

CM Comments

Personal Change

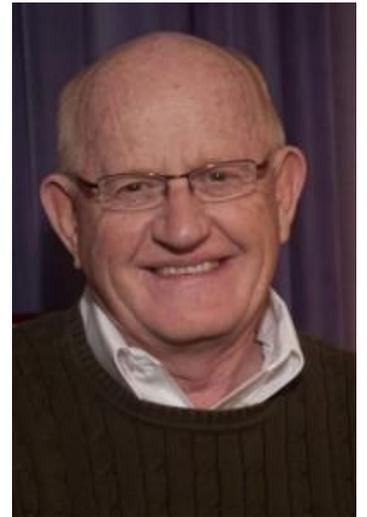
by Ron Hamilton, Conference Minister

There's a joke that has been circulated around our fellowship in recent years.

Q: How many Congregationalists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Change?????

The winds of change are blowing on the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference as the Holy Spirit is leading us to focus our vision and values to reach this generation. While we stand firmly on the historic values of Biblical Congregationalism, the Lord is calling us to take a fresh look at our priorities, our structure, and our life together. I confess that these changes have challenged me to the very core of my being and my faith is stretched as never before.



Personal change is often difficult. However, I believe that change is rooted in the nature of our relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Romans 12:1–2 makes this clear.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God — this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is — his good, pleasing and perfect will.

While we are called to resist change that conforms to the standards of this world, we are encouraged to welcome the transformational change that comes when we open our lives to the will of God. This change comes as the Holy Spirit renews our minds and hearts to seek the Lord and live in His will.

There have been many periods in my life when I have been stuck. My closest relationships lacked warmth and sincerity. My outlook on the world was glum. My self-image was weak and I found it difficult to move forward. In every circumstance, I found that prayer was the key to getting out of this rut as I invited God to change my attitude, my outlook and my entire life. As I sought the Lord in this way, I was awed by the freshness of his work and the renewed energy that He brought to my life.

So...

Q: How many Congregationalists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Change?????

I am one Congregationalist that welcomes God's new and fresh work in my life, in my family, in my church, and in my Conference.

Church Development and Conference Care

The Realities of Dirt

by John Kimball, CCCC Director of Conference Care & Church Development



If there is one thing that I learned from being a pastor in a farming community, it is an appreciation for dirt. This city-boy learned to love the rich, chocolate-brown color of healthy earth. He came to recognize the beauty of a field freshly disked. And, oddly enough, he even grew to love the rich, dewy smell of wet loam after a new planting had been completed. Even though I'm now living back in the city, my home is only one mile from the rolling fields of Cottage Grove and Afton, Minnesota where I can still enjoy the earth and the harvest.

Just about once a week, I receive a call or an email from a pastor who is discouraged because someone who showed promise for learning or even for leadership has left their church. I know that pain — and have experienced that discouragement more times than I can count. Sometimes a pastor will feel a bond with someone and will take them under their wing, authentically investing a lot of time and energy into them to grow them to Christian maturity only to then find that they were not as connected or as committed as hoped. One pastor lamented, “what am I doing wrong?” I know this pastor and his ministry well. “Not a thing,” I replied. I then often remind them of Jesus’ story about dirt.

In Matthew 13:1–23, Jesus teaches with a parable about a sower. For many of us, it’s a very familiar story. A farmer went out and sowed his seed. Seed fell on soil in four different conditions: a hard pathway, a rocky place, a weedy area, and then into good soil. He used this familiar imagery to help his hearers better understand something critical — the condition of the human heart and its capacity to receive the Word. Still, his disciples didn’t fully understand the teaching and so Jesus gave them a deeper explanation:

- The Path represents those who cannot readily accept the Word of God because they lack understanding. They never really connect.
- The Rocky soil represents those who happily receive the Word of God, but do not have any depth where it can grow. They spring up quickly and then fade.
- The Weedy (or thorny) soil represents those who allow the worries of this world and the deceitfulness of wealth to choke out the fruit of the Word in their lives.
- The Good soil represents those who receive the Word, strive to understand it and then flourish with kingdom fruit.

As pastors, we so often forget that our own toil follows a similar storyline. Our ministry investment is “sown” over hearts in many different conditions. And this brings us to a challenging pastoral reality: we painstakingly pour ourselves into people in our respective communities and churches, all the while knowing full well that some will never really connect, others will show great promise at first and then fade, and still others will take root and then will get distracted by the worries of this world. Only a few will flourish and grow.

Perhaps here is a good place for a truth and a caution. The truth is that the sower in Jesus' story sowed his seed everywhere. We may be tempted to only sow ourselves into those we deem as "good soil" — but this would be disobedient because only God can truly discern the condition of the heart. No, we (like the sower) must pour out our ministry investment into the whole congregation. That said, it is indeed important then to recognize the fruitfulness of apparent "good soil" folks and give them the needed attention.

The caution is to avoid giving up on those who appear to be hard, rocky or weedy soil. I remember one farmer in my former church who was given a field to farm at a reduced rent (or it may even have been free for a time) if he would prepare the soil to be farmed. He came into a meeting one evening at the church and announced that he had broken several discs on stones and was beginning to wonder if that field was worth it. It was hard-packed soil (unfarmed for decades) that was full of rocks and every kind of weed. It would have been easier for him to reject the offer. But he didn't. He worked hard, invested the time, energy (and money) needed. He used herbicide to eradicate the weeds. He and his family removed the larger stones that made farming impossible, erecting quite a rockpile in one corner of the property. He planted beans there that would return nitrogen to the soil. In short, he restored that field to fruitfulness. Pastor, the same will be true for some in your ministry. The work on their hearts will be excruciating and there will be times when you wonder if it's worth it. But it is. And the resulting fruit will be unbelievable. Yes, we must minister to all of the soils and leave the results up to the Holy Spirit.

It's easy to become discouraged. But let's face it: Jesus never once said the ministry would be easy. Next time you expel a breath in exasperation in your ministry, just think of some dirt and smile. Some in your church will be the equivalent of that beautiful, chocolate-brown, rich-smelling loam I learned to love. And those hearts will bear abundant fruit for Christ's kingdom!

2012-13 Annual Ministerial Questionnaire

Submitting your annual Ministerial Questionnaire online is fast and easy. Just fill in the appropriate fields below (required fields have an "*" *) and then click on SUBMIT at the bottom. Your information will be sent to our offices and you will then be taken to our Donations page where you can make the accompanying contribution using your VISA, MasterCard or Discover. We have partnered with EFT Corporation, allowing us to provide you with the most secure online donation service possible. Your transaction here is actually safer than sending a check through the mail. Thank you so much for your updated information and your financial support!

2012-2013 Ministerial Questionnaire

RETURN OF THIS QUESTIONNAIRE IS REQUIRED FOR RENEWAL OF MINISTERIAL LICENSE AND CONFERENCE CARE MEMBERSHIP AND ALSO AFFECTS THE CONTINUED GOOD STANDING OF ALL MINISTERIAL MEMBERS PLEASE RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 15, 2012.

CCCC Peacemaker Certification Training

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God.”

The CCCC Ministry of Conference Care, in partnership with Peacemaker Ministries, is pleased to announce three two-day training events especially for CCCC members to provide specialized training in Christian Conciliation (peacemaking). This training will teach you about your own conflict style, will provide specialized training in biblical reconciliation of conflict, and will offer the basics of mediating conflict resolution between others. Please join us for one of these regional events:

- High Plains Region – September 28-29, 2012 at Salem Congregational Church of Scottsbluff, Nebraska
- Great Lakes Region – October 26-27, 2012 at First Congregational Church of Lodi, Ohio
- Upper Midwest Region – November 9-10, 2012 at Woodbury Community Church of Woodbury, Minnesota

While this training will be invaluable to everyone within the CCCC Family (and all are welcome to participate), the pathway for CCCC Peacemaker Certification will only be offered to credentialed members of the Conference who satisfactorily complete the certification process. CCCC Area Representatives may attend these training events free of charge. *Please note that this is a CCCC Certification and not the full certification provided through Peacemaker Ministries.*

Taught by Dr. John Kimball, CCCC Director of Conference Care & Church Development, you will learn practical steps to foster a “culture of peace” within your own life and ministry. Dr. Kimball has completed Peacemaker Ministries’ Advanced Church Conflict module and has been helping local churches with the peacemaking process since 2006.

For more information or to register, please visit the appropriate link below:

[High Plains Region \(Scottsbluff, Nebraska\)](#)

[Great Lakes Region \(Lodi, Ohio\)](#)

[Upper Midwest Region \(Woodbury, Minnesota\)](#)

We look forward to seeing you!

The Crossing – An Introductory Seminar on Church Development

Interested in finding out more about *LifeFlow* or participating in one of the upcoming hubs? Why not join us for The Crossing? Launching in three different locations around the country, *The Crossing* is the best way to learn about *LifeFlow* so that your church can make an informed decision about entering into the process. We’d love to see you at one of these venues — just click on the one nearest you to register or for more information:

- [Eastern – October 5, 2012 at Free Christian Church in Andover, MA \(Boston Area\)](#)
- [Central – November 2, 2012 at Union Congregational Church in North Aurora, IL \(Chicago Area\)](#)
- [Western – November 30, 2012 at Plymouth Congregational Church in Spokane, WA](#)

Hope you can join us!

Around the Conference

Congregationalism in “Bloody Kansas”

By Larry E. Towne, Central Midwest Area Representative

If you were able to stand among the trees and view the stately steeple on the brick building of First Congregational Church in the quiet college town of Emporia, Kansas, you might find it difficult to identify with the passionate and turbulent times in which the church was founded — a time known as “Bloody Kansas.”



I recently had a long conversation with Andrew McHenry, the current pastor of First Congregational Church, about the history of his church and the difficulties and joys of pastoring a church that is dually aligned. Andrew has just completed four years leading the church. He also recently completed the process and was accepted into full standing in the CCCC — something he felt necessary; if his church was dually aligned, he should be also.

Some 51 Congregational ministers came to the Kansas territory between 1854 and 1861 to establish churches here to help fill the new Kansas territory with free-state people and keep the evil of slavery from spreading.

A group of four young men at Andover Seminary were destined to become the most influential and instrumental of the early Kansas ministers. These four students were so passionate that they agreed among themselves that they would go to the new territory to help make certain that freedom prevailed there. In seminary these four — Richard Cordley, Roswell Parker, Sylvester Storrs, and Grosvenor Morse — were dubbed “the Kansas Band”; once they reached Kansas they became known as “the Andover Band.”

They quickly founded churches in Lawrence and Manhattan. However, Grosvenor Morse decided to push west from the border towns in 1857 and establish himself in Emporia. At the time there were only two or three Congregationalists, but he worked to found a church in what he was convinced would soon become an active center for westward expansion. Despite a lack of initial interest, by the time of his death in 1871, he had cultivated a church with more than 50 members and had laid the foundations of what would become one of the stronger Congregational churches in Kansas.

In 1878, Richard Cordley, also one of the Andover band, came from Lawrence to be pastor of the church. Often 250 people crowded into the small church to hear his brief, inspiring sermons. He became known as the “Nugget” Preacher, because his sermons were short and full of meaning.



Pastor Andrew McHenry

Richard Cordley was one of 25 eminent Congregational Christian leaders appointed by the National Council of Congregational Churches of the U.S. in 1880 to draft what became known as the Congregational “Commission” Creed of 1883.

The churches founded by the “Andover Band,” and the other pioneer churches all survive today. Many other Congregational churches were established during territorial days; probably the most notable of them was the Beecher Bible and Rifle Church, which is an intriguing story in itself.

Although there was strong fellowship and cooperation with other Congregationalists in Kansas from its inception, the Emporia church did not affiliate with a denomination until 1982 when it joined the NACCC.

Their acquaintance with the CCCC began in 1987 with the coming of Ralph Jackman as pastor. Worship attendance was at a low point when he arrived, but his leadership “energized the congregation and a period of growth came.” The church gained a more Bible-based emphasis under Ralph’s leadership and in 1998 voted to add affiliation with the CCCC, partly to honor his ministry, but also because they were supportive of his mission work in the Micronesian Islands of the west Pacific.

In the same spirit and passion of the “Andover bunch,” coming to the rugged frontier in the turbulent period before the Civil War to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all people, the believers of First Congregational Church are actively involved in their community and their world. From a local rescue mission in Emporia to a children’s home in Nairobi, Kenya, they strive to make Christ known by Christian social service ministry to meet the spiritual, moral, and physical needs of men, women, and children.

News from the Northeast Region

Hey Friend, Can You Spare a Buck or Two?

by Terry Shanahan, Northeast Regional Minister

You do not have because you do not ask God. James 4:2



Today I am writing to the folks in the pew in our 300-plus churches. There are about 40,000 of us who are members of CCCC churches across the country. As I have mentioned before, in my travels for the Conference, I get to meet many of you in person. I have the opportunity to join you in worship, to see how your churches are seeking to serve God. I see firsthand all the diversity in our Conference, in size, in style and in resources. But I also see that regardless of all that, we are a people who share the desire to advance God's Kingdom.

In the past few years the CCCC has been given a vision from God, and the Conference has worked diligently to seek His desire for us in fulfilling that vision. This has been confirmed in so many ways. We are planting churches, developing our existing churches, providing resources to all of our pastors, and offering Conference care. The fruit from this is obvious. And even in these hard times our giving has increased overall. All of our funding comes from voluntary giving. Our pastors give, our churches give, but the vision we have is a big one, and we are struggling to meet our financial goals.

God has a plan for His bride, the Church. Our resources are fewer than our vision requires. What might be the solution? You might be the solution! Can you spare a dollar or two a month, every month? Can every one of you in the pew commit to give two dollars a month to the work of the Lord through the CCCC? At our Annual Family Conference in Colorado Springs, Diane Johnson, our Office Administrator, proposed this concept at one of our business meetings as a solution to the shortfall. If everyone in the pews gave just two dollars a month, our budget would be met.

I think God desires us all to share in the vision. And Scripture states that we do not have because we do not ask. So I am asking. Can you? Will you? I am asking you to do it today. And I am asking in part because we need the funding. But even more I am asking because I am excited to see what will happen when we all join together in this vision. I can only imagine.

Please pray about your response to this request. If you feel God is leading you to share in the vision in this way — a dollar or two a month will make the difference — then you can do this in several ways. You can set up an automatic bill pay from your checking account. Or you can go to the CCCC website online giving and set up an automatic payment there. Or you could send a check every month. However you do it, please consider doing it — and do it today.

Church Multiplication

Meet Bryan and Molly Long

by Ron Hamilton, Conference Minister

Bryan Long and his wife Molly have been living on the North Shore of Boston for five years. Now they begin a season of big transition. Bryan graduated from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in May, and two weeks later their first child, Mia, was born. At the end of the summer they move back to his hometown of Rochester, New York to begin church planting with the Conference.

Church planting was not the original plan, but it started with some growing thoughts. Bryan was working as a youth pastor at a CCCC church in Boston, and there witnessed the power and draw of the expressions of that particular local church. But as he continued working with students and young adults, he began asking new questions. Are there people for whom these forms aren't the way in but are actually obstacles and barriers? What if we could create new environments that were more untreated and organic to reach those who aren't being reached? Over time these questions became a calling, and this calling became a vision of a new church.



They desire to create a space for religiously unaffiliated people in their communities to explore Christ. Many are very suspicious of established churches and tend to be drawn more to smaller and intimate groups. They are asking how we can incorporate the strengths of both alternative faith-based communities and the existing church. They're envisioning a network of missional communities that meet regularly, but also join with the rest of the network in regular times of worship. They're calling it The Agora Community. Agora is the Greek word for marketplace, the public center of first-century cities. The church seeks to enter agora spaces in our world to bring God's Kingdom.

They start this new venture in September with a mixture of excitement, fear, thrill, terror and everything in between. Their prayer is that they can sense what that Spirit is doing in Rochester and give up their lives to join in.

We encourage you to join the leaders of the CCCC church multiplication movement in praying for the Longs. Any support for Brian and Molly Long can be directed through the CCCC office.

World Outreach

Word from The Church in India

Sometimes when pastors travel to other countries to visit our people there, the blessings return manifold. Not only do we encourage workers in the field, but we are also encouraged and challenged by the faithfulness of God's people in the midst of difficulty.

Following is Dan Peterson's letter to the Missions Committee, upon return from his trip to India.

I personally would like to thank the Missions Committee for their prayers and financial support of my recent trip to India. I was given the privilege to see firsthand some of the church planting efforts taking place among the unreached villages of India. The vision of one organization is in the process of mobilizing 20,000 independent pastors to reach 100,000 villages by 2020. They are already working with over 1000 pastors and 2000 more are soon to be in partnership with them.

During my first week in India, I had the privilege to facilitate some pastor gatherings and lead them through the BILD booklet titled, *Handling God's Word with Confidence*. The 40 pastors present responded very well to the teaching and were encouraged to apply the truths taught in their own settings. I also spent an entire day with another gathering of 20 pastors three hours away. I won't be able to explain adequately enough in this letter what my senses experienced, but suffice to say, it was profound. I heard several stories from these pastors of their daily challenges in bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to families and communities where the good news had never been shared before. Most of these pastors were converted directly out of Hinduism. They are first generation Christians. Most are living by meager resources. Yet they have an unquenchable spirit of Christ-like love for the people they are trying to reach, even in the midst of trials. Picture if you will a pastor, his wife and 24-year-old daughter, all beaten for simply loving the people and proclaiming the gospel of Christ. Consider the pastor who was dragged from his home, threatened to be burned if he doesn't stop preaching Christ. And then envision this pastor's wife in the mix of it all, holding their two-year-old son and being told to tell her husband to stop preaching. Her reply: "This is what my husband does. He cannot stop preaching Christ. If you want to burn him because he is preaching the gospel of Christ, go ahead and burn him!"



My second week in India was spent with other pastor groups of 20. I heard many similar stories as the week before. Yet these men were not deterred nor discouraged to do what they have been called to do. Each pastor is committed to Christ and to bringing the gospel to their people in neighboring villages. Not distracted by television and multiple diversions, the pastors I met were fighting the good fight. What an honor to come and "wash their feet" for such a brief time. These pastors are the real "hero's" of the faith.

I have returned home with a renewed sense of helping mobilize the American Church to join in partnership with church planters like the ones I met in India. For me personally I can do no less. I visited the pastors and saw what it costs them to bring Christ to Indian villages; I am deeply humbled by their witness and efforts. I am gripped by God's Spirit that we can and must do more to help them accomplish the Great Commission in the field in which they have been placed.

Thank you again for the blessing you have given me to be renewed in my own commitment to Christ and the Great Commission, here and in India.

Respectfully yours in Christ
Dan Peterson

Congregational History Comes to Light

(Not many movies are of special interest to Congregationalists, but when a well known actor like Kirk Cameron makes a documentary that is largely a history lesson about the Pilgrims, I felt it was worth bringing it to the attention of our Conference. Monumental is by no means a perfect movie, and some of the associates of Kirk Cameron have political baggage that I'm not completely comfortable with, but I felt the sections of the film dealing with the Pilgrims were well done.)

Movie Review: Monumental

by Alwyn York, Conference Historian

When a widely distributed documentary declares that the cure for the sickness in the soul of America can be found in Plymouth, Massachusetts, it is bound to be of interest to Congregationalists. Kirk Cameron is best known for his years as a teen heartthrob on the TV series "Growing Pains" in the 1980s. He has since emerged as one of the most outspoken Christians in Hollywood. His film *Monumental* portrays his personal quest to discover how the United States became the freest, most prosperous country in the world. About half of this film is essentially a history lesson about the Plymouth Pilgrims.

The film begins by lamenting the current economic, moral and spiritual condition of our country, and the way that no one seems to have a solution for our problems. Cameron says, "If we could go back to talk to the men and women who built this country, maybe they would tell us what we're doing wrong and how to fix it." He travels to England to retrace the footsteps of the Pilgrims and discover why they did what they did.



The Mayflower II

In England we see All Saints' Church in Babworth where the group that would become the Pilgrim congregation was first organized and Scrooby Manor where they met in secret. Cameron's guide in England is Sue Allen, an English author who has recently published *Mayflower Maid*, a historical novel about the Pilgrims. She explains what Puritans and Separatists were, and relates the persecution they suffered under Elizabeth I and King James. She takes us to the muddy shores where they attempted to board a ship to escape to Holland, and into the prison cells where the men were imprisoned after being betrayed by the ship's captain. She movingly relates how the men were forced to leave the women and children behind on their second attempt, and how their ship was caught up in a terrible storm which destroyed many vessels, but theirs survived through the providence of God. She notes their great persistence and refusal to be discouraged, which was founded upon their faith in God.

Cameron then travels to Holland, where he is accompanied by Dr. Marshall Foster of the World History Institute. We see scenes in Leiden, where the Pilgrims remained for twelve years. Foster tells of the hardships they faced in the Netherlands and the considerations which led them to decide to relocate to the New World.

In the New World



National Monument to the Forefathers

The scene then shifts to Plymouth, Massachusetts, where we see the Mayflower II, the modern reproduction of the ship that carried the Pilgrims across the Atlantic. Dr. Foster vividly describes conditions on the Mayflower. Foster goes on to relate the hardships faced by the Pilgrims during their first winter. He notes how none of them chose to return to England when the captain of the Mayflower gave them the opportunity to do so, even though nearly half of their group had died. Cameron's next interview is with Dr. Paul Jehle of the Plymouth Rock Foundation, who tells about the writing and significance of the Mayflower Compact. As more of the story of the Pilgrims is told we also see the Pilgrim Hall museum, scenes from the recreated Pilgrim village at Plimouth Plantation and the grave marker for Governor William Bradford. The film also gives an extended analysis of the symbolism of the National Monument to the Forefathers in Plymouth, which was dedicated in 1889.

The later parts of the film shift the focus from the Pilgrims to the faith of the writers of the Declaration of Independence and U. S. Constitution and the founders of Harvard. The expert Cameron consults to give information about the faith of the Founding Fathers is David Barton. (The reliability of Barton's scholarship has recently been questioned by other Christian historians, so his statements are not necessarily the final word on the subject.) In the last section of the film, various leaders in Washington give their views on how the spiritual legacy of the Pilgrims and the Founding Fathers might be recovered.

I believe that this film is a valuable resource, especially the sections on the Pilgrims, although I wouldn't necessarily endorse all the views of those interviewed or those listed as providing organizational support for the film. It is very effective in reminding us of how precious religious liberty was to our Pilgrim forefathers and the price they were willing to pay to secure it. It was inspiring to be reminded of the faith which sustained them as they sailed to a new continent and began a new colony. I appreciated the reminder of how their faith was the foundation for the personal character which is essential for a democratic society to function properly. Watching *Monumental* reminds us that the Plymouth Pilgrims remain inspirational figures for Americans in general and not just Congregationalists. I would certainly agree with Kirk Cameron that they have valuable lessons to teach us all.

Something to Think About

Editor's Note:

One of the great, effective Congregational missionaries of the 20th century is better known to the world as an Olympic athlete. Eric Liddell won the gold medal in the 400 meter race at the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris. He might have simply been one on the list of thousands of Olympic medalists but for the 1981 Oscar-winning movie, "Chariots of Fire." Still, though his faith and faithfulness are well chronicled in that film, it is "the rest of the story" that gains our attention in this issue.

David A. Williams wrote an article published before this year's Olympics that I would like to reprint here. It was published in the June issue of Our Congregational World, the Bulletin of the World Evangelical Congregational Fellowship, of which the CCCC is an active member.



Read the full article here: <http://www.wecf-cong.org/articles/ericliddell.pdf>

Announcements

Coffee Donation

Every gift counts. Have you ever thought of giving up one cup of coffee shop coffee or a fast food drink a month and contributing the amount to the ministry of the CCCC office? At approximately \$2.00 a month, times 12 months, times the total membership reported on church survey forms the amount would be \$707,088.00 a year. Think of the impact that this would make in the Kingdom of God!

Letters to the Editor and Readers' Contributions

We welcome your contributions to our publication. If you have comments on what you read here, please e-mail them to kenandjoy@bellsouth.net. If you have other comments or articles you wish to contribute, including Something to Think About, please send them to the same e-mail address.

New to the CCCC?

Brush up on our Congregational history as masterfully retold by Rev. Nick Granitsas, seasoned instructor of our CCCC Polity Course. Learn about our distinctive Congregational polity and our Codes of Ethics for Ministers and Congregations. Now available on DVD with a Notebook that includes many extras!

Order online through NextStep Resources: <http://www.nsresources.com/browse.cfm/4,5914.html> or directly through Gordon-Conwell's Semlink site: http://store.gordonconwell.edu/product_p/ncs-mc601hi.htm

Scholarships Available

Students under Conference Care are eligible for scholarships from the CCCC. This is one very practical way we can come alongside and support those preparing for ministry in the CCCC. Full and part-time students can apply by using the form available online at http://www.cccusa.com/ministries/conference_care/student-care/. Complete guidelines are also included. If you still have questions, please contact the Conference office.

Changes and Opportunities

Pastoral Changes

Greeley, CO	St. Paul's Church *	Geoff Stevens
Blandford, MA	First Congregational Church *	Rick Roach
Plymouth, PA	Pilgrim Congregational Church *	Angel Perez Santiago

Pastoral Opportunities

Rockland, ID	Rockland Congregational Church (Part-time) *
Highland, IL	First Congregational Church *
LaMoille, IL	First Congregational Church *
Peru, IL	First Congregational Church (Independent)
West Newbury, MA	West Newbury Congregational Church * (Asst. Pastor – Youth and Families)
Pownal, ME	First Parish Congregational Church (Independent)
Cook, MN	Ashawa Chapel * (Part-time)
Inwood, NY	Community Bible Church * (Part-time)
Sardis, OH	St. Paul's Church * (Part-time)
Vermillion, OH	Vermillion Evangelical and Reformed Church * (Part-time Youth Minister)
Ford City, PA	First Church of Ford City * (Part-time)
Reynoldsville, PA	Paradise Community Church (UCC)
Woxall, PA	Old Goshenhoppen Reformed Church (Independent)
Orwell, VT	First Congregational Church (Independent) (Part-time)

* = Conference member

+ = In process

Health Tips

Something to Consider

**by Betty Mitchell RN BSN
Parish Nurse, Emmanuel Bethel Church, Royal Oak Michigan**

As we look around our congregation either as a pastor or congregant, we know people who are hurting in some way. Church is the place people come to find comfort and support. If someone has a physical, spiritual or emotional issue it may be difficult for them to “hear” the good news of the gospel.

Not all problems can be resolved within the church. However, the church can provide answers to medical questions, direct people to the proper medical care or otherwise assist them which will allow them the opportunity to be healthy in other aspects of their lives to hear the gospel.

Having a Faith Community Nursing (formerly Parish Nursing) program in your congregation may be an answer to helping members of the congregation deal with their problems.

Faith Community Nursing generally consists of a team of medical people in the church, led by a qualified registered nurse with a baccalaureate degree who understands the importance of health in all aspects of one’s life — physical, spiritual and mental. Each church can decide how they would like their program to look to meet their needs. It is not a hands-on program of giving injections or changing dressings, nor does it diagnose problems.

By utilizing members of your congregation who have a medical background, the members will know who they can turn to for answers. Not only will answers be given, but by holding someone’s hand and saying a prayer, God’s love will be demonstrated.

God provides who he wants to be working in your church in a health ministry to bring glory to Him. Be alert to who is already in your midst and take ownership of His grace in providing you with the necessary tools.

The first deacons of the early church were to serve others so the teachers could devote themselves to teaching. A health ministry team will be able to assist the pastor in being able to accomplish all of his tasks.

Christ healed people of their physical needs before healing them of their sins. Not only is He the Great Physician but also the Physician of Souls. He looked at the whole person, knowing body, mind and spirit need to be in right relationship for health. You can have healing without the cure of a disease. We are told to live out our faith wherever we are to bring glory to God. It is easy to use excuses for not doing something we feel God is calling us to do; but what joy we can have if we listen to his urging and trust Him.

Consider a health ministry in your church, no matter the number of attendees or the number of health ministry team members you might have. God will do the rest.

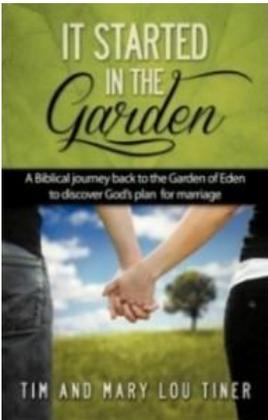


**FORESEE Publications
CCCC Authors**

Does God really have a plan for marriage?

It Started In The Garden is a great resource for pre-marriage counseling, marriage seminars, marriage enrichment, small groups, and for marriages in crisis. Individuals, couples, pastors, lay leaders, and counselors will benefit from the wealth of teaching in this book.

Can a book written thousands of years ago still be relevant for marriages today?



It Started In The Garden invites you to take a Biblical journey back to the Garden of Eden to discover God's amazing design for marriage. This book will help you:

- Discover God's basic rules for marriage.
- Understand communication fundamentals
- Recognize and defeat five of the major enemies attacking marriage.
- Identify differences between men and women, and their roles in marriage.

- Are you a newly engaged couple, looking to lay a good foundation?
- Have you been married for many years and just need a refresher?
- Is your marriage in trouble?
- Are you ready to give up?

If you want your marriage to work – the way God designed it – then start following His plan.

For the past 20 years, Tim and Mary Lou Tiner have worked and traveled around Europe and the Middle East leading marriage seminars and doing marriage counseling. The Tiners are passionate about bringing God's truth, hope and restoration to marriages today. Most importantly, the Tiners speak from personal experience: God's plan works!



**Please contact Gayle at the CCCC office for your copy of
*It Started In The Garden.***

This book takes a fresh and bold look at what the Bible says about marriage. I recommend this book for your reading in this generation where there is much confusion about the importance of marriage between a man and a woman. You will be encouraged to build a marriage that will honor God and help you find satisfaction in your relationship. — Dr. Ron Hamilton



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