

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

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[www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org)

## NACCC NEWS

JUNE / JULY 2012

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

### FROM MY HEART TO YOURS



### INSIDE

CENTER FOR CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP	2
2012 ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE	3
MISSIONARY NEWS	4
NEWS FROM THE FIELD	5
EXECUTIVE & FRATERNAL VISITS	6
DEVOTIONAL WRITERS	7-8
ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES	9-10
A MOMENT IN TIME	11
UPCOMING DATES	12
8TH CONGREGATIONAL SYMPOSIUM	13
AUTOMATIC GIVING	14
THE CONGREGATIONALIST	15
NACCC INFORMATION	16

Dear Friends,

We read a number of books here at the office, on the road and in our homes, about the mainline churches present and future needs. We are particularly looking for Christian methods, systems, ideas, and programs that are adaptable to Congregational practice.

Lately, I've been suggesting to churches with which we are consulting that leadership groups engage in reading books together. Three recent ones keep coming up in conversations – Loren Mead and Billie Alban's "Creating the Future Together;" Mary Sellon and Daniel Smith's "Practicing Right Relationship;" and "Congregational Resources," edited by Richard Bass.

This last one is exactly what it says on the cover – a guide to resources for building congregational vitality. It is encyclopedic, covering ten major topics of importance to mainline Churches such as ours.

For example, in chapter 4, "Claiming The Light," Paul Chaffee delves into the benefits of using Appreciative Inquiry as a method of creating and celebrating relationships through inquiry. He states that AI is used in a growing number of churches to engage people in answering questions such as:

- *In what ways are congregational members engaged, committed and happy to participate?*
- *What do members most appreciate and value about their faith, the faith family, and their involvement in it?*
- *What opportunities do people have to share their stories and hear the stories of others?*
- *When people are treated really well in your congregation and its ministry, what is it like?"*

Imagine asking these questions in a church group! What a different environment you could create.

Your Association has a great deal of church renewal material to share with you and your congregation. We have people who are involved in renewal efforts that can help you determine what method of renewal best fits your church. All you and your congregation have to do is ask.

God's Grace and Peace to you in 2012  
Rev. Dr. Thomas Richard  
Executive Secretary

**Conflict Management Advisors**

The Center for Congregational Leadership gathered together nine individuals to equip them as advisors to our member churches who find themselves in conflict situations. The group met at the Center at Olivet College (Michigan) and, under the guidance of veteran advisor, Don Olsen, immersed themselves in the processes that help churches through challenging times. If you have need for an outside voice to help you regain stability and health, call the NACCC office at 1-800-262-1620 and speak to Tom Richard or Betsey Mauro.

**Congregational History and Polity**

There is still room for anyone wishing to attend the Congregational History and Polity Seminar in Boston, Massachusetts August 5 – 11. See [www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org](http://www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org) for more information. **Scholarships are available.** Contact Betsey to apply.

**Ministers' Convocation**

Ministers of NACCC member churches gathered in Mundelein, Illinois for their annual post-Easter retreat. Led by Dawn Carlson, the group explored how to maintain personal, professional and church health in these challenging times. Held at St. Mary's of the Lake Seminary, the bucolic setting provided peaceful rest and the fellowship of those gathered reconnected colleagues for encouragement and support. Mark your calendars for 2013, beginning the second Monday after Easter.

For more information about the Center and educational opportunities, contact Dr. Mauro at [bmauro@nacc.org](mailto:bmauro@nacc.org) or (800) 262-1620 x 12.

Visit our website [centerforcongregationalleadership.org](http://centerforcongregationalleadership.org) for more resources on Congregationalism.

Blessings,

*Betsey*

**RECENT CALLS**

**PLAIN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**, Bowling Green, Ohio  
Rev. Steve Baney as Senior Minister

**LIBERTY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**, Dewy Rose, Georgia  
Rev. Troy Ayers as Senior Minister

**WACHOGUE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**, Springfield, Massachusetts  
Rev. David Poole as Senior Minister

**PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**, Toledo, Ohio  
Ellis Young as Senior Minister

**ELIJAH KELLOGG CHURCH**, Harpswell, Maine  
Rev. John Carson as Senior Minister

## ***2012 ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE . . .***

If you are going to be arriving in Minnesota a bit early for the annual meeting in June, we invite you to participate in one of our scheduled outings on Friday evening and Saturday morning.

**Friday:** Take a Sunset Dinner Cruise on the Mississippi River on a paddle boat OR tour the facilities and get an introduction to the programs of our hands-on missions partner for the meeting, Impact Lives, a non-profit organization that provides international relief services and leadership development.

**Saturday:** Take a tour of the lovely Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, featuring over 1,000 acres of gardens and walking trails OR head right across the street from the hotel to visit the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, a place of pristine and wild natural beauty.

Please visit our web site ([www.mn2012.org](http://www.mn2012.org)) for further information about these and other opportunities and to register for any outing. Every effort will be made to confirm your registration, however any requests received after May 31<sup>st</sup> cannot be guaranteed.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our state very soon. See you in June!

*Your Host Committee*

NACCC Website:  
[www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org)

### **2012 Annual Meeting & Conference**

June 23-26

Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Mall of America  
Bloomington, MN

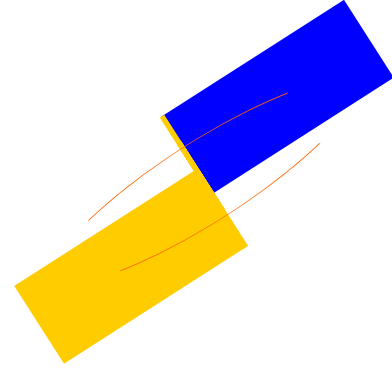
Call (952) 854-2100 to reserve your room

Room rates: \$109 plus tax

Or visit [www.mspairport.hilton.com](http://www.mspairport.hilton.com) and use Group Code: NAC

## MISSIONARY NEWS

*The Missionary Society recently received this letter from  
First Congregational Church, McCook, Nebraska*



RE: Morgan Scott Project

Dear Linda,

Each year our Board of Christian Education does a fund raiser for various needs as a Lenten Mission project.

This year the board chose "**The Good Earth Program— Morgan Scott Project**".

Beginning on Sunday, February 26th we had special offerings during Sunday School and after church services to assist with this effort.

Since this is the election year for our nation we decided to have a campaign of our own. We asked the congregation's help in raising the funds for our mission project by voting for their favorite vegetable. Our candidates for this campaign were as follows:

Peas - Carrots - Tomatoes - And Candy Bar. Yes we did our research and have found that the candy bar is indeed a vegetable. (Comes from the Cocoa **Bean**—did we stretch it a little?)

Each week the votes of a monetary variety was counted and we kept the congregation informed who was ahead in the race. We even had a couple of debates. Each vegetable took on a special personality during this project. On Easter Sunday a fifth candidate appeared with its big campaign bucket to do some last minute vote grabbing. Since peas, carrots, tomatoes and candy bar took a break for Easter Sunday the radishes did quite well.

The final outcome of this campaign is as follows.

By votes of \$192.28 it was determined that this congregation really likes **peas**.

In second place was **Tomatoes** with a total of \$170.92.

Coming in third with a donation of \$100.00 were the **radishes**.

And to make things more interesting we had a tie for last place.

The **carrots** and **candy bars** each had final votes of \$93.40.

**These all came to a total of \$650.00.**

Enclosed you will find our check for \$650.00 to be donated to  
**The Good Earth Program - Morgan Scott Project.**

Respectfully,  
Members of - First Congregational Church - McCook, Nebraska

## News From the Field

**Community Church, Warden**, Large youth group at recent Spring Swing Dance; camp and movie nights are on their summer agenda... **Winthrop Cong'l, Holbrook**, they are grieving the loss of a dozen members of their church who died this past year; participating in food bank in Holbrook; participating in Women of Faith weekend in Hartford, CT... **Plymouth Cong'l, Minneapolis**, artists' program with doll collections, sculpture, photography, held each May at the Plymouth Gallery; Dance at Plymouth part of Sunday at Noon concerts; Peace Garden is flourishing, led by Junior High Youth group, will help to provide fresh vegetables for the local food pantry... **FCC, Mansfield**, doing a sermon and study series during the Summer on A Guide to What Matters Most; during May they had a shower for CHAP, a ministry which provides new moms with all kinds of gifts for mother and child ... **FCC, Rockwood**, several in church accompanied their pastor to his doctoral defense; very nice piece in newsletter about the Center for Leadership at Olivet College, as well as the upcoming Annual Meeting and Conference of the Association... **Church in the Gardens, Forest Hills**, Journey Home discussions going very well. The group discusses Christian understandings of God, church, organized religion, hurts and hopes; beginning annual stewardship drive; book study group is reading "Travels with Charlie," and "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" in May and June... **Florence Cong'l Church, Florence**, Mother/Daughter banquet and Youth Sunday held in May; have an offering for "Our Church's Wider Fellowship," which includes the Connecticut Fellowship and National Association... **Cong'l Church, Preston**, Minister on sabbatical for Summer; welcomed four new members during April; creating a walking course around the church's property to support wellness/exercising; honoring high school graduates; service held in memory of children that died in past year... **FCC, Clear Lake**, held a service for children and youth who were grieving the loss of a loved one; they sponsor an Undie Sunday which translates into providing new underwear for children ages 5-12. What is collected is given to the local schools to distribute. Each month they have a noisy collection – loose change is collected by youth in a special offering ... **Amelia Christian, Clayton**, they have a Wednesday night live worship service, preceded by a fellowship

dinner; they participate in the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life; in a recent issue of the newsletter a one-page stewardship of time and talent commitment questionnaire... **FCC, Akron**, Thursdays they have BYOB (Bring Your own Bible) study; "Coffee with Jay" is held on Mondays, where people bring questions of faith, their thoughts on faith issues, etc.; church is creating a second non-profit to help meet the needs of the Akron community and Summit County. Collaborative ministries with other non-profits, community leaders, etc. is all part of this effort. They have an exciting Vision Check meeting periodically, to bring members together to assess, plan, and celebrate the overall ministry of the church... **FCC, Emporia**, the church is very active in missions and outreach - Church World Service, Salvation Army Food Pantry, Abundant Harvest Food Kitchen, Church Women United, Emporia Rescue Mission, visits from foreign missionaries, and an ecumenical series called "The Globe" discussions on Christianity and global lifestyles...

**Do you send us your internet newsletter? Please do. We will pick items from them to share in this column. You can send it to [trichard@naccc.org](mailto:trichard@naccc.org).**



## RECENT EXECUTIVE & FRATERNAL VISITS

### *Executive Visits in April & May*

Piedmont College, GA

St Luke's Community Church, Morton Grove, IL  
for the installation of their pastor on May 3rd.

East Orrington Congregational Church, ME

Olivet Congregational Church, Olivet, MI

First Congregational Church, Ashland, NB

First Congregational Church, Salt Lake City, UT

Heritage Congregational Church, Madison, WI  
North Shore Congregational Church, Fox Point, WI  
First Congregational Church, Wauwatosa, WI

Southeastern Michigan Association of Congregational  
Churches Meeting

Central Michigan Association of Congregational Chris-  
tian Churches and Ministers Meeting

### *Representing the Association*

Rev. Jim Owens represented the Association (sharing the Strategic Plan's implementation) at the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Florida Association in Cape Coral.

Jodee Lord represented the Association (sharing the Strategic Plan's implementation) at the NY/NJ Association held on April 28<sup>th</sup> in Bound Brook

Jeff Dillon represented the Association (sharing the Strategic Plan's implementation) at the Wisconsin Association's Meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> at Faith Community Church

Rev. Marilyn Glavin represented the Association at the 193<sup>rd</sup> Commencement Ceremony at Bangor Theological Seminary, May 18<sup>th</sup> in Portland, ME

Dr. David Gray represented the Association at the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pilgrim Church in Pomona, CA on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Rev. Beth Faeth (sharing the Strategic Plan's implementation) and Dr. Tom Richard (bringing greetings) represented the Association both via SKYPE on May 18<sup>th</sup> and May 19<sup>th</sup> respectively at the Pacific Northwest Association's meeting May 19<sup>th</sup> in Milton-Freewater, OR

Rev. David Nasgowitz represented the Association at the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bethany Union Church in Chicago on May 20<sup>th</sup>.



### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

*Plymouth Congregational Church* of San Diego, CA will celebrate their 100th Anniversary June 9-10. Rev. Wayne Riggs serves as Senior Minister

*York Community Congregational Church* of Thomson, IL will celebrate their 160th Anniversary on June 24. Rev. Ruth Lyons serves as Senior Minister

### HYMNALS — HYMNALS — HYMNALS

First Congregational Church of Burlington, Iowa has lots of hymnals to give away.

178 Pilgrim Hymnals  
195 Hymns of a Living Church

If you are interested, contact Pastor Jim at [pastorjim@1stcongregational.com](mailto:pastorjim@1stcongregational.com) or call the church at (319) 752-4444.

## ***Hi Devotional Writer for the NACCC!***

Thank you for being part of an exciting and significant work!

Question for thought: What do we have from the early church? Ruins and Writings. So much of our time and resources are put into our old buildings, which will someday be ruins. But what we write will last a whole lot longer!!!!

Please pray that God will give you two Lent Devotionals, based on the theme From Manger to Cross.

Lenten Devotionals need 54 entries for the six weeks of Lent, Holy Week, and Resurrection Sunday. This year we got 15, so fillers were used. They are not nearly as interesting as hearing from our brothers and sisters in Christ. **Even though we are past the deadline, we still need your submissions.** Lent and Easter were very busy for most of us, too busy to think about writing. But now after enjoying the season of Easter, our minds are still on that Greatest Event in Human History, and this is the time to write your entry, Lord willing.

Helen Cunningham and I work on the Devotionals together, which means we need more time to pass things back and forth. We plan to spend the summer finalizing all aspects of the Lent Devotional 2013 (cannot spend time during Christmas and New Years, and Ash Wednesday is in February next year. The Fall will be devoted to the Advent Devotional.). Please, please, please send us something if you haven't done so already?

Also pictures are always a plus.

May God give you the "pen of a ready writer!"

*Lori Wiley*

The format for entries is on the next page. Main issues to consider:

- ◆ Each entry needs *one* main idea, or topic, and everything in the entry should be about that topic, including the Scripture and Prayer.
- ◆ Biblical accuracy. You may choose your own English translation. Otherwise the New Living Translation will be used.
- ◆ Gender accuracy and inclusive language are part of Standard English today.
- ◆ If your entry is too long, it will be cut. Please stay within 320 words.
- ◆ The facilitating team reserves the right to re-shape your entry as needed to clarify what you have written, to make your entry fit the theme, and to make the devotional cohesive.
- ◆ E-mail addresses of authors are included to enhance communication with brothers and sisters in Christ. If you do *not* want your e-mail address included, please let one of the editors know.
- ◆ Pictures of authors (optional) are an extra blessing.

## Devotional Entry Format

**TITLE:**

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Book, chapter, verse(s), translation

**TOPIC SENTENCE:** What is the essence of your entry? What is the Main Idea? What words should the reader carry in mind and heart throughout the day? Does your Main Idea relate to the theme of the season for which it is being written (Lent or Advent)?

**MESSAGE:** Devotion, meditation, illustration, 320 words or what fits on a page.

**PRAYER:** Write a short prayer related to the Topic sentence.

Name of writer: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of church: \_\_\_\_\_

City and State of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

May your e-mail address be included? \_\_\_\_\_

Address of writer: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #s: \_\_\_\_\_

Picture included: \_\_\_\_\_ (yes or no)

Send your entry to:

Helen Cunningham, [hc6645@gmail.com](mailto:hc6645@gmail.com)

Phone: (603) 560-6645

or

Lori Wiley [pastorucpnh@gmail.com](mailto:pastorucpnh@gmail.com),

599 New Boston Road, Bedford, NH 03110,

phone: (603) 494-7020.

The preference is entries by e-mail. If you send it by e-mail and do not receive a reply, then please call to ensure that your entry was received. Those who do not have an e-mail address should not expect a confirmation.



**JUNE**

Paul Bennehoff	June 1, 1946	Thomas Johnson	June 7, 1990
Clyde Kauffman	June 1, 1947	Mary Koch	June 7, 1992
Charles Harlow	June 1, 1953	Tonna Parsons	June 7, 1992
J. Williams	June 1, 1957	Linda Anderson	June 8, 2003
Richard Mapplebeckpalmer	June 1, 1958	Amanda Ladegard	June 8, 2008
Gabe Campbell	June 1, 1961	Robert Countess	June 9, 1965
James Hart	June 1, 1961	Vincent Carroll	June 9, 1968
David Gray	June 1, 1962	Douglas Drown	June 9, 1979
Earl Alger	June 1, 1963	Robert Hellam	June 9, 2000
Richard Adair	June 1, 1970	Angela Buchauer	June 9, 2002
Milton White	June 1, 1973	Gary Schwerin	June 9, 2002
David Claassen	June 1, 1975	Robert Gault	June 10, 1973
David Root	June 1, 1975	James Keough	June 10, 1973
John Westfall	June 1, 1977	Shelli Poe-Messner	June 10, 2007
Richard Haferman	June 1, 1979	David Carmen	June 11, 1957
Richard Irving	June 1, 1980	Martha Hodgson	June 11, 1977
Odus Eubanks	June 1, 1983	David Getreu	June 11, 1994
John Jerving	June 1, 1984	Richard Schrub	June 11, 1995
Robert Joy	June 1, 1991	Linda Bishop	June 11, 2004
Richard Corning	June 1, 1992	William Rafuse	June 12, 1981
Ronald Kline	June 1, 1995	Sandra Reed	June 12, 1983
Amy Hair	June 1, 1997	Martha Swanson	June 12, 1988
Michael Coffee	June 1, 2002	Jennifer Henderson	June 12, 2005
Steve Burt	June 2, 1982	Kevin Clark	June 12, 2011
Henry Belcher	June 2, 1985	Donald Sinclair	June 13, 1962
Catherine Schuyler	June 2, 1990	Leonard Capobianco	June 13, 1985
Adrienne Eggleston	June 2, 2002	Martin Hall	June 13, 1999
Roger Olsen	June 3, 1983	Marilyn Glavin	June 13, 2004
Alice Murphy	June 3, 1984	Donald Ray	June 13, 2004
Thomas Van Tassell	June 3, 1990	Eric Britcher	June 14, 1954
Earl Crutchfield	June 4, 1963	Richard Buchman	June 14, 1959
David Kimberly	June 4, 1978	Chester Axline	June 14, 1963
Patrick Shelley	June 4, 1978	Joy Baumgartner	June 14, 1987
Joyce Acree	June 4, 1983	Jean Miller	June 14, 1992
Karl Ostberg	June 4, 1984	Frank Dunbar	June 14, 1997
Robert Christian	June 4, 1989	Virginia Pomeroy	June 14, 1998
John Cahill	June 5, 1977	David Stasiak	June 14, 2009
Samuel Graham	June 5, 1977	Robert Ripley	June 15, 1954
Lonnie Richardson	June 5, 1981	William Beagle	June 15, 1979
Christopher Rygh	June 5, 1999	Margaret Lewis	June 15, 1980
Nanci Rathbun	June 5, 2011	Susan Wyman	June 15, 1980
Judith Coffey	June 5, 2011	Donald Mayberry	June 15, 1997
Robert Summers	June 6, 1982	Troy Ayers	June 15, 2008
Kevin Roach	June 6, 1983	Seth Jones	June 15, 2008
J. Bentley	June 6, 1993	Peter Barclay	June 16, 2002
Michael McBride	June 7, 1969	Arthur Wright	June 16, 2007
Dave Spahn	June 7, 1970	Joseph Hughes	June 17, 1979
		Giovan King	June 17, 1984



Donald Bentley	June 17, 1998
Marilyn Danielson	June 17, 1998
Barry Szymanski	June 17, 2006
Lowell Linden	June 18, 1973
Ronald Hutson	June 18, 1978
Charles Stanley	June 18, 1981
Thomas Healey	June 18, 1995
Arthur Rouner, Jr.	June 19, 1954
William Genda	June 19, 1977
Arvel M. Steece	June 20, 1947
Lyle Schossow	June 20, 1952
Norman Rust	June 20, 1965
Steven Bailey	June 20, 1976
Robert Fleming	June 20, 1980
William Clark, Jr.	June 20, 1982
Craig Walker	June 20, 1989
Clyde Parrish	June 20, 1993
William Rodefer	June 21, 1953
Stu Merkel	June 21, 1987
Robert Haldane	June 22, 1953
Joseph Parshall	June 22, 1963
Suzanne Wood	June 22, 2000
Franklin (Sandy) Pierson	June 23, 1973
Miriam Resch	June 23, 1978
David Hart	June 23, 1985
Peter Smith	June 23, 1985
Richard Rodgers	June 23, 1996
Rebecca Ver Straten-McSparran	June 23, 1996
Karl Schimpf	June 25, 1967
Gene deJongh	June 26, 1993
Raymond Nyquist	June 27, 1965
Steven Blackburn	June 27, 1982
Thomas Miller	June 28, 1975
A. Ray Applequest	June 29, 1943
Leslie Shultz II	June 29, 1963
Bill Ashley	June 29, 1975
Gary Stevens	June 29, 1997
Jonathan Noble	June 29, 2003
Lloyd Hall, Jr.	June 30, 1968
Timothy Miller	June 30, 1968
Randall Hase	June 30, 1974

**JULY**

George Blair	July 1, 1990
Steven Nickles	July 1, 1999
Jeff Patton	July 1, 2004
John Navarre	July 2, 1983
Jack Carmichael	July 7, 1952
Robert Bentley	July 7, 1965
Eva Salmons	July 8, 1990
Arnold Crocker	July 9, 1963
Fred Cheney	July 9, 1989
William Trump	July 10, 1983
Thom Christian	July 10, 1994
Hillary H.V. Bowser	July 10, 2005
Robert Coates	July 11, 1987
Carol Ahrens	July 11, 1999
D. Elizabeth Mauro	July 12, 1987
David Fox	July 12, 2009
John Mabry	July 13, 1991
Archie Pennington	July 13, 2003
Casey vanderBent	July 15, 2000
Edith Winter	July 17, 1989
Lottie Jones Hood	July 17, 1993
Dean Echols	July 20, 1952
Barry Holmes	July 21, 2002
Louis Gerhardt	July 22, 1955
Phil Jackson	July 23, 1978
Daniel Clark	July 23, 1993
Vance Jordan	July 23, 2000
Leo Christian	July 24, 1976
Arthur Rudman	July 25, 1993
Rick Brown	July 27, 1994
Christopher Meirose	July 27, 2008
Norman Christopherson	July 28, 1968
Donald Keepers	July 29, 1956
Douglas Lobb	July 29, 1956
James Holl	July 29, 1973
Nancy White	July 29, 2007
Kenneth Beres	July 31, 1968
John Curtis	July 31, 1977

## A MOMENT IN TIME . . .

### *The Grand Mission of the Gospel*

Learning about Charles Finney and the Second Great Awakening (see Feb/March 2012 issue) prompted me to investigate what was happening in my own church (FCC, Searsport, Maine) during that period. I found a surprising story that had not yet been told. It may be typical of countless churches of its time, but it demonstrates that we had once been enthusiastic players in a great drama.

For one, there was a series of revivals (conducted with “dignity & decorum” as Congregationalists often took pains to emphasize).

Second, the church had a program of moral reform of an intrusiveness that would be unthinkable today. The areas of investigation were 1, 2, 3 neglect of public worship, the Lord’s Supper, and family morals; 4 profanation of the Sabbath; 5 refusing to support religious ordinances; 6, 7, 8 using, trafficking in, and abetting intoxicating liquors; 9 [not specified – adultery?]; 10 sending children to dancing schools. Teams of church leaders “conferred” with miscreants demanding that they answer to the church and change their ways. Cases were presented and tried in church meetings. In dozens of cases obstinacy resulted in excommunication.

Third, in 1855 the church made an anti-slavery declaration resolving that 1. That Slavery is a heinous sin, 2. That slave trading on land is as criminal as on sea, 3. That every Christian is duty-bound to work against slavery, 4. That the Church should withdraw fellowship from defenders of slavery, and 5. That all Christians pray that God will hold back His punishment from our nation.



A single minister served through the entire Awakening, Rev. Stephen Thurston (1825 – 1865). He connected our church to the national picture by preaching a stirring sermon for the twelfth anniversary of the American Missionary Association in which he stated that “The Grand mission of the gospel, as understood and sung by angels [at Christmas], is to promote piety and humanity in the earth”. This Gospel, he said, will not “hold fellowship with . . . human depravity”, “sanction & sanctify iniquity”, shelter oppression, or take “a ‘Southern view’ to relieve the consciences of those who make merchandise of their brethren”, but rather will teach “the universal equality of man and the brotherhood of the race.”

This was the culture of our church, of New England, and of the Awakening, a culture we had mostly forgotten and which is only dimly reflected in what written histories we have. And it resulted in another great, again mostly unknown, story of sending fifty plus people out to found the “Abolition town” of Grinnell, Iowa. What great stories lie hidden in your file cabinets, basements, and archives?

*Rev. Arlin Larson, Historian, NACCC,  
First Congregational Church, Searsport, ME*

#### Sources:

“Records of the First Congregational Church in Searsport, ME, Organized 4<sup>th</sup> October, 1815”  
Thurston, Rev. Stephen, “The Grand Mission of the Gospel”, American Missionary Association, 1858

## ***Dates for your Calendar***

### ***2012 Annual Meeting & Conference***

June 23-26,  
Bloomington, MN

### ***2012 NAPF - HOPE***

June 24 - 30  
Rapid City, South Dakota

### ***2012 History & Polity Seminar***

August 5-11  
Boston, MA

### ***8th Congregational Symposium***

November 8-10, 2012  
Heritage Congregational Church  
Madison, WI

### ***2013 Annual Meeting & Conference***

June 22-25,  
Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista, Florida  
in the Walt Disney World Resort

8<sup>th</sup> Congregational Symposium

***You are my witnesses...***  
***Congregationalists Working with God***  
***Through Evangelism, Mission and Justice***

November 8-10, 2012

Heritage Congregational Church  
Madison, WI

Featuring Keynote Speakers:

***Sister Helen Prejean***  
***and***  
***Rev. Arlin Larson***

More information available at the  
NACCC Annual meeting in June.

For details, please contact:

Rev. Cindy Bacon Hammer

608-212-4226

[cabaconhammer@gmail.com](mailto:cabaconhammer@gmail.com)

# The NACCC is pleased to offer Member Churches another option for giving to the Shared Ministries Fund

Automatic Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

## Benefits of Automatic Giving

**Simplify your life** - You won't have to remember whether you gave this month or year. You don't have to worry about being an inactive member church. Simply fill out an authorization for Automatic Giving and your church is active.

**Take a step of faith** - When you sign up to give through Automated Giving, you are deciding in advance to faithfully give.

**Cost Effective for Member Churches** - The cost of an EFT is usually less than the cost of writing a check and mailing it.

**You will be helping the NACCC** - EFT's are the most cost-effective method of giving to the NACCC in comparison to checks, credit card gifts, etc.

**It is safer than writing a check** - It can't be lost, stolen, or destroyed in the mail.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF  
CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES



The  
**C**ONGREGATIONALIST  
 Magazine of the Congregational Way

*is going PROSPECTING!*

We hope you've noticed improvements we've made in *The Congregationalist*. Frankly, we think we are now "Ready for Prime Time." And that's good, because to keep our magazine going, we need to gain more **commercial advertisers**.

*Please help us compile an effective prospect list of companies who actually do business with local churches.* Would you please take a few moments, right now, to send us names and contact information of several companies that your church buys things from? For example—

- Worship supplies, chancel furniture and equipment
- Linens, banners, paraments, clergy vestments, choir robes
- Sunday School and VBS curriculum, books, hymnals
- Sunday bulletins, printing services
- Employee benefit plans, financial services, insurance
- *Anything your church buys a lot of*

Companies that already supply things to *your* church would welcome the opportunity to get their message in front of Congregational church leaders around the country through the pages of our exciting publication. We will approach them in the most gracious and professional way.

E-mail Karen Skinner at [karenskinner77@hotmail.com](mailto:karenskinner77@hotmail.com), leave a message for her at First Congregational Church of Maywood, (708) 344-6150, or mail to:

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