

## **BFC Conference Proceedings – 2025**

### **Seventh meeting**

Wednesday, April 29, 2026, 1:15 P.M.

Conference Moderator Randall A. Grossman called the final session of the 143<sup>rd</sup> BFC Conference to order at 1:15 p.m. Gary L. White prayed for the meeting.

#### **Report of Victory Valley Camp: (see page)**

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

“For the last three years I’ve had the privilege and joy of sharing what the Lord has been doing at Victory Valley Camp – *your* ministry to the next generation,” Camp Director Curtis A. Cutler said. He shared some of the significant facility upgrades at the camp: a new pool in 2023, a new replacement cabin at Timbers, and a new ropes course, Goliath. More importantly, the discipling and training of staff is a huge part of ministry at the Valley. Dozens of campers, he said, have professed faith in Jesus Christ. “Miracles still happen as the dead are raised to life,” he said. Victory Valley now has the ability to be able to pair newly-saved campers with BFC churches closest to them, so as to integrate them into ministries like AWANA, etc.

The Goliath project, Cutler said, was completed debt-free. Victory Valley will again have the largest staff in its history this summer in this, the camp’s 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Cutler sees Victory Valley as having a unique privilege and opportunity to reach the lost in this generation and to disciple, train, and send out young workers to minister to their contemporaries. He noted that the Bible Fellowship Church as a whole commits only 0.2 % of its budgets to support this crucial camping ministry. Numbers of campers and camp staff from the Bible Fellowship Church have been decreasing. “It’s about doing something together that we cannot do by ourselves,” Cutler said. “What are we committed to do together?”

Timothy J. Schmoyer, Director of the VVC Board, prayed for the camp’s ministry and especially remembered Mandy Cutler, Curt’s wife, who has been dealing with serious debilitating illness for the past four years.

#### **Report of Church Extension Ministries: (see page)**

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

David E. Gundrum, the outgoing Director, served Church Extension Ministries for 25 of his 41 years of ministry in the Bible Fellowship Church. “I praise God for being part of the Bible Fellowship Church,” Gundrum said. “One thing I look back on is that the churches have been supportive. I thank God for everything you have done in planting new Bible Fellowship Churches... We always want to look back and say, ‘It was all of the Lord.’ For everything we accomplished, and over the last 25 years it has been a lot, it was all of the Lord.”

He expressed thanks for everything his brothers in the BFC have done for him over the past quarter-century. Conference responded with applause, and then Gundrum announced the

BFC's new Church Extension Ministries Director, Timothy M. Zuck. "I'm now a whopping 29 days into my new role, and I'm having a lot of fun and I'm not overwhelmed yet," Zuck said.

Zuck introduced his church planters and the members of his church-planting team and introduced several "First Look Initiatives" that will occupy much of his attention in the coming weeks, months, and into the future. Zuck said his goal is not to reinvent the wheel but to help it run "more effectively and more efficiently."

William G. Schlonecker, Secretary of the Church Extension Ministries board, expressed the Board's appreciation for Gundrum's long and faithful service. He used the acronym SUV to describe Gundrum's ministry: Steady, Untiring, and a Visionary. "We can't overestimate the impact David has had on the ministry of the Bible Fellowship Church," Schlonecker said.

Schlonecker presented Gundrum with a special blanket as a token of the Board's appreciation for his tireless work, and Conference responded with a standing ovation.

Aaron D. Smith, Chairman of the Church Extension Ministries, prayed

### **Report of the Pinebrook Educational Foundation: (see page)**

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

John W. Sullivan prayed thanking God for using the Pinebrook Educational Foundation to help further the educations of so many of our people.

The Moderator named the newly-constituted Study Committee on Digital Technology. It includes Scott A. Allison, Richard Dobrowolski, John J. Hanner, Todd Heath, Daniel W. King, Edward Snyder-Ritter, John C. Vandegriff Jr.

**Resolved**, that the appointment of the members of the Study Committee on Digital Technology be ratified.

### **Committee to Review Biblical Principles for Living (BPLs): (see page)**

The newly-reformed committee (the previous committee, having completed the assignment given it at the 136<sup>th</sup> BFC Conference, had been disbanded) focused its attention on reexamining the Existing Article 153, Harmful Indulgences, while also proposing that the BFC Conference appoint a Study Committee to examine and prepare a statement on the issues of digital technology.

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Whereas**, alcohol and tobacco are not the only substances that can lead to addiction and destruction of the Christian testimony, and

**Whereas**, the amount of substances that are harmful if misused or abused continues to grow as mankind continues to invent new and increasingly harmful substances, and

**Whereas**, the goal of the Biblical Principles for Living is to give guidance to elders and members of local churches and not to be a list of every sin or potential danger to be avoided, and

**Whereas**, Article 104-4.2, Christian Liberty & Servanthood, already speaks to the need for limiting freedom for the sake of others and lists many of the same biblical texts as found in Articles 153-1 and 153-2, and

**Whereas**, the Committee to Review the Biblical Principles for Living has agreed that it is desirable to have a concise article covering all harmful substances and indulgence in them and further, that it is more in keeping with the original intent to speak broadly to multiple cultures, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that Article 153 be revised as follows (all changes marked in bold):

<b>As listed in 2024 BPLs</b>	<b>Proposed Legislation</b>
<p>Article 153 – Harmful Indulgences</p> <p>153-0.1 All believers are saved through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. God calls His people to live by faith.<sup>1</sup> This life of faith is an obedient response to the revealed truth of God in the Scriptures.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>153-0.2 At salvation believers are baptized into the Church, the body of Christ, sealed and indwelt by the Holy Spirit.<sup>3</sup> They are to be filled and led by the Holy Spirit.<sup>4</sup> This filling and leading by the Holy Spirit progressively transforms believers into the Lord’s likeness.<sup>5</sup></p> <p><sup>1</sup> Col. 2:6-7; 2 Cor. 5:7 <sup>2</sup> 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; 2 Pet.1:19-21 <sup>3</sup> 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:13,14; Rom. 8:9 <sup>4</sup> Rom. 8:14; Eph. 5:18 <sup>5</sup> 2 Cor. 3:8</p>	<p>Article 153 - Harmful <b>Indulgence</b></p> <p>153-1 All believers are saved through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross. God calls His people to live by faith.<sup>1</sup> This life of faith is an obedient response to the revealed truth of God in the Scriptures.<sup>2</sup></p> <p>153-2 At salvation believers are baptized into the Church, the body of Christ, sealed and indwelt by the Holy Spirit.<sup>3</sup> They are to be filled and led by the Holy Spirit.<sup>4</sup> This filling and leading by the Holy Spirit progressively transforms believers into the Lord’s likeness.<sup>5</sup></p>
<p><del>Article 153-1 – Alcoholic Drinks</del></p> <p><del>153-1.1 The abuse of alcoholic beverages is one of the most serious problems in many parts of the world. This abuse has led to personal and family suffering, serious physical and mental health problems, and increased rates of accidental and criminal injury and death. The financial cost and the</del></p>	

~~consequences of such abuse are a tremendous and unnecessary burden on all of society.~~

~~153-1.2 The Scriptures teach that drunkenness is sinful.<sup>1</sup> Due to the addictive quality of alcohol, even the moderate use of alcoholic beverages may lead to serious consequences.<sup>2</sup> This is especially true because the alcoholic content of some beverages has been tremendously increased since biblical times. Furthermore, moderate use may be a stumbling block for believer and unbeliever alike.<sup>3</sup>~~

~~153-1.3 Therefore, the BFC strongly and persistently warns its people of the dangers of alcoholic beverages and urges all members of the BFC to consider abstaining voluntarily from the use, manufacture and distribution of them.~~

~~<sup>1</sup>Rom. 13:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:18-21~~

~~<sup>2</sup>Prov. 20:1; Prov. 23:31-35~~

~~<sup>3</sup>Matt. 18:6-7; Rom. 14:20-21; 1 Cor. 8:9-11, 8:13~~

#### ~~Article 153-2—Tobacco~~

~~153-2.1 Because the use of tobacco is harmful to the body and addictive, it is inconsistent with Christian living.<sup>1</sup> Its use may negatively affect the believer's ministry to the saved<sup>2</sup> and unsaved.<sup>3</sup> Consequently the church should warn its people of the dangers of tobacco products and strongly urge complete abstinence from them.<sup>4</sup>~~

#### ~~Article 153-3—Drugs and Other Substances~~

~~153-3.1 The misuse of, and overindulgence in, drugs and other substances, including~~

153-3 The misuse of, and overindulgence in, **alcohol, tobacco**, drugs, or **any** substance—**including legal and illegal**, prescribed and non-prescribed—is sin and is not of faith. This sin destroys self-control, gratifies the flesh,<sup>6</sup> causes the believer to live by feelings rather than by faith in God's revealed Word,<sup>7</sup> leads to addiction,<sup>8</sup> and makes it

prescribed and non-prescribed, are sin and are not of faith. ~~Such abuse controls the believer and gratifies the sinful nature.~~<sup>1</sup> Both misuse and overindulgence cause the believer to live by feelings, not by faith in God's revealed Word.<sup>2</sup> ~~The continued abuse of drugs and all other substances~~ destroys self-control, leads to addiction<sup>3</sup> and makes it impossible for the believer to live for the will of God.<sup>4</sup>

153-~~3-2~~ Sinning in this way affects the thinking, attitudes, and passions of the believer.<sup>5</sup> This results in the believer falling ~~deeper and deeper~~ into sin,<sup>6</sup> ~~and can damage~~ the body and the mind. Encouraging or aiding others to misuse or overindulge in ~~drugs or all other~~ substances is sin. ~~Selling drugs or other substances to a person for the purpose of gratification of the sinful nature is sin against God and may be against the law.~~<sup>7</sup> ~~The Lord Himself holds those who do this responsible~~<sup>8</sup> ~~and has many ways to exercise His justice.~~<sup>9</sup>

153-~~3-3~~ The Church must warn against the dangers of the misuse of, and overindulgence in, ~~drugs and all other~~ substances, provide counsel to those enslaved, direct them to places of treatment, help them to rebuild their lives, and determine ~~when~~ such a person is free for ministry in the church.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Rom. 8:5-13; Gal. 5:16-17

<sup>2</sup> Eph. 2:1-3; 4:20-24

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 6:16; 2 Pet. 2:19

<sup>4</sup> Col. 1:9-10; 1 Pet. 4:2

<sup>5</sup> Eph 4:17-19; Titus 3:3

<sup>6</sup> Prov. 23:29-35; Rom. 7:14-24; Col. 3:5-10

<sup>7</sup> Luke 17:1-3; ~~Gal. 5:19-21~~

<sup>8</sup> ~~Prov. 4:14-19, 5:22; Hab. 2:15-16~~

<sup>9</sup> ~~Zeph. 3:5~~

impossible for the believer to live for the will of God.<sup>9</sup>

153-~~4~~ Sinning in this way affects the thinking, attitudes, and passions of the believer.<sup>10</sup> This results in the believer falling **progressively** deeper into sin,<sup>11</sup> damaging the body and the mind. **Not only does this sin harm the individual, but it also damages relationships within the family, church, and the world.**<sup>12</sup> **Additionally,** encouraging or aiding others to misuse or overindulge in any substance is sin.<sup>13</sup>

153-~~5~~ **Therefore,** the Church must warn against the dangers of the misuse of, and overindulgence in **alcohol, tobacco,** drugs, or **any** substance, provide counsel to those enslaved, direct them to places of treatment, help them to rebuild their lives, and determine **how** such a person is free for ministry in the church.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 2 Cor. 5:7; Col. 2:6, 7

<sup>2</sup> 1 Thes. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:14-17; 2 Pet. 1:19-21

<sup>3</sup> Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:13,14

<sup>4</sup> Rom. 8:13-14; Eph. 5:18

<sup>5</sup> 2 Cor. 3:18; **Phil. 1:6**

<sup>6</sup> Rom. 8:5-13; Gal. 5:16,17

<sup>7</sup> Eph. 2:1-3; 4:20-24

<sup>8</sup> Rom. 6:16; **1 Cor. 6:12**; 2 Pet. 2:19b

<sup>9</sup> Col. 1:9,10; 1 Pet. 4:2

<sup>10</sup> Eph. 4:17-19; Titus 3:3

<sup>11</sup> Pro. 23:29-35; Rom. 7:14-24; Col. 3:5-10

<sup>12</sup> Rom. 14:15-21; 1 Cor. 8:9-13; 1 Cor. 9:12

<sup>13</sup> Matt. 18:6-7; Luke 17:1-3

<sup>10</sup> 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:12-16

<sup>14</sup> 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:12-16

[FIRST READING]

Yes - 130; No - 4.

**Legislation proposed by Ebenezer BFC via petition at the 142<sup>nd</sup> BFC Conference (see p. 172, 2025 Yearbook)**

A proposed modification to Article 701-4 was discussed on the floor of Conference but was superseded by the following substitute motion, leading to the formation of a permanent Legislative Facilitator. Since it was a substitute motion, it was returned to First Reading status and was adopted at First Reading:

**510 -2.3 Legislative Facilitator**

1. He shall send monthly email reminders to the pastors and delegates to turn in the result of their votes to the voting webpage.
2. Beginning in December he shall review the responses from the churches and compile a list of those churches which have not yet responded to his reminders. He shall call each of the pastors whose church is on this list in order to personally encourage a response from their elder board.
3. He may refer a church and/or committee-of-origin to the other so that the elder board can gain enough information to take an informed vote.
4. He shall report to Conference on his findings as well as a list of those churches who have not yet responded by the time of his report. He shall submit his report to the Secretary of Conference by the February 15 deadline.
5. He shall continue to encourage response from the remaining churches during the period between February 15 and the start of the ensuing Conference.

[FIRST READING]

Yes - 90; No - 36.

**Other Boards and Committees that Report to the BFC Executive Board**

**Report of the BFC Life Committee: (see page)**

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted as amended for the Yearbook.

**Report of the Conference Judiciary: (see page)**

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Report of the Communications Committee: (see page)**

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Report of the Historical Committee: (see page)**

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Report of the Prayer Committee: (see page)**

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Report of the Youth and Young Adults Committee: (see page)**

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Final report of the Registrar**

1. The following delegates requested to be excused from part or all of the 143rd BFC Conference:

Wayne M. Chadwell (Clinton Corners, NY), Evan T. Climpson (LaGrangeville, NY), Daniel J. Eckman (Paradise, PA), Andrew C. Eichelberger (Exeter, PA), Jon Fisher (Breinigsville, PA), Jonathan D. Grassi (Ephrata, PA), Brad D. Kunkle (Blandon, PA), Rick Lutz (Harleysville, PA), Richard M. Petrecca (Long Neck, DE), Richard Prensner (Harrisburg, PA), Harry Nessler (Woodbury Heights, NJ), James W. Preslar (Nazareth, PA), Joshua Vann (York, PA), J. Robert Vaughn, Jr. (Red Hill, PA)

**Resolved**, that these requests for excuses be granted.

2. The following delegate replacements occurred during the 143rd BFC Conference:

Allentown, PA (Cedar Crest): Peter Everett served on Monday and Tuesday, David Tress on Wednesday

Allentown, PA (Citylight): Michael Whiteford served on Monday, John Elias on Tuesday and Wednesday

Coopersburg, PA: David Speel served Tuesday, Robert Moreau on Wednesday

Forks, PA: Daniel Mazzeo served on Tuesday, Greg Swigart on Wednesday

Harmony, NJ: David W. Heller served on Monday, Donald Jackson on Tuesday, and Robert Burnett on Wednesday

Reading, PA (La Roca): Vladimir Caba served on Tuesday, Alexis Ramirez on Wednesday

Sinking Spring, PA: Timothy Stump served on Monday and Tuesday, Donald Eenigenburg on Wednesday

York, PA: Alex Kocman served on Wednesday

3. The following licensed and ordained men requested to be excused from part or all of the 143rd BFC Conference. These requests were approved by the Ministerial Candidate and Credentials Committees, respectively.

Peter C. Bogert (Probationer), David E. Brandt, Jared M. Burkholder, Freddy A. Chi, Kevin W. Clineff, Daryl A. Crawford (Probationer), William J. Dunn, Scott B. Evans, Jordan K. Eyster, Jason A. Filbert, James D. Head, Sandy J. Holbert, D. B. H., Jules J. Hull III, Daniel Istrate, Daniel W. King, Daniel Z. Krall, Ezekiel R. Mack, Ferdie R. Madara, Carl T. Martin, Jerry L. Moyer, Timothy R. Nessler, Marcos G. Ramirez, David W. Riddell, Carlos G. Rodriguez, Connor A. Roskowski (Probationer), David A. Smith, John C. Studenroth, L. Marc Sweet, Philip E. Yerrington

4. The following licensed and ordained men were noted as absent for part or all of the 143rd BFC Conference without excuse.\*

Richard F. Bickings, Andrew R. Hebel, Andrew J. Miller, David J. Parsons (Probationer)

5. The following Ordained Ministers in Retirement or on Permanent Disability were noted as being absent and excused without a written request from part or all of the 143rd BFC Conference:

William C. Aukamp, Delbert R. Baker II, Kenneth F. Barber, Clifford B. Boone, Leonard E. Buck, G. Wayne Clapier, Jr., Charles E. Cole, Hugh C. Coulbourn, Richard C. Dodson, Bruce A. Ellingson, Ronald C. Erb, Carl J. Fischer, Jr., Richard J. Gehman, Richard D. Harris, LeRoy S. Heller, John H. Herb, Ronald W. Hoyle, 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, Duane E. Moyer, Richard A. Moyer, 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, David N. Schoen, Thomas P. Shorb, Robert A. Sloan, Ronald B. Smith, Michael J. Tannous, Richard E. Taylor, Gregory A. Uhrich, John C. Vandegriff, Jr., David R. Way, Dana E. Weller, Byron Widger, Paul G. Zimmerman

- Our “Blue Book” (Article 506-6) specifies that pastors (aside from retired) need excuses from the Credentials Committee (Ralph M. Soper, Secretary) if they’re going to miss any meeting of Conference. This includes leaving on Wednesday at lunch and missing the final session! For consistency, we have also applied that to Licensed Probationers by requiring them to request excuses from the Candidate Committee (Andrew T. Crossgrove, Secretary). In past years, the Registrar has done a lot of work behind the scenes to either obtain excuses from Soper for Ordained Ministers and Crossgrove for the Licensed Probationers who leave after lunch on Wednesday or during the closing session; this year, I’m just going to list some of those unexcused absences (particularly those who have left on Wednesday before the afternoon break around 3:45 p.m.). This is not in an effort to shame anyone, but rather to be more honest and accurate about the attendance record.

### **Appointments for the 144<sup>th</sup> BFC Conference**

The Moderator made the following appointments for the 144<sup>th</sup> BFC Conference:

Registrar: Joel B. Klase

Assistant Registrar: Jules J. Hull III

Committee on Agenda & Arrangements: Ronald L. Kohl, Chairman; David T. Allen, Randall A. Grossman, Joel B. Klase, Timothy S. Radcliff, Timothy J. Schmoyer, R. Daniel Wagner

Study Committee on Digital Technology: Scott A. Allison, Richard Dobrowolski, John J. Hanner, Todd Heath, Daniel W. King, Edward Snyder-Ritter, John C. Vandegriff Jr.

**Resolved**, that the appointments be ratified.

The following were also announced:

Secretary of the Conference Judicatory: Kevin W. Kirkpatrick

Secretary of the Special Appellate Judicatory: Daniel Z. Krall

### **Report of the Committee on Resolutions**

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Whereas**, guest speaker Sean Cooper exhorted us to preach, plant, and pastor churches to the ends of the earth for the glory of God and Jesse A. Benack challenged us to live as unworthy servants of the unfathomable riches of Christ, through God's Word, and

**Whereas**, Jeremy L. Harkins, Steven K. Myers, Steve Jackson, Aaron J. Susek, and Max Whylings led our hearts and minds back to the living God again and again through worship in song, and

**Whereas**, Dennis W. Spinney, Stephen J. Morton, and Michael W. Walker led us in prayer, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we thank the Lord for His faithful servants and His holy Word.

**Whereas**, Hope Community BFC of Milford, DE and Grace Community Church, Chestertown, MD have been recognized at the 143rd BFC Conference as Particular Churches, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we give praise to God for His work in these churches.

**Whereas**, we celebrated the ordinations of Jacob B. Dearmon, Jeremy L. Harkins, and Benenz J. Hitchcock, and

**Whereas**, the BFC recognized the previous ordinations of Peter C. Bogert, Daniel A. Cali, Jonathan Limm, James D. MacArthur, and John P. Sullivan, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we give thanks to God for calling these men to serve Him as shepherds of His church, asking also for God's blessing on them and their churches.

**Whereas**, Conference Secretary Ronald L. Kohl, Assistant Secretary Timothy S. Radcliff, and Assistants to the Secretary Samuel Janney and Shawn Rohrbach have served so well behind the scenes, and

**Whereas**, David T. Allen has served us diligently as Executive Director, and

**Whereas**, Randall A. Grossman has served exceptionally as the Moderator of the 143rd Conference of the Bible Fellowship Church, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we thank them for serving this Conference so well.

**Whereas**, Ryan Diffenderfer and the team of quick-stepping pages did a wonderful job of serving the needs of the conference attendees, and

**Whereas**, Joel B. Klase and Harrison Clark served Conference well as Registrar and Assistant Registrar, respectively, and

**Whereas**, Rachel Schmoyer and Julie Sebastian have worked tirelessly and with exemplary efficiency leading up to and during this Conference, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we thank them for their humble, sacrificial, and tireless service.

**Whereas**, Pastors Glenn R. Felty, T. James Bigley Jr., Gene W. Smith, and David A. Thomann, and pastors' wives Marilyn Coble and Jacqueline Ziegler, have passed into glory and have entered God's rest, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we thank the Lord for their faithful ministry, and we pray for the comfort of their family members.

**Whereas**, we have much to thank God for and think about as a result of this year's sermons, reports, testimonies, and times of prayer, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that as we go from this place, we would be united in our common purpose and mission as defined by God and His Word, and that this unity would not only be good and pleasant, but that it would enable us to boldly reach out with the good news of Jesus Christ personally and corporately to a lost and dying world, from every nation, tribe, and tongue.

The 143<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Bible Fellowship Church was adjourned with prayer by Steven J. DelDuco at 4:32 p.m.