



March 1, 2021
NACCC NEWS
Community Connections

Quick Links

[The Congregationalist](#)

[Visit our website](#)

[Ministers' Convocation](#)

[NACCC Prayer Circle
Thursdays on Zoom](#)

[2021 Virtual Annual
Meeting Registration](#)

[Recent Calls &
Ordinations](#)

Video Greetings Available!

Rev. Dr. Cindy Bacon Hammer, Moderator



Last month, I received a call from the First Congregational Church of Burlington, Iowa, asking if I would be willing to record a short video for their Annual Meeting. They wanted to know what was happening in the NACCC, especially with the Annual Meeting and Conference in June. Of course, I said yes!

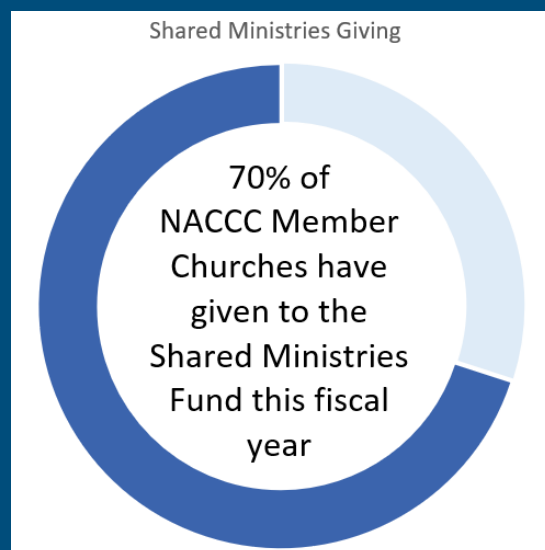
It was an easy thing to do, and I enjoyed doing it! So, I thought, why not offer it to all of our member churches! If your church (or your regional association) would like to have a video update from the NACCC Moderator, let me know. I'd be happy to send you a short video and offer greetings, updates, and encouragement from the NACCC. Please feel free to [contact me](#) and I will gladly record a message for your meeting.

Thank You, Member Churches!

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

As we near the end of our fiscal year (March 31st), I want to thank our churches for their faithful and generous giving in support of the Shared Ministries Fund. Because of the pandemic and economic uncertainty, this has been a most unusual financial year. I know from my experience as a minister of a local church how difficult it has been to make choices about spending and keep budget commitments. Despite these circumstances, I am pleased to report that as of March 1, we have received gifts from 70% of our member churches.

If your church has not yet made a gift for the NACCC budget year, you have until March 31st to do so. We greatly appreciate your support and pray that your church and ministries will be blessed in their giving.



Congregational Investment Trust Annual Meeting Recap

Varn Philbrook, Congregational Foundation Board of Governors

I greeted the New Year with an open invitation for churches to join us for our Congregational Investment Trust (CIT) Annual Meeting, and to hear from Vanguard Investment Services. In spite of Covid-19, the economic impact of 'stay at home' and political unrest the CIT had a good year. Attendees were presented with Performance and Asset summaries which demonstrated a successful year for those participating NA churches. Growth was 14.38% which yielded us 14.25% net based upon our low advisory fees. Although most investments ended with a satisfactory year our results provide a good benchmark for how your church did. Consider your investments, how hard you worked, and how you fared in comparison. Joining the CIT does not take your money away, it just provides professional management and a reduced cost to benefit ratio compared to smaller managed assets.

NACCC WEBINARS

Mark your calendars!

Racial Justice: Chronicles, Conversations, and our Christian Faith

March 14, 21, & 28

[Click for more information and to register.](#)

Domestic Violence: Signs & Responses

April 14 from

12-1:30 p.m. CT

Presented by: Jen Shtab, Coordinated Community Response Trainer at The Spring of Tampa Bay. Watch our website for registration info.

Send us your news & photos!

*Submissions for the April issue are due by March 20, 2021
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

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 Laura Wright at:
lwright@naccc.org or
(414) 856-1614

March, 2021

Recent Calls and Ordinations

...

Calls

Rev. Ronald E. Lake
Westchester Congregational Church
Colchester, CT
January 1, 2021

Rev. Peter L. Hart
First Congregational Church
Detroit, MI
January 1, 2021

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



Racial Justice: Chronicles, Conversations, and our Christian Faith

March 14th • March 21st • March 28th

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 14th 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 and 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 21st 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, 800.262.1620