

NACCC NEWS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009

2009-2010, ISSUE 1



FROM MY HEART TO YOURS

Dear Friends,

The 2009 Annual Meeting and Conference is old news to those who attended, but still new to many sitting in the pews of our member churches. Just for your information, on the www.naccc.org Web site, you will find a half-sheet bulletin insert on some of the highlights of the meeting. You might want to copy it and use it in an upcoming Sunday bulletin. Remember, too, to go to the www.newthing.org Web site for information on the meeting.

The business sessions were filled with passionate voices, especially on the minimum contribution proposal. That proposal asked the assembly to approve a minimum Fair Share amount from all member Churches. It was one vote shy of the 2/3 needed to pass. That means that by far the majority of people attending the meeting agreed that member Churches ought to be responsible for contributing at least a minimum to the Association's Shared Ministries Fund (SMF). Several delegates spoke to the assembly and to me after that vote saying, "If we are not in favor of being told we MUST contribute, then we ought to return to our churches and make sure we are voluntarily doing so." Well stated. (An interesting statistic - you might be surprised to know that 37.5% of our churches give nothing to the Shared Ministries Fund and almost 60% give 1/2 of the Fair Share amount or less to the SMF).

I want to thank you for the confidence you showed in John Carson and me by your action on the motion to do away with Executive Terms. It was a humbling and affirming moment. My concern has always been that the measure on elimination of term limits pass, not that John and I would be included in it. You've already heard from me and other leaders as to why we were in favor of the original motion.

The Meeting and Conference evaluations that were returned and the comments that I overheard in the hallways and gatherings were very positive. **We did a new thing** and we did it well.

In recent sermons I have emphasized that actions speak louder than words, so here are a few of my "active" hopes:

I hope in this next year we will act more like people who preach and teach about a gracious and extravagant God. So many of our churches are gripped by fear these days.

I hope that your church will focus more intently on Christ's ministry on behalf of the poor and lonely this year, the poor are poorer, the lonely are lonelier.

I hope that if your church has not been in fellowship with sister churches in your area associations that you will make the effort to get them to the next gathering.

I hope that a few more of our churches will move toward consensus-building than their love of voting, which creates winners and loser.

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SEMINAR OPEN TO ALL AT CENTER FOR CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP



On Saturday, September 26, the Center for Congregational Leadership presents “Stewardship, Fundraising, and Financial Planning,” a one-day seminar ideal for ministers and lay people who wish to deepen their understanding of stewardship.

The event features three main presentations: “Stewards Living a God-Pleasing Life” presented by Ron Chewning of Stewardship Advisors; “Creative Fundraising” presented by Rev. Dr. Tom Richard, Executive Secretary, NACCC; and “Clergy Benefits and Saving for Retirement” presented by Richard Reese of MMBB.

The seminar takes place on the campus of Olivet College in Olivet, Mich., from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. The cost is \$75 for the first participant and includes stewardship program materials and meals. The cost is \$15 for each additional member from the same

church and includes meals but not materials. Lunch and dinner will be taken in the college cafeteria.

For those seeking overnight lodging, the Comfort Inn located at 204 Winston Drive, Marshall, Mich., offers room rates of \$59 plus tax per night to Olivet College-related guests. For reservations, call 269-789-7890. Simply tell them you are attending a seminar at the college and ask for the college rate. They will need your credit card number. Amenities include free wireless internet, indoor pool, exercise room, and continental breakfast. The hotel is located just off the I-69 exit.

For additional information, contact Rev. Dr. Betsey Mauro, Dean of the Center for Congregational Leadership, bmauro@naccc.org or 800-262-1620, ext. 12 or Marie Steele, Assistant to the Dean, msteele@naccc.org.

HISTORIC MONUMENT IN ENGLAND REFURBISHED



The photos to the left show the refurbished Pilgrim monument located at Fishtoft, near Boston, in England. The wording on the original monument was incorrect. Thanks to FCC Wauwatosa and the NACCC for assisting our friends in England with this important project.

CONGREGATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

In June, at the NACCC annual meeting, I was pleased to be able to give the delegate body their first report on the happenings of the Center. More importantly, they understood how valuable the Center can be to their home churches. The Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies supports seminarians studying for Congregational ministry. This benefits the local church by developing leadership that is uniquely Congregational, well-educated, and able to lead churches in their ministries. The Lay Ministry Training program allows laity to gain ministerial skills and knowledge. This expands the leadership resource pool for churches of all sizes and allows small churches to “raise up” suitable ministerial leadership from their own membership, knowing they can easily access a program for basic ministerial training. The Center also offers continuing education seminars on a variety of topics. Educated congregations can be more creative and adaptable to the changing culture and communities in

which they minister, reducing anxiety and empowering congregations to imagine new ways to proclaim the Gospel. Education helps congregations maintain relevancy and vibrancy. Through our History and Polity course, the Center provides a Congregational education opportunity for churches who may call a minister from outside of our tradition, helping to preserve the unique Congregational tradition of the church.

Our next seminar is September 26 (see Page 2) on stewardship and creative fundraising. If you would like to be directly informed about activities at the Center, you may drop me an email asking to be put on the Center’s email distribution list, or, if you are on Facebook, you may become a fan of the Center (search Center for Congregational Leadership).

I thank you for your support and continue to be grateful for your prayers. Blessings!

*Dr. Betsey Mauro, Dean
Center for Congregational Leadership*



MORE EDUCATION NEWS

Volunteers Wanted

If you are interested in working with an Ad-hoc Committee for 3 to 6 months researching and developing a list of adult education material or Christian education resources for NACCC churches, please contact Linda Miller at the NACCC office 800-262-1620, ext. 13, or lmiller@naccc.org. The Christian education group will be starting right away in August. The adult education group will start in September. The ability to search the Internet is necessary.

Youth Ministry Convocation

Youth Ministry Convocation, October 22 to 25, 2009, at Colonial Church of Edina, Minn. For ALL those involved in ministry to youth. Cost is \$100 per person, includes refreshments, meals and materials. For more information or to register, call Linda Miller at the NACCC office, 800-262-1620, ext. 13, or the Colonial Church of Edina at 952-925-2711.

CAMPAIGN CORNER *BRANCHING OUT* INTO NEW THINGS



Attendees at the recent Annual Meeting in Milwaukee learned first-hand about new things already begun through the *Branching Out* capital campaign. Amidst the prevailing economic gloom, the campaign's bright spots include:

- Opening the Center for Congregational Leadership at Olivet College in Michigan in September 2008.
- A special gift of \$25,000 from the Traditional Congregational Church in Stanton, Michigan. This gift, in memory of Dr. Victor C. Beal, Jr., was designated to support the Center at Olivet College.
- Churches continue to participate in the National Offering, which has now raised more than \$51,000 from 46 member churches.

Local church stewardship resources continue to be available through the NACCC's ongoing partnership with stewardship counsel RSI. RSI's *Forward* and *Revealed* programs help member churches grow through enhanced stewardship.

While the economic downturn has slowed campaign progress, we remain

committed to reaching its \$5 million goal. The economy will turn around and it is important that we are ready and able to respond when it does. To raise the final \$2.5 million, we are seeking individuals and churches willing to sponsor additional gifts, issue a challenge for a matching gift, or pledge a capstone gift to finish the campaign.

Here is how you can help:

- Make a pledge or one-time gift to the campaign.
- Ask your church to participate in the National Offering.
- Give us names of prospective investors or foundation contacts.

Thank you for your fellowship at the Annual Meeting! By persevering and working together, we can bring this campaign to a successful conclusion. If you would like more information about the campaign or RSI's stewardship programs, please contact me at 800-262-1620, x25, or email ddavid@naccc.org.

Diana David
Campaign Administrator



MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

We were blessed to have the following NACCC Missions represented at our Annual Meeting - the most we've ever had!: Union of Evangelical Congregational Churches, Christian Mission in the Far East, Mission Mazahua, Pilgrim's Presence, Panamerican Institute, Congregational Church of Myanmar, Bread of Life Mission, Indian Trails Mission, Maine Sea Coast Mission, Morgan Scott Project, Piney Woods School, Seafarer's Friend, Mission School of Hope, Fishers of Men, Happy Life Children's Home and GAP/

Canaan Ministries. They all enjoyed networking with different churches as well as each other.

Also, the Missionary Society has "Children in Missions" 2010 calendars available for \$15 - good for Christmas presents! They also have Missionary Society polo shirts available: Hunter Green, all sizes, and Black XL's for \$20.

If you are interested in purchasing any of these items or for more information on our Missions, please contact Linda Miller at lmiller@naccc.org or 800-262-1620, ex. 13.

FAIR SHARE GIVING

What is “Fair Share Giving”? Fair Share Giving is a voluntary, annual contribution that member churches of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) give to the National Association (NA) to provide funds for the Shared Ministries Fund (SMF). The NACCC’s SMF provides the money needed to operate the NACCC office in Oak Creek, assists with publishing *The Congregationalist* magazine, provides innumerable services to member churches through its four service divisions (such as sponsoring missionaries and clergy training) and funds the Annual Meeting. Included in the SMF is everything from salaries of the staff and travel of the Executive Secretary and Executive Committee, to snowplowing, utilities, technology expenses, paper and general office supplies.

Since the NACCC doesn’t have a mandatory membership fee, it relies on the voluntary contributions of the member churches. The NACCC publishes the names of the member churches that exceed or meet the Fair Share contribution of \$10 per active member in their respective churches as recognition of their financial support. Unfortunately, not all of the 400+ member churches contribute at the Fair Share level; some don’t contribute to the NACCC at all. If all of the member

churches *did* contribute, at least at the Fair Share level, the NACCC’s annual deficits would be eliminated!

This year at the Annual Meeting a motion was made and discussion took place to create a minimum contribution *requirement* at a rate of \$5 per active member per member church, which is half of the Fair Share amount. This motion came about in an effort to encourage stewardship among member churches that don’t contribute at all, or don’t contribute at the Fair Share level. A close vote defeated this motion.

Annually, the NACCC office staff and Financial Services Committee (FSC) members contact member churches during the months of February through March to encourage the member churches to make their Fair Share donations prior to March 31. Each year the FSC thanks and recognizes all of the Fair Share Plus and the Fair Share member churches (as well as those that contribute at any level) for their contributions to help fund our National Association’s efforts and programs!

We ask that each member church prayerfully consider and submit its contribution as early as possible prior to the end of National Association’s fiscal year on March 31.



Fair Share Giving

FROM MY HEART TO YOURS *(continued from page 1)*

I hope the services we continue to offer our churches (and other churches who are inquiring about us) will mean enough to you that you and your church that you will become at least a contributing church if not a Fair Share Church.

I hope you will speak and act as if it means something to you to be part of a Congregational tradition whose locus and

power to change this world for Christ are wholly dependent on people in the pews of our churches (not on national structures) being both hearers of the Word and doers.

Be the brave and adventurous people of God!

Grace and Peace,
Thomas M. Richard
Executive Secretary

NORTH TO THE FUTURE: 2010 ANNUAL MEETING



That's our state motto and it's also a fitting motto for the NACCC at this time in our history. Those of us in Anchorage are looking forward to welcoming everyone to our fair city to help us celebrate our 50th anniversary. We're here because of the support and generosity of the NACCC and we want to share the majesty of this state and the spirit of its people as a way to say thank you.

We invite you to start checking out our website at www.fccak.org come September to make sure you have the latest information on Alaska and the meeting. We'll have the latest updates possible on evening adventures – remember it doesn't get really dark in Anchorage during the summer. You'll learn more about cruise options to and from Alaska and glacier cruises in both Prince William Sound and Kenai Fjords out of Seward. Find out more about trips to Denali (McKinley to those outside Alaska), Homer, Kennicott Mine, Fairbanks, etc. We'll also try to

keep you updated on the latest airfares and links to information on those planning on driving the Alaska Highway, so you might be able to hook up with other travelers. In short, we hope you'll find everything you need to put together the best trip ever!

And don't leave the kids at home. We are planning an exciting program for them. "Tending to God's World - Adventures in Alaska," will take our tweeners (children between nursery age and P.F.ers) out into the community to experience God's world in many ways from planting flowers at a food bank to hiking, from craft projects to learning a Native Alaskan dance in age appropriate ways. This will be a special experience for everyone.

Questions? You can email me at fcc@gci.net.

Claudia Kniefel
Host Chair

FRATERNAL VISITS

Dr. Betsey Mauro, Dean of the Center for Congregational Leadership, visited the following churches, all of which are located in Michigan: First Congregational Church, Odessa; Plymouth Congregational Church, Lansing; Pittsford Congregational Church, Pittsford; First Congregational Church, Portland; and Somerset Congregational Church, Somerset. She also visited Rockland Congregational Church in Rockland, Maine.

MEETING IDEA

Any state or regional association that is looking for an exciting addition to your meetings, please consider inviting a National Missionary to speak. For information on your National Missions, go to our website, www.naccc.org or call Linda Miller at the NACCC office, 800-262-1620 ext.13.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

August

Aug. 1, 1967	Dr. Francois K. Akoa-Mongo	Sept. 11, 1977	David B. Henry
Aug. 1, 1986	Richard Gossett	Sept. 11, 1988	John Hendrickson
Aug. 1, 1996	Russell Lane	Sept. 12, 2001	Larry Foster
Aug. 1, 2002	Caroline Dozier	Sept. 14, 1975	David A. Fleming
Aug. 2, 1942	John A. Lindvall	Sept. 14, 1980	Randall Kohls
Aug. 2, 1964	Raymond Luber	Sept. 14, 1997	Wendy Sue E. Kissa
Aug. 2, 1992	Dr. Mark Taylor	Sept. 15, 1974	Thomas Miller
Aug. 4, 1960	Paul Koeshall	Sept. 15, 1985	Edward H. Fackler
Aug. 7, 2004	Jeffrey Siegel	Sept. 15, 1991	Victor Bogdanoff
Aug. 9, 1979	William P. Fillebrown	Sept. 16, 2001	Geraldine B. MacNeil
Aug. 9, 1990	Steven King	Sept. 17, 1978	Charles M. Morgan
Aug. 10, 1987	David Murray	Sept. 18, 1983	Donald E. Plank
Aug. 10, 1991	Thomas Thorne	Sept. 18, 1994	Beth Faeth
Aug. 11, 1996	Scott Snider	Sept. 18, 2004	Charles R. Birnie
Aug. 11, 2001	Shawn Stapleton	Sept. 19, 1965	Paul Mergner
Aug. 13, 1989	Douglas Brandt	Sept. 19, 1998	David Welcome
Aug. 14, 1977	Arlin T. Larson	Sept. 20, 1998	Samuel Schaal
Aug. 14, 1994	Glenn Lawson	Sept. 21, 1980	Dr. Michael Chittum
Aug. 15, 1950	Dr. Sam Southard	Sept. 21, 1997	JP Freeman
Aug. 15, 2004	Earl E. Andrews	Sept. 21, 1997	John Miller
Aug. 16, 1981	George F. Mays	Sept. 22, 2002	Diane S. and John T. Boyd
Aug. 18, 2001	Charles Packer	Sept. 22, 2002	Matt Winslow
Aug. 18, 2004	Michael C. Nash	Sept. 23, 1973	Dr. Thomas M. Richard
Aug. 19, 2000	Bruce Pratt	Sept. 23, 2001	Marchie Miyashiro Sims
Aug. 20, 1978	Thomas M. Warner	Sept. 23, 2007	Dr. Mark L. McAnlis
Aug. 21, 2005	Robert Brink	Sept. 24, 2006	Steven C. Larson
Aug. 22, 1954	David Wigley	Sept. 25, 2005	Lisa Dembkowski
Aug. 22, 2004	Dr. John Wallace	Sept. 26, 1993	Scott Naevestad
Aug. 24, 1969	Patrick Hunt	Sept. 26, 1999	Chad Poland
Aug. 27, 1998	Tom Douglas	Sept. 26, 2004	Pamela A. Jensen
Aug. 28, 1974	Roy D. Paterik	Sept. 28, 1980	Steven B. Schafer
Aug. 28, 1998	Judith Roska	Sept. 28, 1997	Bobbie Chapman
Aug. 29, 1997	Lynnette Barnes	Sept. 28, 1998	Colin Windhorst

September

Sept. 1, 1955	Dr. Vivian Jones	Sept. 28, 2003	Paul J. Lee
Sept. 1, 1961	Bert E. McCormick	Sept. 29, 1979	Donald R. Limmer
Sept. 1, 1964	Phillip J. Ewert	Sept. 29, 1996	Lin E. McGee
Sept. 2, 1949	Alice Kelloway	Sept. 29, 2002	David Wood
Sept. 5, 2003	Rob Fredrickson	Sept. 30, 1990	Tim Smith
Sept. 7, 1971	Dr. Michael Holcomb	Sept. 30, 2001	Andrew McHenry
Sept. 7, 1997	Anthony H. Jones		



**Best
Wishes!**



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF
CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

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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
