



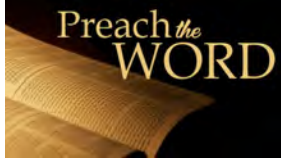
MONTHLY NEWS from the CCCC

IN THIS ISSUE:

CONSERVATIVE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHRISTIAN  
CONFERENCE

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CONSTANT &  
CONSISTENT

*The Deep Conviction  
of our Faith*



POWERFUL &  
EFFECTIVE

*The Word of God  
Changes Lives*



7<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
CELEBRATION

*One of our newest  
churches has reasons  
to celebrate*

- COMMUNITY PASTOR MINISTRY
- BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE
- ANNUAL GATHERING INTENSIVES AND WORKSHOPS
- CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES

CM COMMENTS



CONSTANT AND CONSISTENT IN THE CCCC



RON HAMILTON, CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER

I have the unique opportunity to visit member churches of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference all across our nation. I've often mentioned that one thing I've learned since I became Conference Minister is "you can do church many different ways." Our congregational polity allows for our churches to minister in unique ways to the context of their community and the makeup of the congregation. There is much diversity in the churches that make up the CCCC.

Our Conference has urban churches and rural churches. We have many churches in small towns. There are mega-churches in our fellowship and many very small churches. There are churches in our Conference that are over 300 years old and we are blessed to have many church plants that are less than 5 years old.

The worship in our churches can be very traditional and even somewhat liturgical. But it is very common to worship in a CCCC church with contemporary music and modern innovations. I've

CM COMMENTS

seen pastors dressed in robes, in suits, and in blue jeans. It is not fair to say that the churches of our fellowship look alike.

**WE BELIEVE  
THE BIBLE  
CONSISTING  
OF THE OLD  
AND NEW  
TESTAMENT,  
TO BE THE  
ONLY INSPIRED,  
INERRANT,  
INFALLIBLE,  
AUTHORITATIVE  
WORD OF GOD  
WRITTEN.**

However, with all of this diversity, there is one constant. The member churches of our Conference all align with our Statement of Faith and the teaching and preaching of the Bible is central to the ministry of all of our churches.

*We believe the Bible consisting of the Old and New Testament, to be the only inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative Word of God written.*

I have been so encouraged that the preaching of the Word is central to the worship of our churches. I have often been stirred on in my own walk with the Lord by a sermon I've heard in one of our churches. I've attended Sunday School classes that are centered on Bible study and application of Scripture. I've had the opportunity to visit small groups in member churches that are Bible-centered and the members seek to live in obedience to the Word.

The expression of worship in our churches can take many different forms. The look of our facilities can vary from high church architecture to a high school gymnasium. The worship songs can be 17th Century or composed last month. But, one thing is consistent in our churches. The Word of God is central and the Bible is proclaimed faithfully by our pastors. The deep conviction of our faith is lived out in continual obedience to 2 Timothy 4:2:

*Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.*



**CONFERENCE SUNDAY IN MAY**

We have traditionally encouraged our churches to designate a **Sunday in May as Conference Sunday**. An insert is provided to include 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](http://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. 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.**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS PRAY TOGETHER SUNDAY**



The country faces many challenges. Now is the time for evangelicals to join together in prayer.

Would you join churches across the country and across denominational lines to dedicate a portion

of their July 10th worship service to a time of prayer for our hearts and our nation?

Churches can register and receive resources at [NAE.net/praytogether](http://NAE.net/praytogether).

**What if 1 million Christians prayed together with a unified voice on July 10?**



# THE POWERFUL, EFFECTIVE WORD OF GOD

*Preached, taught and lived out— the Word of God changes lives.*

## CHURCH DEVELOPMENT



JOHN KIMBALL,  
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH  
DEVELOPMENT

### BANKING ON THE WORD'S AUTHORITY

The CCC is a family that treasures the Word of God— there are no two ways about it. Many of our family members have come from different streams into the Conference, some of whom have had to fight to defend and hold to the Word's authority. I am one of those. The words of our first faith statement, "We believe the Bible consisting of the Old and New Testament, to be the only inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative Word of God written," give me both great comfort and challenges me to action.

I don't know about you, but there was a season when I unwittingly flirted with some dangerous ground. I was so consumed with the articulation and defense of sound doctrine that I was

DEVELOPMENT cont on pg 4

## CHURCH MULTIPLICATION



ROB O'NEAL,  
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH  
MULTIPLICATION

### THE BIBLE'S TRUTH WORKS OUT IN REAL LIFE

Brian Bethke started Tribes 4 Christ Community Church among the La Jolla band of the Luiseno tribe in southern CA. The people he has encountered there believe in God. He tells me that almost everyone on the reservation believes in some version of a divine being, but that's where consensus starts to break down. It's also where the beliefs of many people in the band begin to differ from the faith revealed to us in the Bible.

Brian is not unusual. In church multiplication, we frequently deal with people whose faith is self-invented or cobbled together from multiple sources. Plenty of people claim to have no faith. They have a worldview, but they do not have what we would recognize as religion or a relationship with God.

MULTIPLICATION cont on pg 4

## NE REGION



TERRY SHANAHAN,  
NE REGIONAL PASTOR

### GOD'S WORD

*So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it -Isaiah 55:11*

There is nothing to fill the heart like the preaching of the word. When God's word is preached, lives are changed. It does not return empty and it does achieve the purpose for which He sent it.

Sometimes when I visit a church I bring the message. And it is my responsibility to rightly divide the word of God. An awesome responsibility. Other times when I visit a church I sit under the called pastor, and I receive the word of God. In both situations, I am changed.

In our churches, I have the privilege of hearing the word preached in diverse settings, different size churches, and

NE REGION cont on pg 6

DEVELOPMENT

becoming ineffective as a pastor. I spent more time arguing about the Faith than I did applying it— and the lack of kingdom fruit was noticeable. Then came the day when God spoke to my heart about the Word’s authority, and everything changed. I’m reminded of the great quote from Charles Spurgeon, “Defend the Bible? I would as soon defend a lion! Unchain it and it will defend itself.”

In my life, my pastoral ministry, and now my work in both Church Development and Church Planting, I have come to realize that my role is not to defend the Faith or to argue the Word as much as it is to exercise it in all its authority and let it produce its own fruit. The Word of God is authoritative. It is, as the writer of Hebrews attests, “...living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12, ESV).

I certainly still respond to questions, make clarifications, and correct erroneous ideas with the Word, but I now do so in the process of helping people to literally live out its teaching in their own lives. As I hear people espouse the Word, I’ve learned to listen and ask “to what end?” I’ve met many Christians, pastors and whole congregations that joyfully declare their allegiance to Christ and His Word, but who in the next breath express concern that they do not see people coming to Christ, can’t seem to overcome conflicts, and/or are otherwise worried about the future of their churches. It is one thing to give mental assent to the Bible’s truth; it is entirely another to live according to its authority. How that changes everything! We pray expecting God to answer and actively watch for it. We witness anticipating the Redeemer will draw people to himself. We preach, teach and discipline fully presuming that the Holy Spirit will align people’s hearts with his own. We mediate and reconcile in the power of God-sourced forgiveness. We rear leaders confident that they will not default to a “holy board of directors” but rather will actually propel the church into Christ’s harvest field. We bank on the Word’s actual authority.

I am so thankful for the CCCC family and her commitment to the Word of God. But we are more than just a community that espouses the Bible’s truth: we live it with full expectation regarding its transformative power. And praise Jesus – it has never lost that power!

MULTIPLICATION

These same people have opinions; they speak about things like right and wrong and spirituality. They make moral decisions; eat some foods and avoid others, choose intimate partners, and decide how to behave in relationship to their co-workers. They have beliefs; will tell you with some confidence what they think happens to a person after they die, and will speak as if they know where humans came from and where we are going. This is the water our church planters swim in regularly as they try to help the people they meet follow Jesus.

People get these opinions, moral decisions, and beliefs from movies, philosophers, and experiences. Co-workers and commentators influence them. We are tempted to think they are sloppy in constructing their worldviews, but in reality they are careful shoppers combing the shelves of life, looking for products to buy. They are consumers of ideas and ideologies, and they look at us as just one possible supplier with no more right to shelf space than any other product.

Of course, Christian lives can be poor advertising for the truth of the Bible. We make statements about its truth, but don’t apply what the Bible says to our lives, frequently disobeying it as flagrantly as people who do not believe in it at all.

We know that the struggles many of us face to obey the Bible only points out the truth of Scripture. We are fallen creatures redeemed by grace through faith. We don’t earn our salvation. We don’t save ourselves. Even though we are saved, we are not fully sanctified, so we go on sinning. That’s all in the Bible too, and it comes as tremendous comfort even if it doesn’t convince outsiders that they want what we have.

However, the truth of the Bible is important to proclaim. The Bible is unique among religious works, because it is the revelation of God to us. God is not giving us opinions and suggestions in the Bible. He is giving us his Law and showing us His will. He is revealing Himself to us. The Bible is our guide for living. It is the basis for our theology, the underpinning of our opinions, and the guide for our actions. We are accountable to the Bible, and it is not accountable to us.

I am grateful for the way this Conference emphasizes the truth of the Bible. We want to lift up the place of the Bible in theology. We want to humbly but firmly build our worldviews and lives on the Bible. And we want to invite others to do the same.

**CONFERENCE CARE**

LENN ZELLER,  
DIRECTOR OF CONFERENCE CARE

**COMMUNITY PASTOR MINISTRY**

We continue to progress in the development of the Community Pastor ministry in the Conference. Pastors around the country are being trained to lead small groups in their location where sacred workers can find helpful fellowship, wise peer counsel, and prayer.

“I really enjoyed the fellowship with other CCCC Pastors and the prayer time when we prayed for each other. The presentations on how to be a Community Pastor were excellent. The time in western PA was refreshing spiritually and physically.”

—Rev. Bill West

“The time together at the community pastor training was a great refreshment. It reminds us of the need to be connected, to be intentional about our time of being connected and having that time of face to face relationships. Upon returning home, I had opportunity to share with some area pastors and it looks like a fellowship for the purpose of growth, renewal and retreat will be quickly organizing as pastors and priests are in need of safe places to share, be cared for and encouraged in the walk of spiritual leadership of our kingdom-Christ-centered communities. Thanks for the invitation and the time in organizing and working toward the Kingdom goals.”

—Rev. Ed Rinehart

“I always knew pastoral ministry had its challenges, but I never imagined it was the most unhealthy profession today, based on a Duke University study. Quite a contrast from the 1950’s when pastoral ministry was the most healthy of degreed professions. This makes the CCCC value for healthy pastors all the more imperative. I was impressed how quickly I was able to connect meaningfully with pastors I just met. I realize that despite my busy calendar, making time to connect meaningfully with other clergy is essential, not only for my health and ministry vitality, but for these other pastors as well. I am grateful for this practical equipping and appreciate continued prayer as

**AROUND THE CONFERENCE****NORTH POINT CELEBRATES ITS 7TH ANNIVERSARY**

The CCCC church multiplication ministry took an interesting turn about eight years ago. While the leadership of this Conference work was focused on planting churches in urban and metropolitan areas, the Lord opened a door to a unique ministry. Jerry Keranen, who was serving as the Youth Pastor at the CCCC church in Maple Rapids, Michigan, felt a call to return home to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to plant a church. Jerry approached the Conference leadership about this and partnered with the CCCC in the establishment of North Point Church of the Keweenaw in Calumet, Michigan. The church recently celebrated its seventh anniversary.

God has blessed this young church in many ways since it started in 2009. Pastor Jerry has a gift of evangelism and many people have come to a personal relationship with Jesus through the ministry of this young church. Other devoted believers have found a home in this young church because they were looking for a place where the Bible is central and discipleship is emphasized. Nearly one hundred people now call the North Point Church their church home. The reputation of this young church is growing in the Keweenaw Peninsula and other pastors and churches who are looking for fellowship are looking into membership in the CCCC. Please join our Conference family is praising God for the work of the North Point Church of the Keweenaw and praying for this young church.

CARE cont on pg 6

## CARE

we each seek to implement what we have learned as we do our part to develop healthy pastors—which are a key ingredient for healthy churches.”

—Rev. David Meckley



These were some of the reactions to our latest Community Pastor training event, this one in late April, at Sequanota Camp and Conference Center in Boswell, PA. The setting was lovely, the facilities were wonderful and the fellowship was sweet. It was a smaller group than the previous retreat in New England, but that just made the setting more personal and intimate. Some friendships were made quickly and others renewed. All in all, it was another positive and helpful step in developing the ministry of Community Pastors. My thanks to Dr. Ron Hamilton and Dr. Bob Barber for their excellent teaching and leadership.

Please pray for the last scheduled training retreat coming up in Bertrum, Minnesota at the end of May. We look forward to one more gathering for refreshment, prayer, connection and encouragement!

## NE REGION

different styles of worship. But every sermon is based on the word of God and has the ability to change lives and not return void.

After the service ends we often gather in the basement or parlor with coffee and snacks. As I mingle with the parishioners of any given church I often ask how the word of God has spoken to them that day.

After hearing a sermon on the widow's mite, I spoke with a woman once who heard God say, "with your limited means you can do something great for the kingdom". She began a ministry of pennies for missions which became a great ministry for that church.

I listened to an 87 year old woman tell me how the Lord had used the sermon to break her heart and call her into his kingdom. Praise God!

My wife spoke with a woman who heard me preach on I Thessalonians 1 and the witness that the early church had, and she was led to begin a ministry to the hopeless and helpless in her community. God's purpose came to be.

I frequently speak with people in churches who tell me their conversion stories. I am always so touched when they tell me they came to the Lord by reading the Bible or hearing it preached or seeing it lived out. This is happening in these times and we can rejoice.

As Pastor Paul Asbury of the Sherman Church once wrote in his newsletter, "there is no substitution for being part of a worshipping body of followers of Jesus who together hear God's word with the intention to put what they hear into action." He quotes Romans 10:17 "faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."

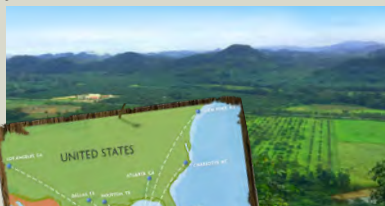
God's word is being preached and it is powerful and effective as our Statement of Faith affirms.

***"We believe the Bible consisting of the Old and New Testament, to be the only inspired, inerrant, infallible, authoritative Word of God written."***

## 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](mailto:clonguevan@cs.com)  
PHONE: 970.243.9596 | CELL: 970.210.5594  
2208 Dakota Drive, Grand Junction, CO 81507

## AG2016 CARLSBAD

## CHURCH DEVELOPMENT AND CHURCH MULTIPLICATION MINISTRY PRIORITY INTENSIVES BEFORE THE ANNUAL GATHERING

### Making Disciples— The Key to Developing Your Church

The Church Development Team of the CCCC is presenting a one-day, pre-Annual Gathering intensive to help you and your church better understand and apply the biblical principles of disciple-making. It will be held at **Carlsbad Community Church**, the site of this year's Annual Gathering on **Tuesday, July 26th from 9am-3pm**. John Kimball, Director of Church Development, and two of his team members, Rich Cook and Dave Easley, will discuss the CCCC's overall approach to Church Development and will focus on the "Irreducible Core" of the Christian life, the Biblical definition of a disciple, disciple-making communities, understanding what is meant by "the kingdom of God," and a proper explanation of the gospel itself.

This intensive serves as an entry point to the Church Development process. We encourage CCCC pastors and their staffs, church leaders and members to attend— especially those interested in the Church Development *LifeFlow* Process.

For more information or to register, go to [cccusa.com/ag](http://cccusa.com/ag) and choose ChurchDev-Intensive from the right-hand menu. *Please note to attend these Intensive sessions you MUST register for them in addition to the AG registration.*

### The Nineveh Project

MONDAY, JULY 25-6PM to TUESDAY, JULY 26-1PM,  
HOLIDAY INN, CARLSBAD, CA

An intensive pre-Annual Gathering meeting of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference with the purpose of equipping, training, coaching, and releasing churches and individuals to plant churches featuring **Michael Gatlin, National Coordinator of Multiply Vineyard**.



Senior Pastor of the Vineyard Church in Duluth, MN, Michael Gatlin is also Director of the

National Vineyard Church Planting Ministry. He is working with a team to develop and implement a plan to plant 750 Vineyard churches across the US between 2013-2023.

Come and be challenged by the stories he has to tell, and encouraged from the message he has to share.

Price: \$75 - (*Monday Dinner and Tuesday Lunch Included*)

For more information or to register, go to [cccusa.com/ag](http://cccusa.com/ag) and choose The Nineveh Project from the right-hand menu. *Please note to attend these Intensive sessions you MUST register for them in addition to the AG registration.*

Go to [www.cccusa/ag](http://www.cccusa/ag) to find the latest Annual Gathering information:

- Workshops
- Tentative schedule
- Youth/Children Programs
- Speakers
- ...and more



**EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT ENDS MAY 31ST REGISTER NOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS SAVINGS!**

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CCCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS WEB-EX MEETING APRIL 19, 2016



TODD VENMAN,  
CCCC PRESIDENT

As summer approaches we as a Board of Directors begin to prepare for the Annual Gathering. Much of our last meeting was preparing the ground work for reporting and documentation for the Delegates to weigh in on the future of the Conference. The Financial Committee provided a preliminary budget and will continue their work as the Annual Gathering approaches. The Stewardship Paper was finalized for mailing that was sent out the first part of May. The Annual Gathering details were shared, not only for Carlsbad 2016 but also for Pittsburgh 2017. The Nominating Committee reported on their initial findings and work that they have begun. Staff reports were shared as Ron Hamilton gave an overview of the work that is taking place in the conference.

There were a few points of special interest coming from the meeting. With the resignation of our Treasurer Rev. Bob McKinney for personal reasons, the Board of Directors voted in February to appoint an Interim Treasurer for the remaining portion of his term. This term comes to completion at this coming Annual Gathering 2016. We welcomed Sue Drehmel a member of Woodbury Community Church and a long time friend of the CCCC to serve in this Interim Position.

Rev. Cliff Christensen has begun his work as Area Pastor. The board was excited to hear how funding has begun to come in to provided for his travel expenses. God has not only provided a special gift in the Christiansen's but also the resourcing to make it a reality. We continue to pray for the remaining funds needed for his traveling expenses.

The Community Pastors initiative has been a blessing. Community Pastors serving in local communities reported how God is moving before them. We have seen God's gift of reconciliation through His Son lived out as CCCC Pastors care for their colleagues. Two Community Pastors trainings have already taken place and one more is planned for 2016. These trainings are helping to equip local Pastors to serve in the local communities where God has placed them.

As we move through 2016 anticipating our time together as delegates at AG 2016 in Carlsbad, my prayer for the CCCC is that we would have eyes to see and ears to hear what the Spirit says to the body of the CCCC. That His specifications would be met with the resources He has and will provide. God is before us and is leading. He has always been and will always be faithful. Oh that we would live in faithfulness to our King.

**WE HAVE SEEN  
GOD'S GIFT OF  
RECONCILIATION  
THROUGH HIS  
SON LIVED  
OUT AS CCCC  
PASTORS CARE  
FOR THEIR  
COLLEAGUES.**



## CCCC NEWS

## CHANGES &amp; OPPORTUNITIES

## PASTORAL CHANGES

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Flagler, CO  | First Congregational of Flagler-Arriba* - Brandon Goad |
| Coventry, RI | Church of the Apostles*<br>Stephen Gammon*             |

## PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Santa Barbara, CA | Bethany Congregational Church*  |
| Bethune, CO       | Hope Congregational Church*   |
| Greeley, CO       | St Paul's Congregational Church*<br>(Part-time Associate Pastor)            |
| Salem, CT         | Congregational Church<br>(Part-time Youth Pastor)                           |
| Sherman, CT       | Sherman Congregational Church*<br>(Part-time Youth Pastor)                  |
| Blue Island, IL   | Evangelical Community Church*   |
| Peru, IL          | First Congregational Church   |
| Ashley Falls, MA  | Greenwoods Community 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*   |
| Kittery Point, ME | First Christian Church* (Part-time)   |
| Bancroft, MI      | First Congregational Church*  |
| Shorewood, MN     | Minnewashta Community Church*   |
| Mitchell, NE      | Federated Church*   |
| Lakeview, NY      | Lakeview Community Church*  |
| Middletown, NY    | First Congregational Church*<br>(Part-time)                                 |
| Berne, PA         | St Thomas Church  |
| Chicora, PA       | St Paul's Community Church*   |
| 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<br>(Yoked pastorate)* |
| Wilton, WI        | Faith Congregational Church*  |

\* = Conference member

+ = In process

CORNERSTONE CORPS PROJECT:  
BUILDING FOR ETERNITY IN POMFRET  
CENTER CONNECTICUT

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 was sent at the end of April.

To contribute online go to [cccusa.com/giving](http://cccusa.com/giving) and choose "Cornerstone Corps" in the "Apply my gift to:" drop-down menu.


**1-800-444-2655 | [nsresources.com](http://nsresources.com)**

**Order your VBS SUPPLIES now!**



SERVICE with a lasting purpose!

GOD IS WITH ME WHEREVER I GO!

2016 CCCC Annual Gathering CARLSBAD, CA



**It's time to sign-up for the 2016 Annual Gathering:  
July 26-29th in Carlsbad, CA**

**EARLY REGISTRATION DISCOUNT  
ENDS MAY 31ST— DON'T DELAY!**

*See page 7 Inside for Pre-Annual Gathering Intensives also being planned for  
you to take advantage of...*



CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE  
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