



THERE IS **NO MINISTRY** WITHOUT **RISK**

How safe is your ministry? I am not talking about your insurance coverage or the stability of your building. I wonder how many risks you are taking to bring the good news of the gospel to your community.

The late Jane Kenyon had a sign on her office door: "DO NOT DISTURB, I am disturbed enough already."

Our Lord calls us to "go into all the world and preach the gospel." He didn't say to only go where the weather was always pleasant, or where people were always accommodating. We are called to take the message to the world and that implies tremendous risk.

Do we have the money? Is it safe? These may be the wrong questions. We serve a God who asks us to do incredibly risky things.



Annie Dillard wonders why her parents and other adults left the Bible open so children could read it. She muses, "They didn't realize the vivid danger that we would, through repeated exposure, catch a case of its wild opposition to their world."

What kind of risk is God calling us to? What ministries are we avoiding because of our fear? There is no ministry without risk! How long will we play it safe? God's word is clear, we are to "... seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow."

How disturbed are you? Are you satisfied with the way things are? Let us follow our Lord wherever He calls us to go!

In His service and yours, *Jim Fretheim, Superintendent*



ADVANCING CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

We are looking forward to this year as we partner with you and seek to identify and highlight best practices, key training opportunities and resources, coaching support, shared events, and ministry assessment tools to strengthen and expand Children, Youth & Family ministries through your church.

The NWC Children & Family Ministry Steering Team and the Youth Commission are working hard to assist the conference in website development, training initiatives and support strategies to our churches and ministry staff.

While we continue to provide these in student ministry through gatherings like our monthly Youth Pastor's Connection and events like S.A.L.T. and M.O.V.E., we are also looking at ways to further provide similar supports for those working with children and families.

Several opportunities already being

planned are included in our upcoming Converge Conference and the Recharge Conference for those ministering to children, youth and families, coming up on Jan. 8, 2010. We

recognize that thriving churches have thriving children, youth and family ministries. Visit www.nwc-cov.org/children-youth-family for more information.

Adventures In Leadership 2010 has come and gone, but this year we had our largest class ever—27 students (see picture above). Because of the demand, we felt compelled to stretch ourselves and accommodate this larger number. In doing so we discovered that we were able to facilitate the program with the same quality and impact as with our former maximum of 21. We also continue to receive feedback directly from parents and churches of the profound impact this experience has on our students. We are already receiving inquiries for next year.

"ALL I know is an experience I know I won't forget. It forced me to look beyond the norms and realities I have known and showed me Christ's extravagant plan—not only for my leadership abilities but for my life."

"Words do not do justice to describe this experience. I was pushed far beyond my mental and physical limits, and was humbled before God. He was so faithful in giving me the strength I did not possess and a sense of peace and accomplishment."



MINNEHAHA ACADEMY THANKS NWC SECOND MILERS!

Dear Covenant Church Members,

The Minnehaha Upper School Library was so pleased to be selected for a Second Miler grant this year! You can rest assured that we made good use of those funds to improve the Bible reference section at the Upper School.

I want to be sure that you see our news posted on the Minnehaha Academy website. Visit <https://minnehahaacademy.net/news/2010/librarygrant/index.php> to see an update on how the grant money was used.

Please know that if any of you would like to use any of the books, you are more than welcome!

*With sincere gratitude,
Bonnie Morris,
Upper School Librarian*



SECOND MILER

...go with him 2 miles

Mt. 5:41

If you would like to become a Second Miler and help churches and ministries around the Northwest Conference, please contact Cheryl Theilen at the Northwest Conference office.

NWC SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH, UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

By Rev. John Stewart
NWC Executive Board Chair

As current Northwest Conference Superintendent Jim Fretheim will be retiring in the summer of 2011, it is the privilege of the members of the conference Executive Board to act as the constitutionally delegated superintendent search committee.

To begin our search process, the committee met with the President of the Evangelical Covenant Church, the Rev. Gary Walter, to discuss the task that lay before us. This discussion was entered into with the conviction that God has the right candidate already in mind.

A letter was drafted that conference church senior pastors and church chairs will have received asking some basic questions about both personal and professional qualities, as well as ministry priorities they believe

would best suit the incoming NWC Superintendent.

By mid-to-late October the search committee will use the input received from conference laity and clergy to shape a more concise job description. Contacts with complementing gifts and vision will then be asked to interview with us in early December. This entire process is guided by the Northwest Conference in close cooperation with denomination support in the form of shared knowledge from experience.

Hopefully we will have a candidate to announce at the 2011 Mid-Winter Conference.

It should also be noted that our search committee includes several non-voting advisory members to better reflect the growing diversity of the

Northwest Conference.

Finally, it is a real joy for all of us on the Executive Board to serve the Northwest Conference, and therefore God's Kingdom, in this search. It goes without saying that we all desire your prayers of support, as well as words of advice and encouragement.



PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR!



converge



A ONE-DAY LEADERSHIP TRAINING EVENT

NOVEMBER 13, 2010 // 10 A.M. - 3 P.M. // ROSEVILLE COVENANT CHURCH // ROSEVILLE, MN

The Northwest Conference has a deep commitment to developing leaders, as we believe that godly leadership is an essential component to the development of thriving churches. Because of our commitment to leadership, both pastoral and lay, we are intentional about providing learning opportunities throughout the year to engage, empower, and equip those serving in leader roles within conference churches. Therefore, this fall we are offering one such opportunity to our churches by sponsoring a one-day training event called CONVERGE ... a selection of workshops that are intended to provide participants with practical and innovative resources for use within their local churches.

We strongly encourage your church to participate, as we are able to provide quality training for your leaders at a very reasonable price. Simply put, we believe that it is a wise use of your stewardship dollars to make use of the leadership training events that the Northwest Conference provides for its churches.

REGISTRATION:

Lunch will be included with each registration. The cost for the event will be \$15/person with a maximum total cost per church of \$100. The registration deadline for CONVERGE is Tuesday, Nov. 9. Visit our CONVERGE page online to download a flyer/registration form for your church.

WORKSHOPS:

- Effective Church Finances
- Developing a Powerful Communications Strategy for Your Church
- MissionInsite: Practical training with a new demographic instrument for NWC churches
- How to Evaluate the Effectiveness of Church Programs
- Church Constitutions and Local Church Governance
- Exploring Community Mission: Reaching Your Jerusalem
- KidShift: It's a New Day for Children & Family Ministry in Today's Effective Church

PARENTING A NEW CHURCH PLANT

Churches are living organisms; and one of the signs of any healthy living thing is that it reproduces itself. Church planting is arguably the number one missional activity outlined in the New Testament. The early congregations in the New Testament were constantly planting new churches all over the known world. A church that doesn't reproduce, that is sterile, would not be recognizable to those early congregations.

We will never live into God's plan for the Church without an increasing number of local congregations who believe that one of their key purposes for being is to give birth to baby churches. If you want your church to regain missional health, one of the key things you can do is to become a parent church.

"A church that doesn't reproduce, that is sterile, would not be recognizable to those early congregations"

The easiest and simplest path to starting new churches is to have one of our established churches make the decision to "give birth" to a new church. Parenting is a very rewarding and fulfilling experience that can

result in seeing God move in both the parent and the new church in powerful ways.

New churches that have a parent church helping them get started are 4 times more likely to:

- have a significant number of their attendees be new believers
- be healthy
- attain sustainability
- grow quickly

In the Evangelical Covenant Church our most prolific years of seeing new churches parented by our existing churches was in the early 1900s. Where our established churches saw people who needed Jesus, a new Covenant church was often born. With a sense of urgency our churches sent out missionaries to nearby communities, neighborhoods and people groups. We have never needed that missional spirit more than we do at this time.

If your church would like to host a Parent Church Workshop, where the details of what it would mean for your congregation to parent a new church can be explored, please contact Mike Brown, director of church planting for the Northwest Conference at: mike@nwc-cov.org or 763-258-6140, to set up a date and time.



CHURCH PLANTING FAQS:

I am interested in planting a church. What is the next step?

The first step is to see if you are indeed called to be a church planter. We would urge you to take the self-assessment tool found on our website.

The next step would be to have an initial phone interview with the Northwest Conference Director of Church Planting who will walk with you through a pre-assessment process. If the pre-assessment process determines that you should go on, we will send you to a church planter assessment center.

NORTHWEST CONFERENCE CALENDAR

- OCTOBER 9** // S.A.L.T. (Student Action Leadership Training) – Bloomington, MN
- OCTOBER 10** // NWC Celebration – Duluth, MN
- OCTOBER 12-13** // Parish Nurse Retreat – Covenant Pines Bible Camp, McGregor, MN
- OCTOBER 15-16** // Thrive North Dakota – Grand Forks, ND
- OCTOBER 24** // NWC Celebration – Dassel, MN
- NOVEMBER 13** // CONVERGE Training Event – Roseville, MN
- JANUARY 8, 2011** // Recharge – Burnsville, MN
- JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 4, 2011** // Covenant Midwinter Conference – Chicago, IL
- MARCH 25-26, 2011** // Women Ministries Spring Renewal Event – Minneapolis, MN
- APRIL 1-2, 2011** // M.O.V.E. – Minneapolis, MN
- APRIL 28-30, 2011** // NWC Annual Meeting – North Mankato, MN
- JUNE 11-18, 2011** // Adventures in Leadership – Adventurous Christians, Grand Marais, MN
- JUNE 25-28, 2011** // The Feast – Estes Park, CO

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northwest conference

developing leaders. thriving churches.

The Northwest Conference is a regional conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church. We are approximately 140 churches in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota.