



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

NAPF & HOPE

JODEE LORD, MODERATOR, AND SHARON BROWN, GROWTH MINISTRY COUNCIL

What better way to start the summer than to attend the NAPF & HOPE Youth Conference in Westfield, Massachusetts, from June 27 to July 2, 2026!

The conference offers a dynamic mix of experiences. Attendees will hear from inspiring guest speakers and participate in mission projects, including an intergenerational project with attendees of the NACCC Annual Meeting and Conference. The NAPF & HOPE youth will also gather for worship and communion with Congregationalists from around the country. It's a time for reconnecting with old friends and building new friendships while discovering and using your unique spiritual gifts.

This conference is open to youth entering grades 9-12 (NAPF) and young adults from post-high school through age 26 (HOPE).

Please encourage your youth to attend this year's NAPF & HOPE Conference.

THE CONGREGATIONAL INVESTMENT TRUST

REV. DR. MARTIN HALL, VICE MODERATOR

Did you know that the NACCC offers an opportunity for professional guidance, team oversight, and access to premium investment options (and correspondingly low fund fees) for church endowments and other long-term holdings? Did you know that all of this is offered at no cost (save the fund/management fees themselves) to all active member churches of the NACCC? The Congregational Investment Trust (CIT) holds funds from the NACCC, the Congregational Foundation, and a number of member churches, all of which are managed by professional investment advisors and directed by an oversight committee comprised of learned and experienced volunteers from across the membership of our member churches. With the annual meeting of the CIT coming up on February 17, now is the perfect time for you to learn more about how this offering of our Association might be of benefit to your church.

If you'd like to learn more, search "Congregational Investment Trust" on the NACCC website or join the meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 2:00 pm CT. If you'd like to attend, email NACCC Executive Assistant Sarah Sobecke for the Zoom link.

VITALITY MINISTRY COUNCIL OPENING

The Vitality Ministry Council of the NACCC is looking for its next member for a three year term! Interested? Search "Ministry Council Information" on the NACCC website to find a description of what the Vitality Ministry Council does, and search "Nomination Form" to review and complete the required form.

THE CONGREGATIONALIST CAMPAIGN

LAURA HAMBY, BOARD OF GOVERNORS

January 15, the Foundation launched *The Congregationalist* Campaign, a joyful and ambitious effort to raise \$500,000 to strengthen the magazine's endowment and secure its future for years to come. Reaching this goal will help ensure that *The Congregationalist* continues to inform, connect, and inspire future generations, while also easing the strain on the annual Shared Ministries budget and strengthening the collective ministry of the NACCC.

This Valentine's Day, show your love for the stories and voices that shape our shared faith. In the weeks to come, watch for a variety of opportunities to support your favorite magazine, including posters mailed to your church, Sharing Sunday, surprise bookmarks, Facebook posts, and a webinar with the editors. To learn more or to make a gift, search "*The Congregationalist* Campaign" on the NACCC website.

JOIN US AT CONVOCATION!

The NACCC's 2026 Ministers' Convocation will be held at the University of Saint Mary of the Lake on the outskirts of Chicago from April 13-16. Join us for a time of learning from one another and inspiring speakers, worshipping in community, and strengthening our Congregational fellowship. For more information, visit the Event Calendar on the NACCC website.

CHARLES RUSH AWARD

Do you know a minority person who is working with Congregational Christian churches to accomplish worthwhile social and personal goals? Consider nominating them for the Charles Rush Award - an award intended to exemplify the excellent spirit of the late Rev. Charles Rush and emphasize the importance of Christian social involvement!

Search "Rush Award" on the NACCC website to learn more and make your nominations.

ORDER LENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKLETS

Just over two weeks remain until Ash Wednesday! Order your Lent Devotional Booklets soon to ensure you'll have yours in hand this Lenten season. These thoughtfully crafted reflections are a wonderful companion for daily prayer and spiritual renewal. Now is the perfect time to reserve your copies and ensure you're ready for Lent.

Search "Advent & Lent Devotionals" on the NACCC website to order yours.

SUPPORT THE 2026 INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION PROJECT

Is your church planning to gather supplies for our 2026 Intergenerational Mission Project during Lent? We hope so!

Please take a moment to review the sign-up list to see which items are most needed and what others have already committed to collect.

Quantities can always be updated later if necessary.

Search "intergenerational" on the NACCC website to learn more and sign up.