



January 15, 2020

NACCC NEWS

The Messenger



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2020 Resolution to Make

Michael Chittum, Executive Director

January 1 is usually the day when resolutions are made. We commit to improve ourselves in some way in the coming year.

A resolution that will improve your church and help your minister is to enable your minister to attend the 2020 Ministers' Convocation. This could include providing money for travel and registration fees. Providing this respite for your minister following the very busy Season of Lent, Holy Week services, and special services on Easter will help your minister be refreshed and renewed and to minister more effectively for the church.

This year's Ministers' Convocation will be held April 20-23, 2020 in three different regions of the country – in Massachusetts, Michigan, and Nevada. Financial assistance opportunities and details are available at: <https://www.naccc.org/ministers-convocation.html>

Congregational Investment Trust Annual Meeting

Wednesday,
February 5th
1:00-2:30 PM

[LEARN MORE](#) about the CIT and how your church can become involved

Attend in person or via teleconference.
Registration is free.

Click to
[REGISTER HERE](#)

About Piney Woods

Julie Robie, Missions Administrator

The Piney Woods School in Mississippi is a Christian community where students practice basic Christian principles, including love, sacrifice, kindness, and forgiveness. They employ a school chaplain who leads their spiritual activities on campus and is available for student, faculty and staff spiritual counseling and encouragement. Spiritual activities on campus include a weekly chapel service, which is attended by all members of the campus community and provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate spiritual leadership. Students participate in 3 services on Sunday's including Sunday School, Morning Worship and Vespers. The spiritual activities are intended to ensure that students develop a deep understanding of Christian faith and tradition, and that they leave the campus with an education of their head, hands and heart.



Funding Available for Fine & Performing Arts Programs

Debby Fulton, Director of Development and Communications

Is your church planning a fine arts or music event and in need of financial Assistance? If so, the Congregational Foundation, and NACCC, encourages you to apply for monies available through the John Richard Memorial Endowment. This Endowment was established by John's family as a loving and living memorial to John who loved music and the theatre.

The family would love to assist you in bringing the marvels of music to life at your church. Visit our website for details and an application. Your church will also receive a brochure included in a packet of information mailed to the church in February. Don't delay, applications due April 15th.



SeVy Gospel Quartet - from "A Harvest of Hope" at People's Congregational Church in Bayport, MN

Member Church News

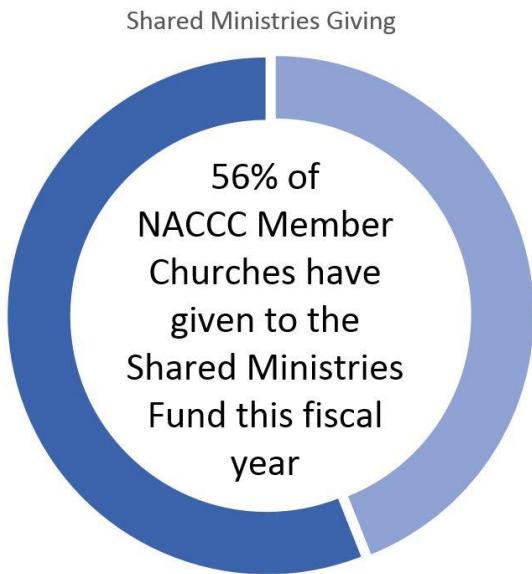
First Congregational Church of Saugatuck, MI celebrated 160 years on January 12th.

North Shore Congregational Church in Fox Point, WI presents Food, Faith & Farming Network Winter Farmers Market and Brunch on Sunday, January 26th from 11:30am-1:00pm.

Time for the Souper Bowl! Two member churches are hosting "Souper Bowl" events. University Congregational Church of Wichita, KS on January 31st to benefit HumanKind Ministries homeless shelters, and Riverpoint Congregational Church of West Warwick, RI on February 2nd to benefit the West Warwick Food Pantry.



What is your church doing to commemorate 400 years of Congregationalism in America? Email us with your plans and we will highlight member church events over the coming year!



Congregational History Bulletin Inserts Find them all on our website, or download the current month here:

[January 19](#)
[January 26](#)
[February 2](#)
[February 9](#)
[February 16](#)
[February 23](#)

Send us your news and photos!
Submissions for the February issue are due by **January 25, 2020**
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



Financial Assistance

Rev Howard Conn Endowment

The Howard Conn Endowment was established by Judge James and Leanne Rogers in memory of the Rev. Howard Conn, retired minister of the Plymouth Church in Minneapolis, MN. The Endowment's explicit use is to support ministers travel expenses to attend Educational opportunities, such as Convocation.

Rev. Conn was a preacher, lecturer, ecumenist, and writer. One of his favorite topics was the enduring significance of the Congregational Way of life. Ministers receiving these funds will share Reverend Conn's belief that:

"We think that God is too great to care what denominational labels we wear, but that God does desire that we join hands with all who love him/her in an effort to hasten the day of the Kingdom."

GRANT APPLICATION

Application Deadline: March 31, 2020

Minister Name _____ Church Name _____

Minister Phone Number _____ Minister Email _____

Church Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Last time you attended a NACCC Convocation _____ (year) _____

Location of Convocation you plan to attend _____

Estimated Total Cost of Attendance _____ Amount Requested (*not to exceed \$800*) _____

Attach a brief description (1 page maximum) that includes the following:

- Why you want to attend this year's Convocation.
- Reason for why the Church is unable to totally fund your expenses to attend.
- The specific day(s) you will be in attendance.
- If you are willing to share your experience with the NACCC, through a written report.

MINISTERS SIGNATURE

DATE

Please mail or fax this page and your brief description to:

Congregational Foundation/Development
PO Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154
FAX: 414-764-0319 or scan and EMAIL: tbernhardt@naccc.org

John Richard Memorial Endowment

The John Richard Memorial Endowment was established by his family as a loving and living memorial. His love for music and theater performance was a large part of his talented but short life.

About:

- The Endowment awards annual grants to National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) Active Member Churches of 200 members or less that are planning a fine or performing arts event in their church.
- Grants will be awarded up to \$500 per church.
- All funds awarded for an event must be used by April 1, 2021.

Requirements:

1. The event program or bulletin must include mention of the John Richard Memorial Endowment of the Congregational Foundation and the NACCC. A copy of this program or bulletin must be submitted with the final grant report.
2. The church must have 200 members or less.
3. Grant recipients must complete and submit a brief questionnaire as a final grant report within 30 days of the event for which the funds were received.

How to Apply:

- Complete the John Richard Memorial Endowment Grant Application found at <http://www.nacc.org/john-richard-memorial-endowment.html>
- Submit applications to the NACCC no later than **April 15, 2020** via email, fax or mail.
- Applications received after the deadline will NOT be considered.

Apply to: development@nacc.org | FAX: 414.764.0319

PO Box 288 - Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154

NEWS & NEEDS

of our Missions



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

Winter
2019/2020

Annual Meeting and Conference (AMC) June 27-30, 2020

Amy Kennedy, Co-Director, *A Christian Ministry in the National Parks*, and **Rev. Matthew Oladele**, *Christ to the Villages, Nigeria*, are the invited missionaries for the 2020 NACCC AMC.



Amy will offer a workshop entitled: **Understanding and engaging the younger generation in Christian mission.** Description: "Are you looking for ways to attract younger people to your congregation? Join me for a workshop to learn more about the nuances of Millennials, Gen-Z, and

Generation Alpha. We will spend time learning how they think, what they are looking for in a church, and identify ways you can more easily target these younger generations. The opportunities are endless, and you might be surprised to learn just what an asset these demographics might be to your church!"

Matthew will give an update on the Hybrid Brazilian Cashew Tree Farm and is hoping to stay through to the ICF Quadrennial Conference from July 22 – 28, 2020 at Curry College in Milton, MA.



Fishers of Men

"We thank the Lord for all that He did in and through the last crusade of 2019 in Arroyo Metate, Oaxaca! Fishers of Men was able to provide 858 attentions and 100 individuals are enjoying a newfound relationship with Jesus Christ! To God be the glory!"

Cook Native American Ministries



CNAMF's newest board member **Vance Home Gun** presented a workshop at United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) national conference in Orlando, Florida. He shared his personal testimony about his relationship with Christ and how, because of this connection, it strengthens his culture, language, and relationships. Native youth participants were provided examples of innovative ways to incorporate a solid spiritual belief system into their role as a student, mentor, teacher, tribal member or leader.

Seafarer's Friend

If you wonder what a day in the life of a seafarer is like, go to www.seafarersfriend.org and watch the video. Sometimes the workers are on the ship, with no shore leave or a chance to see their family, for up to a year at a time. On the website, you will also find information about how to help them.



Operation Bedroll



Part of the ministry of Love Worth Sharing, Haiti, is to rescue children living on the streets in Port-au-Prince, often sleeping on tattered blankets on top of rocks.



This little girl is 3 years old and the daughter of a Hindu family who became Christian. She always closes her eyes and prays sincerely and is a testimony to many Christian children.

Prayers

- ◆ New Christians in India, that the Holy Spirit would help them to know what to say and what not to say when non-Christian relatives and religious leaders ask them, "Why did you become a Christian?"
- ◆ International missionaries whose lives are regularly at risk due to political changes and terrorist activity. One of our International missionaries avoided an assassination attempt because torrential rain kept the assassins from reaching him.
- ◆ Rev. Matthew Oladele who has received a new passport and has an appointment to get a visa on January 21, 2020. A new visa will allow him to travel to the US for the AMC.

Praise

- ◆ Symphony John and Nina, NACC Philippines, who will celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary on December 21, 2019.

Field Interview Form

If you are planning a trip to an NACCC mission, would you please let us know? The Mission and Outreach Ministry Council has a **Field Interview Form** to use for mission visits. If you would take one with you, fill it out with the missionary and take some pictures, it would be a great help. Thank you.

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
- ◆ **Ghana** (Word Alive Mission) – child sponsorship and school desks
- ◆ **Haiti** (Love Worth Sharing) - bedrolls
- ◆ **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) – 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
- ◆ **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@naccc.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@naccc.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
or to donate, see our website: www.naccc.org
and click on "Missions."