



March 15, 2020

NACCC NEWS

The Messenger



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Coronavirus and the NACCC

Michael Chittum, Executive Director

James Waechter, Moderator

All of us in leadership of the NACCC, like all of you, are aware of and concerned about the developing news related to Covid-19 and its impact on the health and safety of individuals, especially those at elevated risks, and on potential restrictions on travel and meetings that may come.

At this point, the Oak Creek staff, the Moderator and Vice-Moderator, and the Board of Directors and Leadership Council are continuing to monitor developments and to stay in contact with representatives of the various meeting venues for upcoming gatherings.

Currently, no meetings have been cancelled. As we continue to monitor the situations, we will consider factors such as these in making a decision to cancel:

- A government ban on travel
- Quarantine of the Portland Maine area by the State Department of Public Health
- Closure of our host hotels.

In all of our deliberations, we will keep all parties as informed as we are able.

Happy Life Children's Home

Julie Robie, Missions Administrator

Kenya – In 2019, Happy Life Children's Home celebrated its 18th anniversary “Providing the abandoned children of Kenya with a Home or Hope for

Adoption”. Highlights include rescuing 73 children and reuniting 39 with family. An additional goal of “Providing quality Christian education to students so that they can impact the World for Christ” saw 408 students in pre-K to 8th grade with 19 teachers. Happy Life also celebrated the first graduating 8th Grade Class. Other ministries and activities include the Jesse Kay Children's Hospital, the dedication of a new school building and the Juja Farm Campus which is home to 105 school age children. Find them on [Facebook](#), their [website](#) or their [blog](#).



Happy Life Students in grades Pre-K to 8th in 2019

NACCC Prayer Circle

Shawn Stapleton, CCL Workshop Coordinator

The Center for Congregational Leadership (CCL) and Growth Ministry Council invite you to join us every Monday at 8PM CDT, for an exciting new way to connect with fellow Congregationalists around the globe through a time of prayer.

Each week, leaders will convene a video conference accessible on your smartphone, tablet, laptop, or other electronic device. Whether you're in Alaska, Alabama, or even Antarctica, as long as you have a way to access the internet, you'll be able to join in!

To join the prayer circle, just [click here](#). You may be prompted to download the Zoom app/software if it's your first time with Zoom. The app/software is free.

If you have difficulty, or have questions, contact Shawn Stapleton at 727-403-3663 or by [email](#). We look forward to praying with you soon!



2020 Women's Retreat of Central Michigan Association of Congregational Christian Churches & Ministers



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](#):

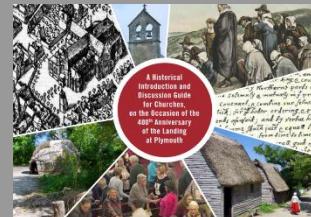
[March 15](#)

[March 22](#)

[March 29](#)

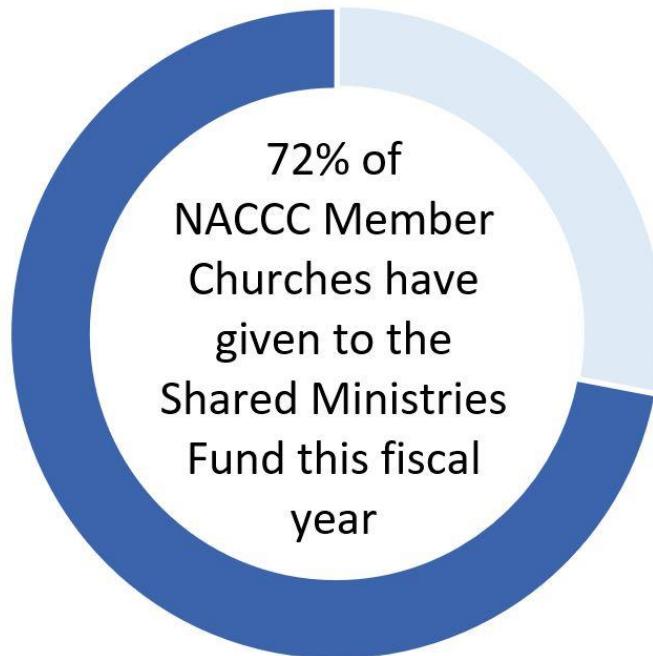
[April 5](#)

[April 12](#)



The Congregational Library & Archives presents
["Plymouth's Pilgrims: Their Church, Their World, and Ours"](#)

**Shared Ministries Fund Giving Deadline:
March 31, 2020**



Member Church News

The 2020 Women's Retreat of the Central Michigan Association of Congregational Christian Churches and Ministers was held on February 21 & 22 at The Lodge at Youth Haven Ranch. Forty-one women from Michigan, Ohio and Indiana attended the overnight event representing fourteen churches. Their speaker, Ellen Harbin, was well received with her presentation on Firm Faith (*If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all. Isaiah 7:9*). Meals were provided by Horton Congregational (Horton, MI), Mayflower Congregational (Lansing, MI) and Olivet Congregational (Olivet, MI).

Send us your news and photos!
Submissions for the April issue are due by March 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

[**Visit Our Website**](#)

[**Print This Newsletter**](#)

NEWS & NEEDS

of our Missions



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

Spring 2020

Maine Seacoast Mission



Sharon Daley, RN

Maine Seacoast Mission is using telemedicine to meet the need for basic health care for island residents. Director of Island Health Sharon Daley, RN meets with islanders on the *Sunbeam* and in

their homes, and keeps in touch between *Sunbeam* trips via phone and the internet. The *Sunbeam* is equipped with state-of-the-art telemedicine facilities, including a specialized examination camera and other diagnostic devices, so that islanders can have virtual office visits with doctors on the mainland.

Telemedicine is increasingly important for its role in mental health, allowing adults and children to connect with psychiatrists for evaluations and medication reviews. A growing number of island residents use the equipment to meet with mental health and substance abuse counselors.

Prayers for...

- ◆ The impact of Covid 19 worldwide and on the already stretched medical resources available to NACCC missions and the people for whom they provide services.
- ◆ The NACCC Annual Meeting and Conference, for a spirit of celebrating Jesus Christ and Christian fellowship.
- ◆ Worldwide political unrest which deeply affects many NACCC missions regarding their safety and ability to receive funding.
- ◆ Worldwide weather-related disasters.

Morgan Scott Project

Crystal Tompkins, Executive Director for Morgan Scott Project in Deer Lodge, TN, is grateful for the calls and emails from NACCC churches and individuals checking to see if the mission was hit by recent tornadoes. Thankfully, the mission was not damaged. Crystal immediately reached out to Cookville, TN, one of the hardest hit areas. She will be following the situation in upcoming weeks and let the Mission and Outreach Ministry Council know of any needs.

Praise for...



Two new churches added to the ministry of Word Alive Mission, Ghana.



The "Bell Well", a new well soon to be dug for the Mission School of Hope supported by the Grace Church of Columbiana, OH.

Nominees Sought for the Charles Rush Award

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS APRIL 15, 2020

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.

Please send letters of nomination to:

Julie Robie, Mission Administrator
184 Main Street, Kingston, NH 03848
or email to: jrobie@nacc.org

Annual Meeting and Conference 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 Annual Meeting & Conference in Portland, Maine.

Amy will offer a workshop entitled: **Understanding and engaging the younger generation in Christian mission**. Matthew will offer an update of the work of Christ to the Villages, Nigeria and highlight the new Hybrid Brazilian Cashew Tree Farm.

Please try to visit the missionaries at their display tables in the hallways of the hotel. They look forward to talking with you and seeing you at the Missionary Dinner and Reception.



Amy Kennedy



Matthew & Mary Oladele

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@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
or to donate, see our website: www.nacc.org
and click on "Missions."**



JOHN RICHARD MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT

GRANT APPLICATION

Application Deadline: April 15, 2020

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).

Signature of Contact

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

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



PROVIDENCE ENDOWMENT

GRANT APPLICATION

Application Deadline: April 15, 2020

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 _____

Estimated Total Cost of Attendance _____ Amount Requested (*not to exceed \$500*) _____

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

- Last time the Church sent a delegate to the Annual Meeting and Conference (AM&C).
- Reason the Church requires assistance with AM&C costs.
- Number of individuals who plan to attend the upcoming AM&C from your Church.
- The specific day(s) of AM&C your delegate will attend.
- How you heard about the program.

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

Signature of Contact

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@naccc.org

Providence Endowment

The Providence Endowment was established and initially funded by the 2004 Annual Meeting and Conference Host Committee to help churches offset the expenses of sending a delegate to the Annual Meeting and Conference.

About:

- The Providence Endowment will provide a grant to cover registration fees for the Annual Meeting and Conference.
- The registration fees provided by the Providence Endowment will be directly paid from the Endowment to the NACCC.
- Any remaining awarded funds will be sent to the church for use towards travel expenses.
- Grants will be awarded up to \$500 per church.

Requirements:

1. The Member Church must not have been able to send a delegate to the Annual Meeting for 3 or more years, due to financial reasons.
2. The Church must be an NACCC Active Member Church.
3. Grant Recipients must complete and submit a Grant Report within 30 days of the Annual Meeting and Conference for which the funds were received.