

MINUTES  
65th ANNUAL MEETING and CONFERENCE  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES  
Cleveland Airport Marriott Hotel  
JUNE 22 – June 25, 2019

The 65th Annual Meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches convened on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at 1:30 PM in the Grand Ballroom of the Cleveland Airport Marriott Hotel, Cleveland, OH.

Business Session 1	Moderator Jim Waechter gave opening remarks and welcomed everyone to Ohio!
NACCC Moment	Moderator Jim Waechter explained this addition to the agenda where members of National Association churches will talk about what the NACCC means to them. The first speaker today is Miriam Bryant, Marshalltown, Iowa.
Call to Order	Moderator Jim Waechter called to order the 65th annual meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. This year's theme is "Jesus is the heart of it all".
Constituting Prayer	The Constituting Prayer was offered by Rev. Patrick Hunt, Berea, OH, chair of the host committee.
Intro and Welcome by Host Committee	Rev. Hunt then introduced the host committee and welcomed the delegates to Cleveland.
Introductions	Moderator Jim Waechter introduced the individuals on the dais: Vice Moderator Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer; Secretary Judy Campbell; and Parliamentarian Sherry Glab.
Quorum and Call to Order	Colleen Murray from the Credentials Committee reported that 83 delegates were present, which represents approximately 27 % of the active 302 member churches. With more than 20% of our member churches represented, Moderator Jim Waechter declared a quorum existed so we would proceed with the business of the Association.
Approval of Agenda <b>2019 AM 01</b> <b>Adopted</b>	The Moderator referenced the published agenda beginning on pages 4-8 of the Program Booklet. He then entertained a motion to approve. <b>Motion by Jim Hopkins to approve the agenda.</b>
Review of Standing Rules <b>2019 AM 02</b> <b>Adopted</b>	Moderator Jim Waechter reviewed and explained the standing rules on page 19 of the booklets, pointing out that new business must be presented today and submitted in writing to the secretary by 7:00 PM. <b>Motion by Sharon Higgins to adopt the standing rules.</b>
Approval of Minutes <b>2019 AM 03</b> <b>Adopted</b>	Minutes of the 64th Annual Meeting held in San Diego, CA, June 2018, were previously read and approved by the 2018 Minutes Certification Committee: Kevin Roach, Joyce Acree and Cynthia Hardy and were posted on the NACCC website. <b>Motion by Roy Gavin to accept the minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting.</b>
Minutes Certification Committee <b>2019 AM 04</b> <b>Adopted</b>	The Moderator announced three people he had asked to review this year's minutes and asked for other suggestions from the floor. There were no additional nominations. <b>Motion by Sharon Higgins to accept the appointment of three volunteers, Claudia Kniefel, J.R. McAliley and Ariel Castillo, selected by the Moderator as the 2019 Minutes Certification Committee to review the Annual Meeting minutes before they are distributed.</b>

Introduction, Vote and Welcome to New Churches accepted into Membership  
**2019 AM 05**  
**Adopted**

Executive Director, the Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum reported that the Leadership Council recommends five (5) churches to be accepted into membership.  
**Motion that the following churches be accepted into full membership in the NACCC as recommended by the Leadership Council:** (motions 2018/19 LC 010, 015 & 018)

**Bethany Congregational Church, Quincy, MA; Righteous Chapel Church, Lake Worth, FL; Little White Church, Malta, MT; Crystal Congregational Church, Crystal, MI; Congregational Christian Church of Ravena, Ravena, NY.**

Installation of New Churches

A member or a representative for each new church came forward. The Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum performed the installation ceremony.

Speakers:

Moderator Jim Waechter then introduced the next speaker, Executive Director Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum.

Executive Director Report

Executive Director Rev. Dr. Michael Chittum recognized staff from the Oak Creek office and summarized activities over the past year. With the retirement of both Marie Steele from the CCL office in Olivet and Linda Miller from the Oak Creek Office, much of their work was assigned to others in the Oak Creek office. A new position was filled by Rev. Shawn Stapleton as a part time Workshop Coordinator for the Center for Congregational Leadership and Rev. Julie Robie was hired to fill a new part time Missions Administrator position.

Center for Congregational Leadership Report

Past Moderator Laura Hamby joined Dr. Chittum in reporting on the status of the Center for Congregational Leadership. Laura is the chair of a Leadership Council Task Team to envision the next 5-10 years of the CCL, consider how its services should be provided to local churches and draft a long-term plan. The team has been hard at work reviewing past work of the Center, working with the Dean, the Vitality Ministry Council and the new Workshop Coordinator.

Reports

Moderator Jim Waechter pointed out that the written reports for the Leadership Council, Board of Directors and Congregational Foundation were in the delegate packets. The three groups work closely together.

- **Congregational Foundation Board of Governors** President, Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere, reviewed activities and fundraising conducted during the year. The Foundation also revised its bylaws and completed necessary steps to update its status with the IRS to a Type I supporting organization. Work continues with a joint task team with the NACCC Board of Directors working on review of Endowment Funds.
- **Board of Directors** Chair, Vice-Moderator Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer explained the Board's responsibilities, the budget process, employee job descriptions and upgrades to the Oak Creek building.
- **Leadership Council** Chair, Moderator Jim Waechter, reported on the work of the LC over the past year. Task teams this year include the Plymouth 400th Team planning for next year's celebration of the landing of the Mayflower, the Annual Meeting Accessibility team looking at ways to make future meetings accessible to more attendees, the Center for Congregational Leadership Task Team re-envisioning this important resource for our churches and the Year-Round Delegate Task Team.

Moderator Jim Waechter then introduced the Ministry Council representatives.

- **Ministry Council reports:**

**Growth Ministry Council** – Rev. Dr. Patrick Hunt briefly reviewed the activities of the GMC and its task teams. Projects and tasks this year included revising policies for NAPF/HOPE and Church Planting.

**Mission and Outreach Ministry Council** – Janet Wilson reported that they welcomed a new staff person this year and are getting to know each other. The Council provided relief funds to churches affected by the fires in California this year. She thanked everyone for their support of missions. The MOMC members then presented the Charles Rush Award to Laura Ramirez president of the Panamerican Institute in Tijuana, Mexico.

**Vitality Ministry Council** – Rev. Doug Gray reported on activities this past year including conducting 3 Regional Minister’s Convocation programs at the same time. A West location was added to the traditional Midwest program and the East gathering that was added last year. Work continues on the Lay Ministry program and other programs through Task Teams and CFTS.

Change in agenda  
(no objection)

Moderator Jim Waechter announced that due to time issues he has asked the next presenters to report on Monday morning. If there is no objection, reports from Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, Dean of CFTS, Marianne King, Editor of the Congregationalist, and Rev. Dr. Wendy Van Tassell, Plymouth 400th Task Team, will be moved on the agenda to Monday.

New Business  
No new business

Moderator Jim Waechter asked if there was any new business to come before the assembly. Per standing rules, new business must be introduced from the floor today and submitted in writing by 7:00 Saturday evening to be considered on Tuesday.

NACCC Moment

Barbara Mullen, South Bend, IN was introduced and spoke of her relationship with the NACCC over the years.

Break (3:00 pm)

Break sponsored by the Congregational Foundation.

**Meeting reconvened at 3:20 PM.** Vice Moderator Cindy Bacon Hammer gave announcements.

Missionaries Presentation

Barbara Dabul, (MOMC rep) introduced visiting missionaries who spoke about the work of their organizations.

Congregational Lecture

The Congregational Lecture was presented by the Rev. Dr. John Tamilio III, Canton, MA. He spoke on “The heart of our heritage and our future treasure.”

5:20 PM Prayer

Prayer was offered by missionary, Dr. Harding Stricker, from the Asociación Civil Cristiana Congregacional.

**Business Meeting in Recess until Monday morning.**

5:45 PM

Dinner.

8:00 PM

Entertainment – Logos Tone band.

9:00 PM

Healing prayer service in memory of Rev. Don Mullen.

**Sunday, June 24, 2018**

11:00 AM	Bible Lecture Part 1 – Rev. Dr. Brett Younger. Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, NY
1:30 PM	Worship Service, Communion and Necrology
3:30 PM	Promising Future of Small Churches Workshop – Rev, Dr. Charles Warnock, Baptist General Association of Virginia
Afternoon/evening	Workshops and receptions.

**Monday, June 24, 2019**

8:25 AM	Opening Prayer offered by Rev. Bob Gault, Sullivan, OH.
Missionaries Presentation	MOMC member, Barbara Dabul, introduced visiting missionaries, each of whom spoke about their mission and presented slide shows.
Business Session 2	Moderator Jim Waechter called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM
NACCC Moment	Jim Waechter introduced Rev. Andrew McHenry, Paradise, CA who spoke about his experience with the National Association. (Rev. McHenry lost his church to fire this past year as wild fires burned down the entire town of Paradise, CA.)
Announcements	Sunday's offering will be given to Missions. A total of \$1,970 was collected.
Unfinished reports from Saturday's agenda	<p><b>Dean of CFTS Report:</b> Rev. Dr. Charles Packer – written report in delegate packet. The Rev. Dr. Charles Packer spoke about the Boston Seminar. The program was very well attended in 2018 and is being offered again this year. The "Awakenings" symposium was held at the First CC of Marshalltown, IA in October 2018. Two CFTS students will be graduating this year.</p> <p><b>Editor's Report:</b> Marianne King, Editor of <i>The Congregationalist</i> magazine, thanked everyone who contributed to the magazine with articles, information and money. This year they have tried to be more fiscally responsible and focused on finding ways to make the magazine more affordable to produce. The magazine raises some monies from advertising, but relies on NACCC funds and donations for support.</p> <p><b>Plymouth 400<sup>th</sup> Task Team Report:</b> Rev. Dr. Wendy Van Tassell spoke of plans for next years meeting in Portland. The team has T-shirts, and other "400<sup>th</sup>" identified materials for sale at their display.</p>
Nominating Committee Report <b>All nominees elected Including Vitality reps To the Leadership Council</b>	<p>Rev. Linda Anderson gave the report of the Nominating Committee, reading the list of nominees for each position. The Committee had no nominee for the Vitality MC representative to the Leadership Council. <b>She then moved that the entire slate of candidates be elected as nominated.</b></p> <p><b>Moderator</b> – Jim Waechter, Brooklyn, NY – (continuation of 2 yr. term- no election this year)</p> <p><b>Vice Moderator</b> – Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer, Madison, WI – (continuation of 2yr. term – no election this year)</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> – Judy Campbell, Farmington Hills, MI - 1 yr term</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> – Jeffrey H. Dillon, Franklin, WI - 1 yr term</p> <p><b>Historian</b> – Rev. William C. Lange, Detroit, MI - 1 yr term</p> <p><b>Youth Representative to the Leadership Council</b> - Patrick Stewart, Marshalltown, IA – 1 yr term</p>

**Ministry Council Representatives to the Leadership Council – 1 yr terms**

Growth Ministry Council: Mary Brooks Prendergast, Rev. Dr. John Tamilio, III

Mission and Outreach Ministry Council: Janet Wilson, Barbara Dabul

Vitality Ministry Council: (~~open~~) (2 nominations from the floor:

Rev. Sarah Gladstone Terlouw and Rev. Justin Neier)

**Annual Meeting and Conference Committee – Member-at-large**

Rev. Ed Backell, Warden, WA – 3 yr. term

**Corp Board of Directors**

Claudia Kniefel, Anchorage, AK – 4 yr. term

**Congregational Foundation Representative on the Board of Directors**

Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere, Demorest, GA – 1 yr term

**Growth Ministry Council – 3 yr. terms**

Pastor Carol Taylor, Beloit, WI

Curt Schmidt, Bound Brook, NJ

**Mission & Outreach Ministry Council – 3 yr. terms**

Rev. Julie Johnson Staples, JD, Brooklyn, NY.

Janet Wilson, Greenville, IA

**Vitality Ministry Council – 3 yr. terms**

Rev. Dr. Irvn A Gammon, Florence, MA

Cynthia Hardy, Chandler, AZ

Moderator Jim Waechter asked for any additional nominations.

Rev. Dr. Irvn Gammon nominated Rev. Sarah Gladstone Terlouw and Rev. Justin Neier for the two open positions of **Vitality MC Representative to the Leadership Council**. (As there were no other nominees, their names were added to the nominating slate for election)

Moderator Jim Waechter again asked for any additional nominations. **Hearing no other nominations, he declared the nominations closed and all nominees elected to these uncontested positions.**

Election of Nominating  
Committee  
**Nominees Elected**

Moderator Jim Waechter then requested nominations for two open 3-year positions on the Nominating Committee. The following names were placed in nomination from the floor for the **Nominating Committee**:

Sharron Higgins, Anchorage, AK

Rev. Daniel Vellinga, Marshalltown, IA

Moderator, Jim Waechter, asked for any additional nominations for the Nominating Committee. **Hearing no other nominations, he declared the nominations closed and both nominees elected to these uncontested positions.**

Ratification Board of  
Directors' Actions  
**2019 AM 06**  
**Adopted**

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer presented the list of Actions of the Board of Directors from June 2018 through June 2019 that require ratification which appear on pages 1 & 2 of the "Actions of the Board of Directors" in the delegate packets. Pages 3 & 4 in the packet list procedural motions that do not require ratification in regular type, and motions being presented for consideration separately in Italics.

**Motion made that the Association delegates ratify the actions of the Board of Directors from June 2018 through June 2019 (motions 2017/18 C 056; and 2018/19 C 006 -007, C 014, C 016, C 021 - 023, C 026, C 028 - 019, C 031, C 035 - 037, C 040) which require ratification and are not being presented separately.**

Ratify Leadership Council Actions <b>2019 AM 07 Adopted</b>	Jim Waechter presented the list of Actions of the Leadership Council requiring ratification. Those actions appear on page 1 of the Leadership Council Report in the delegate packets. Page 2 lists procedural motions that do not require ratification in regular type and motions being presented for consideration separately are in Italics.  <b>Motion made that the Association delegates ratify the actions of the Leadership Council from June 2018 through June 2019, (motions 2018/19 LC 003 - 006, LC 008 - 009,) which require ratification and are not being presented separately.</b>
Introduction of Resolutions	There were no resolutions or amendments proposed by leadership this year.
Speakers	The following speakers addressed the assembly bringing greetings and giving updates about their organizations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congregational Library President Peggy Bendroth</li> <li>• Olivet College President Dr. Stephen Corey</li> <li>• Piedmont College Dean of Admissions Cindy Peterson</li> <li>• Church Mutual Representative Greg Zawie</li> </ul>
NACCC Moment	Rev. Ron Toliver, Toulon, IL was introduced and spoke about his relationship with the National Association.
10:15	Break sponsored by Church Mutual.
10:45	Bible Lecture Part 2 - Rev. Dr. Brett Younger.
12:00 PM	Missionary prayer for lunch given by Amy Kennedy, Christian Mission in the National Parks  <b>Business Meeting in recess until Tuesday, June 25, 8:30 AM.</b>
Afternoon and evening	Workshops and Dinner cruise on Lake Erie.

**Tuesday, June 25, 2019**

Business Session 3	Business Meeting reconvened at 8:45 AM following prayer by Rev. Chuck Moeller, Harrod, OH.
NACCC Moment	Missionary Charles Sagay from the School of Hope, Cameroon, spoke of his long relationship with the NACCC.
Credentials Report	Colleen Murray reported for the Credentials Committee that there were 96 delegates and 57 alternate delegates in attendance, representing 103 churches from 25 states. In addition, there were 14 missionaries, 58 attendees, 5 Observers, 7 others (speakers and staff) and 55 host workers. She submitted a written report.
Vote on Nominations	None required
Vote on Resolutions	None required.
Financial Report	Association Treasurer Jeff Dillon presented a slide show of the Financial Reports, explained details and assumptions and related information from the recent Financial Audit. Financial challenges remain.

Introduction of proposed Budget	Treasurer Jeff Dillon presented the proposed 2019 - 2020 Operating Budget of the Shared Ministries Fund, the Center for Congregational Leadership and Ministry Council budgets were presented as recommended by Board of Directors action 2018/19 C 033 and moved its adoption by the delegates. There were several questions regarding funds for specific activities.
New Business	There was no new Business.
Prayer for youth	Executive Director Michael Chittum took the opportunity to offer a prayer for the youth. The NAPF/HOPE groups are meeting in another location in Ohio and the distance prevented them from sharing meals and activities with the adult meeting this year.
Presentations	<p>Rev. Seth Jones, Rockland, ME, presented information on the 2020 AM&amp;C in Portland, ME, June 27-30, 2020 hosted by the Congregational Christian Council of Maine and the Massachusetts Association of Congregational Christian Churches. The theme is <b>“The Great Crossing”</b>.</p> <p>Rev. Lisa Bolton-Hunt, Olivet, MI, presented information on the 2020 International Congregational Fellowship Meeting which will be held July 22-27, 2020 in Massachusetts. The ICF changed their usually scheduled date to coordinate with the celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing of the Mayflower in 1620. The theme is <b>“The Voyage Continues”</b>.</p>
NACCC Moment	Rev. Tom Van Tassell, Spencer, IA, spoke about his relationship with the NACCC.
10:30 AM	Business Meeting in recess until 3:00 PM, following workshops, lunch and other presentations.
1:30 PM	Bible Lecture Part 3 - Rev. Dr. Brett Younger.
Business Session 4	Business Meeting reconvened at 3:00 PM following prayer by Rev. Chuck Moeller.
NACCC Moment	Liz Philbrook, Yarmouth Port, MA, spoke on her relationship with the NA.
Voting on Budget <b>2019 AM 08 Adopted</b>	<b>Motion by Jeff Dillon, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to approve the 2019/20 Shared Ministries budget, CCL and the Ministry Council budgets (\$144,517) deficit Budget as recommended by the Board of Directors and presented by the Treasurer in Business Session 3.</b>
Recognition and Awards	<p><u>CFTS Graduation</u>: Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, Dean of CFTS, and members of the CFTS Team, assembled on dais for the graduation ceremony. The two graduates, Joel K. Boyd and Joy Matos, each spoke and were given Bibles. Joel K. Boyd received the Alfred D. Gray award and Joy Matos received the John Claxton award. Rev. Dr. Doug Gray offered prayer.</p> <p><u>Awards</u>:  Vitality Council presented awards to three recipients.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Harry R. Butman Awards</u> – Rev. Dr. Martin Hall, North Shore CC, Fox Point, WI, and Rev. Terry Bobzien, First CC, Pittsfield, MI.</li> <li>▪ <u>JJ Russell Sermon Award</u> – Rev. Dr. Chris Surber, Mt. Hope CC, Livonia, MI</li> </ul>

Mission and Outreach Council had presented the award earlier in the meeting.

- Charles Rush Award – **Laura Ramirez, Panamerican Institute, Tijuana, Mexico.**

Board of Directors Chairperson Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer presented

- Citation for Outstanding Meritorious Service - **Rev. Dr. Mark P. Jensen, North CC, Farmington Hill, MI.**

Host committee recognition: Rev. Dr. Patrick Hunt

Installation of Officers

All elected officers and Board and Committee members came forward and were sworn into their positions by Executive Director Michael Chittum.

NACCC Moment

Rev. Dr. Doug Gray, Squantum, MA, shared his thoughts and experiences with the NACCC.

Benediction

Vice Moderator Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer offered the closing prayer.

Adjournment

4:20 PM

Jim Waechter then thanked all for their assistance in preparing and conducting the meeting. He then declared that the business meeting was ended and that the Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches is adjourned following dinner and activities this evening.

Judy Campbell

Secretary

Read and approved by the Minutes Certification Committee:

Ariel Castillo

Claudia Kniefel

Rev. J.R. McAliley III