

NACCC MODERATOR AND LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT

FY2023

The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches experienced a year of change and transition, not only in our office staff but in some procedures and structures that had become most familiar to us. As our churches and ministers understand, these are times in which many challenges require new ways of seeing, of thinking, and of acting. We are excited to reflect and share and support one another during our Annual Meeting and Conference with the most appropriate theme, "The Daring Endeavor of Being Church."

As the Moderator, I am the Chair of the Leadership Council, including representatives of our three Ministry Councils- Growth, Vitality, and Missions and Outreach. This past fall we continued the "dreaming big" budgeting process first practiced last year. Our Councils were encouraged to offer ideas and programs that will serve our Association, without being weighed down by financial realities. These dreams were then presented to the Finance Committee of the Board of Directors. This year a person from each Council spoke about their budget requests directly with the Finance Committee. It is our hope that as this process continues, possibilities will be nurtured and that the budgeting process become less formal and more creative.

This year the Vitality Council hosted a Transitional Interim Ministry workshop, attended by five people. This workshop was in collaboration with the Interim Ministry Network. The NACCC is in great need of such ministry and we hope that such workshops will be available and attended by more clergy in the future. Vitality Council also planned three Ministers Convocation for the spring and hosted two- in the Midwest and in the Northeast. Clergy enjoyed the programs and the fellowship as well as the refreshment of time away from the church. Vitality Council monitored the success of the Lay Ministry Training program with fifteen participants in two cohorts, and the CFTS program which honors a graduate at the Brookfield, WI meeting. Vitality reps to Leadership Council were Justin Nierer and Robb Tarr.

Growth Council continued their emphasis on youth ministry with the continued work to establish as Youth Resource Task Team. Gathering information and volunteers has proven to be slow. Growth discussed the possibility of developing a place where worship liturgy and resources could be shared online. Growth Council is planning some big events such as webinars in the months ahead. Already two sessions have been held centering around the topics of Vacation Bible School and Church Security. Growth Council reps to Leadership Council were Mary Prendergast and Ezekiel Rodriguez.

Missions and Outreach Council continued in their good and faithful work of shepherding supported missions and the mission support of our churches. MOMC serves to explore ways in which NACCC member churches and individuals can collaborate with some of our missions on specific projects. This spring the Cherokee Impact Mission Trip took place, in collaboration with the National Parks Ministry, and was a great success. MOMC had several calls for One Great Hour of Sharing offerings during natural disasters. This year MOMC reps to Leadership Council were Rich Miller-Todd and Jerry Zwaga.

As Moderator, I look forward to the 2023 Annual Meeting and Conference as a setting where we can hear new ideas and look at old problems at a different angle. I know that something will create a spark that will lead an idea back to Leadership Council for discussion and action. I am grateful to the members of the three Ministry Councils for their leadership, time and energy. All of us express our thanks to the staff of the NACCC for their support and guidance throughout the year

Rev. Arthur P. Ritter
Moderator