



March 15, 2021

# NACCC NEWS

## The Messenger



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## There Is A Lot Going On In The NACCC Right Now!

Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum, Executive Director

Make certain to consult the [website](#) of the NACCC to keep informed about events that may be of interest to you and your congregations. An introduction to the [Lay Ministry Training Program](#) was held on March 13; it is recorded and [available for viewing](#). On March 14th, 21st, and 28th, the Racial Justice Task Team and the Center for Congregational Leadership are hosting a series of conversations about racial justice called ["Racial Justice: Chronicles, Conversations and our Christian Faith"](#). Registration is free but required. [Register here](#) to attend live on March 21st and 28th. These also will be recorded and available for use by congregations.

## Moving Forward in Argentina

Julie Robie, Missions Administrator

Rev. Dr. Harding Stricker is holding fast to the promise made by **Asociacion Civil Cristiana Congregational** to “Keep Moving Forward” during the pandemic.

His mission assistants prepared 30 schooling bags which were distributed at the mission last week. Recently, food bags were delivered to those in need.

Harding celebrated receiving the first dose of the COVID vaccine. You are welcome to send him a friend request on his [Facebook](#) page for regular updates.



## Free Webinar - Faith Leaders Make A Difference

Shawn Stapleton, Center for Congregational Leadership Workshop Coordinator

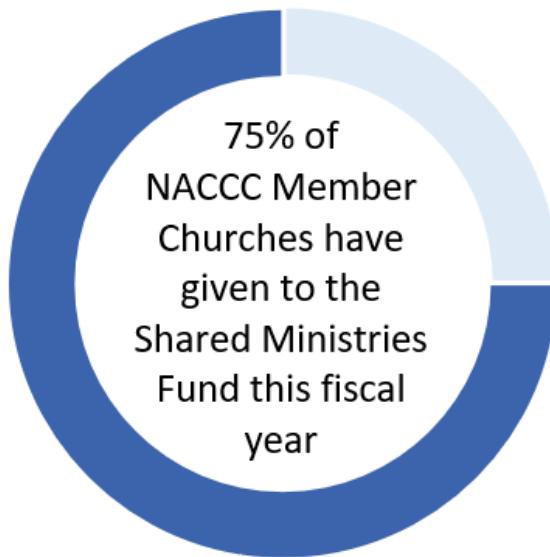
Victims of domestic violence are more likely to disclose abuse to someone in their faith community than they are to seek help from law enforcement. As a faith leader, you can offer unconditional acceptance and spark hope where others cannot. The Center for Congregational Leadership is offering a free webinar on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 12 p.m. CT, entitled “[Domestic Violence: Signs and Responses](#).” This webinar will be led by Jen Shtab, the Trainer for the Hillsborough County (FL) Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence. Jen coordinates and presents training sessions to key stakeholders working to identify and fill gaps in our existing system, and has educated hundreds of audiences in the fields of domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault.

**NACCC WEBINARS**  
*Mark your calendars!*

**Racial Justice: Chronicles, Conversations, and our Christian Faith**  
21, & 28 [Click for more information and to register.](#)

**Domestic Violence: Signs & Responses**  
April 14 from 12-1:30 p.m. CT  
[Click for more information and to register.](#)

## Church Fair Share Giving Update



[About Church Fair Share Giving](#)  
Deadline: March 31, 2021

### NACCC Reminders

**John Richard Memorial Endowment** applications are due on April 15, 2021. Applications and information can be found [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 and photos!*  
Submissions for the April issue are due by March 25, 2021

### National Association of Congregational Christian Churches

8473 S. Howell Avenue, P.O. Box 288  
Oak Creek, WI 53154  
800-262-1620 ext. 1610



## Racial Justice: Chronicles, Conversations, and our Christian Faith

March 14<sup>th</sup> • March 21<sup>st</sup> • March 28<sup>th</sup>  
7 PM ET / 6PM CT

*The Racial Justice Task Team of the NACCC, in partnership with the Center for Congregational Leadership, is sponsoring a three-part webinar series that will explore the topic of racial justice in America and its implications for our Christian faith walk.*

“Racial Justice: Chronicles, Conversations, and our Christian Faith” will be held on consecutive Sunday evenings at 7 p.m. ET / 6 p.m. CT beginning March 14<sup>th</sup> and is free to attend.

- **March 14: “Chronicles”**

Brothers and sisters from within the NACCC discuss their experiences being marginalized and worse, solely because of the color of their skin.

Speakers: Rev. Lezlie Austin-Kennedy, Rev. Victor Hardy, Rev. Dr. Patrick Hunt, and Rev. Dr. Lottie Jones-Hood

- **March 21: “Conversations”**

Linda Logan, Chief Inclusion Officer at Olivet College, and Matthew Teutsch, Director of the Lillian E. Smith Center at Piedmont College, will lead a discussion on how to hold conversations about racial issues within congregations that are predominantly Caucasian and not often directly affected by such issues. The Olivet College Gospel Choir will also perform.

- **March 28: “Our Christian Faith”**

This Town-Hall-style webinar will feature members of the Racial Justice Task Team in a free-flowing discussion focusing on how racial justice issues connect with the Christian Gospel and the exercising of Christian faith in 21<sup>st</sup> century America.

**To register**, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/racial-justice-chronicles-conversations-and-our-christian-faith-tickets-143008577505>.

**For questions**, please contact Rev. Dr. Shawn Stapleton, Center for Congregational Leadership Workshop Coordinator, [revshawnstapleton@hotmail.com](mailto:revshawnstapleton@hotmail.com), 800.262.1620



## WEBINAR

### Domestic Violence: Signs and Responses

April 14, 2021

1 PM Eastern / 12 PM Central

Victims of domestic violence are more likely to disclose abuse to someone in their faith community than they are to seek help from law enforcement. As a faith leader, you can offer unconditional acceptance and spark hope where others cannot.

Did you know that two-thirds of pastors believe that domestic violence occurs in the lives of their congregants? 85% of faith leaders said they have counseled more than 6 victims of domestic abuse. 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have experienced domestic violence. In a congregation of 60, you could have more than a dozen women and nearly half a dozen men who are victims ... and their abusers are likely praying right next to them. 81% of pastors say they would take action to reduce domestic violence if they had more training.

Attendees will:

- learn to recognize the signs of domestic violence
- discover how to help someone in your church who is experiencing domestic violence
- consider the crisis of faith many victims face
- understand the reasons why couples counseling is not safe when there is domestic violence
- review resources and the types of services for victims in most communities.

***Jen Shtab*** is the Trainer for Hillsborough County's Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence. Jen coordinates and presents trainings to key stakeholders working to identify and fill gaps in our existing system. She brings more than 15 years of experience in the non-profit sector and has educated 100's of audiences in the fields of domestic violence, human trafficking and sexual assault. In addition to training, Ms. Shtab has also assisted survivors through her involvement on Emergency Room Response Teams, Court Accompaniment, Hotline Advocacy and wellness programs. Jen holds a BA in Communications from Rowan University and a Master's in Leadership & Social Change from Maryland Institute of Integrative Health. She is also a Certified Health Coach through The Institute for Integrative Nutrition.

To register, please visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/domestic-violence-signs-and-responses-tickets-145342137245>

**For questions**, please contact Rev. Dr. Shawn Stapleton, Center for Congregational Leadership Workshop Coordinator, [revshawnstapleton@hotmail.com](mailto:revshawnstapleton@hotmail.com), 800.262.1620

# 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 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.
- Consider joining other member churches who give their "Fair Share Plus," 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

**"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

*Bringing together Congregational Christian Churches for mutual care and outreach to our world in the name of Jesus Christ*

For more information on Fair Share Giving contact:

- Debby Fulton, Director of Development and Communications  
[dfulton@naccc.org](mailto:dfulton@naccc.org) or 414.856.1610
- Tracy Bernhardt, Development and Communications Assistant  
[tberhardt@naccc.org](mailto:tberhardt@naccc.org) or 414.856.1615
- Dan Drea, Chief Financial Officer  
[ddrea@naccc.org](mailto:ddrea@naccc.org) or 414.856.1616

# NEWS & NEEDS

## *of our Missions*



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

Winter 2021

### **Seafarer's Friend, Massachusetts**

Seafarer's Friend recently visited the crew of the Hourai Maru and met Master Rao and a few of the officers who were busy at work. Because of loving ministry partners, they were able to provide 20+ ditty bags as a belated Christmas present. Items are always needed for ditty bags. For the list of items, please visit [www.seafarersfriend.org](http://www.seafarersfriend.org).



### **Morgan Scott Project, Tennessee**

From Crystal Tompkins:  
Morgan Scott Project for Cooperative Christian Concerns was able to help make the Christmas of the children in their area a little brighter with the help of many donors and volunteers. Toys, stocking stuffers, and toboggans (hand knitted by several from all over the United States) were given to children in Morgan and Scott counties of Tennessee. 838 children received gifts this year.



God's people sharing their blessing with others make this program possible, from the donors giving gifts and monetary donations to the volunteers showing up, organizing gifts, and playing elves for families.

### **Panamerican Institute, Mexico**

Juana Santos reports that their 2020 year of classes ended with the distribution of support for 50 families to buy enough food for a nice Christmas dinner and to buy groceries to last about one week. Sadly, the picture on the wall is of a young family member who passed away from heart complications. She also noted that this was the 49<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of this growing ministry. In 1973, they provided a couple of grocery bags to 4 families. Juana sends along her appreciation for the privilege you give them to your extending helping hand to Panamerican Institute's families.



### **Pilgrims Presence, Kenya**

Geoffrey Lemoi, Assistant Director of Pilgrims Presence, was in a bad motorcycle accident which resulted in a broken leg. He had a recheck to see how the leg was healing on January 26<sup>th</sup>.



## ECHO, Florida

A note from ECHO - **Hope is an action. It is hard work.** At this ECHO training (pictured below), women are being equipped to prepare their community fields for planting in time for the upcoming rainy season.



As we reflect on 2020, we celebrate that there is much to see beyond the hardships. In nearly four decades of serving the hungry, this year we've helped more families than ever before. And in a year of economic disruption – we give thanks for each person who has sacrificially given to bring life-changing hope to families around the world! We are grateful for YOU!

## Charles Rush Award

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS APRIL 15, 2021

The Mission and Outreach Ministry Council is accepting nominations for The Charles Rush Award which is presented to minority persons who are working with Congregational Christian Churches toward worthwhile social and personal goals. The award exemplifies the spirit of Rev. Charles Rush and emphasizes the importance of Christian social involvement.

The late Rev. Rush lived in California. His life of unselfish service as an educator and minister, friend of the Free Church, and active participant in the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches set an example for many. Friends have honored his memory by establishing this fund in his name. The Charles Rush Award is presented at the Annual Meeting and Conference of the NACCC.

Read more [here](#). Please send letters of nomination to:  
Julie Robie, Mission Administrator  
184 Main Street, Kingston, NH 03848  
or email to: [jrobie@naccc.org](mailto:jrobie@naccc.org)

## Word Alive, Ghana and the Ivory Coast

Pictured below is Rev. Charles Nyane presenting a thermometer to be used as part of their COVID 19 protocol and an example of how they must disinfect their churches.



## Contact Us

For more information on NACCC missions, or to make a donation please contact Missions Administrator Julie Robie at 800.262.1620 or 603.642.7270 or email at [jrobie@naccc.org](mailto: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, please visit our website:  
[www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org) and click on "Missions."**

# PRAYERS & NEEDS

## CMFE, Philippines

**Prayers:** Ongoing flood control project at their central office.

## A Christian Ministry in the National Parks, Colorado

### Prayers:

- ◆ We recently lost a Ministry Support Committee Member, Dale, in Glacier National Park to an unexpected heart attack. The community is grieving. He was a really joyful, selfless, and loving individual.
- ◆ Another Ministry Support Committee Member in Glacier, Shelby, is having her 4<sup>th</sup> surgery today for her battle with cancer and the outlook is not strong.
- ◆ Recruiting Associate, Toni, is recovering from COVID-19.
- ◆ We are praying to find creative ways to recruit team members for the 2021 season since our typical ways are not possible.

### Needs:

- ◆ 2 Nest Cameras (security) to have in our office.
- ◆ Sending a care package to one of our 8 winter teams
- ◆ Fuel gift cards to send to our team members who have to travel for their worship services and ministry

## Happy Life Children's Home, Kenya

### Prayers:

- ◆ Thanking God for protection of our children and staff throughout the pandemic season.
- ◆ We need God's protection for our mission and especially the schools. We have opened schools after 9 and 1/2 months and are trying to cope with the new normal.
- ◆ For the children's health and well-being.
- ◆ For provision of food, school uniform, books, and tuition fees for our children at Happy Life and those from the community - most parents are struggling after job losses.
- ◆ For God's favor upon our schools within the community.
- ◆ For our candidate class to get ready for the final exam in March.

### Needs:

- ◆ School books and stationery
- ◆ School uniforms
- ◆ Funds to complete the Phase One of our high school
- ◆ Funds to equip the high school - furniture, computers, etc.
- ◆ Food and supplies for the schools and the rescue centers.
- ◆ Funds to equip our Jesse Kay Satellite clinic.

## Congregational Church of Myanmar

**Prayers:** Provision of Okkan Mission House and Yangon Grace children dining hall.

### Needs:

- ◆ Child sponsorships for 45 children.
- ◆ Provisions for rural mission workers, pastors, and families.
- ◆ Rice for mission families.

## ECHO, Florida

### Prayers:

- ◆ Tensions, due to terrorism and political instability, are running high all across West Africa. Please pray for our West Africa Team, based in Burkina Faso, that God will grant them wisdom to provide training in Burkina and throughout the Region as borders begin to re-open.
- ◆ Continued prayer for God's grace within the ECHO-Florida Team as we implement our new Masters Level Certificate elements into our long-standing Intern Training Program.
- ◆ Continued protection for ECHO's global teams as we are receiving, and seeking to respond to, increasing requests for training and assistance that entail increased staff exposure during this pandemic.
- ◆ Prayers for our Board of Directors as they continue to carry out their governance of ECHO's global work through virtual means during this pandemic.
- ◆ For the more than 683 men and women, from 70 countries, who participated in our Virtual International Agriculture Conference on November 19th. We pray that they will be blessed and encouraged, and God will be glorified, as they take the new knowledge and insights they gained and apply them to benefit the people they serve.

### Needs:

- ◆ Continuing to raise financial support to distribute seeds around the world and provide hands-on rural trainings throughout Africa and Asia. We have ongoing needs to cover the financial costs ECHO embraces to train young people who have a heart to serve on the mission field through our internship program.

## Panamerican Institute, Mexico

**Prayers** for the several families who have COVID 19 and for them to have access to medicine which would enable them to recover at home.



**JOHN RICHARD MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT**  
**GRANT APPLICATION**

Application Deadline: April 15, 2021

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Minister (if not the contact person) \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years the Church has been a member of the NACCC \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Church Members \_\_\_\_\_

Event Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Event \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Total Cost \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Requested (*not to exceed \$500*) \_\_\_\_\_

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

- A description of the fine or performing arts event you are planning.
- Why you are planning this event and the benefits you expect to receive from it.
- A projected budget that shows itemized costs
- How you heard about the program

I/We have read the Guidelines for the John Richard Memorial Endowment for grant support and agree to the terms and conditions outlined therein (See reverse).

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Signature of Contact

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Print Name and Title

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this page and brief description sheet to:

**Congregational Foundation**  
**PO Box 288**  
**Oak Creek, WI 53154**  
**FAX: 414-764-0319**  
**EMAIL: [development@nacc.org](mailto:development@nacc.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, 2022.

## **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