

NACCC NEWS

JUNE/JULY 2013

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2

SHARING THE JOURNEY

Our ancestors in the Congregational Way endured danger and hardship in order to achieve the kind of freedom of worship and religious practice that most people in America today take for granted. They fought against church bodies that sought to impose upon the local congregation ways of “doing church” that seemed, to those Pilgrims and Puritans, to run counter to what the biblical texts described. They sought to be faithful to the Lord and to create worshipping communities that responded to their own unique call as a church, relying on the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and not conforming to the cultural or religious practices around them.

I think we have an opportunity today to be about that kind of work. While we have no specific state-supported religious authority that would seek to control our lives in community, we do have a religious and social culture in America that often runs counter to our call to faith and our desire for autonomy. From a secular point of view, our culture continues to push us to consider “what’s in it for me” instead of “what is best for the community.” That individualistic focus can be particularly dangerous for freedom-loving folks like us. Freedom from outside, worldly authority can easily translate to freedom from any kind of obligation for fellowship or mutual care.

The religious culture around us can pull us in two ways. One side claims a God-in-everything (or sometimes a God-in-nothing) view in which the call to love everyone (a decidedly good thing) is transformed into a mandate that we should refrain from engaging anyone else’s faith perspective in meaningful dialogue. The extreme of this view can lead to religious practice that has no real foundation and that discourages the discussion of differences that can help us learn more about ourselves and others. The other side of the religious spectrum may lead us to the same pitfall, a lack of any real communication, by insisting that there is only one way of knowing God and that all others who believe differently are wrong and should not even be engaged in dialogue. In this view, autonomy may easily be replaced by radical independence.

All of these extremes run counter to our Congregational heritage, which calls us to question the attitudes and practices of this world when they seem, in our understanding, to be in opposition to what we find expressed in the scriptures. Those scriptures, upon which we base our practice of faith, clearly offer us guidance in this regard; that it is important for members of a church to talk about matters of faith and for sister churches to engage in that same dialogue, for our mutual edification. Congregational churches are specially designed for that work of dialogue because we know that no worldly authority can decide for us what we should believe or how we should practice our faith. What a wonderful opportunity, then, to be in dialogue without worrying about losing our own identity. Who knows, we might even learn something in the process. And think what our communities might learn when they see us engaged in this good work.

In Christ,
Casey vanderBent, *Interim Executive Secretary*



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2013 ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE . . .

The count down has begun! As I write this, the pre-meetings for Annual Meeting & Conference 2013 are only 18 days away. It really doesn't seem possible that the time has flown past so quickly. I am excited about seeing all of you there and the program we have set up for you. I know you will enjoy our Bible Lecturer, Rev. Dr. Donald Olsen, and our Congregational Lecturer, Rev. Dr. Mark Jensen. During one of the many workshops you will be able to hear Lisa Rambo tell of her experience and spiritual journey on NBC's "Biggest Loser."

We have tried to allow as much time as we could in the evenings, so you can enjoy Disney World and the many other exciting areas that Orlando offers for your exploration. Also, NAPF and HOPE will be holding their conference in the Hilton and staying across the street and will take part in some of our activities.

I know that I can't entice those of you who are not able to come to Orlando to sign up at this late date, but know that you will be missed and missing not only the fellowship with good Congregational friends, but also an exciting program! Oh yes, and business as well!

For those of you heading to Florida, I can't wait to see all of you and welcome you with, "Welcome to Orlando, the second happiest place in the World." The first place happiest place is of course, the Hilton Hotel where we will be meeting!

Neil Hunt
Moderator

2013 Annual Meeting & Conference information and registration material can be found at: www.naccc.org



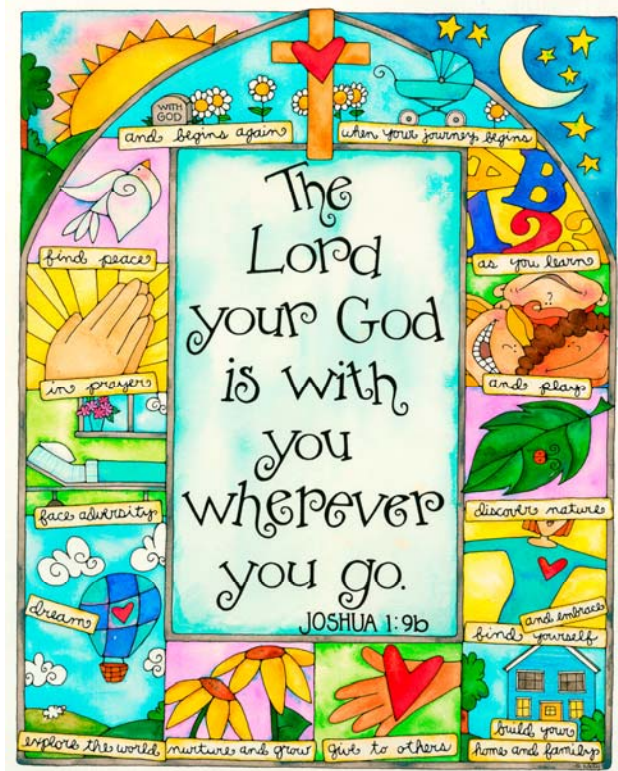
**Search Committee Room
At the 2013 Annual Meeting & Conference**

A room will be available to help churches who are seeking new pastoral leadership to meet with potential candidates. Contact information for search committee members in attendance at the Annual Meeting will be posted in the NACCC office. Any clergy person wishing to speak with the search committee may call the representative directly. A room may be reserved for private interviews by the search committee representatives through the NACCC office. Search committee representatives in attendance will be able to promote their opening by providing copies of their CIF. They should also bring their church's latest annual report for candidates to review.

2014
Annual Meeting
&
Conference

Omaha, Nebraska
June 28-July 1, 2014

Hosted by the Iowa/
Nebraska Association



Church Happenings

Even in a small church, it helps to put a face to a name. At FCC, Waseca, MN they put a "Council Member Intro" into the newsletter to ensure that the members know who is serving.

Bethany Union Church, Chicago puts advertising on their newsletter's back page. It's a good way to help cover costs and offer support to community businesses.

Save a tree! Offer an email version of your newsletter to your members, like they do at FCC, Fall River, MA and many of our other churches.

FCC, Portland, MI includes the full text of the NA News in their newsletter. If that's too much printing, offer highlights and keep a copy of the News in a handy place.

Remember to include items from and for youth in your newsletter. Plymouth Church in Minneapolis recently had a guest article written by a senior high youth, whose family lived on \$1 a day per person for food.

Keep your members and visitors safe. FCC, Emporia, KS had an automated external defibrillator (AED) installed and used space multiple times in their newsletter to talk about it and to tell where it is located.

Did you know newsletters can be fun? Winthrop CC, Holbrook, MA puts puzzles and games in theirs, including some for kids.

Warden Community Church, Warden, WA recently had an article that pointed out the importance of asking the right questions about your church, recording its history, and getting the stories from long-time members. Don't lose that historical information!

Public relations is important for churches, not just businesses. Riverpoint Congregational Church, West Warwick, RI recently made front page news about one of their programs, with a terrific picture of the church.

Beautify your church grounds without killing the budget by starting an Adopt-a-Flower Bed campaign. FCC, Rochester, WI asks members to adopt beds on the property each year, that they will agree to plant and maintain. You can also offer permanent memorial bed spaces.

FCC, Millinocket, ME prints the text of thanks received from mission recipients in their newsletter, rather than only hanging cards on a bulletin board.

Dates for your Calendar

ICF Conference

July 29—August 2, 2013, London, England

British Seminar

August 3-13, 2013, England & The Netherlands

Church Happenings, con't.

Many of our churches include information about local happenings in their newsletter. FCC, New Richland, MN recently went so far as to advertise another church's activities (FCC, Waseca, MN).

In need of inspiration? Chances are somebody has said something that will inspire you on most any subject. How about including a "Quotable Quotes" section in your newsletter, like they do at Winthrop CC, Holbrook, MA?

Who doesn't want to see their picture in the paper? FCC, Fall River, MA regularly includes pictures of members in fellowship and service.

If you have a newsletter in your church, please feel free to send it to my attention at the national office. If your church has a unique or particularly successful program or ministry, please let me know about that too!

Casey vanderBent
Interim Executive Secretary

Ambassadorial Visits

Visited First Congregational Church, Kenosha, WI to consult with them and provide support in a difficult time.

Attended the annual meeting of the Wisconsin Congregational Association and Plymouth Congregational Church, Racine, as well as the Vicinage Council for Julie Sheridan Smith that resulted in the unanimous endorsement of her ordination.

Attended annual meetings of the Central and SE Michigan Associations and brought greetings to Meadowbrook Congregational Church in Novi, MI.

Rev. Mark Tanner represented the NACCC at the installation of Rev. Andrew Stinson as Senior Pastor of Second Congregational Church, Warren, ME.

Rev. Dawn Carlson represented the NACCC at the ordination of Rev. Sebrena Cline at North Manchester Congregational Christian Church in Indiana.

RECENT CALLS

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, LA MESA, CA
REV. GARY "SCOTT" ARCHER AS SENIOR MINISTER

FIRST UNION CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, QUINCY, IL
REV. DR. CHARLES HETZLER AS SENIOR MINISTER

FIRST CHURCH OF SQUANTUM, SQUANTUM, MA
REV. DOUG GRAY AS SENIOR MINISTER

BRITTON CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH, BRITTON, MI
REV. JIM SCHENCK AS PASTOR

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, LANSING, MI
REV. ROBERT HIGLE AS SENIOR MINISTER

JUNE

Clyde Kauffman	June 1, 1947	Thomas Johnson	June 7, 1990
Charles Harlow	June 1, 1953	Mary Koch	June 7, 1992
J. Williams	June 1, 1957	Tonna Parsons	June 7, 1992
Richard Mapplebeckpalmer	June 1, 1958	Linda Anderson	June 8, 2003
Gabe Campbell	June 1, 1961	Amanda Ladegard	June 8, 2008
James Hart	June 1, 1961	Robert Countess	June 9, 1965
David Gray	June 1, 1962	Vincent Carroll	June 9, 1968
Earl Alger	June 1, 1963	Douglas Drown	June 9, 1979
Richard Adair	June 1, 1970	Robert Hellam	June 9, 2000
Milton White	June 1, 1973	Angela Buchauer	June 9, 2002
David Classen	June 1, 1975	Gary Schwerin	June 9, 2002
David Root	June 1, 1975	Robert Gault	June 10, 1973
John Westfall	June 1, 1977	James Keough	June 10, 1973
Richard Haferman	June 1, 1979	Lincoln Skinner	June 10, 2012
Richard Irving	June 1, 1980	Shelli Poe-Messner	June 10, 2007
Odus Eubanks	June 1, 1983	David Carmen	June 11, 1957
John Jerving	June 1, 1984	Martha Godgson	June 11, 1977
Robert Joy	June 1, 1991	David Getreu	June 11, 1994
Richard Corning	June 1, 1992	Richard Schrubia	June 11, 1995
Ronald Kline	June 1, 1995	Linda Bishop	June 11, 2004
Amy Hair	June 1, 1997	William Rafuse	June 12, 1981
Michael Coffee	June 1, 2002	Sandra Reed	June 12, 1983
Steve Burt	June 2, 1982	Martha Swanson	June 12, 1988
Henry Belcher	June 2, 1985	Kevin Clark	June 12, 2011
Catherine Schuyler	June 2, 1990	Donald Sinclair	June 13, 1962
Adrienne Eggleston	June 2, 2002	Leonard Capobianco	June 13, 1985
Roger Olsen	June 3, 1983	Martin Hall	June 13, 1999
Alice Murphy	June 3, 1984	Marilyn Glavin	June 13, 2004
Thomas Van Tassell	June 3, 1990	Donald Ray	June 13, 2004
Earl Crutchfield	June 4, 1963	Eric Britcher	June 14, 1954
David Kimberly	June 4, 1978	Richard Buchman	June 14, 1959
Patrick Shelley	June 4, 1978	Chester Axline	June 14, 1963
Joyce Acree	June 4, 1983	Joy Baumgartner	June 14, 1987
Karl Ostberg	June 4, 1984	Jean Miller	June 14, 1992
Robert Christian	June 4, 1989	Frank Dunbar	June 14, 1997
John Cahill	June 5, 1977	Virginia Pomeroy	June 14, 1998
Samuel Graham	June 5, 1977	David Stasiak	June 14, 2009
Lonnie Richardson	June 5, 1981	Robert Ripley	June 15, 1954
Christopher Rygh	June 5, 1999	William Beagle	June 15, 1979
Nanci Rathbun	June 5, 2011	Margaret Lewis	June 15, 1980
Judith Coffey	June 5, 2011	Susan Wyman	June 15, 1980
Robert Summers	June 6, 1982	Donald Mayberry	June 15, 1997
Kevin Roach	June 6, 1983	Troy Ayers	June 15, 2008
J. Bentley	June 6, 1993	Seth Jones	June 15, 2008
Michael McBride	June 7, 1969	Peter Barclay	June 16, 2002
Dave Spahn	June 7, 1970	Arthur Wright	June 16, 2007
		Joseph Hughes	June 17, 1979
		Glovan 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, 1994
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
Andrew Stinson	June 26, 1999
Raymond Nyquist	June 27, 1965
Steven Blackburn	June 27, 1982
Thomas Miller	June 28, 1975
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
Milo Van Veldhuizen	July 8, 1985
Eva Salmons	July 8, 1990
Arnold Crocker	July 9, 1963
Fred Cheney	July 9, 1989
Dean Echols	July 10, 1952
William Trump	July 10, 1983
Thom Christian	July 10, 1994
Hillary 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
Lottie Jones Hood	July 17, 1993
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

MINISTRY COUNCIL TASK TEAMS

All Ministry Councils are empowered to appoint Task Teams to complete their mission, both long and short term teams. If you have a passion for any of these projects and wish to serve on the Task Team, please contact the person listed for that Council.

Growth Ministry Council

Contact: Mark Jurewicz - jurewicz@msn.com

New Church Planting Task Team

Purpose: To provide resources including pastoral leadership, coaches, and partnerships which encourage and support new churches in our Association.

Youth Task Team

Purpose: To provide resources for national and regional conferences and networking which encourage our churches in their ministry to and with youth and young adults.

Worship and Spiritual Growth Task Team

Purpose: To provide resources for our churches on uplifting worship, workshops and retreats on spiritual development.

Technology Task Team

Purpose: To provide resources for our churches on the uses of technology in all areas of their ministry.

Mission & Outreach Ministry Council

Contact: Laura Hamby - lhamby@sccs.net

Mission Information Update Team

Purpose: To update and maintain bulletin inserts for all NACCC International, National, and Recommended Missions.

Micro-Finance Team

Purpose: To establish groundwork for ongoing micro-finance projects.

Regional, State, Church Communications Team

Purpose: To build relationships with State and Regional Associations by speaking to the needs of our missions nationally and internationally.

World Christian Relations Team

Purpose: To encourage our NACCC Churches in their interfaith and ecumenical outreach.

Vitality Ministry Council

Contact: Barbara Erlendson - barbaraerlendson@gmail.com

Annual Meeting and Conference Reception Task Team

Purpose: To determine which groups in the VMC portfolio might be best served by a viable and necessary reception at the Annual Meeting and contact new groups about hosting a reception.

Annual Meeting Workshops Team

Purpose: To schedule and/or present Annual Meeting workshops in program areas assigned to the VMC that will meet and strengthen the needs of the local church.

Center Sponsored Seminars Team

Purpose: To organize and manage the seminars presented during the year and to encourage spiritual growth, educational growth, collegial fellowship and outreach.

Congregational Identity & Practice Team

Purpose: To assist the local church in understanding, planning and implementing significant events in the life of the church, such as Ecclesiastical Councils of Vicinage, Ordination, Installation and Licensure.

Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies Team

Purpose: To oversee the intentions, aims and policies of the CFTS program and guide its work in conjunction with the Dean of the Center for Congregational Leadership.

Minister's Convocation Task Team

Purpose: To organize and manage the annual Minister's Convocation by determining the schedule, engaging program leaders, managing registration and soliciting feedback.

Lay Ministry Training Program Task Team

Purpose: To manage the ongoing Lay Ministry Training Program through reviewing applications, checking references, assigning mentors, updating content and resources, recommending policies and determining recognitions.

Service Delivery Task Team

Purpose: To guide the NACCC Service Delivery out of the Center for Congregational Leadership by monitoring the quality of services and delivery, recommending training for advisors, identifying useful services as well as obsolete ones, identifying policy recommendations for the delivery of services. This task team would also monitor the church search, clergy search and disclosure process.

Taken from The Congregationalist, May, 1963

THE NINTH ANNUAL MEETING

On Tuesday, June 25th, the ninth annual meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches will be called to order by the Rev. Harry Butman, D.D., in the Meeting House of the South Congregational Church in Hartford, Connecticut.

Delegates, alternate delegates, and other visitors from all parts of the United States will be greeted by a local committee under the co-chairmanship of Mrs. Henry Valentine and Dr. Ralph Ogden. Arrangements have been made for overnight accommodations in homes, motels and hotels and at a nearby camp. Registration cards are available from the Milwaukee office.

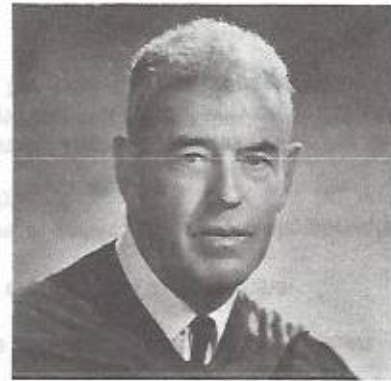
Dr. Harold John Ockenga, pastor of the famous Park Street Church in Boston is the featured speaker on Tuesday evening. Dr. Ockenga has been at Park Street for over a quarter of a century, and under his dynamic leadership, there has come into being a program of missionary outreach which supports over a hundred missionaries with contributions which totaled a third of a million dollars in 1962. Over the years Dr. Harold John Ockenga has become known as a writer of books, the author of many articles, president of Fuller Theological Seminary, radio and television preacher, and above all else, expounder of the Word.

Professor John Dando, one of the best known and most loved radio and television personalities in New England will speak at the Wednesday evening banquet. Few, if any, surpass John Dando in ability to make living and vital the great ideas of great writers. His theme is "A Way to Wisdom."

Wednesday will bring carloads of men and women from all over the Northeast to hear Professor Dando in the beautiful air-conditioned dining rooms of The Travelers Insurance Companies. Music will feature the Hillingdon String Quartet, one of the best in America, and also the Adult Choir of South Church in a program of light classics.

Commissions and committees begin their work on Monday. Then on the succeeding days there will be presented for action reports on new Churches, plans for increased missionary outreach and the results of the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies. Being readied for the meeting are important proposals for the nurture of men for Christian service, improvement in publications, and a review of every aspect of the life and work of our free fellowship.

The young people of the National Association Pilgrim Fellowship will be housed at Wesleyan University in Middletown, a few miles from the Hartford Church. Their program is under the leadership of national spon-



*The Rev. Harry R. Butman, D.D.
Minister, Congregational Church of the Messiah
Los Angeles, California*

The Moderatorship of the National Association alternates between ministers and laymen. This year's moderator, elected at Minneapolis, is the Rev. Harry R. Butman, D.D. Dr. Butman has served our Churches over many years in many capacities, as chairman of the Commission on the Ministry, as a member of the Commission on Publications, and as chairman of the Executive Committee.

But Dr. Butman is best known for his trenchant phrases, his brilliant scholarship, and his New England idiom. Recent years in California have failed to quell the flow of New England wit and wisdom!

In a larger sense, Dr. Butman belongs not to any one section of the United States, but to world-wide Congregationalism. As a keen student of the Congregational Way, he has no peers.

When he raps the gavel to call to order the Hartford meeting, Dr. Butman will have completed a moderator's term in which he has addressed gatherings in nearly all regions of the United States. And he will have completed a moderational visit to the "May Meetings" of the Congregational Union of England and Wales, to Scots and Welsh Churches, and to Congregational Churches in northern Europe as well.

(Continued)

sors, the Rev. Harry Clark and Miss Ellen Gray, and youth commission chairman, the Rev. Erwin Britton of Wayne, Michigan. Preparations are being made to care for 300 young people. Dr. Howard Munson of Lathrup Village (Detroit, Michigan) is leading a post-meeting New England caravan to points of historic interest.

Unique in this meeting is the fact that *two* Churches are co-hosting the National Association. The first Italian Church of Hartford, Rev. Natale Riccardi, pastor, will join with the South Church. We hope to introduce the Italian Church to readers of "The Congregationalist" in the June issue.

PHONE EXTENSIONS

Please make a note of them:

Casey vanderBent	1611
Carrie Dahm	1612
Betsey Mauro	1613
Marie Steele	1614
Courtney Schultz	1615
Dan Drea	1616
Rebecca Moore	1617
Linda Miller	1618

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Fax: (414) 764-0319

The **National Association of Church Business Administration, (NACBA)** is an inter-denominational association of churches and individuals which exists to serve the Church by advancing professional excellence in individuals serving Christ through administration in local churches. If you are involved in any capacity with church administration, or if you desire to keep up to date with the many resources available, subscribe to the weekly news & information resource from the NACBA at: <http://multibriefs.com/optin.php?nacba>

Have you recently received a post-graduate degree? We'd like to know and celebrate that accomplishment. By the way, remember to add this information to your Disclosure File.

Send a copy of your certificate and/or transcript to: Marie Steele at msteele@nacc.org.



SEND ME YOUR NEWS

Submissions for the Aug/Sept edition are due by July 20, 2013.

Marie Steele, Editor

msteele@naccc.org

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

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.naccc.org



The Congregational Foundation

Want to create something of lasting value? You can be confident your legacy gift will make the difference you're seeking to create. Contact the Congregational Foundation at: (800) 262-1620 or foundation@naccc.org