



November 10, 2019
NACCC NEWS
The Messenger



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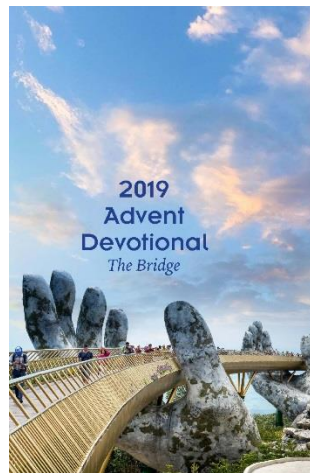
[Order Advent & Lent Devotionals](#)

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Michael Chittum, Executive Director

That's right. It is time to order the Advent Devotional from the NACCC for your congregation. The theme for Advent 2019 is "The Bridge." The devotional booklet features submissions from members and ministers of Congregational churches from coast to coast. With scripture, devotional thought, and prayer included for each day of the Advent Season, this resource could easily be used by all in your church to reflect on the meaning and importance of Advent. [Place your order today!](#)

Don't forget. The Lenten Devotional book should be ready to be shipped to your church sometime in January. Get a jump start on the process and [order these as well.](#)



400 YEARS OF *Faith*
AMERICAN
CONGREGATIONALISM
SINCE 1620

As we commemorate 400 years of American Congregationalism we will bring you historical information about the landing of the Pilgrims in Plymouth, as well as current events taking place in our member churches.

Congregational History Bulletin Inserts

Find them all on our [website](#), or download the current month here:

[Nov. 17](#)

[Nov. 24](#)

[Dec. 1](#)

[Dec. 8](#)

Asociacion Civil Cristiana Congregational, Argentina

Julie Robie, Missions Administrator

Here a child, there a child, everywhere a child, child! Rev. Harding Sticker (Asociacion Civil Cristiana Congregational, Argentina) sent pictures of children who are supported by and participate in the work of the mission. They are fed, receive medical care, gather for worship services and recently took part in a special Mother's Day Celebration (pictured). Evidently tantrums are tantrums, whether in the US or abroad!



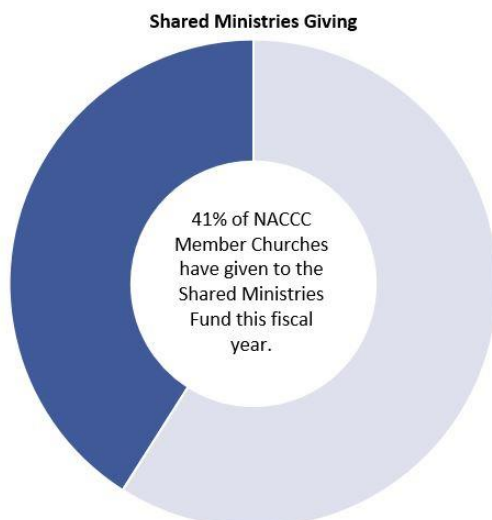
Your Support Is Important

Debby Fulton, Director of Development and Communications

Nurturing fellowship and supporting ministries of member churches is a vital part of the NACCC mission. Dedicated staff and volunteers are committed to supporting the needs of member churches, but we can't do it alone. Membership gifts and donations to the Shared Ministries Fund help to keep the Association functioning and thriving for not only your church but all Congregational member Churches.

Please consider a *Fair Share* giving membership donation this year. A gift at a *Fair Share* level (\$13-\$14.99 a member) or the *Fair Share Plus* level (\$15.00 and above a member) will help to guarantee the continuation of educational programs, church resources, fellowship opportunities, Missions review, design and printing of *The Congregationalist* and so much more. As the NACCC seeks to serve and nurture our congregations and advance our tradition it is our prayer that you will partner with the NACCC by making a generous contribution to your Association.

"THANK YOU" to the many churches who have made their donation and are helping to make a difference.



Member Church News

First Congregational Church of Beloit, WI, along with Beloit College, will be hosting a travelling program called *A Journey through America's National Parks* on Thursday, November 14th.

On November 10th at 3pm, First Congregational Church of Akron, OH will host the Master Singers Chorale of Northeast Ohio.

The First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa, WI presents a Beginner's Guide to Christian Meditation on Saturday, November 16th.

Reminders from the NACCC Office

In order for your gift to get to our missions in time for Christmas, donations must be received by November 15th. Please make a note on your check that your wish is for the funds to go to Missions Christmas Needs, or [click here to donate now](#).

The NACCC Office will close at noon on November 27th and re-open on December 2nd.

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Send us your news and photos!
Submissions for the December issue are due by November 25, 2019
development@naccc.org*

National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

8473 S. Howell Avenue, P.O. Box 288

Oak Creek, WI 53154

800-262-1620 ext. 1610

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[Print This Newsletter](#)

NEWS & NEEDS

of our Missions



Fall 2019

A quarterly publication of the **Missions and Outreach Ministry Council**
by Julie Robie, Missions Administrator

Word Alive Mission, Ghana, West Africa

In August, an 8-member team from Porterville Congregational Church, CA and Bow Lake Baptist Church, NH, travelled to Word Alive Mission to work in the orphanage, teach at a church leadership seminar, preach and give personal testimonies in 7 churches and break ground for the Ghana Guest House. For two of the remote churches, it was the first time they were visited by a mission's team. Travel was grueling – the bus broke down 4 times and often filled with exhaust for hours. Roads were washed out and full of deep, wide holes. For three nights in a row, the team had less than 4 hours sleep. The hardest part though, was when one of the young orphan boys asked, "Will you come back tomorrow?" and the team had a flight to catch.



Emmanu, in her pillowcase dress at the Word Alive orphanage (left) and a member of the Hosanna Industries "Acorn Club" (below).



Hosanna Industries, Pennsylvania

"Their future is so bright, they gotta wear shades!" reports Hosanna Industries. Their Acorn Club 2019 was full to the brim with activities where young children played, grew and explored. They also learned to be respectful, kind and loving. The best part of all was that they learned that God loves them. Parents and students alike are grateful for this summer ministry.

Mission School of Hope, Cameroon

Hygiene and sanitation are a huge challenge in the Baka community and the most affected are women and girls. Hygiene kits which included reusable sanitary napkins were given out to 20 girls. Because most families can't afford health supplies, girls must skip school for a week due to their monthly menstrual periods. 10 girls have already been trained to make the pads and more will be trained in the future.



Girls at Mission School of Hope learning how to make reusable sanitary pads.

Ministerio Vida Hospital, Honduras

Part of the ministry of Ministerio Vida Hospital is to sponsor medical and dental clinics. The line is long, the sun is hot and the work is endless as staff ministers to the physical and spiritual needs of those who come. For those of you who speak Spanish, this is from Josue "Gracias Padre por permitir a MINISTERIO VIDA seguir siendo de apoyo en la obra que nos has encomendado. Gracias Dra. Rhona, por hacernos parte, y seguir expandiendo el Reyno de Dios. Vamos por mas!! A DIOS SEA LA GLORIA. For those of you who don't speak Spanish, a rough translation - "Thank you, father, for allowing ministry life to continue to be of support in the work you have entrusted us. Thank you, Dr. Rhona, for making us part, and continue to expand the kingdom of God. Let's go for more!! To God be the glory!"

Mission to Mission

Rev. Jaime Julian sent a note of thanks to the Mission and Outreach Ministry Council for connecting him with Educational Concerns for Hunger (ECHO). Christian Mission in the Far East is an NACCC supported *International Mission*. ECHO is an NACCC *Recommended Mission*. The Mission and Outreach Ministry Council strives to connect missions for mutual benefit. During his last visit to the U.S., Rev. Jaime Julian visited ECHO in Florida. He learned different methods of installing wells and water systems. After returning to the Philippines, Jaime and his team have installed two wells and the Community Christian Fellowship Church now benefits from a sufficient water supply.



New water system,
CMFEI Mission Center

Prayers

- ◆ Flooding in Myanmar and those impacted by Hurricane Dorian.
- ◆ Missions Deeply impacted by recent political changes in their countries.

Praise

- ◆ Hospital records which are now housed and updated on a new (used) computer. Until last month, all records for Asociacion Civil Cristiana Congregation were kept on paper.
- ◆ Josue and Marisela Hernandez who celebrated their 15th wedding anniversary. They pray for many more years together.

Needs of the Missions In Brief

- ◆ **Argentina** (Asociacion Civil Cristiana Congregational) – child sponsorship; tools and medicine for the clinic
- ◆ **Cameroon** (Mission School of Hope) – mosquito nets, fish farm supplies
- ◆ **Colorado** (A Christian Ministry in the National Parks) – worship books, student sponsorship
- ◆ **Florida** (Bread of Life) – supplies for ministry to the homeless
- ◆ **Florida** (Love Worth Sharing) – generators
- ◆ **Ghana** (Word Alive Mission) – child sponsorship and desks for the school
- ◆ **Honduras** (Ministerio Vida Hospital) – medical and dental supplies
- ◆ **India** (Indian Community Fellowship) – sewing machines, food for the children, computers
- ◆ **Kenya** (Happy Life Children's Home) – child sponsorships, building funds
- ◆ **Kenya** (Pilgrim's Presence) – mosquito netting, personal hygiene items for women and Bibles in Pokot Language
- ◆ **Mexico** (Fishers of Men) – supplies for medical crusades
- ◆ **Mexico** (Panamerican Institute) – student sponsorships, 30 lab coats for students (sizes 12 – 14), funding for facilities
- ◆ **Myanmar** (Congregational Church of Myanmar) – child sponsorship, support for teachers
- ◆ **Nigeria** (Christ to the Villages) – funding for Cashew Tree Farm project
- ◆ **Pennsylvania** – (Hosanna Industries) – tools, building materials, classroom/activity supplies
- ◆ **Philippines** (NACC) – child support, kitchen utensils, kitchen appliances/equipment
- ◆ **Tennessee** – (Morgan Scott Project) – gas vouchers, home repair funds, books and tuition for students

For a more detailed list, please contact Julie Robie at jrobie@nacc.org.

For more information on NACCC missions, or to make a donation please contact Mission Administrator Julie Robie at 800.262.1620 or 603.642.7270 or email at jrobie@nacc.org.

National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
Missions and Outreach Ministry Council
 PO Box 288
 Oak Creek, WI 53154

For a complete listing of NACCC Mission Projects



CASE FOR SUPPORT

Located in rural Michigan, on the north edge of town, sits a small church. The road in front of the church is paved, but only to the edge of the church property, and, if you look north, you will see fields of crops and windmills. The building was constructed in the 1970s, and very little has been improved or updated.

Although the church is considered small, according to membership, the congregation has a big heart and is filled with love and devotion for God and their Congregational church. The members work extra hard helping in any way they can to ensure the success of their church.

However, even with dedicated, hardworking members reaching outside of your church family for help sometimes becomes necessary. Shortly after joining the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC), the church was in the midst of a search for a new minister. The NACCC helped with the entire process, and successfully assisted the search committee to connect with a qualified minister, who also had been a graduate student of the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies program. The minister continues to faithfully serve at the church, and the congregation couldn't be happier.

With a small congregation, this church was also financially challenged when facing a major expense— replacing the original, 40-year-old boiler. Once again, the NACCC was there to help. The NACCC "Hurting Churches Fund" provided a generous grant towards the fundraising effort to purchase a new heating system.

"The NACCC was the help we so desperately needed."

-Minister, Member Church

"The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) does so very much at relatively little cost. The organization does not seek to control the pulpit, or anything else for that matter, in the local church. Rather, it strives to provide what is needed to assist churches in doing what God intended, providing sanctuary, support, and challenge to the People of God.... The NACCC does a very good job at fostering the three F's: Faith, Freedom, and Fellowship." -Leadership, Member Church

Parishioners place an important value on their Association membership and believe in the NACCC's mission, services, and fellowship for all its member churches.

"...Just to hear folks say, "this will be so helpful back home" or "this resource will help our board understand better" or even, "this will free up some of my time." Those are words I have heard more than once after a workshop at our Annual Meeting and Conference. To me, that means we've done our jobs and truly provided the support a church needed." -Dawn, past leadership

Our Mission:

To nurture fellowship among Congregational Christian Churches and to support ministries of the local church in its community and to the world, all in the name of Christ.

FAITH-FREEDOM-FELLOWSHIP

Traditionally, Congregational churches and the NACCC have stressed three core values: Faith, Freedom and Fellowship. Within those core values, simplicity, sincerity, and service are a few fundamentals which enhance the dynamics of the Congregational way.

A Congregational church's "Faith" is organized around a covenant, a binding promise between the people and God, and that defines their life together.

Every church is complete under Christ with the authority to be "Free" to administer its own affairs as it seeks to be faithful to Christ.

Congregational churches have always valued "Fellowship" and have depended upon other churches for advice on important matters.



Second Congregational Church, Warren, Maine

Our Vision:
*Vital and healthy
Congregational Churches,
sharing the love of
Jesus the Christ.*



Little Stone Church, Mackinac Island, Michigan

DISTINCTIVE FAITH & HISTORY

Congregational churches trace their roots to a group of English Separatists, who gathered in the 16th century. In the context of the Protestant Reformation, these believers sought to form a church that would be under God's authority alone, not bound by edict or canon law. Strong convictions led to the 1620 journey on the Mayflower that brought some of these dissenting Christians to America.

As Congregationalism developed, these faithful people sought to honor Christ, to transform society, and to reflect a model of faith and life set forth in Scripture. This model is defined by covenantal relationships, which bind together individual members, local congregations and God. From the beginning of Congregationalist life, the principles of *faith*, *freedom*, and *fellowship* were emphasized.

The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches was born in the 1950s. The core principles and practices of the historic Congregational Way – followers of Jesus Christ, faithful worship of God, freedom of conscience, a priesthood of all believers, local church autonomy, individuals who voluntarily accept the covenant of their church, and fellowship with sister churches – were the driving values in the formation of the NACCC.

AN ASSOCIATION OF INDIVIDUAL CHURCHES

The NACCC depends on a structure of volunteers to determine and manage programs and policies. The association fosters relationships between congregations while promoting faith, freedom, and fellowship. The NACCC helps churches thrive, primarily by delivering services that individual churches cannot easily or efficiently provide for themselves.

- The NACCC is supported by more than 300 qualified and motivated volunteers.
- Each year approximately two dozen national and international missions receive significant contributions and financial assistance from individuals, foundations, member churches, and NACCC endowments.
- On average between 20-25 member churches call new ministers to their pulpits each year through the “Pastoral Search” program, and another 30 churches throughout the year are at different stages in the process.
- Approximately 800 contributions from individuals and foundations support the NACCC and Congregational Foundation each year and more than 90% of member churches are donors.

Encouraging the active fellowship of the NACCC member churches hinges on the belief that God has given each Congregational church every power and gift necessary for its spiritual life and development for ministry. Advancing the Congregational Way and its principles is at the heart of the NACCC’s mission. Christ alone is the head of the church; each congregation is free to determine its statement of faith, select and ordain its clergy, and maintain stewardship of its resources and property.

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

-Luke 6:38 NIV

STRENGTHENING MEMBER CHURCHES

The NACCC exists to serve its membership through services and fellowship opportunities.

The NACCC serves as a conduit for that fellowship and encourages member churches to realize the importance of seeking and giving advice and support from one another. Congregations may need assistance in finding a new minister, or resources for understanding Congregationalism, stewardship, Christian education, youth ministry, leadership training or revitalization. Examples of NACCC services:

- **Pastoral Search and Call**
- **Fellowship**
- **Missions Connection and Validation**
- **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Coordinated Response to Worldwide Emergencies**
- **The Center for Congregational Leadership**
- **Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies (CFTS)**
- ***The Congregationalist* Magazine**
- **Financial Aid and Services**

As Congregationalists, we value freedom, but freedom comes with responsibility. We have a bond with one another and with those who follow after us. It is not about how much we have, but what we do with what we have been given. As we seek to serve and nurture our congregations and advance our tradition, our prayer is that you will partner with us by making a generous contribution to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Unrestricted Gifts

Donations through unrestricted gifts are critical investments to the future health and growth of the NACCC. Member churches are encouraged to provide an unrestricted annual gift to the Shared Ministries Fund, which supports the operations and services of the NACCC.

Restricted Gifts

Donors often choose to support specific projects, programs, missions, scholarships, and endowments. The Association welcomes those outright gifts and often pursues them through customized specific solicitations. Upon receiving that gift, the NACCC places the appropriate restriction on it and limits its use for that purpose only, providing the donor assurance that their gift will be used as they envisioned.

Planned Giving

Wills and bequests provide a simple way to make a gift that will keep on giving after a person's life time. Designating the NACCC or Congregational Foundation in a life insurance policy or retirement account, is commonly used. Planned Giving contributions help to ensure the longtime health and success of the Association.

National Association of
Congregational Christian Churches
PO Box 288, Oak Creek, WI 53154
800-262-1620
www.naccc.org
development@naccc.org

FINANCIAL NEEDS

Donations to the NACCC support its mission and vision through the NACCC's programs and funds, which in turn support church ministries, education and leadership development, growth, and the health of local churches. Financial support to the NACCC is vital to our success, and will help to maintain our continued growth. Gifts to the NACCC fund the following initiatives and entities.

- **Shared Ministries Fund:** The operations of the NACCC are funded primarily through generous donations of member churches and other individuals who believe in the important work of the Association.

"We choose to give because we are grateful for all the NACCC has done to help our church. The church is aware that organizations providing services to the local church cost money. The budget for the NA is not extravagant. And we have certainly benefitted from the organization."

-Minister, Member Church

- **Mission and Outreach Ministry Council:** All donations made to the mission's program go directly, dollar for dollar, to the work in the mission fields. All expenses for administration, communications, and evaluation are paid from the NACCC Shared Ministries Fund.

"The Missionaries that I have met and the relationships I have formed literally around the world are priceless. The prayers and financial support we are able to extend around the world on behalf of the churches of the NACCC is humbling."-Greg, past leadership-Mission and Outreach Ministry Council

- **Vitality Ministry Council:** The NACCC Vitality Council places emphasis on encouraging, supporting, and strengthening church life in member churches.

"When my church needed pastoral search support after the retirement of our long-time minister, the NACCC was there to offer guidance and support." -Leadership Member Church

- **Growth Ministry Council:** This Council aims to establish new churches while encouraging and supporting NACCC congregations in their mission of spiritual growth experiences and discipleship.

"The NACCC could not have been more helpful in planting this new church. The NACCC also made a loan when we really needed it. It was a loan just on our good faith to repay which we did as we were able."

-Leadership, Member Church

- **Congregational Foundation:** The Congregational Foundation is a separate nonprofit organization established with the sole purpose of raising funds and establishing Endowments to benefit the NACCC.

"I give to the Congregational Foundation because it is focused on the future of the NACCC. My contributions will directly support its development, marketing, and funds management work in support of the NACCC." -Jim, past leadership and longtime donor