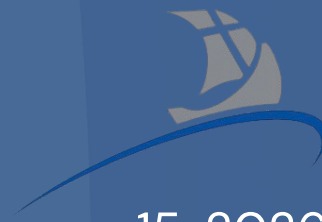


NACCC E-NEWS

THE MESSENGER



February 15, 2026

HAPPY FEBRUARY

REV. DR. GERRY KRUPP, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I traveled west to celebrate my mother's 90th birthday last week. When I left Wisconsin, Punxsutawney Phil had just predicted six more weeks of winter, the local temperature was in the single digits, and it felt like spring was ever so far away. I returned to Wisconsin on Tuesday, Feb. 10. The temperature was in the forties, and the sun was shining. I almost feel a bit of spring in the air. Okay, I may be an optimist. Nevertheless, our spring and summer big events are just around the corner. I hope you will consider participating in **Ministers' Convocation** (4/13-16), our **Annual Meeting** (6/27-29), the **NAPF/HOPE Conference** (6/27-7/2), and the **Boston Seminar** (8/3-6). These are moments in time where we gather, elect new leaders, ratify decisions, fellowship, and immerse ourselves in our culture and history. All our events are designed to be as affordable as possible and to be full of inspiration. In this issue of our e-news, we spotlight one of our mission partners, highlight an opportunity for involvement, and remind people of the several awards conferred each year. These are all good things and compound the reasons for YOU to be present at each of our big spring and summer events!

CHRIST TO THE VILLAGES UPDATE

JULIE ROBIE, MISSIONS COORDINATOR

As 2026 begins, NACCC global mission partner Christ to the Villages (CTTV) has a hopeful update to share with us. After a challenging 2025 marked by security concerns and school closures, CTTV is deeply grateful for the prayers and support that have sustained its mission and helped protect students and facilities. They report that, following government clearance and security operations in early January, Alpha Nursery & Primary Schools and Omega College have safely reopened, postponed exams have been completed, and regular classes are fully underway. While remaining vigilant and making special arrangements for boarding students, CTTV is encouraged by the return of daily learning and the resilience of their students and staff, and they invite continued prayer for lasting peace, academic growth, and wisdom for mission leadership.

EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY AWARDS

Nominations are now open for the 2026 Excellence in Ministry Awards! Made up of the Marion Bradshaw Award, the Harry R. Butman Award, and the Jennette Butman Award, the Excellence in Ministry Awards honor individuals who have made outstanding contributions to ministry and exemplify dedication to faith, freedom, and fellowship.

NAPF & HOPE CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship application for the 2026 NAPF & HOPE Youth Conference is now up on the NAPF & HOPE event page!

Financial assistance toward conference registration is available through the NACCC's Growth Ministry Council for eligible youth affiliated with NACCC member churches who demonstrate financial need and outstanding development in Christian character, church involvement, and/or community service.

The application deadline is April 30, 2026.

JOIN THE VITALITY MINISTRY COUNCIL

The NACCC's Vitality Ministry Council is looking for its next member for a three-year term! Interested? Search "Ministry Council" on the NACCC website to learn more about what the Vitality Ministry Council does, and search "Nomination Form" to review and complete the form.

QUIET DAY RETREAT

The Congregational Retreat Society invites you to participate in a transformative retreat focused on reflection and renewal through periods of quiet and silence following this year's Annual Meeting and Conference.

This year's retreat will take place on July 1, 2026, at the Rainbow Room in the Florence Congregational Church in Florence, Massachusetts.

STEWARDS OF THE PAGE

What does it take to steward a publication that's been connecting Congregationalists since 1849?

Join us on Monday, March 9, at 6:00 pm CT to find out! In a behind-the-scenes conversation with current and past editors of *The Congregationalist* - Maggie Helmick, Marianne King, and Larry Sommers - you'll hear how each editor found their way to the editor's chair, how they feel the magazine has evolved and in what ways it remains the same, the challenges the magazine has faced under their leadership, and the role of *The Congregationalist* in the wider Congregational tradition. Plus, there will be time for your questions, too!

If you've ever wondered how each issue comes together, or what it means to serve this historic ministry, we hope you'll join us.

CONGREGATIONAL INVESTMENT TRUST

The Annual Congregational Investment Trust (CIT) Oversight Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, at 2:00 PM CT. This meeting is open to all CIT member churches, as well as any interested attendees from NACCC member churches. Your participation is warmly encouraged! If you'd like to attend, contact NACCC Executive Assistant Sarah Sobecke for the Zoom link.



THE CONGREGATIONALIST CAMPAIGN

When you support *The Congregationalist* Campaign, you're helping sustain a ministry that connects us to one another and our story - past, present, and future. Help us carry this connection forward.