

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

TO: NACCC MEMBER CHURCHES

FROM: NOMINATING COMMITTEE

RE: Nominations for positions to be filled by vote of the delegates at the Annual Meeting & Conference, June 2019 and current terms. Respective terms begin at conclusion of the meeting.

MODERATOR, Two-Year Term:

[Term to end 2020; two-year term; vote was taken in 2018, first year of nomination]

James Waechter, Brooklyn, New York

Jim Waechter has been a member of Plymouth Church in Brooklyn, NY for 30 years, serving on the Plymouth Council, the church's governing body, for 12 years, and as its president for 4 years. He has also served on numerous church committees, including: Adult Christian Education, Membership and Fellowship, Worship & Arts, Stewardship, Christian Help, and Plymouth's History Ministry. In the NACCC, Jim has served on Congregational Church Development, chaired the Strategic Planning Task Team that led in restructuring the NACCC, served on the Executive Committee and was part of the team that rewrote the By-laws, served as Vice Moderator and Chair of the Board of Directors and is currently serving as Moderator. Jim has worked extensively in the marketing and communications field for major advertising and public relations firms and was president of FarCountries.com, a wholesale online sales organization in New York City. Jim is currently on the management team at Trader Joes, the specialty food store, in Brooklyn.

VICE-MODERATOR, Two-Year Term:

[Term to end 2020; serves two years as Vice-Moderator; may be nominated for two years as Moderator; vote was taken in 2018, first year of nomination as Vice-Moderator]

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer, Madison, Wisconsin

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer has served Heritage Congregational Church in Madison, WI, since 2002. She chaired the NACCC New Hymnal Committee, which produced Hymns for a Pilgrim People in 2007, has served as Chair of CFTS and the Center for Congregational Leadership Subcommittee, offered workshops at the NACCC's Annual Meeting presented papers for Congregational Symposia, was the Congregational Lecture at the 2015 Annual Meeting, and hosted the 2012 Congregational Symposium. As part of the Wisconsin Congregational Association, Cindy has served in numerous roles, including: Moderator, Secretary, Chair of Youth and Camp, Camp Minister, President of the Clergy Association, and member of the Leadership and Lay Ministry Training Course Committee. For the LLMTC, Cindy has taught courses in Worship, Wisdom Literature, Pastoral Care and the Gospels.

SECRETARY, One-Year Term:

Judy Campbell, Farmington Hills, Michigan [Re-elected this year]

Judy is completing her ninth year as Secretary of the NACCC. She is a long-time member of North Congregational Church in Farmington Hills, MI, where she currently serves as Clerk and Sunday school teacher and has "worn many other hats": Moderator, Executive Council, Religious Ed, Search Committees, Long Range Planning, Building and Relocation Committees. Judy is retired from Pepsi Cola Finance and currently spends "tax season" as a tax preparer for H&R Block. She and husband, Jim, have been married 52 years and have two children and four grandchildren. Judy has been a frequent Delegate or Alternate to the NACCC Annual Meeting for over 25 years and looks forward to continuing to serve the NACCC.

TREASURER, One-Year Term:

Jeffrey H. Dillon, Franklin, Wisconsin [Re-elected this year]

Jeff and his wife Sharon are charter members of Faith Community Church, Franklin, WI. He has served this congregation as Treasurer (25 years), Moderator, Vice Moderator, and Chair of the Board of Religious Education. Jeff is a retired civil engineer, working 34 years for the City of Milwaukee and finishing his career as the city's Transportation Design Manager. He served two years as Assistant Treasurer of the NACCC prior to being elected Treasurer at the 2005 Annual Meeting. Jeff also serves as Treasurer of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association. Jeff and Sharon have two adult children, Alison and Ryan.

HISTORIAN, One-Year Term:

William C. Lange, Detroit, Michigan [Re-elected this year]

The Reverend William (Will) C. Lange (M.Div., M.A.) was raised and ordained in the First Congregational Church, Kenosha, WI. He was our "Congregational Lecturer" in 2016 and has served on our Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies and World Christian Relations Commission. Will has had a lifetime interest in history. He majored in history at College and his CFTS paper focused on the historic Plan of Union 1801. He sees history as a tool for understanding and energizing ourselves. Will sought to do this by initiating the contemporary Thanksgiving Proclamations issued by the NACCC, working with the Underground Rail Road at First Detroit, Church tours, lectures and his family history projects. He is Co-Chair of our Plymouth 400 Task Team. Will is a member of the First Congregational Church of Detroit.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE – LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, One-Year Term:

Patrick Stewart, Marshalltown, Iowa [Re-elected this year]

For nearly 20 years, Patrick served as the volunteer Youth Leader at LaMoille Congregational Community Church, Marshalltown, IA, which he has attended since birth. Patrick is currently the Chair of the IA-NE Association Youth Committee. He has attended NAPF-HOPE conferences since 2005 and often served in a leadership role. He has been the Youth Representative on Leadership Council for several years and is currently on the Annual Meeting Accessibility Task Team. Patrick is employed by a local non-profit community action agency working as the Payroll Manager in the finance department. He really enjoys spending time with the church youth group doing fun activities and giving them the same experiences he had as a youth. Patrick looks forward to serving another term as the Youth Representative.

MINISTRY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

One-Year Term as Nominated by their Elected Council

Growth Ministry Council Reps:

Mary Prendergast, Pilgrim Congregational Church, Pomona, California

Rev. Dr. John Tamilio III, Congregational Church of Canton, Canton, Massachusetts

Mission and Outreach Ministry Council Reps:

Janet Wilson, Grace Congregational Church, Greenville, Iowa

Barbara Dabul, Congregational Church of Sun City, Sun City, Arizona

Vitality Ministry Council Reps:

OPEN

ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER-AT-LARGE – LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

New Nominee [Three-Year Term; 2019-2022]

Rev. Ed Backell, Warden, Washington

Pastor Ed Backell is a Washington state native, and has taught for 30 years in churches in Oregon, Washington and Nebraska, most recently in Snohomish, WA. He has traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada with various musical groups. As a youth minister, he specialized in creating teen performance groups that helped students use their gifts and talents to explore and share their own faith. He holds an M. Div. from Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, MN, as well as an M. A. in Ministry. He was called to Warden Community Church in May, 2010. He is married to Jami (originally from Ephrata, WA), his bride of 30 years, and they have three daughters, Jandica, Rachel, and Elizabeth. Ed is a creative person, avid musician, published author, voracious reader, computer geek, and a pretty darn good ethnic cook!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Staggered Terms, as indicated)

New Nominee [Four-Year Term; 2019-2023]

Claudia Kniefel, Anchorage, Alaska

Claudia Kniefel grew up in Spokane, Washington and graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in history. She met her husband, Bob, and after graduation, moved to Alaska. They have been members of the First Congregational Church of Anchorage since 1984, and Claudia worked at the church for 22 years. She has served in many NACCC Leadership positions since 1996, including Moderator and the Executive Committee. Claudia volunteers at her church and has volunteered for several organizations including PTA, Anchorage Childbirth Education Association, and Anchorage Community Schools. She and her husband are retired and enjoy traveling, volunteering, and spending time with their grandchildren.

Congregational Foundation Representative serving on the Board of Directors

[One-year term as nominated by the Board of Governors]

Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere, Methodist Congregational Federated Church, Demorest, Georgia

Continuing Members on the Board of Directors

Rev. Dr. Donald Olsen, Plymouth Congregational Church, Wichita, Kansas [term to end 2020]

Rev. Dr. Marty Hall, North Shore Congregational Church, Fox Point, Wisconsin [term to end 2021]

Jodee Lord, Oakwood Heights Community Church, Staten Island, New York [term to end 2022]

GROWTH MINISTRY COUNCIL

Second Time Nominee [Three-Year Term 2019-2022; Completed a Three-Year Term 2016-2019; and a One-Year Term Replacement 2015-2016]

Pastor Carol P. Taylor, Beloit, Wisconsin

Carol is Licensed Lay Minister at United Church of Beloit, WI, since completing the NACCC Lay Ministry Training Program in 2006. She is active in local community outreach and missions. Carol and husband Martin (who serves as United's Year-Round Delegate) have attended NACCC Annual Meetings for many years, and she enjoys being part of the Growth Ministry Council. Her GMC work includes being an editor of the annual Lenten and Advent Devotional booklets, and holding a workshop each year to write those devotions. In 2017, Carol won the J.J. Russell Sermon Award for her sermon about covenant, "Together For All Time" based on Jeremiah 31 and 1 Corinthians 11. She looks forward to continuing service to the NACCC.

Second Time Nominee [Three-Year Term 2019-2022; Completed a Three-Year Term 2016-2019]

Curt Schmidt, Bound Brook, New Jersey

Curt has been a member of the Congregational Church of Bound Brook for 33 years. Raised a Lutheran in a rural area outside Princeton, NJ, he later married Kathi, a Mayflower descendent from Maine. At CCBB, Curt serves on the Board of Deacons, serves as the Missions Deacon, and was Chair of the CCBB Pastoral Search Committee. Curt is a Professional Geologist and works for an engineering and environmental consulting firm. He is past chair of the New York-Philadelphia Chapter of the Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists. He is Chairman of the Somerset County Cultural Arts Center. He proudly serves on the Lehigh University Alumni Board. Curt has been a Delegate or Alternate since the 2011 Scottsdale Annual Meeting, and has been CCBB's Year Round Delegate since that program began. He is also the treasurer of the NY-NJ Regional Association. He served on the Executive Director Search Committee where he became more familiar with members from the many different areas of the NACCC. Curt and the fellow members of the CCBB Church Development Committee have been engaged in investigating and trying new methods to reverse the trend of shrinking church involvement. Curt is looks forward to continuing to work with the Growth Ministry Council.

Continuing Members of the Growth Ministry Council

Rev. Dr. John Tamlilo III, Congregational Church of Canton, Canton, Massachusetts [term to end 2020]

Mary Prendergast, Pilgrim Congregational Church, Pomona, California [term to end 2020]

Rev. Dr. Patrick F. Hunt, Heritage Congregational Church, Berea, Ohio [term to end 2021]

MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRY COUNCIL

New Nominee [Three-Year Term; 2019-2022]

Rev. Julie Johnson Staples, J.D., Brooklyn, New York

Rev. Johnson Staples was ordained as a Congregational minister at Plymouth Church in Brooklyn and holds ecclesiastical standing in the Reformed Association of the United Church of Christ (UCC) and the American Baptist Churches of Metropolitan New York (ABCUSA). She has served as interim senior minister of the historic Flatbush-Tompkins Congregational Church in Brooklyn, N.Y and as interim minister of education at The Riverside Church in the City of New York. In the NACCC, Rev. Johnson Staples has served as Moderator of the New York-New Jersey Regional Association, as part of the NACCC national ambassador team, and on Board of Directors. Rev. Johnson Staples received her B.S. degree in journalism from the University of Kansas, and her J.D. degree from Georgetown University Law Center. Born and raised in Des Moines, Iowa, Rev. Johnson Staples lives in Brooklyn, NY. She is married and has one son.

Second Time Nominee [Three-Year Term; 2019-2022; Completed First Term; 2016-2019]

Janet Wilson, Greenville, Iowa

Jan is a member of the Greenville, Iowa, Grace Congregational Church. Prior to coming to Iowa, she served the Stuart Congregational Church, Stuart, Florida as Assistant Pastor. Jan was responsible for leading the Stephen Ministry Team, and helping with both pastoral care and worship. She is active in the Iowa/Nebraska Association, where she is past Moderator. Jan first became interested in missions while living in the Bahamas on a sailboat. She would like to serve another 3-year term on the Mission and Outreach Ministry Council to continue learning about the people and places she served by the NACCC.

Continuing Members of the Mission and Outreach Ministry Council

Barbara Dabul, Congregational Church of Sun City, Sun City, Arizona [term to end 2020]

Rev. Jamie Bonnema, Maple Hill Community Congregational Church, Maple Hill, Kansas [term to end 2020]

Rev. Gregory W. Carmer, Ph.D., Church in The Cove, Beverly, Massachusetts [term to end 2021]

VITALITY MINISTRY COUNCIL

Second Time Nominee [Three-Year Term; 2019-2022; Completed First Term; 2016-2019]

Rev. Dr. Irven A. Gammon, Florence, Massachusetts

The Rev. Dr. Irven A. Gammon has served as the Sr. Minister at Florence Congregational Church since 2005. He previously served at Rockland Congregational Church, Rockland, ME as the Associate Pastor. Irv received both his Masters Degree in Ministry and his Doctor of Ministry Degree from the Bangor Theological Seminary of Bangor ME. He graduated from the CFTS program in 2003. His ordination was held at Rockland Congregational Church with the blessing of the Ecclesiastical Vicinage Council held by the Maine Association of Congregational Christian Churches. Irv is the Executive Secretary of the Fellowship of Northeast Congregational Christian Churches. Prior to his call to the Executive position, he served the Fellowship in many leadership positions. Irv has served in several positions of the NACCC including the Building & Loan Commission, Communication Committee, CFTS, Credentials Committee, and the Nominating Committee.

New Nominee [Three-Year Term; 2019-2022]

Cynthia Hardy, Chandler, Arizona

Cynthia Hardy is a NACCC Year Round Delegate and Ambassador. She is a mother of three sons and married to Pastor Victor Hardy. Cynthia held many different responsibilities at the Congregational Church of the Valley. In the Chandler community, she has been involved in the Chandler Coalition on Youth Substance Abuse & Task Force for drugs, alcohol and suicide prevention, among many others.

Continuing Members of the Vitality Ministry Council

Rev. Sarah Gladstone, First Congregational Church, Saugatuck, Michigan [term to end 2020]

Rev. Justin Nierer, Sandstone Congregational Church, Jackson, Michigan [term to end 2020]

Rev. Ian Macdonald (M.Div.), First Congregational Church, Greenville, Michigan [term to end 2021]