NORTHFIELD TIMELINE

1837  Dwight Moody born.
1841  Dwight's father died, leaving family very poor.
1854  Dwight went to Boston to work in his uncle's shoe shop and joined a Bible Study group.
1856  Dwight went to Chicago to work in a shoe shop and joined another Bible Study group.
1860  Dwight learned through his studies that he was called to be a lay evangelist and devoted all his time to that.
1879  Dwight established the Northfield School for Girls
1881  Dwight established the Mt. Hermon School for Boys
1886  First men's summer Conference was held. Two hundred men gathered at Mt. Hermon.
1892  Fifteen to 20 girls attended the men's Conference with limited participation. One of the girls was May Whittle.
1893  May Whittle, with the backing of the YWCA, managed to get the Northfield Conference for Girls started.
1894  May Whittle married William Moody, Dwight's son.
1899  After Dwight Moody's death, May and William assumed responsibility for the Northfield school.
1933  William Moody died. May Whittle Moody continued to live on the Northfield campus in the Birth Place and remained involved with the Summer Conference.
1943  The possibility of the Conference breaking into separate groups was tested during World War II. In 1943, a Conference was held at Dana Hall, Wellesley, MA; Westminster College, New Willmington, PA; and Dobbs Ferry, NY. No Conference was held at Northfield.
1944  The groups from Dana Hall and Westminster College returned to Northfield.
1945  The Conference broke into seven groups held in Albant, Boston, Erie, New York, Philadelphia, Rochester, and Washington. They lasted from 2-5 days and the result was disappointing.
1946  All returned to the Northfield Campus except those near Erie.
1952  Middle Atlantic and Erie broke away permanently. Both had about 100 conferees that year.
1963  May Whittle Moody died; she was 93 years old. It was also the 70th anniversary of the Conference. The Conference had been managed and planned for by a group of Ladies since 1903. In 1963, a member of the Committee at that time wrote a history of the first 70 years entitled “Foundations in Faith.”
1971  The Northern Area Conference began the transition that made it a Conference for people of all ages and persuasions.
2006  The Conference moved to the Mt. Hermon Campus as the School had given up the Northfield Campus.
2007  Mid-Atlantic rejoined the Northern Area Conference permanently.