

# NACCC E-NEWS

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

July 1, 2026



## WITH GRATITUDE

REV. DR. MARTIN HALL, VICE MODERATOR

It is Sunday, June 28, and I am writing this monthly note later than usual. Maggie Helmick, our Communications Manager, had given us an extra couple of days in case we wanted to 'reflect on the Annual Meeting and Conference' in our notes. I took advantage of that offer. I shouldn't have! How could one possibly reflect on the experience of our AMC (even the first few days of it) in the brief space allocated for this note? So, for the sake of brevity, allow me to say this... For those of you who are currently here in Springfield with me, thank you! Thank you for sharing in this experience. Thank you for the spirit of fellowship and hope that has defined each moment of this gathering. For those of you who were unable to join us, check out the business and plenary sessions online to get a sense of what it's all about, and start making plans to join us in Lansing next year! I can't begin to skim the surface of the AMC experience, but I am deeply grateful for those who are here making it what it is, and I pray that many more of you will join us next time around.

## MANY THANKS

VARN PHILBROOK, VICE MODERATOR

A big *thank you* to everyone who attended and supported this year's Annual Meeting & Conference held in Springfield, MA. Springfield, unlike Boston, is a hard-working town, and based on the tempo, topics, and timeliness of leadership, staff, and delegate members, we all fit right in. The hotel, through accommodations and meals, served us so well, and the surrounding restaurants and markets, so close, made for some simple, fun excursions. NACCC leadership and staff were well prepared and supported, providing a smooth and concisely organized meeting. Only a big *thank you* can describe the attitude of everyone who attended this year. I encourage everyone to look ahead to next year in East Lansing, MI, where we will provide an encore performance.

## FROM SPRINGFIELD

KEVIN GROMLEY, CONGREGATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS

I write this from the 2026 AMC. In addition to the important work of the NACCC, I have been enjoying the amazing speakers. Some examples: "Worship God by living the Word in this world." "When we show up for each other, God shows up for us." "The smallest act of kindness can make the kingdom of heaven come alive before your eyes." "Jesus does not want us to be passive observers." "God calls us to be faithful in the place we didn't choose... God tells us to live where we are." "God's hope lies in his character, not in your circumstances... Our hope is in the God who meets us where we are." "I only have one sermon: God loves you. How are you going to live reflecting that love?" The AMC theme is 'hope and a future.' I believe.

## VBS GRANTS

Is your church planning a Vacation Bible School (VBS) program this year?

The NACCC Growth Ministry Council is offering VBS grants of up to \$400 to help churches provide meaningful summer ministry opportunities for children and families. Whether you already have a VBS curriculum selected or are still exploring options, grant funds may be used to help cover curriculum, supplies, and other program-related expenses.

If your church has offered VBS in the past and could benefit from financial assistance this year, we encourage you to apply.

Applications must be submitted to NACCC Church Services Coordinator Laura Wright by August 1, 2026. All awarded funds must be used by October 1, 2026.

## SAFEGUARDING CHURCH HISTORY

For generations, *The Congregationalist* has helped preserve the stories, mission, and shared memory of Congregational churches across the country. In our fourth and final story celebrating the lasting impact of *The Congregationalist*, we're honored to share "Safeguarding Church History: How *The Congregationalist* Helped Preserve a Church's Legacy" by Zachary Bodnar.

In this inspiring reflection, Zachary shares how an article in *The Congregationalist* connected Second Congregational Church in Warren, Maine, with the Congregational Library & Archives, helping preserve their history through the CLA's Church Stewardship Initiative.

To read this story about preserving Congregational history and legacy, visit the [campaign's webpage](#), scroll down to "Real Stories of Impact," and choose "Archival Perspective."

Thank you for following this special series as we celebrate the enduring impact and ongoing ministry of *The Congregationalist*!

## THE CONGREGATIONALIST – JUNE EDITION

The June 2026 edition of *The Congregationalist* magazine is out now! Focused on the theme of stewardship, this issue speaks to how we live faithfully in relationship with God, one another, and the world.

We hope this edition of *The Congregationalist* inspires you to view stewardship as a way of inhabiting your faith with intention and care.

## URGENT NEED – CHILDVOICE

An urgent call for aid has come from our mission partner, ChildVoice.

Right now, young refugees in Uganda's Imvepi Refugee Settlement are facing acute hunger. More than 77,000 displaced people live in Imvepi, and over half are children who have already endured the trauma of war and conflict. With international food aid sharply reduced, rising costs, and limited access to food, many families are struggling to survive on less than one meal a day.

A child cannot learn, heal, or thrive when they are hungry.

Your gift today can make an immediate difference. \$30 provides 20 meals for a week. \$500 provides 320 meals for an entire household for a month. Everything in between provides necessary sustenance for people in need.

The situation is urgent, but together, by God's grace, we can respond. Please join us in supporting ChildVoice's emergency food relief efforts for the young refugees they serve.

Donations made through the NACCC are passed along in full to the mission partner you designate.