

FORESEE



BI-MONTHLY NEWS from the CCCC

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CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE

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2025 Annual
Gathering -
Breakthrough Faith
with Rev. Dr. James
Choung



Conference Minister
Nominee - Rev. Dr.
Marc Gauthier



2025 Nehemiah
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CM COMMENTS



PRAY FOR THE CCCC



RON HAMILTON, CCCC CONFERENCE MINISTER

The first Guiding Value of the CCCC is a "culture of believing prayer and intercession". We provide the annual CCCC Prayer Calendar to help us remember to pray for the ministry of the Conference. There are several key issues in the CCCC at this time that need our prayer support.

The proposed name change, introduced at the 2024 annual meeting, will be voted on at the 2025 meeting. An entire business session was devoted to this matter in 2024 and the same space will be given to this matter in 2025. The Board of Directors proposed a name change to "Centerpoint: A Biblical Congregational Conference" in April 2024. The leaders held two open forums prior to the 2024 annual gathering and one more at the gathering. There were two non-binding votes taken at the 2024 meeting.

The first vote was to change the name of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference. This vote passed by acclamation. The second vote was to change the name of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference to Centerpoint

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Biblical Congregational Conference. This vote was approved by a ballot vote of 100 “yes” votes to 29 “no” votes, with one abstention. A proposal to amend the constitution to change the name was presented at the end of the business session. The proposed amendment will be voted on at the 2025 annual gathering. A two-thirds favorable vote of the delegates is required for adoption.

We ask you, as members of the Conference, to prayerfully consider this proposed name change. We have planned an extended business session on Wednesday, August 6, for this vote. We encourage member churches to discuss this matter with their members and instruct their appointed delegates how to vote on the proposed name change.

We also need to pray for the appointment of Rev. Dr. Marc Gauthier as the next Conference Minister. After a careful search process, the Board of Directors unanimously approved Marc as the nominee for this position. We need to pray for Marc and his wife, Christa, as they prepare for this new venture. They plan on relocating to Minnesota in September to serve in this important role.

It is also important for us to intercede for our member pastors and churches as they minister in the season of Lent, Holy Week and Easter. The Gospel message is summarized in 1 Corinthians 15.

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:3, 57)

This season provides many opportunities to proclaim the Gospel message in public services and in our private conversations. Let’s join in prayer that the Gospel will bear much fruit and many lives will be transformed by the work of the Spirit.

BREAKTHROUGH FAITH 2025 ANNUAL GATHERING

August 4-7, 2025 - The Florida Hotel - Orlando

Register now: www.cccusa.com/ag25/

CONFERENCE MINISTER SEARCH

CONFERENCE MINISTER NOMINEE - MARC GAUTHIER

SCOTT NICE, PRESIDENT AND CHAIR OF CM SEARCH COMMITTEE

We are pleased to announce the selection of Rev. Dr. Marc Gauthier as the proposed nominee for the next Conference Minister. The Search Committee began their work in mid-October to discern the Lord's candidate for our next Conference Minister. Much work was done in formulating a profile, setting benchmarks, and designing a strategy for engaging potential candidates. This process eventually led us to in-person interviews in Orlando, Florida, in early February. Follow-up interviews and "homework" assignments were conducted and assigned.

On Monday, March 3, the Search Committee unanimously recommended Marc as our Candidate of choice. The Board of Directors unanimously voted to recommend him as the nominee for the office of Conference Minister. It is with great joy, and a strong sense of God's leading, that we ask for your "affirmation" this August in Orlando, Florida.

Brief Resume

Thirty-five years of pastoral experience both within the local church and as an Army Chaplain – ministering, leading, training, and equipping pastors and chaplains within congregations and military chapel communities.

Spiritual giftings in the areas of pastor/teacher, leadership, and wisdom.

CCCC involvement

Chaplain's Endorser	2019 – 2024
Board member	1997 - 2000
Ordained in the CCCC	1991 - West Congregational Church, Haverhill, MA



2025 ANNUAL GATHERING



BREAKTHROUGH FAITH

The theme for the 2025 Annual Gathering is Breakthrough Faith. This theme is based on Psalm 85:6-7

*Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?
Show us your unfailing love, LORD, and grant us your salvation.
(Psalm 85:6-7)*

The main plenary speaker will be Rev. Dr. James Choung. He serves as Vice-President of Strategy & Innovation for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and is also a noted author and speaker.

The Annual Gathering Planning Committee has worked with James of the development of the theme. He will lead three plenary sessions and one workshop at our meetings in August.

Monday evening plenary session – "The need for breakthrough" based on Psalm 85

In history, no revival happened without revived leaders. A personal breakthrough is the first step to a larger breakthrough.

Tuesday evening plenary session – "The dynamics of breakthrough" based on John 21

Using the Breakthrough Curve, letting go is often the necessary step before true breakthrough. Peter's story will be used to illustrate the Breakthrough Curve.

Wednesday afternoon plenary session – "The balance of breakthrough" based on Acts 10-15

There is both mystery and strategy when it comes to breakthrough, and both letting the Spirit lead while creating structures will be necessary for the continued breakthrough.

Tuesday morning all-conference workshop – "The Spirituality of Generations."

Based on his doctoral research and almost thirty years of experience working with rising generations, this workshop will uncover the spiritual questions that each generation brings to uncover implications for our ministries.

CONFERENCE HISTORIAN



CHURCH PLANTING BY THE AMERICAN HOME MISSIONARY SOCIETY

ALWYN YORK, CONFERENCE HISTORIAN

Church planting is now one of the main priorities of the CCCC. This focus began in the late 1990s, so it is a fairly recent feature of this Conference, but it is not something that is new to Congregationalism as a whole. The nineteenth century in particular was a period when Congregational churches joined together in several great initiatives of starting new churches. Nineteenth century church planting by Congregationalists consisted of three distinct phases. The first, and largest, effort was starting new churches in the new towns on the expanding western frontier. The second was the establishment of churches among the former slaves in the southern states by the American Missionary Association. The third was an outreach to immigrants from non-English speaking countries. This article will focus on the work of the American Home Missionary Society on the western frontier.

Before a national home missionary society was founded, efforts to plant churches in the new settlements on the frontier were conducted by regional fellowships. As the western frontier was expanding dramatically it became clear that the separate and uncoordinated efforts of regional fellowships would not be sufficient for the task at hand. A national organization was needed. The American Home Missionary Society was established in 1826 as a national missionary association devoted to the spiritual needs of the new settlements to the west. Initially the AHMS was an interdenominational body, supported by Congregational, Presbyterian and Dutch Reformed churches, but as time went on it became predominantly Congregational.

The policy of the AHMS was to assist in the development of churches in the West by subsidizing them to the extent necessary to enable them to hire a full-time or even a part-time pastor. Churches were asked

to send in a membership application stating its location, membership, financial condition, with the name and credentials of the man it wanted to hire. Each congregation was expected to raise as much of the minister's salary as it could, and the Society supplemented this enough to give him a living wage.

The AHMS experienced phenomenal growth from the beginning. In its first year of operation the Society employed 169 missionaries in fifteen states with receipts of \$18,000. Within five years the numbers had grown to 506 missionaries and receipts of \$50,000.

The impact of the AHMS on the development of communities in the states west of the original thirteen colonies would be hard to overestimate. The records of the AHMS are now housed at the Amistad Research Center at Tulane University. A paper published for this center summarizes the impact of the Society as in this way: "From a purely statistical point of view, the operations of the American Home Missionary Society were a success. Total receipts for its first sixty-seven years amounted to \$16,006,504. More than 50,000 man-years of missionary labor were financed and directed by the society. Conversions or new memberships to the churches that received society support totaled 422,041. Between 1826 and 1893 the society had missionaries in every actual or future state of the Union except Alaska and Hawaii." The human side of all these statistics would be a story too massive to be recorded. It would be an epic of missionary heroism, souls won to Christ, and communities grounded in faith. This truly is a legacy of which Congregationalists can be proud.

CONFERENCE MINISTER

FARE THEE WELL - SEND OFF OF THE HAMILTONS

SCOTT NICE, PRESIDENT

Dear CCCC family and friends,

As you are well aware, Ron announced his pending retirement, and this year's Annual Gathering will be his last as Conference Minister. Ron has served as Conference Minister since 2011. He previously served as the Director of Church Multiplication from 2007 – 2011.

We are planning a reception for Ron and Shirley on Thursday, August 7 from 12:00-1:00 pm following our final worship service. Hors d'oeuvres, small plates and various hot and cold beverages will be provided. The Board of Directors will honor Ron and Shirley, make a presentation on the Conference's behalf, and perhaps a good natured "roast" of our brother and friend to send him off with a smile!

THIS IS SOMETHING YOU WILL NOT WANT TO MISS! So, when making your travel arrangements to this year's Annual Gathering in Orlando, Florida, please plan on staying to the "bitter-sweet" end to show your love and appreciation to Ron and Shirley!!


NEHEMIAH SUMMIT - THIS MONTH!

JOHN KIMBALL, DIRECTOR OF CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Do you or anyone in your church family struggle with past hurts? Do you have a hard time accepting God's love and forgiveness? Would the members of your congregation benefit from understanding their unique part in God's redemptive mission? Would you like to see authentic disciple making take off in your church? Then the 2025 Nehemiah Summit is for you! This year we're digging deep into an easy and reproducible discipleship process that fosters real life transformation.

Join us April 28-30, 2025 at Hope Community Church in Newburyport, MA for three days of worship, tactical learning, contextual application, prayer, and personal refreshing. Our guest speakers will be Tom Johnston, Deryk Richenburg, and Tim McGinnin from the Praxis Center for Church Development. They will give participants a taste of the Alignment process and talk about how it can be implemented in your local church.

Being in Newburyport, we're within a short drive of many of our churches. For those needing overnight accommodations, we've negotiated a fantastic rate with the Fairfield Inn in Amesbury, MA—only \$109 per night plus tax! This includes a really good hot and cold breakfast buffet each morning.

We would love for you to join us and bring folks from your congregation! The CCCC Church Development Team will be rolling out the Alignment process nationwide throughout 2025. We'd love to bring it to your church.

For more information and to register, go to <https://www.TheNehemiahSummit.com>

THINGS TO NOTE

MACEDONIA PROJECT

God is at work in the Union of Congregational Churches in Macedonia. Pavle Kostadinov, President of the Union, and Pastor Nikola Ginevski attended the 2024 annual gathering and shared the story of their work to revitalize established churches and plant new churches. These works are led by gifted young pastors who are called to this ministry. These pastors need support since the economy in Macedonia is weak and unstable.

Macedonia is a country where Christianity is trapped in traditionalism and nominalism. It is also a country where the economic situation is difficult. This has led to much corruption and young people have a growing desire to leave the country and pursue a better life in the western world. The Union believes that God has put them there to shine his light in the midst of darkness. Regardless of the many challenges, these believers keep trusting and serving the Lord, and desire to be a voice in the desert that cries out: "Prepare the way for the coming of the Lord!"

Evangelical Congregational Church - Skopje is an urban church that is located in the center of the capital of Macedonia. The church was formed in the 1980's with the mission to reach the people with the Gospel. This church desires to build a strong spiritual community that will impact this region with the Gospel.

Nikola Ginevski (age 34) was called to serve as pastor in 2024. Nikola is married, with a child less than a year old. The church has not had a full-time pastor for almost 20 years. The church is not able to provide the resources to pay a full-time pastor at this time. It is vital that they have a full-time pastor to help the church pursue its mission and vision.

The Evangelical Congregational Church – Lighthouse is located in Drachevo, a suburb of Skopje. Drachevo is a community of around 20,000 people who have different ethnic and religious backgrounds. There is only one other Gospel preaching church of 5-6 people in the whole area. Angel Andonovski (28 years old), his wife Simona and their 2,5 year old son Petar serve there.

There were no young people at the church when he started in 2016. Today there are 20-30 regular attenders. There is a functional leadership that ministers to these people. Two years ago, Angel set a goal to take the gospel to every home in the municipality. This work has expanded other villages around Drachevo within a radius of 10 miles. These mission stations are growing and reaching people with the message of the Gospel.

The opportunity in Macedonia is great! We don't have to send missionaries because God has raised up pastors to do the work. But they need financial support. We trust that member churches and pastors in the CCCC will partner with

the Union to help the Kingdom of God expand in Macedonia.

Please contact Conference Minister, Ron Hamilton, if you are interested in learning more about this ministry.

Pictured right: Nikola Ginevski



WEST REGIONAL PASTOR

DANIEL NASH

PHIL NOORDMANS - WEST REGIONAL PASTOR

Most of us have heard of Charles Finney's (1792-1875) and the Second Great Awakening, but we have not heard about Daniel Nash. When Nash was 48, he decided to give himself to prayer for Finney's meetings.

"Father Nash," as some called him, would quietly slip into a town three or four weeks before Finney's arrival, rent a room, find two or three other like-minded Christians to join him, and start pleading with God. In one town the best room he could find was a dark, damp cellar; it became his center for intercession.[1]

Finney reported one of the secrets to the Great Awakening.

When I got to town to start a revival, a lady contacted me who ran a boarding house. She said, "Brother Finney, do you know a Father Nash? He and two other men have been at my boarding house for the last three days, but they have not eaten a bite of food. I opened the door and peeped in at them because I could hear them groaning, and I saw them down on their faces. They have been this way for three days, laying prostrate on the floor and groaning. I thought something awful must be happening to them. I was afraid to go in and I did not know what to do. Would you please come see about them?"

"No, it isn't necessary," I replied. "They just have a spirit of travail in prayer." [2]

[1] Jim Cymbala, *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire*, 174.

CHANGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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Malden, MA Forestdale Comm. Church – Johan Kim
Zelienople, PA St Peter's Reformed Church (Dir of Youth Engagement) – Sarah Andrews

PASTORAL OPENINGS – CCCC Member Churches

Tombstone, AZ Tombstone Community Cong Church (Part-time Associate Pastor)
Bethune, CO Hope Congregational Church
Sherman, CT The Sherman Church
Garner, IA Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church (Associate Pastor)
Emporia, KS First Congregational Church
Blandford, MA First Congregational Church
Chiltonville, MA Chiltonville Congregational Church
Dunstable, MA Dunstable Evangelical Cong. Church
Essex, MA First Cong Church (Part-time Assoc. Pastor)
Gloucester, MA Lanesville Congregational Church (Associate Pastor of Youth Ministry)
Hamilton, MA First Congregational Church of Hamilton
Malden, MA Forestdale Community Church (Bi-vocational Pastor)
Middleboro, MA First Congregational Church
Thomaston, MA First Congregational Church
Tyngsboro, MA Evangelical Cong. Church of Tyngsboro
Highland, MI Highland Cong. Church (Youth Pastor) (Part-time Pastor)
Maple Rapids, MI Maple Rapids Congregational Church (Pastor of Family & Students)
Mattawan, MI Mattawan Community Church
Avon, MN Avon Community Church
Britt, MN Sand Lake Chapel
Scottsbluff, NE Salem Congregational Church
Imler, PA Mt. Zion Reformed Church of Pavia (Part-time Pastor)
Loysburg, PA St. John's Reformed Church
Rome, PA First Congregational Church of West Warren (Part-time Pastor)
Telford, PA Christ Reformed Church at Indian Creek (Dir. Of Family Ministries)
Zelienople, PA St. Peter's Reformed Church (Dir. of Youth and Young Adults)
Pawtucket, RI Darlington Congregational Church
Huron, SD First Congregational Church
Menno, SD Salem Reformed Church (Assistant Pastor)
Scotland, SD Scotland Community Church
Gloucester, VA Severn Church
Sparta, WI First Congregational Church of Leon

CCCC CHURCH PLANTING PROJECT– Rochester, MN area
Contact Conference Minister, Ron Hamilton for information

PASTORAL OPENINGS – Non-member Churches

Agawam, MA Agawam Congregational Church (UCC)
North Conway, NH First Church of Christ (UCC)
East Charleston, VT Plymouth Congregational Church (Independent)
Winsted, CT Second Congregational Church (Part-time Youth & Family Pastor)

AROUND THE CONFERENCE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUNDAY

RON HAMILTON - CONFERENCE MINISTER

We encourage our member churches to have a Conference Sunday in the month of May. This is a time to remind people about the “shared life and shared mission” of our fellowship and to pray for the work of the CCCC. We know that most members of our churches know that they belong to the CCCC, but don't understand the greater ministry of our Conference.

CCCC Greg Wilcoxon says,

“Please remember Conference Sunday next month. Annually we ask our member churches to set one Sunday update church members on the ministry of the CCCC and to receive a special offering to give to the mission of our conference. We thank you for your continued prayers in the life of our ministry and in the advancement of the Kingdom of God.”

We prepare an Info Flyer regularly with updated information about our ministry. A PDF file of the Info Flyer is posted under the Resources/Print Resources and Publications tab on the website and is available to download for printing or electronic distribution. Additional professionally printed copies can be ordered from the Home Office (see the cost information below). Thank you for considering this request and for anything that you do to recognize and pray for our Conference.

CONFERENCE SUNDAY INFO FLYER

Available at cost (includes shipping) While supplies last, “first come: first served.”

100 copies = \$15

50 copies = \$10

Contact the Home Office to order.

