

NACCC News



National Association of Congregational Christian Churches: *Community Connections*

Leadership Council Highlights

Laura Hamby, Moderator

Have you ever attended an NACCC Annual Meeting and Conference (AMC)? Piedmont 2017 is a golden opportunity! Our hosts, Piedmont College and Demorest Federated Church, welcome us with the theme, *Dreaming, Talking and Acting*. Our Bible Lecturer is Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor, New York Times best selling author and Harry R. Butman Professor of Religion at Piedmont. Our Congregational Lecture will have a new look with five Congregationalists, representing a variety of ages and diverse backgrounds, who will address Congregationalism in our times.

The AMC Committee has an outstanding line up of timely workshops, led by experts in their fields. Meeting on the same campus, NAPF/ HOPE and the AMC will come together in worship and host a meal packing mission event. Speaking of missions, many of our missionaries will be there to meet you. Each day will close with opportunities for fellowship and entertainment!

Prices have never been better! I encourage you to gather your friends and consider a road trip or book your flight early for best rates. Either way, I hope you'll consider Demorest this June!



Cool Clicks

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Congregational Church of Soquel, CA participated in a Chili Cook Off on February 17th with other faith organizations in the area. All proceeds will be used to support the needs of homeless men, women and children in the Aptos, Soquel, and Capitola areas of California.

Board of Directors Highlights

Jim Waechter, Vice Moderator

To help our congregations, the NACCC leadership has organized workshops for the Annual Meeting at Piedmont College, June 24-27, 2017. One of these workshops is titled

Transforming Conflict in the Church. Every social system (whether a family, a congregation, a community, or a country) experiences conflict, but such conflict does not have to destroy relationships. This workshop will focus on the importance of leaders "setting the tone" for conflict management as well as how to change systemic dysfunctions that produce destructive conflict. David Brubacker, nationally respected expert and author on conflict resolution, will conduct the workshop.

From Our Churches

First Congregational Church of Mansfield, OH hosted their second annual Pancake Day on February 28th. Proceeds support Parent Aide, a local nonprofit.

Faith Community Church in Franklin, WI will host a Tennessee BBQ Dinner & Silent Auction on March 18th. The event will help fund their youth trip to Nashville, TN.

The First Congregational Church of Toulon Culinary Committee orchestrated a Rock n Roll 50's theme for the annual Lions Club Sweetheart Night.

On February 1st, Congregational Church of Summerfield, FL hosted their annual "Baby Shower" fundraiser, which collects items for their Infant & Toddler Pantry.

Last month, First Congregation Church of Frankfort, MI began celebrating their 150th anniversary with monthly concerts, movie showings, and other events. This summer they will bury a time capsule.

BOG Highlights

Varn Philbrook, President, Board of Governors

As we approach the next Annual Meeting we understand that given all the related costs attendance by our small member churches can be difficult. The NACCC encourages all churches to send representation in a welcome and supportive manner. Perhaps unknown is the fact that there is monetary support for small member churches from the Providence Fund Grant. This fund is within the Congregational Foundation and is administered by a grant committee of your Board of Governors. We encourage all of our qualifying member churches to apply. All voices are needed and we are more than willing to support the energy and initiatives that all our churches can bring to the Annual Meeting.

On a supporting note, we continue to look towards our stronger, endowed churches to consider some form of donation to the Providence Fund. Your efforts established the fund and we are constantly seeking further financial support to enlarge and expand the grant awards.

For all churches, large and small, may we see you at the upcoming meeting at Piedmont this coming June.

Send Me Your News

Submissions for the March edition are due by March 20, 2017

mohara@naccc.org

National Association of
Congregational Christian
Churches
8473 South Howell Ave
Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154
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

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"> ➤ Ordained minister ➤ Personally committed to Congregationalism ➤ Preference given, but not limited, to a minister of the State of Maine <p>Award: \$500. Award to be used for continuing education other than a professional degree program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ordained minister who has served at least ten years in an NACCC church ➤ Personally committed to the principles of Congregationalism <p>Award: \$500. This award is intended to provide ministerial assistance to lift and encourage a minister.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The spouse of a Congregational minister who has served an NACCC church for at least 10 years and has assisted their spouse in ministry. <p>Award: \$500. 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.



48th 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.

48th 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 **or Fax to: 269-749-7290**
 320 S. Main Street – Burrage Library
 Olivet, MI 49076

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 30th. 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 | 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 or
(269) 749-7245

Recent Calls



The Little Brown Church
Rev. John Granchie
Nashua, Iowa