

THE

FORESEE



BI-MONTHLY NEWS from the CCCC

CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

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WHERE THE PATRIARCHS SERVED



RON HAMILTON, CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER

I had the wonderful privilege to travel to Israel last month with a group of evangelical leaders. There were opportunities to visit places where the patriarchs served and worshipped. For example, our group witnessed a place near Jerusalem that an archaeologist called Temple Zero because the site dated back to the time of Abraham and Melchizedek. We also visited many of the places near the Sea of Galilee where Jesus began his ministry. Our group shared lessons from the Bible and worshipped the Lord together in these spots. We spent several days around Jerusalem and walked the Via Dolorosa. While there is much debate over whether this is exactly where Jesus walked to the cross, I was again touched by the great love and sacrifice involved in Jesus' death for our sins.

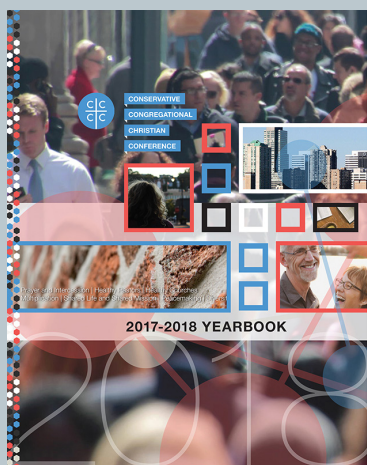
CM COMMENTS

A special moment of the trip was standing on the Mt. of Olives overlooking the city of Jerusalem. I recognized that the eschatology of that group was varied but we all share a common hope. Jesus, the Messiah, is coming again. We are encouraged by this teaching from Revelation.

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” (Revelation 21:1-4)

He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. (Revelation 22:20)

We share a common belief about Jesus and “His personal return in power and glory.” We are people of hope and this hope encourages us every day. Jesus is coming again and “we will be with the Lord forever.”



2018 YEARBOOK NOW AVAILABLE

A professionally printed version of the CCCC yearbook can be ordered from **Next Step Resources**. You can access the order page from our website. Go to: www.cccusa.com and navigate to “Print Resources and Publications” under the Resources in the main menu. The cost is \$15 and includes shipping.

The Yearbook is also available as a PDF that can be downloaded from the website on the same page. Follow the instructions above to access the download.



ANNUAL GATHERING UPDATES

INFORMATION FROM THE AG PLANNING AND WOMEN'S MINISTRIES COMMITTEES

CCCC NEWS



AG PLANS ARE PROGRESSING

TIM DUBEAU, ANNUAL GATHERING PLANNING COMMITTEE CHAIR

This year, Gordon College will be the site of our CCCC 2018 Annual Gathering. Gordon is a Christian Liberal Arts college located in Wenham Massachusetts (just north of Boston). It consists of a beautiful open campus with lots of convenient walkways connecting the various buildings which make up the college. In selecting Gordon our desire was (and is) to provide the very best opportunities for learning and life-on-life among all of our attendees.



For decades our Conference has utilized hotels as venues for our Annual Gatherings. This is the first time in a number of

years we have elected to gather on a college campus. With this change we are facing many elements requiring more detailed planning. These include facilities utilization, on-campus lodging, and meal arrangements. There will be 9 meals included in our 2018 Annual Registration fee.

WOMEN'S RESOURCE TABLE PROJECT

SHARON ANDERSON, SHIRLEY DUBEAU, AND DIANE WOOD, WOMEN'S MINISTRY COMMITTEE

We are excited for the 2018 Annual Gathering (AG) to be held at Gordon College in Wenham, MA, from July 31-August 3. Our plans for you are coming together, and we'll let you know more once the final details are set. These plans are aligning with our mission statement: **Informing, Encouraging ... In Christ**

One Vital Way of Encouraging and Informing you is to request your assistance!

Many of you have benefited from the resource gifts given away during the past several AGs. Some of you have asked, "How do you do it? Where do the funds come from to purchase such great things to give away?"

Well, here's a little history lesson: Sharon Galloway, our recently retired chairperson, was instrumental in getting that ball rolling. For the last several years, she spearheaded a Pasta Dinner at the Church of The Apostles in RI, that provided funds for us to purchase items for the AG Women's Resource Table. Last year Shirley Dubeau, following Sharon's example, encouraged The Congregational Church of Salem, CT, to sponsor a Pancake Supper with funds going to support the Resource Table. This year, The Congregational

AG

While we are pleased with our progress so far, we are not yet completely settled on all the details. ***The result is that we are experiencing a delay in publishing registration information.***

Gordon books their facilities throughout the summer to various groups and institutions. Our on-campus schedule is limited to July 31 – August 3. On-campus housing will be available on those dates only. Information concerning off-campus housing will be posted for any who choose to stay at local hotels/motels. We will soon be posting instructions on line to help attendees decide what housing options are best for them.

Please be patient with us as we finalize arrangements with Gordon. In the end, we believe this Annual Gathering has the potential for being the best ever in the life of the Conference. We covet your prayers as we finalize arrangements with the College and then work to build the very best team of local volunteers to support every element of our four day stay on campus.

Stay tuned for further news!



2018 CCCC ANNUAL GATHERING

TUESDAY, JULY 31- FRIDAY, AUGUST 3, 2018

GORDON COLLEGE, WENHAM, MA



WOMEN'S

Church of Salem's Annual Tag and Rummage Sale will gift 25% of their proceeds for that purpose.

During our 2017 AG held in Pittsburgh, many of the women in attendance joined in the delightful luncheon provided by the Women's Ministry of St. Peter's Reformed Church in Zelienople, PA. We had a fabulous time of teaching (*thanks, Kendra Bertoti!*) and fellowship over a great luncheon. At that luncheon the offering was set aside as seed money to purchase items for the 2018 Resource Table.

During the luncheon, we mentioned that it would be wonderful if other churches' women's ministry teams would participate to provide either funds or items for the Resource Table. Just so our expectations are clear, the Women's Ministry committee has developed the following Ideas and Guidelines to help those who want to help out get started. So here's a brief rundown:

- **FUND-RAISE** - schedule a fund-raiser and dedicate the proceeds, tithe your ministry budget, take a special offering at your next event... ***be creative!***
- **DONATE/PURCHASE** - unused (new) Women's Bible study materials from your latest study, purchase books, notebooks, mugs, bags, etc. (***See complete Ideas and Guidelines for details.***) Assemble a resource list that includes magazines, pod-casts, websites, book reviews etc.
- **VETTE** - Please make sure that all items are new, doctrinally aligned with the CCCC and suitable for our fellowship.

This year's AG is only a few months away, and if you are sending FUNDS, they should be received at least 6 weeks before the AG (**June 15, 2018). If participating doesn't work for your team THIS YEAR, please keep it in mind in planning for upcoming years.

For details on where to send donations or ship items, please see the complete guidelines on our Facebook page @CCCCWoman or on the Women's Ministry page on the website. (We're under the Admin & Services menu.)

There you have it! We know God wants us to keep on **Informing, Encouraging ... In Christ ...** and we know He'll provide the resources to do it. If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of the Women's Committee members.



CCCC NEWS-BOARD UPDATE



MATT MILLIGAN, CCCC PRESIDENT

GOD'S STORY FOR THE CCCC

Noah entered the ark upon the promise of the Lord to spare his family from the coming judgment and lead them through the waters into a new world. Genesis tells us that Noah obeyed and did all that God commanded him. I wonder sometimes what Noah was thinking on day 123, after he had watched the world and every soul on earth destroyed. As the ark was just floating on the water with nothing as far as the eye could see, did he look up to the sky and wonder if he was forgotten by God? Did he have the same assurance of where it was all going as he did when he first set to building the ark? I am sure that as much as Noah would have appreciated it, God did not come down and give Noah daily progress reports on how everything was going. God's word went out, and that's all Noah had. As he floated there he carried on the mission based on the promise of what was to come and the assurance of its fulfillment because of the One who had spoken it. As anxious as Noah may have been, he was told that God was entering a covenant with him and they would emerge on the other side of this tragedy. Genesis 8:1 says, "But God remembered Noah..." and God did come through and caused Noah's family to land safely on dry land.

This sometimes goes through my mind as the Board of Directors comes together, as they did in Orlando on February 5-7 for its mid-winter face to face meeting. In 2018, we pick up in the middle of a story that God has been writing in the CCCC for some time. Much time has passed since God spoke with such clarity through the leadership of the Conference which led to the work of the Guiding Coalition and the formation of our current Ministry Priorities, Guiding Values, and the subsequent alignment of our systems through the guidance of the Structure Task Force. But that original vision of a CCCC way of life that allows our churches to be the healthiest Christ-centered communities we can possibly be is as strong as ever, and God continues to show His faithfulness as we see the progress being made toward that vision across the conference.

The Board heard reports from the staff, who have been very engaged in working together on the Turning Point Initiative. Turning Point is a process that will allow us to be able to resource every phase in the life cycle of a church. It takes advantage of the structures that have been developed, and so is an affirmation of how God has been helping us effectively care for and build into every one of our congregations. Where we currently are in the story means that we will see more and more of these processes that promote the mission.

The Stewardship Committee has been working toward helping us attain financial freedom to carry out our God-given mission. They reported to the Board and are currently looking toward the future and what we will need to resource the vision of the conference so we can begin to plan and work together toward living that out more fully.

The Annual Gathering Planning Team has been hard at work to plan a time where we can come together around what God is doing in our conference. The theme this year of A Culture of Peacemaking is one that applies so deeply into a need our culture currently has, and why Jesus has established our churches around the conference to bring his gospel into the heart of every community we are in.

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AROUND THE CONFERENCE

CELEBRATING IN CARLSBAD

BY PASTORS
JC COOPER AND
ALVIN HELMS

A single word or phrase seems inadequate to capture the heart of what is happening between Carlsbad Community Church (CCC) and Rancho del Rey (RdR) Church in Southern California. Demographically our union could be described as an older congregation coming together with a younger congregation. Financially our united venture could be characterized as a lot with a little less. [We] think it is most appropriately defined by peace in the body of Christ.



Fourteen years ago, RdR was born out of CCC, and there was honestly some “bad blood.” Leadership squabbles and a lack of Christian maturity created a division with a sugar-coated name; a church plant. Over the course of twelve years we found our two fellowships ministering on the same street. In 2014 RdR was forced out of the elementary school due to a construction project and one of the only spaces available for worship was the CCC Sanctuary. It took over a decade, but great pride was slayed on both sides and God’s reconciling power was at work in greater ways than we imagined.

January 7, 2018 [was] the launch of a new 93-year-old united fellowship; Carlsbad Community Church. RdR gave up their name and CCC made room for new leadership. As a matter of fact both sides gave up a lot for one another. We don’t have it all figured out, but our commonality in Christ is enough for peace.

Sunday, January 7th 2018 was a wonderful day of Celebration as Carlsbad Community Church and Rancho Del Rey Church celebrated their first Sunday as one new church with two different services. The merge of the two churches is going well. Over 600 people attended the worship service and enjoyed a shared meal and time of joyful fellowship following the worship service.

Our renewed vision going forward is: “Transforming individuals and communities through grace-based relationships rooted in Jesus.” We are committed to the following shared values as one new church going forward: Christ-Saturated; Biblical Authority; Grace-Based Relationships; Our Stories Matter; Intergenerational By Design and On Mission. Pastor Alvin Helms and Pastor JC Cooper are sharing the teaching and leading duties for the church. We are still learning

as we move forward together but we have seen God’s hand of blessing and providence on this merge of two different churches. Leaders from other churches have contacted us about what we have learned through this experience.

Please keep us in your prayers as we take this new journey together.

**PHOTOS FROM
WHAT WE
CALLED “LAUNCH
SUNDAY!”**

CCCC NEWS

PASTORAL CHANGES

Milstadt, IL	Zion Evangelical Church (Ind)	Kerry Burnette <i>(Part-time Director of Christian Education)</i>
Pleasanton, KS	First Christian Church (Independent)	Douglas Sarver
New Ipswich, NY	New Ipswich Congregational	Ken Whitson
Chepachet, RI	Chepachet Union Church	John Eklund *

PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bethune, CO	Hope Congregational Church *
Greeley, CO	St. Paul's Congregational Church * <i>(Part-time Associate Pastor)</i>
Hebron, CT	Hebron Church of Hope *
Salem, CT	Congregational Church* <i>(Part-time Youth Pastor)</i>
Sharon, CT	Sharon Congregational Church (Independent)
Sherman, CT	Sherman Congregational Church * <i>(Part-time Youth Pastor)</i>
Parkersburg, IA	First Congregational Church * <i>(Teaching & Missions Pastor)</i>
LaSalle, IL	LaSalle Congregational Church
Monroe Center, IL	Union Church of Monroe Center* <i>(Part-time)</i>
Billerica, MA	Community Congregational Church *
Boston, MA	Park Street Church * (Senior Pastor)
Easton, MA	Free Evangelical Fellowship (Independent)
N. Brookfield, MA	North Brookfield Congregational Church *
Peabody, MA	West Congregational Church (Independent)
Salem, MA	First Baptist Church (Independent)
Saugus, MA	Clifftondale Congregational Church *
Wilmington, MA	Wilmington Congregational Church (<i>E-Free</i>)
New Haven, MI	First Congregational Church *
Glen Ullin, ND	Evangelical Congregational Church *
Mitchell, NE	Federated Church *
Glenville, NY	East Glenville Community Church *
Lakeview, NY	Lakeview Community Church *
Lisle, NY	Center Lisle Congregational Church (UCC)
Vermillion, OH	Vermillion E & R Church * <i>(Part-time music director/keyboardsist)</i>
Wellington, OH	United Church of Huntington * <i>(Part-time youth pastor)</i>
Xenia, OH	Mt. Zion Church *
Chicora, PA	St. Paul's Community Church *
Warfordsburg, PA	Whips Cove Church (Independent) <i>(Part-time)</i>
Spokane, WA	Plymouth Congregational Church *
Wilton, WI	Faith Congregational Church *

* = Conference member

RCF CONFERENCE

The Reformed Congregational Fellowship (RCF) conference has been a wonderful blessing over the years, and the efforts of the many presenters are greatly appreciated. We're now at that time of year when we need to start firming up commitments for papers for the **2018 RCF Pastors' Conference** which is planned for **April 10-12, 2018**.

In 2018 we will be addressing Chapter 25 of the Savoy Declaration, which deals with "of Marriage." The following are some [of the] suggested topics/themes/titles for presenters to consider:

- How do we reconcile the OT practice of multiple wives with the call for one wife, one husband?
- Are there biblical grounds for divorce, and, if so, does the call for one wife or husband extend to prohibition of remarriage after divorce?
- How does this chapter inform the qualification of an elder to "be the husband of one wife?" Is that a prescription? Does divorce disqualify?
- "Marriage was ordained for the mutual help of husband and wife": What is the biblical role of the husband? What is the biblical role of the wife? How can the church be an agent of grace in correcting abuse within the home?

For a complete list of the suggested topics and the text of Chapter 25 of the Savoy Declaration please go to: www.cccusa.com/FORESEE/201802/rcf

For more information regarding the RCF conference and how to register contact: Paul Wanamaker or Kirk van der Swaagh.

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TRIP

TENTMAKERS BIBLE MISSION ENGLISH COWBOY CAMP - TAFALLA SPAIN

Personnel needed:

10 to 15 people ages 18-60

Date: June 26-July 9, 2018

Cost: \$500.00 plus airfare

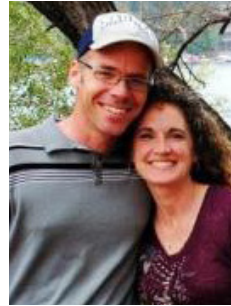
For more information contact Dan & Sharon Leatherwood at leatherwoodland@gmail.com.

For an application form contact the Team Leader:

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