



October 2024



The Unity of the Spirit In The Bond of Peace

Ron Hamilton CCCC Conference Minister

Bi-Monthly News from the CCC September 2024

The Board of Directors notified all members of the Conference of a proposed name change in April. We sponsored three Open Forums to discuss the proposal. After consideration of the input from the Open Forums and numerous interactions via email and telephone, the Board decided to dedicate an entire business session to discuss this proposal. This meeting took place on Thursday, August 1st. Several significant actions were taken at this meeting:

- Two non-binding motions were passed.
 - o A motion to change the name of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference was approved by an overwhelming voice vote.
 - o A motion to change our name to “Centerpoint Biblical Congregational Conference” was approved by a ballot vote of 100 “yes” votes, 29 “no” votes, and one abstention
- A proposed amendment to the Constitution was presented and read to the delegates. The proposal reads, “I propose to change the name of the organization from the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference to Centerpoint Biblical Congregational Conference in Articles I and VI of the Constitution.” The proposed amendment will be voted on at the 2025 annual gathering. I appreciate the fact that the Board dedicated one full business session to address this issue. It was important to hear from our members concerning their views on a name change.

I also appreciate the manner in which the response to the proposals was handled. Our President, Scott Nice, did a masterful job of leading and managing the discussion. And our members stated their opinions in a spirit of grace, respecting the differing views expressed.

(Cont. on next page)

Pastor of BRCC:

Dr. Keith Jones

Moderator:

Nancy Mantz

Deacons:

David Bradley
Gail Fehr

Trustees:

Judy Hoffman
Lynn Scharer

We exist to worship God, to share His love that all might be saved and to become more like Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now we ask you, brothers and sisters, to acknowledge those who work hard among you, who care for you in the Lord and who admonish you. Hold them in the highest regard in love because of their work. Live in peace with each other.

*1 Thessalonians
5:12-13*

Kyle Roberts, Executive Director of The Congregational Library, shared his perspective on the meeting with me

I want to take a moment to congratulate you and your team on a fantastic meeting. It was so wonderful to be an exhibitor and to see old friends and new. I also appreciate having the chance to have a seat to watch history being made as the Conference discusses a new name. I wish all discourse these days could be as civil as what was in the meeting.

Biblical Congregationalism is rooted in our devotion to Jesus, His people, and His mission. Every vote that we take in our local churches and in our national meetings should reflect the character of Christ. Our Conference President, Scott Nice, said,

What a great joy and privilege it was to preside over those meetings! They were life-giving, spirited, and marked by a gracious and “family like” atmosphere. The humble and loving manner in which our members conducted themselves reminded me of why I’m a member of this Conference.

Thank you for your part in sharing in a Biblical Congregational Conference that reflects the teaching of Ephesians 4:1-3.

I, therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

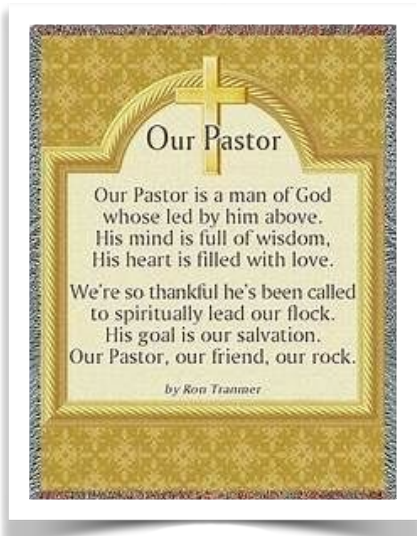
If you would like a copy of the Foresee September 2024 edition, [click here](#).



Thank You for the New Flag

We want to thank Jerry and Cathy K. for the new Stars and Stripes. Our old one was beginning to look ragged and needed replacing.

Dr. Keith Jones, We Are Thankful For:



- your faithful teaching of God's word. Each week, we have the privilege of sitting under your faithful teaching of the Bible. Your preaching is a gospel message that God has used to open our hearts and minds for a greater love for him. Thank you for teaching us about the beauty and majesty of Jesus Christ, the foolishness of sin in this world and our lives, and the faithfulness of our Lord who always keeps his promises.

- your Christlike conduct. Your conduct helps us better understand what it means to be a godly man. We thank you for reminding us there is a greater aim in life, by modeling what it means to live for the sake of God's kingdom and not our own.

- your patience with us. Sometimes we are hard-headed. Sometimes we are apathetic, and other times we are fully committed. Thank you for continuing to patiently care for us through the highs and lows of our lives.
- your steadfast leadership. We thank you for being a consistent voice to lead us toward Christ and how to be better leaders.
- your faithfulness as a husband, father and grandfather.
- your ability to be a great cook and sharing your skill with us.

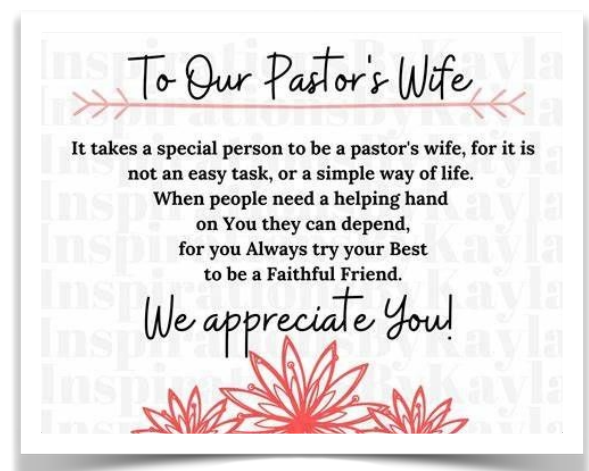
We Appreciate You Marilyn

You have one of the most thankless roles there is. You receive no compensation for all you do for Big Rock, but there are many expectations of you. At times, you are expected to be everywhere and involved in everything, at other times, you are expected to be invisible.

We thank you for being there for your family, Big Rock congregation, and the community. You are there for them and you are the only one that Pastor Keith can truly confide in.

You have to keep up the house, take care of grand children, run the kitchen at church and be on multiple committees at church. And when you are hurting, you keep on working despite the pain and not complaining. We can not thank you enough.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Missions News



August, 2024

It's always a blessing to join in with my family at the **Smith Family Reunion!** It takes place

on the farm where I grew up in Atlanta, Michigan. Our farm, called Smith Acres, has been in the family for 124 years now. The photo to the left shows the five siblings (l-r - Martin, Harriet, Margaret, Janet and Peter)

Lyft Ministry

After my last update someone suggested that I seem to have a Lyft ministry. I had never thought about that, but on this trip I took a Lyft to the airport and my driver was a Cuban woman named **Yisel**. I learned a lot about her in route to the airport and God opened the door for me to share the gospel with her. She was ready to surrender her life to Jesus and did so before we got to the airport. We've been texting back and forth and you can join me in praying that she will be free on a Sunday afternoon to join us at my Spanish-speaking church.

In Our Neighborhood

I've been walking daily in our neighborhood as I can and it's really pretty now, especially because the Crepe Myrtles are in full bloom everywhere. Note one of the bushes I pass by on most days. I do vary my route so I don't see this particular one every day, but it's my favorite.

Multiplying Disciples

The prayer emphasis for this new school year will be to trust God to raise up multiplying disciples on every campus where Bridges has a ministry. By that I mean, disciples who are disciplined by one of our staff members or student leaders, who in turn then disciple others. Please join us in praying for the end result of praying for multiplying disciples - that many more international students will decide to place their faith in Jesus this 2024-2025 school year. You are a vital part of this ministry and I value your every prayer.

Thank you for your partnership with me in the life-changing gospel of Jesus!

Harriet

Harriet Smith

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Hello All!

A long time in coming, we have purchased our plane tickets to fly to the Philippines on October 16th. We appreciate all of your prayers and support over the last 15 months of itineration. The photo above is a testimony in the power of your prayers.

MY KIDS ARE SMILING. They're smiling while holding their passports after talking about finally flying to the Philippines. This is a testimony because our kids have mostly dreaded the idea of going to the Philippines, and through much prayer their hearts have changed. Thank you!



We are also excited to let you know that our cash budget is fully raised! We had an impromptu visit to a church in Ohio, and they capped off the final portion of that budget.

Our monthly budget is only \$138 away from being fully raised. We are believing this budget to be completed by the time we fly on October 16th. Last month we had about 85% of the monthly faith promises that we actually fulfilled. If you have made a faith promise, please check to make sure that you have properly set up a way to give. This is going to be essential as we leave for the Philippines to have a consistently full budget. If you would like to help us with the \$138 left on our monthly budget, please follow the link below. Please pray for us during the next 4 weeks as we say our goodbyes, and enjoy our last moments with family and friends.

Thank you for your prayer and partnership!

God Bless!

The Cumpers

<https://giving.ag.org/donate/600001-2a8575>



CE&D Update

Adult Sunday School: Come join us on **Sunday mornings at 9:15**. This month Dave Bradley will be teaching on Islam.



Small Groups: Small Group will be continuing their study with a book by Carol Ruvolo, "God With Us". This study accents the purpose for each gospel writer's account of Jesus' life. Even if you were not in the group this spring, you are welcome to join us on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 5:30. We study until 7:00 and then have a light snack and fellowship.

Library: Pastor Keith and Wayne have worked very hard to get the library room ready for the books. If you have not looked in, the floor is now painted and speckles were added to warm up the looks of the floor. New, used chairs we purchased and picked up by Dave B. The rug was cleaned by Marilee and put down. We are now ready for some help in getting the shelves in from the barn, cleaned up and ready for books. If you could help please see Juli or Gail.

Children's Sunday School: Michelle will continue with Youth Sunday School at 9:15. Michelle and Gail will lead Children's Church in the month of October.

SonShine Kid's Club: We will begin again on October 8th. If you are interested in helping with the club this year, please see Marilyn or Gail. We can always use donations of snack items for the hungry kids.

Prayer Breakfast will continue to meet at 9:00 in the fellowship hall on Wednesdays. Join us after for prayer. If you could make breakfast on Wednesday, please sign up on the sheet in the kitchen.

Next Meeting of CE&D will be on **October 17th** after choir.

Choir News



So what shall I do?. I will pray with spirit, but I will pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.

1 Corinthians 14:15

Choir has begun, but that does not mean that you can not join in the chance to make a joyful noise to the Lord. We meet every Thursday at 5:30 and are getting music prepared for Thanksgiving and Christmas.



Women's Fellowship News

The Women's Fellowship met on the first Wednesday of the month, September 4th. Discussion of First Responders recognition was on the agenda and planning for the upcoming year. We also discussed updating the WF Mission Statement and Purpose in the near future.

Thank you to the individuals that came to help put on the memorial dinner for Richard Valentine and to those who donated food for the dinner.

Don't forget to check out the list of items needed for the Big Rock Christmas Shoe Boxes on the board down in the fellowship hall. Boxes will be packed at the November 6th meeting. Everyone is welcome to come to the packing party.

Ladies are meeting at the Full Gospel for craft day on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 1-3 to make items for the Samaritans Purse Shoe Box project.

A busy month as we prayed and played together. Pastor and Family held a wedding reception for Janessa and Sam, we learned to make UP pasties, and the library took shape.





Birthdays and Anniversaries



Carol O.	10-06
Michelle G.	10-14
Tony B.	10-24
Juli B.	10-25
Wayne I.	10-27
Theila H.	10-28
Jerry K.	10-28
Dave B.	10-30
Jessica D.	10-30

Upcoming Event

Sept.27-29th:	40th Annual Elk Festival
Sept. 28th:	12:00 Going-a-way party for the Cumpers: fellowship hall of Full Gospel
Oct. 28th:	National First Responders Day
Oct. 27th:	Singspiration at 6:00 at Maple Grove
Nov. 6th:	Operation Christmas Child (OCC) packing party for BRCC 10:30
Nov. 18-25:	OCC Collection Week at Full Gospel

Prayers, Praises & Blessings - October 2024

Daily:

Pastor Keith, Marilyn, and family
Big Rock Leaders will serve humbly as godly
examples to all.
Big Rock Congregation
The Ministries of Big Rock
The start of SonShine Kid's Club
Missions of Big Rock
Our School District, staff & students
Local, State, Country & World Leaders
CCCC Conference (National & Local)
Persecuted Church
First Responders in the community
Maupo H. & Aleina B. (World Relief Y-
Malawi women)
Sari (Compassion Child)
Pray that we cultivate our hearts to be good
soil for God's truth.

Military:

Curtis B.
Michael C.
Cabria C.
Rachael L.
Beto V.
Megan R.

Missionaries:

Jeremy, Joy & family
Robert, Terry & family
Kurt, Lisa & family
Harriet S.
Susan S.
Caleb C. and family

Homebound:

Theila H.
Jean S.
Bruce A.
Gaye K.

Prayers for Healing:

David G.	David B.
Jan F.	Michelle G.
Jim G.	Joshua K.
Paul K.	Pat & Joanna S.
Asher	Naomi
Ricky J.	Allen P.
Juan	Jerry K.
Donna T.	Shelly J.
Sam B.	Robin R.
Jerry Z.	Jenny
Sarah R.	Terri
Lisa	Judy H.
Jessica D. Mother- in-law	



Prayers

Valentine family
Rose Mary K. family
Jessica & Prabhu D. & Family
Jim Z.
Nancy M. and Family
Amy J. and family
Dixie, Tony and Cecilia
Andrew H.
Evelyn W.
Shelly (Michelle) G
Please pray for Grace Renewal Church, a
newly merging of two churches under
the assistance of CCCC.

Praises & Blessings:

Approval of the 2024-25 budget
The ability to serve family of the Richard
Valentine community by hosting a
memorial
For the many servants that God has provided
in this congregation
For our Prayer Warriors
The health of the congregation
Our hard working and dedicated pastor & wife

OCTOBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 	30	1	2 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Women's Fellowship 10:30	3 Board Meeting 4:00 Choir 5:30	4	5 
6 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Communion	7	8 SonShine Kid's Club 2:50-4:30	9 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Missions Meeting 10:30 Small Group 5:30	10 Choir 5:30	11	12
13 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30	14 Columbus Day	15 SonShine Kid's Club 2:50-4:30	16 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Shepherd's Meeting 10:30	17 Choir 5:30 CE&D Meeting	18	19 Card Making Retreat all day
20 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Potluck Lunch	21	22 SonShine Kid's Club 2:50-4:30	23 Prayer Breakfast 9:00 Small Group 5:30	24 Choir 5:30	25	26
27 Praise Team 8:30 Sunday School 9:15 Worship Service 10:30 Singspiration 6:00	28	29 SonShine Kid's Club 2:50-4:30	30 Prayer Breakfast 9:00	31 Choir 5:30	1	2