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May 2009
Volume 4 Issue 5
WCG.org/MinDev

The monthly ministry development newsletter of Grace Communion International

Dear minister of Jesus,

This month, the Ministry Development team wishes you and yours joy-filled celebrations of Mother's Day (May 10), Ascension Day (typically celebrated on Sunday, May 24) and Pentecost (May 31). We also celebrate with you our fellowship's new name: **Grace Communion International** (*Grace Communion* or *GCI*, for short). This name reflects our ongoing journey to **WCG Next**—now referred to as **GC Next**—where "GC" stands not only for **Grace Communion**, but also for our sharing with Jesus as he, in the Spirit, fulfills the Father's **great commandment** (to love) and **great commission** (to multiply disciples of Jesus).

In this issue, we address some GCNext resources and initiatives that are designed to help us in our journey together. Let me start by highlighting four expanding video series produced by our GCI media team:

- **Speaking of Life** (<http://speakingoflife.org/>). This is a series of 3 to 4 minute-long videos on biblical topics from GCI president Dr. Joseph Tkach. A new video is published each week. Many congregations play it as their call to worship, during church life, or as a discussion starter in a sermon or discipleship class. I encourage you to do something similar in your congregation.
- **A Word from our Sponsor** (<https://www.wcg.org/pastoral/WFOS.htm>) (on the password-protected pastors' website). This is a series of 12 to 30 minute-long video sermons from GCI leaders. DVDs containing multiple sermons are mailed quarterly to congregations that request them.
- **GCI/WCG Together** (<http://www.wcg.org/av/MiscVid.htm>). This is a series of 30 minute-long video interviews with GCI leaders from around the world. This is a great way to get to know our denominational family.
- **You're Included** (<http://youreincluded.org/>). This is a series of 30 minute-long video discussions with theologians and teachers concerning *trinitarian theology*—the Biblical vision that undergirds GCI teaching. These provide good discussion starters for discipleship classes.

See the computer tip on page 2 for help in showing these videos.

God's blessings to you all,

Dan Rogers

Director, Church Administration and Development



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When it comes time for a pastor transition

Most GCI congregations within the United States are pastored by a senior pastor, two co-pastors or a pastoral team. The responsibility for selecting and appointing this primary pastoral leadership rests with the denomination, working through the Church Administration and Development (CAD) team in concert with the congregation. The CAD team includes the CAD office in Glendora, CA; the area District Pastoral Leader (DPL); the Regional Pastoral Leader (RPL); and GCI ministry developers. The team coordinates with the receiving congregation using a **transition process** custom designed for each situation based on congregational and denominational needs, resources, etc. This process typically involves identifying and interviewing candidates, and asking the congregation for their recommendation during the selection process.


We want all existing pastors and congregations to be aware of this transition process, so that when a transition situation rises, the affected parties will work together to make the process as smooth as possible. If there is a need for a new pastor, or should an existing pastor wish to change status (e.g. from full-time employed to part-time) the first step is to contact the area DPL to discuss the matter and to jointly plan additional steps in accordance with the standard process.

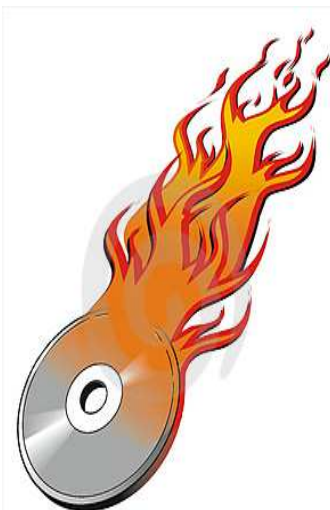
Note also that the area DPL should immediately be contacted in the case of the death, disability or unexpected resignation of a lead pastor. To prepare for such unexpected, emergency circumstances, each congregation is asked to have in place an **emergency transition plan**. This plan outlines steps the congregation will take in consultation with the DPL to provide short-term lead pastor services (preaching, member care, denominational contact, etc.) until the next lead pastor (or pastoral team) is in place. The DPL can assist the congregation in preparing this plan.

NOTE to all U.S. pastors and pastoral teams: A key element of the *emergency transition plan* (see above) is to designate an **emergency contact**—the person within the congregation that CAD should contact in the absence of the lead pastor. Please be sure to send to [www.wcg.org/online](mailto:Nancy.Akers>wcg.org, no later than June 30, 2009, the full name, telephone number and email address of this emergency contact person. Nancy will enter this information in the congregation's online record at <a href=). Whenever this contact person changes, please notify Nancy immediately.

Computer tip: burning & showing DVDs

GCI offers (at <http://video.wcg.org/>) videos that may be played directly on a computer (PC or Mac). However, if you wish to play these videos on a DVD player or the DVD drive on a computer, you will need to download the video from the GCI website, burn it to DVD disk, and then play it. Here are instructions for doing so:

1. First, you will need a computer with a disk drive capable of writing to DVD media. If you do not already have DVD burning software, you can download **ImgBurn** at http://www.media.wcgweb.org/ImgBurn_2.3.2.0.exe (it is free). The rest of these instructions are based on using ImgBurn (which need be downloaded only once).
2. When downloading the ImgBurn install file, click Run, and then click Next to go through the install process. You can uncheck options you do not want (like desktop or quick launch icons).
3. Go online to <http://video.wcg.org/> and click Download in the section that has the video you want to show (Speaking of Life, You're Included, etc...). Find the specific program you want to burn, and click ISO to download that video. (Make sure to note where you downloaded and saved the file so that you can find it when it comes time to burn that file to disk. A convenient place to save such files is to your desktop.)
4. After downloading and then saving the file, insert a blank DVD in your disk drive.
5. If any screens appear asking you to burn or select an option, close out those screens.
6. Right click on the file that you downloaded and saved and choose Burn Using ImgBurn.
7. Then click the button to burn to DVD; it looks like this: 
8. Once the DVD burning process is finished, the disk will eject from your computer drive.
9. Take this DVD disk to church and place it in a DVD player or in the DVD drive on your computer to show the video. You will need to connect the player/computer audio to your sound system and the video to your projector.



Changes to the pastoral continuing education program

As a denomination, GCI is committed to helping its pastors grow in competency related to their calling to shepherd God's people. CAD recently announced the launch of a revised **pastoral continuing education program** in the United States. It has two "tracks":

Track one. This track is for all GCI pastors in the United States who are employed full-time by the denomination (and any other pastors who wish to participate in this track, rather than in track two). Track one participants are required to take no less than one class each calendar year, working toward completion of a master's degree that is related directly to pastoral ministry (MDiv, MAR, etc.). Most track one participants take classes from GCI's **Grace Communion Seminary (GCS)** or from GCI's **Ambassador College of Christian Ministry (ACCM)** if they do not already have an undergraduate degree. In addition to class work, track one participants are required to attend the annual GCI **regional conference**, and no less than one GCI **district training seminar** (conducted by a GCI ministry developer).



Track two. This less intensive track is for those GCI pastors within the United States who are NOT employed full time by the denomination (this includes part-time employed pastors, bivocational pastors, and pastoral team members). Like track one participants, track two participants are required to attend each year the GCI **regional conference** and at least one GCI **district training seminar** (conducted by a GCI ministry developer). In addition, track two participants are required to earn no less than **eight continuing education units (CEUs)** each calendar year. These CEUs are earned in a number of different ways, including attending the required district training seminar and also by attending other approved training seminars and conferences, and/or by reading approved ministry related books. In all cases, CEUs are awarded for these activities/readings after reporting to the DPL what was learned via a reflection paper or a reflection discussion (held with the DPL face-to-face or by telephone).

NOTE to DPLs: Because track two CEUs are earned, in part, by attending and reporting on district training seminars, we ask district pastoral leaders to schedule such seminars within their network well in advance to help all involved (including the GCI ministry developer) arrange their schedules.

Through these two continuing education tracks, GCI pastors in the United States are helped to grow in their participation with Jesus in the ministry that he is doing, in the Spirit, in our world. Questions about this program may be directed to the district pastoral leader or to the CAD office.