

NACCC E-NEWS

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

June 1, 2026



THANK YOU

JODEE LORD, MODERATOR

At the end of the Annual Meeting & Conference in Springfield, MA, my term as Moderator will conclude. It has been an honor to serve these past four years. I am forever grateful to the many volunteers who serve on boards, ministry councils, and committees. Your dedication and commitment to serve and foster the Congregational Way are commendable.

I want to thank the dedicated, talented, and caring staff of the NA. Thank you to the Rev. Dr. Gerry Krupp, Rev. Dr. Barry Szymanski, and Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere for your leadership during my time of service.

The NACCC is an amazing association. We are a unique group of churches and people. We come from many walks of life with diversities, but we have the commonality of loving God and the Congregational Way.

Thank you to our Vice Moderator, Rev. Dr. Martin Hall, for walking this journey with me. I know we are in very good hands under his leadership.

If you have never served on a council or board, I encourage you to pray on it and see where your gifts can be meaningful.

A NOTE OF THANKS

REV. DR. MARTIN HALL, VICE MODERATOR

I often find myself reluctant to single out particular individuals for appreciation, as listing some names all too often leads to inadvertently leaving out others. That said, I would be remiss not to take this opportunity to offer a note of gratitude, both personally and on behalf of the Board of Directors, to our Moderator, Jodee Lord. Jodee has been a steady and stalwart supporter of the Association for many years and has served diligently in major leadership roles for the majority of this past decade. Moving from four years as member-at-large of the Board of Directors into the role of Vice-Moderator, and then into the Moderator position in 2024, Jodee has seen the Association through major transitions in staffing, programs, and initiatives. Her quiet thoughtfulness is a blessing to every room she is in, and I have been truly grateful for her partnership and friendship as we have worked together these recent years. As Jodee leads us through the 2026 Annual Meeting and Conference and approaches the completion of her term as Moderator, I hope that you will join me in expressing gratitude for all she does for the NACCC.

ANNUAL MEETING HOTEL RESERVATIONS DUE TODAY!

If you'll be attending the 2026 Annual Meeting and Conference of the NACCC and have not yet reserved your hotel room at the [Sheraton Springfield Monarch Place Hotel](#), today is the last day to do so at our group price of \$139 per night! Additionally, if your church is sending a delegate to the meeting and has not yet submitted your [credential cards](#), please do so as soon as possible to ensure your delegate is able to vote on your behalf at the meeting.

MAJOR DONOR RECEPTION

REBEKAH BARSCH, BOARD OF GOVERNORS

On behalf of the NACCC Foundation Board of Governors, I am delighted to announce our Major Donor Reception, to be held on Saturday evening, June 27th, at the Sheraton Monarch Place Hotel in Springfield, Massachusetts. This reception is a special opportunity for the NA and Foundation leadership to show our appreciation to those who provided financial support of \$250 or more over the past year. Heavy hors d'oeuvres (read: no need for dinner!), cocktails, a brief program, and a small token of gratitude will be shared.

If you would like to become a major donor of the NACCC, please consider making a contribution to The Congregationalist Campaign, designed to help sustain our 177-year-old magazine that never fails to deliver thoughtful, faith-filled content to its more than 3,000 recipients. This campaign gives us the opportunity to increase the endowment for this unifying, historic, and growing gem of our association.

Hope to see you in Springfield!

REGISTER FOR THE NAPF & HOPE CONFERENCE

It isn't too late to register for the NAPF & HOPE Conference! This year's conference will take place in Westfield, Massachusetts, from June 27 to July 2, 2026. If you're between the ages of 14 and 26, 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.

CALL FOR ARTICLES

The Congregationalist is now accepting submissions for our September issue, centered on the theme of covenant.

We invite writers, clergy, scholars, and thoughtful observers to explore the many dimensions of covenant in our shared and personal lives. Topics might include God's covenant with humanity; the evolution of church covenants, both traditional and modern; social contracts such as marriage or ethical commitments within faith communities; and even broader frameworks like constitutional or civic agreements. We also welcome reflections on trust, accountability, faithfulness, and how covenants shape relationships and responsibilities in today's world.

If you have a perspective to share, we would love to hear it! Contributions can be emailed to Editor [Maggie Helmick](#).

ANNUAL MEETING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Will you be attending this year's Annual Meeting and Conference in person in Springfield, MA? We're looking for service-oriented volunteers to man the reception table and serve as marshals from Friday, June 26, to Tuesday, June 30. If you're interested in volunteering, fill out [the interest form](#) with your contact information and availability!

APPLY FOR THE LAY MINISTRY TRAINING PROGRAM

THE CONGREGATIONALIST JUNE EDITION - OUT NOW

VISIT THE CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY & ARCHIVES

If you'll be traveling through Boston before or after our Annual Meeting and Conference this summer, the Congregational Library & Archives invites you to schedule a free visit to their Sacred Rebellion: Congregationalists in Revolutionary Massachusetts exhibition!