



MONTHLY NEWS from the CCCC

IN THIS ISSUE:

CONSERVATIVE
CONGREGATIONAL
CHRISTIAN
CONFERENCE

8941 33rd St North,
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
651-739-1474

E-mail: homeoffice
@cccusa.com
www.cccusa.com



THE HARVEST
FIELD'S DIVERSITY

*Exploring our values
at the 2016 Annual
Gathering*



CARING for PASTORS

*Ministering to peers
at Community Pastor
Training and in the
NE Region*



HOLDING OUT
HOPE

*Reaching youth and
children in the Bronx*

- CCCC NEWS
- AROUND THE WORLD
- CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES

CM COMMENTS



THE HARVEST'S FIELD DIVERSITY



RON HAMILTON, CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER

I am excited about the upcoming 2016 Annual Gathering in Carlsbad, CA and the development of the theme, **"It's Harvest Time!"** One of the guiding values for our Conference is "a membership reflective of the harvest field's diversity." We are privileged to have several speakers share in helping us understand the opportunities and challenges of ministry and outreach in this generation.

Our sessions will open with a time of worship and sharing at the Lord's Table. Conference President, Rev. Todd Venman, will bring a special message that evening to encourage our fellowship and ministry together. Wednesday's plenary sessions will be led by Dr. Bob Logan. Dr. Logan has worked in full-time ministry for over thirty years as a church planter, pastor, missions leader, consultant, and ministry coach. He is internationally recognized as an authority in church planting, church growth and leadership development. Bob's current areas of focus are coaching, speak-

CM COMMENTS

ing, and developing leaders in missional, incarnational contexts. He will speak at two sessions about seeing the harvest opportunities in our generation and raising up leaders for the harvest from the harvest.

We are happy to have two CCCC member ministers speak on Thursday. Rev. Lenn Zeller, Director of Conference Care and pastor at St. Paul's Church in Stowe, PA, will speak about the challenges of engaging the harvest that is multi-racial and multi-cultural. St. Paul's Church has a significant outreach through an afternoon Bible club to children from their neighborhood. Dr. Walter Kim, Associate Pastor of Park Street Church in Boston, MA, will bring a message about the theology of race, laying a Biblical foundation for reaching all people groups. Park Street Church has experienced a dramatic change in their membership in recent years as the population of Boston has become more multi-ethnic and multi-cultural.

I will bring the closing message for the annual gathering as we gather for a time of fellowship and worship on Friday morning. I am prayerfully developing a message that will share a Biblical perspective on being effective workers in the harvest, from planting seeds of the Gospel to reaping the harvest of people transformed by the Gospel. I trust that you will plan on being with us for this special gathering in July.



Rev. Todd Venman – CCCC President; Pastor, Wiltsie Community Church, Russell, PA

Todd has been actively involved in the Conference as a member of the Church Development Committee, a member of the Guiding Coalition, as Vice-President and now President since 2014. He will speak at the opening session as we gather around our theme, "It's Harvest Time", and share at the Lord's Table.



Rev. Dr. Bob Logan – Logan Leadership

Dr. Bob Logan has worked in full-time ministry for over thirty years as a church planter, pastor, mission's leader, consultant, and ministry coach. He is internationally recognized as an authority in church planting, church growth and leadership development. Bob's current areas of focus are coaching, speaking, and developing leaders in missional, incarnational contexts. He will speak at two sessions on Wednesday about seeing the harvest opportunities in our generation and raising up leaders for the harvest from the harvest.



Rev. Lenn Zeller – CCCC Director of Conference Care; Pastor – St. Paul's Church, Stowe, PA

Lenn has been actively involved in the Conference as a member of several committees and as the Chair of the Area Representatives. He was appointed as part-time Dir. Of Conference Care in 2014. He is currently serving a church that has undergone significant change as they have reached out to the community surrounding the church. He will speak on Thursday about the challenges of engaging the harvest that is multi-racial and multi-cultural.



Dr. Walter Kim – Associate Pastor, Park Street Church, Boston, MA

Walter has been an active participant in the Conference as a leader in the New England Congregational Christian Fellowship. He has served as Associate Pastor at Park Street Church in Boston since 2009. He will speak on Thursday about the theology of race, laying a Biblical foundation for reaching all people groups.



Rev. Dr. Ron Hamilton – CCCC Conference Minister

Ron is a long-time member and active participant in the life of the Conference. He has served as Director of Church Multiplication (2007–2011) and Conference Minister (2011– present). Ron will share the closing message on the theme of the annual gathering. He will share a Biblical perspective on being effective workers in the harvest, from planting seeds of the Gospel to reaping the harvest of people transformed by the Gospel.



PASTORING PASTORS

Learning to minister to peers at the Community Pastor Training and in the NE Regional Fellowship

CONFERENCE CARE



LENN ZELLER,
DIRECTOR OF CONFERENCE CARE

DEVELOPING COMMUNITY PASTORS MINISTRY

“Two are better than one,
because they have a good reward for their labor.
For if they fall, one will lift up his companion.
But woe to him who is alone when he falls,
for he has no one to help him up.”
Ecclesiastes 4: 9 – 10, NIV

According to statistics from Focus on the Family, 70% of pastors do not have close personal friends, and no one in whom to confide. (From www.parsonage.org) As the Scripture passage above says, “Woe to him who is alone when he falls.” Pastors who ‘go it alone’ are in a difficult and dangerous place. Mark Brouwer, in an article in Leadership Journal, lists some issues pastors are likely to face when they have no close friends or advisors to offer help, encouragement and counsel:

1. Isolated leaders are more susceptible to feelings of sadness and loneliness.
2. Isolated leaders are more susceptible to anxiety and stress.

CARE cont on pg 4

NE REGION



TERRY SHANAHAN,
NE REGIONAL PASTOR

SPIRITUAL VITALITY— LIFE-ON-LIFE

Recent articles in Christianity Today and in Leadership Journal refer to Lifeway Research surveys which address a call to ministry as a “Brutal Job”. Their results say that:

- 84% of pastors say they are on call 24 hours a day,
- 80% expect conflict in a church,
- 45% find the role of pastor frequently overwhelming
- 48% often feel the demands of ministry are more than they can handle.

In light of all those grim realities, the New England Congregational Christian Fellowship has just finished a Ministry Encouragement Retreat, where we heard from three seasoned pastors and spouses about their ministry experiences. Ministry can be a hard calling and there wouldn't be any one of these couples who would say they weren't involved in conflict, disappointments and overwhelming challenges at times. But in our time together they shared how they not only persevered, but thrived in these years of ministry. Surely ministry is challenging, but it is also a rich blessing to serve the King of Kings.

NE REGION cont on pg 6



CCCC AWARDED GRANT TO DEVELOP PASTORAL COMMUNITIES

The training in New Hampshire was the first of several events that will be held in 2016.

The vision of our Conference is to develop Pastoral Communities for pastors led by trained and equipped Community Pastors. We believe that we are no stronger than our leadership and believe that these Pastoral Communities will strengthen the ministry of our churches and Conference as a whole.

The CCCC was blessed with a grant of \$25,000.00 from the Pastoral Excellence Network for the training of Community Pastors and the development of this ministry. We are grateful for God's provision and anticipate that the Holy Spirit will use these trained pastors to make a Kingdom impact in Jesus' name in this generation.

—Ron Hamilton,
Conference Minister

CARE

3. Isolated leaders are more susceptible to discouragement.
4. Isolated leaders are more susceptible to temptation.
5. Isolated leaders are more susceptible to doing stupid things.¹

In recognition of the need of our pastors and sacred workers for friends, in the Biblical sense, the CCCC is developing the ministry of Community Pastors. The goal is to provide our sacred workers not just with friendship, but even more so with a place of safety in which to find the support and counsel to help them address and deal with personal, spiritual, ministry and relational issues as they arise, and find godly resources to deal with them in a healthy way ... which will result in healthier pastors providing healthier ministry wherever God has placed them.

In that regard, we are training local pastors to lead small groups ("Communities of Pastors") in their respective locations, so that more and more of our sacred workers can find that safe place in which to be open, vulnerable, and find healing and helping relationships. One such training event was held recently (March, 2016) in New England, with 14 pastors receiving that training.

It's one thing to say we need community. It's another to create it! The Community Pastor's training cast great vision but also extended useful tools. It will be helpful, not only with our area pastors, but also in local church board development.

—*Rev. Steve Felker*,
Christ Chapel, Ithaca, NY

I really appreciated hearing the vision of Community Pastoring and how it fit with the overall passion, pathways and priorities of the CCCC. It was great to have meaningful discussion with other CCCC pastors about the challenge to relate on a deeper level with other pastors (and not just talk shop!). Camp Brookwoods couldn't have been a more beautiful and restful spot to have fellowship with other pastors. God is good.

—*Rev. Pete Balentine*,
Hope Community Church,
Newburyport, MA

We are excited about what God is doing through this Community Pastors ministry and the training events. Two more are planned, one in western Pennsylvania in April and one in Minnesota in May. Please pray for God's continued blessing and grace, and for His ongoing work in our Communities of Pastors across the nation.

¹ "The Friendless Pastor: How to address our perennial problem," by Mark Brouwer, 2014, LeadershipJournal.net

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

NAOMI WOODMANSEE, HEAD OF SCHOOL, HOPE ACADEMY OF THE BRONX

HOLDING OUT HOPE IN THE BRONX

For over forty years, God has guided and grown The Bronx Household of Faith (BHOF). We've seen the transforming power of the gospel of Jesus Christ in this church and in this neighborhood.

After four decades of meeting in homes and a public school auditorium, God has given us a building of our own. We're committed to using this building as a lighthouse of hope to those in our neighborhood still without Christ.

So in 2014, we opened a school. Our mission: to provide a quality Christ-centered education, and to challenge and equip undereducated students in the Bronx to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength and to live for God's glory. Now in our second year, Hope Academy of the Bronx is educating 16 students in grades 5-8 who have come to us from public and private school settings because of challenges that made it difficult for them to succeed in traditional classrooms.

What makes Hope Academy different from other small Christian schools? Most of our students come from families that don't know the gospel, and many of our students are hearing it for the first time. Our students come to us with academic and behavioral challenges that make learning difficult and unappealing. We have to work hard to create a culture where students are willing to trust their teachers enough to be vulnerable about their needs.

Days at Hope Academy are difficult. The challenges are many. But God's strength equips our staff to patiently hold out God's grace to students in need of hope. Little by little we see growth—from a student who says he "used to be a bad kid" to another who has little respect for authority but describes our school as "like a family!"

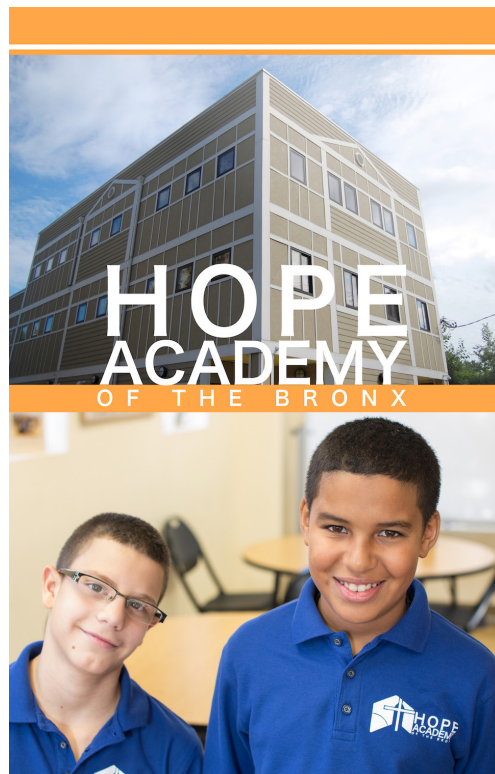
Our short-term goal is to see each of our scholars through to the completion of a high school diploma. Our long-term vision is that our scholars would leave us as eager followers of God, committed to obeying the Great Mandate, the Great Commandment, and the Great Commission.

Will you pray for us? We invite you to lift up our staff and students, and to consider supporting the work God is doing here in our scholars and their families. We would love to welcome you for a visit, to show you what He has begun to do in young hearts and minds here at Hope Academy. Thank you for your prayers and your support. God is at work here in the Bronx!

Do you know of teachers committed to Christ and skilled at helping struggling students? We are looking for teachers to join us this fall!

Contact us at hopeacademy@bhof.org | Visit us online at bhof.org/hopeacademy

Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/hope.academy.bronx](https://www.facebook.com/hope.academy.bronx)



Committed to providing a **quality, Christ-centered education**, Hope Academy exists to challenge and equip undereducated students in The Bronx to love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength and to live for **God's glory**.



347-762-2463
www.bhof.org/hopeacademy
hopeacademy@bhof.org

NE REGION

Our combined panel of three couples have been married a total of 153 years. These three couples represented 143 years of ministry experience. Combined they had served 33 churches over those years. They had experience in church planting, settled pastorates and 20 interim ministries.

The time together was an opportunity for life on life. Our focus was to talk about the past, the present and the future and how they were able to adapt and address the changes in our churches and our culture. They shared their personal stories including their education, marriage and family and call to ministry. They were asked questions about their biggest challenges, their greatest joys and the advice they would give others in ministry.

We heard moving stories about their ministry experiences as well as humorous tales and times of struggle. Each couple was so transparent in their sharing and not afraid to be vulnerable in talking about how ministry impacted their marriage. They shared as well about which challenges were most difficult and what aspects of ministry for which they were least prepared.

For those of us on the receiving end it was a wealth of blessings. We could relate, we were encouraged, we grew closer together in our common experiences. The time



The Whitmans, the Nutters and the Granitsas share about ministry past present and future.

away was structured so that we could spend time in large group, small group discussion and times of corporate prayer. And there was lots of good food and time for life on life fellowship.

Certainly it was demonstrated that there is much hardship in the ministry and at times it can be a “brutal calling” but the fruit produced through sacrificial obedience brings blessings that far outweigh our efforts.

This Ministry Encouragement Retreat reminds me and I hope will remind you of the significant benefit we have by sharing our lives with one another. We do indeed lift each other up when we come together in His name to glorify Him and share in the work He has for us. Seek every opportunity to share life with one another, where very grief is cut in half and each joy is doubled.

CCCC NEWS

CORNERSTONE CORPS PROJECT: BUILDING FOR ETERNITY IN POMFRET CENTER CONNETICUT



The First Congregational Church building in Pomfret Center, CT, which stood for almost 200 years, home to thousands of ceremonies and life events, was reduced to rubble in the course of an afternoon.

The church has moved forward in confidence of God's presence and blessing in the ministry of the church.

While grateful for insurance monies which will cover much of the cost of rebuilding, it does not cover the cost of all the interior furnishings.

This year's Cornerstone Corps project will be to assist with the purchase of sanctuary seating. Amount:\$5,000. A mailing with more information will be coming at the end of the month.

To contribute now go to cccusa.com/giving and choose “Cornerstone Corps” in the “Apply my gift to:” drop-down menu.

CCCC NEWS



NEWS FROM THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION

CLIFF CHRISTENSEN, NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL PASTOR

Dear Friends,

I am now a little over a month into my new position as North Central Regional Pastor of the CCCC. I am loving it, and am very glad for this opportunity to serve the Conference in this way. So far I have participated in two meetings of the Conference Care Committee and a meeting of our regional Church Planting Committee, I have also visited about a dozen of our credentialed members and about a half dozen of our member churches. I believe, by God's grace, that it has already begun to strengthen some ties to the Conference. After recently speaking on prayer at a member church, a lady approached me, without my having made an appeal, about becoming a Conference intercessor. My job description says I am to "recruit intercessors." She is now the first on my list, but she was recruited by God, not by me.

The main purpose of this letter is to say thank you to all of you who have given towards the support of this position. As you know, this is a voluntary position, but the Board has estimated that it will require about \$12,000 for expenses. Almost half of that money has already come in. Thank you so much. We are confident that as God leads, the balance will come in as needed. Our God supplies our needs!

Carol is an important part of this ministry, and it's always great to have her by my side. We hope to see many of you at the Annual Gathering this summer in Carlsbad. I'm sure I'll have much more to share with you in my report.

May the Lord richly bless you, and thanks again for your financial and prayer support.

THINGS TO NOTE

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS OPPORTUNITY

AUGUST 9-22, 2016 BELIZE

Men, women, and young people over the age of 16 who like to teach Vacation Bible School and/or do small building projects are invited to join a short term missions adventure led by Clair Longuevan.

Stay at the **Belmopan Bible Camp**.

NO Language training required, they speak English

Total Cost: \$1,800



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
CONTACT **CLAIR LONGUEVAN**

E-mail: clonguevan@cs.com

PHONE: 970.243.9596 | CELL: 970.210.5594

2208 Dakota Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81507

AROUND THE WORLD

LIFE AND MINISTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES



JOEL AND SYLVIA CURTISS, BAGUIO CITY, PHILIPPINES

In mid-April 2016 we are scheduled to begin our 2016 trip and visit to the USA to see our family members and friends for several months after over 4 years of life and ministry service here in the Philippines. After our trip and visit to the USA we look forward to returning to our home in the Philippines and enjoying many more years of life and ministry here.



For those desiring for us to share a presentation of our life & ministry over the last 4 years here in the Philippines to your group in the USA, please let us know (*email address below*) soon so we can possibly include it in our schedule. We will be limiting our travel and presentations in the USA because our main focus of our 2016 USA trip is to see and visit with our family members and friends again.

**Please join us to pray:**

1. Repair of plumbing in our Philippine rented home.
2. Secure the possession and/or use of a good dependable 4x4 vehicle for travel and ministry in more remote and rugged areas of our Cordillera mountains region of the Philippines.
3. Safe travel and good health as we visit the USA.
4. Provision of a good dependable laptop computer for communications and presentations.
5. Provision of cell phones for use in the USA
6. Medical/health needs that are unavailable in the Philippines and have to be taken care of during our visit.
7. Continue to pray that the law enforcement officials here in the Philippines will be able to apprehend the cyber criminal who penetrated our computer systems and stole our ID'S, our email contact names and addresses, fraudulently soliciting funds in our names. Although it may be a unknown hacker, it appears possible that it may have been an unethical person who serviced our computer in the past.

We are firm believers that where God leads He provides. Thanks for all your prayers. God is faithful.

More photos and notes can be seen in the monthly albums on Facebook.

E-mail us at: js_curtiss@yahoo.com.



CCCC NEWS

CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES

PASTORAL CHANGES

Tauton, MA Union Congregational Church*
Charles Copp

PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

Santa Barbara, CA Bethany Congregational Church*

Bethune, CO Hope Congregational Church*

Flagler, CO First Congregational of Flagler-Arriba*

Greeley, CO St Paul's Congregational Church*
(Part-time Associate Pastor)

Salem, CT Congregational Church
(Part-time Youth Pastor)

Sherman, CT Sherman Congregational Church*
(Part-time Youth Pastor)

Blue Island, IL Evangelical Community Church*

Peru, IL First Congregational Church

Sulphur Springs, IN Sulphur Springs Christian*
(Family Life Minister)

Ashley Falls, MA Greenwood Community Church

Dunstable, MA Dunstable Evangelical Congregational Church*

Georgetown, MA Byfield Parish (UCC)

Heath, MA Union Evangelical Church of Heath (Part-time)

Kingston, MA Mayflower Congregational*

Wakefield, MA First Parish Congregational Church*

Shorewood, MN Minnewashta Community Church*

Mitchell, NE Federated Church*

Lakeview, NY Lakeview Community Church*

Middletown, NY First Congregational Church*
(Part-time)

Berne, PA St Thomas Church

Chicora, PA St Paul's Community Church*

Coventry, RI Church of the Apostles*

Suffolk, VA Cyprus Chapel Christian Church*

Derby, VT Derby Community Church*

Spokane, WA Lincoln Heights Community Church*

Elkhart Lake, WI St. Paul's Christian & St. Peter Evangelical Churches
(Yoked *pastorate*) *

Wilton, WI Faith Congregational Church*

(* = Conference member | + = In process)

PROMOTIONS TO GLORY

Ronald Farb, 59, former pastor of Seward Congregational Church, Seward, IL passed away in Feb 2016, after a battle with pancreatic cancer. He served our CCCC church in Seward from 2003-2013 and was a member of the Board of Directors from 2010 – 2013. He wrote these words contained in his obituary:

"I will always bless Seward Church for the opportunity to minister as a full-time pastor. Having a minister with a physical handicap presented its own challenges to the congregation which the people of Seward Church accepted with much graciousness and understanding. For those I may have wrongly judged or grieved during my time there, I ask forgiveness. For those who grew spiritually under my ministry, I give thanks to God. For the many who became close friends, I count as a blessing. For the love and support of my family, I continually praise God. I was neither the perfect pastor nor Christian. My one and only hope of heaven are found in the words of the Apostle Paul: 'Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners-of whom I am the worst' (1 Tim 1:15).



Glen Dawson, 103, went home to be with the Lord on March 22, 2016. He was the oldest member of Lake Avenue Church in Pasadena, CA serving as a leader since 1943. He was a great friend of our Conference, promoted the activities of the CCCC, served as Area Representative in Southern California, CCCC Board Member, and in numerous other roles. He probably led more young men and women and missionaries into the Conference than any other person. The CCCC has lost a great friend.

WELCOME

CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

ANNUAL GATHERING 2016 IN CARLSBAD, CA

CCCC

The CCCC gathers annually (AG) for: praise & worship, fellowship, to build-up, care for and encourage one another, as well as to conduct Conference business.

Plan to attend July 26-29, 2016 at Carlsbad Community Church

OUR WAY OF LIFE

OUR PASSION—The Irreducible Core(IC)
We obey Jesus' commands to love God, love others, and make disciples.

OUR PATHWAY—Seven Guiding Values

1. A Culture of Believing Prayer & Intercession
2. Healthy Pastors
3. Healthy Disciple-Making Churches
4. Healthy Church Multiplication
5. A Community that Lives Out a Shared Life and Shared Mission
6. A Culture of Peacemaking & Reconciliation
7. A Membership Reflective of the Harvest Field's Diversity

OUR PRIORITIES—
Church Development
Church Multiplication
Conference Care

The worship was God-honoring... There was something for everyone... God's blessing was evident in each day's sessions.

—Quote from 2015 Annual Gathering attendees

CONFERENCE SUNDAY MAY 1ST

Resources available at cccusa.com

We have traditionally designated **Sunday, May 1st as Conference Sunday**. We encourage our churches to include an insert in the worship material on that day. Full color versions in two sizes: (5.5 x 8.5" and 5.375 x 11") can be downloaded from our website. Go to cccusa.com/resources-2/publications.

We also encourage that a **special prayer for the Conference** will be a part of the worship service on this Sunday. You may choose another Sunday in May to observe Conference Sunday if it fits better with your church schedule.

Some churches have chosen to collect a **special offering for the CCCC** on Conference Sunday.

We appreciate all that our pastors and church leaders do in recognizing and praying for the ministry of the CCCC.



CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE
8941 33rd St North, Lake Elmo, MN 55042

POSTAGE