

NACCC E-NEWS

THE MESSENGER



October 15, 2025

OAK CREEK OFFICE IS A-BUZZ WITH ACTIVITY

REV. DR. GERRY KRUPP, NACCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Managing change is one of the daily tasks we all face as leaders. This certainly has been the story here at the NACCC office. In September, we welcomed Emily Triumph to our office as our part-time data guru. She is working with incoming donations and helping us manage our database. Her knowledge of Development and CRM's is invaluable.

Last week, Kristin Ward resigned from her position as Director of Development. We wish her well in her next ventures.

On Monday, October 13, 2025, Peggy Griffith began as the part-time interim Director of Development. Peggy comes to us with a wide range of corporate and technical expertise. She is a graduate of the Wisconsin Congregational Association Lay Ministry Training Program, which was largely adopted by our Lay Ministry Training Program Editorial Board (LMTP) to become the valuable training asset it is for the NACCC. She's a long-time member of First Congregational Church in Wauwatosa, WI. We are pleased that she was available at a crucial time for our association, and we hope that each of you will have the opportunity to meet Peggy in the near future.

Welcome aboard, Emily and Peggy!
Be Encouraged

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY!

We invite all member churches to renew their commitment to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. Your support makes possible the programs, resources, and connections that enrich our shared Congregational life.

By renewing, your church continues to access these opportunities and helps strengthen our covenant of fellowship and service in Christ.

To renew or learn more, contact pgriffith@naccc.org

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EVENTS!**



AN UPDATE FROM MRS. BEATRICE DIFFANG, PRESIDENT, MISSION SCHOOL OF HOPE:

JULIE ROBIE, NACCC MISSION AND
OUTREACH COORDINATOR

The classrooms at the Molobo campus were built about 23 years ago, and they had become old and severely dilapidated. Poor infrastructure doesn't just affect learning; it deeply shapes how children see themselves and their place in society. The children at Molobo had developed a strong feeling of an inferiority complex with regard to their friends at the OWENS Family campus, which so far has been rated the best in the district with regard to clean, beautiful facilities and a wonderful learning environment. No wonder the best pupil in the national entrance exam into the middle school came from OWENS.

The dilapidated state of the school did not just lead to the development of low self-esteem in the lives of the children, but also led to feelings of embarrassment and neglect. The constant reminder of broken walls, damaged floors, broken doors, and leaking roofs can make them feel their future is also "broken". Most often, children who feel neglected by their school environment may grow up with a mindset that they cannot change their circumstances, reducing initiative and leadership qualities. In short, A broken classroom environment builds broken self-esteem. Children start believing they are unworthy, invisible, and incapable of rising above their conditions—unless deliberate interventions are made.

To continue reading, please [click here](#).

[2026 Sharing Vitality
Grants Application](#)

[Explore Member Resources](#)

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EVENT CALENDAR

October 30, 2025, 9:00 am - 3:30 pm,
Eastern Time

Present With One Another: A Fall One-
Day Silent Retreat

The recent written works by Rabbi Sharon Brous (The Amen Effect) and David Brooks (How to Know a Person) will offer suggestions for how to bridge the distances and the divides that have increasingly separated us from each other. Spiritual resources will be shared to be present with others in support and compassion. This Silent Retreat will be available in-person and virtually. [Click here](#) for more information.

ANNOUNCING THE CONGREGATIONALIST'S 2026 THEMES – PLUS A CALL FOR MARCH SUBMISSIONS!

MAGGIE HELMICK, EDITOR OF THE CONGREGATIONALIST

We're excited to share the themes for the 2026 issues of The Congregationalist! Next year's editions will explore the rich and resonant topics of:

Thresholds (March)
Stewardship (June)
Covenant (September)
Wonder (December)

Submissions are open now for the March 2026 Thresholds edition!

From moments of transition to turning points and liminal spaces—whether personal or communal, spiritual or societal—Thresholds encompasses topics of baptisms and farewells, new ministries and final chapters, callings answered, doors opened, and moments paused in deep discernment.

Submit your articles, poetry, short fiction, children's pieces, artwork, photography, hymns, or other inspired pieces that reflect the movement, mystery, and meaning of standing on the edge of something new by January 1, 2026, to Editor [Maggie Helmick](#).

APPLY TO BE A PART OF SHARING VITALITY GRANTS FOR 2026!

The grantees this year are continuing in amazing and fruitful ministry, and Vitality Ministry Council wants to support more folks around the country who we know are doing similar work and pursuing ideas that are full of potential.

\$2500 grants are available for NACCC member churches and affiliated ministries to give a boost to the ideas you have for impacting your church and community

The deadline is November 1, 2025. [Click here](#) for more information.

YOUR NACCC STAFF

Rev. Dr. Gerry Krupp: Executive Director

Sarah Sobecke: Executive Assistant

Peggy Griffith: Development

Laura Wright: Church Services

Maggie Helmick: Communications

Julie Robie: Mission and Outreach

Emily Triumph: Office Assistant

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