

# NACCC E-NEWS

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

August 1, 2026



## THANKFUL FOR OUR TEAM

REV. DR. MARTIN HALL, MODERATOR

As an NA Moderator who happens to live 30 minutes from our 'home base' in Oak Creek, WI, I have the unique blessing of being able to drop in on the office and our NA staff in person – and I had just such an opportunity earlier today! The primary purpose of our time together was to debrief the Annual Meeting and Conference we just completed and to begin talking about what needs to happen as we plan for our next gathering in Lansing, Michigan, in 2027 (yes, we shift our sights that quickly!). There will be much to come on all of that, I am sure, in the months ahead. What I want to reiterate today, however, is what deep gratitude I have for the NACCC staff who work day in and day out for the benefit of our Association and each church therein. The dedication, talent, and depth of heart in our staff members is undeniable! I am grateful for the blessing I have in sharing time with them, face to face, in Oak Creek. I'm that much more grateful, however, for the very fact that we have such a wonderful team advancing the purposes of the Congregational Way each and every day!

## GREETINGS FROM YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VARN PHILBROOK, VICE MODERATOR

As you catch your breath and enjoy some summer, know that your Board of Directors has already met twice and is getting to work. Bob Weers continues as our Finance & CIT manager, working with Cheryl Milnes, CFO, and Patrick Stewart, Treasurer. Patrick also continues to oversee Building and Loans. New member Rev. Dan Vellinga will head the Personnel & Administration committee, working with Rev. Gerry Krupp, Executive Director. Rev. Sarah Terlouw will continue in the highly coveted Nominating Committee position, and Rev. Marty Hall will coordinate Annual Meeting & Conference work. Currently, and most prominently, Rev. Carol Taylor will continue to manage the board's support of and involvement in *The Congregationalist* campaign and operations. My job as the chair remains simple: to support all the board members to the best of my ability so that they can do their work on the Board of Directors.

## LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

BETH BORLAND, CONGREGATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Have you heard about Planned Giving? It is one of the ways to support the work of the NACCC through your estate planning, ensuring a lasting contribution. Including the NACCC in your estate plan supports ongoing and future program success. As a thank-you for your gift, you will become a member of the 1620 Society, further solidifying your legacy and that of the NACCC. Wills and bequests designating the NACCC as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy or retirement account create a living legacy that will benefit our organization for years to come. Your Planned Giving can be designated as a specific amount or percentage of the asset. For more information, search "Support Our Work" on the NACCC website.

## 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 today, August 1, 2026. All awarded funds must be used by October 1, 2026.

## ANNUAL MEETING RECORDINGS

Recordings of the 2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Business and Plenary Sessions are now available on the NACCC website! Whether you weren't able to attend live or you simply want to revisit the conversation, we hope you'll enjoy these recordings! Search "2026 Annual Meeting and Conference Resources" to access them.

## 2026 FISCAL YEAR ANNUAL REPORT

The NACCC's [2026 Fiscal Year Annual Report](#) is now available on our website! Explore some statistics from the past year, celebrate the impact of our shared ministry, and see how your support continues to strengthen Congregational churches and communities. We invite you to read the report and reflect on all we've accomplished together.

## OGHS – VENEZUELA

Powerful twin earthquakes have devastated parts of Venezuela, causing widespread destruction to homes, churches, schools, and essential infrastructure. Families have lost loved ones, many have been displaced from their communities, and countless people are in urgent need of shelter, food, clean water, medical care, and other critical assistance.

As a result of this need, the Mission and Outreach Ministry Council is gratefully receiving One Great Hour of Sharing donations designated to Venezuela Earthquake Relief. Funds will be accepted through March 6, 2027, and distributed to [Convoy of Hope](#) - a trusted, vetted organization already on-site in Venezuela providing emergency relief and recovery assistance. Convoy of Hope's relief efforts are regularly posted on their Facebook page.

To find out how you can donate to support these relief efforts, visit the "[Donate](#)" page on the NACCC website. Please be sure to designate your donation to "OGHS Disaster - Venezuela Earthquake Relief."

## YOU'RE INVITED!

Join us for an afternoon of fellowship at the Congregational Library & Archives!

On Tuesday, August 4, from 4:00–6:00 pm, the Congregational Library & Archives will host its annual Ministers and Members Reception, welcoming members of NACCC churches for an afternoon of fellowship, conversation, and celebration of our shared Congregational heritage.

Enjoy light refreshments, explore a display of *The Congregationalist*, tour the Sacred Rebellion: Congregationalists in Revolutionary Massachusetts exhibition, and connect with fellow Congregationalists and friends of the Congregational Library & Archives.

Everyone is welcome! If you plan to attend, please RSVP by emailing [programs@14beacon.org](mailto:programs@14beacon.org) by July 31.

We hope to see you there!