



BI-MONTHLY NEWS from the CCCC

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**CONSERVATIVE
CONGREGATIONAL
CHRISTIAN
CONFERENCE**

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**A FAMILY
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and new leaders
introduced*



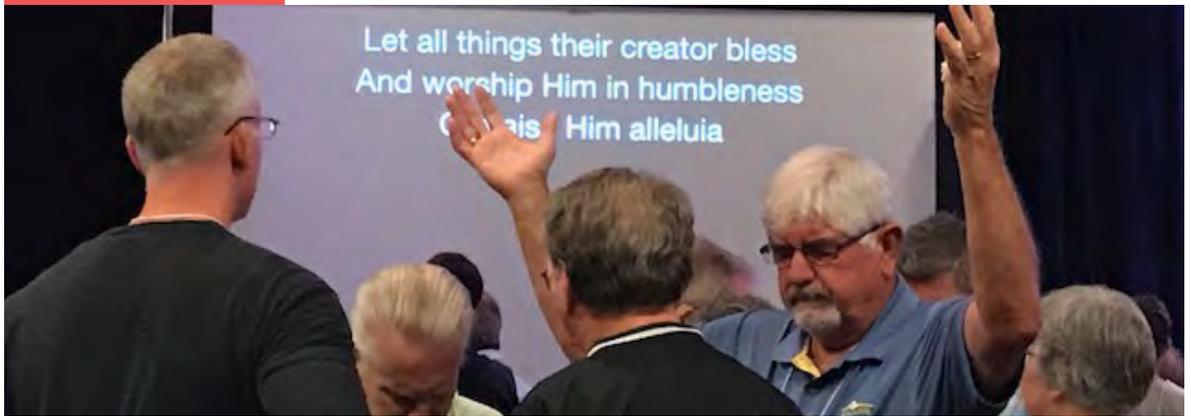
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A FAMILY GATHERING



RON HAMILTON, CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER

Annual Gathering Highlights:

The members and friends of the Conference enjoyed a special time together at the 69th Annual Gathering (AG) held in July in Pittsburgh. Over 400 people responded positively to all that took place. The Spirit of God was present as we focused on the theme, "First Things First," exploring the value of "A Culture of Believing Prayer and Intercession."

Daniel Henderson provided helpful teaching and practical insight into ways that we can build the prayer life of our churches. The seminars helped people further explore the theme and understand the resources available through our ministry. The Church Development and Church Multiplication Committees held pre-conference intensives that were well attended.

The host church, St. Peter's Reformed Church in Zelienople, PA did a wonderful job of welcoming our delegates to the area. Pastor Jim Bertoti, his staff and church leaders made everyone

CM COMMENTS

feel at home and provided some great opportunities to enjoy the Pittsburgh area. Over 100 people enjoyed a dinner cruise on the three rivers near Pittsburgh. Others took advantage of the culture of the region for special activities.



We deeply appreciate the work of Tim Dubeau and the Annual Gathering Planning Committee in preparing for this annual conference. Todd Venman completed his term as Conference President as he presided over the business sessions. Plans will soon begin for the 70th AG to be held at Gordon College in Wenham, MA next summer.

New Faces in Leadership

We welcomed 4 churches and 31 ministers to Conference membership at the annual gathering. 11 people were approved for a change of standing. This reflects the faithful work of the Credentials Committee over the past year. Our members enjoyed the testimonies of these new members at the closing business session.



Four members of the Board of Directors were elected for 3-year terms at the business sessions at the annual gathering. Tim Dubeau (Salem CT) and Kim Gardell (Spokane WA) were elected for second terms. Jorge Hrebien (Whittier CA) and Wayne Sweitzer (Lunenburg MA) were newly elected members of the Board.



MATT MILLIGAN (Hudson WI) was elected to a 3-year term as President of the Conference. Matt is Founding Pastor of CCCC church plant, Living Pathway Church, now The Why Church in Hudson, WI. He has been actively involved in the Conference since he joined in 1997, serving on the Board of Directors, the Guiding Coalition, and the Structure Task Force. He was the CCCC Vice-President from 2015 – 2017.



ALVIN HELMS (Oceanside CA) was elected to a 3-year term as Vice-President. He has served as the Senior Pastor of the Carlsbad Community Church since 2010. In 2016 the church hosted the Annual Gathering. Alvin has served the CCCC in various ways since he joined in 1993. He chaired the former Lay Ministry Committee, served two terms on the Board of Directors, and was the Recording Secretary from 2013 – 2016. Alvin also served as the Area Pastor for California and hosts a pastor's fellowship in Carlsbad. He was a plenary speaker at the annual gathering in 2013 and at the World Evangelical Congregational Fellowship triennial meeting in 2016.



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Please let the HomeOffice know of any changes. If you are not on our e-mail list, go to www.cccusa.com/FORESEE and find the sign-up button in the footer.



UNUPDATES FROM REGIONS AND MINISTRIES

REPORTS FROM THE NORTHEAST REGION AND WOMEN'S MINISTRY TEAM

NE REGION



TERRY SHANAHAN,
NORTHEAST REGIONAL MINISTER

NORTHEAST UPDATE

*What, then, shall we say in response to these things?
If God is for us, Who can be against us?"*

Romans 8:31

I [recently attended] our Annual Gathering in Pittsburgh, PA and I am still feeling energized and excited from the moving of the Holy Spirit. If you weren't with us, you were missed. There was such a sense of joy and family as we gathered to worship and fellowship.

I had the opportunity to report to the gathered assembly how the ministry in the Northeast is thriving because of the concentration and focus on our three ministry priorities of Conference Care, Church Multiplication and Church Development.

In the area of Conference Care we have had a higher than normal amount of conflict in the Northeast this past year. We've seen disunity in the church, loss of fellowship, declining numbers in conflicted congregations, three churches on the verge of closure, several churches in transition, some of them in turmoil during that transition. I thank the Lord for our ministry of Conference Care as we are now

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

2017 AG WOMEN'S MINISTRY UPDATE

SHIRLEY DUBEAU,
CCCC WOMEN'S MINISTRIES CHAIR

The Women's Ministry Team is excited as we continue our focus on: **Informing ... Encouraging ... In Christ.** This year's AG was a great example of seeing our focus bear fruit!

We planned opportunities for women to gather with others during the free times in the schedule. All options were designed to be friendly, flexible and to allow each woman to take in the many aspects of the AG AND get together with other women while in Pittsburgh!

Informing ... Our Women's Ministry Table provided excellent resources for our dear sisters, free of charge!! Books, articles, and other fun stuff! Women stopped by the table to check out the quality resources and took them back for their own benefit or to share with their church family. These FREE resources are provided by Women's Ministries of member churches who raise the funds to purchase the items to give



NE REGION

able to come along side our churches and pastors in these situations.

The Conferences' new initiative called Turning Point involves next steps for struggling churches and I have already had the opportunity to utilize these tools in assessing and offering care for a church. We don't always have a prescription for what the solutions are but more and more we can have a presence as we come alongside to help in the struggle.

We have formed additional Community Pastors groups that provide fellowship, offer preventative care and become a place for pastors to live life on life. If you are not part of a Community Pastors group, make that a priority for this year! The groups I am a part of look forward to our meetings, sharing how supported they feel in ministry. Our Conference Care Committee consist of the Conference Care Director, Peter Wood and the Regional Pastors and we meet regularly on Fuze with Conference Minister Ron Hamilton to discuss what's happening in our regions.

Church Multiplication in the Northeast has a well-established hub that I am excited to be a part of. Church Multiplication Director Rob O'Neal has made multiple trips out our way this year and we have some exciting church planting projects under way. Not only has the Northeast had these ongoing projects but we also have the greatest potential for growth in this area.

Church Development in the Northeast is being more fully formed. We have some churches that Church Development Director John Kimball and his team are working with - going through the Lifeflow process. We have other churches who have opted to go through a similar process with other programs. Still other of our churches are working with a para-church ministry called Overseed that seeks to bring revitalization to churches in mainline traditional settings.

The ministry of the CCCC is strong in the northeast primarily due to our articulated mission and vision. When non CCCC pastors and churches are presented with the CCCC way of life, including our Passion, our Pathways and our Priorities, they respond enthusiastically. There continue to be those who want to join with us and partner in Kingdom work. I am so blessed to serve this Conference in this region at a time like this.

WOMEN'S

away at the AG. We hope that other Women's Ministries in other CCCC churches might get involved with helping to provide these resources. Coming soon: Our Women's Ministry Team will provide guidelines for involvement.

Encouraging... Women are natural encouragers. It's how God made us! So we tried to provide both encouragement and opportunities to encourage each other.

TABLE TALK: We were thrilled by the myriad conversations with women who stopped by the table. One of the best parts of the AG is being together, providing listening ears along with prayer as appropriate.

WALKS IN THE WOODS: Several women, following breakfast, joined together in walking groups to walk the Cranberry Woods walking trail located directly across from the hotel. These were great times of exercise as well as conversations with old and new friends.

A LUNCHEON JOURNEY: Perhaps the best of the opportunities occurred during Wednesday's **Lunch on Your Own.** We orchestrated carpools for around 65 women and were swiftly delivered to our host church, St. Peter's Reformed, located down the road a piece in Zelienople, PA, where we were treated to a scrumptious luncheon of salads, sandwiches, plus homemade desserts. **And** we actually got back in time for afternoon workshops!



The fabulous Women's Ministry Team of St. Peter's hosted the delicious luncheon and Kendra Bertoti gave a great talk. We were amply filled physically and spiritually. These ladies DO hospitality very well and we were so grateful for the treat.

The LORD blessed our efforts through all these opportunities that were designed to inform and encourage life-on-life experiences and develop deeper relationships **In Christ.**

The AG may be only once a year yet it builds relationships that we can't wait to renew each year ... so we're looking forward to next year at Gordon College in Wenham, MA. In the meantime, be sure and like our Facebook page: **CCCC Woman** (*note, there's a space before Woman*).

CCCC NEWS

ANNUAL GATHERING 2017 - IMAGES OF PITTSBURGH



AROUND THE WORLD

CARING FOR FRIENDS IN MYANMAR*

BY FORMER CONFERENCE MINISTER, REV. DR. STEPHEN A. GAMMON

At the meeting of the World Evangelical Congregational Fellowship (WECF) last Feb. in Orlando, FL, I met Pastor Go, leader of the Myanmar (formerly Burma) Evangelical Mission, ministers and churches in fellowship with the CCCC through WECF. These brothers and sisters are effectively making disciples by Church planting, disaster relief, literature ministries, and children's homes.

There are many homeless children in Myanmar. Pastor Go and the church established the Shalom Children's Home in 2008, with a vision to love and care for children, discipling them in the faith of our Lord. With limited resources and no permanent home, they have lived in a succession of crowded, rented homes, and time and again they have been evicted.



Though my heart ached for them, I did not know what to do except to pray.

When I asked Pastor Go if there was any way to avoid such evictions in the future, he said ultimately the only way would be to one day own a permanent home. Sometimes the Lord lays a burden on our hearts just so we will pray. Other times he lays a burden on our hearts because He wants us to pray and step out in faith. The Lord made very clear to me that this time He was calling me to step out in faith to assist our dear brothers and sisters in Myanmar with the needs of their children's home.

I traveled to Myanmar in June where I observed that God is moving in a wonderful way. I participated in the dedication celebration of a new church plant comprised of believers converted from Buddhism, and my visit with the Shalom Children's Home was unforgettable. The home was filled with love and the children are well disciplined. These children are already true worshippers and they will surely become evangelists and leaders of the Church of Myanmar.

To most effectively accomplish their God-given mission of making disciples who will make disciples, our brothers and sisters in Myanmar need some help, and they are praying in faith for God to provide. They lack sufficient re-

sources to adequately care for the 32 children the Lord has entrusted to them. They lack sufficient room, so they are turning children away. And because they do not yet have their own property or any conceivable means of obtaining property, they face the prospect of more hassle from future evictions. Our brothers and sisters in Myanmar need sponsors to provide monthly resources to care for

the children. They also need some who can generously contribute to a housing fund toward a permanent home. The cost for purchasing a lot and building a building will be a small fraction of what it would be in the United States.

As the Lord loves to partner His people for fruitful ministry, I am very blessed to report that He has clearly led us to a ministry partner who will help us care for our friends in Myanmar: *His Hands Support Ministries*, which comes alongside children's ministries around the world. Having no other ministry in Myanmar, their board agreed to add this Children's home. For more information about sponsoring a child in Myanmar see www.hishandsformyanmar.org. Donations through this organization are tax deductible and no administrative fees are charged so every penny goes where designated. Donations to the permanent housing fund can also be made through this website. Because of the potential of persecution for Christians in Myanmar, no personal information or location is mentioned on the site, but information on individual children is mailed to individual sponsors. Upon request, I will be glad to provide information about the need and costs of a permanent home pastor-steve@apostlesri.org/651-341-9456.

Please join me in praying for our dear brothers and sisters in Myanmar. Pray that their prayers will be answered. Pray for the leaders of the Churches and of the children's home, and pray for the children. Pray that the Lord will provide for their needs, and that He may show us what our part should be.

*Excerpt. Read the entire article at: www.cccusa.com/FORESEE/2017/08/myanmar

CCCC NEWS

PASTORAL CHANGES

Peru, IL	First Congregational Church (Ind.)	Carl Hammer
Georgetown, MA	Byfield Parish (UCC)	Brent Fugate
Heath, MA	Union Evangelical Church of Heath	James Koyama
Kittery Point, ME	First Christian Church *	Greg Lull
Blue Island, IL	Evangelical Community Church *	LaMonte Ballard
Peoria Heights, IL	Peoria Heights Congregational Church *	Brian Michael
Boxford, MA	First Church Boxford * (Assoc Pastor)	Tom Fagan
Norwood-YA, MN	Church of Peace *	Dale Inman
Candia, NH	Candia Congregational Church (Ind)	Steve Baker
Hillsboro, WI	First Congregational Church *	David Bordy *

PASTORAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bethune, CO	Hope Congregational Church *
Greeley, CO	St. Paul's Congregational Ch * (Part-time Ass Pastor)
Hebron, CT	Hebron Church of Hope *
Salem, CT	Cong Ch (Independent) (Part-time Youth Pastor)
Sharon, CT	Sharon Congregational Church (Independent)
Sherman, CT	Sherman Congregational Ch * (Part-time Youth Pastor)
Parkersburg, IA	First Congregational Ch * (Teaching & Missions Pastor)
Pleasanton, KS	First Christian Church (Independent)
Boston, MA	Park Street Church * (Senior Pastor)
Framingham, MA	Crossroads Community Church (Independent)
Kingston, MA	Mayflower Church * (Part-time Youth Pastor)
N. Brookfield, MA	North Brookfield Congregational Church *
Saugus, MA	Clifftondale Congregational Church *
Wilmington, MA	Wilmington Congregational Church (Ev. Free)
New Haven, MI	First Congregational Church *
Shorewood, MN	Minnewashta Community Church *
Elgin/Glen Ullin, ND	Hope Cons. Cong Ch/Evangelical Cong Church *
Mitchell, NE	Federated Church *
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 C * (Part-time music director/keyboards)
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 | * = Independent



SHORT-TERM MISSIONS TEAM TRIP TO SPAIN

Participate in a life-changing trip this Fall. There are great projects underway in Spain, one of the least evangelized countries in the free world. JD & Sara Bennett, serving since 2005 with Tentmakers Bible Mission in Spain, invite you to apply to come help the ministry for two unforgettable weeks in October 2017.

Andalucia Project:

- **October 1-7 Camp Ministry**— working to complete restoration of an historic building at Los Naranjos Christian Camp that will greatly increase camp capacity.
- **October 8-14 Church Planting**— assisting with preparation of materials, facilities, Scripture distribution, prayer walks and more.

WHEN: Sept 30-Oct 14, 2017

WHERE: Los Baros, Spain

COST: \$800 plus airfare

MORE INFO: www.tentmakersbiblemission.org/mission-projects/project/64

TO REGISTER CONTACT:

Clare Longuevan
email: clonguevan@cs.com,
call 970-243-9596;
or 970-3210-5594



Begin making your plans to attend the 2018 Annual Gathering at **Gordon College** in **Wenham, Massachusetts** on **July 31 – August 3, 2018**. (***NOTE this is later in July than we are typically scheduled.***) Paul's teaching in Philippians 4:6-7, provides a wonderful bridge from the 2017 theme of drawing near to God in prayer to the theme of the 2018 Annual Gathering where we will focus on developing a culture of peace. "...And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."



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