

NACCC NEWS

December 2014/January 2015
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Sharing the Journey

I realize that I've only been participating in NACCC leadership for about 13 years, which makes me practically an infant compared to some of our dedicated volunteers, I have to tell you that I don't know that I've ever worked with a more dedicated group of people. I want to take this opportunity to thank the local churches that have shared these talented people with us. I thank their families for giving them the time and space to go about their important work. Most of all, I thank each and every member of our Leadership Team for their faithful service. We would not be weathering our current transitions and continuing to thrive without you!

Don't know who is on our Leadership Team? Go to <http://www.naccc.org/Yearbook/Default.aspx> to access our Yearbook and then click on "Current Leadership Team" and you'll see a list. If there is somebody in your church who is currently serving, please remember to thank them and mention their service to the rest of the congregation. Some of our leaders, especially our officers, are putting in more time than they ever have before. Your prayers, best wishes, and gratitude will lift them up and energize them for the work ahead.

Lastly, it's that season when we are seeking nominees for the next Leadership Team of the Association that will be voted in next June. If you have a gift you'd like to share or know somebody in your home church or area association that would be a good candidate, please be sure to fill out a nomination form, which you'll also find linked from the home page of our website.

Blessings to you!

*Casey vanderBent,
Interim Executive Secretary*

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“Let the rivers clap their hands; let the mountains sing together for joy!” (Psalm 98:8)

There is no better place where this conference theme would be more appropriate than Salt Lake City 2015! Be sure to mark your calendars for June 20-23 to attend what the Host Committee hopes to be a memorable and uplifting event in the heart of the Intermountain West. The Committee is working in conjunction with the Annual Meeting and Conference Committee to bring you efficient business meetings and quality workshops as well as opportunities for entertainment, spiritual growth and fellowship.

While still in the early planning stages, there are a few details that have already been established. We are pleased to announce that both our Bible Lecturer and our



*Rev. Cynthia
Bacon Hammer*

Congregational Lecturer have been confirmed. Dr. Amy Erickson of the Illiff School of Theology in Denver will be our Bible Lecturer. Dr. Erickson is an assistant professor of Hebrew Bible and the director of the Masters of Theological Studies (MTS) program. Our Congregational lecturer is the Reverend Cynthia Bacon Hammer. Reverend Hammer has been serving Heritage Congregational Church in Madison, Wisconsin as pastor and teacher since October 2002.



Dr. Amy Erickson

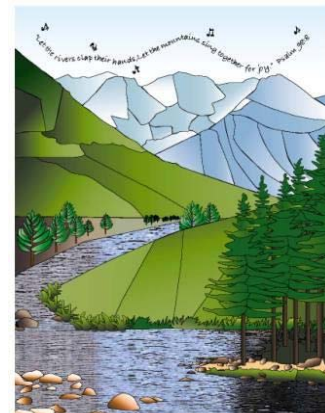
Our mission project has also been established. The Host Committee has partnered with the [Fourth Street Clinic](#) to offer a mission opportunity for meeting attendees. As part of the workshop offerings, we will be filling hygiene kits to give to homeless folks who seek medical attention at the clinic located in downtown Salt Lake City. We hope you can assist us in this effort.

While the committees continue to work on the details of the meeting and conference, you may consider extending your time in Utah to enjoy all it has to offer. Are you interested in discovering your family's roots? Are you trying to extend your family tree one more generation? The Family History Library is the largest genealogical library in the world and is free and open to the public six days a week. The library employs a staff of knowledgeable librarians as well as numerous volunteers to assist in your research.

If you'd rather experience the outdoors, you will not be disappointed. Outdoor recreation opportunities abound in the Greater Salt Lake area. Little Cottonwood, Big Cottonwood and Mill Creek Canyons all offer extensive trail systems for hiking enthusiasts as well as mountain bikers and rock climbers. If you're not this adventurous and simply wish to take in the grandeur and variety of the stunning Utah landscape, you may consider expanding your reach to visit the five national parks: Arches, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Zion, and Canyonlands.

We hope to see you at the conference!

Reverend Michel Chittum and Carol Price
Salt Lake City Host Committee Co-chairs



The First Thanksgiving . . .

Plymouth Plantation has returned the original oil painting “The First Thanksgiving 1621” to the NACCC. This painting has been in the permanent collection at Plymouth Plantation and was featured in their exhibit “The Myths of Thanksgiving.” The painting is now on display at the Center for Congregational Leadership.

In 1994 Karen Rinaldo was commissioned by The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches to paint the first historically accurate painting of The First Thanksgiving. It would be their "Gift To The Nation" This project of research and painting took over 6 months to complete.

In 1996 -1997 the painting was exhibited in a major exhibition entitled “The Art of Thanksgiving” at Pilgrim Hall Museum , Plymouth, Massachusetts. The painting has been featured in Scholastic Book Teaching American History with Art Masterpieces and on the Travel Channel as well as other school settings.



THE FIRST THANKSGIVING, 1621

Karen Rinaldo KAREN

JIM HOPKINS HONORED

On November 25, five hundred Rhode Islanders gathered at the National Philanthropy Day Breakfast & Awards Ceremony to honor outstanding businesses, organizations and individuals for their efforts in philanthropy.

Jim Hopkins of East Greenwich received the "Outstanding Philanthropic Citizen Award" for helping to raise millions of dollars in construction and improvement projects as a Board Member at Kent Hospital. Hopkins was also involved in leadership roles with URI Foundation, Butler Hospital Foundation, United Way of Southeastern New England, and Riverpoint Congregational Church. Jim has served for many years in a variety of leadership positions with the NACCC. He currently serves on the Congregational Foundation Board of Governors.

The MINISTERIAL ASSISTANCE and ENRICHMENT FUND

This fund provides emergency financial assistance to ministers of the NACCC, both active and retired. A common use for this fund (though certainly not limited to this need) is to help a minister or minister's family member with emergency medical costs. This grant helps a minister to rise above the financial emergency and continue with ministry.

The Enrichment portion of this fund supports attendance at such programs as Minister's Convocation and retreats, as well as providing access to publications or funding for ministry training.

Assistance is obtained by contacting an NACCC Executive. Grants are kept confidential and do not have to be repaid. The Fund is administered by the Vitality Ministry Council.

NEW ADDITION TO THE FOUNDER'S LIBRARY

Samuel and Lucy Shinozaki of Meadowbrook Congregational Church, Novi, MI have donated his reference books on hymnals and their history to the Center for Congregational Leadership. These excellent reference volumes will be cataloged and added to the Founder's Library in the coming months. This will be an excellent compliment to the extensive hymnal collection in the Arvel M. & Kathleen Steece Library.



History & Polity—Level 1

Congratulations to Charmaine LaFountain and Gregg Trask, both from First Congregational Church, Crown Point, NY and Theron (Tom) Conrey of Berwick Cong'l Church, Berwick, Iowa, on the successful completion of the History & Polity - Level I course.

History & Polity—Level II

Congratulations to Rev. Robin Norcross, North Deering Congregational Church, Portland, ME on the successful completion of the History & Polity - Level II course.

Colebrook Congregational, Colebrook, CT has called Pastor Goeffrey Smith to serve as interim pastor.

Church of Christ Cong'l, Stony Creek, CT Pastor James Hill was installed in a very moving service on October 26th.

The Fellowship of New England Congregational Christian Churches held their Fall Gathering at Becket Federated to coincide with their 250th anniversary. They unanimously voted to welcome Oakham Cong'l Church into the FNECC.

United Church of Beloit held an installation service for its new senior minister, Rev. Steven Erkel, on Nov. 2. The worship service, with special music, welcomes Rev. Erkel and his wife, Joanne, to Beloit.

Florence Cong'l Church, Florence, MA – They are having discussions about the presence of their church in the community. A new sign is in the works which will be installed at the ramp. Some members have renewed efforts to reach out to the community to share news about the church. They are determined to be intentional about engaging in Florence community life.

FCC, Fall River, MA - They recently donated 30 Courage Capes to "We Love Children," a Fall River nonprofit for children undergoing major medical issues. Each cape was blessed and personalized with a heart decorated by one of their FCC children that was then sewn into the interior of the cape.

FCC, Mansfield, OH – Held a pasta lunch and a breakfast fundraiser to support the youth and their NAPF Mission trip to Seattle in June 2015.

FCC, Spencer, IA – Held a 12 Hour Prayer Vigil of strength and faithfulness by asking people to sign up for ½ hour slots. They are inviting members to share their nativity sets as part of an Advent Creche display.

FCC, Millinocket, ME – Will be holding a "Blue Christmas" service of quiet reflection to honor and remember their loved ones who are no longer here.

Plymouth Cong'l Church, Lansing, MI – They are expanding the use of lay leaders in their worship services. A lay assistant will lead the corporate prayers, a lay reader will read the lessons for the day and the lay ministers will assist at the Lord's Table.

FCC, Portland, MI – The Bell Will Ring Once Again. September 2013, the 108 year old bell and steeple were removed as it was in danger of collapsing. Thus began a journey for Rev. Danielson and her congregation to replace the steeple and rehang the bell. With no idea on how they were going to pay for it (approx. \$144,000), 13 months later the steeple and bell were lifted into place. They had a vision that the bell would ring for many generations. Now that vision has been accomplished. A dedication ceremony was held November 9th.

Olivet Cong'l Church, Olivet, MI – Recently sent their pastor, Rev. Henry "Jack" Brown on a trip to the Holy Land as a well-deserved gift for one who gives so much of himself to the congregation and community. The tour was led by Rev. Betsey Mauro and Rev. Karl Schimpf.



VISITS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Rev. Casey vanderBent:

- ◇ Met and/or consulted with search committees from 4 churches.
- ◇ Participated in the Vicinage Council and Installation Service at the First Congregational Church of Mukwonago, WI as they welcomed Rev. Kevin Clark as senior pastor.
- ◇ Participated in the Vicinage Council and Ordination/ Installation Service at Plymouth Church in Kenosha, WI as they welcomed Rev. Nick Campbell as their senior pastor.
- ◇ Participated in the 250th anniversary of Becket Federated Church in Becket, MA as well as attending the Fall Meeting of the FNCCC.
- ◇ Attended the 150th anniversary celebration for Plymouth Church of Lansing, MI.
- ◇ Sent NACCC greetings and congratulations for the installation of Rev. Catherine Anglea at Second Congregational Church in Biddeford, ME.
- ◇ Sent NACCC greetings and congratulations for the installation of Rev. James Hill at Church of Christ Congregational in Stony Creek, CT.
- ◇ Sent NACCC greetings and congratulations for the installation of Rev. Steve Erkel at United Church of Beloit, WI.

Rev. Betsey Mauro:

- ◇ Gave the sermon for the 100th Anniversary celebration of FCC, Toulon, IL and the celebration of Rev. Wayne McLeod's retirement.
- ◇ Brought greetings to Plymouth Congregational, Lansing, MI at their 150th Anniversary celebration.
- ◇ Attended the 200th Anniversary celebration of Grace Church, Columbiana, OH.
- ◇ Along with Rev. Karl Schimpf, led a tour group through Israel.
- ◇ Attended the 173rd Michigan Conference at FCC, Ann Arbor, MI.
- ◇ Attended an Interim Ministry Training Seminar at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.
- ◇ Attended the Board of Governors meeting at the Oak Creek office.
- ◇ Attended the National Philanthropy ceremony to honor Jim Hopkins.
- ◇ Had lunch with Rev. Bill Fillebrown, Chiltonville Cong'l Church, Plymouth, MA.

Frankie Medlin, Amelia Cong'l Christian Church:

- ◇ Brought greetings on behalf of the NACCC to the 100th anniversary celebration at the Bear Creek Congregational Church in Robbins, NC.

Rev. Cindy Petrie, Campton Congregational Church:

- ◇ Brought greetings on behalf of the NACCC to the 225th anniversary celebration at the First Congregational Church of Pittsfield, NH.

Rev. Neil Hunt :

- ◇ Brought NACCC greetings and congratulations for the installation of Rev. Dr. Mark Williams at United Church in Marco Island, FL.

Jim DeLine, Moderator:

- ◇ Visited, extended greetings and gave an update on the NACCC re-structuring to the First Cong'l Church of Hudson, MI.
- ◇ Visited and gave the sermon at the First Cong'l Church of Saugatuck MI. They are currently searching for a settled pastor and, as the service was 100% conducted by lay people, the sermon title was "It's Just Us."
- ◇ Attended a dedication at the First Cong'l Church of Portland, MI of their refurbished bell and steeple.



Dear NACCC Churches,

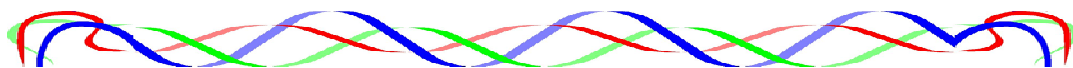
The Mission and Outreach Ministry Council had their fall budget retreat at Morgan Scott Project, in eastern Tennessee. We were able to see the mission in action as they gave food and clothes away. The Council also helped in building a porch.

Linda Miller, Missions Administrator

lmiller@nacc.org

(800) 262.1620 ext. 1618

“A church that is alive needs the generous, sacrificial support of those who love it. Only a dead church demands no sacrifice. *Anonymous*” printed in a recent issue of *The Spire*, newsletter of FCC, Mansfield, OH



UPCOMING EVENTS

46th Annual Minister's Convocation

April 20—23, 2015

This date is **ONE WEEK** later than usual.

Weber Center, Adrian, Michigan

61st Annual Meeting & Conference

June 20—June 23, 2015

Salt Lake City, Utah

RECENT CALLS

Mayfair-Plymouth Church, Toledo, Ohio
Rev. Joe French as lead pastor

LaMoille Congregational Community Church, Marshalltown, Iowa
Rev. Terry Collins as senior minister

People's Congregational Church, Bayport, Minnesota
Rev. Linda Tossey as senior minister

First Congregational Church, Detroit, Michigan
Rev. Cynthia Rice as senior minister

Church of Christ Congregational, Stony Creek, Connecticut
Rev. James Hill as senior minister

Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, New York
Rev. Tom Lenhart as senior interim minister

Colebrook Congregational Church, Colebrook Connecticut
Rev. Geoffrey Smith as interim minister

Help Me Thanksgiving Day Prayer

O God, when I have food,
help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work,
help me to remember the jobless;
When I have a home,
help me to remember those who have no home at all;
When I am without pain,
help me to remember those who suffer,
And remembering,
help me to destroy my complacency;
bestir my compassion,
and be concerned enough to help;
By word and deed,
those who cry out for what we take for granted.
Amen. -*Samuel F. Pugh*

From the newsletter of West Gorham Union Church
(not just for Thanksgiving, but for every day of the year)



DECEMBER

Harvey Cutting	Dec. 2, 1955
Ron Lynn	Dec. 2, 2000
Bradley Heiple	Dec. 2, 1984
Fred Neal	Dec. 5, 1965
James Eaton	Dec. 7, 1975
Daniel Vellinga	Dec. 7, 1986
Dinah Haag	Dec. 7, 1997
Warren Griffin	Dec. 7, 2008
Gregory Ellcey	Dec. 9, 1962
Elizabeth Bingham	Dec. 10, 1979
Gard Rowe	Dec. 13, 1945
Ried Martin	Dec. 13, 1998
Harold Brown	Dec. 15, 1958
Reno Wright	Dec. 18, 2011
Joseph Clarke	Dec. 27, 1984
Robert Weiter	Dec. 27, 2001
Fred Towne	Dec. 29, 1940

JANUARY

Raymond Bennett	Jan. 1, 1952
Charles Goldsmith	Jan. 1, 1952
Ruth Bartos	Jan. 1, 1957
Marjorie Doriani	Jan. 1, 1957
Terry Smith	Jan. 1, 1958
Thomas Gossett	Jan. 1, 1959
Robert Henderson	Jan. 1, 1959
Dellis Hudson	Jan. 1, 1959
Robert Trump	Jan. 1, 1959
Clifford Schutjer	Jan. 1, 1962
Phyllis Patten	Jan. 1, 1964
Franklin Shannon	Jan. 1, 1965
James Martin	Jan. 1, 1966
Donald Sweitzer	Jan. 1, 1966
Barry Johnson	Jan. 1, 1968
Michael Halsey	Jan. 1, 1969
James Henry	Jan. 1, 1970
Robert Clark	Jan. 1, 1971
Richard Dunn	Jan. 1, 1972
Richard Hammond	Jan. 1, 1973



David Hawk	Jan. 1, 1975
Valyn Sutter	Jan. 1, 1977
Deborah Kaiser-Cross	Jan. 1, 1980
James McKenzie	Jan. 1, 1981
David Kaiser-Cross	Jan. 1, 1983
Chris Bryan	Jan. 1, 1985
Marty Miller Maddox	Jan. 1, 1990
Phillip Spottswood	Jan. 1, 1991
Ronald Folkersma	Jan. 1, 1992
John Metcalf	Jan. 1, 1994
John Moore	Jan. 1, 1998
Bruce Williams	Jan. 1, 1998
Robert Warner	Jan. 1, 2001
Henry "Jack" Brown	Jan. 4, 1974
Daniel Schowalter	Jan. 6, 1985
Lynda Johnson	Jan. 6, 2002
Al Stewart	Jan. 7, 1989
Jane Milaschewski	Jan. 8, 2011
Patricia Haaheim	Jan. 11, 1981
Sarah Gladstone	Jan. 11, 2014
William Gentry II	Jan. 14, 1996
Robert Harrell	Jan. 15, 1977
Sharon Wozencraft	Jan. 15, 1984
Matthew Webster	Jan. 16, 2010
Lara Morris Archibald	Jan. 17, 2010
John Carson	Jan. 18, 1982
A.J. Harrell	Jan. 19, 2003
Pamela Haug	Jan. 19, 2003
Brian McGookey	Jan. 19, 2003
George Woodward	Jan. 20, 1966
Cynthia Bacon Hammer	Jan. 20, 2001
Russell Petrie	Jan. 22, 1962
Susan LeFeber	Jan. 22, 2005
Maryann Palmetier	Jan. 22, 2005
Merlyn Bilhorn	Jan. 23, 1953
Robin Honaker	Jan. 24, 1993
Gary Howell	Jan. 24, 2003
Richard Campbell	Jan. 27, 1963
Mitchell Taylor	Jan. 28, 2006
Richard Nease	Jan. 29, 2000
Lucas Miller	Jan. 30, 2011



2015 Lent Devotional Order Form

**Order Early -
Current requests
indicate we will
sell out early.**



Please send _____ 2015 Lent Devotionals
Price: \$3.00 per copy – includes shipping & handling charges

(Please Print Clearly) Send devotionals to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Please send completed form to:

**NACCC
PO Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154-0288**

or

Email your request to: lmiller@naccc.org
Telephone: (800) 262-1620 ext. 1618
Fax: (414) 764-0319

2015
NACCC
Planning Calendar
Order Form

The National Association
of
Congregational Christian Churches

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800-262-1620 ~ www.naccc.org ~ naccc@naccc.org

God be in my head,
And in my understanding;
God be in my eyes,
And in my looking;
God be in my mouth,
And in my speaking;
God be in my heart,
And in my thinking;
God be at my end,
And at my departing.

Old Sarum primer. 13th century



Weekly—Monthly
2015 Church Planning Calendar
January to December



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

Please send _____ 2015 Calendars
Price: \$10.00 per copy – includes shipping charges

(Please Print Clearly) Send Calendars to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Please send completed form to:

NACCC
PO Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154-0288

or

Email your request to: lmiller@naccc.org
Telephone: (800) 262-1620 ext. 1618
Fax: (414) 764-0319



The Vitality Ministry Council of the NACCC

Calling for Submissions for the J. J. Russell Sermon Award

The J.J. Russell Sermon Award recognizes pastoral excellence in preaching related to Congregationalism. Submitted sermons must focus on some aspect of classical Congregationalism and its relevance for today.

Applicants must be an ordained pastor who is serving an NACCC active member church of under 400 congregants.

Submissions must include:

- ◆ A copy of the Sunday Worship Bulletin at which the sermon was preached
- ◆ An audio of the sermon (DVD, podcast, YouTube, etc.)
- ◆ A manuscript or true transcript of the sermon.

The Award Winner will receive:

- ◆ \$350
- ◆ Full Registration to the Annual Meeting and Conference
- ◆ ½ the Room Rate at the Annual Meeting and Conference

The Sermon must have been preached after the last Annual Meeting and Conference but before April 30th. The NACCC reserves the right to publish the award-winning Sermon.

Deadline for Submissions April 30, 2015

Send submissions to:

Rev. Phil Jackson
First Congregational Church
329 Main Street, Route 6A
Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts 02675

320 South Main Street, Olivet College, Olivet, MI 49076
269-749-7228 | FAX 269-749-7290
EMAIL naccc@naccc.org | www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org

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



Excellence in Ministry Awards

Help us celebrate excellence in ministry. The NACCC wishes to recognize leaders and/or innovators who have made significant contributions to Congregationalism. The Nominees should exemplify personal commitment to the principles of Congregationalism of faith, freedom and fellowship.

Nominations may be made by churches or individuals. Supporting documentation may also be submitted to assist the VMC in their selection process. This may include letters of support and/or articles about the nominee.

These yearly awards will be given at the discretion of the Vitality Ministry Council (VMC). Submitted materials will be kept confidential and become the property of the NACCC.

DEADLINE FOR NOMINEE CONSIDERATION IS APRIL 30.

Marian Bradshaw Award	Harry R. Butman Award	Jennette Butman Award
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ordained minister ◆ Personally committed to Congregationalism ◆ Preference given, but not limited, to a minister of the State of Maine <p>Award: \$500. Award to be used for continuing education other than a professional degree program.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Ordained minister who has served at least ten years in an NACCC church ◆ Personally committed to the principles of Congregationalism <p>Award: \$500. This award is intended to provide ministerial assistance to lift and encourage a minister.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The spouse of a Congregational minister who has served an NACCC church for at least 10 years and has assisted their spouse in ministry. <p>Award: \$500. Awarded on the basis of need, merit or outstanding achievement</p>

Nomination Form is available on our websites.

www.naccc.org and www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org

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

SEND ME YOUR NEWS

Submissions for the February/March edition are due by January 20, 2015.

Marie Steele, Editor

msteele@nacc.org

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF
CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN
CHURCHES**

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Do you 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@nacc.org