

# NACCC NEWS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2013

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 3

## SHARING THE JOURNEY

In any church body, whether a local church or a communion of churches (and particularly a small one like ours), it is a moment of particular celebration when we can welcome new members into our fellowship. We give special care and attention to those moments and it is good that we do so. What we are less good at, in our Association, is recognizing and talking about the churches we have that are closing. The truth is that there are a fair number on that list. The reasons for closing are many and the situations unique, but a common denominator of these closings is the grief that is felt by the remaining members, upon whom rests both the weight of the church's history and the decision to close the doors. It is never easy. Churches that are closing face a number of decisions after coming to the shared conclusion that they cannot continue in operation. The church must determine what its legacy will be, which may include the transfer of its remaining assets to support an ongoing organization like the NACCC, another church body, or perhaps a missions group. The members are faced, perhaps for the first time in their lives, with having to choose a new church home.

The staff and leadership team of the NACCC are available to support churches facing this difficult decision. We are working right now with two churches that will officially cease operations in August of 2013. One of the things we try to help with is to take the opportunity to celebrate the years of faithful ministry of their church, even in the midst of grieving its ending. In fact if grief is one common expression of the church closing process, then celebration ought to be another. For the closing of a church does not negate those years of ministry. It provides a unique perspective on celebrating those ministries. The closing of a church does not represent a failure, it simply "is what it is" and we hope to help out any churches that are faced with that decision to make the transition as positive and affirming as possible. Please call us if your church is facing this difficult place in its life so that we can offer our support and guidance; to grieve with and to celebrate with you while helping you to ensure that your church and its legacy are remembered.

In Christ,  
Casey vanderBent,  
*Interim Executive Secretary*



### INSIDE

2014 ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE	2
MISSION & OUTREACH NEWS	3
CHURCH HAPPENINGS	4
VISITS & RECENT CALLS	5
ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES	6
HISTORY & POLITY SEMINAR	7
MINISTRY COUNCIL TASK TEAMS	8-9
DEVOTIONAL WRITERS NEEDED	10-11
MISC. NOTES	12-13
NACCC INFORMATION	14

## ***2014 ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE . . .***

Orlando 2013 is now behind us! It was a wonderful time to be together in a great location, but now it's time for us to turn our attention toward the Midwest and Omaha.

Your Annual Meeting and Conference Team are already hard at work with the Host Committee to make Omaha a very exciting Annual Meeting and Conference for everyone. As plans come together, we will keep you well informed.

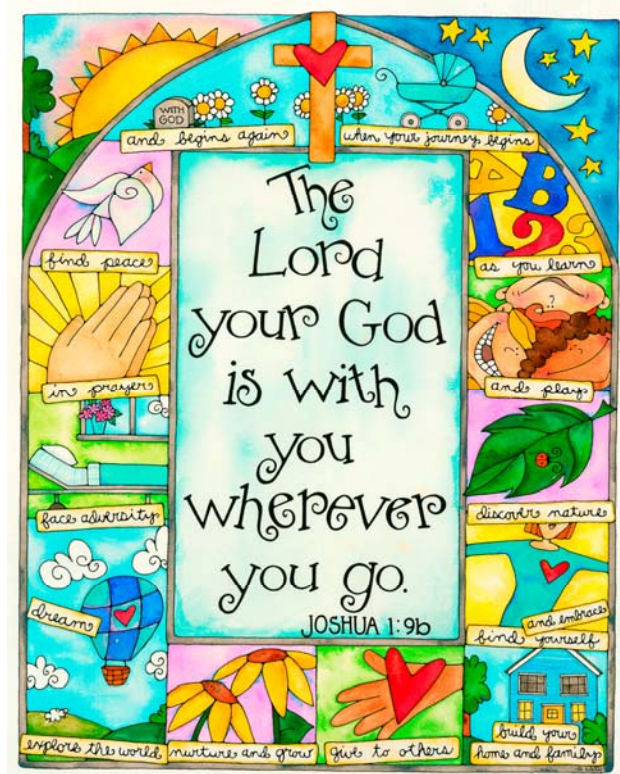
To help us prepare for next year, you will receive a survey concerning the Annual Meeting itself. Please take the time to complete the survey. It will help your Annual Meeting and Conference Team plan the 2014 Annual Meeting and Conference.

Neil Hunt  
Moderator

2014  
Annual Meeting  
&  
Conference

Omaha, Nebraska  
June 28-July 1, 2014

Hosted by the Iowa/  
Nebraska Association



## MISSION & OUTREACH NEWS

*Mission update from the 2013 Annual Meeting & Conference:*

*14 missions were represented at the Annual Meeting.*

*The Host Committee sponsored a mission project that supported Bread of Life.*

*10 Alumni and present council & members visited the Bread of Life Mission on Thursday, June 20.*

*Thirty blankets were assembled and given to the Bread of Life Mission.*

*Thanks to the Missionary Society Alumni, 11 people took advantage of spending two half days at ECHO – Educational Concerns for Hunger, Org. (one of our Recommended Missions), learning about sustainable food sources for the 10-40 corridor of the world. For Charles Sagay, Mission School of Hope, and Matthew Oladele, Christ to the Villages, this experience was especially useful.*

Lisa and Norberto Cortes from Mission Mazahua will be visiting the United States (Florida, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois) from the end of September through November. If you or your church is interested in hosting them, please contact Linda Miller at [lmiller@naccc.org](mailto:lmiller@naccc.org) or (800)-262-1620 ext. 1618.

*Every Dollar Given to Missions . . . Goes to Missions.*



## Church Happenings

Your church news isn't just for "big people." How about including a Sunday school newsletter in your news, like they do at the Preston City (CT) CC or, perhaps, one for your youth group?

Many of our churches, including FCC Clear Lake, IA, print the monthly lectionary readings, to give members a chance to read Sunday's scripture ahead of time or to encourage them to read those that may not be included in the pastor's sermon.

Berwick (IA) CC encouraged its congregation to correspond with a member who was attending seminary. You could also do that for any students living away from home while in school. (By the way, don't forget to connect your seminarian with our CFTS program!)

The Mid-America Congregational Fellowship (among others) has an annual pulpit swap. It's a great way to strengthen the bonds of fellowship and to bring a different voice to the pulpit at no cost.

It looks like many of our churches are using the "Kingdom Rock" VBS this year. If your church is not going to be putting on its own VBS, consider putting information in your newsletter about the other VBS options in your area. Perhaps you can even partner with another church!

Speaking of VBS, who says it's just for kids? FCC Albany, NY has an "Amazing Grays" VBS for seniors. Some churches offer an intergenerational option for their annual VBS. All of God's kids, of every age, should keep on learning.

FCC, St. Johns, MI recently posted a reminder about the availability of their library to members. Libraries, particularly church ones, can get forgotten, especially if they are in an out of the way place. Don't forget to remind your folks about the great books you have available for check-out, possibly by placing a few in an easy-to-reach location on Sunday mornings.

A colleague recently started his first sabbatical in 50 years of service. While there are costs associated with offering this time to clergy, we encourage every church to find a way to make this happen for their pastor(s), every 7-10 years of service. It bears great fruit for the long term vitality of the pastor and the church.

Warden Community Church (WA) does a Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange. What a great idea! If you are tired of putting together the same puzzle, try doing this at your church. It might even work for games and other things. Just be sure all of the pieces are there!

Some churches have a place where they hang old confirmation pictures and such. How about following the example of Little Washington CC in Mansfield OH, by posting an old picture in the newsletter and identifying folks or asking if members can recognize them?

Missions are at the heart of many of our churches' ministries, but sometimes we don't give people enough time to prepare. FCC, Yarmouth, MA took care of that by reminding people in July of what they should be thinking about for this coming Christmas, for Operation Christmas Child.

Plymouth Church, Minneapolis, MN knows that it is not only members who read their newsletter, even posting in their publication an invitation for people to learn more about membership. It is good for us to remember who our readership is and to direct our newsletters to our whole audience.

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*

## *Church Happenings, con't.*

### **VISITS AND SPECIAL EVENTS REMEMBERED**

June 9: Attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary of Rev. David Gray at Congregational Church of the Messiah in Los Angeles. Also visited Congregational Church of the Chimes in Sherman Oaks and Oneonta CC in South Pasadena, plus several area clergy.

July 13-14: Participated in the Centennial celebration of Remer CC in Remer, MN and attended the annual meeting of the MN Fellowship of Congregationalists.

### **LETTERS SENT AND/OR AMBASSADOR VISITS**

Faith Community in Franklin, WI – 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration.

Sebago Lake CC in Standish, Maine – installation of new pastor.

Plymouth Congregational in Lansing, Michigan – installation of new pastor.

Central Congregational Church in La Mesa, CA – installation of new pastor.

FCC, Millinocket, ME – ordination of pastor.

Lake Country CC in Hartland, WI – ordination of member to chaplaincy.

United Church of Beloit, WI – celebration of ministry as pastor leaves.

### **RECENT CALLS**

*STUART CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, STUART, FL*  
REV. TIMOTHY ROBERTS AS SENIOR MINISTER

### **RECENT ORDINATIONS**

**REV. TERRY GIVEN**  
JULY 27, 2013  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, MILLINOCKET, ME

### **NEW MEMBER CHURCH**

PORTERVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
PORTERVILLE, CA

**AUGUST**

Francois Akoa-Mongo Aug. 1, 1967  
 Rocjard Gpssett Aug. 1, 1986  
 Martha Lane Aug. 1, 1994  
 Carol Dozier Aug. 1, 2002  
 Raymond Luber Aug. 2, 1964  
 Mark Taylor Aug. 2, 1992  
 Paul Koeshall Aug. 4, 1960  
 Jeffrey Siegel Aug. 7, 2004  
 Jack Frohn Aug. 8, 1964  
 William Fillebrown Aug. 9, 1979  
 Steven King Aug. 9, 1990  
 David Murray Aug. 10, 1987  
 Thomas Thorne Aug. 10, 1991  
 Scott Snider Aug. 11, 1996  
 Shawn Stapleton Aug. 11, 2001  
 Douglas Brandt Aug. 13, 1989  
 Arlin Lrson Aug. 14, 1977  
 Glenn Lawson Aug. 14, 1994  
 Ramona Andrews Aug. 15, 2004  
 Sam Southard Aug. 16, 1950  
 George Mays Aug. 16, 1981  
 Charles Packer Aug. 18, 2001  
 Michael Nash Aug. 18, 2004  
 Bruce Pratt Aug. 19, 2000  
 Thomas Warner Aug. 20, 1978  
 Robert Brink Aug. 21, 2005  
 David Wigley Aug. 22, 1954  
 John Wallace Aug. 22, 2004  
 Patrick Hunt Aug. 24, 1969  
 Tom Douglas Aug. 27, 1998  
 Roy Paterik Aug. 28, 1974  
 Judith Roska Aug. 28, 1989  
 Lynnette Barnes Aug. 29, 1997

**SEPTEMBER**

Bert McCormick Sept. 1, 1961  
 Phillip Ewert Sept. 1, 1964  
 Alice Kelloway Sept. 2, 1949  
 Douglas LeCroy Sept. 3, 1971  
 Michael Halcomb Sept. 7, 1971

Anthony Jones Sept. 7, 1997  
 J. Eric Hickman Sept. 7, 2008  
 David Henry Sept. 11, 1977  
 John Hendrickson Sept. 11, 1988  
 Larry Foster Sept. 12, 2001  
 David Fleming Sept. 14, 1975  
 Randall Kohls Sept. 14, 1980  
 Wendy Sue Kissa Sept. 14, 1997  
 Thomas Miller Sept. 15, 1974  
 Edward Fackler Sept. 15, 1985  
 Victor Bogdanoff Sept. 15, 1991  
 Victor Hardy Sept. 16, 2012  
 Geraldine MacNeil Sept. 16, 2001  
 Charles Morgan Sept. 17, 1978  
 James Francisco Sept. 17, 2011  
 Julie Johnson Staples Sept. 18, 2011  
 Donald Plank Sept. 18, 1983  
 Beth Faeth Sept. 18, 1994  
 David Welcome Sept. 18, 1998  
 Charles Birnie Sept. 18, 2004  
 Samuel Schaal Sept. 20, 1998  
 Michael Chittum Sept. 21, 1980  
 JP Freeman Sept. 21, 1997  
 John Miller Sept. 21, 1997  
 John Boyd Sept. 22, 2002  
 Matt Winslow Sept. 22, 2002  
 Thomas Richard Sept. 23, 1973  
 Marchie Miyashiro Sims Sept. 23, 2001  
 Steven Larson Sept. 24, 2006  
 Lisa Dembkowski Sept. 25, 2005  
 Scott Naevestad Sept. 26, 1993  
 Chad Poland Sept. 26, 1999  
 Pamela Jensen Sept. 26, 2004  
 Steven Schafer Sept. 28, 1980  
 Bobbie Chapman Sept. 28, 1997  
 Colin Windhorst Sept. 28, 1998  
 Paul Lee Sept. 28, 2003  
 Donald Limmer Sept. 29, 1979  
 Lin McGee Sept. 29, 1996  
 David Wood Sept. 29, 2002  
 Tim Smith Sept. 30, 1990  
 Andrew McHenry Sept. 30, 2001



## ***PLAN TO ATTEND***

### ***CONGREGATIONAL HISTORY AND POLITY INTENSIVE SEMINAR***

**Dates: October 29 – 31, 2013**

**Location: Center for Congregational Leadership  
Olivet College, Olivet, MI**

*Ideal for ministers, lay people and all who wish to deepen their  
understanding of the Congregational Way.*

#### **FACULTY:**

Rev. Norm Erlendson, Senior Minister, Third Congregational Church, Middletown, CT  
Rev. Charles Packer, Senior Minister, Rockwood First Congregational Church, Rockwood, MI

Rev. Erlendson and Rev. Packer will lead participants through the history and polity of the Congregational Way with special attention to how the history and polity informs our Congregational practice today.

#### **SEMINAR COST:**

On campus attendance \$295.00 per participant for the complete program and meals  
Webinar attendance \$225 per participant

#### **SEMINAR SCHEDULE:**

Tuesday: 4 pm – 9 pm  
Wednesday: 8:30 am – 8:30 pm  
Thursday: 8:30 am – noon

**OVERNIGHT LODGING:** The Comfort Inn, (204 Winston Drive, Marshall, MI 49068) offers reduced room rates to Olivet College related guests. (Phone: 269-789-7890, just off I-69 Exit 36). Simply tell them you are attending a seminar at the college and ask for the college rate. They will need your credit card number. Free wireless internet, indoor pool, exercise room & continental breakfast are provided.

#### **For more information**

Registration form is available at: [www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org](http://www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org)

Rev. Dr. Betsey Mauro, Dean  
[bmauro@naccc.org](mailto:bmauro@naccc.org)  
(800)-262-1620 x1613

or

Marie Steele, Asst. to the Dean  
[msteele@naccc.org](mailto:msteele@naccc.org)  
(800)-262-1620 x1614

## ***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](mailto: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](mailto: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 (VMC)**

Contact: Barbara Erlendson - [barbaraerlendson@gmail.com](mailto: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.



## Devotional Entry Format

**TITLE:**

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

**TOPIC SENTENCE:** What is the essence of your entry? What is the Big Idea? What words should the reader carry in mind and heart throughout the day? Does your Big Idea relate to the theme of the season for which it is being written? Does your Big Idea relate to the theme for this year?

Advent 2013: *Christ the Messiah*

Lent 2014: *The Way to the Cross Leads Home*

**MESSAGE:** Devotion, meditation, illustration, quote

**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 #: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you text? \_\_\_\_\_ Best times to call: \_\_\_\_\_ Time zone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Total word count for ALL components is 320 words, maximum. The Chicago Manual of Style will be used by the copyeditor who reserves the right to correct grammar and spelling.*

*Send your entry to:*

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

599 New Boston Road  
Bedford, NH 03110  
Phone and fax: 603-472-2799

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

13 Johnson Dr  
Plaistow, NH 03865.  
Phone: 603.382.6658

***If you do not receive a reply via e-mail, call to ensure that your entry was received.***

We would like to thank Barry Szymanski for the gift of his photographic journal "*A Congregationalist's Journey, Photographs of Sacred and Secular England.*" It is a beautiful addition to the Founders Library at the Center for Congregational Leadership. Barry is Associate Minister at First Congregational Church in Wauwatosa, WI. For more information:

<http://www.photosbybarryszymanski.com/book>



*A Congregationalist's Journey*

*Photographs of Sacred and Secular England*

*Contrasts of the old and new*

### **ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK?**

There's a new Facebook open group for members and friends of NACCC churches. The group, NACCC Meetinghouse, open to lay people and clergy, is a place for Congregationalists to meet on the internet to discuss what's important to us. Join the conversation. Everyone's voice is important!

### **UCC LOAN LETTERS**

If your church has received any of the latest round of letters from the UCC, asking for full or partial repayment of antiquated building loans, please contact Casey vanderBent at the NACCC office or check in with a member of the Continuation Committee for information on how to respond before taking any other action.

## 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

Office: (800) 262-1620 or (414) 764-1620  
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](mailto:msteele@nacc.org).*



**SEND ME YOUR NEWS**

Submissions for the Oct/Nov. edition are due by Sept. 20, 2013.

Marie Steele, Editor

[msteele@naccc.org](mailto:msteele@naccc.org)

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

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**WE'RE ON THE WEB!**  
**[www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org)**

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**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](mailto:foundation@naccc.org)