



“WHAT TO EXPECT FROM YOUR NEW GENERAL”  
*A Communique from Dr. Jay (Winter 2021)*

Thank you to all 101 people who responded to my recent survey regarding expectations of your new General Superintendent. The results were interesting to me and some trends came out that you might find interesting as well.

When asked what I should focus on first in this quarter-time position with quarter-time pay, 34% said “connect churches and pastors”, 31% said “support conference superintendents”, and 16% said “lead the Commission on the Discipline through critical issues.” I will strive to do these!

When asked what would be least important to focus on first, a whopping 77% said “consider a name change.” Wow, that was overwhelming and surprising to me! When asked if our denomination makes a difference for their conference, 13% strongly agreed, 36% agreed, and 27% somewhat agreed. Add the “agreed” side up, and it came to 76%, leaving 24% who disagreed at some level or who had no opinion. 39 people responded with comments, most fell into three basic areas:

1. Relational—lack of connections, provide opportunities for us to build better relationships, help us be connectional across conference lines, we need stronger connections or we die
2. Functional—run annual conferences and Commission on the Discipline, help us train more leaders, concerns about longevity of denomination with current structures
3. Doctrinal—unify us theologically, live and preach holiness, teach sanctification, better define what “Evangelical” is or change the name, welcome out those who don’t fit doctrinally

Hearing all this, I will by the grace of God, endeavor to do so to the best of my ability, with your Council of Superintendents. Next time you have a ***Communique*** from me, I will lay out my vision for where I believe God is leading me in this new role.

*Please do me a favor and let’s please cease using the words “Of North America” when saying our name. I know we are historically known as the Evangelical Church of North America (ECNA), but since our North America partner formed their own Evangelical Missionary Church in Canada in 1993, “North America” appears to be both misleading and limiting. In fact, at some point we officially dropped ECNA from our name and logo--it simply reads “The Evangelical Church”. My recent Doctoral studies all over our world highlighted that if our denomination is to rely only upon America for its future in ministry, then we are in more trouble than we think. We must expand, in the U.S. and globally, or quite frankly our future is in question.*