



MONTHLY NEWS from the CCCC

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CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

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IT'S HARVEST TIME

Recapping the 2016 Annual Gathering



SHARED LIFE AND MISSION

Life-on-Life in California



INFORMING & ENCOURAGING

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CM COMMENTS



IT'S HARVEST TIME!



RON HAMILTON, CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER

I am very encouraged as I reflect on the 2016 Annual Gathering held in Carlsbad, California last month. God blessed our time together and I believe that the development of the theme, It's Harvest Time increased awareness of the needs and opportunities for the ministry of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in this generation. One of our member pastors shared this with me...

Well Ron, in combination with all the other speakers, workshops, etc, I have returned to the church I serve asking God to reveal Himself more to me than ever before. And I am asking for specific instructions of what I am to be doing next. Already the Lord has laid on my heart as a follow up about developing leaders and preparing the congregation for the coming harvest. Indeed, IT IS HARVEST TIME!

The opening communion service and message by President Todd Venman set the tone for the meetings. I appreciated the practical teaching by Dr. Bob Logan on engaging and raising

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up leaders from the harvest field. Dr. Walter Kim’s message on the theology of race was very challenging and thought provoking. He shared practical insights into things that the CCCC must consider as our membership becomes more diverse. And Rev. Lenn Zeller’s testimony of what God is doing through the ministry of St. Paul’s Church in Stowe, PA was very touching and inspiring. Carlsbad Community Church did a remarkable job in hosting the meetings. The worship was great and the workshops were very helpful.

I am so glad that we were able to return to California for this gathering. While our overall numbers were down, it was encouraging to see that nearly one-third of those attending were from California. This delegation included representatives from member churches, member pastors who have not attended an annual gathering for some time, church planters establishing new works in that region, and pastors and churches who came to learn more about our Conference. The Board of Directors determined that we will return to California on a more regular basis in the future, at least once every six years. I believe that all left the meetings with a deeper devotion to our Lord Jesus and a better understanding of God’s work in the CCCC.

These are exciting days in the life and ministry of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference. The 2016 Annual Gathering was a four-day get-together that captured this spirit and spurred on our work together. A big thank you to all who worked to make this possible.

SPECIAL THANKS
TO
ED ANDREWS,
CARLSBAD, CA
AND **DONNA
BURKETT,**
N CHELMSFORD,
MA
FOR THEIR
PHOTOGRAPHS

TO SEE MORE
PHOTOS OF
AG2016 CARLSBAD
VISIT
**WWW.CCCCUSA.
COM/FORESEE/
AG-2016-
CARLSBAD**





SHARED LIFE AND MISSION

Gathering as the CCCC family in Southern California to worship, be encouraged and strengthened— sharing life-on-life.

CHURCH MULTIPLICATION



ROB O'NEAL,
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

LOCATIONS MATTER

The CCCC Annual Gathering kicked off this year with a rousing rendition of “California Dreamin’” by the band from the host church, Carlsbad Community Church. The congregation responded enthusiastically, because we all had California on our minds.

For those of us from the East Coast and the Midwest, the trek to Southern California was longer than normal. For those of us from the West Coast, it was a relief to finally stay closer to home. Even coming from a long distance was worth the effort, however, because Southern California is beautiful. Warm days, sunny skies, and cool evenings prove why real estate in that part of the country is so expensive. People simply want to live there.

Having the Annual Gathering in Southern California was also worth it, because we had the opportunity to see things we rarely see. I got to swim in the Pacific Ocean, something I never experienced growing up on the East Coast. Many memorable, once-in-a-lifetime experiences were within an easy drive.

More importantly, we enjoyed renewing our ties with CCCC churches in Southern California and meeting new friends.

MULTIPLICATION cont on pg 4

NE REGION



TERRY SHANAHAN, NE REGIONAL PASTOR

ENTERTAINING ANGELS

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Hebrews 13:2

Our Annual Gathering in Carlsbad California presented an opportunity for a number of ‘firsts’ for Karlotta and me. Our first time eating at an In-N-Out Burger! Our first time at the San Diego Zoo. Our first time in the Pacific Ocean. This was also our first Annual Gathering that we have attended that was held at a CCCC Church. In true California fashion, the Carlsbad Community Church laid out the red carpet and proceeded to treat us as family who had traveled from afar.

Our gracious hosts provided hospitality in the form of meals, a spacious meeting place, transportation and in some instances housing. They provided an environment that encouraged us to be together at mealtimes which created an intimacy not normally experienced. Instead of being able to connect with a few people over the course of the week we were able to break bread with different pairings of people at each meal.

NE REGION cont on pg 4

MULTIPLICATION

The church multiplication movement in Southern California has renewed levels of energy. There are people in the area planting churches on our behalf, there are churches interested in supporting the movement, and there are more people waiting for assessment as they consider starting new churches.

While in Southern California we were also reminded of good things happening in that part of the country. For instance, Plymouth Church in Whittier is one church with two congregations. Dan Pryor is the Lead Pastor of the church and usually leads the English speaking congregation. Jorge Hrebien is pastor of the Spanish speaking congregation. The two congregations share facilities, time, and many projects. They are setting an exciting example in how to do ministry in a multi-lingual context.

Meeting in Southern California strengthened the CCCC. We are going to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania next summer. Once again the folks from the West Coast will make the long trek east to join the rest of us for a fantastic Annual Gathering. CCCC churches in Pennsylvania, Western New York, and Ohio will also benefit greatly from being better connected to one another and to the Conference as a whole. We are truly living out our value of Shared Life and Shared Mission through our Annual Gatherings, and it makes a difference.

NE REGION

Many of the folks this year were first time attendees and some mentioned to me how welcome they felt and how they were able to connect with like minded brothers and sisters. We were encouraged to share our God Sightings all throughout the conference. Many of these came from the times around the tables and in conversation with newly made friends. Others came from our adventures out into the beautiful nearby community. We ventured into a taco stand and met a mother and daughter committed to Christ. They were very excited to meet us as well and excited that this Christian conference was being held in their community. While walking through the village looking for ice cream, we met another mother and daughter who talked with us about their mission trip to Russia. It seemed everywhere we went God has gone before us and we were graced by hospitality.

The theme of our Conference was "It's Harvest Time." Certainly all the speakers and presenters taught well on this subject and there were many takeaways from us to go back and implement in our various ministry settings. What better way can there be of reaching the Harvest Field, than displaying Christian hospitality— the type of hospitality that was displayed throughout our Annual Gathering. There's no doubt in my mind it remains on display in our Conference all year!



CCCC Annual Gathering July 17-20 2017 Pittsburgh, PA

2017 CCCC Annual Gathering in Pittsburgh, PA next year at the Marriot, Cranberry (north of Pitt.)

Great CCCC fellowship and local attractions too! Planning to attend already...

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES



SHIRLEY DUBEAU, WOMEN'S MINISTRIES COMMITTEE MEMBER

4 REASONS WHY I LOVE THE ANNUAL GATHERING!

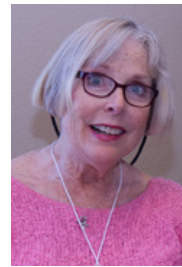
Reason #1: Traveling to any CCCC Annual Gathering is always fun and each trip is filled with the anticipation of a time to be informed and encouraged in Christ through fellowship with our CCCC family.

Reason #2: The Women's Ministry efforts to inform and encourage yielded great results again this year!

Our premier desire is to connect with women. We did just that! Although we are far flung all around the country, the *Email Encouragement List* and our FaceBook page are great ways to keep us electronically in touch throughout the year. If you are interested in being a part of this list please shoot Shirley Dubeau an email (smdubeau@sbc-global.net) and I'll gladly add you to our list. Or "like" our

challenges and barriers to balance and health, compared experiences and lovingly made suggestions about overcoming some of the trials expressed. All left encouraged and many left with action plans and goals to help them move forward.

Our second workshop piggybacked on the first. During *Turn Up for Tea* continued conversations over tea and freshments and



FaceBook page: CCCC Woman. *(We will not give away or sell your email or fill your mailbox with lots of messages and you can ask to be removed from the list at anytime! PROMISE!)*

Reason #3: Thanks to the fund raising efforts of Sharon Galloway and The Church of The Apostles in Coventry, RI we brought lots of books and resources to share freely to those in attendance. Well over 100 items, books, journals and handouts, were given away!

Reason #4: During the workshop times on Thursday the CCCC Women's Ministry team along with the Women's Ministry team from Carlsbad Community Church were able to provide two opportunities to gather and talk.

Our first workshop time entitled: *Healthy & Whole* provided an opportunity for women to go for a walk to the beautiful Carlsbad beach or hang out together and chat. A short list of questions helped us to focus on the topic of balance and being healthy and whole. We discussed the

shifted our attention to the Annual Gathering as a whole. Our focusing question was: "What might be your 'take away' from our whole time together?" providing an important opportunity for the women to unpack some of what they heard.

Informing, Encouraging, In Christ is what the Women's Ministry Committee is all about!

It's our prayer that our efforts to inform and encourage lead each woman to be blessed to be a blessing — and thus encourage each to return to her harvest field reaping the fruit and sowing the seeds of the Gospel in all her spheres of influence to the Glory of God.

We look forward to gathering again next year in Pittsburgh, PA! So start planning now, dear Sisters!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT AG 2016



TODD VENMAN,
 CCCC PRESIDENT

Two times a year we are blessed to do the work of the conference face-to-face. We praise God that this year every sitting board member was able to attend. Two newly elected Board Members were able to participate via online web conferencing. One newly elected board member was able to join our discussion in the final days of the Annual Gathering.

Biblical Marriage Position Paper Last winter a subcommittee of the Board was appointed to provide leadership to the Biblical Marriage Position Paper. The group was busy defining and carefully wording our position on biblical marriage. To reflect the heart of God, the love of Christ and the gentle leading of the Holy Spirit is the heart of the Board in this task and all we do. We want to make sure our position is Biblical and clear in a world where people are blinded by assumptions and some quick to condemn.

Repayment of Restricted Funds The repayment of the restricted funds has been a big concern over the past four years. We rejoice to see God lead faithful members and friends of the kingdom to respond to the call of God. Join with us in prayer that God would allow us to pay off the indebtedness to ourselves as soon as possible. We realize the need to be fully staffed in order to carry the conference vision to the next level. However we have been hesitant to complete staffing needs until the repayment is complete. We praise God for the

staff and volunteers who work diligently accomplishing as much as they are able.

Hearing the stories from our staff is so encouraging. The kingdom resources currently invested into our staff and their work of love have produced incredible life giving stories. Join with us in prayer for our staff and their kingdom work.

AG Advance Team The selection of the advance team to support the work of the Annual Gathering is complete!!! We have seen God put a committee in place to comply with the By-Law revisions made at the AG in Rochester NY. With an Annual Gathering Committee fully staffed, the board has lifted this temporary work from its agenda. The Board will now operate only to oversee the Annual Gathering work. I praise God for the Board members who temporarily oversaw this huge undertaking. I also praise God for the many volunteers at the local level both in California and especially at Carlsbad Community Church who shouldered the weight of AG 2016.

The Annual Gathering Committee will be working hard to learn from AG 2016 and set into motion AG 2017 in Pittsburgh PA. Pray with us that this Committee will see the hand of God lead them as they plan the details for next year. Pray also for wisdom as they look ahead to AG 2018 and beyond.

We give praise to our faithful God who supply's everything. We exalt Jesus for the gift of forgiveness and love show to us and the world. We listen closely to the Holy Spirit as he counsels and comforts us.

THE KINGDOM RESOURCES CURRENTLY INVESTED INTO OUR STAFF AND THEIR WORK OF LOVE HAVE PRODUCED INCREDIBLE LIFE GIVING STORIES.



CCCC NEWS

CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES

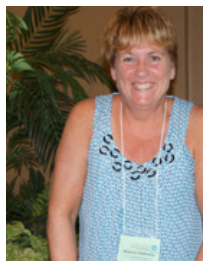
PASTORAL CHANGES

- Wakefield, MA First Parish Congregational Church* -Greg Hopwood
- Bancroft, MI First Congregational Church* Todd Evans*
- Spokane, WA Lincoln Heights Community Church* -Jesse Pickott
- Elkhart Lake, WI St. Paul's Christian & St. Peter Evangelical Churches (Yoked *pastorate*) * -Ted McCurdy*
- Santa Barbara, CA Bethany Congregational Church* Chuck Burwell

PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

- Bethune, CO Hope Congregational Church*
- 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)
- Thomaston, CT First Congregational Church
- Blue Island, IL Evangelical Community Church*
- Peoria Heights, IL Peoria Heights Congregational*
- Peru, IL First Congregational Church
- Georgetown, MA Byfield Parish (UCC)
- Heath, MA Union Evangelical Church of Heath (Part-time)
- Kittery Point, ME First Christian Church* (Part-time)
- Hollandale, MN Hollandale Congregational Church* (Part-time)
- Shorewood, MN Minnewashta Community Church*
- Mitchell, NE Federated Church*
- Goffstown, NH Congregational Church of Goffstown*
- Lakeview, NY Lakeview Community Church*
- Vermillion, OH Vermillion E&R Church* (Part-time music director/ keyboardist)
- Wellington, OH United Church of Huntington*
- Berne, PA St Thomas Church
- Chicora, PA St Paul's Community Church*
- Chepachet, RI Chepachet Union Church
- Chesapeake, VA Rosemont Christian Church*
- Suffolk, VA Cyprus Chapel Christian Church*
- Wilton, WI Faith Congregational Church*

* = Conference member | + = In process





WEREN'T ABLE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL GATHERING IN CARLSBAD?

You can still be challenged and encouraged by messages shared during the plenary sessions and the workshop break-outs.

Go to www.cccusa.com/audio/2016-annual-gathering-audio to listen to or download the audio recordings. The plenary sessions are all ready and the workshops are being posted as they become available.



BOB LOGAN



WALTER KIM



TODD VENMAN



LENN AND JANEEN
ZELLER



RON HAMILTON



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POSTAGE