

THE

# FORESEE



BI-MONTHLY NEWS from the CCCC

CONSERVATIVE  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHRISTIAN  
CONFERENCE

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### CM COMMENTS



## TURNING POINT UPDATE



RON HAMILTON, CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER

We currently have Turning Point projects with seven churches in Colorado, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont. Other churches have contacted us to inquire about the Turning Point process. These projects provide a model for future Gospel ministry for churches that face an uncertain future.

In summary, we offer several options to churches that are struggling to survive.

- **Full church development training** – some churches need encouragement that things are not as bad as they appear. These churches have the critical mass and resources to enter into the *LifeFlow* process that provides training and coaching. We trust that through this process the effective ministry of the Gospel can be restored in the near future in these congregations.

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- **Directed development** – some churches are not ready to close but have experienced a long period of decline and discouragement. We conduct a healthy survey of the church, utilizing the Natural Church Development (NCD) process. With the assistance of a trained NCD coach, we help the church focus on one area of ministry that can spark new life and hope in the church.
- **Replant** – some churches are down to a handful of faithful people who have kept the church open. They know that the church cannot continue, and they vote to close the church and turn their building and financial assets over to a new group to replant the church. The CCCC selects the replant pastor and provides interim leadership until a new vital ministry takes root in the community.
- **Legacy** – some churches vote to close and invest their remaining resources in the Kingdom work of replanting new churches. We help prepare for a healthy closing where the church celebrates generations of Gospel ministry. In the past twenty years, the CCCC has reinvested over two million dollars provided by legacy gifts from congregations who have closed and directed their assets to the planting of new churches across our nation.

We understand how difficult it is for church leaders to face the reality that their current ministry is not sustainable. The Turning Point process is an invitation for a member congregation to enter a season of turn-around ministry. The CCCC believes that the local church belongs to Jesus Christ and is his instrument in this world to expand the Kingdom of God. The church is the bride of Christ and Jesus says that even the gates of hell will not be able to stand against it (Matthew 16:18). We want to see every CCCC congregation experience this kind of fruitful ministry.

The Turning Point framework exists within the fabric of relationships – specifically the relationship between the CCCC and the local church. We are tied to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, and we are his disciples. As we begin working together, we affirm that covenant relationship as we develop a process for future ministry.

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## A MESSAGE OF ENCOURAGEMENT



Conference Minister, Ron Hamilton concluded the 2021 CCCC Annual Business Meeting with a message of encouragement for pastors and church leaders in these challenging times. He answered the question, “What would you share to encourage pastors to keep going and not give up?” Framing his thoughts from 1 Corinthians 1:4-9 Ron’s message of God’s faithfulness and equipping gives us great hope.

If you were unable to attend the virtual Annual Gathering Sessions or participate in the Annual Business Meeting and hear the message afterwards, video recordings of these events are now posted online.

You can access them from the website at: [www.cccusa.com/ag](http://www.cccusa.com/ag)

## AROUND THE CONFERENCE

## CCCC CHAPLAINS CONDUCT THEIR FIRST EVER VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

MARC GAUTHIER, CCCC CHAPLAINS ENDORSER



CCCC member chaplains recently connected to receive training equipping them in their vocational calling as chaplains. Military, police, hospital, hospice chaplains and those training for chaplaincy spent time praying for one another.

After receiving greetings from Conference Minister Ron Hamilton and President Alvin Helms, attendees received instruction from Ken Sande, author of the book *The Peacemaker*. Ken presented on “Chaplains Training Their Organizations in Relational Wisdom.” Ken is the President of Relational Wisdom 360, a gospel centered model of emotional intelligence.

The second presenter was Michael Berry the General Counsel for First Liberty, a law firm that defends our religious rights. First Liberty is the premier firm defending the rights of service members. Michael presented the topic “Freedom of Religious Expression for Chaplains and People of Faith Within Military and Secular Institutions.” Michael is also a Staff Judge Advocate (Lawyer) in the Marine Corps Reserve.

Next, Chaplain (Brigadier General) Retired James Spivey presented a paper titled, “A Pastoral Perspective of the First Amendment.” Dr. Spivey is a former Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Reserve Affairs and former professor at Southwestern Baptist Seminary. He serves as the Deputy Director of the Marsh Center for Chaplain Studies at the B.H. Carroll Theological Institute.

Finally, Marc Gauthier, our CCCC Chaplaincy Endorser gave a presentation titled, “Off Road Disciplines: Devotional Rhythms and Practices.” The focus of this training was soul care for the caregivers, taking a look at the practices of sabbath and solitude as well as Lectio Divina [an ancient method of praying with Scripture, based on the belief that Christ is truly present in Scripture and that the reading of Scripture allows God to speak to us]. Marc also spoke about understanding the unique ways our temperament influences how we best connect with and receive God’s grace, love, and presence.

If you are interested in viewing the recording of the conference or desiring to review the products presented, contact Marc Gauthier at [marc.s.gauthier@gmail.com](mailto:marc.s.gauthier@gmail.com).

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## AROUND THE CONFERENCE

**MEET THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

At the 2021 Virtual Business Meeting in July, the following Board members were elected to the 2021-2024 class. We are blessed to have these skilled and dedicated members of the CCCC to serve in leadership. Please join us to pray for them as they bring leadership and guidance in these challenging times and seek the Lord in directing our Conference.



**MIKE HADDAD, Derby, VT** Mike is pastor of Derby Community Church in Derby, VT as well as the Area Pastor for VT. He and his wife, Norma are native New Englanders and share a strong passion to minister to God's people in the Northeast, especially in northern Vermont. Mike spent two years as a full-time pastor/student and graduated from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Spring of 2018.



**BOB TOLSON Ft. Morgan, CO** Bob serves as the pastor of Immanuel Evangelical Church in Fort Morgan, Colorado. He has been an ordained minister with the CCCC since 1995 and over the years has served as the Area Representative for the Rocky Mountain Region.



**JOE MARLIN Gloucester City, NJ** Joe serves as the founding pastor of Epiphany Church of Gloucester City. He has served on the mission field for five years with Africa Inland Mission providing theological education for rural pastors in Rwanda, and as an associate Pastor in a couple other churches in the Philadelphia area. Joe was elected to the Board in 2020 to fill a one-year unexpired term of Scott Nice, who was elected to be Vice-President.



**T.J. TURNER Woodbury, MN** TJ was elected to his second term on the Board where he is actively involved on several subcommittees. He is pastor of the Woodbury Community Church. TJ, his wife Kerstin, and their two children live in Woodbury where he is working to bring a renewed sense of mission to the church. He has an M.Div. from Reformed Theological Seminary in Charlotte, NC.

## CONFERENCE CARE



## BLESS YOUR PASTOR

PETER WOOD, DIRECTOR OF  
CONFERENCE CARE

"Nevertheless, the one who receives instruction in the word should share all good things with their instructor."

Galatians 6:6

The last year and a half has been stressful on every one, your pastor included. New ways of communicating, new technologies to be mastered, figuring out how to reach out to parishioners who are scared to let you in the door. I know it has taken its toll. That's why I am asking all CCCC churches to seriously consider what they are going to do when **Pastor Appreciation Sunday comes around on October 10, 2021.**

I know that for some churches this may be a new concept, but it is an idea that has been around formally for several decades and biblically, all the way back to the New Testament as we see in Galatians 6:6.

This year, through our association with the National Association of Evangelicals, we can offer to you the resources of the Bless Your Pastor campaign. It starts with a pamphlet called "50 Creative Ways to Bless Your Pastor" which contains many creative ideas of ways to help and encourage your pastor and his family that go beyond a monetary gift.

Also available from the NAE Bless Your Pastor initiative is a matching gift for first time participating churches who collect an offering of at least \$100. The pastors of these churches will receive a \$100 Amazon card from the NAE in addition to the offering from the local body. This is a great opportunity!

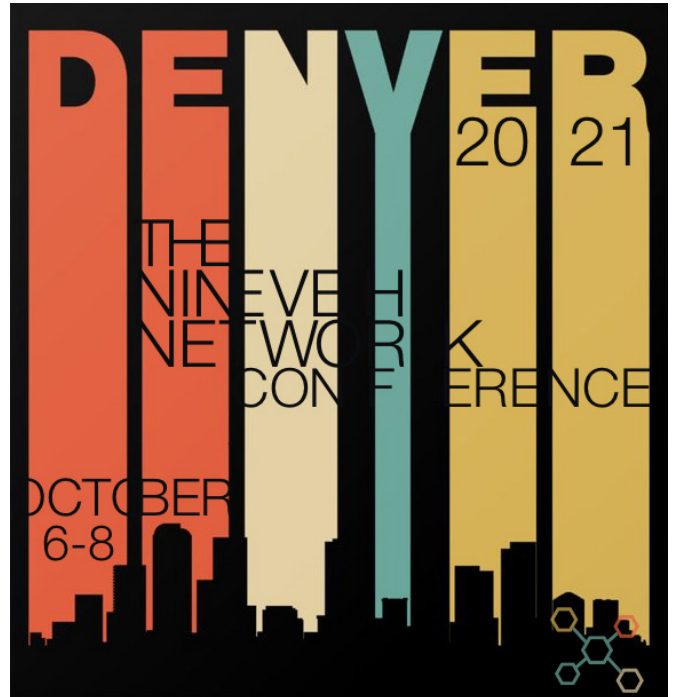
Please go to [www.blessyourpastor.org](http://www.blessyourpastor.org) to find out more and show your Pastor your love and appreciation this October.



## CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

## NINEVEH CONFERENCE COMING IN OCTOBER

If this last year has taught us anything, it's that personal interaction is vitally important. You can't replicate the power of presence. That is why we are inviting you to our 7th annual church multiplication gathering called **The Nineveh Network Conference in Denver, CO - October 6-8.**



The event is designed to encourage and connect friends from across the conference as we celebrate what God is doing through church planting.

It's not just for church planters! This is a chance for spiritual refreshment and connection with other co-laborers. 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.

We are monitoring the ongoing COVID situation and will make the necessary accommodations. However, we are trusting the Lord that by October we will be able to meet in person, because there's just something about getting away and being together...So, what's stopping you?

Register at: [conference.theninevehnetwork.org](http://conference.theninevehnetwork.org)

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

## AROUND THE WORLD

**THE WARM HEART OF AFRICA: Y-MALAWI UPDATE**

JEREMY SKAGGS, CCCC MISSIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR

God is on the move in Malawi! My wife, Amy and I, were privileged to spend 2 weeks in Malawi with Larry and Teressa Hall of Y-Malawi? at the end of May. We visited so many villages where we were greeted and accepted in the most lovely manner. There is a reason why Malawi is called the “warm heart of Africa.”

As things are beginning to open up, we want to “encourage and stimulate missionary interests in the local churches” by hosting our original Pastor’s Vision trip to Malawi (which was canceled due to the pandemic). Pastors, we want to encourage you, your

spouse and those you do ministry with, to join this 9 day mission trip to Malawi. The dates are **June 14-22, 2022**. Also note this trip is not a “come and build” mission trip. This is a “come and see what the Lord is doing.” We get to reap where we did not sow! You will come back encouraged, rested, and longing for more of God.

The Missions Committee of the CCCC exists to “encourage and stimulate missionary interests in the local churches” of the Conference. And like everyone else, we struggled to do this in the midst of the pandemic with mandates and shelter-at-home orders restricting our activities. However, the Missions Committee continues to offer a scholarship of up to \$1,500 to any eligible pastor traveling to an overseas ministry. This is offered in hopes that CCCC pastors will increase their vision for a mission-minded ministry and encourage their church in missional activities.

When you go— we sincerely hope you will consider participating in this wonderful opportunity— you will see first hand the movement of the Spirit of God in Malawi. As we went, we met with Muslims who came to faith in Christ at great personal cost to themselves. We saw Christians receiving Bibles for the first time and witnessed

their joy in receiving God’s Word. We heard testimonies of marriages restored and met couples who were saved through Bible studies. We visited whole villages that were saved! You will meet pastors who walk 13 miles round trip in order to bring the Word of God to starving souls. And by this time next year, there will be a church planted in an all Muslim community with the blessing of the local Imam.

For now take a step of faith and plan to go. In the intermediate time, visit the CCCC page <https://y-malawi.org/CCCC/> for an idea of what to expect, and we look forward to assisting you with \$1500 of the cost! You can contact me personally (218.343.9990 or [jeremyskaggs@fuller.edu](mailto:jeremyskaggs@fuller.edu)) and I would love to share with you my experience.

**Come to Malawi in 2022!**



**CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

**AROUND THE CONFERENCE**

**PASTORAL OPENINGS**

Avon CT	Valley Community Baptist Church (Converge) <i>(Executive Pastor)</i>
Colchester, CT	Christian Life Chapel (ECFA) (Part-time)
Peru, IL	First Congregational Church (Independent)
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)
Taylor, ND	Taylor Ecumenical Parish (Independent)
Colebrook, NH	Monadnock Congregational Church (UCC)
Concord, NH	Immanuel Community Church*
Lake Grove, NY	New Village Church (Independent)
Lisle, NY	Center Lisle Congregational Church (UCC)
Soudertown, PA	Immanuel Leidy's Church (Independent)
West Pittston, PA	First Congregational Church (Independent part-time)
Parkston, SD	Parkston Congregational Church*

**TURNING POINT REPLANT PROJECTS –**

Please contact Conference Minister, Ron Hamilton, for information about these projects.

Longmont, CO	Christ Congregational Church *
Mantorville, MN	First Congregational Church *
Franklin, CT	Franklin Congregational Church*

\* = Conference member  
+ = In Process

**MEET KIRSTEN TURNER**

Kerstin Turner was recently hired as the Office Administrator at the home office. She joins Carolyn Benson, Financial Assistant, and Shirley Hamilton, Conference Minister Administrative Assistant, in overseeing the administrative duties in the office. The 5-Year Planning Committee, appointed by the Board of Directors, recommended that the home office staff be restructured to serve the current needs of the Conference while preparing for our developing ministry. Our desire is to provide the best administrative support for the CCCC while keeping administrative costs at a reasonable level.

Kerstin brings 20 years of experience as an administrative and customer service professional. Her college education is in Speech Communication with an emphasis in Public Relations. She moved to Woodbury, Minnesota in 2020 when



her husband, T.J. was called to serve as the Senior Pastor of the Woodbury Community Church. She and T.J. have two children, Ellie and Sam. Kerstin stays busy shuttling her kids to the rink, the pool, the lake, the skatepark and everywhere in between. She is a Boston Bruins fan as well as a long-suffering Detroit Red Wings fan, but her favorite player of all time is only 9 years old and calls her, "Mom."

Join us in welcoming Kerstin to our office staff. She is excited to get started in this new position and is looking forward to supporting the ministry of the CCCC with her gifts. Please pray for her as she wraps up a busy summer and is getting her incoming 5th and 6th graders ready for the school year.

## NEWS FROM THE WORLD EVANGELICAL CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP (WECF)

The Bulletin of The World Evangelical Congregational Fellowship  
**Our Congregational WORLD**  
 July, 2021  
**COVID-19 CONTINUES**  
**CORONAVIRUS UPDATE** See Page 8

Member fellowships are invited to forward the names of members who have passed away due to the Pandemic – a list of their names will be published in the next issue so our WECF family can honour their memory and pray for their families.

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President Mike Plant shares the following story as he announces he is stepping down from his leadership role in the WECF:

“... one of my EFCC [Evangelical Fellowship of Congregational Churches] memories is of a minister who retired to a rural area near a church he had once served. The minister left and he accepted a call to a small church with the task, so he thought, of pastoring and burying the congregation. He thought it would probably close in the next few years, but was willing to serve while he could. God worked, the church grew and they have had two ministers since he left. If God’s hand is on you, the possibility of being greatly used in the period the world thinks of as ‘retirement’ is open to us.”

Read more about what God is doing in Congregational fellowships around the world by accessing the entire issue at:

[www.cccusa.com//FORESEE/2021/08/wecf](http://www.cccusa.com//FORESEE/2021/08/wecf)



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