

# NACCC News



## National Association of Congregational Christian Churches: *Community Connections- April 1, 2017*

### Leadership Council Highlights

Laura Hamby, Moderator

*If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. Isaiah 58:10 (NRSV)*

All-Conference Mission project! Each year the host committee for the NACCC Annual Meeting and Conference (AMC) chooses a mission project. True to our 2017 theme, *Dreaming ~ Talking ~ Acting*, this year the AMC, NAPF, and HOPE conferences are teaming up with Rise Against Hunger to package over 25,000 meals for starving people around the world! I believe that is a *dream* worth *talking* about and *acting* upon!

Rise Against Hunger provides all the food, packing materials, and delivery to people throughout the world for twenty-nine cents a meal! Our Missions and Outreach Ministry Council kicked off the donations and our host committee is dedicating the AMC Sunday offering to this mission. You and your church have the opportunity to participate, too. Financial donations may be sent to the Oak Creek office and clearly marked for 2017 Piedmont mission project. Donations will also be accepted in Piedmont at the host table. I look forward to working along side you as we continue *Dreaming ~ Talking ~ Acting* to bring light into the darkness.



#### Cool Clicks

[Excellence in Ministry nomination form \(Page 4\)](#)

[2017 Minister's Convocation \(Page 7\)](#)

[JJ Russell Sermon Award nomination form \(Page 9\)](#)



First Congregational Church of Toulon, IL held their semi annual Family Fun Night in February. They provided families with pizza, pop, and delicacies galore.

## Board of Directors Highlights

Jim Waechter, Vice Moderator

I hope you all are as excited as I am for the Annual Meeting & Conference at Piedmont College! With the addition of so many new workshops, it will be hard to choose between them. One I am looking forward to is

**Small, Medium or Large. Thriving Congregational Churches Come in All Sizes.** The workshop will feature three ministers, each from a small, medium, or large church. The three ministers, Rev. Sarah Gladstone, First Congregational Church, Saugatuck, MI; Rev. Les Wicker, First Congregational Church, Naples, FL; and, Rev. Bill Trump, First Congregational Church, Wauwatosa, WI, will describe programs that are helping their congregations to thrive. Come hear ideas that might be adapted for use in your own church.



### [Recent Calls and Ordinations \(Page 10\)](#)

#### From Our Churches

First Congregational Church of Roscommon, MI participated in a Food Giveaway for Roscommon residents on March 25th.

On March 31st, North Shore Congregational Church of Fox Point, WI hosted the Children's Christian Theatre for a performance of Simon Says, which tells the story of Simon.

Gahanna Community Congregational Church of Gahanna, OH hosted an annual Men's Brotherhood Grilled Steak Dinner on March 11th. Along with dinner, the participants received vital health screening.

First Congregational Church of Redlands, CA started their Community Lenten Organ Recital series on March 23rd.

On March 25th, Searsport Congregational Church of Searsport, ME hosted two choirs. They sang classical poetry set to music and 16th century hymns and folk songs.

## BOG Highlights

Rick Bauzenberger, Treasurer, Board of Governors

**The Congregational Investment Trust (CIT) is a non-profit 501(c) 3 trust established as an endowment investment option for NACCC member churches.** The CIT invests in domestic and foreign stocks and bonds. With a portfolio of roughly 60% stocks and 40% bonds, it serves the long-term asset management needs of the NACCC, the Foundation, and participating member churches.

**Welcome Sutton Bay Congregational Church, Sutton Bay, Michigan!** There are now 24 member churches participating in the CIT program. Member churches constitute approximately \$5 million of the CIT's \$17.5 million.

Performance\* as of February 28, 2017:

|          |        |
|----------|--------|
| 3 months | 4.98%  |
| 1 year   | 14.35% |
| 3 year   | 5.01%  |
| 4 year   | 7.07%  |

\*data, net of all expenses, is annualized if period is greater than 1 year

Ozaukee Congregational Church of Grafton, WI invited their congregation to bring pies to share on March 12th. The event was just two days before "Pie Day" on March 14th.

## Apply for support to attend the AMC

The deadline to apply for the Providence Fund is May 5, 2017. Please consider taking advantage of this great opportunity! See page 11 for more information.

### Send Me Your News

Submissions for the May edition are due by April 20, 2017  
[mohara@naccc.org](mailto:mohara@naccc.org)

National Association of  
Congregational Christian  
Churches  
8473 South Howell Ave  
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154  
[mohara@naccc.org](mailto:mohara@naccc.org)  
800-262-1620 ext. 1615

# *Excellence in Ministry Awards*

## Nomination Form

Help us celebrate excellence in ministry. The NACCC wishes to recognize leaders and/or innovators who have made significant contributions to Congregationalism. The Nominees should exemplify personal commitment to the principles of Congregationalism of faith, freedom and fellowship.

Nominations may be made by churches or individuals. Supporting documentation may also be submitted to assist the VMC in their selection process. This may include letters of support and/or articles about the nominee.

These yearly awards will be given at the discretion of the Vitality Ministry Council (VMC). Submitted materials will be kept confidential and become the property of the NACCC.

**DEADLINE FOR NOMINEE CONSIDERATION IS APRIL 30.**

For consideration, return this nomination form and any supporting documents to:

*Center for Congregational Leadership  
Burrage Library - Olivet College  
320 S. Main Street  
Olivet, MI 49076*

E-mail: [msteele@nacc.org](mailto:msteele@nacc.org)

Fax: (269) 749-7290

Reset Form

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Marian Bradshaw Award  | <input type="radio"/> Harry R. Butman Award  | <input type="radio"/> Jennette Butman Award  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ordained minister</li> <li>➤ Personally committed to Congregationalism</li> <li>➤ Preference given, but not limited, to a minister of the State of Maine</li> </ul> <p><b>Award: \$500.</b> Award to be used for continuing education other than a professional degree program.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ordained minister who has served at least ten years in an NACCC church</li> <li>➤ Personally committed to the principles of Congregationalism</li> </ul> <p><b>Award: \$500.</b> This award is intended to provide ministerial assistance to lift and encourage a minister.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The spouse of a Congregational minister who has served an NACCC church for at least 10 years and has assisted their spouse in ministry.</li> </ul> <p><b>Award: \$500.</b> Awarded on the basis of need, merit or outstanding achievement</p> |

Nominee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Church Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Please describe the nominee's personal commitment to Congregationalism and other achievements that further the principles of Congregationalism.*



## 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Minister's Convocation Registration

May 8 – May 11, 2017

Weber Retreat and Conference Center  
1257 East Sienna Heights Drive  
Adrian, Michigan 49221  
517-266-4000

<http://weber.adriandominicans.org/>

### Start making your plans now!

The Ministers' Convocation will be held May 8 -11, 2017 at the Weber Center in Adrian, Michigan. This is 2 weeks later than our usual schedule.

**The Program.** The Convocation Task Team is working on the program and more details will be forthcoming. The main speaker will be George Hunsberger, recently retired from Western Theological Seminary, Holland, Michigan.

Dr. Hunsberger received the B.A. degree from Belhaven College in 1966 and the M.Div. degree from Reformed Theological Seminary in 1970. In 1987, he received the Ph.D. degree from Princeton Theological Seminary in the field of Ecumenics, Missiology, and the History of Religions. His doctoral work focused on Lesslie Newbigin's theology of cultural plurality.

George was Professor of Missiology and Director of the Doctor of Ministry program at Western Theological Seminary in Holland, Michigan, where he has taught since 1989. An ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church (USA), he has served as a university campus minister in Florida, as pastor of a Presbyterian congregation in Mississippi, as team leader for Africa Foundation in Nairobi, Kenya and on the faculty of Belhaven College.

George is a member of the *American Society of Missiology*, serving as its Secretary-Treasurer from 1988-1997 and its President from 2004-2005. Since its inception in 1987, he has coordinated *The Gospel and Our Culture Network in North America (GOCN)*. George is the author of *Bearing the Witness of the Spirit* and co-author of *Missional Church* and *Treasure in Clay Jars*. He is co-editor of *The Church Between Gospel and Culture, A Scandalous Prophet*, and *Christian Ethics in Ecumenical Context*.

### Other information you should know:

**Housing.** All rooms at the Weber Center have private baths and may be booked as singles or doubles. **Housing is limited.** We have 40 rooms reserved. On your registration form you have the opportunity to sign up for a single or a double. If you sign up for a double, please make your own arrangements for a roommate and put their name on the registration form. Because of the limited housing, we are not able to offer housing for less than three nights.

**Transportation.** For those outside of driving distance, Detroit Metro Airport in Romulus, Michigan provides the easiest access to the Weber Center. However it is still approximately a one hour drive from airport to Center. The Weber Center will provide a shuttle to and from the airport for \$20.00 each way. Please make those arrangements with the Weber Center directly.

**The Weber Center.** The Weber Center is fully handicap accessible. Sleeping rooms, meeting rooms, cafeteria and chapel are all in one smoke free building. Elevators provides access to all floors. The campus includes walking trails, a nature path through a wetlands area, and a labyrinth.

**Evening Socials.** Our traditional social time in the evenings will continue. The Weber Center will provide soft drinks, juice, beer and wine. However, we are asking anyone who is driving to the Weber Center to bring snacks to share in the evening. This keeps the total cost of Convocation down.

# 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Minister's Convocation Registration

## May 8 – May 11, 2017

Weber Retreat and Conference Center  
 1257 East Sienna Heights Drive, Adrian, Michigan 49221  
 517-266-4000 <http://weber.adriandominicans.org/>

|                  |  |        |  |
|------------------|--|--------|--|
| Name             |  |        |  |
| Street           |  |        |  |
| City, State, Zip |  |        |  |
| Phone:           |  | Email: |  |

Conference, meals & lodging: \_\_\_\_\_ Single \$250                      \_\_\_\_\_ Double \$190 per person  
 (Please include roommate's name)

Commuter Registration Fees:

\_\_\_\_\_ Monday \$25                      \_\_\_\_\_ Tuesday \$37                      \_\_\_\_\_ Wednesday \$37

Dietary Restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration fees must be paid in full with the registration form and are non-refundable after April 27th.

My arrival date & time: \_\_\_\_\_

My departure date & time: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be driving                      \_\_\_\_\_ I will arriving by plane at \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival time: \_\_\_\_\_ on airline: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight # \_\_\_\_\_

Departure time: \_\_\_\_\_ on airline: \_\_\_\_\_ Flight # \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of payment

|                             |  |                 |  |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Check – payable to NACCC \$ |  |                 |  |
| Visa                        |  | Mastercard      | ** We are unable to accept Discover or American Express cards. |
| Credit card number          |  |                 |  |
| Security Code               |  | Expiration Date |  |
| Signature                   |  |                 |  |

**Return Registration & Payment to:**  
 Center for Congregational Leadership  
 320 S. Main Street – Burrage Library  
 Olivet, MI 49076

**or Fax to: 269-749-7290**

**Registration deadline: April 25, 2017**





Center for Congregational Leadership

**The Vitality Ministry Council of the NACCC is**

## **Calling for Submissions for the J. J. Russell Sermon Award**

The J.J. Russell Sermon Award recognizes pastoral excellence in preaching related to Congregationalism. Submitted sermons must focus on some aspect of classical Congregationalism and its relevance for today.

Applicants must be: an ordained pastor who is serving an NACCC active member church of under 400 congregants.

Submissions must include:

- A copy of the Sunday Worship Bulletin at which the sermon was preached
- An audio of the sermon (DVD, podcast, YouTube, etc.)
- A manuscript or true transcript of the sermon.

The Award Winner will receive:

- \$350
- Full Registration to the Annual Meeting and Conference
- ½ the Room Rate at the Annual Meeting and Conference

The Sermon must have been preached after the last Annual Meeting and Conference but before April 30<sup>th</sup>. The NACCC reserves the right to publish the award-winning Sermon.

## **Deadline for Submissions April 30, 2017**

Send Submissions to:

Rev. Phil Jackson  
First Congregational Church  
329 Main Street, Route 6A  
Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts 02675

320 South Main Street, Olivet College, Olivet, MI 49076  
269-749-7228 | FAX 269-749-7290

EMAIL [bmauro@naccc.org](mailto:bmauro@naccc.org) | [www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org](http://www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org)

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

# Recent Calls and Ordinations

## *Congratulations*



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 Marie Steele at:  
[msteele@naccc.org](mailto:msteele@naccc.org) or  
(269) 749-7245

## *Recent Calls*



**Congregational Church of Mount Dora**  
Mount Dora, Florida  
Rev. Gary Marshall

## *Recent Ordinations*



**First Congregational Church of Anaheim**  
Anaheim, California  
Rev. Emily Miller-Todd

# Providence Fund

The Providence Fund 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 Fund will provide a grant to cover registration fees for the Annual Meeting and Conference.
- The registration fees provided by the Providence Fund will be directly paid from the Fund 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.
- Grant Recipients must complete and submit a Grant Report - a brief questionnaire, within 30 days of the Annual Meeting and Conference for which the funds were received.

## Requirements:

1. The Member Church must partner with the Providence Fund in sending a delegate.
2. 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.

## How to Apply:

- Complete the Providence Fund Grant Application found at:  
<http://www.naccc.org/providence-fund.html>.
- Submit applications to the NACCC no later than **May 5, 2017** via email, fax or mail.
- Applications received after the deadline will NOT be considered.

**Apply to:** mohara@naccc.org | FAX: 414.764.0319  
PO Box 288 - Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154



**PROVIDENCE FUND**

**GRANT APPLICATION**

Application Deadline: May 5, 2017

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.

I/We have read the Guidelines for the Providence Fund for grant support and agree to the terms and conditions outlined therein.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Contact

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name and Title

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this page to:

**Congregational Foundation**  
**PO Box 288**  
**Oak Creek, WI 53154**  
**FAX: 414-764-0319**  
**EMAIL: mohara@naccc.org**