



BI-MONTHLY NEWS from the CCC

**CONSERVATIVE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHRISTIAN  
CONFERENCE**

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# SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE



**RON HAMILTON, CCC CONFERENCE MINISTER**

One of our greatest annual celebrations came this month as we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday. This is a highlight of our life and ministry and centers our hope in the Lord. Please be encouraged by the teaching of

1 Corinthians 15.

<sup>1</sup> Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. <sup>2</sup> By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

<sup>3</sup> For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup> that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

<sup>55</sup> “Where, O death, is your victory?  
Where, O death, is your sting?”

## CM COMMENTS

<sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>58</sup> Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

**BE  
ENCOURAGED  
THAT YOUR  
WORK IN NOT  
IN VAIN. GOD'S  
MIGHTY POWER  
IS AT WORK IN  
AND THROUGH  
YOU.**

Often in the routine of ministry we wonder if what we do really makes a difference. We ask, "Is it worth it all?" Our church isn't growing like we want or expect. Pastors question the effectiveness of a Sunday message. Sunday School teachers have a tough day with the kids. A youth worker questions whether the teenagers will ever "get it." Friends and family members ridicule our beliefs.

Thank you, pastors and church leaders, for your faithful service in Jesus' name. Be encouraged that your work in not in vain. God's mighty power is at work in and through you. Jesus is alive! He gives eternal life to all who believe in Him! You are ministers of hope to a broken and lost generation!

## 2019 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](http://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.

## CCCC RESOURCE SHARING

The **CCCC Resource Sharing Dropbox** is full of many great FREE resources available to CCCC members and member churches. Growing rapidly since it's inception two months ago, the Dropbox now contains a wide variety of files that you can download and adapt to your particular needs. Available files range from sample constitutions and policy/procedure manuals, to leadership and discipleship resources— and much more!

Email [cccresourcesharing@gmail.com](mailto:cccresourcesharing@gmail.com) with your request to join today! You will need to create a free Dropbox account (go to [Dropbox.com](http://Dropbox.com) to set it up) with the email you send us so that we can add you to the folder. We'll add you and you'll be all set. We'd love for every CCCC pastor/church or a representative from every church led by CCCC pastors to join the folder.

A **video** to instruct you about joining and using the Dropbox is posted on the website under the Resources tab. Go to: [www.cccusa.com/resources](http://www.cccusa.com/resources) to check it out.





# OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND GROW

THROUGH ASSOCIATION AND STUDY

## NE REGION



TERRY SHANAHAN,  
NORTHEAST REGIONAL MINISTER

### DMIN COHORT FROM SEMINARY CONNECTION

Serving in New England has many blessings. Proximity to the highly respected Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (GCTS) is one of them. A good number of our pastors are GCTS graduates. Each year at our Annual Gathering, the Seminary hosts an Alumni event that is well attended.

In recent years one of the programs offered by the Seminary is the Ockenga Fellows Program. It is administrated by CCCC Pastors David Horn and Jason McConnell. The Ockenga Fellows Program identifies and nurtures high-potential, early career New England pastors to participate in a two-year program consisting of five three-day retreats and one study abroad trip to China. The program helps the pastors better engage the culture of their churches and address the social and ethical changes in the society surrounding them.

The stated objectives of the Fellows program are: first, to gain a deeper understanding of effective pastoral leadership in New England; second, to engage early career pastors with the world's best civic, cultural and business voices; third, to equip early-career pastors to understand

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## ANNUAL GATHERING

### FOCUSED SEMINARS: NEW AT THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL GATHERING

SUSAN MOODY, AG PLANNING COMMITTEE

*A new event on the Annual Gathering schedule to help you maximize your time at St Thomas*

Easter is in our rear-view mirrors, Mother's Day and graduation ceremonies are looming and the 2019 Annual Gathering is approaching faster than we can imagine! Just 75 days until we gather in St. Paul, MN for a wonderful time of worship, fellowship, and learning.

The Annual Gathering Planning Committee works each year to maintain our beloved traditions while also adding new features to the AG schedule. And this year is no exception! Corporate worship and workshops, an open evening for enjoying life-on-life, and ice cream after our opening evening service are all popular items that will be on the schedule once more.

New to the roster this year will be a feature we are calling "Focused Seminars." When the committee looked at the airline schedules for MN, we realized that attendees from both coasts would need to arrive earlier than usual to make the timing work. That meant Tuesday afternoon was open for some programming and we decided to add an opportunity for learning and growth!

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## NE REGION

local church idiosyncrasies; fourth, to develop a cohesive cohort committed to serving alongside one another in long-term ministry in New England; and fifth, to stimulate conversations between leaders in the church and leaders outside the church.

The highly selective program is limited to 15 participants at a time and is now in its third cohort. We have had nine CCCC pastors selected to participate. In addition, those who have gone through the program are eligible to pursue advanced standing in the Doctor of Ministry program at the Seminary.

I'm delighted to report that this year three of our young CCCC pastors are enrolled in a Doctor of Ministry cohort which will further equip them in their journey in pastoral ministry in the New England context. To me this speaks volumes about the quality of the next generation pastors that are attracted to and serving in the CCCC.

## WORLD EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP



### WECF TRIENNIAL MEETING IN WALES

The **WECF** meeting will convene

**Monday, May 27-Friday, May 31, 2019**

**at Hebron Hall Christian Center  
in Dinas Powys, Wales.**

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

**Rev Philip Swann**, Minister at Llanelli Free Evangelical Church will be the keynote speaker



To read the entire WECF newsletter, *Our Congregational World*, go to:  
[cccusa.com/FORESEE/2018/06/wecf-2](http://cccusa.com/FORESEE/2018/06/wecf-2)

PLEASE CONTACT CONFERENCE MINISTER RON HAMILTON IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND

## SEMINARS

The Focused Seminars will run for two hours each. There will be 3 or 4 different topics offered, but each one will be offered twice, so participants can attend two of the four. These Focused Seminars will be offered on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon (all seminars offered both days), and are part of what is paid for with the regular conference fee.

These will be great opportunities to hear from some experts. Confirmed at the time of publication:

- Marcia Horstmann and Matt Milligan will co-present a seminar on finding healing for past hurts which we have buried, so they won't interrupt the ministry God has called us to pursue.
- Dr. Justin Irving (Bethel Seminary faculty) will present on servant leadership, based on his soon-to-be-released book "LEADERSHIP IN CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVE: Biblical Foundations and Contemporary Practices for Servant Leaders."
- Dr. Jeanine Parolini (Bethel Seminary faculty) will offer a seminar on confronting our own personal biases and then leading our churches in a cross-culturally sensitive way.

Stay tuned to later editions of the Foresee for titles, descriptions, and more information. But start planning now to arrive in MN in time to get to the first Focused Seminar at 2 pm on Tuesday, July 9th. Annual Gathering Registration will open at 10 am, and our opening evening session will start at 6 pm.

We look forward to learning with you at our Focused Seminars!



**2019 Annual Gathering  
University of St Thomas -St Paul, MN**

**Tue, July 9 – Fri, July 12, 2018.**

**Register online or download a PDF form to mail at:  
[www.cccusa.com](http://www.cccusa.com)**

## CCCC NEWS-BOARD UPDATE



## APRIL WEB MEETING

MATT MILLIGAN, CCCC PRESIDENT

Last week we celebrated that defining moment for every follower of Jesus Christ: his death and resurrection. It continues to be the most amazing news that has ever been told. It has the power to transform lives, set captives free, reform culture and bring healing to a very broken world by bringing us into relationship with the God of the universe. Perhaps one of the most interesting aspects to me about God's redemptive plan is the vehicle for this resurrection life: the local church.

During Old Testament times, if someone wanted to experience God at His most manifest she would go to the temple in Jerusalem and find God the most present there. During the time of Jesus Christ, a person would need to travel to Israel and find the man, Jesus, in order to discover where God was most manifest and His truth so clearly evident. After the resurrection of Christ, it was no longer the temple or the ascended Jesus where God was most present in the world. Rather, in this era of the Holy Spirit, it is in the people of God where God is most manifest to a broken world. The body of Christ is known and evidenced through the local church.

This is marvelous truth about the identities of the churches in our Conference. Each one is the vehicle that God has ordained to carry the gospel of Jesus Christ to the communities of the world. In some ways, the mission of the CCCC is the local church. It is where we put our energy and resources into equipping and supporting them in every way that we can. It is the method that God is using to make disciples of all nations. This commitment to the local church is evident in the focus of the Board of Directors this year so far.

I wrote less than 9 months ago that the Board has been praying for the resources to flesh out the structural changes that have taken place over the last few years, including the addition of regional pastors who would directly resource, empower and equip Community Pastors and local churches. It is a blessing to have discussed at our last Board meeting on April 16 the implementation plans for adding regional pastors to areas of the conference. These structural changes have been a focus of the work of the Board and staff in recent years precisely because of its benefit to the health of our local churches in the Conference.

Another area where the Board has been promoting local church health is the development of processes and policies that promote the mission. The use of Natural Church Development resources in our churches and the increase of additional ways for equipping our Community Pastors are items that have been discussed at our meetings. Also worked on this year is the Turning Point process, a strong initiative that will address a significant group of our churches and the unique needs that exist in those communities.

The Annual Gathering is coming up in a matter of months and is going to be in St. Paul, MN. The theme of the gathering is around our value of Healthy Pastors ("The Good Shepherd") and the committee has worked hard to bring some very practical resources and workshops that will address local church needs and ministries.

The CCCC continues to be a conference that values and extends the ministry of the local church and I am so blessed to serve in this Conference.

**IN THIS  
ERA OF THE  
HOLY SPIRIT,  
IT IS IN THE  
PEOPLE OF GOD  
WHERE  
GOD IS  
MOST MANIFEST  
TO A BROKEN  
WORLD.**



## AROUND THE CONFERENCE

## AN UNREACHED PEOPLE GROUP

KIRK VAN DER SWAAGH, PASTOR, NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH OF GREENWICH VILLAGE, NY

As we walk together in our “irreducible core,” seeking to love God, love others, and make disciples through the ministry of our local churches, there is an unreached people group in our midst that we need to be aware of – the deaf community.

Did you know that 98% of the world’s deaf population has not received a Gospel presentation? That’s 68 million deaf people that need to be reached with the Gospel, with 1% of them residing in the US. This is a Gospel issue that the Church needs to mobilize and address together.

One might ask: why can’t the deaf just read? That’s a logical question. But as I’ve learned, 65% of the deaf in the US are English-illiterate. For those that can read, reading the printed word is like a second language. American Sign Language (ASL) is not gestured English; it is a separate language with its own grammar, rules and syntax. To a deaf person, a book represents sound on a page, so for someone who has never heard sound, printed words are irrelevant. Remarkably, the world-wide illiteracy rate jumps to 95%.

Consider the following:

- There are over 400 sign languages worldwide.
- Not one of these sign languages has a full Bible, not even ASL!

Are we equipped to reach this group living in our midst? Thank God, we have help. I learned of this need from the Deaf Bible Society. The Deaf Bible Society provides free access to Bible translations by video in 20+ sign languages, and they are working on more translations world-wide. They also connect the deaf community by training leaders to establish Deaf Bible Together groups. And their Deaf Church Where tool points the way to Christian services and ministries for the Deaf.

What can we do?

1. Be aware of the deaf in our own communities, perhaps even in our congregations. What are we doing to meet their Gospel needs?
2. I would encourage you to learn more about the ministry of the Deaf Bible Society: <https://www.deafbiblesociety.com/>

UNREACHED cont on pg 7

## HELPING IN COMMUNITY CRISES

JON PAUL, PASTOR, FREE CHRISTIAN CHURCH, ANDOVER, MA

Shootings, tornadoes, terrorism- we can’t predict when and where a major crisis will occur. On September 13, massive over-pressurization of the natural gas distribution system led to a series of explosions across our community, setting 80 separate fires, injuring more than 20, and killing one. The disaster left 8,000 business and residential customers without heat, hot water or gas stoves (including our church and parsonage) with cold weather setting in. The restoration effort to date has exceeded one billion dollars.

It’s hard to plan for the unexpected but there are a few things we’ve learned through this that may be helpful as other churches consider how they might respond to an emergency.

1. To love your neighbor, you have to know your neighbor. **Know your community leaders** as part of your everyday life. Develop relationships with police, fire, town social worker, senior center director. Know the ministries and social service leaders who care for the most vulnerable in your community. Serve with them in non-crisis times. Have their contact info so you know who to call to offer support in crisis and so they know who to call when they need emergency help.
2. **Listen to them!** Giving them things they don’t need (e.g. used clothes and toys) in the midst of crisis only creates work for them and it doesn’t help. Sometimes a church needs to wait until the crisis responders tell us what they need, when and how they need it. Volunteers are eager to help in the immediate crisis but nonprofits may not be ready to receive that help or have determined exactly what they need. Eager but impatient volunteers can create more stress for the non-profits/helpers.
3. **Form a Church Emergency Response Team** to be a first point of contact to get volunteers mobilized. Know who in your congregation may have a flexible work schedule and is available during normal business hours when volunteers are most needed but often least available. Include a “delivery team” including your people with pickup trucks and larger vehicles to be on call to transport and deliver supplies. Know what languages people in your church speak. We were asked for Chinese and Russian transla-

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## CCCC NEWS

## PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

Salem, CT	The Cong. Church of Salem *
Sherman, CT	The Sherman Church * (Lead Pastor)
Torrington, CT	First Congregational Church (Part-time Associate Pastor)
Boston, MA	Park Street Church * (Senior Pastor)
Hamilton, MA	First Congregational Church *
Holden, MA	1st Congregational (UCC)
Peabody, MA	West Congregational Church (Independent)
West Newbury, MA	West Newbury Congregational *
Yarmouth Port, MA	First Congregational Church (NACCC)
Pittston, ME	1st Congregational of Pittston * (Part-time Worship Leader)
Covert, MI	First Congregational Church * (Part-time pastor)
Honor, MI	Honor Congregational Church *
Lansing, MI	Olivet Baptist Church (ABC)
New Haven, MI	First Congregational Church *
Garvin, MN	First Congregational Church * (Part-time)
Glencoe, MN	1st Congregational UCC
Elon, NC	Bethlehem Christian Church * (Full-time youth pastor)
Glen Ullin, ND	Evangelical Congregational *
Mitchell, NE	Federated Church *
Glenville, NY	East Glenville Community *
Lakeview, NY	Lakeview Community Church *
Lisle, NY	Center Lisle Cong. (UCC)
Vermillion, OH	Vermillion E & R Church * (Part-time music director/keyboardist)
Wellington, OH	United Church of Huntington * (Part-time youth pastor)
Warfordsburg, PA	Whips Cove Church (Independent) (Part-time)
Huron, SD	First Congregational Church *
Letcher, SD	Letcher Congregational Church/ Loomis Community Church *
Scotland, SC	Scotland Community Church +
Hillsboro, WI	First Congregational Church *

\* = Conference member

+ = In Process

## CONFERENCE SUNDAY RESOURCE

## ON THE WEBSITE OR AVAILABLE FROM THE HOME OFFICE

We encourage member churches to celebrate a Conference Sunday annually on one of the Sundays in May. To assist your preparations, a CCCC Sunday bulletin insert is available to download for printing. Go to: <http://www.cccusa.com/resources/conference-sunday/> Additional professionally printed copies are available for cost from the Home Office. Contact 651-739-1474 for more information.

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3. Pray. Go to <https://www.deafbiblesociety.com/prayweek1> to join in prayer for Deaf communities, or with your smart phone, text "PRAY" to 444-999; you will receive weekly prayer reminders with specific requests.
4. Download the Deaf Bible App (which also includes The Jesus Film) from the Google Play or iTunes Store on your smartphone. This will enable you to share Scripture with the Deaf.

As we work to make disciples of the nations, let's not forget the deaf.

CRISIS cont. from pg 6

tors to help communicate with homebound seniors who struggle with English. Have ready the contact information for the Salvation Army Disaster Recovery coordinator for your state.

4. **Offer cash**, not tuna sandwiches. Establish an emergency fund to have cash available to help immediately. Cash gives organizations options and flexibility in responding to immediate needs. Non-profits typically have established networks to get what they need (e.g. large amounts of food or medical supplies). People showed up to one of our ministry partners with plates of tuna sandwiches to an emergency shelter that didn't have refrigeration. What they really needed was unrestricted financial donations.
5. **Follow up** with police and first responders after the crisis is past to see how they are doing.
6. Be ready to help people with inevitable forms and paperwork following a crisis. Listen to their stories and struggles. **Be there for the long haul of the recovery.**



UNITE PRAYER WORSHIP UNITE PRAYER WORSHIP UNITE PR

The Table Coalition (*formerly Mission America*) is sponsoring **National Day of Prayer event on May 2 at 7 PM Central**. This will be a national, simulcast event to rally people across the country together in intercession. Worship will be provided by **Hillsong NYC** and **KB**. To view or livestream, go to: <https://unitendop.com/live/>



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