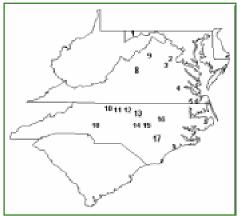
July/August 2007 Volume 39, No. 4

Around The Conference The Gospel, and Nothing But the Gospel

"All we want to do is what the Bible says." This small, rural church in western Virginia had a simple request: "Will you support us in holding to the tenets of Christianity?"

Such a question — but in light of their current experience it is an overwhelming concern. They waited anxiously for the answer from the CCCC Representative visiting them, and what joy it gives me to give hope to these oppressed churches.

It has been a wonderful experience serving as the Mid-Atlantic Area Representative this year. I was concerned about how my new duties as Area Representative and my responsibility for pastoring a small church in decline could benefit one another. What I've found is that serving as Area Representative and as pastor at the Rosemont Christian Church is another means of putting out the Gospel. The people of Rosemont are benefiting as they begin to see that our



Rev. Gerard Kilyk, Mid-Atlantic Area Representative local vision extends to a regional vision and beyond.

Recently, the pastor of a mainline denominational church whose elder board has studied the CCCC called me. He told me how their ecclesiastical hierarchy was threatening to close the church doors, and that they would take them to court concerning the ownership of the church property. This conservative, evangelical body of believers has a loyalty to Holy Scripture and the

autonomy of the local church that exceeds their allegiance to their liberal denomination. The CCCC offers them a safe home where they can be faithful to Christ and His calling. What a privilege to take the news!

My duties are no longer a concern. How could a pastor and his church not want to be on the cutting edge of spreading the Word of God to the four corners of the Mid-Atlantic Region for our stubbornly biblical fellowship? Please pray with us, as many churches engage in the fight to be free to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A New Format for Regional Gatherings

Pastor Richard Hamilton, Area Representative

In the Western New York and Pennsylvania Region we have tried a new format, which has brought new interest to our annual gatherings. The previous format was a Saturday spring rally. It was built around a general theme with various elective workshops, a break for lunch, a business meeting, and concluding with a general session with a keynote speaker. For many years the rallies enjoyed an attendance between 100 and 150, but in recent years interest declined and the attendance dropped to about 50.

It was suggested that we try a new format with an evening banquet in the fall. We tried it, and it has been working successfully for the past three years with an attendance of about 110 people.

The format includes a catered dinner buffet, a brief business meeting, a miniconcert using a local music group, and a concluding keynote speaker addressing a topic chosen as the theme for the banquet.

In 2004 we were privileged to have our Conference Minister, Dr. Stephen Gammon, as speaker for our first banquet; the theme was "Our Fellowship In Christ." Dr. Ronald Hamilton, chairman of the CCCC Church Growth Committee, was speaker for our 2005 banquet; the theme was "Healthy Churches Are Growing Churches." Rev. John Littler, senior pastor of Grace Parkridge Church in Buffalo, New York, was speaker for our

(continued on page 7)

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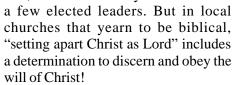
From the Conference Minister

Setting Apart Christ as Lord

1 Peter 3:15 says, "In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord." This is the theme of our Annual Meeting this year, as we consider what commitment to

Christ looks like. In this article I will share some thoughts on what that commitment looks like in biblical Congregational church government.

In my tenure as Conference Minister I've observed that confusion and ignorance on this subject are too prevalent. Decision making in local churches is often practiced as democratic majority rule, or even as rule by



The Cambridge Platform of 1649 is the definitive statement of church order and discipline produced Congregationalists of colonial New England, who were ardently determined to be faithful to Scripture. In the matter of who holds power in the church, the

Cambridge Platform stated, "The supreme [power] (by way of gift from the Father) is the Lord Jesus Christ" (Section 5.1). There are so many scriptures that remind us that Jesus holds all authority in the church (Matthew 28:18, Revelation 3:7, Isaiah 9:7, John 20:21, Ephesians 1:22-23, etc.).

Nowhere in God's Word do we read that the Lord has relinquished His ultimate authority to us! Neither are we ever invited to determine by majority vote which way the church should go. The Lord's church is not to be a democracy, but a theocracy, and the goal of every congregation and member is to discern and do the will of the Head, even Jesus Christ. That is to be our preeminent concern in the churches.

So what does biblical Congregational government look like under the Lordship of Jesus Christ? It looks like a membership of committed Christians who are determined to learn and apply God's Word. It looks like a fellowship of believers, each of whom has laid aside his or her own agenda to be part of the body of Jesus Christ. It looks like pastors and leaders who meet the criteria of Titus 1 and I Timothy 3, who are fervent in prayer, and who seek with all their hearts to discern and do the will of Christ. It looks like a body of



Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Gammon, CCCC Conference Minister

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people who bathe every decision in prayer and who, at times, step out of their own comfort zones in faithful obedience to Jesus Christ. May the Lord help us to learn and practice biblical Congregational government in our churches!

3,941

1,309

147,008

Treasurer's Tidbits from Tay

Rev. Tay Kersey, Treasurer of the CCCC

Some have asked why we don't publish periodically the Financial Statement for the CCCC. Because we saw a serious shortage in the income revenue in April, I thought it would be helpful to show where we stand year-todate. We are more than \$30,000 behind the budget. We lay it before you for serious prayer and consideration by your church.

As I have stated before, many of us honestly believe we are at the front of a new revolution in church redevelopment and church planting. God is doing great things. Please share with us in this.

CCCC Income and Expense Report for January-April 2007

_	• •	
	Income	
	Received	Budget
Churches	34,684	62,710
Ministers	12,081	16,832
Chaplaincy	225	500
Philipps Fund	23,333	23,332
Other	<u>3,507</u>	<u>5,826</u>
Total Income	73,830	109,200
	Expenses	
	Expended	Budget
Staff	70,720	73,767
Travel	7,853	8,350
Office	62.928	54.521

155,699

Committee

Publications

Contibutions

Leadership Summit Focuses on Church Planting

The Church Multiplication Committee hosted a Leadership Summit in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area on April 17-18. The purposes of the gathering were to encourage support for the church planting ministry of the Conference, and to provide training around the subject "Churches Planting Churches." The pastors attending the Summit were invited to represent

geographical balance in the CCCC, as well as a demonstrated potential to plant a daughter church from their congregations.

The opening session was a presentation to update the participants on progress of our efforts to start new churches across our nation. The remaining sessions were held at Wooddale Church in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Leith Anderson, pastor of

Wooddale Church, began by telling the "Wooddale Story." Wooddale Church made a commitment to be an "outreach church" in 1981. This led to relocation of the church facility to Eden Prairie in 1983. Concurrent with the building of a new worship center in 1990, the church made a commitment to church planting as a means of outreach and evangelism. Since that time Wooddale has started eight daughter churches

Dr. Ron Hamilton, CCCC Director of Church Multiplication

and has a vision to start one church per year for the next five years. We are working with Wooddale on one of those church plants. Wooddale Church is engaged in this church planting process as one of many ways to fulfill their purpose "to honor God by making more disciples for Jesus Christ."

John Sommerville, pastor of City Church in Minneapolis, led

the training sessions in "Churches Planting Churches." He taught sessions to help the participants learn a theological and pragmatic rationale for church planting. The sessions addressed the issues of barriers to church planting, critical factors to successful church planting, and common mistakes in church planting. The sessions ended with a question -and-answer time with Jerry Schommer, who was the



Attendees at the April Leadership Summit.

Dr. Hamilton is at left of center.

church planting pastor of Wooddale's daughter church in Eagan, Minnesota.

The Spirit of God continues to build a vision in the Conference for outreach and evangelism through church planting. This Leadership Summit was another step in our efforts to build a support network for a kingdom-building ministry in the CCCC.

Carlton's Comments

Rev. Carlton Walker, Northeast Regional Minister

Farewell Reflections

Solomon, the wise king of Israel, wrote a short but profound biblical essay on the nature of time. In the third chapter of



Ecclesiastes, the Teacher writes in the first stanza, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven."

Seven years ago this month the Conference installed me as the first Regional Minister at the Family Conference meeting in Green Lake, Wisconsin. Now the Lord has indicated that the Regional Minister "season" for me has come to an end. It is with mixed feelings that I step down. I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting all of you in the

Northeast and I thank the Lord for the opportunity to help and to encourage each of our churches toward the goal of serving Christ to the fullest in its community. When I began there were only sufficient funds to continue the position for four months. For a few minutes we forgot God's promise to "meet all our needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Philippians. 4:19). Showing that He keeps His promises, God has supplied what was necessary when it was needed, and has done so for seven years. Praise Him and thank you!

Shortly after you read this column the new Regional Minister will have been installed and a new "season" will have begun. Pray for him as you have prayed for me. Continue financially supporting the Regional Minister position as you have in the past. Together let us look for what God is going to do in the future in strengthening His church and in using us to impact our villages, towns and cities for Jesus Christ!

Meanwhile, I am awaiting with anticipation the new avenues of ministry that the Lord has for me in His glorious service, whatever they may be.

Rev. Carlton Walker Phone: 518-346-3538

E-mail: ckwalker@ccccusa.com

Is Your Church Protected?

Dr. John Kimball, Director of Conference Care and Church Redevelopment

My space here is short, so let me be candid. Chances are your church and her leadership are vulnerable. Lawsuits and other legal action against churches, pastors and church leaders are on the rise — and most churches do not even realize how unprotected they are. But it doesn't have to be that way. There are clear, preventive steps that you can take to

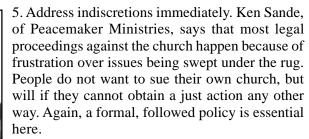
reduce your risk by nearly 90% across America. Have I got your attention? Good! Here's the short list:

- 1. Have an attorney in your State (or Commonwealth) review your constitution and by-laws to make sure they contain all the necessary components for a tax-exempt ministry or church for that state. If not, you can lose your exemption!.
- 2. Have an explicit, biblical disciplinary process spelled out in your constitution so that, if it is needed, you have a legal basis to walk someone through restoration. If the congregation duly

accepts it as a constitutional amendment, then you eliminate most opportunities for a lawsuit — assuming the church follows the process it has established.

- 3. Institute an annual membership covenant that spells out what is expected of the members. This would include a reference to the discipline process, which then provides an "informed consent" clause signed by each member that will rarely be challenged in court.
- 4. Establish criteria for leadership and ministry workers, especially when it comes to youth and children's ministry, and utilize professional background checks for such workers.

If there is an indiscretion and it is proven in court that the church took every possible step, including background checks, to protect its constituents, courts tend to side with the church based on their "good faith attempt." But churches that do not take these preemptive steps lose such cases nearly 100% of the time.



The Ministry of Conference Care will begin developing a Constitution and By-Laws template for our churches later this summer. Should you choose to use this document, it will help you to cover the basics when revising your Constitution.

However, an attorney licensed to practice in your state must still review your document, and the template must be "tweaked" for the specific structure of your church. Make sure you send any revised versions of your constitution to the CCCC office; we'll keep it on file for your church. In addition, we will soon be providing more information on the other items listed above.

It makes no sense to leave this issue unaddressed. Can your church afford a lawsuit? For more information, please contact my office (651-739-1474) or email me at

pjkimball@ccccusa.com.

2007 Youth Work Team to Aid Victims of Hurricane Katrina

Rev. John Eklund, First Congregational Church, Pomfret Center, Connecticut

This is a special appeal to all pastors and youth pastors!

There is still time to offer your youth a once-in-a-lifetime experience. I will be leading the summer teen missions trip on August 4-11 to Bay St. Louis, Mississippi — one of the communities hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina. We will meet at the New Orleans airport on August 4 and travel east to the work site.

To anticipate some questions you might have:

- 1. No, the work there is not done.
- 2. Yes, although the Gulf Coast of the U.S. has been out of the news for most of 2006 and all of 2007, the number of homes still unoccupied and in major disrepair is staggering.
- 3. Yes, there is still room on the team for *your* youth group!

We also need chaperones, so plan on one leader for every five to seven youth.

- 4. No, there is no limit to the number of team members. We will have access to several places to house the team, so we are intentionally not restricting the group size.
- 5. Finally, yes, we do have more information available! Just call me at 860-617-3923, email me at johneklund@juno.com, or write me at 59 Bradley Road, Pomfret Center, CT 06259.

Please consider this opportunity to serve others in Jesus' name, because they are, in fact, our neighbors! *Please apply by the time of the CCCC Annual Family Conference*, July 16-19. If special circumstances require, application can be made for a short time thereafter.

Anne Bradstreet, America's First Poet

The first poet from America to be published was a Puritan woman from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Anne Bradstreet came to America at the beginning of the Puritan migration in 1630 along with her husband Simon and her parents. Her father, Thomas Dudley, had served as steward to the Earl's of Lincoln in England. Growing up on the earl's estate, she had access to a wide range of literature in the Earl's vast library. Her own poetic works reveal her extensive knowledge of the ancient classics and the literature of her day.

Though Anne's family had connections to the nobility, their Puritan convictions made life in England increasingly uncertain. As King Charles I increased pressure on those who would not conform to the Church of England, the Dudleys and Bradstreets made the decision to transplant themselves to the New World.

Despite the initial hardships of living in a new colony in the wilderness, Anne and her family eventually prospered in America. Her husband Simon had sizable land holdings, and was a leader in the colony. Though she suffered from a period of childlessness early in her marriage, she eventually became the mother of eight children. Her poetry was originally written just for her own enjoyment, but her brother-in-law brought a manuscript of her poems



to London without her knowledge. This led to their publication in 1650 under the title *The Tenth Muse Lately Spring Up in America*.

Anne's poetry reflects both the interest in the Greek and Roman classical heritage common among literary people of her day and her Puritan outlook on the world. She wrote long epic poems in the grand style favored at that time, and these probably were the basis for her contemporary reputation. But her more personal poems are the ones most appreciated today. She wrote love poetry to her husband,

Rev. Alwyn L. York, Conference Historian especially expressing her anxiety as he traveled on diplomatic missions for the colony and her joy at his return. She also wrote tributes and words of instruction to her children, and touching memorials to a daughter-in-law and several grandchildren who died young.

As a sample of her poetry, here is an extract from a poem she wrote after her home in Andover burned in 1666. She mourns what she has lost: "Here stood that Trunk, and there that chest;/ There lay that store I counted best:/ My pleasant things in ashes lye,/And them behold no more shall I./ Under thy roof no guest shall sitt,/ Nor at thy Table eat a bitt." But, as a woman of faith, she puts these losses in perspective:

Then straight I [be]gin my heart to chide, And did thy wealth on earth abide? Didst fix thy hope on mouldring dust, The arm of flesh didst make thy trust? Raise up thy thoughts above the skye That dunghill mists away may flie.

Thou hast an house on high erect Fram'd by that mighty Architect, With glory richly furnished, Stand permanent tho' this bee fled. It's purchased, and paid for too By him who hath enough to doe.

A Prise so vast as is unknown, Yet, by his Gift, is made thine own. There's wealth enough, I need no more; Farewell my Pelf [possessions], farewell my Store. The world no longer let me Love, My home and Treasure lyes Above.

Correction: Chris Sherwood of Park Street Church in Boston gave me the happy news that the Indian tribe to which John Eliot ministered is not extinct, as I wrote in my last article. They even have an Internet presence! You can get more information at http://natickprayingindians.org and http://www.millermicro.com/natprayind.html.

Additional Speaker for Annual Family Conference



Dr. Gregory Waybright

Dr. Gregory Waybright, President of Trinity International University in Deerfield, Illinois, has accepted the invitation of Dr. Stephen A. Gammon, CCCC Conference Minister, to attend the Annual Family Conference in Anaheim, California on July 16-19. Dr. Waybright has been called as Pastor of Lake Avenue Church, Pasadena, California, and will begin his duties on September 12.

Dr. Charles Youngkin of Carlsbad, California, originally scheduled to speak on two evenings of the Conference, has graciously offered to yield part of his time to Dr. Waybright, who will be the speaker on Wednesday, July 18.

Other Conference presenters remain as previously announced. If you still need registration materials, please contact the Conference office or register online at <u>cccusa.com</u>.

Medical Camps Reach Communities in India

Gary Yurich, Emmanuel Bethel Church, Royal Oak, Michigan

In January, 2007 a CCCC medical mission team witnessed at first hand how God is at work in India. The team spent two weeks working with Friends of Hope, which sponsors a children's home in Tamil Nadu state. The base of operation was Hope Home, but local pastors organized medical camps at four nearby churches and a school. The team ministered to the physical and spiritual needs of 1,680 people. This was one of the most profoundly God-honoring ministries I have ever witnessed.

Each church that hosted a medical camp provided 8 to 10 people as helpers, and Dr. Deva and Dr. Samuel, Indian Christians, came each day. Team member Barb Larsen, a nurse, took the blood pressure of most visitors. Those over 50 were tested for diabetes, with Dr. Samuel's wife Reba. also a nurse, helping with the sugar tests; around 20% of those tested had high sugar. The physicians then examined each person and prescribed medication as needed, which was dispensed by a pharmacist.

Team members took turns in laying on of hands and praying for those who came to the camps. Before prayer, our interpreter told us whether the person was a church member or a "community" member (i.e., Hindu or unchurched), and what was ailing them. We prayed for the effective working of their medication and that they would know their healing came from our God. With "community" members, we prayed

that they would come to know Jesus as their Savior.

The Holy Spirit touched people in profound ways. One Hindu woman, who came while I was on the prayer team with Lyn Gettinger, told our interpreter she could not cope with life because of constant fear. When Lyn prayed for her the Holy Spirit immediately removed her fear, replacing her oppressed expression with wide-open eyes and a smile. We knew what God had just done in this woman.

and thanked Him for giving us a glimpse of His transforming power through prayer.

I met a man at Pastor Sutheban's church who, several years ago, had burnt the church to the ground. Shortly thereafter he needed surgery to remove a diseased lung but no one in the community would help him. Pastor Sutheban asked his congregation for \$5,000.00 so this man could have the

"He recovered quickly and came to the church to accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior"

operation, reminding them of what Jesus had done in forgiving their sins. Though initially reluctant to help the man who had harmed them, the people repented of their lack of forgiveness and gave their money to meet his need. When Pastor Sutheban was helping the man into the car to take him to the hospital he was coughing up a lot of blood; the Hindu people cried out that if he died his blood would be on the pastor's hands. The pastor stayed with him in prayer through the operation; he recovered quickly and came to the church to accept Jesus as his Lord and Savior.

The team also spent four days at Hope Children's Home working with Pastor Johnson. After a church service we handed out candy and small gifts (including flashlights donated by a Jewish businessman in Indiana) to the 118 children. It has been a blessing to see Hope Home grow over the past seven years (see www.friendsofhopehome.org). I praise God for using us to proclaim His truth and to show His love in this

> wonderful ministry. And I praise Him for showing us what it is like to depend completely on Him

> The medical camps continue to have their effect months later. I have learned that families are still coming to Christ and requesting baptism because of them. God is awakening people in India though this ministry. If you want to see God at work, pray to be led by the Holy Spirit, as we did. Perhaps He will lead you to participate in medical camps or a similar mission.

> The five members of our medical mission team were Lyn and Steve Gettinger (Whetstone Christian

Church, Anderson, Indiana), Barb Larsen (First Congregational Church, Cresco, Iowa), Keith Ritchel (Union Congregational Church, North Aurora, Illinois) and Gary Yurich (Emmanuel Bethel Church, Royal Oak, Michigan).



Taking Blood Pressure of Visitors to Medical Camp in India

Teacher in China Appeals for Literature

Ron Gillis, CCCC member, is teaching English as a second language in two colleges in far northwestern China. As part of his instruction plan, he needs to augment the English library at both schools. His students have a special need for good young adult literature, such as C. S. Lewis' *Narnia* books or Newbury Award titles. Detective fiction of the Agatha Christie variety, or any modern Western fiction without a lot of erotic passages, would also be helpful. For another responsibility, Mr. Gillis might even find a use for theological texts or church history material.

Quoting one of his professors at Ashland Seminary some years ago, Mr. Gillis says, "If you walk with the Lord you may find yourself in some strange neighborhoods." Please consider helping him in this effort. His address is below. For more information, you could email him at rongillis@email.com.

Ron Gillis
The ICED

Tianshui Normal University Quinzhou District, Tianshui City Gansu Province, China 74001

Changes and Opportunities

Pastoral Changes:

Boxford MA
Speculator NY
Spring Valley WI
Spring Valley Congregational Church* called Jeff Holton*

Pastoral Openings:

Santa Barbara CA Bethany Congregational Church* Christ Congregational Church* Longmont CO Chaplin Congregational Church* Chaplin CT Middletown IN Sulphur Springs Christian Church (UCC) Winchester Congregational Christian Church Winchester IN Emporia KS First Congregational Church* (associate) Carthage ME Carthage Union Church* (part time) Ellsworth ME First Congregational Church Atlanta MI Big Rock Congregational Church* Honor MI Honor Congregational Church* First Congregational Church* New Haven MI

Brownton MN
Eden Prairie MN
Brownton Congregational Church* (part time)
Wooddale Church (church planter)

Laurel MT First Congregational Church*
Denton NC Pleasant Union Community Church*
Hazen ND New Bethel Congregational Church*

Taylor ND Taylor Parish

Scottsbluff NE
Greenville NH
Lake View NY
Greenville OH
Vermilion OH

Emmanuel Congregational Church*
Greenville Community Christian Church
Lake View Congregational Church*
First Congregational Christian Church*
Vermilion Evangelical and Reformed Church*

Bernville PA St. Thomas UCC

Duncansville PA St. Clairsville Joint Charge

Suffolk VA Cypress Chapel Christian Church*
Beloit WI Shopiere Congregational Church

* = Conference member

+ = In process

(continued from page 1)

2006 banquet on the theme "Unity in the Body of Christ." We are pleased with the success of this new format and are planning for our 2007 fall banquet.

We in the Western New York and Pennsylvania Region are looking forward to hosting the 2008 CCCC Annual Family Conference to be held in Buffalo, New York at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Rev. John Littler has been appointed local arrangements chairman, and the groundwork has already begun with formation of the various committees needed. Please be praying for our region as we plan for the 2008 Conference.

Promotions to Glory

Elmer C. Armstrong

Rev. Elmer C. Armstong died May 5, 2007 in Spokane, Washington. Born in 1920, he was initially in law enforcement beginning with M.P. service in Puerto Rico during World War II. He retired from the Washington State Patrol in 1980 after 29 years, and was elected a Commissioner of Pend Oreille County. Elmer graduated from Maple Valley College and earned the M.A. degree from Pacific Lutheran College. He taught school in Metaline Falls and Ione, Washington, for nine years. He joined the CCCC in 1986. As Pastor of First Congregational Church of Ione he revived a failing church but eventually succumbed to Parkinson's disease. His wife of 65 years, Sue, their two children and their families survive.

Health Tips

Sleep

Sleep studies indicate the quality of your sleep is as important as the quantity of sleep to help you function the next day and maintain good health. Adequate sleep helps us to think clearly, react quickly (respond to driving situations) and create memories.

Lack of sleep may cause you to make poor decisions and take more risks. Regularly missing needed sleep increases your risk for high blood pressure, heart disease, diabetes, obesity, depression and other medical conditions since necessary hormones are produced during sleep.

If you can not get enough sleep at night, try taking a 30-60 minute nap during the day.

Source: www.nhlbi.nih.gov/sleep Betty Mitchell, RN, Parish Nurse Emmanuel Bethel Church

Royal Oak, M



THE FORESEE

July/August 2007 Volume 39, No. 4

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59th Annual Meeting

Conservative Congregational Christian Conference July 16-19, 2007

Crowne Plaza Anaheim Resort Garden Grove, California (1 mile from Disneyland)

> Evening Speakers Monday

Dr. Stephen A. Gammon CCCC Conference Minister

Tuesday

Rev. Charles J. Youngkin Senior Pastor, Carlsbad Community Church

Wednesday

Dr. Gregory WaybrightPastor Designate, Lake Avenue
Congregational Church

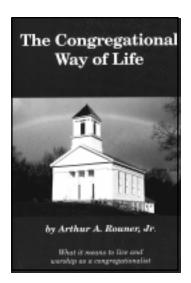
Morning Bible Teacher

David Bryant

President of Proclaim HOPE!

What does it mean to live and worship as a Congregationalist today?

"Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." Acts 6:3-5a



The Congregational Way of Life

What it means to live and worship as a congregationalist. by Dr. Arthur A. Rouner Jr. \$5.00

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