

February 1, 2021

NACCC NEWS

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Workshops Are Back!

Rev. Dr. Cindy Bacon Hammer, Moderator

Did you miss having workshops at the 2020 virtual Annual Meeting and Conference? So did I! Since we have had ample time for advanced planning of this year's meeting, we will again be offering a plethora of workshops at the 2021 Virtual meeting, June 19-20.

Many of the workshops will be pre-recorded, so that you can view them at your leisure before or after the meeting. Five of the workshops will be offered live during the meeting and recorded for you to see afterwards as well. Some of the topics for this year's workshops include the updated NACCC Lay Ministry Training Program, how to bind your old Bible, ecclesiastical councils, the Congregationalist, planning a local mission trip, and many more. A [full list](#) of the workshops being presented can be found on the website.

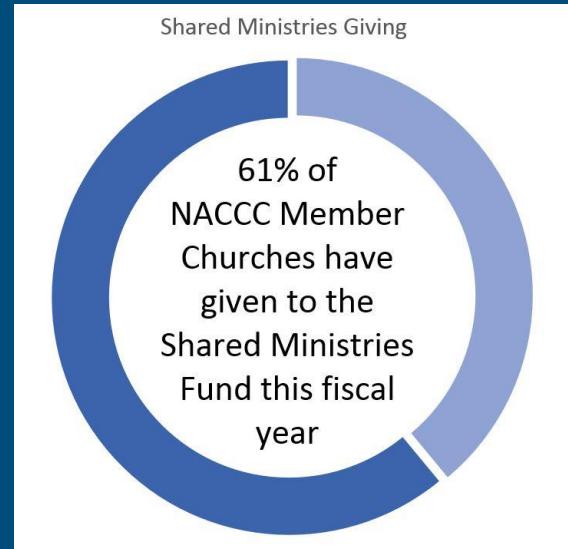
Hope to see you at the [NACCC Virtual Meeting and Conference, June 19-20!](#)

Your Support Matters

Rev. Arthur P. Ritter, Chair, Board of Directors

On behalf of the Board of Directors I want to thank you for your donations to the Shared Ministries Fund (SMF). In these extraordinary times, your provision as churches and as individual donors has been a true blessing to the programs and ministries of the NACCC. We are encouraged by the extent of your financial support. Over 60% of member churches have already responded and we are grateful.

If you have not yet made your annual contribution to the SMF, it is not too late. The NACCC fiscal year ends on March 31, and you will want to make certain your gift is received before then. Reminder letters were mailed to Churches in mid-January, and follow-up calls will soon be made by staff to those churches who have not yet made their contribution. Once again, thank you so much for your meaningful assistance.



THE CONGREGATIONAL FOUNDATION a PRIMER and an INVITATION

Laura Hamby, Vice President, Congregational Foundation Board of Governors

Mission: *The Congregational Foundation supports the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, its ministries and programs, through a commitment to current donors and development of prospective donors.*

Vision: *To develop long term, sustainable sources of revenue which support the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches' ministries and programs.*

The Congregational Foundation is overseen by the Board of Governors, comprised of a minimum of seven directors who are elected to five-year terms. These members of NACCC churches traditionally have a background in the following areas: financial or non-profit management, fundraising, marketing, or business / legal acumen. The Board strives to reflect the diversity embodied by NACCC congregations. If you are interested in learning more, visit the [website](#) or send me an [email](#).

NACCC Reminders

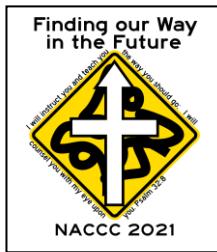
Congregational Investment Trust Annual Meeting is Wednesday, Feb. 10, 2021. More info and registration [here](#).

2021 Virtual Ministers' Convocation is scheduled for April 12-15, 2021. More info [here](#).

The **NACCC Prayer Circle** is Thursdays at 2 PM Eastern, 1 PM Central, 12 PM Mountain, 11 AM Pacific on Zoom. [Click here to join](#) All are welcome!

*Send us your news & photos!
Submissions for the March issue are due by February 20, 2021
development@nacc.org*

National Association of Congregational Christian Churches
8473 S. Howell Avenue, P.O. Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154



National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

2021 Virtual Annual Meeting & Conference

Workshop List with Presenters & Descriptions

[All Workshops will be recorded and available on our Website after the Annual Meeting]

[updated January 20, 2021]

Pre-Recorded Workshops will be available to view before the Annual Meeting

PRE-RECORDED

TITLE: The Congregationalist Magazine in the 21st Century

PRESENTER: Marianne King, Editor, *The Congregationalist*, First Congregational Church, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin

What is the future of The Congregationalist magazine in a changing religious landscape? How can the magazine promote and support the Congregational Way? Readers and donors are encouraged to share their ideas.

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PRE-RECORDED

TITLE: How to Organize a Church Group Mission Trip

PRESENTER: Pastor Jamie Bonnema, Mission and Outreach Ministry Council Chair, Maple Hill Community Congregational Church, Kansas

Organizing and leading a team of volunteers on a mission trip can be a confusing and daunting task. You will receive a list of planning stages and timelines and be able to speak directly with NACCC associated missions interested in hosting groups.

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PRE-RECORDED

TITLE: Repairing A Broken Bible

PRESENTER: Rev. Ed Backell, Warden Community Church, Warden, Washington

"If your Bible is falling apart, you probably aren't." A nice sentiment, but what happens when your Bible IS falling apart? Do you have a damaged cover? Torn pages? Loose sections? Find out how to make repairs to your favorite book!

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PRE-RECORDED

TITLE: Social Action and the Spirit of Jubilee

PRESENTER: Rev. Jacob Poindexter, First Congregational Church, Anchorage, Alaska

The Spirit of Biblical Jubilee is Restorative Justice for the Land and its People, (Leviticus 25). Social Justice is also the basis and mission of Congregational life. A full expression of the Spirit of God in a congregation necessitates participation in the work of justice in its community. Through sharing stories of Congregational Social Action in Anchorage, Alaska, Rev. Jacob Poindexter will show how judicious, persistent engagement in social action has broadened the influence, and enlivened the spiritual life of the First Congregational Church of Anchorage in exciting and unexpected ways. This workshop will inspire churches in every community to look for opportunities to work for justice and experience the joy of Jubilee for themselves.

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PRE-RECORDED

TITLE: Self-Care in Ministry: Running the Race Through the Land of Chaos

PRESENTER: Kathrin Gabriel-Jones, CPC, ELI-MP, Volunteer Encouragement Coach for Ministering to Ministers, Encouragement

Coach at Gabriel-Jones Coaching, Host of *Friends for the Journey* Podcast and *Here's Hoping: Conversations with Kathrin*

Have you ever heard the phrase, ‘it’s important for pastors to engage in proactive self-care’? In the “before-times” – when we hadn’t ever heard of *Covid-19* – self-care often became item 9 on a list of the 3 most important things to do. But during the pandemic, self-care became the last ragged item on a discarded list found in the lint trap of the dryer. So now, in the wake of 2020, what does self-care mean? In order to explore how to engage in *self-care*, it’s worthwhile for us to explore what self-care actually means. Remember, each of us is unique, called to ministry in service to God’s creation. Yet because each of us is indeed unique, self-care is unique for each of us. Engaging emotional intelligence, imagination, and metaphor, we will explore the radical concept of self-care while answering the call of ministry, we will entertain the possibility that self-care is not the heresy we often think it to be.

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PRE-RECORDED

TITLE: Lay Ministry Overview

PRESENTER: Rev. Doug Gray, First Church of Squantum, Squantum, Massachusetts

The Lay Ministry program has recently been revamped, changing over to a fully virtual, instructor led program. Come learn more about this amazing distance learning opportunity. It provides basic training for people who desire to serve the church more fully, either as a lay minister or as a lay leader. The program assists in the spiritual development of individuals and enhances knowledge in areas of biblical knowledge, theology, worship, Congregational history and polity, pastoral care, Christian education and others.

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Live/Virtual via Zoom Workshops will be presented during the Annual Meeting-See the Agenda

LIVE

TITLE: What is an Ecclesiastical Council?

PRESENTERS: Rev. Justin Nierer, Vitality Ministry Council Chair, Sandstone Congregational Church, Jackson, Michigan

Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, Dean of CFTS, Pine Hill Congregational Church, West Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

What is the potential for Congregational Churches in engaging the process of Ecclesiastical Councils? They are not only for the very important occasions of the ordination and installation of pastors (in which they are almost always advised) but can do so much more for the local church in terms of discernment on making significant changes in programming, gaining wisdom for better stewardship of resources, working toward the transformation of situations of conflict, and so much more! Attend this workshop/panel discussion and hear from churches, lay leaders, and pastors on how they use these amazing tools to guide their churches and ministries effectively towards God’s will!

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LIVE**TITLE: Reading and Praying the Scriptures with Our Ancestors**

PRESENTERS: Pastor Dan Vellinga, First Congregational Church, Marshalltown, Iowa

Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, Dean of CFTS, Pine Hill Congregational Church, West Bloomfield, Michigan

Lectio Divina is an ancient spiritual discipline of reading the Scriptures with the heart and the intuition. The early church fathers and mothers developed this method that has continued to be appreciated by Christians through the centuries. Practiced individually or in a group, it is a way to investigate how the Bible speaks to the individual, while complementing traditional methods of Scripture study. Participants will be able to reflect on scriptures cherished by our Pilgrim ancestors as we celebrate our 400 years of Congregational history and spirituality.

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LIVE**TITLE: Write On!**

PRESENTERS: Pastor Carol Taylor, United Church of Beloit, Beloit, Wisconsin

Rev. Terry Bobzien, First Congregational Church, Pittsford, Michigan

Have some quiet time to write a devotional for our Advent or Lent Devotional booklet. With writers from our sister churches, we hold the NACCC in our hands when we use and share these devotionals. Join the Growth Ministry Council as they talk about how to write a devotional and actually write one (or more) for inclusion in the upcoming devotional booklets.

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LIVE**TITLE: Understanding and Engaging the Younger Generation in Christian Mission**

PRESENTERS: Amy Kennedy, Co-Executive Director (Placement and Communications), and Dr. Darwin Glassford, Board of Directors, A Christian Ministry in the National Park

Are you looking for ways to attract younger people to your congregation? Learn more about the nuances of Millennials, Gen-Z, and Generation Alpha. Learn 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!

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LIVE**TITLE: Lay Ministry Class on Spiritual Formations**

PRESENTER: Rev. Dr. Stu Merkel, Faith Community Church, Franklin, Wisconsin

Join us for a sample course under the new Lay Ministry program. Spiritual Formations will give you an idea of a year one-session long course. This course will provide an introduction to spiritual formation, discipleship, and the practice of spiritual disciplines. Using daily practices of spiritual reading, prayer and meditation, students will be guided to a greater understanding of God and essential pathways to experiencing God.

Church Fair Share Giving

Why Contribute?

- As an organization, our vitality is directly tied to the support our member churches provide. The NACCC exists to serve our churches and relies on financial contributions to carry out our various programs and services.
- While every congregation is unique, we strive to be valuable and relevant to all our member churches, regardless of size and needs of the church.
- Whether you see value in being a part of a national organization, utilize our networking opportunities, take advantage of our leadership resources, or rely on us to help find a pastor, we ask you to contribute your Fair Share to ensure we are able to help all of our congregations for years to come.

What is Fair Share?

- The NACCC requires each of our member churches to make an annual contribution to our Shared Ministries Fund, which directly supports our programs and services.
- FAIR SHARE refers to our suggested contribution. We do not require a membership fee, but we do expect that each church support the organization through a gift. Currently, the Fair Share we ask our churches to contribute is \$13 a member.
- FAIR SHARE PLUS refers to member churches who give at a "Fair Share Plus" level, which is a contribution of \$15 or more a member. This level of giving has a significant impact on the ability of the NACCC to help churches.

How does the NACCC support our churches?

- Pastoral Searches
 - Aiding member churches and clergy in pastoral searches through a pastoral search process
- Financial Opportunities
 - Granting funds to churches facing challenges through The Hurting Churches Fund
 - Providing professional management for church endowments through the Congregational Investment Trust (CIT)
 - Loaning funds to member churches through the Building & Loan Fund
 - Subsidizing the cost of attendance at the Annual Meeting & Conference through the Providence Fund
 - Funding fine arts programs at member churches through the Richard Fund
- Fellowship
 - Hosting the Annual Meeting & Conference

- Facilitating regional retreats
- Ministers' Convocation
- Preparing tomorrow's leaders through National Association of Pilgrim Fellowship (NAPF) and Heritage of Pilgrim Endeavor (HOPE) programs
- Education
 - Training lay ministers through our Lay Ministry Training Program
 - Providing seminary education and financial support through the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies (CFTS)
 - Hosting Congregational History and Polity Seminars online and in person
 - Printing, editing and distributing the *Congregationalist Magazine*
- Vetting and Supporting Missions
 - Vet and support 27 national and international missions
 - Provide financial support to 5 national and 11 international missions
 - 100% of all donations to specific missions goes directly to the mission.
- Providing Advisors for:
 - Church growth and vitality
 - Assessing your organizational structure and practices
 - Managing conflict
 - Evaluating clergy and other church staff, lay leaders, and volunteers
 - Creating a culture of stewardship in your church
 - Strategic planning
 - Vetting missions

"Our church gives at this level because we are grateful for all the NACCC has done to help our church. We realize the budget for the NA is not extravagant, and providing services to the local churches costs money. We have certainly benefited from the organization."

-Fair Share Plus contributing church

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.**

For more information on Fair Share Giving contact:

- Debby Fulton, Director of Development and Communications
dfulton@naccc.org or 414.856.1610
- Tracy Bernhardt, Development and Communications Assistant
tbernhardt@naccc.org or 414.856.1615
- Dan Drea, Chief Financial Officer
ddrea@naccc.org or 414.856.1616

Recent Calls and Ordinations

Congratulations

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The following churches recently ordained or called ministers to their churches.

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

For more information on our pastoral search process, please contact Laura Wright at: lwright@nacc.org or (414) 856-1614

Recent Calls and Ordinations

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Calls

Rev. Dr. Mark McAnlis, Senior Minister

First Congregational Church

Cape Coral, FL

January 1, 2021

Rev. Linda J. Farmer-Lewis, Senior Minister

Arbor Grove Congregational Church

Jackson, MI

January 1, 2021

Rev. Rebecca Stith, Associate Minister

Amelia Christian Church

Clayton, NC

January 1, 2021

Rev. R. Clifton Bailey, Senior Minister

The Shandon Congregational Church

Shandon, OH

January 1, 2021

Joe Hackett, Senior Minister

St. Jacobi Congregational Church

Richfield, WI

January 1, 2021



CIT Annual Meeting

One of the services the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) provides is giving your church the opportunity to include church endowment funds in *The Congregational Investment Trust (CIT)*.

Want to learn more about how your church can take advantage of this opportunity?

Please join us through teleconferencing on:
Wednesday, February 10, 2021
at 12:00-1:30pm (CST)

We welcome both our existing churches who are already taking advantage of this service as well as all member churches who are interested in learning more about how their church could benefit from this opportunity.

This session will provide your church investment committee with useful information that will help them better manage the financial resources at the congregation's disposal.

For more information on the CIT go to: <http://www.nacc.org/congl-investment-trust.html>

There is no cost to attend, but registration is required:

- Register online here: <https://nacc.wufoo.com/forms/z1bxdfx19uage8/> OR
- Contact Janice Powell by e-mail: jpowell@nacc.org or by phone 414-856-1617.

We are excited to provide this opportunity for you to become a better steward of the financial resources God has provided your congregation, and to continue to provide services to its members and the local community.

Sincerely,

Jeff Dillon

Chair, CIT Committee
Officer
414-423-4412
jeff.h.dillon@gmail.com

Dan Drea

Chief Financial
NACCC/CF
414-856-1616
ddrea@nacc.org

Please help us by forwarding this invitation to the investment managers at your Church.

Devotionals

**Order your NACCC Devotionals
Advent 2020 and/or Lent 2021
Online: www.naccc.org**

2020 Advent Devotionals

Please send _____ Advent Devotionals
Price: \$3 per copy – includes shipping & handling charges
(Please Print Clearly) Send Devotionals to:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____

2021 Lent Devotionals

Please send _____ 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
PO Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154-0288**

or

Email your request to: lwright@naccc.org
Telephone: (800) 262-1620 ext. 1614
Fax: (414) 764-0319

**Ash Wednesday
is
Feb 17, 2021**

Please send completed form to:

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

or

Email your request to: lwright@naccc.org
Telephone: (800) 262-1620 ext. 1614
Fax: (414) 764-0319