

THE

FORESEE



BI-MONTHLY NEWS from the CCCC

IN THIS ISSUE:

CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

8941 33rd St North,
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
651-739-1474

E-mail: homeoffice@cccusa.com
www.cccusa.com

www.cccusa.com/FORESEE/
Email: communication@cccusa.com



WECF
*World Evangelical
Congregational
Fellowship Triennial
meeting*



ENCOURAGEMENT
AND EQUIPPING
*A blessing and an
opportunity*



STEWARDSHIP
*2% Mission Giving
Update*

- THE FRUIT OF GIVING TO MYANMAR
- PROMOTIONS TO GLORY
- THINGS TO NOTE
- CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES

CM COMMENTS



WECF CONFERENCE



RON HAMILTON, CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER

Conference Minister, Ron Hamilton, and his wife, Shirley, attended the 12th Triennial meeting of the World Evangelical Congregational Fellowship (WECF) on May 27 – 31, 2019 in Wales, Great Britain. The theme for the gathering was “Our Perfect Savior” with Rev. Philip Swann at the keynote speaker. Ron also shared a message to help develop the theme.

The history of the WECF goes back to the 35th Annual Gathering of the CCCC in 1983. Regular meetings have been held since that time. The WECF consists of likeminded fellowships from 18 nations. These fellowships represent approximately 1,800 congregations, mission points and outreaches. Attendees from Argentina, Australia, Bulgaria, Great Britain, Manipur India, Myanmar, Northern Ireland, the Philippines, and South Africa met together at the 2019 gathering.

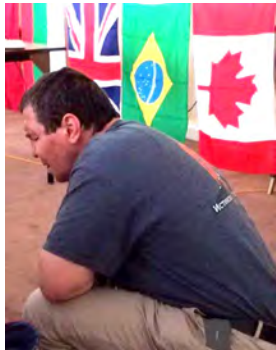
CM COMMENTS

The purpose of the Fellowship is:

- To promote fellowship and cooperative endeavor in the faith, polity and work of evangelical Congregational associations and churches throughout the world.
- To preserve the historic Congregational commitment to the Lordship of Christ and the infallibility of His Word, and
- To present to the world a witness to our oneness in Christ as evangelical Congregationalists.



The group holds triennial meetings in different locations. It also has mid-term meetings in nations that are not able to host the larger gatherings. The CCCC hosted the last triennial meeting in conjunction in February 2016. The next triennial meeting will be held in the Philippines in 2021, with a mid-term meeting planned for Bulgaria in 2020.



While most of the group attending came from the United Kingdom, the meetings provided a special time of fellowship for representatives of WECF members from around the world. Many participated in group outings in the afternoon to visit different parts of Wales. Each participating group presented an update report on the ministry of their fellowship. The presentations were followed by a time of prayer for each fellowship.

While in the UK, Ron also spoke at two Sunday services at the Hayes Town Chapel in London on May 26th. This is an active church in the western part of London near Heathrow International Fellowship. The church is multicultural and has an effective ministry in this part of the city.

FROM TOP:
WECF International
attendees

Conference Session

LEFT: Ron Speaking

RIGHT: Group prayer
session

CCCC RESOURCE SHARING

The **CCCC Resource Sharing Dropbox** continues to grow. It is full of many great FREE resources available to CCCC members and member churches, including a wide variety of files that you can download and adapt to your particular needs.

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 to check it out.

Email cccresourcesharing@gmail.com with your request to join today! You will need to create a free Dropbox account (go to 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.



ENCOURAGEMENT AND EQUIPPING

A BLESSING AND AN OPPORTUNITY

NE REGION



TERRY SHANAHAN,
NORTHEAST REGIONAL MINISTER

TURN AROUND CHURCH HOSTS NECF MEETING

The Northeast region was blessed this spring as Central Congregational Church in Middleborough, Massachusetts hosted our regional fellowship's annual meeting. Our Conference Minister Rev Dr. Ron Hamilton brought the day's messages with the theme of "My Burden Is Light—taking the drudgery out of ministry." The messages were followed by times of group discussion and opportunity for question and answer. There were a number of takeaways that day that encouraged and equipped us for ministry in these times.

Central Congregational provided the worship time, scrumptious food and were the gracious host for a time that blessed everyone in attendance. If you knew the history of Central Congregation Church, you would say that this was a true miracle of God.

When Pastor Bruce Smith was called to the church in 2004 the church was down to eight people. The same day that those eight people voted to not close the church they voted to call Pastor Bruce to be their pastor. No search committee, no best practices of how to find and call a pastor, not

NE REGION cont on pg 4

ANNUAL GATHERING

AG WORKSHOP/SEMINAR TOPICS

Along with the Focused Seminars, a robust schedule of workshops/seminars is also planned for the 2019 Annual Gathering next month in St Paul, MN. Speakers will address a variety of topics around the conference theme, "The Good Shepherd." Workshop/seminar titles and presenters are listed below. For more detailed information about workshop /seminar content go to: www.cccusa.com/ag/workshops.

Even though the early discount has expired, Annual Gathering online registration is still open. It's not too late to attend! We look forward to learning with you at our AG workshops/seminars.

Spiritually Healthy Ministry Wives: A two-part panel discussion with a prayer time hosted by **Shirley Dubeau** and the Women's Ministry Committee with **Karlotta Shanahan**.

Church Development Roundtable: Dave Eisley and the Church Development Team of experienced church revitalizers will present an overview of the CCCC Church Development Process.

Intro to the CCCC: Nick Granitsas, Past President leads this workshop to find out where/how the CCCC originated, who we are, and why you (a church or individual) would want to join.

WORKSHOPS cont. on pg 5

NE REGION

knowing if the pastor was available, but they acted solely on faith and one person's recommendation that their son-in-law was a pastor and perhaps they might want to contact him.

They phoned him that day to say that they had voted to extend a call to him to pastor the church. They did not know that he had just given his church notice that he would be leaving. He himself was going not knowing.



May 2009
Central
Congregational
Church of
Middleborough
Fire

The storybook tale that everything went perfectly upon his arrival did not play out. After five years of steady growth the church had a devastating fire and was destroyed. Out of those ashes God has raised up a church that is a blessing to the community, a blessing to the region, and a blessing to the Conference.

In Pastor Bruce Smith's words "Our story is a story of God's grace and the glory belongs to Him for anything good that has taken place during our time in Middleboro. When I look back on the work that he's done over the last 15 years (September will mark that), I'm as amazed as anyone when it comes to the story of transformation that we've seen unfold before our eyes.

In terms of our first Sunday, there were 8 others who were not from our family (we brought 8 from our family which gave us an amazing percentage of growth on week one). I have been told that during that summer there were some Sundays when there were only six people present during morning worship.

I was extended a call in August of 2004 and began ministry in September. We steadily grew until our fire in May, 2009. Last month marked ten years since that event. We got back into the building on Christmas Eve 2011 and we have now grown to the point where we average between 300-330 on a typical Sunday. Obviously, these are the barebones of the story - the Lord has given the congregation so many faithful servants who have been used in countless ways to make a huge difference for Christ and his gospel in our community."

Our Conference is blessed and encouraged by these stories of turnaround churches that have been revitalized for Christ.



WORKSHOPS (cont from pg 3)

Providing Ministry for First Responders, Military Members, and Veterans in Your Church:

Guy Lee, a retired military chaplain shares insights on ministry to military members and their families that also apply to veterans and first responders.

When Thorns Remain In this two-part workshop, Doug Livingston, shares personal experiences and struggles with a 34-year “thorn in the flesh” and examines the lessons we learn through suffering.

The Symbiotic Relationship Between Missionaries and Their Church: Ron Dazell and Nancy Kirsch

examine the deep symbiotic relationships between the local church and missionaries. Hear firsthand from one of our member churches and one of their long-standing missionaries.

Thriving Churches Then and Now:

Peter Smith looks at the history of God moving in the world through His Church, and eight characteristics of these movements which the New Testament Church modeled.

Guarding Our Hearts and Minds: A Prognosis for Pastoral Peace

(2 parts): Andrew Wallman says, “This workshop isn’t more work - so it could really be more aptly entitled, “reflectionshop” — a refreshing time of reflecting on the holistic health of the ministry God’s entrusted to us: from individuals to congregations.

Day of Prayer & Vision (2 parts):

Jeff Griffith will share some tools for preparing, having a day of prayer & vision and writing a personalized, holistic growth plan which can be shared with your pastoral community.

You Do, I Help: Brandon Goad

takes a look at how healthy pastors empower their people to do the work of the ministry, rather than doing ministry for them.

Well Being Self-Assessment:

David Kimberly provides attendees with an opportunity to preview and personally assess their well-being based upon the categories outlined in *Clergy Burnout* by Fred Lehr.

Shepherding Healthy Worship: Experienced worship leader,

Chad Negley will share some thoughts on his approach to planning worship and how that has helped him create healthy weekend experiences more frequently.

Pastors, It’s Time to Make Disciples: Jeremy Skaggs and Ron Dazell

present a clear approach to making disciples, multiplying kingdom workers, and increasing Biblical relationships within your church and community.

Training a Sheep to Work the

Fields: Tuvia Zaresky offers insights for mobilizing people, equipping “sheep” for outreach ministry taking the primary burden off the pastor and sharing it with the entire body.

The Shepherd’s Marriage: Craig

Everett looks at setting clear boundaries and taking steps to insure harmony at home, knowing that emotionally healthy clergy marriages often lead to healthy ministries and churches.

2019 Annual Gathering
University of St Thomas -St Paul, MN
Tue, July 9 – Fri, July 12, 2018
Register online at: www.cccusa.com

CCCC NEWS

HALFWAY THERE!

PETE VALENTINE,
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR



It is exciting to see God sharpen the vision for Regional pastors within our conference. A dream long in the making, we are seeing God continue to move us

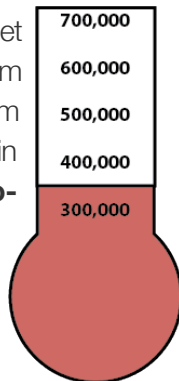
towards the goal of four regional pastors spread out across the United States, supporting and encouraging churches and pastors for the kingdom.

As you know, our conference is encouraging a **2% Mission Challenge** for all churches within the CCCC. All churches are encouraged to consider giving 2% of their operating budget to the work of the CCCC. For some churches this is a goal to shoot for. For some churches it is just a starting goal and they are well past it already!

This past year, the CCCC Board revised our Faith Vision Budget goal. The new Vision Budget goal is now \$900,000 with the goal of \$700,000 coming from churches. *The reason for this revised budget is we have a more accurate understanding of funding needs for the Regional Pastors.*

Where do we stand with the Vision Budget goal? Well, praise God, in 2018 giving from churches increased 10%. Total giving from churches was just over \$350,000 dollars in 2018. **That means we are halfway towards our Vision Budget goal!**

Thank you for your giving, and may God provide the resources needed for this Regional Pastor vision for the CCCC.



AROUND THE WORLD

THE FRUIT OF GIVING TO MYANMAR

PETER ANDERSON, COMMUNITY PASTOR, VT

In 2016 a number of our VT churches contributed to travel expenses for Pastor Go Suan Thang from Yangon, Myanmar to attend the World Evangelical Congregational Fellowship meeting in Orlando, Florida. He stopped in Vermont on his way and spent a week with us visiting churches in Jericho, Franklin, Derby, East Barre and the United Christian Academy in Newport. Those who met him will remember his heart for orphans in Myanmar and the problems he had finding housing for them and a place for them to worship.

As a result of that trip to WECF, Pastor Go met Steve Gammon who felt compelled by the Holy Spirit to help him and the orphans. Steve visited Pastor Go in Yangon and has been working to raise money to purchase a home and build a worship center for Pastor Go and his orphanage.

Steve wrote last week that in April 2019 a children's home was purchased in Yangon. An addition to the home is under construction now, the first floor of which will be an office and multi-purpose room/dining hall, and the second floor will be a meeting place for the church. The addition should be completed soon.

Pastor Go wrote, *"By the grace of God and the initiative of Rev. Dr. Stephen Gammon, WECF Treasurer, we were blessed to purchase a house for our children. We are all happy for this house and comforted that we have a home and no longer have to be moved and evacuated yearly. We are praying 50 children can live in it."* Among his expression of thanks, Pastor Go also wrote, *"Our thanks goes to CCCC USA Vermont Fellowship who helped with travel fares to attend Triennial Meetings in Orlando, Florida, USA, 2016."*

Praise the LORD, who wove all of the threads together to accomplish His purposes in the lives of these orphans in Myanmar. Please keep Pastor Go, the orphanage and church, the construction and the country of Myanmar in your prayers. In Pastor Go's words, "Pray for the harvest of the LORD in Myanmar."

CCCC NEWS

PASTORAL CHANGES

Sherman, CT The Sherman Church *
- Jitesh Soans (*Lead Pastor*)

PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

Salem, CT The Cong. Church of Salem *

Torrington, CT First Congregational Church
(*Part-time Associate Pastor*)

Muncie, IN Eden Church*

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*)

Honor, MI Honor Congregational Church *

Lansing, MI Olivet Baptist Church (ABC)

New Haven, MI First Congregational Church *

Avon, MN Avon Community Church*

Garvin, MN First Congregational Church *
(*Part-time*)

Glencoe, MN 1st Congregational UCC

Woodbury, MN Woodbury Community Church*

Elon, NC Bethlehem Christian Church *
(*Full-time youth pastor*)

Glen Ullin, ND Evangelical Congregational *
Federated Church *

Mitchell, NE East Glenville Community *

Glenville, NY Clarks Corners Community*

Kennedy, NY Lakeview Community Church *

Lakeview, NY Center Lisle Cong. (UCC)

Lisle, NY North Country Bible Church*

Speculator, NY Vermillion E & R Church *
(*Part-time music director/keyboardsist*)

Vermillion, OH United Church of Huntington *
(*Part-time youth pastor*)

Wellington, OH St Paul's Church*

Stowe, PA Whips Cove Church
(Independent) (*Part-time*)

Warfordsburg, PA First Congregational Church *

Huron, SD Letcher Congregational Church/
Loomis Community Church *

Letcher, SD Scotland Community Church +

Scotland, SC First Congregational Church *

Hillsboro, WI

* = Conference member | + = In Process

BOARD APPOINTS NEW PRESIDENT



The Board of Directors accepted, with regret, the resignation of Matt Milligan as Conference President due to personal circumstances demanding his time and attention. The Board has appointed former President, Todd Venman, to fill the term until the Annual Gathering where Todd will be nominated to serve the one-year unexpired term.

ANNUAL REPORTS MAILED

Reports of voting items at the 2019 Annual Gathering have been mailed to our membership. All reports will be posted on the CCCC website by July 1st. Member churches have also received a delegate designation form which was included in the mailing. Please remember to designate official voting delegates and return the forms to the Home Office by June 28th.

PROMOTION TO GLORY



David V. Schaffer of Fairhaven, MA passed away at Rhode Island Hospital on Sunday, May 26, 2019 after a car accident on the previous Wednesday. He was the husband of Ruth (Burdick)

Schaffer with whom he shared 58 years of marriage.

David was a graduate of Gardner High School, Boston University and Bethel Seminary. He pastored churches in CT and MA, including Elim Baptist Church in New Bedford from 1960-1987. In 1987, he became a Chaplain with Community Chaplain Service and pastored in local nursing homes, having served as Director for 5 years before retiring in 2014. He was a member of the Dartmouth Bible Church and a committed servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.



Pray Together Sunday is a special opportunity for churches across the country to ask God for the same thing: that we would be people who love God and love others well. Will your church participate during its worship service on Sunday, July 7, 2019?

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER YOUR CHURCH:

<https://www.nae.net/praytogether/>



CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE
8941 33rd St North, Lake Elmo, MN 55042

POSTAGE