

NACCC E-NEWS

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

May 1, 2026



IT'S ALMOST TIME

JODEE LORD, MODERATOR

Our 72nd Annual Meeting and Conference is just about two months away. We will be meeting in Springfield, MA, at the Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel. The hotel is near many restaurants, shops, museums, and places of interest. This year's theme is "HOPE and a FUTURE". The Host Committee is eager to greet you and share a wealth of information with you.

There will be three different plenary sessions to inspire and nurture you. Our ministry councils have planned motivating workshops for you to enjoy. You won't want to miss an evening of fun and games with our mission partners. On Sunday, we will worship and share Communion with the youth, followed by an intergenerational mission project.

So, please check the website to [register for the meeting](#). You can register to attend in person or virtually. I look forward to seeing you in Springfield.

OUR VILLAGE OF FAITHFUL SERVANTS!

REV. DR. MARTIN HALL, VICE MODERATOR

For more than two years, our Association leadership, under the direction of the Board of Directors, has been working on developing 'charters' for the many standing task teams and committees of the NACCC that are not delineated in our Association bylaws. As of this month, that long-in-process project is now complete. To be sure, it was not an enthralling task, nor is it something that is likely to be of compelling interest to most who might be reading this brief note. What is worth noting, however, is that there are EIGHTEEN of these charters – and these are in addition to the numerous councils and committees that are laid forth in our bylaws! Membership, ministerial training, the devotionals, advisors to the editor of *The Congregationalist*...these are but a few of the many groups that work behind the scenes to carry forth the ministry and programs of the NACCC. It takes a village, for sure, and I am truly grateful for the one we have!

YOU SCREAM, I SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM...IN SPRINGFIELD!

SANDY LEONARD, CONGREGATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Yes, once again, the Congregational Foundation Board of Governors will be sponsoring an afternoon ice cream break at the June 2026 Annual Meeting and Conference in Springfield, Massachusetts. Take some time to chat with us while you enjoy a frozen treat or stop by our table to learn about the foundation's work to support the NACCC and our current campaign to raise funds for *The Congregationalist*, with the goal of ensuring that this treasured resource continues to inform, connect, and inspire for generations to come. Thanks to all who have already contributed and/or pledged funds.

SHARING VITALITY IN ACTION – FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WAYNE

Through an NACCC Sharing Vitality Grant, Pilgrim Pals - a ministry of First Congregational Church of Wayne, Michigan - is continuing to grow into a vibrant, inclusive community for adults with special needs, rooted in belonging, friendship, and meaningful participation. From creative activities to service and worship, this ministry creates space for individuals to build friendships and feel valued, while strengthening the life of the congregation. Their work meaningfully expresses vitality in action, showing how inclusion and compassion can build deeper community.

SUPPORT THE CONGREGATIONALIST CAMPAIGN

Do you enjoy reading *The Congregationalist* magazine? We're grateful to share it in a variety of ways - online, by mail to individual subscribers, and through copies provided to our churches.

Part of what makes this ministry especially meaningful is that *The Congregationalist* is entirely supported by generous donors. It is this shared commitment that enables us to offer the magazine freely, without subscription fees, keeping it accessible to all.

If the magazine has ever encouraged, inspired, or accompanied you in your faith, we warmly invite you to consider being part of its future. Your support of [The Congregationalist Campaign](#) helps carry this ministry forward, so it can continue to uplift and connect readers for years to come.

HELP US GATHER SUPPLIES FOR THE 2026 INTERGENERATIONAL MISSION PROJECT!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING NEBRASKA WILDFIRES

Nebraska has recently suffered the most devastating wildfires in the state's history, with more than 827,000 acres having burned across the state, causing widespread damage. Recovery will take years, as land, crops, and critical infrastructure must be restored to support daily life and livestock once again.

In response, we are gratefully receiving donations to support relief efforts through our One Great Hour of Sharing crisis relief fund to provide immediate aid and long-term recovery support in impacted areas.

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 retreat will take place on July 1, 2026, at the Florence Congregational Church in Florence, Massachusetts.

NAPF/HOPE CONFERENCE

This year's NAPF/HOPE Conference will take place in Westfield, Massachusetts, from June 27 to July 2, 2026. If you're between the ages of 14 and 26, we want to see you there! This gathering is a great opportunity to build new friendships, rekindle old ones, unite in worship, hear from inspiring guest speakers, and use your unique spiritual gifts.

Scholarships are available 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.