

**Dear NACCC Lay Ministry Training Program Committee,  
Instructors, and Fellow Students,**

It is with a heart full of gratitude and joy that I write to you today, having graduated from the Lay Ministry Training Program (LMTP) this day. The past three years have been a transformative journey, one that has deepened my faith, enriched my theological understanding, and strengthened my commitment to God's call to service and ministry. I am profoundly thankful to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches for creating and sustaining this remarkable program, which has been a cornerstone in my spiritual and personal growth.

The LMTP has been far more than an academic endeavor; it has been a sacred space where I have encountered God's presence in new and profound ways. Through the thoughtfully designed curriculum, I have gained a deeper understanding of theology, scripture, and the practical aspects of ministry, equipping me to serve with greater confidence and compassion. The program's emphasis on both intellectual rigor and spiritual formation has provided me with tools to navigate my calling with clarity and purpose. For this, I am immensely grateful to the NACCC for its vision and dedication to fostering lay leadership within our congregations.

To the instructors, I extend my heartfelt thanks for your wisdom, patience, and generosity of spirit. Your passion for teaching and your commitment to nurturing our growth as lay ministers have been truly inspiring. Each of you brought unique perspectives, challenging us to think critically while encouraging us to remain rooted in faith and love. Your guidance has not only shaped my understanding of ministry but has also modeled the humility and grace that I aspire to embody in my own service.

I am equally grateful to the LMTP committee members, whose tireless efforts behind the scenes made this program possible. Your dedication to organizing, refining, and supporting this initiative has created an environment where countless individuals, like myself, have been empowered to answer God's call. Your work is a testament to the NACCC's mission to strengthen Congregational churches through faithful leadership, and I am honored to have been a beneficiary of your labors.

To my fellow students, I owe a special debt of gratitude. The relationships we have forged over these three years are among the most cherished gifts of this program. Your insights, encouragement, and shared commitment to this journey have enriched my experience beyond measure. Together, we have laughed, prayed, wrestled with complex ideas, and grown in faith. These bonds will remain a source of strength and inspiration as I move forward in ministry, and I am so thankful for the community we have built together.

This program has been a significant milestone in my personal call to God's service. It has affirmed my purpose, deepened my relationship with God, and equipped me to serve others with greater intentionality. Beyond the knowledge and skills I have gained, the LMTP has instilled in me a renewed sense of hope and responsibility to contribute to the mission of the church in meaningful ways. I am excited to carry forward the lessons learned and the spirit of this program into my ministry, wherever God may lead.

As I reflect on this journey, I am also grateful for the broader NACCC community, whose support and prayers have uplifted all of us in the LMTP. Your commitment to fostering lay ministry ensures that our churches remain vibrant, faithful, and responsive to the needs of our world. I am proud to be part of this tradition and eager to contribute to its ongoing legacy.

Once again, thank you - to the NACCC, the LMTP committee, the instructors, and my fellow students - for this extraordinary opportunity. May God continue to bless your work, and may the Lay Ministry Training Program continue to inspire and equip others to serve with faith, love, and dedication.

**With deepest gratitude,**



Rev. January M. Peavey  
Lay Ministry Training Program Graduate, 2025