



February 15, 2023 - The Messenger



# NACCC NEWS

## Building Relationships

Rev. Dr. Ashley Cleere, Executive Director

The morning after Valentine's Day invites reflection on relationships. While the holiday emphasizes romantic relationships, revelry extends to wider circles of family and friends. Do you remember making cards from white doilies and red construction paper to stuff into kindergarten classmates' cubbies?



Congregationalists cherish an intimate relationship with a local church while celebrating collaborations beyond their covenanted communities. We may journey through Lent by sharing meals and worshipping with neighboring churches or reading devotional writing by faithful companions around the country. Other partnerships are ongoing: with food pantries, soup kitchens, recovery groups, choirs, and colleges.

The National Association fosters relationships among 310 member churches and their 27,797 congregants. We join with mission partners, educational institutions, and consultants to strengthen our efforts. Like our local churches, we form alliances to share the love of Christ with the world.

# Cherokee Cultural Exploration Ministry Trip

Julie Robie, Missions Coordinator



*It comes without hammers, it comes without boards, it comes without power tools, sheetrock, or cords!*

The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC), through the Mission and Outreach Ministry Council (MOMC), invites you to participate in the **Cherokee Cultural Exploration Ministry Trip** planned for May 17th through May 21st, 2023. This collaboration between the NACCC, [A Christian Ministry in the National Parks](#), and the [Cherokee United Methodist Church](#) offers a new model ministry trip with an opportunity to journey through the history of the Cherokee Nation while participating in current day Cherokee Culture.

## The Show Must Go On!



Is your church planning a special event in music, theatre or other fine or performing arts?

The John Richard Memorial Endowment for Fine and Performing Arts was established by his family as a loving and living memorial to him. His love for music and theater performance was a large part of his talented but short life.

The Endowment awards annual grants of up to \$500 to National Association member churches of 200 members or less who are planning a Fine or Performing Arts event in their Church. The application deadline is April 15th and funds must be used by the following April. [Visit our website for more details and an application.](#)

### Our Contact Information

National Association of Congregational Christian Churches



8473 S. Howell Ave  
PO Box 288  
Oak Creek, WI 53154  
(414) 764-1620  
<http://www.naccc.org>



## **Cherokee Cultural Exploration Ministry Trip**

**May 17-21, 2023**

**Sponsored by the Mission and Outreach Ministry Council**

### **Information Sheet**

It comes without hammers, it comes without boards, it comes without power tools, sheetrock, or cords!

The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC), through the Mission and Outreach Ministry Council (MOMC), invites you to participate in the **Cherokee Cultural Exploration Ministry Trip** planned for May 17<sup>th</sup> through May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. This collaboration between the NACCC, A Christian Ministry in the National Parks, and the Cherokee United Methodist Church offers a new model ministry trip with an opportunity to journey through the history of the Cherokee Nation while participating in current day Cherokee Culture.

Trip leader is Rev. Rich Miller-Todd, MOMC Chair [minicamperllm70@gmail.com](mailto:minicamperllm70@gmail.com)

Staff liaison is Julie Robie, Missions Coordinator [jrobie@naccc.org](mailto:jrobie@naccc.org)

**Participation is limited to 20 people.**

**The \$175.00 registration fee will include:**

- Basic bunk housing. Participants will stay in air-conditioned bunk houses. Accommodations and bathrooms will be separated according to gender.
- Use of a fully equipped kitchen with a refrigerator, freezer, stove/oven, and shelves.
- On site meals. Plan for two offsite meals at your own cost.
- Access to all facilities including fire pit and worship area.
- On site programs and activities, transportation, and admittance to area venues:
  - Museum of the Cherokee Indians
  - Oconaluftee Indian Village
  - Qualla Arts and Crafts
  - Great Smokey Mountain Visitors Center and Farm Museum
  - hiking trail to Cherokee boundary

**Transportation to the mission site is not included.**

Location: Cherokee Methodist Church  
21 Echota Mission Drive  
Cherokee, North Carolina

**Nearest airports:**

- Asheville Regional Airport (AVL) approximately 80 minutes away.
- Atlanta/Hartsfield International Airport (ATL) approximately 3 hours away.

**What to pack:**

- Medications in original labeled bottles. If you use medical equipment, please make sure that the mission can accommodate its use.
- Sleeping bag, extra blanket, pillow, towels, or other supplies needed for bunkhouse living
- Shampoo, soap, toothbrushes/toothpaste, other toiletries, and first aid items. Walmart and a Dollar Store are nearby.
- Hairdryer
- Ear plugs
- Comfortable walking shoes or hiking boots
- Cellphone, charger
- Clothing and footwear appropriate for temperatures ranging from 47 to 77 degrees.
- Raincoat
- No formal attire needed.

**What not to bring:**

- Valuable items.
- Alcohol or recreational drugs. Smoking/vaping in designated areas only.

**Preparing to go:**

- Invite friends, family, and your church to pray for you.
- Talk with Rich Miller-Todd who will share an overview of the trip, daily schedule, and answer questions.

**Returning home:**

- Share your experience with a wider audience. Possibilities:
  - Sunday morning worship
  - mission meetings
  - regional meetings
  - youth groups
  - potluck lunch/dinner
- Submit a paragraph with pictures to Missions Coordinator Julie Robie [jrobie@naccc.org](mailto:jrobie@naccc.org)

**Required reading:**

Rich will lead a discussion group of this book during the trip.

- “Voices from the Trail of Tears” by Vicki Rozema (2003 edition)

**Recommended reading:**

- “Pushing the Bear, a novel of the Trail of Tears” by Diane Glancy
- Trail of Tears, the Rise and Fall of the Cherokee Nation by John Ehle

**NACCC Mission Statement:**

**“Bringing together Congregational Christian Churches for mutual care and outreach to our world,  
in the name of Christ.”**



## **Cherokee Cultural Exploration Ministry Trip Application May 17-21, 2023**

**Sponsored by the Mission and Outreach Ministry Council**

**Must be 18 years old.**

Register online at [www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org)

or

Return this application with \$175.00 by **March 15, 2023.**

Make checks payable to NACCC ("Cherokee Trip" in memo line)

Mail to P.O. Box 288, Oak Creek, WI 53154-0288

### **Participant's Personal Information**

Participant's Legal Name \_\_\_\_\_ M F

Preferred Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Text? Yes No

Church Membership\* \_\_\_\_\_

\*Priority given to members of NACCC congregations.

### **A background check is required for this trip.**

If you have a background check current within the last year, please send it to [jrobie@naccc.org](mailto:jrobie@naccc.org).

Background checks for volunteers and drivers are available through the NACCC at [www.naccc.org/background-checks](http://www.naccc.org/background-checks). Contact Laura Wright [lwright@naccc.org](mailto:lwright@naccc.org), 1.414.764.1620 X 1614 if you have questions or concerns.

## Health Information

Please consult with your healthcare professional about any medical conditions which might impact your ability to participate in this trip.

List food allergies, environmental allergies, or physical restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

## In Case of an Emergency, please notify:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Text Y N

## Health Care Release

In case of an emergency, I hereby give permission to the physician selected by a designated representative of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) to hospitalize and secure proper treatment, and order injection, anesthesia, or surgery.

I, therefore, agree to assume any and all risks, including, but not limited to these enumerated above. I agree to hold harmless the NACCC from any and all inabilities, claims, demands, and causes of action whatsoever which may arise due to my participation.

I realize, also, that in the event of illness or injury while participating in these activities, medical treatment may be required. I hereby give permission for any such treatment to be rendered, and I agree to bear the cost of such treatment.

Participant signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Photograph & Video Release

I understand that my image may be edited, copied, exhibited, published, or distributed and waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product wherein my likeness appears.

## Authorization

I have read and understand the information sheet for the Cherokee Cultural Exploration Ministry Trip.

Participant signature \_\_\_\_\_





# John Richard Memorial Endowment

The John Richard Memorial Endowment was established by his family as a loving and living memorial. His love for music and theater performance was a large part of his talented but short life.

## About:

- The Endowment awards annual grants to National Association of Congregational Christian Churches (NACCC) Active Member Churches of 200 members or less that are planning a fine or performing arts event in their church.
- Grants will be awarded up to \$500 per church.
- All funds awarded for an event must be used by April 1, 2024.

## Requirements:

1. The event program or bulletin must include mention of the John Richard Memorial Endowment of the Congregational Foundation and the NACCC. A copy of this program or bulletin must be submitted with the final grant report.
2. The church must have 200 members or less.
3. Grant recipients must complete and submit a brief questionnaire as a final grant report within 30 days of the event for which the funds were received.

## How to Apply:

- Complete the John Richard Memorial Endowment Grant Application found at <http://www.naccc.org/john-richard-memorial-endowment.html>
- Submit applications to the NACCC no later than **April 15, 2023** via email or mail.
- Applications received after the deadline will NOT be considered.

**Apply to:** [development@naccc.org](mailto:development@naccc.org)  
PO Box 288 - Oak Creek, Wisconsin 53154



## JOHN RICHARD MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT

### GRANT APPLICATION

Application Deadline: April 15, 2023

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_  
Minister (if not the contact person) \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of years the Church has been a member of the NACCC \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Church Members \_\_\_\_\_  
Event Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Event \_\_\_\_\_  
Estimated Total Cost \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Requested (*not to exceed \$500*) \_\_\_\_\_

Attach a brief description (*1 page maximum*) that includes the following:

- A description of the fine or performing arts event you are planning.
- Why you are planning this event and the benefits you expect to receive from it.
- A projected budget that shows itemized costs
- How you heard about the program

I/We have read the Guidelines for the John Richard Memorial Endowment for grant support and agree to the terms and conditions outlined therein (See reverse).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Contact

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name and Title

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this page and brief description sheet to:

**Congregational Foundation**  
**PO Box 288**  
**Oak Creek, WI 53154**  
**EMAIL: [development@naccc.org](mailto:development@naccc.org)**



## One Great Hour of Sharing *Syria & Turkey Relief Efforts* February 10, 2023

Our hearts go out to the people in the countries of Syria and Turkey where earthquake damage has caused overwhelming destruction and the death toll, already at 20,000, continues to rise. Congregationalists around the world join together lifting them in prayer. We are receiving inquiries about opportunities to offer tangible support.

The Mission and Outreach Ministry Council (MOMC), on behalf of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, is gratefully receiving funds to assist with Syria and Turkey relief efforts.

In times of crisis, MOMC makes every effort to work through member churches and missions closest to those in need and will update this announcement as information becomes available. Where our churches and missions are not present, we work through respected and responsible organizations such as the Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, World Vision, Samaritan's Purse, Church World Services, and the Red Cross.

**To mail a check or donate online, please include a note with your donation indicating that the funds are for Syria and Turkey relief efforts.**

Mailing address:

NACCC – OGHS  
PO Box 288  
Oak Creek WI 53154

On-line donations:

Donate online at [www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org), [Venmo](#), or [click here](#).

If you have questions, or if your church is working to help in this crisis, please contact Julie Robie, Missions Coordinator: [jrobie@naccc.org](mailto:jrobie@naccc.org).

### NACCC Mission Statement

*Our mission: To nurture fellowship among Congregational Christian Churches and to support ministries of the local church in its community and to the world, all in the name of Christ.*