

THE

# FORESEE



BI-MONTHLY NEWS from the CCCC

## CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

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**GOD IS FAITHFUL**  
*He will guide and keep us in reopening after the pandemic.*



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**NINEVEH NETWORK CONFERENCE**  
*Church Multiplication gathering scheduled*



**OUT OF THE SHADOWS**  
*God at work among Micronesians in the US*

- WEST REGIONAL PASTOR REFLECTIONS
- 2021 VIRTUAL AG EVENTS
- CCCC THEOLOGICAL RESOURCES
- CHANGES & OPPORTUNITIES

### CM COMMENTS



## GOD IS FAITHFUL



RON HAMILTON, CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER

These are interesting and challenging times as we move past the restrictions of the pandemic and our churches and ministries reopen. I've had conversations with many of our pastors and they all agree that the next few months of ministry will be full of special challenges. A recent Barna study indicated that as many as one-third of regular church goers have stopped attending church in the past year. We wonder if these people will return to church and what it will take to reengage our congregations in the work of the Gospel.

I love the teaching of 1 Corinthians 1:

<sup>4</sup> I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup> For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech

CM COMMENTS cont. from pg 1

**FOUND GOD  
TO BE FAITHFUL  
IN THE  
MIDST OF THIS.  
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CARRY US OUT  
OF THIS.**

and with all knowledge— <sup>6</sup> God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. <sup>7</sup> Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. <sup>8</sup> He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:4-9)

We have relied on the faithfulness of God in various ways in the past year. Many of the normal activities of faith and life drastically changed during the pandemic. Pastors and church leaders were forced to create new pathways of ministry. We found God to be faithful in the midst of this. We can trust in the faithfulness of God to carry us out of this.

I believe that the flip side of challenge is opportunity. I remember the teaching of the Network study that I used years ago that said, “You can make a kingdom impact for eternity!” I believe that there’s never been a greater time to make an impact. People are suffering, are lonely, and are looking for answers. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. He will use pastors and the church to make a kingdom impact that will touch and change the lives of many people. And God will faithfully guide us in these challenging times.



## THE NINEVEH NETWORK CONFERENCE

The 7th annual CCCC Church Multiplication gathering called **The Nineveh Network Conference** will be held in **Denver, CO October 6-8, 2021**. The event is designed to encourage and connect friends from across the Conference as we celebrate what God is doing through church planting.

You might say: “I’m not a church planter; this isn’t for me.” Not so! Our main speakers will explore the idea of community discernment and engagement. Pastors have learned how to interpret the text, but not always their town. How do we have eyes to see the needs around us and respond appropriately?

We’ve engaged a talented worship organization out of Denver to lead us in worship. We will also get out and choose from different excursions to enjoy time together and the best of beautiful Denver.

So, what’s stopping you? Register at: [theninevehnetwork.churchcenter.com/registrations](https://theninevehnetwork.churchcenter.com/registrations)

(P.S. There’s an early bird registration fee of only \$50.00)

## AROUND THE CONFERENCE

## CORNERSTONE CORPS UPDATE


**Orthodox  
Congregational Church  
of Lanesville**

With deep gratitude to God, the members of the Orthodox Congregational Church in Lanesville, Gloucester, MA, acknowledge and celebrate the generous gift provided by the CCCC Cornerstone Corps. This gift helps us fund a project to restore

the exterior of the historic church building. The restored building will offer the community a renewed, inviting, and welcoming appearance in keeping with the vibrant services, ministries, and community outreach that go on inside the building.

Following the construction of a new parish hall in 2011-2012, the church has been actively engaged in outreach, missions, and discipleship ministries both within the congregation and in the broader community. In recent years, the congregation has prioritized investing in ministries over ongoing maintenance and repairs of the church building. The time has come when the condition of the building needs to be addressed and requires a capital project to restore and repair the space where core ministries and worship take place.

The restoration project can now begin this Summer. The project includes replacement and repair of deteriorated siding, trim, and architectural detail, repainting the steeple, restoration of original front doors, window and shutter repairs. This will return the building's appearance to one that honors and glorifies God and opens the doors for many to hear and receive the Gospel.

Please join us in praying that OCCL will be a beacon in the surrounding community and beyond as a place to be welcomed, introduced or renewed in their relationships with God and our Lord Jesus and the gospel of grace.

## AROUND THE CONFERENCE


**REFLECTIONS FROM RECENT  
TRAVELS**

PHIL NOORDMANS, WEST REGIONAL PASTOR

Travel with me to CA Inland Empire and interact with OMF missionaries, Scot and Sheryl Myhr, who are impacting China for Christ without leaving America. Among other things they lead a ministry called "English Corner." Teaching English to Chinese scholars and students opens a door for evangelism.

Stephen and Karen Sloat live in Indio, one of the hottest spots in southern CA. Although COVID took its toll on their little church's attendance, their spirits remain strong. Their ministries reach beyond the walls of the church. Stephen serves as Chaplain for the Indio Police Department and Karen, an attorney, leads a group of 12 attorneys, paralegals and support staff who are committed to building an ethical practice in their area. The community is their mission field.

While visiting Scottsbluff, NE, I preached at Salem Congregational Church, a small, aging congregation meeting in a big, beautiful sanctuary. Pastor Dale (and Jan) Brown have served at Salem for 22 years. They love the congregation! Heart-felt worship is a vital part of every Lord's Day. Someday, perhaps soon, they will retire, and when they do, they dream of stepping away from a flock that is thriving in all ways.

The Elder John's exhortation to each of the seven churches in Asia Minor is as relevant in our day as it was in his day: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." Revelation 3:6, ESV. The Holy Spirit is still speaking to pastors, parishioners, and churches. When we listen and obey, God's work gets done in God's way and in God's time.



## AROUND THE WORLD

## OUT OF THE SHADOWS

MAX VAGUE, MICRONESIA MINISTRIES COMMITTEE CHAIR

Many ministries have encountered difficulties during this time of Covid restrictions. Yet we serve a God who is not intimidated by such challenges as He knew about them before the foundations of the world. Some ministries have slid into the shadows and need to find their way back into the light.



Over the years the Lord has been working in the shadows among Micronesians through the CCCC Micronesia Ministry Committee and Morning Star Institute by providing church leadership training classes to churches on the islands and increasingly in continental USA. About two years ago, a decision was made with our partner, Kohne Ramon in Pohnpei, that he would focus on teaching classes on the islands, and Morning Star personnel serving out of Carlsbad Community Church would focus on teaching churches in Hawaii and continental USA. In 2020, 13 weeks of classes were scheduled but only two transpired.

As things began opening up in 2021, new classes were scheduled with the first two being successfully conducted in Killeen, TX and Fort Oglethorpe, GA. At the beginning of those classes the CCCC was aware of about 12 communities of Micronesians living on the continent. By the time those two weeks ended, that number would increase to over 20 with most of them located in the Midwest. Several of these communities do not have a church but are desiring to form one. Most of the others have requested leadership training courses but there are not enough teachers to lead them. There is also an increased desire for coaching of church leaders between weeks of training and help with church development.

This has opened up opportunities for cross-cultural ministry in our own backyard for which there are too few laborers. If ever there was a time for the CCCC Micronesia Ministry to come out of the shadows and into the light it is now! Would you pray with us for more laborers among Micronesian communities in the USA? Would you prayerfully consider serving with us as we help Micronesians come out of the shadows and into the light of God's Son?

For more information contact me, Max Vague at 760-277-5289 or [mavague@cox.net](mailto:mavague@cox.net).



## ANNUAL GATHERING

## 2021 VIRTUAL ANNUAL GATHERING EVENTS SCHEDULE

Virtual events are planned in place of an “in-person” Annual Gathering for 2021. Watch for Information on registering and accessing these events coming soon. The ZOOM video conferencing platform will be used for these online sessions. This requires reliable high-speed internet and, if possible, a webcam. (Note: All times listed below are Eastern Daylight-Saving Time)

- CHURCH MULTIPLICATION ROUNDTABLE Wednesday, July 14 at 10:00 AM** – A broad presentation of the different aspects of our ministry of Church Multiplication. This will also include an introduction to the Nineveh Conference that is planned for October 2021.
- TURNING POINT INITIATIVE INTRODUCTION & UPDATE Wednesday, July 14 at 1:00 PM** – An overview of a process designed to assist churches that are unsure of their future beyond 10 years. This update will summarize options for churches and share a Turning Point story.
- REGIONAL PASTORS ROUNDTABLE Wednesday, July 14 at 7:00 PM** – An opportunity to hear from each of our Regional Pastors and ask questions about their unique ministry.
- CHURCH DEVELOPMENT INTENSIVE “Making Disciples: Key to Developing Your Church” – Thursday, July 15 at 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM** – A broad overview of our *LifeFlow* process which examines the critical topics of a church’s life cycle, the essentials of disciple making, helping church members disciple others. Preregistration is required, more information will be in the FORESEE UpDate and on the website.
- CHURCH DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP “Identity: Who Your Heavenly Father Says You Are” - Thursday July 15 at 7:00 PM** – Teaching that takes believers to the very root of their relationship with God, resting in their identity as a beloved, redeemed son or daughter of God in Jesus Christ.
- VIRTUAL BUSINESS MEETING – Saturday, July 17 at 2:00 PM** – This meeting will be followed by a time of worship and communion. CCCC members are asked to register for the meeting by sending an email to **2021businessmtg@cccusa.com after July 1**. Access information will be sent to everyone who registers.



A USPS mailing has been sent with preliminary reports for action at the business meeting. Additional committee and staff reports to view and/or download will be posted online.

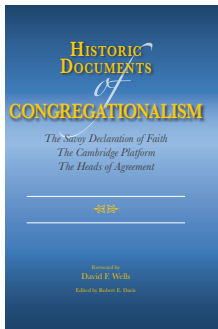
## CONFERENCE HISTORIAN



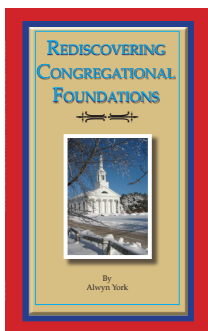
## CCCC THEOLOGICAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE FROM NEXT STEP RESOURCES

ALWYN YORK, CCCC HISTORIAN

Membership in the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference requires full agreement with the CCCC *Statement of Faith* and its *Statement of Polity* (church government). Both are simple and concise by design. They are meant to be expressions of basic principles. The Conference came into existence when basic beliefs of biblical Christianity and basic principles of Congregationalism were being abandoned by many Congregational churches. The *Statement of Faith* and *Statement of Polity* are meant to set forth the essential convictions that define Biblical Congregationalism. They do not aim to be a comprehensive presentation of biblical theology or church government. For those who would like further instruction in these subjects there are more in depth resources that are part of our Congregational heritage. The Conference has made them available to purchase through Next Step Resources ([www.nsresources.com](http://www.nsresources.com)). A listing and brief description follows.

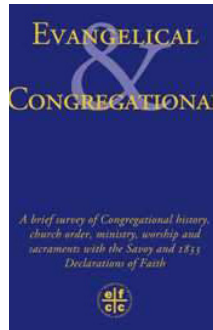


*Historical Documents of Congregationalism* puts together two of the most foundational documents of our tradition. The Savoy Declaration is a confession of faith published by the English Congregationalists in 1658. It is basically the Westminster Confession of Faith with some minor revisions which reflect a Congregational understanding. The Savoy Declaration gives a comprehensive and systematic presentation of biblical theology as developed during the English Reformation. The Cambridge Platform is the comprehensive manual of church polity published by the Congregational churches of New England in 1649. It represents a Congregationalism that is

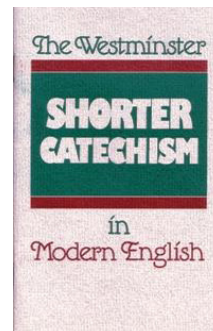


striving to be biblical at every point. *Historic Documents of Congregationalism* includes a preface to each document by Professor David Wells. Next Step Resources also offers *Rediscovering Congregational Foundations*,

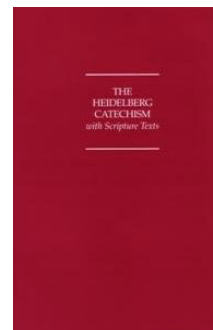
a booklet written by myself that introduces The Savoy Declaration and Cambridge Platform.



*Evangelical and Congregational: The Principles of the Congregational Independents* was published by Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches of Great Britain. It contains the Savoy Declaration as well as a description of the beliefs and practices of our Congregational brethren across the Atlantic.



Catechisms are a time honored way of instructing young people in the basic doctrines of Christianity. The CCCC page on the Next Step website offers two. The *Westminster Shorter Catechism in Modern English* makes a widely used teaching resource more accessible. The Shorter Catechism may be seen as largely a Presbyterian publication today, but it was also widely used by the Congregational churches of New England. Many generations of the youth of New England were raised upon what they called “the [Westminster] Assembly’s Catechism.” The archaic language of the original catechism makes it forbidding to many today, so this version was developed to



make it more user friendly. The *Heidelberg Catechism* is also available from Next Step. This catechism was used by many of the churches in the Evangelical and Reformed Church, a number of which have now come into the CCCC. This catechism is notable for its warm devotional tone.

There is a link to Next Step Resources ([nsresources.com](http://nsresources.com)) in the footer in the CCCC website. You can also find a link under the Resources tab on the home page. Click on the link for Next Step Resources and Land’s End Store. The page has a link to the CCCC page under “Denominational Resources.”

## CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

## PASTORAL CHANGES

Peterborough, NH	Monadnock Congregational Church* - Alan Giles
Navarre, OH	Stanwood Community Church Toby Oaks

## PASTORAL OPENINGS

Avon CT	Valley Community Baptist Church (Converge) (Executive Pastor)
Colchester, CT	Christian Life Chapel (ECFA) (Part-time)
Chelmsford, MA	Immanuel Church*
Middleborough, MA	Rock Village Church (ABC)
N. Chelmsford, MA	Congregational Church*
Sutton, MA	First Congregational Church (UCC)
Bremen, ME	Bremen Union Church (Independent)
Bloomington, MI	Bloomington Christian Church (Independent)
Cedarville, MI	First Union Church (Independent)
Honor, MI	Honor Congregational Church*
Lansing, MI	Olivet Baptist Church (ABC)
Nevada, MO	First Christian Church (Independent)
Beulah, ND	Beulah Congregational Church*
Taylor, ND	Taylor Ecumenical Parish (Independent)
Colebrook, NH	Monadnock Congregational Church (UCC)
Lake Grove, NY	New Village Church (Independent)
Lisle, NY	Center Lisle Congregational Church (UCC)
Richford, NY	Richford Congregational Church (Independent) (Part-time)
Soudertown, PA	Immanuel Leidy's Church (Independent)
Stowe, PA	St. Paul's Church*
West Pittston, PA	First Congregational Church (Independent part-time)
Parkston, SD	Parkston Congregational Church*
Jericho, VT	Jericho Congregational Church* (Pastor of Youth Ministry)

\* = Conference member | + = In Process

## THINGS TO NOTE

## REALM AND MISSIONINSITE

For the past ten years, the Home Office has used ACS Technologies for our member management and financial systems. "ACS" has become a by-word for the way that we keep information on our members and handle our income and expenses. Recently, ACS Technologies has developed Realm Office, a more robust tool to help organizations like ours stay connected to their members while providing additional resources that can meet the unique needs of our fellowship.

The Home Office staff is converting all of our membership information to Realm Office and they are now in the process of verifying data as they fully implement this system.

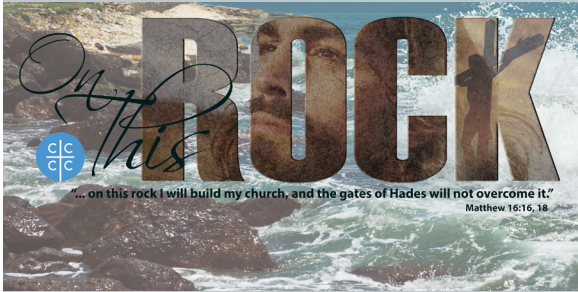


ACS Technologies trained our staff during this process to assist in the transition. In this implementation we have learned that Realm Office is a powerful tool that will offer some unique solutions for us in the future. We believe that this system will help us refine our communication processes as we work to stay in touch with our membership. Members will be able to access a Realm app that will keep them updated on news and activities. It will also provide a different option for online giving. We are exploring other benefits of this system including registration for events and the annual process of updating ministerial and church contact information.

An additional benefit of the Realm Office subscription is it is now bundled with MissionInsite. This program will allow us to provide up-to-date demographic reports to our member churches. It will also assist in our ministry priority work of Church Multiplication and Church Development. We are excited about what these systems will do for us as we share life and ministry together in the CCCC.



THINGS TO NOTE



SAVE THE DATES FOR AG 2022

The 2022 Annual Gathering is targeted to be held in Warwick/Providence, Rhode Island during the week of **JULY 18-22, 2022.**

Watch for more details as preparations begun in 2019 but postponed due to the pandemic will be finalized.

NAE PODCAST:

Generational Approaches for Gospel Understanding

James Choung Vice President of Strategy and Innovation at InterVarsity Christian Fellowship with Walter Kim President of National Association of Evangelicals | JUNE 15, 2021

Baby Boomers are more likely to be Christians than any other generation. Millennials are least likely of other generations to attend religious services. Does each generation necessitate a different approach when being presented with the good news? This is the question James Choung, vice president of strategy and innovation for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, has spent years researching and answering.

In the June 15th "Today's Conversation" podcast hosted by NAE President Walter Kim, James shares what each generation values, and discusses the central gospel question that must be answered for each generation. Go to: <https://www.nae.net/choungpodcast/> to listen o the conversation.



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