



---

# ANNUAL REPORTS

*OF THE*

**CONSERVATIVE  
CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN  
CONFERENCE**

- REPORTS OF OFFICERS, STAFF, COMMITTEES,  
and AREA REPRESENTATIVES
- REPORTS REQUIRING VOTING ACTION

69TH ANNUAL GATHERING

*July 17-20, 2017*

Pittsburgh Marriott North / Cranberry Township, PA



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Business Meeting Agenda.....	4
Conference President’s Report.....	6
CCCC Position Paper on Biblical Marriage - Proposal.....	7
CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION	
Credentials Committee Report.....	9
Finance Committee Report .....	12
Treasurer’s Report .....	13
2018 Budget .....	14
Constitution Studies Committee Report.....	16
Nominating Committee Report .....	17
Chaplaincy Ministries Report .....	21
CONFERENCE SERVICES	
Annual Gathering Planning Committee Report.....	22
Communication Committee Report.....	23
Micronesia Ministries Committee Report.....	24
Missions Committee Report .....	25
Women’s Ministries Committee Report.....	26
REGIONAL ACTIVITIES REPORTS	
New Hampshire .....	27
Vermont.....	28
Northeastern Massachusetts .....	29
Southeastern Massachusetts .....	30
Connecticut/Rhode Island .....	31
Eastern New York & Western Massachusetts.....	32
Greater New York City and New Jersey.....	33
Western New York and NW Pennsylvania.....	34
Western Pennsylvania.....	35
Mid Atlantic Region .....	36
Southeast.....	37
Eastern Ohio.....	38
Indiana and Western Ohio.....	39
Michigan.....	40

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES REPORTS (cont.)

Northern Illinois.....	41
Wisconsin.....	42
Upper Midwest.....	43
Great Plains Congregational Fellowship.....	44
Pacific Northwest.....	45
California.....	46

STAFF REPORTS

Conference Minister.....	47
Placement Report.....	49

Regional Minister's Reports

Northeast Regional Minister.....	51
North Central Regional Minister.....	52

*Ministry Priority Reports*

Director of Conference Care.....	53
Director of Church Development.....	54
Church Development Committee.....	55
Director of Church Multiplication.....	57
Church Multiplication Committee.....	58



# ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

JULY 18-20, 2017

## TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2017

Opening Prayer/Announcements

Recognition of Delegates, Visitors and Letters of Greeting ..... Todd Venman

Announcement of Board Appointments for Meeting ..... Susan Moody

Review and Approval of the Agenda..... Todd Venman

President’s Annual Report ..... Todd Venman

    Reading of Biblical Marriage Position Paper ..... Michael Hecht

### Conference Administration Committee Reports

    Credentials Committee Report .....Dan Peterson

        Recognition and Approval

    Finance Committee Report..... Phil Lewis

    Treasurer’s Report .....Sue Drehmel

    2018 Budget Proposal

        Adoption of Budget

    Stewardship Committee ..... Mark Galloway

    Constitution Studies Report ..... Steve Felker

    Nominating Committee Report.....Scott Nice

        Presentation of Nominees

        Election

    Chaplains Committee ..... Steve Gammon

### Conference Services Committee Reports

    Annual Gathering Planning Committee ..... Todd Venman

    Communication Committee.....Kim Gardell

    Micronesia Ministry Committee .....Max Vague

    Missions Committee .....Marvin Eyler

    Women’s Committee ..... Sharon Galloway

### Conference Regional Activities Reports

Closing Prayer

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 2017**

Opening Prayer/Announcements

Conference Minister’s Report ..... Ron Hamilton

Regional Minister’s Report

    Northeast Regional Minister ..... Terry Shanahan

    North Central Regional Minister ..... Cliff Christensen

Director of Conference Care Report ..... Peter Wood  
    Conference Care Committee

Director of Church Development.....John Kimball  
    Church Development Committee ..... Dave Eisley

Director of Church Multiplication.....Rob O’Neal  
    Church Multiplication Committee ..... Jeff O’Guin

Appointments for 2017-2018 ..... Susan Moody

Closing Prayer

**THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2017**

Opening Prayer /Announcements

Recognition and Greetings from Newly Credentialed Churches,  
Ministers and Consecrated Laborers ..... Todd Venman

Biblical Marriage Position Paper ..... Michael Hecht

Appreciation of the 2017 AG Committee and Local Arrangements ..... Todd Venman

Annual Gathering 2018 ..... Tim Dubeau  
    Location and Dates

Registrar’s Report of Attendees ..... Carolyn Benson

Closing Prayer

Adjournment



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I'm often reminded of how Christ is building His Church. I have the privilege of seeing firsthand how God has blessed His conference with talented and God fearing individuals. These individuals have many spiritual and natural talents. As these God given gifts come together I marvel at His goodness. To be a part of a God fearing, obedient group of servants is an awe inspiring blessing.

Some of the outcomes in this past year were assisting the Annual Gathering team to put systems in place to return to a three year work pattern. Our dedicated AG Committee has multiple year planning underway. This three year focus helps us to plan better and provide better cost reduction services.

Much time and energy was devoted to the Biblical Marriage Position Paper. Our purpose was to keep the every changing rhetoric and Satan's lies and deception far from this positive and declarative statement. We want to articulate with great clarity God's view on marriage. The sub-committee of the Board worked hard to accomplish this goal.

We have been in earnest prayer about the repayment of our indebtedness. We rejoice for the decreased spending over the past few years. We also rejoice for a strong 2016 giving. We continue to trust Him for the needed provisions in 2017.

We find ourselves asking God to refine this Conference and its practices so that everything is done with intentional focus on the Way of Life God has called us to. Obedience in aligning to His will and direction for the Conference has been a passion. We rejoice in the long standing faithfulness to His call on the Conference and desire to continue to follow His lead.

Please pray specifically for eyes to see and the ears to hear what the Spirit says to the Conference. Pray that those eyes and ears would be able to recognize the enemy's deception and steer far from his plans. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest would send forth laborers. Pray that our stubborn will be broken and aligned to His heart and purpose.

Thank you for your labor of love in this journey and partnership.

Todd Venman,  
*President*



### **MARRIAGE AND CULTURE**

The Bible, being the supreme and final authority for what we believe, teaches that marriage has been a vital institution since the time God created humanity. Scripture sets a standard for faithful marriage that reflects the covenant relationship that God has with His people. Marriage is that social institution in which the next generation is conceived, born or adopted, and raised. Society did not create but rather has historically recognized marriage in order to promote the welfare of wives, husbands, and the children of this union.

### **STATEMENT ON BIBLICAL MARRIAGE**

We believe that God designed marriage for humanity. Biblical marriage, as described in the story of creation (Genesis 2:24) and affirmed by Jesus (Mark 10:6-9), is designed by God to be a covenantal, lifelong, exclusive relationship between one man and one woman and that all intimate sexual activity outside the marriage relationship is immoral and sinful (Proverbs 2:16-17; Malachi 2:14). We believe that God wonderfully created two distinct sexes, male and female (Genesis 1:27). The lifelong, sexually exclusive relationship also brings children into the world and thus sustains the stewardship of the earth. Biblical marriage should be marked by faithfulness, sacrificial love and joy, because it displays the relationship between God and His people (Exodus 20:14, 17; Leviticus 18:22-23; Hosea 2:16; Matthew 5:27-28, 19:4-9; John 2:1-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:8-11; Hebrews 13:4; Jude 7; Revelation 21:1-9).

### **BROKEN COVENANT OF MARRIAGE**

In all areas of our lives, as sinful people we fall short of the “glory of God” (Romans 3:23). All married people, including faithful believers, do at times struggle with strained relationships, which may end in divorce. Furthermore, governing institutions have redefined marriage to include the union of same-sex couples. The long-term departure from God’s design for marriage will be remedied only with sincere repentance and renewed commitment to seek the will of God by living in obedience to the Scriptural teaching on marriage (1 Corinthians 7:1-13; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-8; 1 Pet 3:1-7).

### **DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTHY MARRIAGE**

The church must teach believers how to develop healthy Christian models of singleness and marriage that are a witness to a confused and broken world. Marriage was designed by God, and a godly marriage is a reflection of a loving relationship of Christ and His church (Ephesians 5:21-6:4). Faithful followers of Jesus understand that God is the Creator of marriage and empowers marital relationships with His love and grace. Biblical marriage functions under the Lordship of Christ. We encourage our Conference members and churches to promote the value of godly marriage. When marriage is lived “as to the Lord” and “in the Lord,” all members of the family grow in the knowledge of Jesus and reflect His character in their lives.

### **A LOVING RESPONSE**

We encourage prayer for those who are influential in setting the cultural trends (Jeremiah 29:7; 1 Timothy 2:1-3) and for all who do not obey the will of God in this matter. Not condoning sin, but reflecting the

love of God, we encourage love and compassion for all people (Matthew 9:36; Luke 10:25-37). Our efforts to stem the tide of evil are limited in scope and power. Yet, the gracious, life-changing power of the Gospel can transform lives and restore broken marriages to those who repent and seek to honor Jesus Christ. Therefore, we expect our member pastors and churches to uphold the Biblical teaching of God's design for marriage as described in this paper, as we extend the love and grace of God to all.

June 8, 2017



## CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

As of today, June 10, 2017, we have completed more than 75 files since last year's Annual Meeting. These include 70 individual files and 9 church files.

The Committee met four times during the last year: three times online and once at the First Congregational Church of Revere, Massachusetts (January 31, 2017). Special thanks to Pastor Nick Granitsas and the church for their hospitality.

Our conversations were mainly to discuss present applications and work through specific issues that had arisen due to sensitive information and challenging circumstances. There appears to be a growing interest in the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference from a wider range of a pastor's training and experience along with a congregation's past denominational affiliation. I assure you the Committee is giving due diligence to review each applicant as thoroughly as possible.

We have had healthy conversations with pastors, applicants and congregations about the credentialing process and standing that is most appropriate at the time. We have chosen to walk alongside of each applicant and have as many conversations as necessary with them in order to ensure we are treating everyone fairly according to God's Word, His grace and our Conference's guidelines.

Our Committee prays for each applicant while we work through their files and believe all is being done for the glory of God.

Once again I give thanks to God for my beloved bride of now, 33 years, Deb for her support, the St. Lucas Community Church of Lake Elmo, MN, Ron and Shirley Hamilton, Cliff Christensen, John Kimball, Rob O'Neal, Terry Shanahan, and all the Area Pastor's for their kingdom building and expanding efforts.

I am so thankful and appreciate the faithful, serving and praying team of (Mark, Ed, Drake and John). A special thanks to Jim Gustafson who served on the Credentials Committee for many years and continues to serve the Lord in various capacities.

Sincerely in Christ,

Daniel Peterson, *Chairman*

Mark Alvis, John Dale, Ed Whitman, Drake Williams

Action Taken 2016-2017

**INDIVIDUALS**

**OM-AM (Ordained to Associate Ordained)**

Jon Rollefson Ellsworth, IA

**LO-OM (Licensed Ordained to Ordained)**

Daniel	Davey	S Hamilton, MA	Stephen	Nyakairu	Shirley, MA
Timothy	Mock	New Paris, PA	Frank	Sapp	Beulah, ND

**OM (Ordained)**

John	Barner	Derry, NH	Dana	Smith	Westford, MA
------	--------	-----------	------	-------	--------------

**LO (Licensed Ordained)**

Scott	Fleming	Winter Garden, FL	Joyce	Scott	Shelbourne, NH
-------	---------	-------------------	-------	-------	----------------

**LM - OM (Licensed to Ordained)**

William	Coley	Parkman, OH	Susan	Moody	Chester, VT
Mark	Kraines	Rochester, NH	Richard	Shover	North Troy, VT

**AM-OM (Associate Member-Ordained Member)**

Jonathan	Black	Waterford, CT
----------	-------	---------------

**AL-LM (Associate Member- Licensed Member)**

Roger	Broberg	Evansville, WI
-------	---------	----------------

**CCW (Reinstatement)**

Kurt	Gundersen	Wilmington, MA
------	-----------	----------------

**LM (Licensed Minister)**

Able	Baker	Pasadena, CA	Joe	Marlin	Gloucester City, NJ
Brian	Bethke	Yucca Valley, CA	Sang (Ethan)	Ha	S Hamilton, MA
Timothy	Clever	Farmingdale, ME	Chip	Herrera	Hudson, IA
Charles	Copp	Taunton, MA	Joseph	Marlin	Gloucester City, NH
Everett	Einstine	Ithaca, NY	Shaina	Morrow	Sanford, ME
Michael F	Gardner	Winston Salem, NC	Michael R	Smith	Centerville, MA
Joe	Garrison	Chelmsford, MA	Roy	Thomas	San Antonio, TX
Jim	Grumbine	Camp Hill, PA			

**CC-LM**

David	Bordy	Oregon, IL
-------	-------	------------

**CC**

Andrew	Double	Evans City, PA	Christopher	Svihla	Avon, MN
Jonathan	Faulkner	S Hamilton, MA	Christopher	Thomae	Westford, MA
Drew	Mattison	Woodbury, MN	Derek	Yee	Carpinteria, CA
Young	Park	Brookline, MA			

**CCW**

Aleta	Helwig	Pasadena, CA	Karen	Odor	Sanford, ME
Robert	Libby	North Waterboro, ME	Jarid	Sinkler	Dickinson, NE

**MUC - Complete (Minister Under Care - Completed)**

David	Kemper	Freedom, NH
Stephen	Wills	Piqua, OH

**Removals -(lapse of credentials)**

Michael	Buser	Oley, PA	Kurt	Gunderson	Wilmington, MA
Nathan	Caldwell	Glenville, NY	George	Miller	Buffalo, NY
Matthew	DeYoung	Geneva, IL			

**Removal (own request)**

Tom	Beetham	N Muskegon, MI	Shann	Profitt	Lewiston, ID
Noel	Churchman	Kitchener, Ontario	Lana	Ritter	Salem, OR
Rylian D	Fraas	Aurora, CO	Anne	Rodman	Manchester, NH
Michael	Gray	Japan	Chad	Tvenstrup	Bradenton, FL
Kevin	Leach	Woodland, WA	Angelo	Valle	Alexandria, PA
Jessica	Mason	Haverhill, MA	Bryan	Wenig	Marion, OH
David	Melvin	Hopkinton, MA			

**Denials**

Alan	Church	Dickinson, ND
------	--------	---------------

**Deceased**

GE	Coultas	Frederick	Kirms
Theodore	Gruhlke	Jerry	Rogers
Robert	Hanna	Lester	Strout
Thomas	Hunter	Rex	Wilson

**CHURCHES**

**Church Membership**

The Congregational Church	Salem, CT	United Church of Shirley	Shirley, MA
Hope Community Church	Newburyport, MA	New Hope Church	Meyersdale, PA

**Removal - CID**

Agora Community Church	Rochester, NY	Tribes for Christ	Pauma Valley, CA
------------------------	---------------	-------------------	------------------

**Removal (closed)**

Orchard View Congregational	Muskegon, MI	Trinity Evangelical Congregational	Petersborough, NH
New Bethel Congregational Church	Hazen, ND		



## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance Committee was active in the past year. In addition to the returning members of the Committee- Sue Drehmel, Phil Lewis, Ron Hamilton & Carolyn Benson, we added two new members after the 2016 Annual Gathering- Tim Ziegenhals & Greg Wilcoxon.

The Committee held three meetings via the web:

- September 27, 2016
- January 10, 2017
- April 11, 2017

The major work of the committee focused on these items:

- Review quarterly Financial reports and 2016 annual financial results.
- Approve audit process for 2016 – engagement of Clifton, Larson & Allen as auditors and approval of their audit report.
- Approve hotel contract for our 2017 Annual Gathering in Pittsburgh.
- Approve Annual Gathering budget for 2017.
- Draft Record Retention Plan for Conference that is under review before becoming CCCC policy.
- Analyze giving trends by pastors and churches as requested by the Board.
- Prepare end of year membership letter to pastors.
- Review restricted fund borrowing, monitor payback, document purpose of each fund and work with auditors to eliminate, consolidate & simplify funds going forward.
- Recommend 2018 budget for approval of Board of Directors.
- Prepare monthly financial updates for the FORESEE email communications.

We are thankful for the financial support of the CCCC by our membership in meeting the 2016 conference budget. We are behind in giving halfway through 2017 and ask for your support of our Conference for eliminating our internal borrowings and for the greater ministry of our fellowship.

Respectfully, Sue Drehmel, *Treasurer*  
Philip Lewis, *Controller*  
Tim Ziegenhals  
Greg Wilcoxon  
Ron Hamilton, Conference Minister  
Carolyn Benson, *Financial Administrator*



## TREASURER'S REPORT



A team of people made up of the CCCC Board of Directors, the Finance Committee and our external auditors worked together to improve and report on the financial health and accountability of our Conference in 2016. We received an unqualified opinion for the first time in many years from our auditors as we strengthened our internal controls and segregation of office responsibilities.

There was another year of faithful giving to the CCCC and our mission to love God, love our neighbors and make disciples as we go. We plan to reinvigorate our Stewardship Committee as we move forward in eliminating internal debt and plan for healthy future cash flow to meet our obligations during times when giving drops.

For the fourth consecutive year, we ended with an operating surplus. The surplus for 2016 was over \$51,000. It was largely due to keeping a tight check on variable expenses and the faithful giving by our members.

In **2016** general support was 2% over budget and expenses were under budget by 4.5%. The 2016 Annual Gathering came in close to break-even financially due to new procedures and controls set up by the AG Committee after a sizable loss the prior year. We continued to make progress on repayment of restricted funds borrowings, with a \$23,000 reduction in 2016.

The **2018** budget, which will be presented at our Annual Gathering in Pittsburgh, shows a 2% increase in contributions and a 5% increase to expenses to fund salary increases and increased costs of managing our office over the 2017 budget. We will continue to budget a surplus until the internal debt has been completely repaid and we have a strong cash position to sustain us through the natural giving cycles.

Through five months of **2017** giving is lagging behind both the budget and the prior year by approximately \$18,000, with expenses running close to budgeted amounts. We trust that giving will pick up as we approach the Annual Gathering and through the end of the calendar year so we can meet our obligations and move towards eliminating internal debt.

Thank you for your faithfulness in financially supporting the mission of the CCCC.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Drehmel, *Treasurer*



## 2018 BUDGET

### CCCC PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET

For the year ending December 31, 2018

	Actual 2015 Final	Actual 2016 Final	Budget 2017 Final	Budget 2018 Proposed
<b>Support and Revenue:</b>				
Churches	301,908	321,057	310,000	325,000
Pastors	148,393	134,031	157,000	145,000
Laypersons	2,160	1,885	1,200	2,500
Chaplains	1,646	2,084	3,200	2,500
Fellowships	0	0	500	0
Other (AG gifts, fees, other)	10,940	11,591	3,100	10,000
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>465,047</b>	<b>470,648</b>	<b>475,000</b>	<b>485,000</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>				
<b>Ministry Staff (Including Benefits and Taxes):</b>				
Conference Minister	92,000	99,500	99,500	101,000
NE Regional Minister	79,000	85,000	85,000	86,250
Dir. of Church Redevelopmt	30,000	30,000	30,750	30,750
Dir. of Conf. Care	20,000	15,000	20,500	25,000
Dir of Church Multiplication	30,000	30,000	30,750	30,750
Unallocated Employment Taxes - ministers ***	3,794	3,443	3,930	4,000
<b>Total Ministry Staff Salaries</b>	<b>254,794</b>	<b>262,943</b>	<b>270,430</b>	<b>277,750</b>
<b>Administrative Staff (Including Benefits and Taxes)***</b>	<b>16,763</b>	<b>16,793</b>	<b>22,300</b>	<b>27,900</b>
<b>Travel:</b>				
Conference Minister	10,229	13,860	10,000	14,000
Northeast Regional Pastor	9,639	13,174	12,000	13,000
North Central Regional Pastor		(3,555)	5,000	5,000
DCM	6,811	8,598	3,500	7,000
DCD	2,301	2,537	2,000	2,500
DCC	1,030	2,086	2,000	2,500
Staff travel reimbursements	0	(8,004)	1,000	(7,000)
<b>Total Travel</b>	<b>30,010</b>	<b>28,696</b>	<b>35,500</b>	<b>37,000</b>
<b>Office Expenses:</b>				
Bldg Maint., Prop. Ins. & Association Fees	7,951	7,614	9,000	9,000
Utilities	2,253	1,816	2,500	2,500
Telephone/Internet	11,377	11,009	12,000	12,000
Equipment Maintenance	2,165	4,886	10,000	10,000
Printing	5,810	5,880	6,000	6,000
Supplies	50	246	1,000	1,000
CM Expenses	635	397	500	500
NE Reg Pastor Expenses	579	642	500	500
NC Reg Pastor Expenses			500	500

CCCC PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET (cont. | page 2 of 2)

DCC Expenses	182	49	500	500
DCM Expenses	34	195	500	500
DCD Expenses	0	1,059	500	500
Staff Training	0	0	500	0
Postage	5,368	4,979	7,000	7,000
Outside I.T.	10,565	10,832	12,000	12,000
Media for Computers - I.T.	6,639	6,111	8,500	8,500
ACS Software - I.T.	2,808	2,916	2,800	3,000
Online Credit Card Processing Exp	1,717	2,252	2,000	2,300
Background Checks				1,000
Other	2,872	1,949	1,000	1,000
<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	<b>61,002</b>	<b>62,832</b>	<b>77,300</b>	<b>78,300</b>
<b>Other Expenses:</b>				
<b>Board and Committee Expenses:</b>				
Board Meetings	11,660	13,714	10,000	13,000
Audit/Legal fees	9,284	9,161	8,000	9,000
Other Board Exp.	0	0	1,000	0
Area Pastors	468	627	1,000	900
Credentials Comm.	679	1,569	500	1,000
Other Committees	1,651	145	1,100	500
<b>Total Board and Committee Expenses</b>	<b>23,742</b>	<b>25,216</b>	<b>21,600</b>	<b>24,400</b>
<b>Publications:</b>				
Foresee	2,831	3,994	2,500	3,500
Outside Communications	6,037	7,962	6,000	7,500
<b>Total Publications</b>	<b>8,869</b>	<b>11,956</b>	<b>8,500</b>	<b>11,000</b>
<b>Contributions:</b>				
Nat Ass'n of Evangelicals	3,000	3,570	4,000	4,250
NAE Chaplaincy	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Nat Council Ministers-Armed Forces	0	530	500	500
World Evang Cong. Fellowship	1,850	3,264	1,200	1,200
Mission America Coalition	500	500	500	500
Nat. Pro Life Rel. Council	750	500	700	700
Cong. Lib. & Hist. Society	200	200	200	200
Other	875	900	0	500
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>8,675</b>	<b>10,964</b>	<b>8,600</b>	<b>9,350</b>
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>41,286</b>	<b>48,136</b>	<b>38,700</b>	<b>44,750</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$403,855</b>	<b>\$419,400</b>	<b>\$444,230</b>	<b>\$465,700</b>
<b>Surplus Transferred to (from) Reserves</b>	<b>\$61,192</b>	<b>\$51,248</b>	<b>\$30,770</b>	<b>\$19,300</b>
	<b>\$465,047</b>	<b>\$470,648</b>	<b>\$475,000</b>	<b>\$485,000</b>



## CONSTITUTION STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT



There was no activity in the past year.



## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT



First, I want to thank the members of the CCCC Nominating Committee for their diligence and perseverance in their assigned duties this past year. It is because of them, our Conference Minister Rev. Ron Hamilton, and most certainly the work of the Holy Spirit that I am able to present to you this slate of Candidates. These candidates not only reflect diversity between regions within the CCCC, but also diversity between lay leaders and Clergy, male and female, as well as ethnicity. But even more important, they are “willing” to serve and have been “equipped” to do so (cf. I Timothy 3:1 and II Timothy 2:2).

—Rev. Scott L. Nice  
*Chairman, 2017 CCCC Nominating Committee*

### CONFERENCE OFFICERS

#### **President**

*Rev Matt Milligan* ..... 2017 - 2020

#### **Vice President**

*Rev Alvin Helms* ..... 2017 - 2020

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2017-2020

*Rev Timothy Dubeau*  
*Mrs Kimberly Gardell*  
*Mr Jorge Hrebien*  
*Rev Wayne Sweitzer*

### MINISTRY PRIORITIES

#### **Church Development Committee**

*Rev Dave Balicki* ..... 2018  
*Rev Dean Walker* ..... 2019  
*Rev Dave Eisley* ..... 2020

#### **Church Multiplication Committee**

*Rev Brandon Goad* ..... 2019  
*Rev Chuck Nelson* ..... 2019  
*Rev Paul McPheeters* ..... 2020

### CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION

#### **Constitutional Study Committee**

*Rev Phil Hoyer* ..... 2020

#### **Nominating Committee**

*Rev Kirk Van der Swaagh* ..... 2020

### CONFERENCE SERVICES

#### **Women's Ministries Committee**

*Mrs Sharon Anderson* ..... 2020  
*Mrs Diane Wood* ..... 2020

## CCCC NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

### *Nominee Profiles*

#### **CONFERENCE OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT:** **MATT MILLIGAN** is Founding Pastor of CCCC plant Living Pathway Church, now The Why Church. He has served on the Board of Directors, Guiding Coalition, and Structure Team. He works with the Northstar Center for Church Multiplication; coaches church planting pastors, and is active in the leadership of several community organizations, including the Board of Directors of Uwezo International, which ministers to people struggling with addictions.



**V. PRESIDENT:** **ALVIN HELMS** has been an active member of the CCCC since 1993. He is a graduate of Oral Roberts University and Yale Divinity School and is currently working on his D.Min degree. He has been serving as the Senior Pastor of Carlsbad Community Church in Carlsbad, CA since 2010. Involvement in the CCCC over the years includes: Lay Ministry Committee member and chairman; 2 terms on the Board of Directors; Recording Secretary and member of the Executive Committee of the CCCC; California Area Pastor; and a speaker at the 2013 Annual Meeting and the 2016 World Evangelical Congregational Fellowship Gathering in Orlando, FL.



Alvin has been married to Melodee for 30 years. They have 4 children: 23,23,19,14. They live in Oceanside, CA. and love taking walks on the beach and taking pictures to encourage their friends during the winter. ☺

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



**TIM DUBEAU** In 1994 Tim resigned a 23-year career at the Gillette Company to enter Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. While a student, Tim served two years as Interim Associate pastor at First Congregational Church of Hamilton MA. In 1998 Tim was called to Pastor the Congregational Church of Salem CT. Credentialed in 1996 by the CCCC, Tim has served as the Southern New England Area Representative, the Local Arrangements Chair for the Annual Family Conference held at Springfield MA and is presently the Moderator of the New England Congregational Christian Fellowship (NECCF) and the Annual Gathering Coordinator for the CCCC. Tim enjoys carpentry and church history.



**KIM GARDELL** has been serving churches in the Pacific NW alongside her husband, Gary for over thirty years. Involved in both women's and children's ministries, she has also taken an active role in church communications and media. In the CCCC she has served on the CCCC Women's Ministries committee and worked as a CCCC Commissioned Christian Worker on Pohnpei, Micronesia. An experienced graphic designer, she is currently acting as Communication Coordinator, assisting the CCCC Home Office with print and web projects.



**JORGE HREBIÉN** Jorge Hrebién is the founding pastor of the Spanish-speaking congregation at Plymouth Church, a bilingual church, in Whittier, CA. Born and raised in Argentina, he has been a minister of the Gospel from a very young age and has served as a worship, youth and senior pastor. Jorge spent many years in Spanish-speaking radio and TV ministry in the U.S. He has been married to his wife, Isabel, for 24 years and they have two daughters. The oldest, Melody, will be a freshman this fall at Biola University. Jorge has a D. Min. in Practical Theology.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS (cont.)**



**WAYNE SWEITZER** is an active lay member of the Dunstable Evangelical Congregational Church (DECC) in Dunstable, MA, having served as Chair of the Board of Deacons, Affiliation Committee Chair during a denominational transition to the CCCC, Pastoral Search Committee during a recent pastoral transition, and representing DECC as a Delegate at each of the CCCC Annual Gatherings since 2014.

Wayne served as an Intelligence Officer in the U.S. Navy for over 20 years, retiring at the rank of Commander in 2001, and is currently employed as a Principal Systems Engineer and the New England Site Lead for Integrity Applications Incorporated. His academic background includes: Lexington Christian Academy, Lexington, MA (diploma 1976); Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL; Gordon College, Wenham, MA (BA History, 1980); the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA (MS Information Systems, 1990); and the Naval War College, Newport, RI (Faculty and Military Chair of Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence, 1995-1998).

Wayne lives in Lunenburg, MA, with his wife of nearly 35 years, the former Katrina Ware; and God has blessed them with a son and daughter (both grown and married) and one grandchild.

**MINISTRY PRIORITIES: CHURCH DEVELOPMENT**



**DAVE BALICKI** has been an ordained minister in the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference since 2007. He was awarded a Master of Divinity degree in 2006 and a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2013, both from Trinity Theological Seminary. Dave's ministries include serving as the senior pastor at a CCCC church, leading worship services at local area nursing homes, chaplaincy work at a local hospital, leading bible studies, and ministering to people suffering from various addictions. He is currently a member of the CCCC Church Development Team assisting CCCC pastors and churches navigate through the development process. On October 11, 2015, he accepted the call to pastor the First Evangelical & Reformed Church in Lima, Ohio.



**DAVE EISLEY** God graciously uses Dave to serve Him primarily as Pastor of Community Baptist Church of Allenville [CCCC] in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He and his wife Mary Margaret are blessed with five adult children and six grandchildren. Dave has been a member of the CCCC since 1985, and currently serves the Conference as Chairman of the Church Development Committee and Area Pastor for Wisconsin; having previously served as a member of the Constitution Study Committee and in various roles in the Wisconsin Fellowship.



**DEAN WALKER** has been Pastor of Garfield Christian Fellowship in Garfield, WA for the past 15 years and an ordained minister in the CCCC since 2005. He continues to serve on the Church Development Team, as he has for the past 3 years, is serving as the prayer coordinator for the team, and also serves on the Church Development Committee. Dean is working on his coaching/mentoring certification through Trivium Institute for Leadership Development to assist in the work in the Church Development process and ministerial needs for the *LifeFlow* process of revitalization.

Dean is married, for 35 years, to Rebecca. They have three grown children and 4 grandchildren. They enjoy camping, hiking, gardening and spending time traveling the PNW.

**MINISTRY PRIORITIES: CHURCH MULTIPLICATION**



**BRANDON GOAD** has been pastor of First Congregational Churches of Arriba and Flagler, CO since April 2016, after graduating Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. He also serves the CCCC as leader of the Church Multiplication Virtual Hub. Brandon has been married to Beth for seven years and they have two children: Maggie, 4, and Bodie, 1.



**PAUL MCPHEETERS** is the husband of Nancy, and father of two grown daughters, Sarah and Rebekah. He has served for over 30 years as the pastor of the Forestdale Community Church in Malden, MA. He has also served the Conference in various capacities as the Area Representative for New England, Local Arrangements chair for the Annual Gathering, Chair of the Church Multiplication Committee, member of the Board of Directors and President of the Board of Directors, and member of the NEX Multiplication hub in New England. He seeks to live a life of loving God, loving others, and making disciples.

**MINISTRY PRIORITIES: CHURCH MULTIPLICATION (cont.)**



**CHUCK NELSON** is the planting pastor of The Cross | Erie and serves/leads the Great Lakes Church Multiplication Hub. He is married to Betsy with two daughters Lydia Grace and Sophia Faith.

**CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION: CONSTITUTIONAL STUDIES COMMITTEE**



**PHIL HOYER** has been with Carlsbad Community Church since May 2000. He has served in several pastoral roles since his arrival and is now the Associate Pastor. He directs the Celebration Choir and Orchestra. He also oversees Pastoral Care needs and assists in administrative needs. He has many years of pastoral experience in churches in New York and California. His involvement with the CCCC has included leading worship at several Annual Gatherings since July 2000. Dr. Phil has a Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Church Music and a Doctorate of Worship Studies and has taught at the Seminary level. Dr. Phil and his wife, Susan, have been married for forty years and have three adult children and seven grandchildren.

**CONFERENCE ADMINISTRATION: NOMINATING COMMITTEE**



**KIRK VAN DER SWAAGH** is in his 30th year as pastor of Neighborhood Church of Greenwich Village, a CCCC member church in New York City. He currently serves as the Area Pastor for the Greater New York City/New Jersey Area as well being the CCCC delegate to the National Pro-life Religious Council. Additionally, he has served one term on the CCCC Board of Directors. He is married to Barbara, his wife of 37 years, and they have six grown children.

**CONFERENCE SERVICES: WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**



**SHARON ANDERSON** has served along with her husband, Herb at the Snyder Avenue Congregational Church in South Philadelphia for almost 48 years. Her varied roles included pastor's wife, organist/pianist, choir director, Sunday School teacher, deaconess, counselor and tutor. She has attended and been a workshop presenter at CCCC Annual Gatherings and currently serves as the President of the Eastern PA Regional Fellowship of the CCCC.

A graduate of West Chester University with a B.S. in Elementary Education, she also received a M.S. in Lifespan Development and a Ph.D. in Family Studies from the University of Delaware. Retiring from teaching at West Chester University in 2014, she continues to teach part-time at Widener University. Her primary research focused on the transmission of religious values between mothers and their adolescent children.

*"In light of my commitment to Christ and His Church, I believe that I could make a -positive contribution to the spiritual growth and welfare of the women of the CCCC. I would consider it a joy and privilege to serve on this committee."*



**DIANE WOOD:** Currently attending Christ Chapel in Ithaca, NY and involved with a Bible study group. My husband Peter and I have recently retired after about 40 years in full time ministry. I was always active in Children's ministry (I am an elementary school teacher) as well as women's groups. We have 2 grown children and 3 grandchildren.



## CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE REPORT

Our Chaplaincy Committee this year represented some of the many venues of Chaplaincy ministries. Rev. Guy Lee (CAPT, CHC, USN) serves in the U.S. Navy, Rev. Jim Salo serves as Executive Director of the American Police Chaplains Association, Rev. Gary Eno (LtCol CAP) serves as a Prison Chaplain in Ohio and with the Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary), and Rev. Larry Towne (Retired USAF Chaplain) served as Committee Chair and Chaplain Endorser.

Because of health concerns this year Larry was unable to complete his term, so with the approval of the Board in early April, Conference Minister Ron Hamilton appointed me to serve as Chaplain Endorser and Chair of the Chaplains Committee. With the support of the leadership team of the Congregation I am blessed to serve (Church of The Apostles in Coventry, Rhode Island), and with continued dependence upon the Lord, I humbly accepted this appointment. Having retired from the U.S. Navy last August after 27 years of service as a Chaplain, Active Duty and Reserves, and so appreciating the prayer support and endorsement of the CCCC through the years, it is now my privilege to give back. My first request is that you please join me in praying for Larry Towne, for God's healing and for peace and strength for him and Jennifer.

One of my initial tasks as Chaplain's Endorser has been to contact all CCCC Chaplains, to ensure we have current information regarding personal contacts and ministry assignments. I also invited personal prayer requests from our Chaplains, most of whom were glad to share requests. I ask you to join me in praying for them all. Without giving personal details here, in general our Chaplains are requesting prayers for: protection and direction, personally and for their families; wisdom for challenging ministry assignments and for raising children; anointing for effectiveness when responding to divine appointments each day; healing for themselves or family members; and grace to trust God and speak the truth and love of Jesus Christ as He gives opportunity.

### CCCC CHAPLAINS NOW SERVING

**CCCC Military Chaplains Now Serving (17):** *Active Duty* (11): Navy-5, Army-5, Air Force-1; *Reserves* (4): Army-2, Army National Guard-1, Air Force-1. *Civil Air Patrol/USAF Auxiliary* (2); **Prison Chaplains** (3); **Academic Chaplains** (3); **Law Enforcement** (1); **Rescue Mission** (1); **Medical Chaplains** (12): Hospitals-6, Hospice-3, Nursing Homes/Senior Care-3. In addition to the 37 Chaplains referenced here, we also have 18 Retired Military Chaplains, Active Duty and Reserves, who continue serving the Lord in other venues. Information on pursuing ecclesiastical endorsement for Chaplaincy is available on the Admin and Services tab at [www.cccusa.com](http://www.cccusa.com).

In addition to those whose primary ministry is Chaplaincy, a good number of CCCC members are generously serving as part-time volunteer Chaplains in their communities, whether for their local fire or police department, or at a local hospital, nursing home or veterans association, responding to community needs. What a tremendous way to serve in the name of Jesus! Please join me in thanking and praying for all CCCC Chaplains!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Gammon, *CCCC Chaplain Endorser*



## ANNUAL GATHERING PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

This is the first year an Annual Gathering Committee is operating under the most recent revisions to the CCCC Constitution and Bylaws. This being the case, we are in the process of shaping the Annual Gathering to fit new and different parameters with regard to budget, scheduling, location and themes.

The purpose of the Annual Gathering was discussed at length in the February 2016 Board of Directors meeting. The Board identified several items they hoped to achieve:

- Maintain the lowest possible costs for attendees while providing a high quality program and venue (hotel, college campus, church or conference center).
- Free Kingdom resources for AG committee members. We will work to develop a basic template against which to create our program so that the demands on AG Committee appointees will not be so excessive as to negatively impact their own local ministry work.
- Establish a consistent rotation of AG locations over a six (6) year cycle (3x in the East, 2x in Central/Mountain region and 1x in the Western regions of the country (except Hawaii/Alaska)).
- Invest more in the program rather than details: Seek a good balance between speakers (Nationally recognized and from our Conference), worship teams and seminars.
- Create a high anticipation for the Annual Gathering by ratcheting up communications through the Foresee and additional Conference publications and bulletins.
- Within the time allotted for the AG, create life-on-life opportunities that bring enjoyment, renewal and reunion.
- Use the AG to train Conference members in the CCCC priorities listed in categories of 3Ps (Our Passion, Our Pathway, Our Priorities.)
- Showcase regions around the country where God is at work in the CCCC.

Further Board discussions in July 2016 brought forth the acronym of Cheers. Our desire was to shape the AG to be Challenging, Healing, Equipping, Encouraging, Renewing and Satisfying. Again, in October 2016, the Board developed the AG Mission “To further the development and ownership of the CCCC Way of Life in members and their churches through programming, training and vision casting around our Seven Guiding Values.”

At AG2016 in Carlsbad, CA members of the AG2017 committee were officially appointed to coordinate the program to be held in Cranberry Township, PA at the Pittsburgh Marriott North. We are very busy addressing the many programming and planning tasks necessary to fulfill our stated Mission. Stay tuned for details to be announced at AG2017 concerning our plans for AG2018 in New England.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve. Pray for us as we continue to build the framework and rationale for many Annual Gatherings to come.

Tim Dubeau - *AG Coordinator 2017-2019*,  
Jim Bertoti – *AG2017 Local Arrangements Chair*,  
Sheri McMaster –  
*AG2017 registration coordinator*,  
Jason McConnell, Beth Goad –  
*AG2017 Seminar Coordinator, co-coordinators*  
Susan Moody – *AG2018 (and beyond) Advance  
Site Coordinator, Music/Worship*,

Special thanks to:  
Steve Burkett – *Exhibits*,  
Carolyn Benson and Shirley Hamilton -  
*Home Office staff*



## COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Communication Committee is continuing to work to enhance and improve how we deliver CCCC news and share our stories. In cooperation with staff members, the FORESEE UPDATE, a weekly email, is now being sent to all of our email subscribers. *(Please go to [cccusa.com/FORESEE](http://cccusa.com/FORESEE) and use the subscribe button in the footer if you are not receiving the UPDATES.)*

The UPDATE features:

- **Ministry Priorities:** What are our priorities, how do they work, how do they integrate, where do we see them happening?
- **Regional news:** What's happening in our regions, with the area pastors, and in churches who are impacting their communities?
- **Tactical Updates:** What's going on in the conference, and how do you need to interact with it? What are upcoming trainings, who should attend, and why? What are our committees? What do they do? Watch also for best practices updates.
- **Leadership Connections:** Meet our Board of Directors, incoming national and regional officers and people who are serving in strategic ministries.
- **Telling Our Stories:** Sharing stories of what God is doing "across the street and around the world." How can you get involved?

Our value of Shared Life and Mission is lived out as we stay in touch through regular Conference news in the FORESEE UPDATE, the FORESEE as well as other regular mailings and publications.

Stay connected in the CCCC Way of Life by keeping your contact info current in the Home Office records through completing the Annual Ministerial Questionnaire and Church Surveys.

Kim Gardell,

*Communication Committee Chair,*

Jeremy Peters, *Media Manager,* Sara Coons, Jason McConnell



## MICRONESIA MINISTRIES COMMITTEE REPORT

The ministry of the Micronesia Ministry Committee (MMC) continues to be the Morning Star Institute (MSI) as the Mizpah Christian High School is no longer operating. Thank you to CCCC churches and individuals who have prayed for and financially given that this ministry may continue. We also continue to add Micronesian churches here in the mainland who are asking for the training for their pastors and church leaders. We have also graduated 4 students in the past year who have completed their 30 credits which means they have taken 30 courses especially the Bible classes from the “*Be Series*” by Warren Wiersbe.

We now have classes in Pohnpei and Chuuk, Micronesia along with Saipan and Guam. We continue to have classes in Hawaii and the mainland USA. Since last summer’s annual gathering we have held classes in Pohnpei (2), Portland, Oregon, Saipan and Guam (2), Honolulu and Maui, Hawaii (2) and Chuuk (2). On two of these trips I was assisted by Dr. Phil Hoyer (Carlsbad) and Rev. David Olsen (Arizona).

Rev. Kohne Ramon (Pohnpeian) has taught classes in Pohnpei, Hawaii, Neosho, Kansas City and Marshall, Missouri; along with Portland, Oregon; Omaha, Nebraska; Maquoketa, Iowa and Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia (north of Atlanta). The Marshall, Missouri and Georgia classes are new this year. This gives us a total of 22 classes.

The most recent classes held in Chuuk, Saipan and Guam were the best attended in recent years. They included new students, returning students and graduate students continuing their Biblical studies. We also have another graduate from Chuuk, Rev. Kealoha Killion from Logan Memorial Church who is teaching a course to a new group of Chuukese pastors at a new church in Guam. We are praising God for this as this is our desire to teach faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

My next classes will be in Pohnpei for two weeks in August along with a class in Hawaii on the way home. In September I plan to be back in Portland, Oregon. In October back to Saipan and Guam (with Rev. Bonochou teaching in Chuuk). I plan to finish up in November in Maui and Honolulu, Hawaii.

Thank you once again for your prayers and financial support that make this ministry possible of equipping the saints for the work of the ministry. Not only are new classes being started in new church plants but other churches are asking for more than two classes each year. We plan to accommodate that request for the Chuukese church in Honolulu but failed to meet the request for Portland, Oregon.

Respectfully submitted,

Max Vague, *Chairman*,

Diane Lepior, Laurie Spalding, Bill Brandon, Jake Hartnett and Gary Gardell.



## MISSIONS COMMITTEE REPORT



Our Mission's Committee includes Malcolm Collins, Clair Longuevan, Roland Rose, Jeremy Scaggs, Eugene Schamko, and Marvin Eyler. We recognize the past service of Michael Greene, and Art Fleming

This year the total number of missionaries recognized by the CCCC is 94. 29 missionaries are working overseas, and 65 are based in the USA.

One project that the Mission's Committee has been working on recently is to ask each of our missionaries to provide a one page profile of their ministry. It is hoped that if we can receive these profiles, we will be better able to distribute information about our missionary activity to the CCCC Churches.

One financial scholarship was provided to a CCCC pastor this year to assist with a mission's short term trip. Financial scholarships are available to pastor's, if they are assisting with a short term ministry from their church.

Our CCCC missionaries in the Czech Republic, Jeffery and Lisa Griffith, have just informed the Committee that their new sponsoring agent in the US will be the Ohio Association of CCCC missions.

We are thankful for the many years of missionary service that Jeffery and Lisa have given in the Czech Republic.

Marvin Eyler, *Chairman*



## WOMEN'S MINISTRIES COMMITTEE REPORT

The Mission Statement of the Women's Ministry Committee is "to unify in Christ, encourage, strengthen, network, and minister to the needs of the women in member and other churches."

The Women's Ministry efforts to inform and encourage yielded great results again during our Annual Gathering in Carlsbad, CA last summer! During workshop times we were able to provide two opportunities to gather and talk. Our first workshop titled *Healthy & Whole* allowed for an opportunity to walk and talk to Carlsbad beach and discuss challenges and barriers to balance and health and action plans for moving forward. Our second workshop titled *Turn Up For Tea* allowed for conversation about our takeaways from the Conference. One common Annual Gathering takeaway echoed by those gathered for tea reflected the call to be effective workers in the harvest. Discussion also reflected on recognizing and acting on opportunities presented to plant seeds of the Gospel and so see lives transformed all around us.

The Women's Ministry Table provided excellent resources free of charge. Well over 100 items, books, journals and handouts, were given away. We also provided listening ears and prayer support for those who wanted/needed to talk by providing a Conversation Corner near our table for women to sit and chat. **Informing, Encouraging ... In Christ** is what the Women's Ministry Committee is all about!

Respectfully,  
Sharon Galloway,  
*Chair*



**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

The New Hampshire CCCC pastors continue to meet on a monthly basis. This year, leading up and following the presidential election, we have studied appropriate concepts in the book of Romans with much spirited discussion. We also hosted our fourth pastors and spouses dinner. This was well-attended, and has been a good way for pastoral couples to get better acquainted.

I continue to represent the Conference as Vice President of the New Hampshire Bible Society.

This year we welcome John Barner and Joyce Scott to our Conference, and are delighted to have them as part of our New Hampshire fellowship of Pastors.

In Christ,  
David Randlett

**VERMONT**

*Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise*

Psalm 145: 3a

The following are some of the activities I have been involved in as your Vermont Area Representative for the past year. The year began with the pastor of the Derby Community Church resigning in order to serve in a military chaplaincy. Derby now has a new pastor who is finishing up his studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. On June 11, I was appointed chair of a vicinage council to examine a candidate, Richard Shover, for ordination and then participated in his service of ordination at the Irasburg United Church on August 6. In November, my wife, Sharon, and I hosted a well attended pastors and wives dinner and gathering at our home in Jericho. I have had on going discussions with a pastor whose church is considering joining the CCCC, have been prayerfully helping a pastor and church in distress, and continue to visit some of our member churches and pastors as time permits as well as preaching or serving as a mentor, when invited.

Several noteworthy happenings: Upon retiring from the Jericho Congregational Church at the end of 2013, I made an agreement with the church that my wife and I would not be involved at the church during the interim period and for the first year of their new pastor's tenure before even considering returning to the church and only with the blessing of their new pastor. In December 2016, after three years absence, we were invited to return. We are slowly and carefully reintegrating, while being supportive of the new pastor and his family. He was licensed by the CCCC last June. This June I have the privilege of meeting with the Board of Deacons about forming an ordination committee and their responsibilities as they take the next steps in considering their pastor for ordination.

The second noteworthy happening is that the East Franklin Union Church in East Franklin, VT and the Franklin United Church in Franklin, VT have engaged me to serve as their "interim pastor" while their pastor, Jason McConnell, goes on sabbatical for four months this summer. My responsibilities began May 1 and continue through August 31.

I continue to work closely with our Northeast Regional Minister Rev. Terry Shanahan and appreciate having him as a resource and support. I consider it a privilege to serve the Lord and the CCCC in Vermont.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
Pastor Peter D. Anderson  
May 19, 2017

## **NORTHEASTER MASSACHUSETTS**

“Give thanks to the Lord, call on His name! Make known among the nations what He has done! Sing to Him, sing praises to Him! Tell of all His wonderful acts! Glory in His holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice! Look to the Lord and His strength; seek His face always!” (Psalm 105:1-4) What a privilege it is to rejoice in Him and to seek His face together as member ministers and churches in the CCCC! May we continue to call on Him, and then go on to make Him known by telling as many people as we can about all His wonderful acts!

It is my privilege to pray on a regular basis for the thirty-six CCCC churches and over ninety-five credentialed individuals here in northeastern Massachusetts. I am so thankful for their partnership in the things of Christ! With the Lord’s help, I have continued to serve them in the following ways during the past year.

I remain a part of the executive committee for the New England Congregational Christian Fellowship, which meets once every other month in Bolton, MA. I attended the annual meeting of the NECCF at Park Street Church in Boston, MA. Along with host senior pastor Jon Paul at our Andover, MA church, I helped lead a monthly pastors’ round-table discussion with an average of 15-20 credentialed individuals from the region attending. This past year, three of our sessions were led by different Christian lawyers who helped us become more familiar with areas of church life that can bring about the need for wise legal counsel. I also had the opportunity to lead a community pastors’ group of ten church leaders within a ten mile radius of the church I serve in North Chelmsford. We meet monthly as a group for a bag lunch, conversation, and prayer, and we are in touch by phone and e-mail on a regular basis as well.

Throughout the year I also assisted our national Credentials Committee by interviewing the following individual for ministerial standing in the CCCC: Joe Garrison. I also interviewed the leaders at Hope Community Church in Newburyport, MA in their search for CCCC standing. This church family received official notice of their new affiliation with the CCCC in May.

I continued to participate in a Missions Consortium with our CCCC churches in Malden, North Chelmsford, and Revere who meet on a quarterly basis to support new work among an unreached people group in southeast Asia. We pray regularly for two of our CCCC missionary families from northeastern Massachusetts who are representing us in this work.

It is an ongoing joy to serve our folks in northeastern Massachusetts in these various capacities.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stephen Burkett

## **SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS**

The Major step forward in SE Massachusetts this year was the establishment of a Community Pastors fellowship on Cape Cod. The group meets on 1st and 3rd Friday Afternoons (2pm) at First Baptist Church in Pocasset, Bourne, Massachusetts, which is pastored by CCCC pastor Glen Stone. Several other pastors from the area also attend.

- Chip Cobb was installed as pastor of the Union Congregational Church in Taunton.
- An additional pastor's fellowship gathers at Central Congregational Church in Middleboro, MA.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Peter Smith

## CONNECTICUT/RHODE ISLAND

Since our last Annual Gathering the churches of Connecticut and Rhode Island have been busy celebrating and growing! Here are some of the highlights:

- Rev. Stephen A. Gammon was installed as Superintendent of Church of the Apostles, our Conference church in Coventry, RI on October 1, 2016. Steve formerly served as CCCC Conference Minister.
- The First Congregational Church of Pomfret, CT dedicated their new building last November 20, just shy of three years since their historic building burned down. We all rejoice with the people of the First Church over the completion of this journey of faith!
- We welcomed The Congregational Church of Salem, CT as a member church, also this past November. Their strong presence in Southeastern CT is an important addition to our fellowship.
- Christopher Johnson, currently serving as Associate Pastor of The Poquonock Community Church, Windsor, CT was ordained on March 12, 2017. Chris is a graduate of Bethel Seminary of the East and Nyack College.
- Though their name has changed, Church of Hope of Hebron, CT celebrated its 300th year of ministry in 2016.

This year area pastors again met in two area “cohorts”. These are luncheon meetings that give us the chance to sit and share our hearts together, talk about the ups and downs of being shepherds, pray for one another and for our churches, and especially, learn to love one another as brothers in Christ. These groups have been very helpful and are a good functional bridge toward the smaller units the Conference has articulated should be our mentored ministry with one another.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the Conference for the honor of serving as Area Representative these past five years. I have learned a lot, grown, and been stretched in many ways by the experience. I look forward to continuing to serve the Conference as the Lord directs!

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan Colegrove

## **EASTERN NEW YORK AND WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP**

*And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.*

Colossians. 1:18

Our Regional Fellowship consists of Eastern New York State and Western Massachusetts. This includes at last count 17 member churches.

This has proven to be a very uneventful year for our regional fellowship. We have not had any region wide fellowship meetings this year. Time and distance has proven to be challenge for many. My sense is that that this is becoming the pattern in many regional fellowships of the Conference. Instead there are more localized groups gathering to meet for encouragement and prayer. This is especially true in the western end of our regional fellowship. A more localized approach is lending itself to the needs of the Conference.

I once again consider it a real privilege to serve the CCCC in this capacity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas E. Bridgman

## **GREATER NEW YORK CITY AND NEW JERSEY**

*Member ministers and ministries offer some encouraging news:*

**From Joe Mariln, a recently joined CCCC church planter:** “We are planting a Church by God’s grace in the very Irish and blue collar town of Gloucester City, NJ which is just across the river from the sports stadiums in Philadelphia. This summer has been one full of traveling, network building and positioning ourselves to be able to raise support to make push like missionaries into our Town. Would you pray for breakthroughs in people’s lives this summer as we are ministering in the Town’s trailer park, leading a Bible study on relationships and addictions? Pray for a committed core team, we would like to still recruit three or four other families who can help us carry some of the load of the ministry. We thank God for a ton of favor we’ve received and new friendships that have developed in the past few months. Pray for our small but growing Sunday Night Gathering at the local Pub, and for all the other ways we are seeking to minister in the community like family movie nights, Theology on Tap, and a Kid’s club.”

**From Bob Hall of the Bronx Household of Faith: BHoF** “is excited about Hope Academy, its flagship ministry, completing its third year. Hope Academy is not just another Christian school. It’s not even just another urban Christian school. It’s a school for kids that nobody else wants. These are kids with learning and/or behavior issues. It’s our goal to get them to a bona fide high school diploma as opposed to the very limited G.E.D. Additionally, BHO’s members have been involved in starting other ministries: Expect Hope, a home for women in crisis pregnancy as an alternative to abortion and Expect Hope, a healing ministry to those who bear the guilt of having had an abortion. It continues to hold fast to its vision to be the community of God’s people within the larger community for the purpose of demonstrating the transforming power of Jesus Christ.”

**From Layne Mershimer of FCC, Chester, NJ:** When Layne started his work at FCCC he “quickly discovered that FCCC had subtle unity fractures.” As a result he reports, “My ministry focus . . . is relational and is built on three main ideas: Intimacy with Christ, Unity in the Body, and Love for the World. I am thrilled to report that God is doing exceedingly more than I could ever ask or think. Through some specific conflict resolution, people have responded to God’s forgiving and transforming grace. One deacon recently observed, “Pastor, we may not be where we need to be, but I want you to know that we have not had this type of unity since I’ve been here (10 years).”

**From Bryan Burrell of Community Bible Church, Valley Cottage, NY:** Bryan reports that several new families have joined the church and CBC’s recent collaboration with a Pentecostal church has brought new life. CBC is sponsoring the development of the Jonah Mission, a relevant, multimedia presentation of the book of Jonah intended to be taken “to the nations.” A prayer and fasting initiative that meets on the 4th Sunday of every month has had encouraging participation. But these new developments have not been without efforts of the enemy to undermine. Bryan senses some recent health issues are a result of spiritual warfare.

**From Neighborhood Church, NY, NY:** Their All Things Project, an effort at cultural engagement to their Greenwich Village neighbors and beyond continues. They are praying for wisdom as to how they can leverage for the Kingdom the goodwill that has been built up. A halting start at renewal in some areas of the life of the church is receiving some fresh impetus with the anticipation that growth will follow. Their discipleship ministry for Christians with unwanted same-sex attraction, Higher Ground, has added a women’s component this year. The need is great and these courageous men and women are pressing on despite persistent pressure to yield.

— Kirk van der Swaagh

## WESTERN NY AND NORTHWESTERN PA

Our region engages in Pastor's and their wives tureen dinners to fellowship together and share what's happening in our fellowships as well as pray together. We met on September 26th, March 27th and May 22nd, this past year.

One of the highlights of our region this past year was the 200th anniversary celebration of the First Congregational Church of North Collins, New York. The Pastor, Derek S. Yoder, led the congregation in a 3 day celebration. On Friday night Jun 9th, the congregation chronicled the founding of the church by Rev. John Spencer, the "Missionary of the Western New York Frontier". On Saturday, June 10th, two trees were planted on the front lawn, a time capsule from 1959 was opened and its contents examined and the dedication of 2 stained glass windows commemorating 200 years. On Sunday morning and afternoon, two services were held to inspire the church to move forward.

Many churches in our CCCC region are due soon for their 200 year anniversaries which underscores the rich heritage of the gospel in our region.

On October 29th, we held our annual regional banquet at Fluvanna Community Church and enjoyed a great feast and an inspirational message from Rev. Tom Stiles, founder of Arise Ministries, dedicated to Biblical education of Pastors and churches in understanding government policies relating to church life.

Rev, Dayle F. Keefer



Rev. Derek Yoder, Pastor of the North Collins CCCC Church and family

## **ALLEGHENY FELLOWSHIP OF WESTERN PA**

The Allegheny Fellowship clergy meet quarterly. Our Women's Fellowship meets twice a year. After a credentials interview, we received a new church into the CCCC this year. Since my last report we have a new pastor with ordained standing in the Allegheny Fellowship as well as a new student Under Conference Care.

Our Fall Clergy Meeting was hosted by New Hope Church in Meyersdale, our newest CCCC congregation. Rev. John Patterson led us in worship and shared about St. James Fellowship, a unique ministry to special needs persons in the greater Pittsburgh area. Rev. David Meckley shared a presentation on A Faithful Witness in a Polarized Society, speaking before the 2016 election about our public discourse as ambassadors for Christ.

Clergy and some laity also met in the spring at St Paul's Congregational Church in Rural Valley where we heard Dr. George Scipione, Director of the Biblical Counseling Institute at Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh, offer an overview of pastoral counseling and its centrality in a healthy church. He based his remarks on Paul's ministry in Ephesus in Acts 20.

The Fall Women's Retreat drew participants from across the Allegheny Fellowship for teaching, prayer, fellowship and worship. In the spring they met for a seminar.

As area representative, meetings with clergy and churches to discuss issues in ministry help provide support and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Meckley

## **MID ATLANTIC REGION**

The Mid-Atlantic region consists of eight churches from Virginia and North Carolina. In 2016 the area representative Pastor Bill West interviewed two individuals for licensing as Ministers in the CCCC. Both were recommended to be licensed. Pastor West also worked with Rosemont Christian Church in Chesapeake Va as they formed their Pastor search committee seeking a new minister. He met with the committee giving them information on how the CCCC can assist them in their search.

Reverend Bill West

## **SOUTHEASTERN AREA**

The Southeastern Region remains sunny and warm. It's been an extremely dry year with many wild-fires – one that actually came up the edge of our neighborhood! We added three member pastors to our Southeastern CCCC community this year – two who are pursuing credentials (or may be receiving them at this annual meeting) and one who relocated to Florida.

This year I have met with two prospective member pastors for the Conference. One who lives on the Gulf Coast and one that is near me in Central Florida. I like to make personal visits when I can, but I'm thankful for technology when I cannot. I also made two visits this year to connect with CCCC pastors in our region. Both of these men are long-time friends and it is good to all be in the same State as we serve Jesus. We have genuine interest among at least 6 men in the development of a community pastor cluster here. The challenge we face is that we are so spread out geographically. We are planning to meet for lunch sometime in September to plan out the year – likely two face-to-face meetings in the Orlando area (because it is central to all) and two meetings by web conference. One has also mentioned to me the desire to hold a pastor & spouse retreat. We'll talk about that when we meet.

Every year in February the CCCC Board of Directors meets here in Orlando for their Winter Board Meeting. I try to help with any needed local arrangements. While that meeting is still far off, we do have some special meetings and potentially a training event based upon our Conference priorities tentatively planned for late October. Orlando is a great place for us to hold meetings because the cost of flights tends to be lower than other markets. We're happy to help the CCCC family with such plans.

Thankfully, this year has seen very few ministry needs. We did have one of our members step away from his current ministry and I'm making myself available to him to help in any way I can.

Respectfully,  
John Kimball

**EASTERN OHIO**

It has been unbelievably encouraging and sometimes a little daunting to be a part of so much ministry, growth and transition here in Eastern Ohio.

- Pastoral Communities have taken root. Our ongoing monthly Community, “The Gathering,” has spawned another Community with the leadership/help of Pastors David Dake and Jonathan Cheatham. In my own area we have used the Pastoral Community principles in a wide and varied group around Middlefield, Ohio. The results have been beautiful for these three groups—there is healthy vibrant discipleship going on through encouragement, accountability and brotherhood.
- A Vicinage Council concerning the Ordination of Pastor Will Coley was held at Parkman Congregational Church. By the time of the Annual Conference, Parkman will have celebrated his ordination and we welcome him as a CCCC licensed Ordained Minister
- I have had continued contact and met with a church in Muskingham, Ohio exploring their possible connection with the CCCC.
- The Ohio Association of the CCCC has been vibrant and moving into new areas of ministry as the sponsoring agency for Dr. David Kimberly’s Barnabas Ministry, a ministry of support, care and coaching for ministry leaders and missionaries. The Ohio CCCC looks to have formal connection with Jeff Griffith, Christian worker in the Czech Republic. We gathered at our Fall Meeting in Parkman, OH, Spring Meeting in Lodi, OH and Winter Banquet in Canton, OH.
- I led Communion and met with pastors at the Barnabas Ministry’s Ministry Clinic led by David Kimberly. This group of four pastors are committed to learn and grow together in four retreat times over the year.
- The United Church of Huntington has welcomed Michael Goss as their new Senior Pastor.
- There have been numerous personal contacts with pastors, walking through concerns and struggles, joys and victories, and various church and personal transitions.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bob Barber

## **WEST OHIO AND INDIANA**

As Area Representative for the CCCC I have completed the following tasks in 2016-17:

- Attended Anniversary Party for Retired Minister and Spouse near Greenville, Ohio
  - Rev. Carroll and Evelyn Pahl
- Spoke to two congregations in regards to joining the CCCC and offered direction.
  - Piqua, Ohio location
  - New Knoxville Ohio location.
- Spoke with Pastor in conflict with congregation and offered assistance.
  - Pastor resigned position and has taken another congregation out of the area.
  - Church is unwilling to respond to contact attempts. Location – Greenville, Ohio
- Organized our fall gathering in Richmond, Indiana, 5 persons were able to attend.

I have submitted my resignation at the Area Representative as it would be a conflict of interest for me to Pastor a congregation that is contemplating leaving their current denomination and consider the CCCC. To avoid ethical violations, my resignation is effective at the 2017 Annual Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pastor Ed Rinehart

## **MICHIGAN**

We had to cancel our Fall Pastor's and Wives retreat due to lack of interest. Timing and scheduling conflicts as well financial burdens led to the decision.

In October I made a presentation about the CCCC to the Congregational Church in Curtis (Upper Peninsula). The meeting was well attended and the conversations and questions were lively. They are carefully working through the process of where God is calling them to serve.

On November 13 we gathered at the Congregational Church of Bancroft for the installation of Todd Evans as Pastor. It was a great family celebration as Rev. Mike McDonald, former Pastor was present and shared encouragement. Rev Dr. Gary Evans, Todd's father, served the congregation as interim Pastor between Mike and Todd. Mrs. Evans, Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Wood prayed for Mrs. Amber Evans as she assumed the role of First Lady. The Michigan family rejoiced in the new leadership for this faithful congregation.

Pastors gathered in Perry at the end of January for an encouragement event. Conversations, lunch and conversations concluding with a time of prayer filled the agenda.

We gathered in late April for our Spring Rally at Trinity Congregational Church in Grand Rapids. Rev. Michael McDonald presented a paper for consideration and discussion. Short business session elected officers for coming year.

I have shared at least monthly conversations by phone or text with four of my brothers in ministry. We continue to wrestle with the distance of travel issue but are making progress in staying connected. I can't thank Rev. Jeff Meyers enough for his faithfulness and diligence in leading this cohort. His prayers, telephone calls, wisdom and encouragement are God's blessing on Michigan.

I have had the privilege of two interviews for standing in our fellowship. And we have two candidates in preparation for ordination and ministry recognition in the wings.

God is faithful, praise His name.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Wood

## **NORTHERN ILLINOIS FELLOWSHIP**

We have had four new lead Pastors fill positions in Congregational Churches. Pastor Brian Michael was called as pastor to Peoria Heights Congregational Church, Pastor Carl Hammer was called to First Congregational Church In Peru IL, Lamonte Ballard is serving at Evangelical Community Church in Blue Island and Thomas Mathisen is serving at Shirland Congregational Church in Shirland IL. We also had Scott Wertz come to Zion Church in Freeport as an associate pastor, however he has left to return to teach at a Christian School in Dallas TX at which time Steve Rios was called as an associate pastor.

Seward Congregational Church celebrated their 175th Anniversary with Pastor David Bordy. We had 51 children between 10 and 17 years old attend CCCC Camp at Rock River Bible Camp in Dixon IL with First Congregational Church of Highland IL being the coordinating church.

We met as a Fellowship, Saturday September 10th, 2016 for our Annual Meeting. Officers were elected and we were led in worship by our brother Art Gay.

We have tried off and on to have a time of prayer and fellowship via the telephone or meeting in smaller localized groups.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev Thomas Mathisen

## WISCONSIN

Greetings from Wisconsin! The Wisconsin Fellowship of Conservative Congregational Christian Churches is composed of CCCC churches and credentialed individuals located in all of Wisconsin with the exception of those in the northwestern area of the state. It is my privilege to serve the Lord and His Church as the pastor of my local church, and also serve the CCCC family in Wisconsin as Area Pastor. Here are some highlights of what the Lord has been doing in Wisconsin since the last Annual Gathering:

- The Fellowship continues to meet monthly, with churches and pastors throughout the area hosting the meetings on a rotating basis. During these gatherings, we continue to implement principles that encourage the development of pastoral health and community in our Area. An encouragement to the Wisconsin pastors especially over the past year is the rising attendance of some lay leaders of our churches at these Fellowship meetings. Also, after a one year “hiatus”, we reinstated our annual overnight Pastors’ and Leaders’ Retreat this past May, when we were blessed by the “in-house” teaching of Doug Livingston, Bob Brandhagen, and Cliff Christensen.
- Some of our churches saw milestones this past year:
  - St. Peter Evangelical Church and St. Paul’s Christian Church, a yoked parish in Elkhart Lake, welcomed Rev. Ted McCurdy as their settled pastor in August, 2016. We pray for God’s continued blessing upon the churches and their pastor.
  - First Congregational Church, Hillsboro, celebrated their 125th Anniversary on October 23, 2016. Regional Pastor Cliff Christensen represented the CCCC at the celebration.
  - Please keep the Wilton, WI and Hillsboro, WI Churches in prayer that the Lord will direct them as they seek the pastor of His choosing, and for their leaders and search committees along with those serving the churches in the interim period.
- One of our Community Pastors, Bob Brandhagen, is working toward establishing a pastoral community in his local area in Central Wisconsin. Bob has also made contact with some of our CCCC retired pastors in the central part of the state. The Lord has also provided an opportunity for me to establish a pastoral community among pastors of various rural/small town churches in my local area in the eastern part of the state.
- The work of Church Development in our Area will be continuing over the next year as some of our churches continue or begin working through the CCCC Church Development Process. Pray as the Lord works among us toward developing healthy disciple-making churches!
- It is a blessing to be working with some individuals toward credentialing in the CCCC, and also serving as a coach/mentor for some of our pastors as well.
- Coming this Fall, we are looking forward to holding a Biblical Peacemaking Seminar, open to all of our Wisconsin CCCC family, and particularly aimed toward equipping our pastors and church leaders with these important principles.
- We are thankful to have Rev. Cliff Christensen working alongside us as our North Central Regional Pastor – his wisdom, experience and encouragement is of great value to me personally and to us as a Fellowship as he has opportunity to join us. The Wisconsin Fellowship Officers are Rev. Doug Livingston [President], Rev. Dr. Marc Axelrod [Vice-President], Pastor Dan Hummel [Secretary] and myself [Treasurer].

Respectfully Yours in Christ’s Service, David Easley

## UPPER MIDWEST CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

*“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much”*

Luke 16:11a

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In keeping with this year’s CCCC Annual Conference Theme, “First Things First,” I have consistently met with our Conference Minister, Ron Hamilton during the course of the year for prayer. It is a privilege to pray with him and for him. I am always encouraged by these encounters of believing and intercessory prayer.

I have also met with several pastors of the UMCF on a monthly basis for fellowship and prayer. With an ever increasing busy schedule, it is getting harder to make this happen every month. Sometimes only two or three of us meet. Yet each gathering has been an opportunity to participate in what we share in common, our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. I encourage all pastors of the CCCC to make every effort to be involved in a Community Pastor’s group, and where that is not possible, get involved with some other like-minded, like-spirit pastors.

One of the highlights of this past year was our annual Pastor’s Retreat, which was recently held in early May at Camp Lebanon. It was a well-attended retreat, which also included some spouses and children. Carl Nelson, President and Chief Executive Officer of Transform Minnesota and CCCC Conference Minister Ron Hamilton led our sessions. Friendships were strengthened and renewed during this 24 hour getaway.

During the course of this past year, some pastors and congregations reported numerical growth while others faced leadership challenges and still others were striving to reach their communities with the gospel of Christ.

Randall Timblin Sr was called to serve the Cons Congregational Church in Hollandale, MN. He has already seen some new people visit and continue to attend the church. Church of Peace and Minnewashta churches of Minnesota and Hope Church of WI are now actively searching for a pastor.

The Lord continues to bless us here in the UMCF with faithful servants and committed congregations. It is a privilege to serve with them and alongside of them. Through these humble men and women of God, may we see God’s kingdom expand and make a difference in our region.

I respectfully submit this report by the grace of God,

Daniel L. Peterson,  
*UMCF Area Pastor*

## GREAT PLAINS CONGREGATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

Grace and Peace. The Great Plains Fellowship has the privilege of serving God and enhancing His Kingdom in the regions of Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. This past year has been truly a year of transition and we have remained faithful to our passion: to love God, love others and make disciples while embracing the seven guiding values of our denomination.

We hold our bimonthly (every other month) meetings at Evangelical Bible Church (Dickinson, ND) for a time of prayer and praise, testimony sharing, studying the Word, conducting the business of the Great Plains and then fellowship. This truly has been a time of great encouragement for the pastors and spouses of many in our Fellowship. In addition to our meetings, we have also developed a Facebook page to help keep us connected with each other in the interim due to the geographical distance between us.

As we have transitioned through the year, there are many things that have occurred that we stop and reflect upon.

First, we rejoiced together in the ministry and impact that New Bethel Church (Hazen, ND) had made in the community for many years. However, the Lord had led their congregation to close their doors as a specific place of worship and therefore, there was a beautiful Celebration Service held in the sanctuary on Sunday October 16th. We were blessed to have our Conference Minister, Rev. Ron Hamilton, there to share as part of the service. Members of the congregation were encouraged to continue to bloom as disciples and continue to make an impact in other churches as they connect with other church families. Many have reconnected and are greatly continuing to serve God in His Church and world.

Then, on June 2nd-4th, we gathered at Zoar Congregational Church (Mott, ND) for our Annual Meeting of the Great Plains Fellowship. The theme of the conference was: “Knowing God: More Than Just Facts and Trivia”. We had three enriching days of worship and had Bible-centered teaching from many of our Fellowship pastors. There were great fellowship opportunities and delicious meals provided by the Ladies of Zoar Congregational Church. Also during this time (Saturday morning) we conducted our business meeting and during the evening worship service we installed our elected and re-elected officers to their positions with an Installation Service performed by our Regional Minister, Rev. Cliff Christensen.

Finally, we are also excited along with Able Baker as he is going to receive his credentials from the CCCC at this year’s Annual Gathering. Able has served at Christ Evangelical Reformed Church in Hardin, Montana since 2014 alongside his wife and children. He has a passion for sharing the Gospel and has graciously served and continues to serve as our VP Moderator of the Great Plains Fellowship. He will be installed at a later date.

Also, as a Fellowship, we are thankful for the years that Richard Cook has served as our Area Pastor. We continue to keep both he and his wife in our prayers and look forward to the many great things that the Cooks will be able to do for the Kingdom in their new ministry.

God is truly moving in the Great Plains Fellowship and we look forward to ways that we will be able to further His Kingdom in the year to come.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Frank Sapp, Jr.  
*Area Pastor—Great Plains Fellowship*

## **PACIFIC NORTHWEST**

What a blessing it is to take time to reflect on what God is doing in the lives of those who are called according to His good purposes. This past year has been a struggle to meet with all our constituents throughout the PNW. There are two major God sightings in the PNW area this past year. And there continues to be a powerful move of the Holy Spirit in the north-eastern area of the PNW.

We had a very nice PNW representation at the Family Conference in Carlsbad this past July. As we gathered together we spent time renewing contacts and refreshing in the beautiful sun and hospitality of the family and friends in Carlsbad.

## **SOUTH EASTERN AREA**

The Spokane area, including Thompson Falls, MT has been very busy this past year as the three churches continue to work through the Church Development process. We have completed one module this past year, Journey. Thompson Falls hosted the recent module and the response from all who attended was very exciting. Garfield Christian Fellowship and Plymouth Congregational, Spokane, were represented at the module and continue to show excitement for what the Holy Spirit is doing through the teaching and interaction of the Life-Flow process.

## **NORTH WESTERN AREA**

I have been in contact with Lon Graham from Blaine, WA. He is pastoring Christ Community Church and is interested in join the CCCC fellowship. I will be meeting with Lon, his family and the church June 3. We are excited that God has brought us the opportunity to make connections with Lon and Christ Community Church.

We are very excited to have the opportunity for the Church Development process in the PNW. We are encouraged to know that we have support from the Conference Care leadership, Peter Wood and team. We are praying for Church Planting, Ron Hamilton and team, to have a presence in the PNW. We are very excited about and are looking forward to have the Area Pastor process more complete in the PNW.

Please join us in prayer: As we continue to watch and listen for God to bring a stronger CCCC presence to the Pacific Northwest Region; As Kim and Gary Gardell, begin to make the transition into the next stage of life; As Plymouth Congregational, listens to God's voice in searching for a CCCC pastor; As life connections are made with Lon Graham; and As we continue to seek connectedness and unity in the family of CCCC churches.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dean Walker

## CALIFORNIA

Greetings from the California CCCC Pastors, Ministers and Missionaries who serve on the West Coast!

The past year was a year of transition as Stephen Sloat resigned as the California Area Pastor after 7 years of service. Stephen led well during his years as Area Pastor and was a great encouragement to the CCCC leaders who call California home. He continues to serve as the Pastor of Coachella Valley Christian Church in Indio, CA. We appreciate the faithful service of Stephen and Karen Sloat who have both served our Conference well over the years.

It was a great joy to have the Annual Gathering here in California last summer. Thanks again to all those folks who helped make the AG such a wonderful time of learning, worship, fellowship and just plain fun! We look forward to hosting the AG again in the future- maybe after we rest up for 5 years☺ A special thanks to two lay leaders from Carlsbad Community Church: Mike McElroy and Bill Brandon who assisted the AG leadership team with much of the logistics and on-site planning. They are beginning to show signs of energy again.

We also were glad to host a west coast Area pastor training event here in Oceanside, CA this past year. The times of fellowship, prayer and learning together is something that I will never forget. It is exciting to see the progress on a wider commitment to the priorities of the Conference. More and more Pastors are putting into practice the Irreducible Core; the Seven Guiding Values and the Three Priorities of the CCCC. I have been to many training events over the years but this one is one that I will always remember.

Like many other groups of ministers in the CCCC family we have had many ups and downs as a group. That is why we find it a great joy to get together as often as we can for prayer, fellowship and mutual encouragement. Carlsbad Community Church hosted bi-monthly gatherings for CCCC ministers this past year. We have also been encouraged by the work of Lake Avenue Church in hosting 4 different Vicinage Council events this past year. Special thanks to Ella Lau for her work as Credentialing Coordinator for LAC.

There are currently approximately 30 ministers who are active in the CCCC California activities. Currently we have 9 active CCCC churches in California. Obviously this means that we are praying about a greater involvement among our ministers and churches to engage more faithfully in a church planting movement that would spread the gospel to more parts of our great state. We are looking forward to the AG in PA this summer. God's best to each one of you from your brothers and sisters in California!

Because Of His grace,  
Alvin Helms,  
*Area Pastor for California*



Thank you for entrusting me with the ministry of serving the CCCC as Conference Minister. Your prayerful support is appreciated and needed as I serve the Lord in this position. I believe that God is doing a special work in our fellowship as we share the CCCC Way of Life together. There are many opportunities and challenges that we face grow in our devotion to “love God...love others...and, as we go, make disciples.”

My work in the past year has focused on these areas of ministry...

### **COMMUNITY PASTOR INITIATIVE**

We continue to use the resources of a grant from the Pastoral Excellence Network to train Community Pastors to lead pastoral communities across our nation. The purpose of these Communities is to provide an environment for the nurture and growth of our pastors. While the initial phase of this training will be completed in 2017, we anticipate ongoing development and training of Community Pastors for years to come.

### **REGIONAL MINISTRIES**

Regional ministry is a focus of our new structure in the CCCC.

- Terry Shanahan (Northeast Regional Pastor) – Terry is serving effectively in New England and the ministry of the CCCC is growing and developing in this region of our nation.
- Cliff Christensen (North Central Regional Pastor) – We were pleased to appoint Cliff in February as a volunteer Regional Pastor to represent the CCCC in Iowa, Minnesota, North & South Dakota, and Wisconsin. Cliff is working diligently to contact our pastors and churches in that region.

### **MINISTRY PRIORITIES**

- Church Development.

I have worked with our Director of Church Development, Dr. John Kimball, and the Church Development Committee to strengthen this ministry in the past year. We continue to train pastors and church leaders in the Life Flow process that guides member churches to strengthen their health and expand their ministry. We are working to develop Church Development hubs to make this work more accessible at the local level. We are also looking at ways to do “guided development” to churches that are not ready to engage in the full church development process.

- Church Multiplication

Many of our pastors and churches are engaged in this ministry of “kingdom expansion” through the planting of new church. I am grateful for the work of the Church Multiplication Committee and our Director of Church Multiplication, Rob O’Neal, as they recruit, assess, train, coach and resource church planters and church planting projects. Church planting is an effective ministry to develop and grow disciples and this ministry is critical to the future vitality of our Conference.

- Conference Care

We are pleased that Rev. Peter Wood has accepted the position of Director of Conference

Care in the past year. Peter works with our Regional Pastors, Terry Shanahan (Northeast) and Cliff Christensen (North Central) to care for our pastors and churches. This work involves meeting with pastors and visiting churches, assisting with conflicted situations, and helping with pastoral transitions. We are encouraged about the potential of the development of Regional Pastors in other regions in the next year.

The work of these three priorities has joined together in the past year to develop resources to assist churches that are in crisis. We are concerned that many of our churches are uncertain of the viability of their ministry beyond the next five years. We have developed resources to come alongside these churches and their leadership to help them assess where they are in this process and guide them as they seek God's will for the future. Some of these churches will be revitalized or restarted. Some may close but invest their resources in the development of new churches.

### **FINANCIAL RESOURCING OF OUR MINISTRY**

I have worked with the Finance Committee to stabilize the use of our financial resources as we set our budget and invest our resources in ministry. We are reengaging the Stewardship Committee to help our member pastors and churches understand what it takes for us to develop and expand our ministry. I am grateful for the faithful support of our members and am pleased that we have made great strides in managing our resources and maximizing our ministry.

### **PERSONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT**

I want to model of what it means to "love God...love others...and, as we go, make disciples." I am devoted to be the best servant leader that I can be and seek the guidance of a mentor, a prayer partner and members of our fellowship to help me to this end.

### **REPRESENTING THE CCCC TO THE LARGER BODY OF CHRIST**

I have been privileged to represent the Conference in meeting with:

- World Evangelical Congregational Fellowship – Serving as Vice-President
- National Association of Evangelicals – meetings of the NAE Board and denominational leader's meetings

### **DIRECTOR OF PLACEMENT ACTIVITIES**

I also have directed the CCCC pastoral placement process as we:

- Assist pastors seeking placement and churches seeking pastors
- Coordinate our placement work with the ministries of Conference Care and Church Development.
- Work with our Regional Pastors and Conference Care ministry to assist church in finding intentional interim pastors for churches in transition.

Please pray for me! I need the Lord's strength, wisdom and guidance as serve the Lord and our membership in this ministry.

Respectfully,

Ron Hamilton, *Conference Minister*



2016 – 2017

**CHURCHES ASSISTED IN PLACEMENT**

Santa Barbara, CA	Bethany Congregational Church *	Chuck Burwell
Thomaston, CT	First Congregational Church (Independent)	Marcus Lee
Blue Island, IL	Evangelical Community Church *	LaMonte Ballard
Peoria Heights, IL	Peoria Heights Congregational Church *	Brian Michael
Peru, IL	First Congregational Church (Ind.)	Carl Hammer
Georgetown, MA	Byfield Parish (UCC)	Brent Fugate
Heath, MA	Union Evangelical Church of Heath	James Koyama
Wakefield, MA	First Parish Congregational Church *	Greg Hopwood
Kittery Point, ME	First Christian Church *	Greg Lull
Bancroft, MI	First Congregational Church *	Todd Evans *
Hollandale, MN	Hollandale Congregational Church *	Randall Timblin, Sr.
Candia, NH	Candia Congregational Church (Independent)	Steve Baker
Goffstown, NH	Congregational Church of Goffstown *	Mark Kraines
Seabrook, NH	Rand Memorial Church *	Craig Everett
Marietta, OH	St. Paul's Evangelical Church (EA)	Joe Vasarhelyi
Wellington, OH	United Church of Huntington *	Mike Goss
Berne, PA	St. Thomas Church	Dan Luce
Chesapeake, VA	Rosemont Christian Church *	Mark Grogans
Spokane, WA	Lincoln Heights Community Church *	Jesse Pickott
Elkhart Lake, WI	St. Paul's & St. Peter Churches (Yoked pastorate) *	Ted McCurdy *

**PASTORAL OPENINGS**

Bethune, CO	Hope Congregational Church *
Greeley, CO	St. Paul's Congregational Church * (Part-time Associate Pastor)
Hebron, CT	Hebron Church of Hope *
Salem, CT	Congregational Church (Independent) (Part-time Youth Pastor)
Sharon, CT	Sharon Congregational Church (Independent)
Sherman, CT	Sherman Congregational Church * (Part-time Youth Pastor)
Parkersburg, IA	First Congregational Church * (Teaching & Missions Pastor)
Pleasanton, KS	First Christian Church (Independent)
Boston, MA	Park Street Church * (Senior Pastor)
Boxford, MA	First Church Boxford (CCCC) (Associate Pastor)
Framingham, MA	Crossroads Community Church (Independent)
Kingston, MA	Mayflower Church * (Part-time Youth Pastor)
N. Brookfield, MA	North Brookfield Congregational Church *
Saugus, MA	Clifondale Congregational Church *
Wilmington, MA	Wilmington Congregational Church (Ev. Free)

New Haven, MI	First Congregational Church *
Norwood-YA, MN	Church of Peace * (Part-time)
Shorewood, MN	Minnewashta Community Church *
Elgin/Glen Ullin, ND	Hope Cons. Congregational Church/Evangelical Congregational Church *
Mitchell, NE	Federated Church *
Candia, NH	Candia Congregational Church (Independent)
Grafton, NH	Millbrook Christian Fellowship *
Glenville, NY	East Glenville Community Church *
Lakeview, NY	Lakeview Community Church *
Lisle, NY	Center Lisle Congregational Church (UCC)
Chardon, OH	Hambden Congregational Church *
Vermillion, OH	Vermillion E & R Church * (Part-time music director/keyboardsist)
Xenia, OH	Mt. Zion Church *
Chicora, PA	St. Paul's Community Church *
McClure, PA	Mt. Bethel Church *
Warfordsburg, PA	Whips Cove Church (Independent) Part-time
Chepachet, RI	Chepachet Union Church
Spokane, WA	Plymouth Congregational Church *
Superior, WI	Hope Church *
Wilton, WI	Faith Congregational Church *

\* = Conference member



### **NORTHEAST REGIONAL MINISTER**

For the last ten years I have begun my report by stating that it is not about the numbers. But guess what, this year it is about the numbers. God has been so faithful to grow the ministry of the CCCC in the Northeast over these years. Clearly His hand has been upon us.

Since last year's Annual Gathering I had 55 individual meetings with pastors to discuss joys and concerns, conflict, discouragement, mentoring, placement, credentials, etc.

In addition to the individual meetings I attended and participated in 16 pastoral group meetings around the region. I am also blessed to host a community pastors group of six pastors in my home once a month where we experience life on life.

Karlotta and I organized and led a Pastor and Spouse Encouragement Retreat for the state of Maine with fifteen ministry couples present. They expressed what a blessing it was for them to come from around the state and connect with one another.

I had 22 on-site meetings with the leadership of churches which are in transition to discuss CCCC recommendations of best practices, providing help in finding Interim pastors and working on next steps including the organization of pastoral search committees.

I participated in Installation services for 5 pastors recently called to their pulpits plus participated in two ordination councils and one new church building dedication.

I was able to visit 34 of our CCCC churches on various Sundays, bringing the message on 17 of those occasions.

I participated in three executive committee meetings for our regional fellowship, planning events for the region and participated in the NECCF Annual Meeting at Park Street Church in Boston.

In the past ten years in the Northeast we have had 28 new churches join with us, an average of a little more than three a year. We most likely will have three or four churches join us this year from the Northeast. So we are still on track for adding churches. In that same time frame we have had nine churches close or leave the CCCC, about one a year. In addition we have had 45 pastors called to new pulpits, that being on average 4 churches a year in transition. That number is increasing.

Currently in the Northeast we have 17 churches in transition. Certainly placing trained Interims in these transition churches continues to be a priority and we are raising up and training more Interims each year. We are invested in raising up the next generation of pastors and have seen some of our churches willing to call a younger pastor.

The work continues to be exciting and I am blessed every day by these opportunities that God presents in the Northeast.

In His Joy,  
Terry

**NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL MINISTER**

The North Central Region of the CCCC consists of North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa. We have four Area Pastors with whom I meet monthly by phone: Frank Sapp in North Dakota, Dan Peterson in Minnesota, Dave Easley in Wisconsin, and Tim Sir in Iowa. We have three Area fellowships: the Great Plains Congregational Fellowship (including Minnesota, eastern Montana and north-west South Dakota), the Upper Midwest Congregational Fellowship (Including Minnesota, southeastern South Dakota and part of western Wisconsin), and the Wisconsin Fellowship. We currently have no formal fellowship in Iowa, though we hope to see one re-established.

In the past year it has been my privilege to visit most of our churches and credentialed members in the Region. I was also privileged to attend the Wisconsin pastors retreat, the UMCF pastors retreat, and the GPCF annual meeting. All were well attended and encouraging. We have been blessed with some newly credentialed members, but were sad to see one church close. Our churches in small towns suffer the most where the population is aging and decreasing. Thankfully, we have also been blessed with the planting of several new churches under the umbrella of the Northstar Church Multiplication Center which holds monthly meetings that I attend.

My ministry also puts me in touch with pastors and churches that are hurting physically, financially, emotionally, and spiritually. I serve on the Conference Care Committee by virtue of my position, and we seek ways in which to assist in times of need. I'm especially blessed by those pastors who struggle faithfully under very trying circumstances in a spirit of love and grace. They are some of the heroes of the faith.

I also met recently with other denominational leaders in the Twin Cities area. They meet three times a year, and I plan to make this a priority. In addition, I meet regularly, but separately, with two laymen for study, encouragement, challenge, and discipleship.

I'm glad to report that the expenses of the North Central Regional Pastor continue to be met. Thank you to those of you who have contributed to this ministry, whether as individuals or through your church or area fellowship.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve the Conference in this way, but you should know it's also a team effort. Carol accompanies me on all my trips, and her contribution is significant, not only to me, but to those with whom we visit.

Cliff Christensen,  
*North Central Regional Minister*



### DIRECTOR OF CONFERENCE CARE

Having assumed the role of Director of Conference Care in November of last year I have spent these first eight months trying to learn the “ins and outs of the job”. I have come to appreciate in a far deeper way how Len Zeller was able to handle all the parts of this position.

I have taught two Community Pastor Training events with the help of Ron Hamilton, Todd Venman, and Bob Barber. We now have about 52 Pastors trained and I have started to check back and see how many groups have been formed and to encourage the formation of more groups throughout the CCCC. Come this Fall I hope to have training sessions in parts of the country where we have not yet held them.

I have worked with Ron Hamilton, Rob O’Neal, and John Kimball on the “Turning Point” material. This material is designed to help churches in their efforts to either “turn around” their present church; re-plant a church in their area, or failing to have the ability to do that, become a “legacy” to further the Kingdom through other churches. I have worked with the Regional Pastors, Cliff Christensen and Terry Shanahan, as well as with the Church Development Team to start the implementation of this tool.

I have established regular meeting with the Regional Pastors and I am in process of contacting the Area Pastors as well as Community Pastors to create a system of support for our pastors and insure that we have healthy pastors in healthy churches.

Working with the Credentials Committee I have finished the work to reinstate the one pastor under care and have interviewed a pastor for credentialing in the CCCC. I would like to thank Dan Peterson for all the help.

I have followed up on several pastors and churches that are having difficulty. I have and am continuing to meet with a couple of churches at this time.

I wish to thank those who have been instrumental in my starting in this ministry particularly Ron Hamilton, Todd Vedman, Terry Shanahan, Cliff Christensen, and John Kimball. I particularly wish to thank Len Zeller whose great work and graciousness has made my work much easier.

In Christ,  
Peter G. Wood,  
*Director of Conference Care*

## **DIRECTOR OF CHURCH DEVELOPMENT**

The Church Development Team is an active ministry team within the CCCC. We continue to meet two times each month – a two-hour meeting of the Church Development Committee for planning and strategizing, and a two-hour meeting of the entire Church Development team for prayer, intercession and implementation of our processes together. I also meet one-on-one (via the web) with several of the Committee members each month as needed/requested both for personal coaching and to work on specific ministry initiatives.

### **REPORT SINCE THE 2016 ANNUAL GATHERING**

We have been blessed to gather face-to-face a little more this year, and it has provided some substantial benefits. In fact, we are now planning to meet at least twice each year face-to-face – once at the Annual Gathering and once in the Fall/Winter for a planned retreat and strategy meeting. Dave Easley joined me Orlando for the 2016 Renovate! National Church Revitalization Conference. We had been evaluating our ongoing participation in this multi-denominational gathering. This year's event was particularly good and so we're re-engaging for this fall's Conference. We also planned another special gathering this spring (here) in Florida. The CCCC Ministry Staff held their annual retreat at my home in Oviedo, where we had a wonderful time of refreshing but also worked on the new Turning Point ministry for churches that are struggling. That retreat was followed by a special Church Development Team Retreat (the next week) where my friend Steven Barr (Cast Member Church at Disney) presented his excellent Church Beyond Imagination Conference just for our group. The innovative process Steven has developed fits beautifully with our own processes. We are now talking about hosting some Church Beyond Imagination gatherings for clusters of CCCC pastors in different places around the country. Finally, we ended that week with a couple of days of planning – working on the Turning Point ministry, its emphasis on a directed development process, and on other plans for our ministry within the CCCC.

I have had two major ministry trips this year. The first was to Thompson Falls, Montana working with Rich Cook on the Journey training for our hub in the Pacific Northwest. The second was to work with Peter Wood in bringing the Peacemaker training to our church in Berkshire, New York. Our team continues to complete the work with existing training hubs and transition to working with the more localized clusters of pastors and churches that are growing out of the Community Pastor Initiative. We have also planned three important workshops for this year's Annual Gathering in Cranberry, Pennsylvania.

### **PLANS MOVING FORWARD**

In addition to our workshops at this year's Annual Gathering, we are also presenting a Church Development Intensive (with pre-registration) entitled, Making Disciples: Key to Developing Your Church. This one-day intensive gives an overview of our Church Development Process. We're excited because this year's intensive has a fantastic pre-enrollment. Our team will continue to work with Peter Wood and the developing Community Pastor clusters to communicate with and identify pastors, churches and whole clusters desiring a Church Development investment. With the inclusion of the Turning Point process, we will now be able to provide both the full developmental process and a more a la cart approach to best meet the needs of each pastor and congregation. I am excited to be giving a little more investment into our church at Chester, Vermont as they will be one of our first congregations utilizing the directed development approach. And I am also excited to work with Ron Hamilton

and NCD America to bring Natural Church Development training to the CCCC, equipping many of our CCCC pastors to be NCD Consultants in an effort to multiply our ability to do church assessment and directed development. While more on that training will be forthcoming, we're tentatively planning to hold it the last week of October in Orlando.

As I say each year, it is a pleasure to serve as your Director of Church Development. I am grateful to Dave Easley (chairman), the Church Development Committee and all those who make up the larger Church Development Team. I am blessed to partner with such a devoted and prayer-filled group of co-laborers.

Respectfully  
John Kimball,  
*Director of Church Development*

## CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Healthy disciple-making churches: A value and priority of the CCCC Way of Life. The Church Development Committee, and larger Team, is devoted to prayerfully encouraging and strengthening local churches toward increasing church health resulting in greater ministry fruitfulness. The Committee meets once a month via video-conference, and the Team also meets once a month via video-conference for prayer and relevant business if time allows.

Our desire in Church Development is to provide specialized attention to churches in order that individual needs might be most effectively met. Over the past few years, we have been reviewing our curriculum and presentation, and have prayerfully determined outcomes that churches can expect to realize if they fully engage in the development process. To that end, and to complement the *LifeFlow* Process of Church Development, we are in the process of identifying recommended resources to include in a Church Development “Toolbox”, and establishing a profile of a “Church Revitalizer”.

During the next year, we will be prayerfully preparing some additional ways to foster the work of Church Development. We are working in concert with the Conference Staff and the other ministry priorities in preparing for the implementation of the “Turning Point” process to help churches who come to us and ask for assistance. The Committee and Team is also working on ways to come alongside our churches and pastors to target and help to address any specific needs in order to bolster church health. Please watch for more information that, Lord willing, should be made available during the next several months. Our Committee and Team will continue to seek out the best resources and training to provide our churches with help that meets needs, aiding in the discovery of what the Lord of the Church desires to bring about in our local churches.

The Lord has provided a talented and devoted group to work alongside John Kimball, for whom I am thankful. The Church Development Team consists of Dave Balicki, Jim Bertoti, Rich Cook, Tim Franklin, Scott Nice, Dan Peterson, Todd Venman, Dean Walker, Peter Wood, and myself. From among the Team, individuals are elected by the Conference or appointed by the Board of Directors to the Church Development Committee, which consists of Dave Balicki, Rich Cook, Tim Franklin, Dean Walker, and myself, appointed as the Chairman in October. A special word of thanks to the following men who have faithfully been a part of the Church Development Committee and are stepping down at this time, but remaining on the Team: Rich Cook served on the Committee for many years, the past few as Chairman. Rich stepped aside from the chairmanship in October in order to focus on his transition to a new place of ministry, and remained on the Committee until this Annual Gathering. Rich’s Committee leadership has poised us to continue to build the work on a firm foundation. Tim Franklin has completed his term of service on the Committee, and Ed Rinehart resigned from the Committee and Team in March. We appreciate the many years of devoted service these men have given to the Lord on the Committee.

We look forward to continuing to serve the churches and pastors of the Conference. During the Annual Gathering, check out the workshops offered by our Team, and consider attending the pre-conference Intensive, “Making Disciples.” Even better, we would be honored to come alongside your church and pastor to listen to your needs and encourage you toward greater fruitfulness unto the glory of God and the building of His Kingdom. Please feel free to contact us!

Respectfully, Dave Easley, *Chairman*

## **DIRECTOR OF CHURCH MULTIPLICATION**

### **PLANTERS GET ENCOURAGEMENT**

Starting a new church is hard work. Planters are guaranteed to face the difficult work of convincing people to join them and to begin following Jesus. (We are grateful that the Holy Spirit does the hardest work in those conversations.) Additionally, planters face criticism from established churches as some pastors feel threatened by their work. Spiritual opposition means that planters will face frequent trials and temptations. Hurdles to planting include finances, logistical challenges, moral failures by members and attendees, arguments, and disappointments. The list is long. (This paragraph may sound bleak, but read on.) One of the most important ways to support church planters is by providing coaching and networking. Coaches encourage planters by asking good questions and helping them to identify solutions. Networking provides us all with peers to share the journey, carry the burden, troubleshoot in tandem, pray, and just listen.

This year we have provided more coaches and more coaching than ever to our planters. We are working harder than ever to network planters. At the Nineveh Project, we are even providing them with a day called “My Favorite Things” where guests are handing planters resources and hope.

### **ASSESSMENT PROVIDES INSIGHT**

In the past year, we have assessed many church planting candidates. More than ever, some of these candidates have ended up not planting a church. However, this is assessment doing its job. As we assess church planting candidates, we want them to find their ideal fit and flourish in ministry. Sometimes the most encouraging thing we can do for a candidate is to help them find the ideal position in another type of ministry. Assessment continues to be a helpful tool for finding church planters.

### **VIDEOS SHARE STORIES**

Stories help us all to understand what church planting looks like and why it is so important. In the months leading up to the Annual Gathering, we filmed three different church plants. By the Annual Gathering, those videos should be available to churches to help explain what church planting looks like. Enjoy!

### **MOVEMENT GATHERS ALLIES**

Multiplying churches across the country takes time and effort. We are broadening the church multiplication movement by adding people to help. We are adding hubs, hub leaders, coaches, and others who help with the logistics of supporting planters. These volunteers include Kellie Thompson who lives in the Twin Cities and helps with the logistics of church multiplication events and travel. Thank you to every member of the committee, to all new team members, and to all of our volunteers. You guys are advancing God’s Kingdom by multiplying disciples.

Rob O’Neal,

*Director of Church Multiplication*

## CHURCH MULTIPLICATION COMMITTEE

The Church Multiplication Committee continues to oversee the work of church multiplication in the conference. We now have four hubs, NEX in New England, NorthStar in the Twin Cities region, Great Lakes in the region where New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio intersect, and a “virtual” hub. Our newest geographical hub, the Great Lakes hub, is under the leadership of Chuck Nelson. They are working toward getting established, meeting in September to lay the groundwork. Chuck has been trained to do assessments, been brought in on the national level, and is connecting with people in the region, developing relationships. Both NEX and Northstar continue to meet monthly, planning and holding assessments, coach training, and ongoing networking and recruiting with potential planters. It’s exciting to see the constant movement and growth. NorthStar has 4-5 trained coaches, and NEX has 8+. The NEX infrastructure is really coming together. We are now looking to formalize several roles in each hub.

We created a “virtual hub” to connect and resource “remote” planters - those not located near one of our existing hubs. Brandon Goad has become the virtual hub leader. We also decided to put the LA hub under Brandon’s leadership as well. Our presence and involvement in California is crucial and we see this as the avenue to renew our energy and efforts in that region.

We were pleased with the 2016 Nineveh Project, which we held just prior to the Annual Gathering. Our speaker, Michael Gatlin, from the planting arm of the Vineyard Church, was very good. His very encouraging presentation offered a perspective shift as he talked about leadership development. Our conference minister, Ron Hamilton closed the pre-conference well.

We are beginning to form the National Team. They will support and resource the operations established by the National Committee. We are recruiting key “specialists” to coordinate the various aspects of recruiting, coaching, and training. Paul McPheeters (coaches) and Dan Schauer (assessors) have agreed to be a part of the National Team. Hub Leaders will also serve on the Team so hubs work in tandem.

We have continued to pursue (mostly through Rob) legacy opportunities, reinvesting the resources of churches that close their doors into a new planting work. In this regard, the committee spent time working on a strategy for the Conference to evaluate struggling churches, and determine whether the church development Committee, Conference Care, or the Church Multiplication committee would be best suited to assist them. We called it “Turning Point: Next Steps for Struggling Churches.” The Conference Board truly appreciated the groundwork of our committee, accepting much of what we proposed.

We continually come up against the difficulty of not having adequate resourcing. We offer potential planters great connection and practical support, but lack the ability to offer financial support. Denominations that can offer money, generally attract the potential planters, as they are able to offer the connection and the practical support as well. We know this is a pressing concern we need to address.

Finally, the committee has financially supported four church planting projects: Community Church, Richfield, MN, Turning Point Church, Wayzata/Minnetonka, MN, and Anchor Meetinghouse, New Bedford, MA. Sadly, one church we planted many years ago, The Meetinghouse Church, closed her doors and an incoming church start, Tribes For Christ, also closed.

I am thankful for the years I have had the privilege to serve on this committee. Everyone I've served with bring passion and talent to God's work. Thanks to each one and a special thank you to Rob O'Neal for his support and investment in the team!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jeff O'Guin *Chair*,  
Bryan Schulenburg,  
Dan Schauer,  
Jon Paul



CONSERVATIVE

CONGREGATIONAL

CHRISTIAN

CONFERENCE

8941 33rd St North  
Lake Elmo, MN 55042  
651-739-1474  
homeoffice@cccusa.com  
*cccusa.com*