

2010-2011 Ministry Highlights

Growth and Development of our Fellowship

Partnership Development

Conducting collaborative conversations with CBFNC partners was one of the major projects of the New Day Task Force. The Partnership Development Committee was established by the Coordinating Council to maintain a continuous process of strengthening the relationships between CBFNC, our partners, and our local congregations. During the last year, each member of the Partnership Development Committee served as a liaison to one or more of the partners. These liaisons have conducted conversations with the partners, compiled written summaries of the proceedings, and met together to share and discuss the experience. This process has the potential of laying the foundation for the continued development and cultivation of healthy and productive relationships for the future.

National General Assembly in Charlotte

In June, we welcomed Fellowship Baptists from around the country to Charlotte for the national CBF General Assembly. Charlotte area congregations and CBFNC staff were heavily involved in the planning and implementation of the assembly. During the North Carolina meeting at the assembly, we celebrated a Covenant of Partnership and Missional Collaboration between CBFNC and CBF National, which was attended by Daniel Vestal, CBF Executive Coordinator, and other national leaders.

Identifying Statements

The 2007 CBFNC Strategic Plan called for a study of our foundational beliefs (identity, mission, values, etc.). In 2008, the Coordinating Council appointed a task force to address this goal. The task force worked through 2009 to develop revised statements that were presented to the Coordinating Council for review. Without taking any action, the Council charged the task force to use the proposed statement to facilitate a conversation about Baptist identity among our North Carolina fellowship. The task force held a workshop at the 2010 General Assembly on the proposed statement, which was well received. Additional listening sessions were held in the fall in seven locations around the state. The statement sparked significant conversation, not only in North Carolina, but around the country and beyond. Since that time, the task force has been working to revise the statement and to incorporate the feedback received so far, with another listening session on the revised statement taking place at the 2011 General Assembly.



Financial Growth

The recession facing our state and nation has had a negative financial impact on many partner congregations. As a result, some long-term contributing churches have reduced their CBFNC gifts. This loss has been more than made up through gifts from new congregations or increased giving from congregations who gave minimally in the past. These increases are coming mainly through utilization of the Mission Resource Plan. As a result, overall financial contributions to CBFNC remain very strong, and we give thanks for the sacrificial gifts and generosity of all contributors – both congregations and individuals. We are blessed by all the amazing ministries our fellowship is able to do together through these gifts. Financial highlights include the following:

- **Undesignated Giving** – For the fiscal year ended 3/31/11, undesignated giving was up 16.4% over the previous year, which also amounted to 100.6% of budget.
- **Designated Giving** – Designated giving for the fiscal year ended 3/31/11 increased 14.1% over the previous year.

Regional Fellowship Experiences (Henderson, Greenville, Graham)

Though no formal “Fellowship on the Move” tour was planned for this year, we did hold special regional events in several locations throughout North Carolina. In October, CBFNC promoted and sponsored aspects of a month-long emphasis in Greenville involving Anglo and African-American congregations. These congregations held pulpit and choir exchanges on the first Sunday, World Communion Sunday, and a joint Operation Inasmuch community ministry day at the end of the month.

CBFNC staff, along with local congregational leaders, planned a mini-general assembly experience at First, Henderson in October which included a fellowship dinner, ministry workshops and a worship service, which prominently featured Chowan University.

At the fall meeting of the Western North Carolina Baptist Network, a Covenant of Partnership and Missional Collaboration between CBFNC and the Network was introduced. This covenant is being celebrated at the 2011 General Assembly and involves the Network changing its name to Western North Carolina Baptist Fellowship.

In February, First, Graham hosted “Joining God in the World: A Fresh Look at Missions and Evangelism” which featured a lecture by Curtis Freeman of the Duke Divinity School Baptist House, a missional journey testimony by the staff of First, Kanapolis and worship led by Alamance County churches.

Faith Development and Church Resources

Adults

More than 100 workshops of interest to adults have been offered this year as part of the General Assembly and events offered across the state.

We held a Staff Ministers' Retreat with 21 participants and leaders. A Spirituality Retreat was held in April 2010.

The CBFNC staff led several training events for local churches through the year, including deacon retreats, missional understanding, spirituality retreats, teacher training and evangelism training.

Youth

We had a fun day at Emerald Pointe Water Park in June with 185 youth from 12 churches.

The Big GAME was a first-time retreat built around the General Assembly. We had a total of 165 campers from 10 churches.

We had two fall retreats — a whitewater retreat in Asheville (186 persons from 10 churches) and a beach retreat in Myrtle Beach (227 persons from 9 churches).

Ski retreats in West Virginia were popular this year. Over the two weekends, 517 persons from 25 churches came.

Children

A Children's Mission Day was held in Asheville in November 2010. A total of 114 participants from 11 churches attended.

Music

A team of music ministers has taken on the tasks of managing two music festivals. We held our sixth annual children's choir festival, with 94 persons from 11 churches. The seventh annual Youth Choir Festival had 174 persons from 13 churches.

Hopeful Imagination

In October, First, Wilmington hosted "Hopeful Imagination: Traditional Churches Finding God's Way in a Changing World." More than 300 clergy and laypeople representing churches from nine states and multiple denominational backgrounds heard the staff from the Wilmington church tell stories of how the congregation has changed over the past ten years and were equipped and inspired to undertake similar journeys in their communities. This conference was a collaborative effort between the church, CBFNC, Columbia Partnership, Center for Congregational Health and CBF National.

Congregational Coaching and Consulting

CBFNC has launched a new congregational coaching process, "Discover and Embrace Your Future: A Coach Approach to Strategic Missional Ministry." This is a four- to six-month process of coaching staff and congregation to discern their calling, focus and strategies that moves them forward in missional ministry for the next three years.

Reference and Referral

Last year, we reported that 57 churches turned to CBFNC for assistance when they found themselves in the midst of a ministerial transition. This year, a total of 79 churches in transition called on us for help in locating a staff minister or pastor for their church, an increase of almost 40% over last year.

Some of these churches have come seeking clarification about the type of interim they need. There are four different models of a pastoral interim: part-time traditional interim; full-time traditional interim; full-time intentional interim; and part-time traditional interim with a facilitator who will lead the congregation through the five focus conversations of the intentional interim process. While CBFNC offers the names of ministers for a traditional interim, the Center for Congregational Health provides names of ministers who have been trained either to serve as a full-time Intentional Interim pastor or a facilitator to lead a congregation through the intentional interim process.

The Interim Ministry Network, which is composed of twelve regions with a regional facilitator for each of these regions, continues to serve churches in transition. We are deeply indebted for the ministry of these facilitators.

After receiving training, many search committees request

further coaching as they move along in their search process. This may involve providing appropriate resumes for them, helping them to know what to look for in reading resumes, answering questions along the search process, helping them to check references of ministers, and, finally, how to introduce the recommended minister to the congregation.

As there are more churches seeking assistance from CBFNC in their interim period, there are also an increasing number of ministers approaching us to

help them in finding a place of ministry. Currently, there are approximately 350 ministers who have contacted us in the past several years who are now actively seeking a ministry position. This increase has occurred because a larger number of divinity school graduates are seeking help in finding a place of ministry. Also, more ministers outside of North Carolina are seeking a place of ministry in our state.

We hosted our third-annual welcome event in February for those ministers who have either moved to North Carolina in the past year or who have begun their first place of ministry since graduating from a divinity school. At this event, we welcomed 23 ministers to North Carolina.

CBFNC continues to offer spiritual, emotional and financial support for ministers who have been terminated or forced to resign from their places of congregational ministry. Regrettably, this number has grown to the extent that we have needed more than double this line item in the budget.

Hunger Fund

After establishing the Hunger Fund in 2009 to aid churches in their response to families and individuals in need, we've distributed funds to Brunswick Island, Supply; Hominy, Candler; Open Arms Fellowship, Creedmoor; St. John's, Charlotte; Gates Emergency Ministries, Gatesville; and The Memorial, Greenville.

Please visit our website at www.cbfn.org to donate or apply for funds to support your church's project to address hunger.



Social Justice

Racial Reconciliation

The Racial Reconciliation Ministry Team held two well-attended workshops at Sardis, Charlotte and First, Wilmington exploring the importance of fighting racism and building relationships to become the body of Christ. The Ministry Team is also conducting listening sessions at partner divinity schools to hear students' perspectives and discover how we can be an active resource to graduates. They also funded a breakfast for an Operation Inasmuch day with a racial reconciliation focus in Greenville in October (check out our November/December newsletter online for the story).

CBFNC has entered into partnership with the Baptist Center for Ethics to fund a non-partisan, biblically based documentary on immigration. This resource will be a valuable tool to help build relationships between Anglo and Hispanic churches in CBFNC and beyond. There will be additional racial reconciliation workshops at the 2011 General Assembly, as well as a day-long workshop on May 12 at First, Asheville).

Communications

This year, we welcomed our new Communications Manager, Sarah Mitchell. She has been a creative and valuable asset to CBFNC as we constantly strive to improve our resources. We continue to get news from our churches, faith communities and ministries to you through our bi-monthly newsletter, weekly e-news, Facebook fan and group pages, Twitter, and blog.

To sign up for our newsletter or e-news, email smitchell@cbfnc.org with your mailing address and e-mail address. If you can't find us on Facebook or Twitter, email lbarclay@cbfnc.org to get the details. Look for our blog, revlaurabarclay.blogspot.com, which covers topics on faith and current events, and includes posts from leaders around the state and beyond.

Missions



New Church Starts

We have nine new church starts receiving our financial support. Several other church plants have completed our financial-support program and are flourishing. Three more new church starts are in the process of approval. A successful "New Church Start Academy" was held August 2010 in partnership with CBF National. Hispanic new church start leaders are trained weekly by Javier Benitez, our CBFNC leader coach. The Hispanic Network, *Companerismo Cristiano Emanuel*, has more than 15 churches and had several hundred participants in retreats for men, women, children, youth and families in June. Monthly strategic meetings are held at the CBFNC office.



Mission Initiatives

Polk (Tryon) and Warren/Halifax County (Littleton) each sponsored a successful mission-initiative weekend this year. More and more churches are sponsoring mission initiatives (Operation Inasmuch) in their own city, with less churches traveling to CBFNC-sponsored workdays. To encourage this shift, our Missions Council is sponsoring mission-initiative grants from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Churches can find the application on the CBFNC website, www.cbfnc.org. Since partnerships are invaluable, other churches and community organizations must be included in the initiative.



Belize

The country of Belize continues to be a welcome mission site for our NC churches. English is spoken, flights are reasonable and church partnerships in Belize and in the United States make this ministry site relevant, exciting and rewarding. Seventeen mission teams participated in this ministry this past year. The Baptist Bible School of Belize had three successful weeks of training pastors and lay leaders, with seven graduates this past October. Our covenant agreement with the Belize Baptist Association is ending in October 2011, and a new Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed upon. Henry Baizar is functioning as our Belize in-country Coordinator, providing guidance and support to our NC mission teams.



Village of Hope, Ukraine

The second cottage has been completed and the fourth family has moved in. There are now 24 children residing at the Village of Hope. Teams continue to minister in Bucha and Kiev. Gennady and Mina Podgaisky will return to the Ukraine in August and will be hosting teams. Opportunities include renovation work on the VoH dormitory and cafeteria and ministry with men, women, and children. The sky's the limit!



Lebanon

God is continuing to do amazing things in Lebanon through Chaouki and Maha Boulos, CBF field personnel from NC. They are building a retreat center for use by all of the Middle East, and Evangelistic Celebrations are held in April, July and August in several countries. A small team traveled to Beirut last April on a mission trip. A team of pastors and lay leaders will be traveling to Lebanon July 1-10 to see firsthand what God is doing and how their churches might participate.

The Missions Council continues to connect with all our North Carolina CBF field personnel and NC CBF affiliates. Brokering partnerships between NC churches and churches/ministries on the mission field and providing resources are important components of CBFNC missional living.

Discovering, nurturing and sustaining current and future ministerial leaders

Theological Education

A significant portion of the CBFNC Leadership Development budget is devoted to scholarships for students at the four CBF-related divinity schools in North Carolina (Campbell, Duke, Gardner-Webb, Wake Forest). These scholarships are administered by the schools, in collaboration with CBFNC leadership. In addition, the Leadership Development Ministry Council oversees a scholarship application process whereby scholarships are awarded to North Carolinians attending seminary outside of North Carolina.

During the spring semester, CBFNC partnered with CBF National to conduct CBF Days at the four NC schools. These days involved providing lunch, meeting students and faculty, and leading chapel services.

This year, Nathan Rice, a student at Wake Forest University School of Divinity, has been serving as an intern with CBFNC. His work has included traveling with our Coordinators, attending staff and council meetings, and being introduced to the breadth of our ministry. He also led a team of students that planned and executed the divinity student program at this year's General Assembly.

Coach Training

CBFNC began a training program for Christian leadership coaches that leads to certification. Seven coaches completed the first round of training and the second round is scheduled to begin in April.

Other Leadership Development Initiatives

We continue to network and support CBF-endorsed chaplains and pastoral counselors, and partner with the Center for Congregational Health to offer the Young Leaders' Program and Pastor as Spiritual Guide. Other leadership development ministries include the annual staff ministers' retreat and providing assistance, when requested, with ordination examinations and services.



CBFNC Collegiate Ministry

This past year has been a very exciting year for CBFNC collegiate ministry. Several events and projects have developed and matured in our ministry to young adults in 2010-11.

The project that impacted the most churches is the **Collegiate Congregational Internship project**. This is a three-year grant that places college students in churches for a ten-week mentoring internship. In the grant's inaugural year, CBFNC churches received 34 of the 100 interns. The project provided a great opportunity for young adults to see and experience the value and ministry of a local congregation. That project continues this summer.

Another area of growth has been in the conversations and the establishment of **Cooperative Student Fellowships** at UNC Chapel Hill and Western Carolina, with partnership discussions at East Carolina. These ministries have been mentored and partnered with local CBFNC congregations that are close to the schools.

We continue to offer a **mid-winter retreat** for students and partner with national CBF to provide a student experience at the national General Assembly. This year, the mid-winter retreat was at Camp Mundo Vista and 63 people attended. Charlotte Sessions was the GA event and a third of the students attending were from NC. We will once again offer this opportunity at the Tampa General Assembly at the event called **Tampa Sessions**.

CBFNC began an **newsletter** for people who want to know what is going on with collegiate ministry and read articles about trends and ideas in collegiate ministry. Anyone wishing to sign-up for that information can sign-up at the CBFNC website, www.cbfnc.org/Congregations/CollegeStudents.aspx.

College ministry continues to be a topic that stirs people's imagination in CBFNC. That investment in young adults manifests itself in a variety of ways in local congregations, in our state CBFNC ministry and in collaboration with national CBF.