprised if somebody comes against you for breaking religious tradition,” he said.

In the case of ceremonial washing, what may have begun as a practice that sought to maintain purity before God had devolved into a terrible burden that “became external, outward, ritualistic” – when what was truly needed was a new heart. “Before you knew it, the traditions of man became just as important as the commandments of God – and this is what divided them right down the middle with our Lord Jesus Christ,” Hoy explained.

“They made it all external, and before you know it, this is what a hypocrite and a legalist do: they make it external and they equate that with justification and sanctification,” he said. “You can become saved by washing your hands – and all the while, your heart is filthy.”

Hypocrisy and legalism, he said, always seem to go together, and the end result is that the gospel takes on lesser importance. “May we never diminish our Savior – who He is and His work on the cross,” Hoy said. “Him alone. Make much of Him!”

A legalist, he said, is a person who thinks outward rituals will make him right with God. Hoy urged Conference to be on the lookout for “man-made religions” that major on legalism and externalism: the kind that say, as the church in Rome says, “God’s truth is found in the Bible, but also in the traditions of the church.”

Jesus explicitly condemns instances where professing Christians nullify the Word of God because they value their traditions more, where they allege commitments to Scripture but don’t worship from the heart, and focus on outward appearance rather than inward piety. “Lord, help us to preach the true gospel,” Hoy said. “Help us to avoid any external performance...let’s loathe legalism. That diminishes the beauty of the Lord and His gospel.”

The Jesus of Scripture – the only Jesus there is – is the Jesus who taught both truth and unity, and so we must urge both as well. “What are we united around if we are not united around Him and His truth?” Hoy said.

“Unity matters to our Lord,” he noted. “We have to care deeply about it because He cares deeply about it.”

Citing key biblical texts on unity (1 Corinthians 1:10; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 1:27; Philippians 2:2; Ephesians 4:3), Hoy said our unity must be “according to the commands of the Lord. We must live under this Book – and no other.”

Article 1 of the Articles of Faith – The Holy Scriptures – is the article “which drives the rest of our Articles,” Hoy said. “We also have to strive for biblical wisdom and discernment where we should be united and where we might have minor disagreements that we can actually share as a denomination...In the majority of our Lord’s clear commands, we should be unified. And then in the small amount of Scripture which is less clear, we can have liberty of belief and loving disagreement.”

The Moderator allotted 10 minutes at the close of the session for a time of silent “prayerful confession” in the light of the Word that had just been preached.

Conference adjourned for dinner at 4:43 p.m. as Carlos G. Rodriguez led in prayer.