



BI-MONTHLY NEWS from the CCCC

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**CONSERVATIVE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHRISTIAN  
CONFERENCE**

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# KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH OUR MEMBERSHIP



**RON HAMILTON, CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER**

The annual Ministerial Questionnaires and Church Surveys have been mailed. It is important for every member minister and church to respond to ensure that our contact information is up-to-date and that everyone restates their desire to remain engaged with the Conference. We ask that everyone returns their information by December 15th.

The written response to questionnaires and surveys is only one expression of our desire to stay in touch with members of the CCCC. Member Ministers and Consecrated Christian Workers are asked to restate their commitment to our Statement of Faith and Statement of Polity when they respond. Every minister is also asked to make an annual contribution to the Conference. This also provides an opportunity for ministers to provide an update on their life and ministry.

CM COMMENTS (cont. from pg 1)

While most of the responses are “nothing has changed,” occasionally pastors state that there is significant change that needs our attention.

In a similar way, member churches are asked to restate their commitment to the CCCC Statement of Faith and Statement of Polity. Churches also provide updated information of the church leadership, budget and ministry plans. Just as with pastors who mostly respond, “nothing has changed,” churches also alert us of significant things in the process of filling out the surveys. Additionally, while many churches contribute to the Conference on a monthly or quarterly basis, the survey includes a request for an annual gift.

We are also working to increase the contact with our membership through our ministry of Conference Care. Recent Community Pastor training has initiated gatherings of member pastors in local areas. There are many encouraging stories from pastoral communities that are active. Pastors are spending time together to share life, ministry ideas and times of prayer. The appointment of Regional Pastors has also opened the door to increased contact with our membership. To many in the CCCC, the face of the Conference is a Regional Pastor: Terry Shanahan, Northeast; Tim Dubeau, Mideast; Ray DeLaurier, North Central; or Phil Noordmans, West.

Communication is a two-way process. The CCCC has stepped up its work in communicating with our membership. We ask that every member is faithful in doing their part to be active in the life of the Conference. The responses to the questionnaires and surveys are critical. Active participation in local, regional and national activities is also important. Our value of Shared Life and Shared Mission can only be realized as we work together to increase our fellowship and common devotion to the work of our Lord Jesus.

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## SHARING OUR RESOURCES: LOOKING FOR SPECIFICS

The **CCCC Resource Sharing** program is looking for churches to submit helpful documents they've created to [cccresource sharing@gmail.com](mailto:cccresource sharing@gmail.com). Please send anything your church feels comfortable letting other churches adapt. We're looking to compile examples of the following:

- by-laws,
- child protection policies,
- membership applications,
- church covenants,
- discipleship documents, and
- anything else you find helpful.

Also, if you created a presentation or handout for previous CCCC Annual Gatherings please send those along too. We already have one set of slides from the 2019 Prayer & Vision seminar and would love some more.

The point is to save us all time by combining resources and sharing. Your documents don't have to be perfect. None of them are. Please send as PDF or Word Doc.

And if you haven't joined the CCCC Resource Sharing Dropbox Folder please send a request to join to the email address listed above.

Thank you! Working together benefits us all!

# STEWARDSHIP

*noun*

the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care.

## STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

SEEKING GOD'S PERSPECTIVE

### NORTHEAST REGION



TERRY SHANAHAN, NORTHEAST REGIONAL PASTOR

### RAISING OUR STANDARD OF GIVING

In 2010 the Conference embarked on a Stewardship Campaign to help bring awareness to our financial need and stabilize giving to the Conference. In working with Dickerson and Associates they reminded us that there are three basic Stewardship Principles that all Disciples of Christ need to adhere to.

The first Stewardship Principle is that **God is the owner of all**. Psalm 24:1 declares, *"The Earth is the Lord's and everything in it, The world and all who live in it."* If the Scriptures are true, and we know that they are, then God owns everything and we own nothing.

The second Stewardship Principle is that **we are stewards, not owners**. The parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14 and following speaks clearly to the matter of stewardship and being good managers of what God has given.

NORTHEAST cont on pg 4

### CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION



PETE BALENTINE, STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

### TALKING WITH YOUR CHURCH BOARD ABOUT GIVING

If your church is like my church, the budgeting season has begun! With fall here, it is that time of year when many churches start praying and discussing about what resources will be needed to carry out ministry in 2020. We are so thankful for the abundance of generous churches in the CCCC who are contributing to the work of God across America. Thank you! At our annual gathering, as chair of the Stewardship team, I had the opportunity to share about ways you can advocate for the ministry funding needs of the CCCC in your local church. Let me share those again as we approach the financial planning season:

#### 1. Encourage "mission" giving to the CCCC.

At my church, we categorize giving to the CCCC in the area of missions, not administrative dues. Why? We want our DNA to have an outward vision, rather than being about what we receive. Healthy churches have an outward focus! Do you realize

GIVING cont on pg 4

NORTHEAST (cont from pg 3)

The third Stewardship Principle is that **we are blessed to be a blessing to others**. Galatians 6:7-10 ends with “So then as we have opportunity, let us do good to all men, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”

The Apostle Paul after pointing out the extreme generosity of the Macedonians says in 2nd Corinthians 8:7 “*But just as you excel in everything, in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness, and in your love for us, see that you also excel in this grace of giving.*”

In these last few years as the Conference has been intentional in adhering to the Stewardship Principles the Lord has blessed our obedience in abundant ways. As like-minded believers we have begun to excel in the grace of giving.

**GOD  
PROSPERS  
ME NOT TO  
RAISE MY  
STANDARD OF  
LIVING, BUT  
TO RAISE MY  
STANDARD OF  
GIVING.**

—RANDY ALCORN

One of the CCCC Guiding Values is being a Community with a Shared Life and Mission. What better way to express that than in our financial commitment to the Conference. Our current stewardship process is to call each of our member churches to a 2% Mission Challenge. We’re asking all CCCC churches to prayerfully consider 2% of their budget as a starting point or goal

for Mission giving to the CCCC.

We are also asking our pastors and lay people to be led by God to be generous givers. Many of us pastors used to think of our giving to the Conference as dues, something we had to do. But if we are living life together and truly see it as a Shared Life and Mission our giving is not something we have to do but something we get to do. We get to participate in God’s kingdom work and together we receive the blessing that rains down on us through obedience.

Randy Alcorn, in his book *The Treasure Principle* says that “God prospers me not to raise my standard of living, but to raise my standard of giving.” Are you being led by God to raise your standard of giving? Give generously to your Conference and share in our Mission to reach a lost world for Christ.

GIVING (cont from pg 3)

your giving to the CCCC blesses over 300 churches – new and old across the US seeking to make disciples?

**2 Discuss the Vision Budget and the 2% Mission Challenge.** We are mailing a stewardship brochure to every church and pastor which details the ministry funding plan for the CCCC. This plan specifically enables the Regional Pastor vision, and our ministry priorities of church revitalization and planting. This is the vision that we are moving towards and need every CCCC church to be a part of together. (If you need more copies of the brochure) please contact the Home Office: [homeoffice@cccusa.com](mailto:homeoffice@cccusa.com).)

**3. Pray about a specific amount.** Evaluate your current giving. Where is God calling you to stretch as a church? Where do you stand with the 2% mission challenge? What faith giving goal is God calling you to? I have found over the years it can actually be exciting to talk and pray about this as a church board. Again, 2% of your operating fund is the challenge that the CCCC has issued. Some churches are giving way above that percentage. Some have far to go which is ok! But if every church gave 2% of its operating fund, we would be able to fund the ministry plan God has for us as a conference. What specific giving amount will be the target this year for your church?

**4. Talk with your regional pastor.** If you need help in thinking how best to approach your board, give your Regional pastor a call, text or email. They have lots of experience in the pastoral role and working with church boards. You can also contact any of us on the Stewardship Committee (Pete Balentine, Loring Carpenter, or Larry Stroble) and we would be happy to talk with you.

In the adventure together, Pete

## CCCC NEWS

## BOARD REPORT

TODD VENMAN, CCCC PRESIDENT

**God's timing of good and perfect gifts.**

While change seems to be around every corner, some things just never change. What comfort we have knowing the immutable God. Situations vary sometimes, however obeying God's principles guides us to His desired outcomes. Our delight is to use the gifting and blessing He bestows in a manner that furthers His Kingdom. We know with great certainty that Our God Reigns and we serve at His pleasure. We pray and seek God's face and watch Him direct.

We as a conference made a deep commitment to repay our internal debt all the while finding ways to fulfill the vision God gave us. We dreamed of a day when we would be debt free and channel more resources into mission. That day has come. We rejoice in God's faithfulness and His provision of donated time, talent and monetary resources.

God's faithfulness is not surprising. His timing and provisions help us to understand His delight. When I see the conferences devotion to follow His principles coupled with faith and the timing of this gift, I smile and know, Our God is good!

The Board resolved to use the bequest to finish the repayment and further develop the credentialed members and churches. Funds like the Cornerstone Corps and Life Changing Churches were replenished. Moneys were set aside to help churches establish qualified retirement plans. More resources have been invested in short term holdings to gain interest as we continue to seek God's will for the blessing He has bestowed.

As good stewards we are challenged to invest in His Kingdom. Dissipating funds too quickly or clutching too firmly is never healthy. These are not sustainable funds but infusions of support in a time of ministry growth. Our goal is to invest wisely into His Kingdom work at these essential times. We trust not in assets but in the name of the Lord our God.

There is a tendency to ease from the devotion to mission when these types of gifts arrive. While a collective breath and sigh is felt, we are reminded "From everyone who has

## NORTH CENTRAL REGION



RAY DELAURIER,  
NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL PASTOR

After six weeks in the Regional Pastor position, I am moved by the diversity of the landscapes, the communities and cultures within the Region. [Recently] I met with the leaders from our three Conference churches in the "Iron Range" northern part of Minnesota. From left to right in the picture is Nick and Sally Naglus of Palo Congregational Church, me, Pastor Dick Lohry and Scott Hildreth of Sand Lake Chapel, and Pastor Bob Hodge



of Ashawa Chapel. Our Conference churches have been serving the Lord in this region since the early 1970s and Ashawa Chapel since 1986. Each one has a desire for spiritual and numerical growth. It was a great pleasure to meet with them and pray for them.

I have also had the opportunity to travel to South Dakota to preach at Scotland Community Church and meet the other pastors there, as well as meeting with the North Dakota pastors in the Great Plains Fellowship. Travels have taken me to First Congregational in Mantorville, MN, North Point Church in Calumet, MI, Plymouth Church in Oshkosh, WI, and sharing life and ministry together at the WI pastor's retreat near Amherst, WI. It has been a wonderful time of ministry and encouragement.

The ministry will continue to northern Iowa where I'll have the pleasure of meeting with First Congregational in Forest City, the leaders at First Congregational, Parkersburg and Pastor Jonathan Faulkner at First Congregational, Buffalo Center. I am anticipating a wonderful experience meeting ministry partners and strengthening the local churches. A mission conference in Parkston, SD and a trip to visit the churches in northern IL, and Loomis/Letcher, SD and Mott, ND fill the rest of the Fall calendar.

The Lord has impressed upon me the first point of our Conference "Irreducible Core," which is to Love God. It has been the theme of my sermons in the churches. We

## CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION

**SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY CLASS —  
CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE TRAINING OFFERED**

The Conservative Congregational Christian Conference Credentials Committee, Rev. Dr. David McKinley and Rev. Dr. Drake Williams welcome pastors and lay leaders to join us for a week long intensive class on Systematic Theology.

Systematic Theology explores the teachings of the whole Bible and articulates a consistent “system” of thought based on the entire Bible. This, then, provides the foundation for all “Practical Theology,” which then applies the Bible to life.

The class will explore all major topics in Systematic Theology. Alongside the Bible, Millard Erickson’s Christian Theology, 3rd edition, will be the main textbook of the class. During the class, students will read through selected portions of most of this book, write several reflection papers, and also complete a final paper.

Our instructor is Dr. T J Marinello, Professor of Systematic and Historical Theology at Tyndale Theological Seminary in Badhoevedorp, the Netherlands, where he has been a missionary professor for the past twenty years. Before that Tom taught at Emmaus Bible College in Dubuque, IA, and flew large cargo airplanes both in the military and commercially. He is Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in the United Kingdom and is the book series editor for Studies in Brethren History and the Tyndale Theological Seminary Theses Series.

**Location: Central Schwenkfelder Church in Lansdale, PA.** The church is conveniently located north of Philadelphia. It is near the northeast extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike (I476) off of the Lansdale exit. Website: [www.centralschwenkfelder.com](http://www.centralschwenkfelder.com)

**Dates: 27 April – 1 May 2020**

Monday April 27	1:00 – 4:00	
Tuesday April 28	9:00 – 3:00	
Wednesday April 29	9:00 – 3:00	Dinner together
Thursday April 30	9:00 – 2:00	Afternoon Trip
Friday May 1	9:00 – 12:00	

Assignments such as readings and reflections will be given before the April class time. The final paper will be due by June 1, 2020.

This class will fulfill the Systematic Theology requirement necessary for licensure in the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference.

**Costs:** Class Price - \$ 400

Book - \$30 (Amazon)

Lodging and Lunch - \$500

**Total - \$930**

Students for the class will need to **register by January 10, 2020.**

Email: [register@cscfamily.org](mailto:register@cscfamily.org) Partial scholarships may be available.



Dr. T J Marinello,  
Professor of Systematic  
and Historical  
Theology at Tyndale  
Theological Seminary  
in Badhoevedorp, the  
Netherlands

## CCCC NEWS

## PASTORAL CHANGES

Wolfeboro, NH	First Christian Church*-David Kemper *
Coventry, RI	Church of the Apostles *-Todd Murphy
Letcher, SD	Letcher Congregational Church * Tim Pulkrabek
Hillsboro, WI	First Congregational Church * Aaron Thompson

## PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

Collinsville, CT	Christ's Community Church *
Torrington, CT	First Congregational Church (Part-time Associate Pastor)
Boston, MA	Park Street Church * (Senior Pastor)
Hamilton, MA	First Congregational Church *
Holden, MA	First Congregational Church (UCC)
Kingston, MA	Mayflower Church *
Middleborough, MA	First Congregational Church *
Peabody, MA	West Congregational Church (Independent)
West Newbury, MA	West Newbury Congregational Church*
Yarmouth Port, MA	First Congregational Church (NACCC)
Pittston, ME	First Congregational Church of Pittston* (Part-time Worship Leader)
Bloomington, MI	Bloomington Christian Church (Independent)
Honor, MI	Honor Congregational Church *
Lansing, MI	Olivet Baptist Church (ABC)
New Haven, MI	First Congregational Church *
Aurora, MN	Palo Congregational Church *
Glencoe, MN	First Congregational of Glencoe (UCC)
Woodbury, MN	Woodbury Community Church *
Elon, NC	Bethlehem Christian Church * (Full-time youth pastor)
Glen Ullin, ND	Evangelical Congregational Church *
Taylor, ND	Taylor Ecumenical Parish (Independent)
Mitchell, NE	Federated Church *
Colebrook, NH	Monadnock Congregational Church (UCC)
Peterborough, NH	Monadnock Congregational Church *
Glenville, NY	East Glenville Community Church *
Jamestown, NY	Fluvanna Community Church *
Kennedy, NY	Clarks Corners Community Church *
Lakeview, NY	Lakeview Community Church *
Lisle, NY	Center Lisle Congregational Church (UCC)
Speculator, NY	North Country Bible Church *
Wellington, OH	United Church of Huntington *
Stowe, PA	St. Paul's Church *
Warfordsburg, PA	Whips Cove Church (Independent) (Part-time)
Huron, SD	First Congregational Church *
Loomis, SD	Loomis Community Church *
Parkston, SD	Parkston Congregational Church *
Scotland, SD	Scotland Community Church *
Tripp, SD	Friedens Reformed Church (EA)

\* = Conference member | + = In Process

## BOARD (cont from pg 5)

been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. (Luke 12:48b NIV) So we collectively agree that sustainable giving and funding is what we seek. The 2% challenge is still our heart. While this is primarily a Member Church challenge, join with me in personally filling out the Ministerial Questionnaire and support our conference. Let's give to the Conference what God has laid on our hearts to give as recipients of His good and perfect gifts.

Please pray for wisdom and unity as we seek to honor God's desire and purpose of this gift. Pray with us that "He must increase but I (we) must decrease". (John 3:30 NKJV) "Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2b ESV) Please pray in advance of the Board of Directors meeting in February for these outcomes and God's leading.

## NORTH CENTRAL (cont from pg 5)

know by heart Jesus' foremost commandment to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, (Mark 12:28-31). We are to love God with every essence of our being. The big question is How? How do we love the One who doesn't need our demonstrations of love to feel whole? Fortunately, Scripture tells us how to "love God." In the OT, Deut.11:1, 13-14 tell us that obeying God and following His Word is loving God. Jesus couldn't be more clear: Jn.14:15, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. Jn.14:21, He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." Conversely, He who does not love Me does not keep my words (Jn.14:24). This requires surrender to Him, and joining Him in His work.

When we love God by keeping His words, and when we love Jesus by keeping His words, then we will "Love others," and "Make Disciples." When we love God by keeping His words, then the Seven Guiding Values will become the desire of our hearts collectively, and our Conference churches will grow spiritually and numerically. Our Father is pleased to bless and grow churches and individuals who believe, trust, and do His words. After all, only He is worthy of our complete trust.



# DISCIPLE MAKING

Helping Local Churches Understand What Disciples Are and How To Make Them



**JOHN R. KIMBALL**  
with  
Gayle Buford

## DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCE AVAILABLE FROM CCCC MINISTRY RESOURCE PARTNER

*Disciplemaking - Helping Local Churches Understand What Disciples Are and How To Make Them*

\$10.00

By John Kimball, with Gayle Buford

Perhaps the biggest issue facing local churches today is the lack of biblical disciplemaking. We've become those who impart information rather than those who foment transformation. It's time to look again at what Jesus said, "Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations..."



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