

NACCC News



National Association of Congregational Christian Churches: *The Messenger*

Defining Your Future

Michael Chittum, Executive Director

Diana Butler Bass, who looks at the future of the Christian church, made these comments:

Yesterday I was with a 60yr old Presbyterian church in the morning and a 4yr old emergent/post-evangelical church plant in the late afternoon. Preached at both.

Here's the deal: BOTH congregations were asking the same questions -- What is vibrant faith community in the 21st century? How can we connect with our neighbors? What are the theologies and stories of Jesus that make a difference in our lives? Which spiritual practices are we called to? How do we welcome the stranger? How to proclaim God's love and justice in a world that seems ambivalent or hostile to faith? What streams of theology resonate with the world today? How to avoid the pitfalls of extreme liberalism and conservatism in theology and politics?

These are questions we are all asking. How you answer them will shape the future of your church.



Cool Clicks

[Illuminate Thanksgiving \(Page 4-7\)](#)

[Order 2017-2018 Calendar \(Page 8\)](#)

[Order Advent Devotionals \(Page 9\)](#)

Missions Update

On October 9th, the team members of Love Worth Sharing and A Voice In The Wilderness led groups of people on relief efforts to the southern peninsula of Haiti. The first group, led by Ezechiel Felix, took ten people to the village of Cavallion, which was almost completely wiped out. The second group, led by Ricardo Laguere, went to the village of Maniche, his mother's home village.

Both of these teams took rice, oil, spaghetti, bottled water as well as personal hygiene kits containing, toothbrushes, toothpaste, sanitary supplies, toilet paper and soap.

For many of these people this was the first food they had had since the hurricane made landfall. Ricardo sends his thanks to all saying "While the government is still evaluating, we were able to meet the needs in these two villages." Ezechiel and Doctor Desor will be returning with medicine to hold a clinic for those in Cavallion this week.

Mission and Outreach Ministry Council is collecting donations for Hurricane relief for Haiti, Florida and North Carolina. Please email Linda Miller at: lmiller@naccc.org if you would like to contribute.

Any missions contribution received after November 18th will not get to the mission by Christmas.

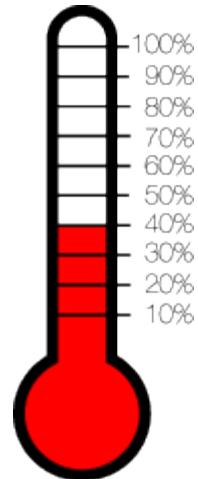


Thank you to all the generous donors who supported Haiti.



[2017 Annual Meeting and Conference \(Page 10\)](#)

Shared Ministries Fund Appeal



As of November 10th, \$128,815.73 has been raised from our member churches for the Shared Ministries Fund.

Consider a Contribution to the NACCC Shared Ministries Fund at the Fair Share Level or Above!

The NACCC strongly encourages all member churches to participate in the appeal by making a gift to the Shared Ministries Fund, which directly supports programs and services offered to our member churches. Giving at the Fair Share level (\$13-\$14.99 a member) or the Fair Share plus level (\$15.00 and above a member) is extremely important to the success of the NACCC. Our goal this Fiscal year (April 1, 2016-March 31, 2017) is to reach \$293,000. We are counting on our member churches to help make this happen.

Thank you to the many churches who have already made their contribution. We especially want to thank the churches who contributed at the Fair Share or Fair Share plus level.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Send Me Your News

Submissions for the December edition are due by November 20, 2016
mohara@naccc.org

National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
8473 South Howell Ave
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154
mohara@naccc.org
800-262-1620 ext 1615

THIS NOVEMBER, JOIN PLYMOUTH 400
AND SHARE A MOMENT OF GRATITUDE WITH THE WORLD.

illuminate THANKSGIVING

Plymouth 400, the organization planning the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower voyage and founding of Plymouth Colony, invites you to join us in taking part in Illuminate Thanksgiving—a global event honoring the words of an American forefather, William Bradford:

*“For as one small candle may light a thousand,
so the light here kindled hath shone unto many.”*

The events that took place in Plymouth Colony almost 400 years ago still resonate across the globe as the seeds upon which this nation was sown.

Together, let's GIVE THANKS and GIVE BACK this thanksgiving season and illuminate our communities, our countries, and our world.

WE INVITE YOU TO HOST YOUR OWN ILLUMINATE EVENT, OR PARTICIPATE IN ONE NEAR YOU!



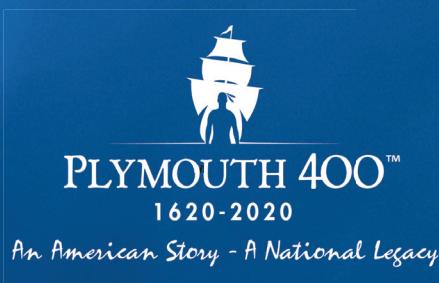


HERE'S HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

1. PICK A TIME & NAME YOUR PLACE
2. UPLOAD YOUR EVENT INFO TO OUR WEBSITE
3. INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO SHARE IN A MOMENT OF GRATITUDE
4. SHARE YOUR STORY WITH US VIA THE ILLUMINATE MOBILE APP
(AVAILABLE FOR APPLE AND ANDROID DEVICES ON OCTOBER 7)

Illuminate Thanksgiving gatherings can be as big as a city-wide event with live entertainment and hundreds of attendees, or as small as an intimate gathering of friends or family; you decide! You can upload your event's information to our website at www.plymouth400inc.org/illuminate

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND
AN ILLUMINATE EVENT
NEAR YOU!
WWW.ILLUMINATETHANKSGIVING.ORG





Dear Friends throughout the NACCC family,

Plymouth 400; the organization formed to lead the planning of events and programs honoring the 400th anniversary of the 1620 Mayflower voyage and founding of Plymouth Colony invites you and their partners around the world to join them for an event to inspire giving thanks and giving back this November; Illuminate Thanksgiving.

Illuminate Thanksgiving is a Plymouth 400 Signature Event that honors the theme of thanksgiving and inspires communities across the globe to illuminate their lives and the lives of others. The Illuminate Thanksgiving event, is focused on the ideals of community and philanthropy. Inspired by the quote by William Bradford "As one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled has shown unto many," this global celebration hopes to inspire all communities across the globe to "Give Thanks and Give Back!"

Each November Plymouth, Massachusetts joins together in a community-wide, candle-light ceremony with inspirational music, art, food, light displays, and other festivities. They'd like to invite your church to join this movement and host your own Illuminate Thanksgiving event!

Planning an Illuminate event can be as simple as lighting a candle with a group of people around a table, or as big as the celebration of giving held in Plymouth each year!

Here's how to get involved:

1. Pick a time and name your place!
2. Upload your event info to the Plymouth 400 website
3. Invite all to share in a moment of gratitude
4. Share your story with us via the Illuminate mobile app (Available for Apple and Android Devices on October 7th!)

It's that simple!

The benefits of Illuminate are numerous! By staging an Illuminate event, citizens are able to come together to celebrate giving and thankfulness with their family, friends, and neighbors. Along with this, the Illuminate events held for the past two years have led to the patronizing of many shops and restaurants by its attendees. This may or may not be true for you, depending on the scope of what your church decides to offer.

Through the use of the Illuminate app, your city and citizens can be connected to thousands of other people from all around the globe! This international celebration has partners in the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, and many more!

If you are interested in being a part of Illuminate Thanksgiving, visit <http://illuminatethanksgiving.org> to learn more, upload your event information, and join the movement!



You can also watch videos of past Illuminates here:

[Plymouth, MA](#)

[Plymouth, UK](#)

Please contact Plymouth 400 if you have any questions at sfey@plymouth400inc.org

We will also plan to promote the Illuminate Thanksgiving event on the NACCC website and list all participating churches. Please contact Morgan O'Hara at: mohara@naccc.org if your church decides to join in the celebration.

In God's Spirit,

NACCC Plymouth 400 Task Team

Will Lange, chair

Michael Chittum

Norm Erlendson

Ian MacDonald

Phyllis Merritt

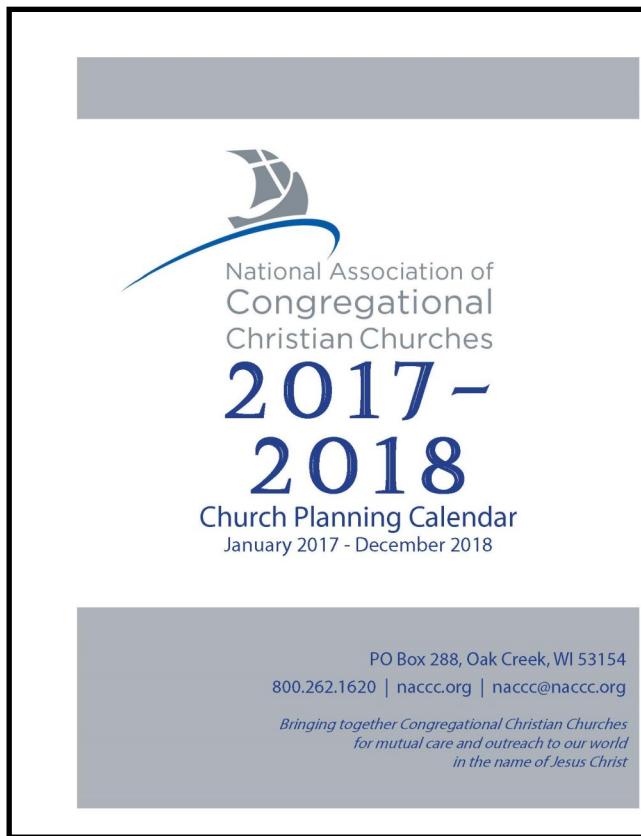
Tom Richard

Larry Sommers

Tom Van Tassell

Wendy Van Tassell

2017 - 2018 NACCC Planning Calendar Order Form



Please send _____ Two Year (2017-18) Calendars
Price: \$10.00 per copy – Plus shipping & handling charges

(Please Print Clearly) Send Calendars to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Please send completed form to:

**NACCC
PO Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154-0288**

or

**Email your request to: lmiller@nacc.org
Telephone: (800) 262-1620 ext. 1618
Fax: (414) 764-0319**

Devotionals

Order your devotionals Now!!
Advent 2016 and/or Lent 2017
Don't miss out

2016 Advent Devotionals

Please send _____ 2016 Advent Devotionals
Price: \$3 per copy – includes shipping & handling charges

(Please Print Clearly) Send Devotionals to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Please send completed form to:

2017 Lent Devotionals

Please send _____ 2017 Lent Devotionals
Price: \$3 per copy – includes shipping & handling charges

(Please Print Clearly) Send Devotionals to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Please send completed form to:

NACCC
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Oak Creek, WI 53154-0288

or

Email your request to: lmiller@naccc.org
Telephone: (800) 262-1620 ext. 1618
Fax: (414) 764-0319

**Ash Wednesday
is March 1st**

NACCC
PO Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154-0288

or

Email your request to: lmiller@naccc.org
Telephone: (800) 262-1620 ext. 1618
Fax: (414) 764-0319

SIXTY-THIRD (63RD) ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE
June 24-27, 2017
Piedmont College
Demorest, Georgia

ACCOMMODATIONS:

DORMS AT PIEDMONT COLLEGE
1021 Central Ave., Demorest, Georgia 30531

Dorms will cost \$60 per person for a 1 to 7 day stay.

Some dorms will be accessible from the outside, some will have elevators. All dorm rooms have single beds. One person will occupy a dorm room with a twin bed, and two rooms will share a bathroom with a shower. Some have common areas and a laundry facility. All dorms are air conditioned. Your (1-7 day) stay will also include one set of bedlinens and a supply of towels along with access to a refrigerator. There will be no cleaning service during the week.

- Rooms do not include clocks or microwaves.
- Parking is available on the campus.
- Guests will need to bring their own toiletries along with personal items such as; shampoo, soap, and a hairdryer.

HAMPTON INN CORNELIA

161 Market Corners Drive, Cornelia, GA 30531; 706.778.0040

A limited number of rooms have been reserved, so please book early, the cutoff date, June 7, 2017. If you would like to arrive before June 21; or stay after June 27, please call the hotel to check availability.

For reservations:

~Call 1-800-HILTONS and ask for the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, NACCC or use reference code, CHXCCC to receive the group rate.

The group rate is \$95 per night [&15% tax & \$5 per night state fee-TOTAL \$114.25] and includes a hot breakfast, Wi-Fi, business center, fitness room, outdoor pool and comp parking.

Piedmont College will host a hospitality suite at the Hampton Inn some evenings, depending on the schedule.

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION:

The Atlanta Airport (ATL) is approx. 90 miles/90 minutes. Airport transportation information will be forthcoming.

CAMPUS TRANSPORTATION:

Piedmont College will provide continual shuttle service throughout the day between the campus and the Hampton Inn. Piedmont will also provide transportation around the campus for those that have mobility issues. The Hampton is 3 miles or 5 minutes from the campus.