

THE

FORESEE



BI-MONTHLY NEWS from the CCCC

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CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

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**CONNECTED IN
CHRIST CHANGING
COMMUNITIES**
*Finding mission in
our communities*



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CM COMMENTS



CONNECTED IN CHRIST, CHANGING COMMUNITIES



RON HAMILTON, CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER

I was privileged to attend the installation service for Rev. Mark Booker at the Park Street Church in Boston last month. It was a great service of celebration as the church anticipates a new generation of ministry under the leadership of their new pastor. I am encouraged that the church is prayerfully seeking new ways to engage in her community.

I was struck by the fact that this historic church is located across the street from the Boston Commons. This 50-acre park is a gathering place for people from the city and the greater Boston area. It is located on the historic Freedom Trail, [a unique collection of museums, churches, meeting houses, burying grounds, parks, a ship, and historic markers that tell the

CM COMMENTS cont. from pg 1



story of the American Revolution and beyond.] The church throughout its long history is representative of the greater community.

As a few years ago, we used the acronym “CCCC” to describe our mission. We said that the ministry of the CCCC can be described as

“Connected in Christ... Changing Communities.” Our fellowship is anchored in the conviction that Jesus Christ is the head of the church. We also understand that the ministry of the Conference is carried out by our pastors and churches in the communities in which they are located.

Church planters often begin their ministry by identifying the significant community gathering places and praying over them. I recall a humorous story where the police approached a car parked in a school parking lot one evening. The windows were steamed up and the officers pounded on the door, asking “What’s going on in there?” They were surprised to find four believers from a new church who were consumed in prayer for the school and their community.

Just as the Boston Commons reminds the Park Street Church of her mission to the community, there are people and places in each of our communities that remind us of our mission where God has planted us. It may be a school, a park, a city building or a shopping center. I encourage you to take time to pray about your Kingdom mission as you see these places.

CHURCH DEVELOPMENT



THE VALUE OF COACHING

JOHN KIMBALL, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Whether talking about Church planting, revitalization or simple improvements to everyday ministry, there is tremendous value for pastors to have a well-trained coach. In our Church Development process, we utilize both coaching and mentoring. While these have similarities, there are important differences. Whereas a mentor has more experience and likely resources that can be invested in a pastor for both personal and ministry improvement, a coach comes alongside the pastor and draws out answers and improvements from within.

The CCCC Church Development Team is again planning a specialized training this winter. We will offer our usual Natural Church Development Coach Training, giving participants the chance to become certified in the NCD process. But now we will follow that up with formal coach training providing tactics, tools and best practices for all kinds of coaching relationships. This is a great opportunity for retirees and others with several years of ministry experience to have a profound impact on our pastors and other leaders.

As the number of pastors and churches progressing through our Church Development process continues to increase, the need for well-trained coaches is growing. The upcoming training event will prepare member CCCC pastors and others to lead churches through NCD assessment and implementation, walk alongside churches in our wider Church Development Process, and offer personal coaching to other pastors who simply need the wisdom of a sounding board. Be watching the *FORESEE Update* for more information!



BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE



GREETINGS FROM THE MILE HIGH CITY

SCOTT NICE, CCCC VICE PRESIDENT

For the first time in 18 months the Board of Directors was able to gather together in person! We met in the “mile high” city Denver, Colorado to conduct the business of the Conference. Praise the Lord, Hallelujah! What a joy and blessing it was to be able to not just conduct the business of the Conference, but to share “life on life” with some of the best and brightest in our fellowship — catching up, carrying each other’s burdens, encouraging each other, and sharing a laugh or two along the way!

Monday night we spent time in “believing and intercessory praying,” lifting up prayers for each other, our families, churches, and all of you! Each morning we began by turning to the Word of God. President Alvin Helms and I shared concerning our second guiding value, “healthy pastors.” We were reminded of God’s glory and majesty, His sovereignty and providence, and that He is at work in us and through us, despite ourselves and the current challenges of ministry. What a joy to be a part of a Conference that holds high Holy Scripture!

We were encouraged to hear from our Ministry Staff: Ron Hamilton, John Kimball, Bryan Long, and Peter Wood. Additionally, each of our Regional Pastors, Tim Dubeau, Phil Noordmans, Terry Shanahan, and Ray DeLaurier, reported on “the work of the Lord” in their respective regions. Each and every one of our regions are beginning to experience the fruit that the folks in New England have experienced under the faithful leadership of Terry. To have leadership so obviously called and equipped by God to do the work of the Kingdom in their own particular areas of ministry is surely something worthy of praise to our God and King.

After the Board meetings concluded, a number of the Officers and Board members were able to plug into the Nineveh Project, the Church planters’ conference taking place just a few miles down the road. We were encouraged, once again, around the Word of God! Planters from around our Conference, as well as some pursuing opportunities with the CCCC, were spurred on by Bryan Long, Director of Church Multiplication, local musicians and speakers, and host pastor, Brandon Goad. We certainly were fed well spiritually, as well as physically. A free day was made available to set out on some local adventures, where some headed out to the Garden of the Gods & Manitou Springs, Red Rocks Amphitheater or St. Mary’s Glacier. Two of us opted to hit the links! Can you guess who?

We thank you, the member ministers and fellow co-laborers in Gospel ministry, for all of your encouragement, faithfulness, and support, as we love God, serve others, and make disciples around the globe!

**TO HAVE
LEADERSHIP
SO OBVIOUSLY
CALLED AND
EQUIPPED BY
GOD TO DO
THE WORK OF
THE KINGDOM
IN THEIR OWN
PARTICULAR
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CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

NINEVEH CONFERENCE UPDATE

BRYAN LONG, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH MULTIPLICATION

In February 2020, the Church Multiplication Committee was sitting around a table at Red Robins in Orlando, Florida dreaming about the next Nineveh Network Conference that fall. We made plans, set the date, and got excited.

And then COVID hit...

Yet, we were hopeful we could still pull it off. My famous last words were: "By October [2020] surely this whole COVID thing would be in the past!"

Well, you know the rest of the story. It's been 18 months. Honestly, it's been some of the hardest months in my ministry. I don't know about you, but in my congregation, there is a palpable, collective exhaustion. So, when we were finally able to gather for the Nineveh Network Conference a few weeks ago, the collateral damage on our pastoral leaders was evident.

We had people worried about losing their church...

We had people facing social inequality head on...

We had people overwhelmed and inadequate...

We had people anxious and lonely...

We had people burdened by all the conflict...

We had people burnt out...

Our goal over those three days was to create space for people to put aside the pontification and posturing to authentically connect, lament and encourage one another. We wanted our leaders to experience the power of the gospel for themselves, so that they might identify the needs in their community and bring a holistic gospel back. What we experienced in those three days was a holy moment – passionate worship, reconciliation, tears, conversations late into the night.

One of our church planters and CCCC board members, Joe Marlin, wrote about his experience in a recent blog post, saying: *"I came away more encouraged than ever, and wanted to write why I personally am thankful for the 4C's."* You can read the rest of his article by finding the link in this article at <https://www.cccusa.com/FORESEE2021/10/nineveh>.



Here's what others had to say:

"It was much more than a conference for church planters and those interested in church planting...It was about revival"

"I love this network and the people involved. We're small, but Jesus is at the heart of everything the CCCC does, and God has a great future for our family of churches."

"Last night I was blessed to share at The Nineveh Network Conference. God is doing incredible things through this faithful network to plant and replant churches all across the U.S."

"Great times with my CCCC's brothers and sisters. God is doing such great things through our little (and growing) network and I'm more hopeful about and excited for our future than ever!"

"Anointed worship, engaging speakers and a multitude of personal connections all have been used by God to fill my tank once again..."

It was a special and encouraging time for all who were there. Continue to pray for our church planters and all those in our conference who are actively involved in church multiplication and consider joining us next fall for the Nineveh Network Conference 2022!

If you're interested in hearing more, I'd love to start the conversation.

AROUND THE WORLD

WALK WITH A VILLAGE CHURCH IN MALAWI

JEREMY SKAGGS, CHAIR CCCC MISSIONS COMMITTEE;
LARRY HALL, Y-MALAWI PROJECT DIRECTOR

The CCCC is launching something new this month. Something that to our knowledge has never been done before. The idea is simple. It is based on the words of Paul in Romans 1:12. In this text Paul wrote that he longed to come together, because when we come together we make each other strong and encourage each other's faith.



God is doing incredible things in Malawi, Africa. He is changing lives, especially in Muslim villages. He is using village churches who are reaching out to their communities and showing them the love of Jesus. God is at work and changing lives in our churches too. What would happen if we could bring the two together?

That's the idea behind Walk with a Village Church in Malawi. This isn't just about carrying out the Great Commission, it's about awakening the church in America. It doesn't matter if your church is big or small. This awakening will happen in your congregation when you learn how God used your partnership with a village church in Malawi as a tool to reap the spiritual harvest. After all, if God is moving in Malawi, why not in your village?

Look for a mailing with more details that will be coming soon to your church.

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

LEADING YOUR CHURCH TO LOVING GOD, LOVING PEOPLE AND MAKING DISCIPLES

STEVEN BAKER, PASTOR OF CANDIA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, CANDIA NH

I feel confident in my ability to walk faithfully through the steps to examine, test, and confirm my faith and God's calling on my life. However, I admit sometimes feeling less confident expanding that process into the larger context of pastoring a church. I know what the Bible says to do, but what does it look like to lead a congregation through this process?

We all recognize the need for the church's light to grow. Maybe we even stepped out in faith. But too often we stop because we get lost or something more pressing comes along. Still, my desire remains the same to help others be the light of Christ through their own profound love for God, for people and for introducing others to this love.

That's why I'm so excited about our church's partnership with the CCCC Church Development Process. It isn't a book or prepackaged program, but a discipleship journey tailored to our specific context equipping me the pastor, our leaders and the congregation with the biblical and practical steps to become a church that is known for loving God, loving people and making disciples.

If you see the need for growth in your church, then I encourage you to participate in the next Church Development Intensive, Making Disciples: Key to Developing Your Church. You will find a team of godly individuals devoted to helping pastors and local congregations discover for themselves the church God has called them to be.

Contact the John Kimball, Director of Church Development (pjkimball@cccusa.com) or the Home Office for more information and to learn when the next intensive is scheduled.

CONFERENCE HISTORIAN

**BOOK REVIEW: STRANGERS AND PILGRIMS ON THE EARTH**

ALWYN YORK, CCCC HISTORIAN

Throughout 2020 I reviewed a number of books on the Mayflower Pilgrims in observance of the 400th anniversary of their arrival in America. I intended that this series would end as 2020 ended. I feel that I need to break that resolution. In June of this year I became aware of a book that I wish had been available as I began writing about the Pilgrims. However, it was only published last November. I believe that this book, entitled *Strangers and Pilgrims on the Earth: Remembering the Mayflower Pilgrims 1620-2020*, fills a crucial gap that I found in surveying books about the Pilgrims.

Unlike most contemporary writing about the Pilgrims, this book focuses on the spiritual significance of the Plymouth colonists and is unashamed to declare that the hand of God was behind their migration. The book's perspective is evident in the opening words of the Introduction. "The pages of this book describe one of the most important events in the history of the American church, and arguably of America itself: the story of how God chose and guided a handful of oppressed religious refugees from England to found one of the greatest nations on earth." There is a lot currently written about the Pilgrims, but most is about their role in the formation of American democracy, their relationship with their Native neighbors, their social arrangements, etc. Somehow their religion and the impact they had on the development of American Christianity are strangely neglected. I found it refreshing to encounter a book about the Pilgrims compiled by a Christian pastor and intended to be helpful to Christians.

The background to the publication of this book is interesting and unexpected. It was issued by H & E Publishing, a Canadian Evangelical publishing company. It came into being through the efforts of John Clements, an English pastor. He serves as pastor of the Old Meeting House Congregational Church in Colgate, Norwich, which he says is the oldest existing Congregational Chapel in the UK. He secured the help of Dr. Michael Haykin, Professor of Church History at the Southern Baptist

Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY, to edit the book and find contributors. Chapters of the book were written by British Congregationalists and Baptists from America and Canada. Somehow it took the combined efforts of British Congregationalists and American Baptists and a Canadian publishing house to produce a book of particular interest to American Congregationalists. Truly God moves in mysterious ways!

The book is a collection of essays. The first was an especially valuable discovery for me. It was written by Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, the well-known British pastor and theologian. I have read and appreciated many of his writings, but I did not know he had studied our American Pilgrims. It was a great encouragement to me to learn that he admired the Pilgrims and felt we had much to learn from them. I believe his essay alone would justify the purchase of the book. But his chapter is just the beginning of the spiritual riches to be gleaned.

The chapter titles alone suggest the helpful material to be found. Here are a few: "Stepping Stones on the Congregational Way," "Spiritual Lessons from the First Thanksgiving," "The Pilgrim Mothers," "The Pilgrims and Religious Liberty," and "The Spirituality of the Pilgrim Fathers." Some chapters are written in a scholarly way while others are at a more popular level. There is much to learn from them all. This book does not seem to have received much notice yet, but I hope it will have a wide readership. It is the most helpful book on the Pilgrims for biblical Congregationalists that I have found.

UPDATE OF CCCC HISTORY BOOK

2023 is the 75th Anniversary of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference. In observance of this anniversary a revised and updated version of *Modern Day Pilgrims*, the history of the CCCC published in 2000, is planned. A committee has begun working on it.

CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

PASTORAL CHANGES

N. Chelmsford, MA Congregational Church*
David Forsythe

PASTORAL OPENINGS

Whittier, CA Plymouth Church*
Avon CT Valley Community Baptist Church
(Converge) *(Executive Pastor)*
Colchester, CT Christian Life Chapel
(ECFA) *(Part-time)*
Peru, IL First Congregational Church
(Independent)
Carlisle, MA Carlisle Congregational Church*
Middleborough, MA Rock Village Church (ABC)
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*
Glen Ullin, ND Evangelical Congregational*
Kulm, ND First 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)
Soudertown, PA Immanuel Leidy's Church
(Independent)
West Pittston, PA First Congregational Church
(Independent part-time)
Parkston, SD Parkston Congregational Church*

* = Conference member | + = In Process

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

NEW FROM THE NORTH CENTRAL REGION



RAY DELAURIER,
CCCC NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL
PASTOR

Greetings from the North Central Region! The Lord is at work in many ways and in many churches, especially in churches desiring to increase the health of their congregation.

We rejoice that four churches in four different states participated in a training seminar on prayer. This is in step with our Guiding Value of Developing a Culture of Believing Prayer and Intercession. The Conference has church training on developing Intercessory Prayer, and I have developed a training for churches that no longer have gathered prayer. Additionally, I was blessed to share training on Developing a Culture of Peacemaking and Reconciliation with a church in Wisconsin. Churches that are conflicted or see a potential conflict on the horizon would benefit greatly from this resource that can be provided by your Regional Pastors.

Three churches in the [NC] Region have taken the step to complete the Natural Church Develop (NCD) survey. The NCD survey is a survey that helps churches understand areas where they can improve their health.

A church in Iowa received a “church board training seminar” developed mostly by Jeff Griffith, the Iowa Area Pastor. Material from the IPM Church Board Training Manual was used and the participants were very grateful and felt better equipped to lead the church.

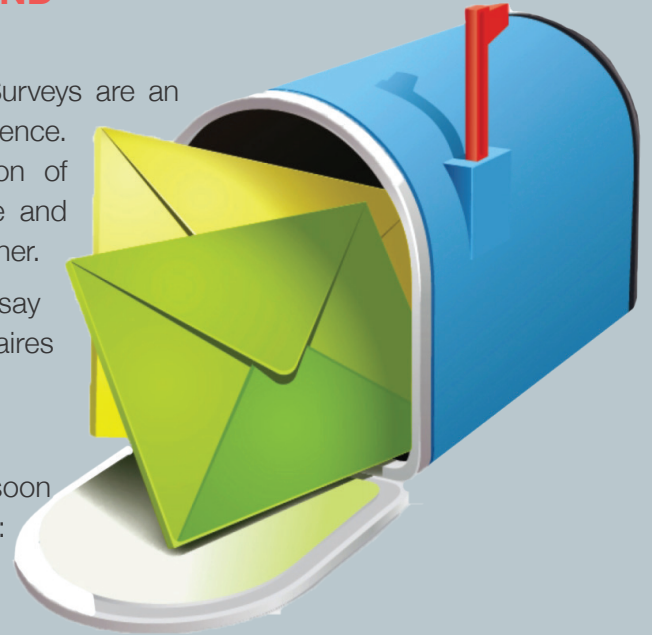
It was also a blessing to participate in the Installation service for Pastor Steve Vasarhelyi at the Beulah Congregational Church in ND. Two pastors in our region sought credentials with the Conference, while three others moved on to other settings and we are confident the Lord will fill these vacancies.

ANNUAL MINISTERIAL QUESTIONNAIRE AND CHURCH SURVEY MAILINGS ON THE WAY

The annual CCCC Ministerial Questionnaires and Church Surveys are an important part of your participation in the life of our Conference. Through the accurate reporting and the annual verification of your contact information we can stay in touch, sharing life and encouragement, news and important information with one another.

This year as we are implementing a new data system we say thanks in advance for your prompt return of the questionnaires and surveys. We appreciate your help!

Watch for the questionnaires and surveys coming soon to your USPS mailboxes or fill them out online at: www.cccusa.com/Resources/applications-forms-2/. Please respond by DECEMBER 15, 2021.



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