



# ICF News Sheet

Volume 1, Issue 1

Summer 2009

**Members of ICF express sincere thanks to the former Co-Moderators: Dr Harding Stricker & Dr Patrick Shelley for all the work they have put in over the past four years**

## Meet the New Co-Moderators

Val Price from the UK and Phaedon Cambouropoulos from Greece take up the reins of ICF as its new Co-Moderators following the recent Quadrennial Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA. They succeed Patrick Shelley and Harding Stricker whose four year period hit a climax at what many have stated as being the best Conference ever.

Phaedon has been an ardent supporter of the ICF since its inception at Chiselhurst, UK, in 1977. Since that time he has not missed a single Conference and for many years served as Regional Secretary for Central Europe.

Val Price, a career journalist and broadcaster, is the wife of a Congrega-

tional minister. She is the first lay person to be elected to the role of a moderator.

Both chose to open their inaugural addresses with personal testimony to their faith in Christ – an interesting echo of the call to put Jesus Christ at the centre of life in our churches and in ICF.

Both then went on to speak about their hope for the future of Congregationalism and the role of ICF in helping to give Congregationalists a global identity. Included in their addresses was reference to Jeremiah 29:11 "I know the plans I have for you ..plans to give you hope and a fu-



The old and the new Co-Moderators

ture".

The role of Moderator of the ICF is defined not only as presiding over the meetings of the ICF and formally representing the ICF but also of monitoring the work of the ICF Officers.

I suspect that we can expect evidence of increased activity in ICF between Conferences over the next four years.

### WHO'S WHO IN ICF

#### Co-Moderators

Rev Phaedon Cambouropoulos

Mrs Val Price

#### Moderator Elect

Rev. Dr Geraint Tudur

#### Past Co-Moderators

Rev Dr Patrick Shelley

Rev Dr Harding Stricker

#### International Secretary

Rev Dr Giovan Venable King

#### International Treasurer

Rev Gwylfa Evans

#### Regional Secretaries

Dr Bruce Theron

(Africa)

Pastor Heung Jig Han

(Asia)

Mr Keith Lyons

(Australia & Pacific)

Rev Dimitris Boukis

(Central Europe)

Mrs Susana Renner

(Latin America)

Mrs Sharon Binger

(North America)

Rev Chris Damp

(Northern Europe)

#### Communications Officer

Rev Barry Osborne

#### Ambassadors

Pastor Isaiah Cho

Rev Christopher Gillham

Rev Dr Manfred Kohl

## 2009 Conference a Surprising Success

Perhaps we should not have been surprised but many approached the 9th Quadrennial Conference of the ICF with concern as numbers attending hit an all time low.

The global recession and fears of the Swine Flu pandemic clearly impacted conference atten-

dance as fewer people were prepared to travel.

However, this created a much appreciated dynamic as attendees found the opportunity for getting to know one another heightened the "fellowship" aspect of the Conference and enabled those present to

engage more easily with the subjects of the presentations and those making the presentations.

Many have acclaimed it as "the best Conference yet" because of this dynamic. The challenge now remains for those planning the 2013 Conference where many more are expected.

## SEND US YOUR NEWS

This is the first of a new venture for sharing news of what is happening within ICF. Alongside the new internet based information channels this provides an opportunity for us to be aware of what is happening in Congregational churches across the world.

Email your news to  
barry@icfexec.org  
or mail it to  
ICF Communications  
4 Clarence Street  
Market Harborough  
LE16 7NE, UK.

Plans are already in hand for the 10th Quadrennial Conference in 2013 to take place in the UK. It is hoped that this will happen in Oxford, England and the team is already seeking out appropriate venues for the meetings and accommodation for attendees. It is planned to be an event for all ages. Dates and other details will be published as soon as they are available.

## ICF goes on Facebook and more

Recognising the increased use of the internet as a primary means of communication, the International Executive Committee at its recent meeting in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA, decided to set up a presence on Facebook, one of the popular free social networking websites.

Within hours of the decision the new Communications Officer had established a "Facebook Group" and within seconds of going live people were joining up around the world.

Not to be outdone, ICF Youth also set up a site to enable better networking for Congregational youth across the world. Advice is being given to the youth regarding online security.

In order to join either group you must first have signed up personally with Facebook. To do this go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). You can control the level of information you make available and who you allow to have access to your page.

Once you are on Facebook simply enter "International Congregational Fellowship" into the Facebook search box. This will offer you both the main Group and the Youth Group. Please note the following

carefully.

The main group is an "open group" so anyone can join. However, the youth group is monitored so if you are a young person and not already known within ICF Youth you may be asked to provide some details.

Already the Facebook pages are proving a great way to share information. There are photos and even videos from the recent conference.

### NEW EXECUTIVE WEBSITE

Another decision of the IEC was to create a website designed to serve as a communications center for the Executive Committee, members of the various Commissions and our roving ambassadors. This was also quickly set up and running.

### MAIN WEBSITE TO GET FACELIFT

It might take a little longer but the ICF main website at [www.intercong.org](http://www.intercong.org) is also due for a facelift. This is primarily a "brochure site" presenting key information about the life and work of ICF. The ICF Communications Officer welcomes any suggestions regarding redesigning this website—both style and content.

## What is the essence of Congregationalism?

*Dr Steve Peay addressed this question in his presentation to the recent Conference. Since all Congregational churches are autonomous this is a valuable, if not essential, question.*

*After affirming that Congregational churches should be interdependent and not isolationists Dr Peay suggested what he saw as three essential elements.*

*The first of these is that each church should be Christ-centred since Jesus Christ is the head of the Church. Any church that is not Christ-centred, he asserted, is no church at all.*

*His second point was the immediate presence of the Holy Spirit, guiding its affairs and enabling the ministry of its members.*

*His third point was the covenant of fellowship that is the loving cord that binds us together.*

## HOW TO CONTACT US

Most contact details can be found on the website at [www.intercong.org](http://www.intercong.org)

**ICF International Secretary**  
11260 Overland Ave.  
Culver City, CA  
90230  
USA

Tel: +1 310 963 6347