



Fruits of our Faith

Church Grows Behind The River

Congregational Church Development's (CCD's) newest church plant is The River Community Church in



Stillwater, Minnesota. A three-year project, it received a \$15,000 first-year grant from CCD. The River also gets support from The Well Community Church in Fresno, California, and two NACCC churches in Minnesota – First Congregational Church in Waseca and People's Congregational Church in Bayport. The Bayport church, through its *Blessings Fund*, has provided more than \$7,000, the largest gift made from its fund to date.

The River was begun this year by church planters Tony and Lisa Rambo when they moved their family of six (three sons and one daughter) over 2,000 miles in mid-winter from central California to the Midwest's St.

Croix River Valley. Tony, who graduated in 2009 from NACCC's CFTS program, has served in ministry for more than 16 years. Lisa grew up in the St. Croix River Valley in Hudson, Wisconsin, and has served as a youth director in Minnesota and California. Both have been



involved in NAPF and HOPE, and with the NACCC at the national level for the past 20 years.

Tony and Lisa have a passion to serve the people of the St. Croix River Valley, which spans western Wisconsin and eastern Minnesota. The River's seven core values center on a passionate commitment to Christ. Its mission is: "We are led by Jesus to Serve our community, Encourage one another, and Empower everyday

leaders, so all may Declare His Glory!"

The River has a *Gathering* every Sunday evening at the YoungLife Center in Stillwater. Its 5:30 service includes worship through music, teaching prayer and discussion, and often uses talented worship leaders via YouTube. After the service, everyone is invited to share fellowship at a potluck dinner on *The Back Porch*. Since they began in April, they have been joined by a number of seminary students, missionaries, and people from all walks of life. This fall they plan to begin a Bible 101 class, and are currently seeking individuals with a heart for music and children's ministries.



Continued on reverse...

Fruits of Our Faith

Congregational Church Development (CCD) is the NACCC division that provides resources to support church growth through partnering with clergy and lay leaders, as well as state

and regional associations. This issue of *Fruits of Our Faith* features an exciting new church plant in Minnesota along with upcoming projects involving church health and youth ministry.

To learn more about these projects, please visit our website at www.naccc.org.



Congregational Church Development Supports Church Growth through:

- New Church Planting*
- Revitalization of Congregations*
- Building & Renovation Projects*
- Workshops & Training Resources*



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*Bringing together Congregational Christian Churches
for mutual care and outreach to our world
in the name of Jesus Christ.*

Please visit us on the web at
www.naccc.org

*Congregational Church Development receives support from the Fund for Congregational Growth and Development, one of two initiatives of the NACCC's **Branching Out** campaign for church leadership and growth. Supported by Prayer Partners in 14 states, NACCC leadership and member churches coast-to-coast, and more than 200 individual donors nationwide, **Branching Out** needs \$2.5 million to reach its goal. To find out how you can help the campaign bear more fruit, please contact our Director of Development, Diana David, at 800-262-1620 x25 or email ddavid@naccc.org.*



"Congregational Church Development builds strategic partnerships and encourages continuing education to cultivate continual church planting and regeneration. We are pleased to provide resources and encouragement for projects that nurture the vitality of the Congregational Way."

Rev. Dr. Stu Merkel, Chair

The River (Continued)

Their official launch is on October 10th (10/10/10). Find out how your prayers and support can encourage The River on this journey by visiting them at:

behindtheriver.org

facebook.com/pages/Stillwater-MN/River-Community-Church/344636726889

twitter.com/behindtheriver

Church Health

Healthy churches launch new churches and advance God's Kingdom. CCD and the Michigan regional associations will host a church health assessment process for Pastors and lay leaders in April 2, 2011 at Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi. The initial one-day seminar features Stephen A. Macchia, author of *Becoming a Healthy Church*. Attendees will discuss the 10 values of a healthy church and learn how to use the Church Health Assessment Tool (CHAT), a web-based church survey.

Youth Ministry Convocation

The second convocation, **Youth Ministry in a Postmodern World**, will be October 28-30 at First Congregational Church in Hanson, Massachusetts. Open to those involved in ministry to youth, children and young adults, it will explore the influences of postmodernism on our culture



Hanson

and how that shapes our approach to youth ministry.

Last October almost 30 youth leaders participated in the first convocation, hosted by the Colonial Church of Edina in Minnesota and underwritten through a CCD partnership with NACCC youth ministries.

Congregational Church Development

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Faith Community Church, Franklin, WI

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Gurnee Community Church, Gurnee, IL

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People's Congregational, Bayport, MN

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Mark Jurewicz
First Congregational, Maywood, IL

Rev. Mark Long
Anchorage, AK

Rev. Jim Owens
First Congregational Church, Zephyrhills, FL

Rev. Dr. Les Wicker
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