

THE

FORESEE



BI-MONTHLY NEWS from the CCCC

IN THIS ISSUE:

**CONSERVATIVE
CONGREGATIONAL
CHRISTIAN
CONFERENCE**

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OUR CHURCHES

*Devoted to Christ and
His Word*



REST

*An Evangelist and a
Pastor rest*



STEWARDSHIP

*Moving toward
Mission Giving*

- BOARD of DIRECTORS UPDATE
- AROUND THE WORLD
- THINGS TO NOTE
- CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES

CM COMMENTS



OUR CHURCHES



RON HAMILTON, CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER

Over 300 churches across our land hold membership in our Conference. These churches share similar convictions based on the CCCC Statement of Faith and are all congregationally governed. Beyond that, each one of these churches is unique and has a special ministry. A few of these churches are mega-churches with a national reputation. Many of our churches are small and located in small towns or villages. While the worship style in our member churches varies greatly, their devotion to Jesus Christ and His Word are similar and strong.

We have worked diligently to strengthen the relationship with our member churches. We offer resources through our Ministry Priority of Church Development to help them evaluate and strengthen their ministry. We care for our churches as they move through pastoral transitions. We assist churches in times of assessment and times of conflict. Membership in the CCCC links our churches with historic Biblical Congregationalism and they find fellowship with other

CM COMMENTS

like-minded congregations. These are ways that we bless and encourage our churches in their ministry for our Lord Jesus.

The Conference is also blessed by our member churches in many ways. Many of our churches allow their pastors and leaders to participate in the CCCC as Board members, committee members or Conference representatives. We are also blessed by the financial support that we receive from our member churches. Approximately two-thirds of our budget comes from member churches. Members of the Board of Directors recently sent hand-written thank you notes to member churches to thank them for their giving and share how their contributions make a difference as they support Christ's work through our fellowship. We received many responses of appreciation from this effort.

I trust that we can strengthen our relationships with our member churches and help them find encouragement from other member churches as well. Our guiding value of "A Community with Shared Life and Shared Mission" is based on the reality that we are stronger together than we are apart. While we value the autonomy of the local church, we do not equate that with independence. We bless one another and strengthen our devotion to Jesus and His work in this generation.

CCCC CONFERENCE SUNDAY IN MAY



We encourage member churches of our Conference to celebrate a Conference Sunday annually on one of the Sundays in May.

The reasons for setting aside time for this purpose are:

- To raise the awareness of the Conference among our membership
- To increase understanding of the CCCC Way of Life
- To update our members on current activities of our Conference
- To pray for the Conference, its members and its ministry
- To encourage churches to take a special offering for the Conference on this Sunday.

Our strong passion to live in obedience to Jesus as we “love God, love others, and make disciples” is evident in all the material prepared for Conference Sunday.

We share this life together and are mutually accountable for our walk of faith as members of the CCCC. We prayerfully desire that a sense of shared life and shared mission grows in our fellowship.

An info flyer bulletin insert has been prepared to assist you. Copies were recently mailed to all our churches. Additional copies are available at cost from the Home Office, or a PDF file for self-printing can be downloaded from the website. Go to: www.cccusa.com/resources/conference-sunday



SEASONS OF REST

AN EVANGELIST AND A PASTOR REST

NE REGION



TERRY SHANAHAN,
NORTHEAST REGIONAL MINISTER

PREACH THE WORD IN SEASON AND OUT OF SEASON

As I write this it is the day after Billy Graham's funeral. This past week as I met with various Pastor groups there has been much sharing about how this one man's preaching affected the lives of many.

Karlotta and I have one such impactful story. In May of 1994 Billy Graham was the commencement speaker for our graduation from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. The venue was Gordon Chapel on the campus of Gordon College where we will be for our CCCC Annual Gathering this summer.

As he addressed the graduates he told us there was no better time to be entering the ministry. The need is so great, the lost are hungry for the gospel message. He told us that he wished he was just entering ministry himself. He said that people often asked him if on this side of ministry did he have any regrets and he admitted that he had a few.

To the surprise of all he said he wished he knew the Bible better. In fact he said he wished he knew it as well as his daughter did. Then he shared that he wished he had

SABBATICAL

A period of rest. A time of religious dedication. An opportunity for reflection. A season of renewal. Karlotta and I are being blessed by the Conference with a season of sabbatical.

After 11 years as Regional Pastor for me and 23 years in private practice as a mental health counselor for Karlotta, we are leaving our post on March 31st, Holy Saturday, and arriving in Dublin Ireland on Easter Sunday where we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on a different continent. This will be the beginning of 3 1/2 months of rest and renewal. In addition to the Conferences' support we have received a grant from the Cheshut Foundation which will defray cost for our stay for Easter Term at Westminster College.

With connections to the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity and Fresh Expressions, I intend to explore the current trends of church revitalization in England as well as dedicating much time to rest and renewal.

In doing research for our time away I talked to many who have gone on a sabbatical and to the person they report their life had been changed.

NE REGION

earned an advanced degree— which we had the opportunity of doing at Gordon-Conwell.

He commented that he would have studied anthropology because the study of man was so complex and of great interest to him. He also shared that he regretted not spending more time with his family. He was always gone. Ruth did the lion's share of raising the children and he cautioned us to balance our ministry with time for family.

But he told us the one thing he never regretted was presenting the gospel at every opportunity. He spoke of the previous years' funeral of former president Richard Nixon on June 26th 1993 where he was asked to preside. He was on a national stage; in fact an international stage. He had the five living presidents in attendance and he said even Billy Graham could be a little intimidated by all of that.

He continue by telling us that he asked the question. "Lord do I give them the full Gospel message?" And the answer came back a resounding "Yes, Preach the gospel!" So at President Nixon's funeral the world heard of the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He concluded by saying what a great advantage we have to spread the Gospel. In his lifetime he was able to go from preaching to hundreds at a rally, to preaching to thousands in a church, to tens of thousands in a stadium, and then to millions on TV and now we are able to preach to the world.

Let us follow his example. . . Use every opportunity you have tell the world of the Good News of Jesus Christ!

SABBATICAL

We heard comments like,

"A trip of a lifetime",

"I returned rested and refreshed",

"I came back highly charged and more resolved"
"it was a period of learning and growing"

"I connected with God in amazing ways".

Karlotta and I are excited and ready for this type of experience.

Coverage for my time away is being handled first by our 8 Area Pastors in New England plus two additional Pastors and our Director of Conference Care Peter Wood. In Maine Area Pastor Ryan Howell, in New Hampshire Area Pastor David Randlett, in Vermont Area Pastor Peter Anderson plus Pastor Jason McConnell adding coverage for that region. In Northern Mass-Area Pastor Steve Burkett, in Southeastern Mass-Area Pastor Peter Smith, in Connecticut and Rhode Island-Area Pastor Tom Crumb, in Greater Hudson Valley-Area Pastor Tom Bridgman, in New York City Area-Pastor Kurt van der Swaagh, with Pastor Paul McPheeters offering his help and guidance. And the Home Office is always available when there are questions or needs that come up.

God's blessing to you all. See you at the Annual Gathering at Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts July 31st through August 3rd.

WORLD EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP (WECF) MEETING



The 12TH TRIENNIAL MEETING of the WECF is scheduled for Monday, May 27-Friday, May 31, 2019 in Dinas Powys, Wales.

It will be held at Hebron Hall Christian Center located on the outskirts of the village of Dinas Powys within the beautiful vale of Glamorgan. It is easily accessible by road, rail and air transport from London. See more information at www.hebronhall.org.

Don't miss this opportunity to share what God is doing in the CCCC and to learn what is happening in the rest of the WECF family.

Visit cccusa.com/FORESEE/2018/04/wecf/ to read the "Our Congregational World" newsletter

CCCC NEWS-BOARD OF DIRECTORS



MATT MILLIGAN,
CCCC PRESIDENT

MUCH TO BE GRATEFUL FOR

On Tuesday, April 10th the Board of Directors met via web conference. Gratitude was a big theme of the meeting as discussion stirred up thanksgiving for God's movement in our Conference.

- Ron Hamilton reported on continuing to develop our process for bringing in new churches. As we are seeing more of this, we want to provide the best processes for orienting our newest members to the CCCC. What a blessing to be adding new churches into our family.
- The Board has also been very grateful to the Shanahans for their hard work on behalf of the conference in the Northeast and beyond, so it was a delight to hear that their sabbatical is in full swing and going well.
- Our Treasurer, Sue Drehmel, reported that we have had the best first quarter in many years, thanks to the generous support of the Conference. The Board was moved and humbled by the blessings of serving alongside our churches and the ways the churches throughout the conference have supported the mission of the CCCC— not only financially, but through time, service and supporting leaders' involvement in Conference affairs. Spending time in prayer, we gave thanks to God for His presence and provision in and through our churches.
- There was much to be thankful for regarding our upcoming Annual Gathering (AG) at Gordon College in Wenham, MA in July. An unbelievable amount of planning is required to bring our family together for that week. The AG Committee has done an excellent job, taking great care in how each piece fits together for our purposes. Local families will be opening their homes to host Board members; churches are sharing resources of personnel for youth ministry and worship.
- As funny as it seems to be thinking of the coming year already, that's exactly what we have to do in order to secure locations for future Annual Gatherings. A team already has been scouting venues and collecting information for the Board to start planning for 2019 and beyond. Many aspects are considered in those decisions: the budgets of the ministers and churches, the experience and requests of our members, and the goals of the broader vision of the conference. We have an excellent team working on these things.

The Board is already excited for coming together in July with the CCCC family. It is a blessing to serve the kingdom of Christ in this time and place, alongside the wonderful churches of the CCCC.

CCCC NEWS-STEWARDSHIP



PETE BALENTINE,
CCCC STEWARDSHIP
COMMITTEE CHAIR

MOVING TOWARD MISSION GIVING IN THE CCCC

I have the privilege of serving as chair of the Stewardship team for the Conference. Our team's role is to encourage faithful giving to the work of the CCCC to the glory of God! We are thankful for the generosity of so many churches, pastors, and individuals in helping plant, grow and sustain healthy churches across America. What a blessing! As a team, we are looking for ways to encourage increased giving to the Conference in order to achieve the important mission of the CCCC. After discussion with, and approval of the CCCC Board of Directors, here is our plan moving forward:

1. **Encourage every member church to give to the conference.** This past year only two-thirds of CCCC churches made a gift, but all may receive many benefits – help if our church is in trouble, support for our pastors, resources for training, etc. As we move forward, we are encouraging all churches to give something, with six hundred dollars as a suggested minimum gift.
2. **Develop a vision budget for the conference.** God is adding new churches and there is much work needed to be done to revitalize existing churches. What financial resources are needed to accomplish the goals of the conference? At our Annual Gathering this summer, you will receive a CCCC Vision handout that shares those goals and funds needed yearly.
3. **Encourage “mission giving” to the conference.** My church, Hope Community Church in Newburyport, MA, just joined the CCCC in 2017. When we added giving to the CCCC, we added it to the mission's portion of our budget. We

Stewardship cont on pg 6

AROUND THE WORLD

NEWS FROM THE WAY OF HOPE*

KATRINA HAM, CCCC INTERNATIONAL WORKER

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!**In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. | Peter 1:3*

Hello! We are still in this wonderful Easter season of joy and renewal! At the outset of our mission, our staff took the verse from 1 PETER (above) as our theme, making it clear that through the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, ours is a living hope! Our prayer is that the Lord will be at work... and will receive glory for what is accomplished.

Three youth programs ~ Sevan region and Idjevan City

This spring we have three flourishing youth programs: BASICS of Christian Faith in Idjevan and Tsovagyugh, and FRUIT of the Spirit follow-up in Varser. Tatevik and Mher always come back tired but pleased with the great interest in God's Word and the way of salvation from big groups of teens in the first two; and M----, A-----., and K---- also come back pleased with the responses of kids in the latter. Suren is our faithful chauffeur, looking out for everything at the LIGHTHOUSE, plus going and coming from Sevan region.

Kids' Planet

Bi-monthly programs continue at our office, with an excited group of around 15 kids and a dozen parents / grandparents. They listen attentively and respond well to video lessons from the Bible, and eagerly make something interesting with their hands (and scissors and glue!) to take home as trophies. Please pray that it will be possible to hold a Young Family Day at the LIGHTHOUSE during Project PAROS.

**13th NE Annual Meeting - Saturday, April 21, 10:00am - 2:00pm
Highland Baptist Church, Fitchburg, MA USA**

Plans are well underway for this important annual time of updates, fellowship, and prayer. Suren and Tigran will be showing their short, exclusive video of last summer's well project from start to finish; Mher has prepared a slide show of the past year's ministry programs; several of our current governing board members will be introduced; and we're all looking forward to spending a few moments on SKYPE together.

2018 Project PAROS ~ June 22-July 9

We're busily preparing for the team of five coming to Armenia in late June—Becky, Cindy, Debra, Jim, and Paul. Debra and Paul were with us two years ago and know the ropes well. We hope that several team members will be present at the April 21st Annual Meeting to be dedicated to the Lord's work for this summer short-term mission.

May His mercy and grace *be our portion* as we follow...day by day.

* Excerpted from *Way of Hope April 2018*. Go to www.cccusa.com/FORESEE/ to read the complete newsletter

STEWARDSHIP

would like to encourage all churches to consider their giving to the CCCC in the category of missions. The CCCC is a mission! With this in mind, we will be challenging all churches to give a specific percentage of their operating budget as a mission giving goal.

Again, we are so grateful for the generous giving of so many to the Conference. One of the joys for me is to see churches, especially many smaller ones, who are giving a significant percentage of their operating budget to the CCCC (many giving at 4% or even 6% of their church's operating budget). This is the widow's mite in action in the present day. Thank you for your sacrifice and generosity to the Lord's work. If you have any questions or comments, please give me an email at pete@hopenewburyport.com



NOTE: To receive the weekly email: **FORESEE UpDate**, make certain we have your correct email address.

Please let the Home Office know of any changes. If you are not on our e-mail list, go to www.cccusa.com/FORESEE and find the sign-up button in the footer.

CCCC NEWS

PASTORAL CHANGES

Parkersburg, IA	First Congregational Church* <i>(Teaching & Missions Pastor)</i>	Brian Koelsch
Emporia, KS	First Congregational Church* Howard Cassidy-Moffatt	
Chicora, PA	St. Paul's Community Church*	Jonathan Jensen*

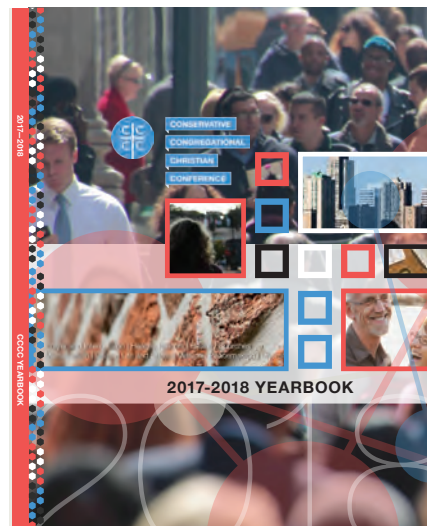
PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bethune, CO	Hope Congregational Church*	
Greeley, CO	St. Paul's Congregational Church* <i>(Part-time Associate Pastor)</i>	
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>	
Buffalo Center, IA	First Congregational Church*	
Monroe Center, IL	Union Church of Monroe Center* <i>(Part-time)</i>	
Boston, MA	Park Street Church * (Senior Pastor)	
Easton, MA	Free Evangelical Fellowship (Independent)	
Peabody, MA	West Congregational Church (Independent)	
Salem, MA	First Baptist Church (Independent)	
Saugus, MA	Cliffondale Congregational Church*	
Shirley, MA	United Church of Shirley*	
Wilmington, MA	Wilmington Congregational Church (<i>E-Free</i>)	
Pittston, ME	First Congregational Church of Pittston <i>(Part-time Worship Leader)</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 *	
Warfordsburg, PA	Whips Cove Church (Independent) <i>(Part-time)</i>	
Disputanta, VA	Bethlehem Congregational Church* <i>(Part-time)</i>	
Troy, VT	First Congregational Church of North Troy (Independent)	
Woodstock, VT	First Congregational Church of Woodstock (Independent)	
Wilton, WI	Faith Congregational Church*	

* = Conference member

THINGS TO NOTE

2017-2018 CCCC YEARBOOK

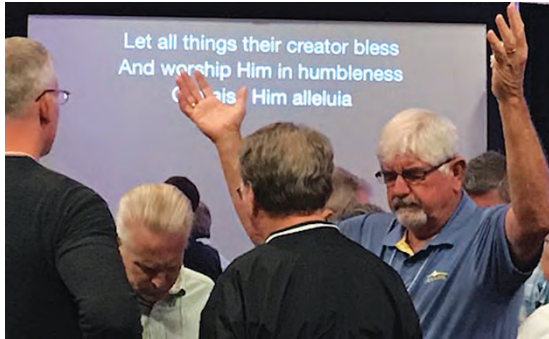


The professionally printed version of the CCCC yearbook is now available. This version reflects the leadership changes and actions enacted at the July 2017 Annual Gathering, and individual and church contact information updated from Ministerial Questionnaires and Church Surveys returned to the Home Office by December 31, 2017.

To order your copy go to the **Denominational Resources** link on the main menu at nsresources.com and click on the CCCCUSA from the drop-down menu. Cost is \$15.

And while you are there, check out the other CCCC titles and resources also available from **Next Step Resources**.

**2018 ANNUAL GATHERING AT GORDON COLLEGE IN WENHAM, MA
JULY 31 – AUGUST 3, 2018.
REGISTER NOW!**



REGISTER ONLINE FOR THE 2018 CCCC ANNUAL GATHERING
AND ON-CAMPUS LODGING

**GO TO: WWW.CCCCUSA.COM/AG
FOR ALL THE DETAILS**

Take advantage of the early registration discount—
HURRY ! It ENDS May 25th!



CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE
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POSTAGE