



February 15, 2020

# NACCC NEWS

## The Messenger



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## New Aid for Clergy

Michael Chittum, Executive Director

The NACCC will be awarding up to \$800 for registration and travel expenses to attend this year's [NACCC Convocation](#) through [The Howard Conn Endowment](#). Judge James and Leanne Rogers established this Endowment in memory of their long time pastor and friend. One of Rev. Conn's favorite topics was the enduring significance of the Congregational Way of life. Ministers receiving these funds will share Reverend Conn's belief that: "We think that God is too great to care what denominational labels we wear, but that God does desire that we join hands with all who love him/her in an effort to hasten the day of the Kingdom."

To receive financial assistance a minister is required to fill out an [application form](#) and return it to the NACCC office by March 31, 2020.



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:

[February 16](#)  
[February 23](#)  
[March 1](#)  
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## Fishers of Men

Julie Robie, Missions Administrator

One facet of the ministry of ***Fishers of Men*** is carried out through Evangelistic Medical Mission Crusades. These weeklong crusades meet medical, dental, nutritional and other physical needs present in poverty-stricken regions throughout Mexico, in order to more effectively address the spiritual needs of the people. The first crusade of 2020 took place at Peace Christian Church. This was the first time for many in the area to step into a Christian church and hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It was also the first time for several new volunteers to serve on a crusade, including Mau and Kimy, two children who have joined the Fishers of Men family. Fishers of Men also works closely with local churches and missionaries to ensure the follow-up and discipleship of the new believers that have opened their hearts and prayed to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior.



## Funding Available to Attend Annual Meeting & Conference

Debby Fulton, Director of Development and Communications

Each year the NACCC encourages all member churches to send representation to the [Annual Meeting and Conference](#). However, often the cost to attend the meeting is more than the church can afford.

Did you ever consider applying to the [Providence Endowment](#)? This fund was created to help small churches offset the expenses of sending a delegate to the AMC. The meeting this year is particularly special since 2020 marks our 400<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of American Congregationalism. And, to add to the excitement, the meeting is being held in Portland, MA.

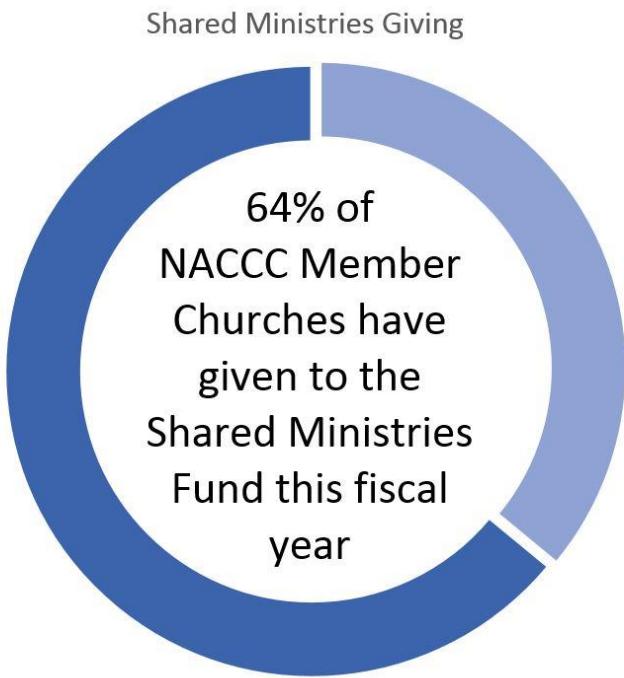
The Endowment brochure and application form will be mailed to your church later this month, or you can [visit the NACCC website today for details and an application.](#)

### Member Church News

[First Congregational Church of Wauwatosa, WI](#) [4 O' Clocks Free Concert Series](#) continues on Sunday, February 16, with “The Romance of the Flute and Harp,” featuring nationally renowned harpist Kelsey Molinari and Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra flutist Heather Yarmel.

On Sunday, February 23rd, [Plymouth Church of Brooklyn, NY](#) will host [Sandra Diaz](#) from [CEEDS Staffing](#) to discuss helping immigrant women find safe, sustainable work and good jobs for trafficking survivors through their worker owned co-op.

[Thomas Edison Congregational Church of Fort Myers, FL](#) will host the [Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers](#) in a chamber chorus concert on February 16th.



People's Congregational Church of Bayport, MN packages poems written and curated by writers at the Stillwater Correctional Facility for their Gumball Poetry Project. The packaged poems are sold in gumball machines in several Twin Cities' bookstores to support the work of the Minnesota Prison Writing Workshop.

*Send us your news and photos!*  
Submissions for the March issue are due by February 25, 2020  
[development@naccc.org](mailto: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



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## MINISTERS' CONVOCATION

### Education and Fellowship

Every year, the NACCC hosts the Ministers' Convocation. This gathering for clergy is designed to provide continuing education, spiritual reflection and rest. It usually begins on the second Monday after Easter, a perfect time for clergy to renew themselves. Many churches set aside money to send their pastor to this event, knowing that the spiritual rest their pastor gains benefits the church.

### Financial Assistance

Scholarships of up to \$500 are available through the *Minister's Assistance and Enrichment Fund*. Requests for assistance may be made to the Executive Director of the NACCC no later than 30 days before the date of the Convocation.

#### Rev. Howard Conn Endowment

Financial assistance up to \$800 is available for registration and travel expenses to attend a NACCC Convocation. The Howard Conn Endowment was established by Judge James and Leanne Rogers in memory of the Rev. Howard Conn, retired minister of the Plymouth Church in Minneapolis, MN. The Endowment's explicit use is to support ministers travel expenses to attend Educational opportunities, such as Convocation.

Rev. Conn was a preacher, lecturer, ecumenist, and writer. One of his favorite topics was the enduring significance of the Congregational Way of life. Ministers receiving these funds will share Reverend Conn's belief that: *"We think that God is too great to care what denominational labels we wear, but that God does desire that we join hands with all who love him/her in an effort to hasten the day of the Kingdom."* -Reverend Howard Conn

To receive financial assistance a minister is required to fill out the [application form](#) and return it to the NACCC office on or before March 31st. See application for more details.

### Convocation - April 20 - 23, 2020 - Register Online

East Coast - Massachusetts - Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Brett Younger](#)  
 Cathedral Camp Retreat & Conference Center  
 167 Middleboro Road (Route 18)  
 East Freetown, MA 02717

**Title: Preaching that Keeps the Preacher's Soul Alive**  
 Sermon preparation can deplete our souls or fill our hearts. This is true for each step in the process—reading the story, looking for God, arranging ideas, and sharing what we find. We will explore preaching that keeps the preacher's soul alive.

Midwest - Michigan - Guest Speaker: [Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund](#)  
 Weber Retreat and Conference Center  
 1257 East Sienna Heights Drive  
 Adrian, MI 49221

**Title: *Blessed are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence About Mental Illness, Family and urch.***  
 When do you learn that "normal" doesn't include lots of yelling, lots of sleeping, lots of beating? In *Blessed Are the Crazy: Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness, Family, and Church*, Sarah Griffith Lund looks back at her father's battle with bipolar disorder, and the helpless sense of *déjà vu* as her brother and cousin endure mental illness, as well. With a small group study guide and "Ten Steps for Developing a Mental Health Ministry in Your Congregation," *Blessed Are the Crazy* is more than memoir—it's a resource for churches and other faith-based groups to provide healing and comfort. Part of The Young Clergy Women Project.

West Coast – Nevada - Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. John R. Mabry  
Zephyr Point  
660 Highway 50  
PO Box 289  
Zephyr Cove, NV 89448

**Title: Spiritual Practices, Then and Now**

Over the course of three one-hour sessions, John will walk us through the spiritual practices designed to enhance our spiritual journey and deepen our relationships with God and one another. Themes will include the practice of Recollection, Imaginal Prayer, and Lectio Divina. There will also be time to explore, reflect, and pray through these spiritual practices in the natural beauty of this sacred space. Each day will include time for fellowship, volunteer led morning and evening devotions, and a special joint communion with all three convocations coming together to celebrate the Lord's Table. If you would like to be a devotional leader or share your faith journey with us, please let me know so I can include you on the calendar.

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OUR SERVICES

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## **Financial Assistance**

### **Rev Howard Conn Endowment**

The Howard Conn Endowment was established by Judge James and Leanne Rogers in memory of the Rev. Howard Conn, retired minister of the Plymouth Church in Minneapolis, MN. The Endowment's explicit use is to support ministers travel expenses to attend Educational opportunities, such as Convocation.

Rev. Conn was a preacher, lecturer, ecumenist, and writer. One of his favorite topics was the enduring significance of the Congregational Way of life. Ministers receiving these funds will share Reverend Conn's belief that:

"We think that God is too great to care what denominational labels we wear, but that God does desire that we join hands with all who love him/her in an effort to hasten the day of the Kingdom."

#### **GRANT APPLICATION**

**Application Deadline: March 31, 2020**

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

Minister Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Minister Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Last time you attended a NACCC Convocation \_\_\_\_\_ (year) \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Convocation you plan to attend \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Total Cost of Attendance \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Requested (*not to exceed \$800*) \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Why you want to attend this year's Convocation.
- Reason for why the Church is unable to totally fund your expenses to attend.
- The specific day(s) you will be in attendance.
- If you are willing to share your experience with the NACCC, through a written report.

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MINISTERS SIGNATURE

DATE

Please mail or fax this page and your brief description to:

**Congregational Foundation/Development**  
**PO Box 288**  
**Oak Creek, WI 53154**  
**FAX: 414-764-0319 or scan and EMAIL: [tbernhardt@naccc.org](mailto:tbernhardt@naccc.org)**



## 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).

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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@naccc.org](mailto: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.



## 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).

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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, 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

# NEWS & NEEDS

## *of our Missions*



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

Winter  
2019/2020

### Annual Meeting and Conference (AMC) 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 NACCC AMC.



Amy will offer a workshop entitled: **Understanding and engaging the younger generation in Christian mission.** Description: "Are you looking for ways to attract younger people to your congregation? Join me for a workshop to learn more about the nuances of Millennials, Gen-Z, and

Generation Alpha. We will spend time learning how they think, what they are looking for in a church, and identify ways you can more easily target these younger generations. The opportunities are endless, and you might be surprised to learn just what an asset these demographics might be to your church!"

Matthew will give an update on the Hybrid Brazilian Cashew Tree Farm and is hoping to stay through to the ICF Quadrennial Conference from July 22 – 28, 2020 at Curry College in Milton, MA.



### Fishers of Men

"We thank the Lord for all that He did in and through the last crusade of 2019 in Arroyo Metate, Oaxaca! Fishers of Men was able to provide 858 attentions and 100 individuals are enjoying a newfound relationship with Jesus Christ! To God be the glory!"

### Cook Native American Ministries



CNAMF's newest board member **Vance Home Gun** presented a workshop at United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) national conference in Orlando, Florida. He shared his personal testimony about his relationship with Christ and how, because of this connection, it strengthens his culture, language, and relationships. Native youth participants were provided examples of innovative ways to incorporate a solid spiritual belief system into their role as a student, mentor, teacher, tribal member or leader.

### Seafarer's Friend

If you wonder what a day in the life of a seafarer is like, go to [www.seafarersfriend.org](http://www.seafarersfriend.org) and watch the video. Sometimes the workers are on the ship, with no shore leave or a chance to see their family, for up to a year at a time. On the website, you will also find information about how to help them.



## Operation Bedroll



Part of the ministry of Love Worth Sharing, Haiti, is to rescue children living on the streets in Port-au-Prince, often sleeping on tattered blankets on top of rocks.



This little girl is 3 years old and the daughter of a Hindu family who became Christian. She always closes her eyes and prays sincerely and is a testimony to many Christian children.

### Prayers

- ◆ New Christians in India, that the Holy Spirit would help them to know what to say and what not to say when non-Christian relatives and religious leaders ask them, "Why did you become a Christian?"
- ◆ International missionaries whose lives are regularly at risk due to political changes and terrorist activity. One of our International missionaries avoided an assassination attempt because torrential rain kept the assassins from reaching him.
- ◆ Rev. Matthew Oladele who has received a new passport and has an appointment to get a visa on January 21, 2020. A new visa will allow him to travel to the US for the AMC.

### Praise

- ◆ Symphony John and Nina, NACC Philippines, who will celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 21, 2019.

## 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@naccc.org](mailto:jrobie@naccc.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@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, see our website: [www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org)  
and click on "Missions."