

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

P.O. Box 288, Oak Creek, WI 53154-0288, (800)-262-1620, Email: naccc@naccc.org
www.naccc.org

NACCC NEWS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2012

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FROM MY HEART TO YOURS



Dear Friends,

In two or three months the trustees and church leadership of most of our churches will be planning their annual budgets. To many of us, it is a daunting task. But it shouldn't be. The New Testament is full of lessons, challenges, admonitions, and real-life stories about money, time, thankfulness, and giving.

In a recent publication from Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis, I was struck by the way they present the ministries of the Church, and believe it to be a powerful way of introducing stewardship. Here are some examples of the categories they use in their report – Joyful Leadership (staff and leadership), Continual Delight (the musical ministry), Encouraging Engagement (the Diaconate), Vibrant, Fun, Growing Children (youth and family ministries), Awakening the Congregation (fine arts), Creating Connections (member care), Developing Ambassadors (membership hospitality), Nurturing Community (stewardship), Embodying Radical Love (outreach), Preserving the Future (trustees), Respecting the Past (archives), Community Fund (Plymouth's outreach), Repairing and Restoring (property), Living our Covenant (endowment funds).

You know what? **Every** church could build not only a budget, but a life together using some or all of these categories. One could build a comprehensive stewardship program using this approach.

If stewardship in your church is an attempt to fund an annual budget, then it is much too narrow a focus. Most annual church budgets that I know of are the minimum of what it would take to keep the church open. These kind of budgets are built on desperation or bottom-line math. They lack vision, mission, excitement and an answer to the deep religious needs that people have. People want to give themselves to something great, something that engages them in the world's needs on behalf of God, something profound that calls upon them to be the representative hands, feet, heart, head, and voice of Christ.

Answer those needs and the larger world of stewardship will blossom in your church – whether you are a church of 50 or 2,500.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Dr. Thomas Richard
Executive Secretary

INSIDE

2012 ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE	2
MISSION & OUTREACH	3
NEWS FROM THE FIELD	4
EXECUTIVE & FRATERNAL VISITS	5
MINISTRY COUNCILS	6
ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES	7
UPCOMING DATES	8
8TH CONGREGATIONAL SYMPOSIUM	9
AUTOMATIC GIVING	10
THE CONGREGATIONALIST	11
NACCC INFORMATION	12

2012 ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE . . .

From Your "Past" Moderator:

In my time as your Moderator I appreciate all the support and good wishes I have received from so many of you across the country. The Meeting in Minnesota far exceeded my expectations as we unanimously agreed to move forward in the future with new plans and dreams and determination. Our Transition Team is to be commended for all their hard work. It has been a pleasure to serve you and especially to moderate the Meeting in my home territory. Our Host Committee was terrific and I am so pleased that we were able to provide you with opportunities for Fellowship and Worship. I hope the Conference was a positive experience for all.

Now we can look forward to Florida in 2013, knowing that we are all needed to raise the funds and do the work of the Association. I will continue as "past" moderator to work with the Annual Meeting and Conference Team for next year and to help in other ways for the success of our new plans. I also want to invite all of you to our International Congregational Fellowship in England in July 2013 – I will be helping our American Committee to make plans to participate and would love to see you there.

God's Blessings to You All,

Patti Haasheim
Your Past Moderator

2013 Annual Meeting & Conference
June 22-25,
Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista, Florida
in the Walt Disney World Resort

MISSION & OUTREACH NEWS

Mission News

There were 15 NACCC missions/19 missionaries represented at the 2012 Annual Meeting in Bloomington. They all enjoyed forming relationships with the delegates as well as with each other.

School supplies are needed for the fall for many of our missions. To find the needs of your favorite missions, please go the website: www.naccc.org click on International, National or Recommended to find the missions you are interested in.

For questions about Missions, please contact Linda Miller at lmiller@naccc.org or call (800)-262-1620 ext. 13.



Missionary Society and missionaries gathered in Bloomington

News From the Field

Maple Hill, KS, Christmas in July is the church's celebration of the mission to Samaritan's Purse. They collect shoeboxes full of useful things for those in need...**FCC, Marshfield**, young Boy Scouts re-landscaped the front of the parish house as part of a service project. Students confirmed this past spring were in service at the church during the summer, contributing in very adult ways to the church's life. Annual hymn sing under the tent took place earlier this summer...**FCC, Mansfield**, summer is not a down-time for this church; blood drive, book club, email prayer chain, silent shower for new mothers in need, celebration of volunteers, clean-up day at church's camp...**FCC, Beloit**, had an independent contractor come to do a thorough inspection of the entire church to help the trustees plan for building needs for the next several years. *Music Maxima* a classical music venue, has its concerts at the church. They celebrated Earth Day this past spring, along with one billion other people...**FCC, New Richland**, Participated in the Relay For Life for the American Cancer Society. Roof repair being done this summer...**Church in the Garden, Forest Hills**, On Fifth Sunday a member shared her recent experience going to work in Haiti at Dayspring Ministry. Laity Sunday was conducted by a couple. The Green Team sponsored a film series on environmental concerns. Summer book reading with the pastor introduces two books – *Exploring the Wonders of God*, and *Finding Jesus On The Metro...*

North Congregational Church, Farmington Hills, interesting description in recent newsletter of staff responsibilities. Youth are visiting a members home on Cass Lake for a family picnic. Members recently donated 63 pairs of old glasses to One Sight program. Prepping for an ecumenical VBS, with volunteer "tribe" leaders, an items needed list, bakers, shopkeepers, etc. Huge effort for this wonderful summer experience in religious ed...**FCC, Millinocket**, A long list of high school grads headed for college. Church member and college senior at University of Maine named Valedictorian. Honored years of service by Peggy Sturman as Deaconess Emeritus...

FCC, Fall River, Celebrated blessing of the animals at church - birds, cats, horses, dogs were among them. Collected \$225 for their Blanket Sunday for CWS. Church participated with money and human-power to plant trees to beautify the city of Fall River. Moving toward receiving church newsletters by email...

Do you send us your internet newsletter? Please do. We will pick items from them to share in this column. You can send it to trichard@naccc.org.

State and Regional Partnerships

Please make sure your officers are correct on the NACCC website. There will be another Moderator conference call August 28th at 7 pm, CST. Contact Linda Miller for questions. lmiller@naccc.org or (800)-262-1620 ext. 13



RECENT EXECUTIVE & FRATERNAL VISITS

Executive Visits in June & July

Horton Congregational Church, Horton, MI
 First Congregational Church, Saugatuck, MI

Representing the Association

Rev. David Gray represented the NACCC at First Congregational Church, Porterville, CA who are inquiring about membership in the Association.

Rev. Tom Richard represented the NACCC at the wake of Rev. William O'Donnell on July 13 in Chicago, IL.

Rev. David Nasgowits represented the NACCC at the funeral service of Rev. William O'Donnell at July 14 at Bethany Union Church, Chicago.

Rev. Varn Philbrook brought greetings to Peacham Congregational Church, Peacham, VT on July 22.

Rev. Varn Philbrook also brought greetings to First Congregational Church, East Hartwick, VT on July 22.

NEW MEMBER CHURCHES

At the June Meeting and Conference in Bloomington the following Churches were accepted and installed as member churches in the National Association by chairperson of the Membership and Procedures Subcommittee, Randy Asendorf. Rev. Patti Haaheim and Dr. Tom Richard extended the Right Hand of Fellowship on behalf of the Association.

Freedom Congregational Home Church

Anchorage, Alaska
 Sponsoring Church - First Congregational Church, Anchorage, Alaska

Hampshire Colony Congregational Church

Princeton, Illinois
 Sponsoring Churches - Atkinson Congregational Church, Geneseo, Illinois and First Congregational Church, Toulon, Illinois

West Gorham Union Church, Gorham, Maine

Sponsoring Church - Second Congregational Church, Biddeford, Maine

Orthodox Congregational Church of Petersham

Petersham, Massachusetts
 Sponsoring Church - Robbins Memorial Congregational Church, Greenfield, Massachusetts

First Congregational Church, Breckenridge, Michigan

Sponsoring Church - First Congregational Church, St. John's, Michigan

First Congregational Church, East Hardwick, Vermont

Sponsoring Church - First Congregational Church, Peacham, Vermont

The River Community Church of Stillwater,

Houlton, Wisconsin
 Sponsoring Church - Peoples Congregational Church, Bayport, Minnesota

RECENT CALLS

SEBAGO LAKE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, STANDISH, MAINE

REV. MICHAEL GLIDDEN AS ASSOCIATE MINISTER

ORDINATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND CHURCHES UPON ORDINATION:

REV. LINCOLN SKINNER, JUNE 10, 2012

ONEONTA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 SOUTH PASADENA, CALIF.

REV. PHYLLIS MERRITT, JULY 7, 2012

SAWYER MEMORIAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
 JONESPORT, MAINE



Annual Meeting Creates Ministry Councils. . .

During this administrative year of the Association, three ministry councils will be operating in a parallel structure created through unanimous resolution by the assembly. In the next issue of the NA NEWS, we should be able to announce the participants in the leadership council as well. This is an unfolding process which forms a new, vital, efficient, and inclusive leadership group which will carry us into the 21st century of our Association's life.

Congregational Growth Ministry Council

Mark Jurewicz - IL
 Rev. Marilyn Danielson - MI
 Rev. Chris Meirose - MN
 Rev. Bill Trump - WI
 Rev. Dawn Carlson - IN
 Dr. Tom Richard - staff liaison

Vitality Ministry Council

Rev. Tom Van Tassell - IA
 Rev. Mike Fales - MI
 Rev. Jim Owens - FL
 Lois Rosebrooks - NY
 Barbara Erlendson - CT
 Dr. Betsey Mauro - staff liaison

Mission and Outreach Ministry Council

Laura Hamby - CA
 Julie Robie - NH
 Rev. Brian Anderson - AZ
 Greg Jurewicz - IL
 Noreen Boes - MI
 Linda Miller - staff liaison



HAS YOUR CHURCH APPOINTED ITS YEAR ROUND DELEGATE (YRD)?

Complete the year round delegate form found on the front page of our website www.naccc.org, That includes information about this important new step in communication and relations with our member churches. As of this issue of the NEWS over 160 member churches have elected their YRD. The delegates will begin to see information and response requests soon!

AUGUST

Francois Akoa-Mongo	Aug. 1, 1967
Richard Gossett	Aug. 1, 1986
Martha Lane	Aug. 1, 1994
Caroline Dozier	Aug. 1, 2002
Raymond Luber	Aug. 2, 1964
Mark Taylor	Aug. 2, 1992
Paul Koeshall	Aug. 4, 1960
Jeffrey Siegel	Aug. 7, 2004
Jack Frohn	Aug. 8, 1964
William Fillebrown	Aug. 9, 1979
Steven King	Aug. 9, 1990
David Murray	Aug. 10, 1987
Thomas Thorne	Aug. 10, 1991
Scott Snider	Aug. 11, 1996
Shawn Stapleton	Aug. 11, 2001
Douglas Brandt	Aug. 13, 1989
Arlin Larson	Aug. 14, 1977
Glenn Lawson	Aug. 14, 1994
Ramona Andrews	Aug. 15, 2004
Sam Southard	Aug. 16, 1950
George Mays	Aug. 16, 1981
Charles Packer	Aug. 18, 2001
Michael Nash	Aug. 18, 2004
Bruce Pratt	Aug. 19, 2000
Thomas M. Warner	Aug. 20, 1978
Robert Brink	Aug. 21, 2005
David Wigley	Aug. 22, 1954
John Wallace	Aug. 22, 2004
Patrick Hunt	Aug. 24, 1969
Tom Douglas	Aug. 27, 1998
Roy Paterik	Aug. 28, 1974
Judith Roska	Aug. 28, 1989
Lynnette Barnes	Aug. 29, 1997



Wendy Sue Kissa	Sept. 14, 1997
Thomas Miller	Sept. 15, 1974
Edward Fackler	Sept. 15, 1985
Victor Bogdanoff	Sept. 15, 1991
Geraldine MacNeil	Sept. 16, 2001
Charles Morgan	Sept. 17, 1978
Julie Johnson-Staples	Sept. 18, 2011
Donald Plank	Sept. 18, 1983
Beth Faeth	Sept. 18, 1994
Charles Birnie	Sept. 18, 2004
David Welcome	Sept. 19, 1998
Samuel Schaal	Sept. 20, 1998
J.P. Freeman	Sept. 21, 1997
John Miller	Sept. 21, 1997
Michael Chittum	Sept. 21, 1980
John T. Boyd	Sept. 22, 2002
Matt Winslow	Sept. 22, 2002
Thomas Richard	Sept. 23, 1973
Marchie Miyashiro Sims	Sept. 23, 2001
Steven Larson	Sept. 24, 2006
Lisa Dembkowski	Sept. 25, 2005
Scott Naevestad	Sept. 26, 1993
Chad Poland	Sept. 26, 1999
Pamela Jensen	Sept. 26, 2004
Steven Schafer	Sept. 28, 1980
Bobbie Chapman	Sept. 28, 1997
Colin Windhorst	Sept. 28, 1998
Paul Lee	Sept. 28, 2003
Donald Limmer	Sept. 29, 1979
Lin McGee	Sept. 29, 1996
David Wood	Sept. 29, 2002
Tim Smith	Sept. 30, 1990
Andrew McHenry	Sept. 30, 2001

SEPTEMBER

Bert McCormick	Sept. 1, 1961
Phillip Ewert	Sept. 1, 1964
Alice Kelloway	Sept. 2, 1949
Douglas LeCroy	Sept. 3, 1971
Michael Halcomb	Sept. 7, 1971
Anthony Jones	Sept. 7, 1997
David Henry	Sept. 11, 1977
John Hendrickson	Sept. 11, 1988
Larry Foster	Sept. 12, 2001
David Fleming	Sept. 14, 1975
Randall Kohls	Sept. 14, 1980



Dates for your Calendar

2012 History & Polity Seminar

August 5-11

Boston, MA

8th Congregational Symposium

November 8-10, 2012

Heritage Congregational Church

Madison, WI

2013 Annual Minister's Convocation

April 8 - 11

Mundelein, IL

2013 Annual Meeting & Conference

June 22-25

Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista, Florida

in the Walt Disney World Resort

8th Congregational Symposium

You are my witnesses...
Congregationalists Working with God
Through Evangelism, Mission and Justice

November 8-10, 2012

Heritage Congregational Church
Madison, WI

Featuring Keynote Speakers:

Sister Helen Prejean
and
Rev. Arlin Larson

For details, please contact:
Rev. Cindy Bacon Hammer
(608)-212-4226
cabaconhammer@gmail.com

The NACCC is pleased to offer Member Churches another option for giving to the Shared Ministries Fund

Automatic Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

Benefits of Automatic Giving

Simplify your life - You won't have to remember whether you gave this month or year. You don't have to worry about being an inactive member church. Simply fill out an authorization for Automatic Giving and your church is active.

Take a step of faith - When you sign up to give through Automated Giving, you are deciding in advance to faithfully give.

Cost Effective for Member Churches - The cost of an EFT is usually less than the cost of writing a check and mailing it.

You will be helping the NACCC - EFT's are the most cost-effective method of giving to the NACCC in comparison to checks, credit card gifts, etc.

It is safer than writing a check - It can't be lost, stolen, or destroyed in the mail.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
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The
CONGREGATIONALIST
 Magazine of the Congregational Way

is going PROSPECTING!

We hope you've noticed improvements we've made in *The Congregationalist*. Frankly, we think we are now "Ready for Prime Time." And that's good, because to keep our magazine going, we need to gain more **commercial advertisers**.

Please help us compile an effective prospect list of companies who actually do business with local churches. Would you please take a few moments, right now, to send us names and contact information of several companies that your church buys things from? For example—

- Worship supplies, chancel furniture and equipment
- Linens, banners, paraments, clergy vestments, choir robes
- Sunday School and VBS curriculum, books, hymnals
- Sunday bulletins, printing services
- Employee benefit plans, financial services, insurance
- *Anything your church buys a lot of*

Companies that already supply things to *your* church would welcome the opportunity to get their message in front of Congregational church leaders around the country through the pages of our exciting publication. We will approach them in the most gracious and professional way.

E-mail Karen Skinner at karenskinner77@hotmail.com, leave a message for her at First Congregational Church of Maywood, (708) 344-6150, or mail to:

First Congregational Church of Maywood
Attn: Karen Skinner
 400 N. 5th Avenue
 Maywood IL 60153

EXAMPLE:

John Jones Company—John Jones, Jr., route salesman
 123 Helpfulness Drive, Benevolence MI 99999
jjonesjr@johnjonesco.com (999) 999-9999
www.johnjonesco.com

Referred by Increase Mather XIII, Congregational Church of Benevolence, Mich.
im13@revsmilez.com (111) 111-1111

**SEND ME YOUR NEWS**

Submissions for the Oct/Nov edition are due by Sept. 15, 2012.

Marie Steele, Editor

msteele@nacc.org

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8473 S. Howell Avenue

P.O. Box 288

Oak Creek, WI 53154-0288

Phone: (800) 262-1620

Fax: (414) 764-0319

Email: nacc@nacc.org

Website: www.nacc.org

Bringing together Congregational Christian Churches for mutual care and outreach to our world in the name of Jesus Christ.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

www.nacc.org

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