

NACCC NEWS

APRIL/MAY 2011

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1



FROM MY HEART TO YOURS

Dear Dewey,

OK. I get it. I still believe we need to teach some important historical principles and practices of Congregationalism, but I got your point of five years ago, when you said, "Thomas, Congregationalism cannot be taught. You must act it out. Our responsibility as ministers is to help people act it out."

As I write this, I have just come from worship at one of our NACCC churches in the area. The minister and I had lunch together to catch up on his ministry and the church's life. Talking about the challenges of the church he is serving, I heard myself say, "It is wrong for Congregational Christians to say they BELIEVE in Congregationalism. We PRACTICE Congregationalism, we believe in God, incarnated in Jesus Christ." And WHAM! It hit me. "This is what Dewey was saying."

Now you are probably saying, "What took you so long?"

Well, perhaps because I'm not sure many people know the Congregational Way of life, so they do not know what it is they are supposed to be practicing. Perhaps because too many of our colleagues have decided that this WAY of ours won't work in the 21st Century, and so they abandon the practice of it. Perhaps because I see too many churches depending on new gadgets or gimmicks, and not enough on changed hearts and minds. Perhaps because more than a few blame their mistaken idea of Congregationalism on preventing the church they serve from moving forward.

Whatever the case, I get it. You are correct. We need to constantly encourage Christians to act Congregationally.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Dr. Thomas Richard
Executive Secretary

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On March 19th, the Center for Congregational Leadership hosted “Web Savvy Ministry,” a seminar that helped participants increase their knowledge about website effectiveness, uses of social media, communication through technology and ethical parameters of a cyber presence. In a first for the Center, the seminar was also broadcast over the web as a webinar.



Sari Mauro helps Charles Packer set up a Facebook account.

15 people attended the face to face gathering at Olivet College in Olivet, Michigan while another ten from around the country logged on to hear Rev. Rob Brink’s insights and wisdom about good uses of technology for ministry. Sari Mauro hosted a clinic to help participants set up facebook accounts while Rob Brink hosted a similar clinic to help people create websites. The seminar closed with a discussion of ethics led by Rev. Betsey Mauro. Slides from the ethics discussion and webinar video can be found on the Center’s website:



Rev. Rob Brink leads a session.

www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org under the Seminar tab, sub tab Tech Savvy.

For more information about the Center and educational opportunities, contact Dr. Mauro at bmauro@naccc.org or 1-800-262-1620 x 12. Or visit our new website at www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org.

Blessings,

Betsey

CONGRATULATIONS!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND CHURCHES UPON ORDINATION:



REV. JOSEPH FRENCH, FEBRUARY 19, 2011
MAYFAIR PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, TOLEDO, OH

REV. TONY RAMBO, MARCH 20, 2011
PEOPLE’S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, BAYPORT, MN

REV. PHILIP LEE CAMP, APRIL 10, 2011
PINE FOREST CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH, VALLEY, AL

2011 ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA—JUNE 18-21

Our planning for the Annual Meeting is well underway. The Host Committee, Carrie Dahm, and I met in Scottsdale at the Double Tree Paradise Valley Resort and went over the site. It is really a great meeting place. It rained often while we were there and was cold (at least for Arizona). I am assured that it will be very warm in June.

This year our coming together has the theme of "making straight...a highway for our God." As we enter a new era with electronics and communication methods, it is important that the NACCC changes many of the ways we have done things in the past so that the association can better serve its churches and the people. In many ways we are becoming a more effective body because of progress. This will not change our mission only make us better able to accomplish its goals. This will certainly be part of the discussion in June.

Come, be a part of the future of the NACCC. Involve yourself and your church community in all of this. Being part of the plan and design of how we do things for God is too important to be passive in this work. Come! We will work, plan and fellowship to the glory of God.

*Joe Clarke, Moderator
Warden Community Church
Warden, Washington*



Attention Leadership Team Looking Forward to Scottsdale, Arizona

It is not too early to be thinking about your committee, division or commission display for the Resource Room. The information age in which we live demands up-to-date, eye-catching, and professional looking displays. Start now by putting a person on your team in charge of upgrading your display which is housed at the NACCC office. The displays will be transported on a truck to the Double Tree Paradise Valley Resort. Contact your NACCC support staff if you need help and/or information.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Branching Out through the National Offering

Before we celebrate the completion of the *Branching Out* campaign at the NACCC's Annual Meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, every NACCC church has an opportunity to participate in this historic campaign through the National Offering. To date, the National Offering has raised more than \$58,000, thanks to 46 participating churches in 15 states.

If your church is one of those participants, thank you and please consider taking the offering again this spring. If your church has not yet participated, please join with us in fellowship. Your support of the *Branching Out* campaign will positively impact the future of the NACCC for years to come!

There is still time before June to choose a date. Conducting a successful offering requires some advance preparation. To get started, please contact us 6-8 weeks prior to your offering. We will send you everything you need for your church's participation.

CAMPAIGN CORNER



BRANCHING OUT

Providence Fund Grant Awards

The Providence Fund was established by the host committee of the 2004 Annual Meeting to help NACCC member churches with financial constraints send delegates to the Annual Meeting. It awards grants of up to \$500 to defray costs related to registration fees and lodging.

The Congregational Foundation's Board of Governors is pleased to announce that grants have been awarded to the following churches to send delegates to the upcoming meeting in Scottsdale:

Onondaga Community Church

Onondaga, Michigan
Grant Award – \$500

Pilgrim Congregational Church

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Grant Award – \$300

Congratulations to these NACCC churches! We look forward to meeting your delegates in Scottsdale.

If you would like more information about the Providence Fund or the *Branching Out* National Offering, please call me at 1-800-262-1620 x25 or email ddavid@nacc.org.

Easter Blessings and Happy Spring!

Diana David
Director of Development (Part-Time)



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 ddavid@nacc.org for more information.

WE'RE STEPPING AHEAD

I am pleased to announce that the NACCC has achieved our first giving level goal of exceeding last year's church giving. Through March 31st, \$298,600 has been received which exceeds last year's giving by \$6,000. I look at giving levels as reaching up to four milestones in a given year. Those milestones are:

- Exceed the prior year's giving level. **GOAL ACCOMPLISHED!**
- Achieve giving levels of at least \$300,000. Giving at that level means we will be at our historical giving mean.
- Achieve giving levels of \$325,000. This is the budgeted number. A remote possibility this year but hopefully realistic next fiscal year with the increase in the Fair Share amount and an improving economy.
- Achieve giving levels of \$500,000. This is the level needed for the Shared Ministries Fund to break even. Achieving that is for another time but we should not lose sight of the ultimate goal.

Once again, I want to thank and make mention of the many people that have invested sweat equity to help us contact our churches reminding them that supporting the Shared Ministries Fund is the most significant financial gesture they can make to ensure the services of the NACCC will continue to be provided. Your efforts truly make a difference.

Thanks again,
Dan Drea, CFO

We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent, and God is shining through it all the time.

Thomas Merton, 20th century

NEWS FROM THE FIELD**Technology Seminar**

"I'm Ed Backell, a pastor who participated in the Web Savvy seminar this last Saturday. I really enjoyed the seminar, and there was a lot of helpful information which I'm sure will benefit my congregation."

Since this was the first on-line seminar hosted by the Center for Congregational Leadership, it was particularly helpful that Ed sent a few suggestions for improvement. Thank you Ed! The seminar included 15 people face-to-face and ten on-line from as far away as Washington state and Massachusetts.

Polity & History Seminar

The History and Polity Seminar to be held in Boston this summer has 21 registered including faculty.

Healthy Church Seminar

Over 60 participants attended the Healthy Church Seminar held in Novi April 2nd. This was sponsored by the Congregational Church Development Division.

PIEDMONT COLLEGE CHOOSES NEW PRESIDENT

DEMOREST, Ga. - Dr. Danny P. Hollingsworth of Morristown, TN, has been named the 12th president of Piedmont College. Hollingsworth will take over the reins of the college from Dr. W. Ray Cleere, who announced last year that he would retire in May 2011 after 16 years as president.

Hollingsworth, who currently serves as executive vice president and chief financial officer of Carson-Newman College, will officially assume the role of president in June, following his approval by the Piedmont Board of Trustees on March 5.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to become a part of such a fine educational institution as Piedmont College," Hollingsworth said. "I hope to build upon the college's many successes to enhance its national reputation and to better serve the citizens of northern Georgia with higher educational opportunities to improve their lives."

Executive Secretary, Dr Tom Richard is on the Board of Trustees and attended the final interview process.

By Faith
NAPF & HOPE 2011

From the cold of Alaska to the heat of Arizona.... Bring your sunglasses, sandals, and thirst for Jesus Christ and join us at Arizona State University in Phoenix/Tempe

June 25-30, 2011 Arrive Saturday - Depart Thursday

\$600

NO registrations will be accepted after May 15, 2011. Additional information and new scholarship information is available on the NACCC website at naccc.org

What Kind of Pastor Does Your Church Need?

42nd Annual Minister's Convocation

May 2-5, 2011

**Center for the Development in Ministry-University of St. Mary of the Lake
1000 E. Maple Avenue - Mundelein, IL 60060
847.566.8290**

Convocation is your time after Lent and Easter to kick back and take a breather. It is a time to renew acquaintances and regenerate your spiritual engine.

This year, Rev. Eric Britcher will lead us in a Bible study which answer's the question, "What kind of pastor does your church need?"

Eric is the Interim Senior Pastor at First Congregational Church, Mansfield, OH. He brings a rich portfolio of experience to share.

In the afternoon on Tuesday and Wednesday, we will unwind with Rev. Steve Schafer's Fantastic Game. If you like Jeopardy, you will enjoy the challenge of Steve's game. Steve is the pastor of the Mount Hope Congregational Church in Livonia, MI.

Also on Wednesday, Rev. Matt Olson, Pastor of First Congregational Church, St. Johns, MI will speak on "Conflict as a Positive Thing".



Convocation Tentative Program

Monday, May 2nd

3:00 pm Registration
6:15 pm Dinner
7:15 pm Gathering Time
Get acquainted
News from the NA staff
8:15 pm Evening Devotions
9:00 pm Social Time

Tuesday, May 3rd

7:45 am Morning Worship
8:15 am Breakfast
9:30 am Morning Session
Rev. Eric Britcher
Break (about 10:30 am)
11:45 am Free Time
1:00 pm Lunch
1:45 pm Afternoon Session
Rev. Steve Schafer's Fantastic Game
3:00 pm Free Time
6:15 pm Dinner
8:00 pm Singing

Wednesday, May 4th

7:45 am Morning Devotions
8:15 am Breakfast
9:30 am Morning Session
Rev. Eric Britcher
Break (about 10:30 am)
11:45 am Free Time
1:00 pm Lunch
1:45 pm Afternoon Session
Rev. Matt Olson
3:00 pm Rev. Steve Schafer's
Fantastic Game
6:15 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Free Time
8:00 pm Singing
8:15 pm Evening Worship
with communion
9:00 pm Social Time

Thursday, May 5th

7:45 am Morning Devotions
8:15 am Breakfast and farewells

*Enjoy a time of respite and sharing, a time of learning and time of spiritual renewal.
If you have any questions about this upcoming opportunity, please contact:
Rev. Marilyn Danielson-Dean: portlandpastor@yahoo.com or phone 517.647.6441*

42nd Annual Minister's Convocation Registration

May 2 – 5, 2011

Center for the Development in Ministry – University of St. Mary of the Lake

1000 E. Maple Avenue, Mundelein, IL 60060

847-566-8290

Name			
Street			
City, State, Zip			
Phone:		Email:	

___ Conference, meals & lodging – By April 15: \$365 (After April 15: \$390)

___ Conference & meals – By April 15: \$240 (After April 15: \$265)

Registration fees must be paid in full with the registration form and are refundable up until April 15th. They are non-refundable after that date as per our contract with the university.

My arrival date & time: _____

My departure date & time: _____

___ I will be driving _____ I will arrive by train at _____ am / pm

___ I will arriving by plane:

Arrival at: _____ on airline: _____ Flight # _____

Depart on: _____ on airline: _____ Flight # _____

Method of payment

Check – payable to NACCC for		\$	
Visa	Mastercard	** We are unable to accept Discover or American Express cards.	
Credit card number			
Security Code		Expiration Date	
Signature			

Return Registration & Payment to:

Center for Congregational Leadership

320 S. Main Street – Burrage Library

Olivet, MI 49076

Fax: 269-749-7290

Registration deadline: April 15, 2011

RECENT EXECUTIVE AND FRATERNAL VISITS

Rev. Dr. Tom Richard visited:

- First Congregational Church, Los Angeles, CA
- First Congregational Church, Peterson, IA
- First Congregational Church, Clear Lake, IA
- People’s Congregational Church, Bayport, MN

Rev. John Carson visited:

- Travancore Church Council, India
- Congregational Churches of Myanmar
- Menaul School, Albuquerque, NM
- First Congregational Church, Wauwatosa, WI
- Peoples Congregational Church, Bayport, MN
- Duluth Congregational Church, Duluth, MN
- First Congregational Church, Tomahawk, WI
- Faith Community Church, Franklin, WI
- First Congregational Church, Rochester, WI
- Fox River Congregational Church, Pewaukee, WI
- First Congregational Church, Mukwonago, WI
- Meadowbrook Congregational Church, Novi, MI
- First Congregational Church, Clarkston, MI
- First Congregational Church, Durand, MI
- Chapel of the Dunes, Gary, IN
- Represented the NACCC at Stu Merkel’s Service of Installation at Faith Community Church, Franklin, WI
- Represented the NACCC at Nancy Rathbun’s Vicinage Council at Fox River Community Church, Peawaukee, WI

Rev. Dr. Betsey Mauro visited:

- First Congregational Church, Salt Lake City, UT
- First Congregational Church, Horton, MI
- First Congregational Church, Somerset, MI
- First Congregational Church, Wayne, MI
- First Congregational Church, Royal Oak, MI
- Second Congregational Church, Winsted, CT
- Orthodox Congregational Church, Petersham, MA

Rev. Dr. Stu Merkel:

- Represented the NACCC at Tony Rambo’s Service of Ordination in Bayport, MN



The Green Team

A Green Team has been set up under Church Services to research all aspects of recycling and being good stewards of the earth and to make recommendations to the churches. The members of the team are:

Kenneth Arnold
Plymouth Congregational Church
Wichita, KS

Sharon Jenks
First Congregational Church
Clarkston, MI

Carolyn Rinehart
First Congregational Church
Anchorage, AK

Robert Secor
Peoples Congregational Church
Bayport, MN

**THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION’S CONGREGATIONAL FOUNDATION SEEKS
 DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND MARKETING**

- The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC), through its Congregational Foundation, has formed a Search Committee to locate and hire a full-time Director of Development. We are notifying our Association’s Churches in hopes of finding a person of faith, with knowledge of our Congregational Way. Although our preference would be to hire a person in the Midwest, this is not mandatory. If you are aware of potential candidates within your congregation with proven success in development and marketing, please direct them to our website www.naccc.org where they will find the job description and contact information. Email resumes to cdahm@naccc.org ; subject line “Director of Development.”

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

APRIL

Richard Pritchard	April 1, 1944
Harvey Lord	April 1, 1967
Ron Abbott	April 1, 1990
Martha Sell	April 1, 2000
Mark Fountain	April 2, 1986
David Randlett III	April 10, 1999
Warren Angel	April 11, 1973
William Ferguson	April 11, 1999
Gretchen Schupp	April 11, 1999
Richard Bellingham	April 13, 1956
William Muller	April 14, 2002
E. Neil Hunt	April 17, 1983
Clark Trowbridge	April 18, 1979
Rebecca Andeer	April 18, 1999
Kenneth Zane Holt	April 18, 1999
Weldon Keckley	April 19, 1942
Thomas Witzel	April 19, 1969
Arthur Ritter	April 20, 1985
Mark Rustin	April 20, 1985
Ella Ray Toscano	April 20, 1996
Phil Brookes	April 20, 2002
George Burrows	April 21, 1985
R. Snyder	April 22, 1995
Jerry England	April 23, 1963
Jesse James	April 23, 2004
Harold Simonson	April 24, 1994
James Gray, Sr.	April 25, 1982
Brian Anderson	April 27, 1991
Paul Ricard	April 28, 1996
Susan Hahn	April 30, 1995

MAY

Gayle Bench	May 1, 1943
A.T. Norton	May 1, 1967
Jon Flahiff	May 1, 1977
Bruce Hunt	May 1, 2005
John Bristol	May 2, 1975
Lee Edwards	May 2, 1982
Wayne McLeod	May 2, 1999
John Titus	May 2, 2000
Bob Higle	May 2, 2010
Cecil McFarland	May 3, 1957
Jon Clifton	May 3, 1970
Lawrence Vollink	May 3, 1970
William Steelman	May 3, 2003
Wayne Cogell	May 4, 1997
Patrick Seymour	May 5, 1984
Kenneth Beres	May 5, 1988
Elsie Sabbithi	May 5, 2002



Paul Clark	May 6, 1957
Steven Berry	May 6, 1979
Mark Jensen	May 7, 1970
Lily James	May 7, 1995
Douglas Harrington	May 7, 2000
Nolan Steiner	May 9, 1965
Fredrick Smith, Jr.	May 9, 1973
William O'Donnell	May 9, 1979
Wayne Riggs	May 10, 1953
Charles Hall	May 10, 1960
Janet Ann Rutter	May 11, 2003
Larry Pike	May 13, 1963
James Balija	May 14, 1975
Edward Backell	May 15, 2010
Edwin Randall	May 16, 1980
David Sheldon	May 16, 2004
Jonathan White	May 17, 1992
Mary Biedron	May 17, 1998
Peter Brenner	May 18, 1973
Wilmot Taylor	May 18, 1996
Michael Glidden	May 18, 2000
Hector Mendez-Marquez	May 19, 1991
Loyal Bishop	May 20, 1955
Creighton Peach	May 20, 1984
John Alvord	May 20, 1990
David Smith	May 20, 1990
Joe Walton	May 21, 1964
Gisela Gerdes	May 21, 1989
J. Shelton	May 22, 1960
Steven Peay	May 22, 1982
Arthur Greeley	May 23, 1954
George Taylor	May 23, 1971
Barbara Dunlap-Wolfe	May 23, 1999
Susan Thornton	May 23, 2004
Marvin Janssen	May 24, 1957
Richard Bower	May 25, 1965
Les Wicker	May 26, 1968
Karen Sundland	May 26, 2002
Larry Sansoucie	May 27, 1979
Stanley White	May 27, 1984
Eric Amtsberg	May 27, 2001
Norman Bronson	May 28, 1962
Vincent Santis	May 28, 1973
Gary Wilson	May 28, 1973
Benton Gaskell	May 30, 1943
Rob Fredrickson	May 30, 2009
Linda Bolton	May 31, 1987
Michael Mullany	May 31, 1992
William Greaver	May 31, 1996

PROFILES IN LAY MINISTRY

The Lay Ministry Training Program supports the Congregational value of a learned laity. It provides basic training for people who desire to serve the church more fully, either as a lay minister or as a lay leader. The program assists in the spiritual development of individuals and enhances knowledge in areas of biblical knowledge, theology, worship, Congregational history and polity, mission, and others. Students work with a mentor and proceed at their own pace.



Linda Hauschild was admitted to the LMTP in 2009. Since that time, she has shown consistent growth & progress in the program. Linda has been a member of St. John's Congregational Church, Garber, Iowa for 35 years. During that time she has served as a youth group co-leader, Sunday school treasurer, and superintendent. She has organized and taught Vacation Bible School and directed the children's Christmas Eve service for several years. With a few friends, she explored Clown Ministry. She has helped with Women's Guild programs and church related fundraisers. Over the years, Linda has served several terms on the church council, also serving as President & Vice-President and she served on the pastoral search committee.

In Linda's words, *"I kept feeling this nudge to go into Lay Ministry, yet I put it off. I received information from the NACCC, but then found other short diversions and procrastinated. I went on a Christian Encounter Weekend, attended a Walk to Emmaus Retreat, and took a Lay Speaking class. All of these experiences were wonderful, yet I still felt drawn, a desire, and the gentle whisper to take the Lay Ministry Training. God put it on my heart and was calling. I finally decided to not procrastinate any longer - it was now or not at all."*

"How do I plan to use this training? God has a plan, I am just not sure of what it is, but I know that with every experience and training there is growth and new doors open. I will proceed one step at a time with an open mind. I have learned about myself, what I believe and why, and about my personal relationship with God. All training is beneficial even if it is for personal growth and development. This training will help me serve my local church even better and improve my teaching abilities."

"This training program has challenged me to teach an adult Bible study and to learn more about Congregational history. Another benefit of this training is it allows me to work at my own pace. With the studies I am growing spiritually as I pray, read and prepare the assignments. Also, meeting with my mentor, Reverend Jerry Chase, for discussion is very rewarding and beneficial. He encourages some questions which creates good discussion points to help me further understand what I believe and why."

Linda is currently employed as a para-educator with the Clayton Ridge Community School District.

Keep Linda and the other 14 lay ministry students in your prayers as they continue their studies. The Lay Ministry program is administered by the Center for Congregational Leadership. More information about the program can be found on the Center's web site www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org

A MOMENT IN HISTORY

Beginnings: Busybodies

Someone once defined a Puritan as “someone who minds everybody else's business”, in other words as a meddler, a busybody. That is one way of looking at it, but it could be phrased more positively as “a Puritan is someone who does not separate faith from the rest of life”. With New England Congregationalists as prime examples, Puritans were universal reformers. The Reformation, the renewal of the church, is what we first remember them for, but in their minds most everything needed to be reformed – society, government, manners, education, provision for the poor, and, most importantly, themselves.



Late 19th century view, the Puritan stereotype in a sculpture by Augustus Saint-Gaudens.

Consequently, it is just as accurate to define a Puritan as “someone who minds his/her own business and very intently too”. Their chief personal business being, of course, their soul, their inner self. Congregational churches were “believers” churches. This did not only mean that they were to be governed by the members rather than a church hierarchy or, even worse, a monarch. It meant that a church was to consist of men and women who had come under the lordship of Jesus Christ through a personal experience of repentance and conversion. Getting themselves right with God was the first order of business, which then entailed the renewal of life in all its respects.

A beautiful expression of the Puritan outlook is Cotton Mather's influential “Essays to Do Good: Addressed to All Christians Whether in Public or Private Capacities” of 1710. He takes as his motto Hebrews 13.16: “To do good, and to communicate, forget not” (KJV; NRSV – “Do not neglect to do good and share what you have”). Mather reflects on why with the commands of God to do good being abundant in Scripture, there is such a dearth of them in practice. Why are people diligent in doing evil and lackadaisical in doing good? “To produce [those good works], the *first* thing, and indeed the *one* thing needful, is,” he says, “—a glorious work of grace on the soul, renewing and quickening it, purifying the sinner, and rendering him 'zealous of good works'. . . .

And what is the work God calls us to? Proclamation of the Good News, righteous living, and social justice:

Much is requisite to be done that the great God and his Christ may be more known and served. . . . Much is necessary to be done that the evil manners of the world, by which men are drowned in perdition, may be reformed. . . . Much must be done that the miseries of the world may have suitable remedies for them; and that the wretched may be relieved and comforted.

Would actually living this way make us busybodies? Probably.

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



SEND ME YOUR NEWS

Submissions for the June/July edition are due by May. 15, 2011.

Marie Steele, Editor

msteele@naccc.org

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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
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
