

# Evangelicals get fresh start at 1st assembly

**By Gary M. Cates**  
staff writer

It wasn't the Republican National Convention, but it did bring delegates and observers from across the nation to Livonia.

The First General Assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC) met at Ward Presbyterian in Livonia for three days last week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday).

The first convention for the young denomination, which began in March, featured keynote messages from Dr. James Kennedy and Dr. Francis Schaeffer and day sessions dealing with denominational business.

"The First General Assembly was a coming together (for the denomination)," said the Rev. Calvin Gray, who was installed as moderator on Tuesday night.

The assembly brought together delegates from the 15 member churches (including Ward), observers from congregations seeking to join the EPC and persons interested in the actions of the assembly.

Many of the delegates came from across the nation, staying at local hotels and homes of Ward members in Livonia, Farmington and Farmington Hills.

The meetings were characterized by a genuine feeling of warmth and camaraderie. The singing was enthusiastic, and attendance was high. The Tuesday night session brought more than 600, and the Wednesday night session attracted more than 1,700 persons.

The day sessions were held in various rooms throughout the church, with the large auditorium being used for the night sessions. The Rev. Bartlett Hess, senior pastor of Ward, officiated the Tuesday night service.

Even though many of the EPC churches still are involved in litigation or payments to their former denomination, little mention was made of the past struggles.

A majority of the estimated 12,000 members of the EPC belong to congregations which recently left the United Presbyterian denomination.

The churches which left, and those continuing to leave the United Presbyterians, are doing so because of what they consider the denomination's failure to affirm a biblical stance, contrary to the ownership of local properties and the issue of whether local church boards should be able to have women elders.

The selected motto of the EPC convention, "In essentials unity, in non-essentials liberty and in all things charity," reflects the recent struggles many of the churches came from.

"(The assembly made) a very succinct statement which speaks to the essentials of our faith," Gray said, speaking of the official actions of the assembly.

"One of the highlights was the ordination of six men into the gospel," said Gray, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Trenton. The six men first passed an oral examination of their faith before being ordained at the Tuesday-night ordination service.

During the assembly another congregation was welcomed into the denomination.



BILL BRESLER/staff photographer

More than 1,700 persons attended the Wednesday-night session of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church at Ward Presbyterian in Livonia last week. They all came to hear Dr. Francis Schaeffer, who came from Switzerland to address the assembly. The overflow portion of the audience had to watch him on closed-circuit television.

## Keynoter beckons the evangelical delegates onward

**By Gary M. Cates**  
staff writer

Christians had better wake-up and get involved in all aspects of the world, including politics. That's the word from Dr. James Kennedy, a well-known evangelical pastor and speaker.

Kennedy, pastor of the Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, addressed the first general assembly of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church on Tuesday evening at Ward Presbyterian Church in Livonia.

Christians "have retreated into our little Christian ghetto" and accepted "shackles" that the nation's early leaders meant to place on government.

Instead, Kennedy stated, "Christians need to let their voice be heard."

"In life the Christian's goal should be to bring glory to God in every sphere," he said to an audience of 845. "Christians need to let their voices be heard."



**James Kennedy**  
preaches involvement

Kennedy said the First Amendment to the Constitution was meant as a control of government and should not be considered a reason for keeping Christians out of politics.

"The First Amendment does not teach the separation of church and state," he said. "Thomas Jefferson taught the idea in a private letter."

He added that today there is much distortion in people's minds about the meaning of the amendment, which he called a one-way street, written in fear of the government and intended to restrain government.

"If you don't believe this, look at the press," he said. The amendment puts limitations of the government, but doesn't say anything about limitations on the press.

"Likewise, the First Amendment doesn't say anything about what Christians should or shouldn't do. People who claim Christians should not be involved in politics have not read the First Amendment."

their world a sense of purpose, which many others are missing.

"Because of today's belief in essentialism, mankind is left without a purpose," he said. "But if the chains don't have any purpose."

Kennedy charged the members of the denomination to become involved and stand-up for what they believe.

### Farmington Observer

Published every Monday and Thursday by the Farmington Observer, 2500 Grand River Rd., Farmington Hills, Michigan 48034. Telephone: 462-2200. Second-class postage paid at Livonia, Michigan. Address: all mail subscriptions to Farmington Observer, 2500 Grand River Rd., P.O. Box 100, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48034.

Advertisement for "It's Your Money" by Charles H. Williams, C.P.A. The ad features a photograph of Williams and text describing financial services.

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Further notice is given that application has been made to the Comptroller of the Currency for his consent to a merger of Metropolitan National Bank of Farmington, Farmington Hills, Michigan with and into Metropolitan Bank Farmington, National Association (In Organization) under the charter of Metropolitan Bank Farmington, National Association and with the title Metropolitan National Bank of Farmington. The application was accepted for filing September 16, 1981.

This notice is published pursuant to section 1828(c) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and Part 5 of the Regulations of the Comptroller of the Currency (12 CFR 5). This notice will appear weekly on the same days beginning September 28, 1981, and ending October 19, 1981, and will also appear on October 22, 1981.

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**It's YOUR Money**  
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