



## CM Comments

### Reflections on the Annual Meeting

We read these encouraging words in Psalm 34:8–9.

*Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.  
Fear the Lord, you his holy people,  
for those who fear him lack nothing.*



**by Ron Hamilton, Conference Minister**

I believe that our Conference experienced the goodness of God in many ways at our 64th Annual Meeting held last month in Colorado Springs. As I reflect on our gathering, I witnessed God's goodness in these ways...

- The spirit of our worship was wonderful. I will always remember people breaking out in song as Dr. Greg Waybright shared his message about discipleship and worship. The presence of the Spirit of God was very evident.
- The theme of our meeting, *Making Disciples*, was developed very well in our Annual Meeting. Dr. Waybright set the tone with his fine messages on this subject. I was very encouraged by the messages from Rev. Todd Venman and Rev. Ajay Thomas as they applied the theme to the ministries of church development and church planting.
- The business meetings went very well as we handled both the routine and the challenging issues of our Conference life. Our President, Rev. Paul McPheeters, was especially encouraged by the fact that prayer was such an active part of our meetings. This is evidence that we are growing in our commitment to our #1 value, "A Culture of Believing Prayer and Intercession."
- Our workshops were well attended. Many people shared how they received practical and helpful information in the seminars that they attended. I was especially encouraged to learn of the large attendance at the seminar on our Seven Guiding Values. Our membership is very interested in learning more about how the Lord is leading and guiding our fellowship.
- Our leadership community is developing and strengthening. The meetings of the Board of Directors were much more than business meetings. Our officers and Board members demonstrated a desire to share the life of Christ together. A foundation was laid for these people to be a guiding coalition for our Conference, seeking God's will and leading our fellowship in the way of our Lord Jesus.

These are wonderful days in the life of the CCCC as we experience the goodness of God. These things help us be confident of the Lord's work in our fellowship in the days to come.

## Church Multiplication

### Church Multiplication Is Who We Are

by Ron Hamilton, Conference Minister



There is a growing interest in church planting in the CCCC. We are thrilled by the development of our regional church multiplication centers. It's exciting to identify over twenty churches that have been started in the 21st Century. Our church planting ministry is being led by a new generation of pastors who are bringing new life and vision to our Conference. *Healthy Church Multiplication* has been identified as one of our Guiding Values. A percentage of every dollar given to the CCCC is set aside for our Life Changing Churches Fund which helps in the starting of new churches.

But it's important for us to understand that church multiplication is not something that we do. Rather, it is who we are. We have come to understand that church planting is one of the most effective means of making disciples in our generation. While we work to develop our existing churches and welcome new churches to our membership, we plant new churches in obedience to the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ. We believe that the natural fruit of a healthy, growing church is a new church.

Every member pastor and member church of the CCCC can be involved in our ministry of church multiplication. Pastors of existing churches are making a significant contribution to the leadership of our church multiplication centers. Churches are exploring ways that they can plant a daughter church or join with other member churches in planting a church. Every person can pray for our ministry of church multiplication.

Rev. Dr. Leith Anderson made this statement to a recent gathering of CCCC members at the meeting of the Upper Midwest Congregational Fellowship.

*"The future of the evangelical church belongs to those who plant the most churches, not those who grow the largest churches."*

It's encouraging to see people applaud our efforts of church multiplication. But church multiplication is not something that we do. It is who we are. Let's all get involved in praying for and supporting the development of new, healthy, disciple-making churches affiliated with the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference.

# Church Development



## Calisthenics for Your Church

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

I am writing this having just returned from an extended time in beautiful Colorado Springs, Colorado. After this year's Annual Family Conference, my family and I took a week and just experienced the beauty of God's creation — Garden of the Gods, Pike's Peak, Helen Hunt Falls, etc. Awe-inspiring!

As we walked, climbed and hiked around the area, I noticed something. I was not "winded." The last time I exerted so much energy at high altitudes was about 10 years ago in Estes Park (half the elevation of Pike's Peak). I noticed a change in my breathing within minutes of arriving and had a full-blown altitude headache before we went back down the mountain. Not so this year in Colorado Springs. And then it hit me — over the last two years I have begun to exercise regularly, ride my bike, and have managed to lose about 35 pounds. I began working at first with a trainer to learn proper technique, and then had the help of a nutritionist to help me change my eating habits. Because I started out relatively healthy, it was really not a hardship — but it made a tremendous difference. And nowhere was that difference more noticeable than between 9,000 and 14,000 feet!

There is a misconception about the CCCC's work in Church Development. It's a belief that this ministry is only for those churches in dire straits. The fact is, the *LifeFlow* process is for *all* churches — especially those that already have a measure of health. Like the monumental difference small changes in diet and exercise have made to my own life, *LifeFlow* can make a noticeable difference in the life and ministry of your church. Through a thorough assessment and then training and guidance in critical areas of mission, discipleship, leadership development, and evangelism, healthy churches can receive the focus and enhancement needed to flourish in their respective ministries. Think of *LifeFlow* as calisthenics for your church.

Interested in knowing more?  
Consider joining us for one of our upcoming introductory events called *The Crossing*. We'll be providing *The Crossing* in the Boston and Chicago areas, and are also now discussing one in the Pacific Northwest. Dates are being confirmed as I write this; so watch our website at [www.cccusa.com](http://www.cccusa.com) for information! We hope to see you there... especially if your church is already healthy!



# 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 final 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.

No plans are currently being made for additional opportunities.

For more information or to register, please visit the appropriate link on our website: [www.cccusa.com](http://www.cccusa.com)

## News from the Northeast Region

### From Karlotta to Coralie

**by Karlotta Shanahan,  
Wife of Terry Shanahan, Northeast Regional Minister**

I made a new “ff” at the conference in Colorado Springs this year. (That’s “forever friend” in text speak — forever in terms of eternity.) We may never meet again on this earth, but we will be together in heaven someday.

We sat next to each other at the All Conference Breakfast and connected over our unusual names and the challenges that they had brought in our lives. We are from different parts of the country, different backgrounds, different circumstances and have served the Lord in different ways. But we share the same hope for eternity and joy in our Lord.



This Annual Meeting was my fourteenth. There have always been special moments at the conferences for me. But this year really stirred in me a desire to do something. It is so clear that the CCCC is moving in a new direction. You see it in the exhibit hall from the new focus at the conference table to the new vision of the women’s ministry to serve and equip the women of the Conference. You see it in the focus of the workshops to bring tools to the people to enable a more Biblical ministry. You hear it in the business meeting from the By-laws Committee, working to focus our structure to make our leadership teams more effective. You hear it from all of our speakers urging, teaching, inspiring us to live life together for Christ and in Christ. And it’s there in the hallways as people share their excitement about what God is doing in their lives and ministries.

I came home from this conference well fed, excited, inspired, eager to put into practice the changes in my life that God is leading me to. How will He use me? What will He put on my heart? Will I be able? Am I willing?

I do know that we are all called to faithful service. There is so much to do, and we have many hands to put to the task. We need to pray as one body for the Lord to direct us and use us as He has planned, and that just as He listens to us, we will listen to Him and respond.

I hope I meet Coralie again next year in Minnesota, and we can tell each other how God has been at work in our lives since Colorado Springs. Writing this article has been one way He has moved me. I look forward to seeing where He will lead us all.

## Around the Conference

# Peacemaker Principles at Work

by Tom Bridgman, Area Rep for Western Massachusetts and Eastern New York

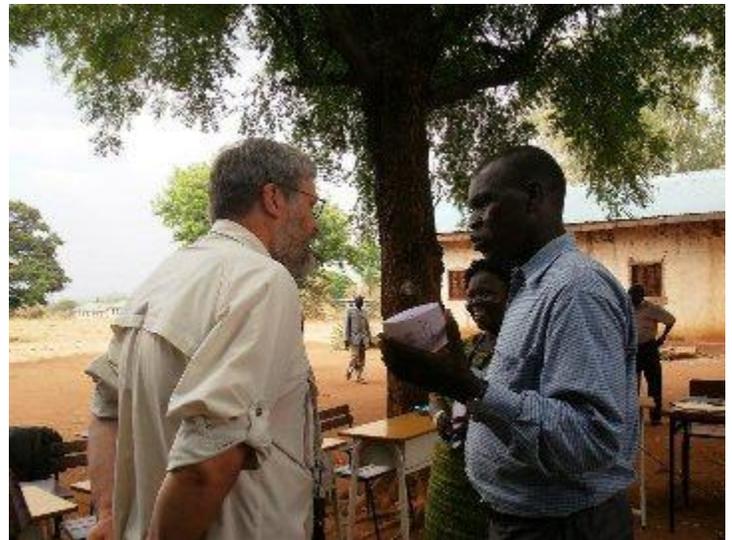
In June of this year I was privileged to attend, along with an elder from my church and his wife, the CCCC Peacemaker Certification Training seminar led by John Kimball in Andover, Massachusetts. There were many from the northeast region in attendance including our Regional Minister, Terry Shanahan. John did an excellent job leading the seminar, and I would heartily recommend it to anyone considering the training. Our elder, Bob Kirkman and I have had opportunity to discuss the training since that time. What impressed us even more than the training itself is how the CCCC has decided to intentionally make the Peacemaking principles a part of the underlying ethos of the CCCC. This says a great deal about the foundational values of our Conference and the direction that our Conference wants to move in. I thought it would be helpful to show a first-hand application of the Peacemaker principles at work in an international context (South Sudan). The following is written by Elder Bob Kirkman, who was in attendance at the training with me in June, although his experience took place several months prior to our seminar.

## Negotiating the Minefield of Conflict in South Sudan

by Bob Kirkman, elder in Grace Church Congregational, Pittsfield, Massachusetts

*Do not repay evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody.* Romans 12:17

As I arrived in South Sudan for the thirteenth time earlier this spring, evidence of a developing infrastructure was immediately apparent. For the first time I was able to fly directly into Juba and drive south for only two hours to our mission compound in Borongole on a road that is mostly paved. This was a big difference from the bone-jarring and throat dusting twelve- to 14-hour drive from Kampala, Uganda that I had become accustomed to.



Kirkman with a minister of parliament

Along the way, there was a stretch yet to be paved. A bulldozer operator was killed when his machine exploded an old land mine. This was a sad and unexpected tragedy, interrupting the progress of rebuilding the physical infrastructure of the land that had been devastated by war.

In early January we had been informed by our team on the ground of another terrible and unexpected event that interrupted the rebuilding of the social infrastructure of the families, churches and communities we serve in Eastern Equatoria. A conflict had erupted over a land dispute between the Acholi and Madi tribes. Five Madi villagers were killed in a surprise attack just a few miles from our compound. Although the immediate grief and rage was palpable throughout the Madi community, the elders responded in a temperate and wise manner. Consistent with Proverbs 20:22 (*Do not say 'I will recompense evil,' but wait for the Lord, and He will save you.*), they instructed the community not to seek revenge or even call upon authorities to intervene. Instead, they contacted the elders of the Acholi community to find out the root cause of the conflict and who was responsible.

The Acholi elders did their fact-finding. It was discovered that a corrupt official had incited the attack by spreading rumors and false allegations for personal gain. This man was turned over to the authorities to be dealt with appropriately. However, the damage had been done. Suspicion and a lack of trust brooded between the tribes.



At tribal reconciliation meeting

### The “PAUSE” Principles at work...

The elders of both tribes determined to continue to do what is right in an effort to overcome evil with good. Peacemakers Ministries describes some basic principles in a wise and Biblical process of cooperative negotiation. They are summarized in the acronym **PAUSE** (**P**repare, **A**ffirm relationships, **U**nderstand interests, **S**earch for creative solutions, and **E**valuate options objectively and reasonably).

The elders, in their wisdom, outlined a way forward which elegantly reflected these principles. They established a time and a neutral place (February 25 at the mission in Loa, about ten miles from the site of the conflict) where the elders and the Boma chiefs could come together to better understand the issues with the goal of reconciling differences. People were called upon to pray for discernment and wisdom for the leaders of the communities during the time leading up to the meeting. The elders gathered facts from eyewitnesses, and tribal historians were assigned to research the history of land boundaries between the tribes, and to review the history of similar conflicts (going all the way back to pre-colonial rule) and how they were resolved. This would set the background and context for the current dispute. Position papers were drawn up and proposed solutions were outlined. (**Prepare.**)

I had the honor of being invited to the meeting of the Boma chiefs and the elders on February 25. Members of the South Sudanese and government officials were also there to observe the process.

The meeting opened with prayer, acknowledging that God is a God of both tribes, and that He would reveal the way forward if those attending would humble themselves before Him. The meeting then started with opening remarks about the long history of mutual coexistence and cooperation between the tribes. (**Affirm relationships.**) The historians presented the record of tribal boundaries and described accounts of prior conflicts and how they had been resolved. Eyewitness accounts and victim impact statements were then offered in an atmosphere of quiet respect. Respective position papers were read. (**Understand interests.**) Conciliatory gestures were offered, with both sides referring to the attack as “the tragedy.”

Both sides agreed that the land in dispute belonged to the Madis, but that the Acholis were welcomed, as both tribes have a mutual interest in restoring their country.



Tribal reconciliation meeting

**(Looking to the interests of others, according to Philippians 2:3–4.)** As the day progressed into evening it became increasingly difficult to distinguish between tribal loyalties, as all the participants seemed to affirm the view of each speaker. Solutions were offered with the theme of “**Restorative Justice**,” with one Acholi even proposing that they agree to live under the authority of a Madi chief in the interest of the common good. **(Searching for creative solutions.)** As the meeting approached its conclusion it was agreed that both sides would submit to mediation with the Inter-Church Council. It was also agreed that the Boma chiefs from throughout the region would meet later in the spring to review the root causes of the conflict and the interests of both parties and evaluate the options presented. **(Evaluate options reasonably and objectively.)**

In addition to my work with Operation Nehemiah’s Medical Mission, I am privileged to be able to promote the principles of Biblical Peacemaking in daily broadcasts over our radio station, “Nehemiah Trumpet Call, 97.3” and in workshops with local congregations. I must say that it is humbling to witness the church and its elders coming together in such an effective, gracious and Biblical manner to bring healing and reconciliation to the communities of the Eastern Equatoria region. This certainly bodes well for the cause of peace in the new South Sudan.

## Something to Think About

# Meaning-Filled Communion

by Ted Bradshaw, retired CCCC pastor (drawn from readings)



There was a reason for Jesus making a ritual of the bread and the cup after the Paschal meal was complete. He meant this rite to be remembered and celebrated throughout succeeding generations of Christians.

Our Lord's intent was that believers should receive His body and His blood in reverence and faith in their efficacy as food for our spirits. Paul points to the dangers of receiving the body and blood of our Lord unworthily. Most often we consider this to mean in a state of unforgiven sin. Another meaning often slips by. Receiving it routinely or without faith is also unworthy of the Lord. The reality of worship in communion should draw believers into the presence of Christ, so they receive worthily, as if it were at the hands of Jesus Christ our risen Savior.

One church provides a worshipful setting:

*"...congregation was asked to kneel and prayerfully receive the elements while the meaning of the ordinance was carefully explained from Scriptures." The experience of worship [in communion] is a transforming encounter with the living Christ.*

The Second London Confession of 1689 (Baptist): "Worthy receivers, outwardly partaking of the visible elements in this ordinance, do then also inwardly by faith, really and indeed, yet not carnally and corporally, but spiritually receive and feed upon Christ crucified and all the benefits of His death: the Body and Blood of Christ, being not corporally, or carnally, but spiritually present to the faith of believers, in that ordinance, as the elements themselves are to the outward senses."

Communion is a solemn and yet joyful rite of worship. It is solemn in that believers remember His death — remember His sufferings for us, because of us and in our stead. It is joy-filled in that believers are aware that Jesus has relieved them from their burden of sin, that they recognize the reality of the love of God to them personally and intimately. It is also joy-filled because the fellowship shares in all aspects of the living Christ's presence in that rite.

Jesus did not intend the celebration of His body and blood to be a ritual tacked onto the Sunday service, but an integral part of the worship service as a whole. All worship, all ordinances or rites, should draw us into the presence of the Almighty God, loving Father, Lord Christ, Holy Spirit.

Worship leaders prayerfully enhance worship and focus the congregants' attention on Christ, not distracting them by trivialities or focusing attention on themselves. Meaningfully point worshippers to the living presence of our loving God, who is ever ready to embrace the heart turned intentionally to embrace Him in love and humility.

## World Outreach

### “Who’s my neighbor?”

*Wellspring is the ministry of the W and M, working in and around a major midwestern city, to reach international students and immigrants with the love and hope of Jesus. We believe that the most strategic work that the kingdom of God can do is among the next generation of leaders from other countries, who are in our own backyard.*

*We are workers with the CCCC. For more information on how you might get involved, or how we might help you reach internationals in your community, please feel free to contact us at any time through the CCCC office, (651) 739-1474.*

*...We hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God. (Acts 2:11)*

**Who’s My Neighbor?** (WMN), was an amazing international festival, spearheaded by Syd and Liz Doyle, from Nation’s Light ministries. This all-day event took place on June 23, and included back to back performances on two stages, from many cultures. We leapt for joy with the Nigerians leading us in dance and song. We wept at the beautiful testimony and cultural music from the Chinese Church. There were people from dozens of countries, and we estimate that there were between 2500 and 3000 in attendance.



Those who came witnessed what God is doing in every nation, and it is astounding. It was very much like I picture heaven to be, with people from every tribe, language people and nation praising God.

It is hard to tell all that God did in that festival, opening the eyes of many people, including the American church to see their immigrant neighbors. We do know that at least 20 people accepted Jesus, and among them were three of our precious students and a middle eastern man! We praise God for all He has done. Please continue to pray for our new brothers and sisters in Christ.

### Kingdom Connections

A couple weeks ago, a student from Iran contacted me. He was actually still in Iran, and will be starting at a university about two hours from our city. He has friends at our university, and he wanted to know if we had a “branch office” of our furniture project in his city!

Here’s the beauty of God’s kingdom. Within an hour or two, I was able to tell this student, YES! I contacted another man who works with students in that city, and he told me that he had just come from a meeting with a church who had a burden to help international students by providing them furniture. Amazing! Again I was reminded how God is putting together pieces all over our country, because He is intent on reaching the students who come here. I would ask you to prayerfully consider what God is doing in your city to reach international students, and get involved!

## **New School Year, New Possibilities**

Here are some of the ways we have reached out to students at our university:

“Adopt a student” — this can be as simple as matching students with American families to do something fun together, once a month. It can also be as complex as housing an international student in your home.

English help — we offer one-on-one conversation practice for students who have not passed their English language test yet. We also have group conversation classes weekly, which are an informal and fun opportunity to make international friends.

Helping students move in — international students come to our country with just a couple of suitcases, and not much else. We help gather donations of furniture from the community, and then give it away to incoming international students. It’s a great “first contact” — often leading to further relationships.

Do you live in a town or city with a university? Check with the International Student Office on campus to see how you can help out!

Bible study — we have a Bible study that meets weekly in our home, and we sometimes do one-on-one Bible study.

## **Health Tips Safe Lunches**

by **Betty Mitchell RN BSN**

**Parish Nurse, Emmanuel Bethel Church, Royal Oak, Michigan**

Food brought to work or school from home needs to be kept safe, even if it is first handled and cooked safely. Harmful bacteria multiply rapidly in temperatures between 40 and 140 degrees F. Perishable food being transported without ice will not stay safe long.

Some safe handling recommendations are to keep perishable food such as raw or cooked meat and poultry, cold or frozen at the store and at home. Transport perishable food as quickly as possible if you have no ice. Do not leave food at room temperature more than two hours.

Prepackaged combos containing lunch meats along with cheese, crackers and condiments must also be kept refrigerated.

Wash your hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds before you prepare or eat food. Washing the preparation area is important, too. Wash cutting boards, utensils, dishes and countertops after preparing each food item and before you go on to the next item to prevent cross-contamination.

Pack just the amount of perishable food to be eaten at lunch to prevent a problem with safely storing leftovers.

After lunch discard all used food packaging and paper bags to prevent contamination and spread of food-borne illnesses.

Refrigerate any lunch prepared the night before.

Be sure to include a cold source with your lunch such as an ice pack or frozen juice. Storing perishable foods from your lunch in a refrigerator, if available, is best.

Source: [www.oakgov.com/health](http://www.oakgov.com/health); [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov)



## Congregational History

# “America the Beautiful” and its Congregational Connections

by Alwyn York, Conference Historian



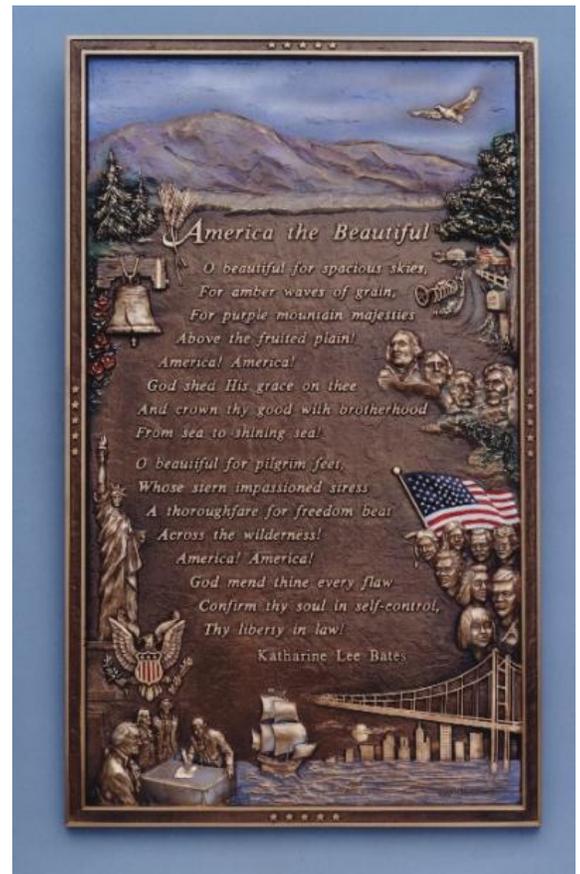
Those of us with plans to attend the CCCC Annual Family Conference in Colorado Springs watched the news in late June with great anxiety. The worst wildfire in Colorado history was burning north of the city, threatening homes and the natural beauty that draws many visitors every year. We wondered if the plans for our meeting might have to be changed or what we might find if the meeting was still held in Colorado Springs. By God’s mercy the firefighters were able to bring the fire under control. Many families did suffer the loss of their homes, but by the time of our meeting the fires were no longer a concern. The majestic beauty of the surrounding mountains was unaffected, and those attending the meeting did not experience any evidence of fire. Surely many prayers were answered!

The beauty of the Colorado Springs area as seen from its highest mountain was the inspiration for one of the most loved hymns in America. Katherine Lee Bates was inspired to write the lyrics of “America the Beautiful” by the view she had from the summit of Pike’s Peak. This famous hymn has deep Congregational connections.

Katherine Lee Bates was the daughter of a Congregational pastor, and was for many years a professor of English literature at Wellesley College. During the summer of 1893 she was giving a summer lecture series at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. This is how she later described the inspiration for the hymn: “One day some of the other teachers and I decided to go on a trip to 14,000 foot Pike’s Peak. We hired a prairie wagon. Near the top we had to leave the wagon and go the rest of the way on mules. I was very tired. But when I saw the view, I felt great joy. It was then and there, as I was looking out over the sea-like expanse of fertile country spreading away so far under those ample skies, that the opening lines of the hymn floated into my mind.”

When Bates left Colorado Springs, the four stanzas of the hymn were penciled in her notebook. The notebook was set aside for a while, but two years later she copied the poem and sent it in to The Congregationalist magazine. It first appeared in the July 4, 1895 edition of that magazine under the title, “America.” The poem reached a wider audience when a revised version was printed in the Boston Evening Transcript on November 19, 1904. In 1910 it was set to the hymn tune, “Materna,” by organist and composer Samuel Augustus Ward and named “America the Beautiful,” as we know it today.

In 1993, one hundred years after Katherine Lee Bates ascended Pike’s Peak, a monument in honor of “America the Beautiful,” was placed on the summit of the mountain. The beauty that inspired this poet to write about “spacious skies,” “amber waves of grain” and “purple mountain majesties” is still there to be seen by all who visit Pike’s Peak.



## Promotions to Glory

Rev. Clinton P. “Clint” Goddard, of Pawleys Island, South Carolina, formerly of Holden, Massachusetts died July 28, 2012. He was born January 6, 1935 and joined the CCCC in February of 1987. He pastored the Evangelical Congregational Church in Hubbardston, Massachusetts for over 15 years. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Constance “Connie” Goddard.

## Changes and Opportunities

### Pastoral Changes

Wiggins, CO	Wiggins Community Church *	Mark Weinstein *
Loysburg, PA	St. John’s Reformed Church *	David Meckley *

### Pastoral Opportunities

Greeley, CO	St. Paul’s Church *
Rockland, ID	Rockland Congregational Church (Part-time) *
Highland IL	First Congregational Church *
LaMoille, IL	First Congregational Church *
Peru, IL	First Congregational Church (Independent)
Blandford, MA	First Congregational Church *
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)
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

## Announcements and Events

### Post-Conference Special!!!

2012 Annual Family Conference

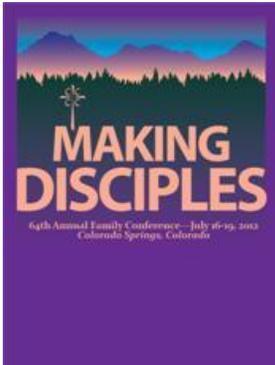
Special held over...

Get yours while supplies last.

**\$5.00 each**

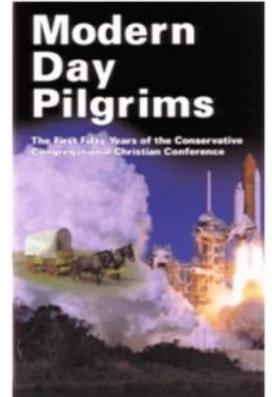
**Or Free with the purchase of a Theme Tee Shirt — Logo Polo – Twill or Denim Shirt**

### *Modern Day Pilgrims*



*The First Fifty Years of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference*

This book is a labor of love compiled by pastors and one pastor's wife. While much is historically valuable and all of it purports to be historically sound, the goal of this book is not to be a history in the strictest sense, but an overview of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference (CCCC) for the benefit of our adherents and others who may be looking at us.



**Call Gayle at the CCCC office for sizes and colors.**

### **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](mailto: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!

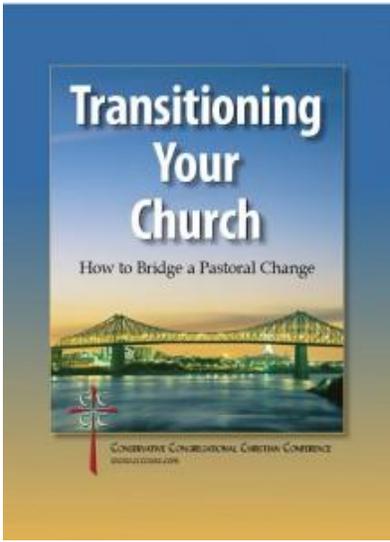
Order online through NextStep Resources: <http://www.nsresources.com/browse.cfm/4,5914.html> or directly through Gordon-Conwell's Semlink site: [http://store.gordonconwell.edu/product\\_p/ncs-mc601hi.htm](http://store.gordonconwell.edu/product_p/ncs-mc601hi.htm)

### **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/](http://www.cccusa.com/ministries/conference_care/student-care/). Complete guidelines are also included. If you still have questions, please contact the Conference office.

# Foresee Publications

## How to Bridge a Pastoral Change

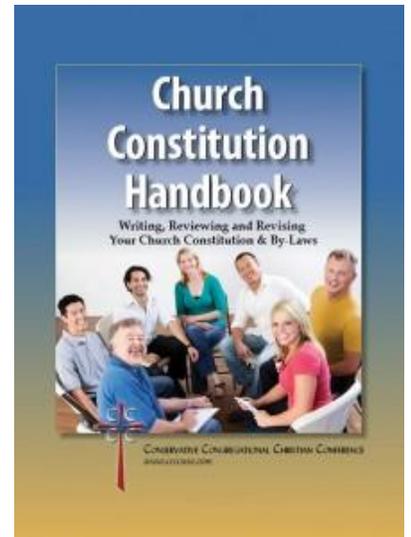


*Navigating a pastoral change is a challenging experience for any church and can be a difficult journey for some. This comprehensive guide has been prepared by experienced leaders in the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference to assist church leaders, pastoral search committees and transition teams step by step through the process of finding a new pastor.*

*Transitioning Your Church* was prepared with the hope that by prayerfully considering these suggestions, more CCCC churches will not only find a “good match” for their next pastor, but also experience improved spiritual, emotional and financial health dealing with past and present challenges that can be uniquely addressed before the arrival of the new pastor through the specialized ministry of an intentional interim. It is also a fervent wish of the authors that through their insights fewer CCCC pastors will have to experience hurtful, shortened ministries with churches who are not really ready for a new partnership in the gospel ministry of fulfilling the Great Commandment and Great Commission.

## Writing, Reviewing and Revising Your Church Constitution & By-Laws

The *Church Constitution Handbook* has clearly been a labor of love. We have tried diligently to create a tool that, while general enough to apply to the governing structure of virtually any church with true Congregational polity, is still specific enough to help you prayerfully consider all of the leadership, organizational and legal issues your church’s constitution must address. It is our prayer that you find this tool helpful. For those churches that are considering a revision of their Constitution and By-laws during a season of pastoral transition, we would also recommend, *Transitioning Your Church*, our manual on guiding your congregation through a positive and fruitful interim experience. *Transitioning Your Church* provides guidance on everything from selection of your interim pastor and the composition and role of a search committee to the determination of a fair and adequate pastoral compensation package. It’s a much-needed resource.



*May God bless you and your church richly as you work through the exercise of writing, reviewing and/or rewriting your church constitution and by-laws!*

**Both books are available now at the CCCC office and are \$15.00 each**



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