

BFC Conference Proceedings – 2026

First meeting

Monday, April 27, 2026, 2:30 P.M.

The 143rd Conference of the Bible Fellowship Church was called to order by Conference Moderator Randall A. Grossman at 2:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Pinebrook Bible Conference. Grossman welcomed the pastors and delegates and prayed for the weighty matters to be considered over the next three days. “This is God’s call for us today and for these three days, because we’re theologically convinced that we are accountable to one another and we’re interconnected, and the expression of that is right here in this room,” Grossman said.

Report of the Registrar:

Resolved, that the roll of eligible members of the 143rd BFC Conference constitute the Conference Bar for the 143rd BFC Conference.

Christopher M. Von Holt prayed for assistant registrar Jules J. Hull III, who was unable to attend and to fill his role at BFC Conference this year due to serious debilitating illness.

The roll of the 143rd BFC Conference was established as follows:

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| Allentown, PA (Cedar Crest) | Jason L. Hoy, Jules J. Hull III, Christopher M. Von Holt, Nathan G. Trommler (Probationer), Scott Allen, Peter J. Everett, David Tress, Daniel D. Waterman |
| Allentown, PA (Citylight) | Richard L. Dobrowolski, John C. Elias, Michael Whiteford |
| Bethlehem, PA | Scott Wright, Jeremy L. Harkins, Michael J. Notary, Josh Von Holt (Probationer), Swannie W. Griffin III, Travis Schanely, Will Alpaugh (alt.) |
| Blandon, PA | Daniel L. Williams, R. Jerry Brush, Brad D. Kunkle |
| Boyertown, PA | Andrew J. Vasel (Probationer), Lucas Parsons |
| Breinigsville, PA | Benjamin J. Triestman, Jon Fisher |
| Brick, NJ | L. Marc Sweet, Donald W. Salafia, Jr. |
| Camden, DE | R. Daniel Wagner, Albert F. Biddle, Jr. |
| Cape May Court House, NJ | Brad L. Boyer, Gordon Oeschger |
| Carmel, NY | (Vacant) |
| Chestertown, MD* | James D. Reff, Tracy D. Haines |
| Clinton Corners, NY | (Vacant), Wayne M. Chadwell |

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| Coopersburg, PA | Peter C. Bogert (Probationer), Jacob B. Dearmon (Probationer), David E. Speel, Robert A. Moreau |
| 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), Jonathan D. Grassi |
| Exeter, PA | William A. Burton III, Andrew C. Eichelberger |
| Finesville, NJ | Brandon D. Olbrys (Probationer) |
| Forks Twp., PA | (Interim), Daniel F. Mazzeo, Greg Swigart |
| Gettysburg, PA | John J. Hanner, R. Edward Snyder-Ritter |
| Graterford, PA | Mark R. Orton, Geoffrey Sobek |
| Harleysville, PA | Andrew T. Crossgrove, Michael W. Walker, Andrew J. Miller, Rick Lutz |
| Harmony, NJ | Richard J. Paquette (Probationer), Robert W. Burnett, David W. Heller, Donald C. Jackson, Jr. |
| Harrisburg, PA | Joshua P. Miller, Andrew W. Barnes, Richard Prensner |
| Hatfield, PA | Joel B. Klase, Robert King |
| Hellertown, PA | Keith A. Strunk, Dwayne M. Kemmerer |
| LaGrangeville, NY | (Interim), Evan T. Climpson |
| Lancaster, PA | Keith M. Long, Neil J. Franklin, Jr., William C. Verdon II, Nathaniel A. Miller (Probationer), Chris Young |
| Lancaster City, PA | Juan Carlos Morales, Wayne V. Cooley, Jr. |
| Las Cruces, NM | David M. Poland |
| Lebanon, PA | Jarrod J. Cruise, Eric E. Herb, Jr., Judah E. Wise (Probationer), Eric E. Herb, Sr. |
| Lehighon, PA | Stephen A. Diaz, Steven Ramos |
| Long Neck, DE | Richard F. Bickings, Richard M. Petrecca |
| Merida, MEXICO | Marcos G. Ramirez |
| Milford, DE* | Joshua P. Dupiche, Alton Hester |
| Mt. Carmel, PA | Roger L. Siegrist, A. Mark Cassel |
| Mt. Pocono, PA | James L. Farver, Ronald E. Miller |
| Nazareth, PA | John P. Sullivan (Probationer), James W. Preslar |

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| Newark, DE | Andrew R. Hebel, Jonathan Limm (Probationer), Ronald L. Bove, Kenneth J. Klein |
| Newark, NJ | Ron Burgess, Melvin Hinton |
| Oley, PA | Scott A. Allison, Christian D. Lefko (Probationer), Todd Heath, William S. Ryan |
| Paradise, PA | Jesse A. Benack, Daniel J. Eckman |
| Philadelphia, PA | Ralph E. Ritter |
| Piscataway, NJ | Jason D. Falzarano (Probationer), Mark C. Baker |
| Pottstown, PA (formerly Spring City) | Jeffrey A. Kauffman, Sean P. McNamara |
| Quakertown, PA | Ronald L. Kohl, Robert E. Smith |
| Reading, PA (Grace BFC) | Gary L. White (Probationer), Greg C. Tuke |
| Reading, PA (La Roca) | Carlos G. Rodriguez, Vladimir L. Caba, Alexis Ramirez |
| Red Hill, PA | (Vacant), J. Robert Vaughn, Jr. |
| Royersford, PA | Daniel W. King, Connor A. Roskowski (Probationer), 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 |
| Stroudsburg, PA | Beau E. Coffman, Michael D. Murphy |
| 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) |
| Wallingford, PA | Aaron J. Susek, Mark A. Bickel, Mark E. Kessler |
| Walnutport, PA | Aaron D. Smith, Jason P. Musselman |
| W. Norriton, PA | (Interim), Tirus T. Twyne |
| Whitehall, PA | Timothy J. Schmoyer, Daryl A. Crawford (Probationer), Philip E. Yerrington, Laszlo Onody (Probationer), Mark Hargrove |
| Woodbury Heights, NJ | Timothy R. Nessler, Harry Nessler |
| York, PA | Wesley H. Bunting, Alex Kocman, Joshua Vann |
| 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 — Timothy M. Zuck (Director), David E. Gundrum (Director of Expansion and Development), Raymond R. Bertolet, Freddy A. Chi, Steven J. DeIDuco, Jason A. Filbert, Mark L. Morrison, Stephen J. Morton, Timothy S. Radcliff, Shawn C. Rohrbach (Probationer)

Board of Missions — James D. MacArthur (Director)

Ordained Missionaries:

Scott B. Evans, James D. Head, D.B.H., Jerry L. Moyer, David W. Riddell, John C. Studenroth

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

Ezekiel R. Mack, Daniel Istrate

Ordained Ministers Working in Other Christian Ministries:

Timothy J. Bertolet, Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr., David E. Brandt, Kevin W. Clineff, Adam K. Crain, 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, Carl J. Fischer, Jr., Richard J. Gehman, Randall A. Grossman, Richard D. Harris, LeRoy S. Heller, John H. Herb, Ronald W. Hoyle, Robert A. Johnson II, Walter M. Johnston, 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. Paashaus (Delegate for Finesville, NJ), Barry T. Parsons, Keith E. Plows, Thomas A. Pollock, Louis Prontnicki, 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., Ronald B. Smith, Dennis W. Spinney, Jacob J. Susek, Jr., 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:

Sandy J. Holbert, Carl T. Martin

Additional Lay Members of the BFC Executive Board:

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

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

Resolved, that the report be accepted.

Resolved, that the proposed agenda for the 143rd 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 144th BFC Conference be held at a site and date to be determined.

Resolved, that committee reports for the 144th BFC Conference be sent in digital format to the BFC Conference Secretary by February 15, 2027 at sportspastor33@gmail.com.

The Conference Moderator announced the following appointments:

Timekeeper: Mark L. Morrison

Parliamentarian: Daniel L. Williams

Committee on Minutes of the 143rd BFC Conference: Philip G. Norris, Thomas P. Shorb, R. Daniel Wagner.

Committee on Resolutions: Daniel Z. Krall, Jarrod J. Cruise, Daniel J. Hoffstetter.

Resolved, that the appointments be ratified.

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 officially welcomed the pastors and delegates to Pinebrook Bible Conference.

Resolved, that all minutes of the 142nd BFC Conference be approved.

The following first-time delegates to BFC Conference introduced themselves to Conference:

Mark Baker, Piscataway, NJ; Jonathan Grassi, Ephrata, PA; David Heller, Harmony, NJ; Alton Hester, Milford, DE; Robert Kim, Hatfield, PA; Gordon Oeschger, Cape May, NJ; Laszlo Onody, Whitehall, PA; Greg Tuke, Reading; Michael Whitefield, Allentown, PA; Chris Young, Lancaster, PA.

A time of concerted prayer was led by Dennis W. Spinney of the Prayer Committee, using the Beatitudes – Matthew 5:2-12 – as a guide.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Resolved, that the report be accepted.

The following were elected to boards or committees:

Ministerial Relations Committee (elders):

Mark Hargrove (3 years)

Glendon R. LeSuer Jr. (3 years)

Conference Judicatory (elders):

Michael Gangwer (3 years)

Sean McNamara (3 years)

Special Appellate Judicatory (minister):

Philip E. Morrison (3 years)

Officers of the 144th 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 Jacob B. Dearmon and Benenz J. Hitchcock, and

Whereas, the Ministerial Candidate Committee has recommended Peter C. Bogert, Daniel A. Cali, Jonathan Limm, James D. MacArthur, and John P. Sullivan for recognition of previous ordination, and

Whereas, these brethren 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 Jacob B. Dearmon and Benenz J. Hitchcock be ordained to the gospel ministry of the Bible Fellowship Church, and that Peter C. Bogert, Daniel A. Cali, Jonathan Limm, James D. MacArthur, and John P. Sullivan be recommended for recognition of previous ordination.

Resolved, that an Ordination Service be held at the 143rd BFC Conference, and be it further

Resolved, that Calvary Bible Fellowship Church, Coopersburg, PA, and Zionsville Bible Fellowship Church, Zionsville, PA., be encouraged to hold services in recognition for the ordinations of Jacob B. Dearmon, and Benenz J. Hitchcock, respectively, and that Calvary Bible Fellowship Church, Coopersburg, PA., Denville Bible Fellowship Church, Denville, NJ., the Bible Fellowship Church of Newark, DE, New Life Bible Fellowship Church, Oley, PA., and Grace Bible Fellowship Church, Nazareth, PA., be encouraged to hold services in recognition of previous ordination for Peter C. Bogert, Daniel A. Cali, Jonathan Limm, James D. MacArthur, and John P. Sullivan, respectively, and that they be encouraged to invite the Ministerial Credentials Committee to send representation to be present at these services.

Jeremy L. Harkins, accompanied by Steve Jackson, Steven K. Myers, Aaron J. Susek, and Max Whylings, led Conference in the singing of “May the Peoples Praise You,” “Facing a Task Unfinished,” and “The Lord is My Salvation.” He also read Matthew 28:16-20, reminding the pastors and delegates of the Lord’s call to make disciples while also reminding them that we have the promise of His presence until the end of the age. Harkins then prayed with thanksgiving for God’s faithfulness and calling.

Sean Cooper of Global Serve International, a church planting missions agency that is focused on establishing healthy churches in regions that are either unreached or largely closed-off to the gospel, presented the keynote address, “A Biblical Theology for Mission: A People from All Peoples.”

Cooper told Conference a bit of his own story, growing up in a poor family but with self-centered aspirations. “It was baked into my soul as a youth that my purpose in life was to chase this thing called the American Dream: safety, comfort, security and all that goes with it,” he explained.

But in his sophomore year of college, God sent a minister into Cooper’s path to share with him that life is not about his own selfish agenda, but about God and His purpose. “God has a very basic purpose and agenda, and it’s this: to make Himself famous worldwide...He is doing this through His Son, Jesus Christ.”

It was what Cooper, as an only child focused on having his own needs and wants met, needed to hear, though the challenge wasn’t initially received with open heart and mind. His response to the minister’s call to missions wasn’t met with immediate acceptance. He thought, “Missions is for weird people who don’t fit into America; that’s why we send them overseas. That’s not for me; it’s for someone else, somewhere else.”

But God’s truth eventually took hold of Cooper’s heart in a life-shaking way. He asked, “If missions matters to God, brothers, does it matter to us?”

Cooper began in Genesis 1 with Adam and Eve and walked the pastors and delegates through the whole Bible. Adam and Eve were called to multiply and spread out and populate and fill the planet, for God wanted them to teach those who follow and fill the earth that all are image-bearers of God. Sin, however, severed our relationship with God. By Genesis 6, every intention of man’s heart was only set on evil – always.

Right from the start, God commanded His people to go and fill the earth, but sin immediately placed an obstacle to God’s call. “There’s no such thing as a neutral party between God and mankind. You either love God and hate sin or you love sin and hate God,” Cooper said.

By the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11, humanity had no desire to make God great, and God scattered mankind – sending them apart with differing languages: from one language to many languages, from one location to many locations. Most of the 7,000 present-day languages throughout the world are unreached: no Bible, no believers, no church body. They will perish and die unless someone is sent. “Someone must go and tell them, and there must be churches that send them. Someone must send and some must be sent in order to reach these unreached languages.”

By Genesis 11, a question is begged: What is God going to do to bring people to Himself? The answer begins to be told in Genesis 12 as God tells Abram, “Go to the land that I will show you.” God interrupts Abram’s agenda. Abram is not seeking God but God in His sovereignty and grace breaks into Abram’s life, speaking His call as a command to Abram: Leave. Go. “I want there to be a decisive break from your place. I am commanding you to leave your people and go away from your place.” Abram was even called to make a break from his own father; God called Abram to walk away, essentially, from everything.

God’s promise to Abram was to give him a place – to make him an heir to the whole world. “I’m going to give you a people more numerous than the stars in the sky,” God said. “There is nothing greater that God can give us than to give us Himself...to get God is to get all,” Cooper stressed.

What are the ultimate blessings God promised to Abram? Not temporal, material blessings, but Himself; God is the ultimate blessing to His people. “In Him we have every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies,” Paul tells the Ephesian Christians.

“God is preaching the gospel to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3. In Galatians 3:8, Paul confirms that God was preaching the gospel through Abraham. “And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, ‘In you shall all the nations be blessed.’”

Through Christ, God promises that whoever will turn from their sins and turn to Christ – through grace alone, through faith alone – will receive salvation and the forgiveness of sins. God fulfills His purpose through His promises.

By Exodus, we are told that God begins to multiply the Israelites to an exceedingly great number. Pharaoh begins to enslave them as a tyrant to them and after 400 years of torment, Israel cries out to God, and God remembers the promise He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Through Moses, God rescues His people, only to hear their complaints within a few weeks. The result is 40 years of wilderness wandering. But God’s intention, revealed in Exodus 9:16 in the midst of the plagues, is to make His name famous: “...that My name may be proclaimed in all the earth.”

In the midst of their wandering, God sends Moses to Mt. Sinai to receive the law so that, according to Deuteronomy 4:6, the nations would see God’s wisdom and understanding. “Israel was meant to be a reflection of God,” Cooper said. Global implications were involved; Israel was to be a light to the nations and God worked through His servants to serve His purpose through His promises, which were for all the nations.

Cooper rattled off examples from throughout the Old Testament of God’s faithfulness despite the repeated stubbornness of His people: people like Jonah, who didn’t want the Assyrians to hear that God is gracious and merciful. This message resounds throughout the

Psalms, in verses like Psalm 46:10: “Be still, and know that I am God.” The message of that verse is for His people to sit still because God will be exalted among the nations and in all the earth, for He has promised it and He is a covenant-keeping, faithful God.

God’s purpose will not be thwarted; He is gathering a people unto Himself. “The same promise is still at work,” Cooper said. And when Jesus comes, He repeatedly says that He is about His Father’s purpose and agenda. “I have come not to do My will but the will of Him who sent Me.” Jesus is a fulfillment of God’s promise to Abram in Genesis 12 by His whole life and ministry. Cooper gave several examples of this from throughout Jesus’ public ministry: from His miracles, from His work with the 12 disciples. And when His own people received Him not, Jesus went to the Gentiles. He tells the twelve that they will be sent to make disciples of all nations.

Cooper closed with the spread of the gospel in Acts 1:8 and the final evidence from Revelation 7:9. “After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb...” In the new heavens, God gets “a planet full of people, from all peoples, worshiping Him,” he noted.

Conference adjourned for dinner at 4:35 p.m. as the Moderator led in prayer.