National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

August 15, 2022

NACCC NEWS

The Messenger



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Change Happens

Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere, Executive Director



During my childhood, school started on the Wednesday after Labor Day. We counted on summer ending on a specific Tuesday. The moment of transition was predictable, certain.

It's mid-August. Students have already returned to classrooms. At a summer listening tour stop, a high school student hesitated to say his year in school but then asserted: I'm a junior because I'm no longer a sophomore. Alas, a transition is not confined to a single day. Endings and beginnings are hard to pinpoint.

The NACCC, like its member churches, knows enduring transition. As a concrete example, we are implementing new accounting procedures, intentionally disrupting routine to increase efficiency. Other changes are subtle. Congregations miss members who once occupied the pews. Neighbors have needs previous generations would not have imagined. Amid abiding transition, support of one another, collaboration, can be our constant.

Asociacion Civil Cristiana Congregacional

From Rev. Dr. Harding Stricker, Congregational Mission of North East Argentina



We are honoured to count friends and donors like you who have made it possible for us to be around since the end of the last millennium. Over the years we have developed a mission clinic, soup kitchen, community garden, sponsorships, Christian education, and church services.

We are navigating what may be the tail of the pandemic but also the onset of a major financial crisis in our country with yearly inflation of over 80% and a low exchange rate for the donations we receive. These factors combined bring us to the point that our main prayer concern is: **SURVIVAL.**

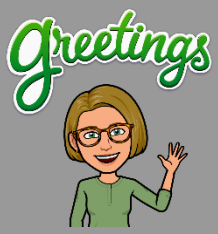
And so, we reach out to you in gratitude for all your past assistance and with a silent cry in our hearts asking you once again for your prayers and support to endure and keep the light of the gospel and the Congregational Way alive in this part of the world. **Thank you and God bless!**

Upcoming Workshops



On September 19-27, the NACCC is partnering with the Interim Ministry Network to offer a course exclusively for NACCC-affiliated clergy. The **Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry: The Work of the Leader** course introduces theories foundational to interim ministry. The class hours are devoted to providing opportunities for experiential learning through the use of case studies and sacred story. The Vitality Ministry Council of the NACCC is underwriting much of the fee reducing the cost of $750 per person to $300. Scholarships also are available. The registration deadline is September 6th.

On November 4-5, the NACCC will offer **Healthy Boundaries 101: Fundamentals.** This virtual workshop will use materials and content provided by **FaithTrust Institute**. The basics of healthy boundaries will be taught with an emphasis on power and vulnerability, and discussions on transference, friendships, dating, dual relationships, and self-care. All clergy currently serving NACCC congregations are invited to enroll at no charge.



Where in the World is Ashley Cleere?

Click here to follow along on The Listening Tour on our website!



A forum member suggested: "A prayer board might be added to the sanctuary. Participants fill out a card with a person's name or a situation which might need prayer support. Once a month the prayer team reviews all cards. Each week church attendees might check the board for new prayer requests."

Join us in the Member Forum

Send us your news and photos!
Submissions for the September issue are due by August 20, 2022

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