

Roundtables

Our First Year...

Wow, did that year fly by! We just completed our first year as a team in ministry and cannot possibly recount the blessings of working together. Staff meetings on Mondays at our "other" office (aka Panera) have covered the gamut from envisioning means and methods to connect New England pastors to the specific and concrete detail of roundtable agendas.

Just to give you an overview of the ministry, our mission is to *build relationships and better understanding among church leaders, and to encourage greater effectiveness in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, all within the New England region.*



Pastors Roundtables

Groups of pastors meet monthly for a half day, concentrating on how to do ministry more effectively. We lead as the pastors minister to each other in the sharing of experience and insights, and in the development of relationships for support.

NEEDL

New England Evangelical Denominational Leaders from forty evangelical denominations at work in New England talk church planting, care of pastors, common congregation problems and the need for outward service and witness to the community.

Catholic/Evangelical Dialogue

No problem in agreeing Christ is the center here, just great sharing for praise and prayer, moments in which pastors and priests really understand and minister to each other.

Evangelical/Liberal Dialogue

It's about clarifying what the good news is, who needs it, and how we go about sharing it. We are "at the table" four times a year with mainline denominations and demonstrate the vitality and truth of the gospel, not reinforce narrow stereotypes. Once a year we attend a more extended dialogue with mainline ecumenical leaders in a two day conference (New England Consultation of Church Leaders, or NECCL).

Contacts

Much of our ministry involves the personal touch. Interviews, conversations, phone calls, and emails affirm, extend and amplify what's already going on, reinforcing the involvement and commitment of participants in the programs.

Etc.

We facilitate or attend other meetings for Vision New England to promote strategic evangelistic efforts around the region.

"My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love ... in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ. Col. 2:2

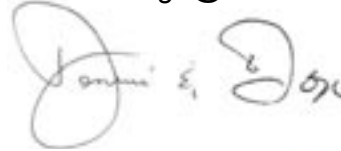
Our first newsletter

This is our first newsletter...we plan to keep you up to date with the ministry and where we are focused. Next time we'll let you know how the Portland Roundtable is progressing and other areas for prayer.

Although this is not a fund raising letter, we do need funding to increase our time in planning roundtables, meeting with pastors and other agendas described in this newsletter as well as a time to envision future needs. We fully understand if God has directed your funding elsewhere, but if the Lord is leading you or given you a heart for pastors in New England, please mail your response to Dennis Gill, Evangelical Relations, Vision New England, 85 Constitution Lane - Suite 200A, Danvers, MA 01923. (Checks should be made out to Vision New England, with Evangelical Relations in the memo line.) Thank you for all your prayers, and loving support. We cannot tell you how much it means to us!

Hope this has been helpful in delineating our mission and our plans for the upcoming fall season. Any comments, suggestions or absolutely brilliant (or even half baked) ideas, just email us at dgill@visionnewengland.org.

Dennis L. Gill - Director, Evangelical Relations
Donald H. Gill - Assistant Director, Evangelical Relations
Vision New England



Pray for us!

Please join us and pray for the following events and dates. We very much rely on God's grace and mercy as we lead and connect pastors and church leadership.

Wednesdays - Each Wednesday there is a Pastor's Roundtable from now through June.

Two are at Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. Two others are "off campus" on the South Shore of Boston and our new venture in Portland, Maine to involve more pastors. We've recruited at least 20 pastors for each group, an exciting response indicating we are on the right track! We've developed this network as a cooperative venture with VNE and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

October 2nd - Catholic/Evangelical Dialogue

October 6,7 - NECCL- New England Consultation of Church Leaders

This two day annual cross denominational meeting has involved more evangelical leaders in past couple of years, providing a base for encouraging healthy church growth and understanding.

October 9th - Mainline/Evangelical Dialogue. This is the first of 4 sessions this year.

October 16 - NEEDL - New England Evangelical Denominational Leaders

"Moving Beyond the Church Walls" is the topic. The entire day session involves 25-30 district superintendants with large and small group interaction.



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