



Christian Education Initiative

NO.7

Monthly Newsletter

NOVEMBER
2025

CEI's Month of Gratitude

*“We can never praise God
enough, for all we have is from
His hand.”*

John Calvin

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Add to your
calendar:

**Summit VII:
Fall 2026
Lynchburg, VA**

Message from the CEI Chairman

By Richard Hawkins

I trust you had a blessed year and are looking forward to more blessings in the next. Christian Education Initiative (CEI) has been blessed through 2025 and we are looking forward to 2026 as we grow and mature. We've accomplished most of our goals as resources have allowed. CEI has made steady progress over its 6-year life.

The outcome of the nation's elections earlier this month also points to a need for increased presence in the culture with an organized outreach.

I want to thank all loyal members for their support of the CEI mission. This support keeps the volunteer work of the Board working strong as we review our strategic plan for expansion.

The following is a brief review of CEI's history which will lead us into 2026 with our draft development plan.

In 2014 Rev. E. Ray Moore gathered several individuals via regularly scheduled Zoom meetings to address concerns regarding K-12 education in America. This was called The Great Education Forum.

In the 2016-2017 timeframe Dan Smithwick gathered another group of individuals to address Christian education concerns and the culture at large. This group was called the Coalition for Biblical Transformation.

In August 2018 Ray and a core group of 12 friends met in Appomattox, VA at the Fourth Great Education Forum to start a new project eventually called the Christian Education Initiative, to be formed under the umbrella of Frontline Ministries as a DBA. This group included:

Dr. Max and Marjorie Lyons, F.A.C.E.; Mr. Steven C. Smith, Henricus Colledge, 1619; Dr. Paul Michael Raymond, New Geneva Christian Leadership Academy and Reformed Bible Church; Paul and Gena Suarez, The Old Schoolhouse; Pastor Travis Witt, American Transformation Company; Sean Maguire, Family Foundation; Don and Chris Schanzenbach, author; Christian Raymond, PAC (for school board candidates); Karl Priest, Insectman and Exodus Mandate (West Virginia); Kevin R. Novak, Deconstructing the Coliseum; Mark and Rebecca Shepard, Planting Seeds to Renew America; Rev. E. Ray Moore and Gail (Pinckney) Moore, Exodus Mandate.

Message from the CEI Chariman Cont.

In 2019 members from Dan's group merged into CEI. In August CEI held its first Summit called the Great Education Strategy Summit in Chesapeake, VA.

In 2021 I joined CEI and began serving as Assistant to the Chairman in September.

At the Summit III conference in 2022 it became clear that the broader range of discipleship beyond just K-12 education was a deficiency within the Church. New vision and mission statements were approved to include family discipleship, church training and equipping for service, primary and secondary Christian education, and post-secondary Christian education and training.

By 2023 Ray Moore retired as Chairman and I was elected as the new Chairman. The board held an annual meeting in May and selected Dr Marlene McMillan for membership on the Board; she accepted. Dr Kevin Clauson had attended that meeting and he accepted an invitation to be CEI's Executive Director. Dan Smithwick accepted CEI as a DBA under his Nehemiah Institute ministry until he retired from active Board membership in 2024. Dan still participates at our Board meetings as an advisor just as Ray Moore participates as Chairman Emeritus.

Upon Dan's retirement from membership on Board in September, 2024, we selected Jay Jusino as his replacement. Jay attended the 2024 Summit conference and the Board meetings for the rest of the year. However, he never felt this was his calling so resigned his Board membership in January 2025. The board selected Dr Gary House as Jay's successor and interviewed him at their February 2025 meeting; he was voted in unanimously.

Until Ray Moore's retirement in Sept of 2023 as Chairman, Lawrie Sikema, Ray's office manager for Exodus Mandate, was performing all the administrative workload with funding via Frontline Ministries. For one year the board members, all volunteers, performed the majority of the administrative work. Lawrie, however, did the heavy administrative load for the 2024 Summit. It was at this time that Maya Lindberg was introduced to CEI by Mark Shepard and performed go-for duties in preparation of and during the 2024 Summit. At this time a very generous donor offered to fund Maya's employment until the end of 2025. We are praying for donations to carry Maya's employment through 2026.

Message from the CEI Chariman Cont.

Planning for Summit VII of 2026 began in mid 2025. Much of the speakers' schedule is in place. In addition, we foresee significant improvements with CEI's day-to-day operation for 2026. Maya has a background in Communications from her college days at Grove City College. She has just produced a draft CEI Development Plan for the Board to review, approve and implement. This plan, when implemented, will launch CEI's presence with webinars and beneficial content through social media and the Internet. We'll be encouraging membership participation with these efforts. Donations via Christedu.org for any amount will be greatly appreciated. Again, thank you for your support and have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Blessings,

Richard W Hawkins, Chairman
Christian Education Initiative

Support CEI's Mission Today

As we look ahead to 2026, the Christian Education Initiative is committed to expanding our outreach, strengthening discipleship, and equipping families and churches with resources that make a lasting impact. None of this is possible without the faithful support of friends like you. Every gift—large or small—helps us continue building a presence in culture and advancing biblical transformation through education.

👉 **Visit ChristEdu.org today to make your donation and partner with us in this vital mission. Together, we can ensure CEI's work grows stronger in the year ahead.**

Summit VI Recordings LIVE on Our Website & YouTube

By Maya Wright

CEI is excited to announce that all Summit VI recordings are now live on our website! You can watch them anytime by visiting Teachings > Summit Presentations.

Christedu.org

Each session is also shareable directly from our site and now available on our new YouTube channel:

@christianeducationinitiative

We hope these teachings will equip, encourage, and inspire Christian educators everywhere.



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