

NACCC NEWS

DECEMBER 2010/JANUARY 2011

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6



FROM MY HEART TO YOURS

Dear Friends,

Alban Institute's Summer issue of "Congregations" has an article by Jill Hudson that is worth your Church's time as you come to the end of 2010 and begin planning for 2011. It would be very valuable reading for a variety of church leadership people.

Her research, observations, and interviews suggest that there are "Twelve Characteristics For Effective 21st Century Ministry." They are the ability to: maintain personal and professional balance; guide transformational faith; motivate a church to be a mission outpost; communicate a vision, promote spiritual formation; provide leadership for high-quality worship experiences; identify, develop, and support lay leaders; build and inspire a team; navigate technology; manage conflict; and be a lifelong learner.

She writes, "To be effective in ministry...requires that both pastor and congregation truly struggle to discern what's working and what's not, what needs to be added, and what has to be retired to make room for God's new vision for ministry."

Contrary to what many of my colleagues maintain, it has little to do with whether or not to wear clerical garb on Sundays, whether to change the by-laws, whether to go to another denomination (or go it alone). It has everything to do with falling in love with your congregation and your call, and respecting the tradition into which you have been called. That means practicing Christianity in a Congregational environment, which has never been more important, exciting, and more needed in religious milieu in which too many churches have become stalemated environments of contention and lite-theology.

May 2011 be a year in which your church shares a more effective witness to the life, ministry, and work of Jesus Christ.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Dr. Thomas Richard
Executive Secretary

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It has been a busy Fall for the Center for Congregational Leadership. The Center, along with Olivet College and the Congregational Library, hosted the Seventh Congregational Symposium. The Symposium explored the theme, "Congregationalism: Leading from the Wilderness. Challenges and Opportunities in the Postmodern World." Keynote speaker Dr. Terence Fretheim set the biblical stage for us and nine other speakers representing the United Church of Christ, the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference, the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, the British Congregational Federation and the American Congregational Association provided thoughtful, provocative, and well grounded papers to challenge our thinking. Attendees broke into small groups to engage the material and discuss ideas with each other. Olivet Congregational Church hosted us with worship and fellowship breaks. Olivet College welcomed participants and attendees with a concert by the Olivet Chamber Singers and a President's reception. The fellowship of the event was as outstanding as the material presented to us. Thank you to Larry Wood, Mike Fales, Mark Jarvie, Jack Brown, Charles Packer, Mimi Biedron, and Marty Hall as the excellent steering committee that helped put it all together. Thank you also to the many people and churches that provided invaluable support to make the Symposium a success.

For more information about the Center and educational opportunities, contact Dr. Mauro at bmauro@naccc.org or 1-800-262-1620 x 12

Blessings,

Betsy

CONGRATULATIONS!!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE AND CHURCHES UPON ORDINATION:



DAVID BANDFIELD, PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, LANSING, MI
JAMIE BONNEMA, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, TONGANOXIE, KS
JANE MILASCHEWSKI, CHURCH IN THE COVE, BEVERLY, MA
SANDRA PORREY, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, EAST BLOOMFIELD, NY
YVETTE WILSON, PLYMOUTH CHURCH OF THE PILGRIMS, BROOKLYN, NY

2011 ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE SCOTTSDALE, ARIZONA—JUNE 18-21

The weather in the northwest is getting colder. All the leaves have fallen, the grass had its last mowing and the snow tires are on. So now we look forward to warmer times in about four months. It helps make planning for Arizona in June much easier.

The work on the meeting/conference is well under way and it is shaping up to be a real great together time. We have speakers from within the NACCC, Mike Chittum from Salt Lake City and Jim Owens from Florida. We have also invited Dr. Marva Dawn of Washington, a well respected teacher of Christian Education to be the Bible Lecturer. Her presentations, I am sure, will give each attendee something very useful to take back to their congregations.

Yes, the weather will be warmer than it is now, no matter where you live. To some, maybe too warm. But the Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort in Scottsdale has all the needs of its visitors to keep them cool. That includes two swimming pools.

The meeting will offer many chances to see all around the Phoenix area. Then there are the many sights to behold and enjoy after the meeting such as the Grand Canyon and Hoover Dam. I urge you to take advantage of this year's meeting location and bring the family. So come and let's fellowship and reason together in the name of Jesus Christ.

*Joe Clarke, Moderator
Warden Community Church
Warden, Washington*



Attention Leadership Team Looking Forward to Scottsdale, Arizona

It is not too early to be thinking about your committee, division or commission display for the Resource Room. The information age in which we live demands up-to-date, eye-catching, and professional looking displays. Start now by putting a person on your team in charge of upgrading your display which is housed at the NACCC office. The displays will be transported on a truck to the Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort. Contact your NACCC support staff if you need help and/or information.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

CAMPAIGN CORNER *Branching Out Activities**BRANCHING OUT*

A year ago the Church of Christ in Winsted, Connecticut began a journey of transformation by covenanting with the NACCC to use RSI's capital stewardship services to conduct their own capital campaign. We are happy to report that they recently concluded their campaign with more than \$254,000 in pledges. This

church, originally gathered in 1854 and currently led by Rev. Douglas Aldrich, will use the funds to make some much needed renovation and repairs.

In late September, members of the Congregational Foundation Board of Governors, the Executive Committee, and the NACCC staff met at the Center for Congregational Leadership in Olivet, Michigan for an intensive, two-day training and planning session to prepare for the *Branching Out* campaign's conclusion. Between now and June 2011, they will be seeking new donors and asking previous donors to renew or extend their pledges, in the hope of achieving full funding for the campaign's two initiatives.

Grant Opportunities

The Congregational Foundation is now accepting applications for Providence Fund grants. This fund awards grants to NACCC member churches to help defray costs for sending a delegate to the Annual Meeting in June. The deadline for applications is December 1, 2010.

If your church would like to apply to this fund, please visit our website at www.naccc.org. Look under the Features section on our Home page or go to the Resources tab and click on Forms for specific guidelines and application forms. If your church does not have internet access, please call me at 1-800-262-1620 x25 or email ddavid@naccc.org to request this information.

The Joy of Holiday Giving

NACCC's Ministerial Assistance and Enrichment Fund assists ministers within our Association in times of financial or personal crisis, supports continuing education opportunities for ministers, and provides assistance in the pastoral search process. Each Christmas, our Division for Ministry asks member churches to take a special offering for this fund. This holiday, by participating in *The Joy of Giving* offering, your congregation can express appreciation and support for our ministers who have selflessly dedicated their lives to serving our churches.

If you would like further information about any of the above items, or would like to make a special contribution to the *Branching Out* capital campaign, please contact me at 800-262-1620, x25, or email ddavid@naccc.org.

May you and your loved ones be blessed by the joy of holiday giving this Christmas and New Year!

Diana David
Director of Development (Part-Time)

THANK YOU!

The following churches became first-time contributors to the Shared Ministries Fund between July 1, 2010 and September 30, 2010:

First Congregational Church
First Congregational Church
First Congregational Church
First Congregational Church

Mt. Pleasant, IA
New Bedford, MA
Hinsdale, NH
Gays Mills, WI

Thank you for the blessing of joining in fellowship with other NACCC churches contributing to the Shared Ministries Fund!

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

North CC, Farmington Hills, their staff therapist, Dr. Barbara Lakin, is leading a workshop on “The Seasons of Friendship,” exploring the grief attached to relationships that come to an end; November, like other NACCC churches, is stewardship month; their interim minister is Will Lange... **FCC, Rochester**, inspecting their bell tower for possible repairs; the entire church celebrates Thanksgiving with each other after worship on Nov 21... **FCC, Mansfield**, book club discussing TINKERS by Paul Harding; church is seeking an interim minister; stewardship theme is Keeping the Heritage Alive; (our Executive Secretary recently met with church leaders and came back saying “their annual church fair, is the largest effort I’ve seen in my 38 years of ministry! The whole church resembles a Mall. Incredible!”... **FCC, Clear Lake**, recently did a church-wide spiritual needs assessment as part of their visioning survey; The church is constructing a statement of faith... **FCC, Rockwood**, held an All Saints Memorial Service for those in the parish who have died in the last year; their minister, Charles Packer recently presented a paper at the Seventh Congregational Symposium at Olivet College... **FCC, Marshalltown**, Barry and Cheryl Holmes have returned from their sabbatical full of renewed energy and re-formation stories to share; church is participating in Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child program again this year... **FCC, Adams**, another church participating in Samaritan’s Purse Christmas program for children; they have a renewed emphasis on mission outreach – sent a group to work on a Habitat House, sent a group of families to work at Fresh Air Home in NJ, they have an angel tree... **FCC, Hutchinson**, church has a soup group which works at a local soup kitchen for those

in need; church hosted recent MACF Mid America Congregational Fellowship, the speaker was Dr. Betsey Mauro, Dean of the Center For Congregational Leadership...

Congregational Church, Mt Dora, contributes to helping educate young people in this war-torn and devastated country, via Jump Start Sudan, a mission outreach program; Each month the church has a mission program target... **Amelia, Clayton**, church is reaching out to college-age and military personnel with Care packages; planning a Christmas musical program; holding a shower for Harbor House, which assists victims of domestic abuse; their Wednesday night live worship service is back!; missionaries from Guatemala visiting this month... **FCC, Marshfield**, Trustees are looking for a new accounting firm; have replaced 20 plus chairs from their fellowship room... **Grace, Columbiana**, in this newsletter a copy of the message to confirmands. Very good. Request a copy from Rev. Rob Joy; Women’s group is helping Christina House, a safe place for battered women; sermon and lesson series how to visit a Christian friend, how to become a soul mate to your partner, restoring a house of prayer, and becoming a companion . . . **FCC, Akron**, developing leadership is a theme in their small group program; they are transforming the church basement into a café for the Wednesday Night Live ministry; they support building ten new schools in Africa; they contribute to the Ohio Pajama Program, where new pajamas and books are given to children in need ... **University, Wichita**, held a prayer for peace service with over 200 people attending; one of their members, a seminary student at Phillips, recently wrote a play on Antoinette Brown, the first ordained female in a congregational church; seeking sponsors for the Robert Myers Lectureship Series... **FCC, Hanson**, seeking congregational input re: flat screen projection in their sanctuary which will enhance worship by providing use of technology for all sorts of ministry and worship experiences. Church hosted recent youth ministry in the post-modern world with NACCC area churches; church knitters and crocheters are busy creating prayer shawls for celebrations of marriage, loss of loved ones, and sickness.

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FOUNDERS LIBRARY
Charles Blackman recently donated a number of books from Dr. Peggy Reithmiller Blackman’s library to the Founders Library in Olivet. Thank you!

RECENT EXECUTIVE AND FRATERNAL VISITS*Dr. Tom Richard visited:*

7th Congregational Symposium, Olivet, MI
 Plymouth Church, Wichita, KS
 First Congregational Church, Wauwatosa, WI
 Piedmont College
 Federated Church, Demorest, GA
 Olivet Congregational, Olivet, MI
 First Congregational Church, Rockwood, MI
 Plymouth Mayfair, Toledo, OH
 Mayflower Congregational, Grand Rapids, MI
 North Congregational, Farmington Hills, MI
 First Congregational Church, Albany, NY
 First Congregational Church, E. Bloomfield, MI
 Church in the Cove, Beverly, MA
 Riverside Congregational Church, Lawrence, MA
 Chapel at Silver Lake, Plymouth, MA
 Little Washington, Mansfield, OH
 First Congregational Church, Mansfield, OH

Rev. John Carson visited:

Kenya: Day Star University, Pilgrim's Presence & Happy Life Children's Home
 Travancore Church Council, India
 Congregational Churches of Myanmar
 Uganda: Michael Chorey (Magee Scholarship recipient)
 First Cong'l Church, Hanson, MA, Youth Ministry Convo.
 Ft. Myers, FL, ECHO, Missionary Society Retreat
 First Congregational Church of Sun City, AZ
 Indian Trails Mission, Payson, AZ
 Cook Native American Ministries

Dr. Betsey Mauro visited:

First Congregational Church, Burlington, IA
 Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims, Brooklyn, NY
 Plymouth Congregational Church, Wichita, KS
 Plymouth Congregational Church, Lansing, MI
 First Congregational Church, Wayne, MI
 Rockwood First Congregational Church, Rockwood, MI

State and Regional Fellowship visits:

Mid America Congregational Fellowship
 Michigan Conference of Congregation Christian Churches
 Florida Association of Congregational Christian Churches

**The Congregational Foundation**

Want to create something of lasting value? You can be confident your legacy gift will make the difference you're seeking to create. Contact ddavid@nacc.org for more information.

In Need of Hymnals?

Plymouth Church in Brooklyn, NY has 100 copies of the Pilgrim Hymnal available. They are used, but in good condition. They can be picked up or shipped. For further information contact Jacque Jones at jaiones@pipeline.com

The NACCC 2-year planning calendars are still available for 2011-2012. They are \$15 plus postage & shipping. Contact Linda Miller at lmiller@nacc.org or 1-800-262-1460 ext. 13.



ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

December

Dec. 2, 1955 Harvey Cutting
 Dec. 2, 2000 Ron Lynn
 Dec. 5, 1965 Fred Neal
 Dec. 7, 1975 James Eaton
 Dec. 7, 1986 Daniel Vellinga
 Dec. 7, 1997 Dinah Haag
 Dec. 7, 2008 Warren Griffin
 Dec. 9, 1962 Gregory Ellcey
 Dec. 10, 1979 Elizabeth Bingham
 Dec. 13, 1945 Gard Rowe
 Dec. 13, 1998 Ried Martin
 Dec. 15, 1958 Harold Brown
 Dec. 27, 1984 Joseph Clarke
 Dec. 27, 2001 Robert Weiter
 Dec. 29, 1940 Fred Towne

January

Jan. 1, 1952 Raymond Bennett
 Jan. 1, 1952 Charles Goldsmith
 Jan. 1, 1957 John Bartos
 Jan. 1, 1957 Marjorie Doriani
 Jan. 1, 1958 Terry Smith
 Jan. 1, 1959 Thomas Gossett
 Jan. 1, 1959 Robert Henderson
 Jan. 1, 1959 Dellis Hudson
 Jan. 1, 1959 Robert Trump
 Jan. 1, 1962 Clifford Schutjer
 Jan. 1, 1965 Franklin Shannon
 Jan. 1, 1966 James Martin
 Jan. 1, 1966 Donald Sweitzer
 Jan. 1, 1968 Barry Johnson
 Jan. 1, 1969 Michael Halsey
 Jan. 1, 1970 James Henry
 Jan. 1, 1971 Robert Clark
 Jan. 1, 1972 Richard Dunn
 Jan. 1, 1973 Richard Hammond
 Jan. 1, 1975 David Hawk
 Jan. 1, 1977 Valyn Sutter



Jan. 1, 1980 Deborah Kaiser-Cross
 Jan. 1, 1981 James McKenzie
 Jan. 1, 1983 David Kaiser-Cross
 Jan. 1, 1985 Chris Bryan
 Jan. 1, 1986 David Benson
 Jan. 1, 1991 Philip Spottswood
 Jan. 1, 1992 Ronald Folkersma
 Jan. 1, 1994 John Metcalf
 Jan. 1, 1998 John Moore
 Jan. 1, 1998 Bruce Williams
 Jan. 1, 2001 Robert Warner
 Jan. 4, 1974 Henry "Jack" Brown
 Jan. 6, 1985 Daniel Schowalter
 Jan. 6, 2002 Lynda Johnson
 Jan. 7, 1989 Al Stewart
 Jan. 7, 2010 John Robie
 Jan. 11, 1981 Patricia Haaheim
 Jan. 14, 1996 William Genry II
 Jan. 15, 1977 Robert Harrell
 Jan. 15, 1984 Sharon Wozencraft
 Jan. 16, 2010 Matthew Webster
 Jan. 17, 1954 William Hillman
 Jan. 17, 2010 Lara Morris
 Jan. 18, 1982 John Carson
 Jan. 19, 2003 A.J. Harrell
 Jan. 19, 2003 Brian McGookey
 Jan. 20, 1956 George Woodward
 Jan. 20, 2001 Cynthia Bacon
 Jan. 22, 1962 Russell Petrie
 Jan. 22, 2005 Susan LeFeber
 Jan. 22, 2005 Maryann Palmetier
 Jan. 23, 1953 Merlyn Bilhorn
 Jan. 24, 1993 Robin Honaker
 Jan. 24, 2003 Gary Howell
 Jan. 27, 1963 Richard Campbell
 Jan. 28, 1949 Walter Boring
 Jan. 28, 2006 Mitchell Taylor
 Jan. 29, 2000 Richard Nease

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The National Association's Executive Committee met in Oak Creek November 4-6. The minutes will be posted on the Association's website. Here are a few highlights from that meeting.

- ◆ Sale of office property – no official bids yet but two very interested parties.
- ◆ Approval of Commission on Youth Ministries scholarship plan, which would make it possible for more young people to attend our National Conferences.
- ◆ Creation of a team to work on future national web site development.
- ◆ Finance Committee and P & A working on ways to deal with significant rate hike in medical insurance.
- ◆ Postponement of the request to hire a full-time development director.
- ◆ Report on recent successful education events and programs at our Center for Congregational Leadership.
- ◆ Accepted three churches into provisional membership (pending vote and installation in Scottsdale) in North Carolina, Kansas, and Michigan.
- ◆ Creation of new publication which will be used when leaders are visiting member churches.
- ◆ Adopted a records management policy for regular and archival records.
- ◆ Reaffirmed policy regarding honorariums to speakers/presenters at our Annual Meeting & Conference.
- ◆ Requested of the World Christian Relations commission to focus on providing our churches with resources for World Communion Sunday, World Day of Prayer, and best practices in ecumenical and interfaith relations.
- ◆ Encouraged further development of the Strategic Plan.

A MOMENT IN HISTORY

Beginnings: A Bible for the People

When the Pilgrims and Puritans who settled New England opened their Bibles, to whom were they dedicated? If you answer “King James,” you are mistaken. As a matter of fact, the King James Bible was produced in large part to counter the influence of the Bible these English Reformers had published! In 1560, fifty-one years prior to the King James, and after hundreds of years of Bibles in Latin only (therefore inaccessible to all but clergy & other scholars), and reading an English-language Bible having been declared a capital crime, they had produced the first complete & scholarly English-language Bible, the Geneva Bible, dedicated to Elizabeth I. It, not the King James, was the Bible of Pilgrims & Puritans, of Milton, of Shakespeare, of Oliver Cromwell, of Presbyterians & Baptists as well as Congregationalists for many years after the KJV was granted a monopoly for printing in England.

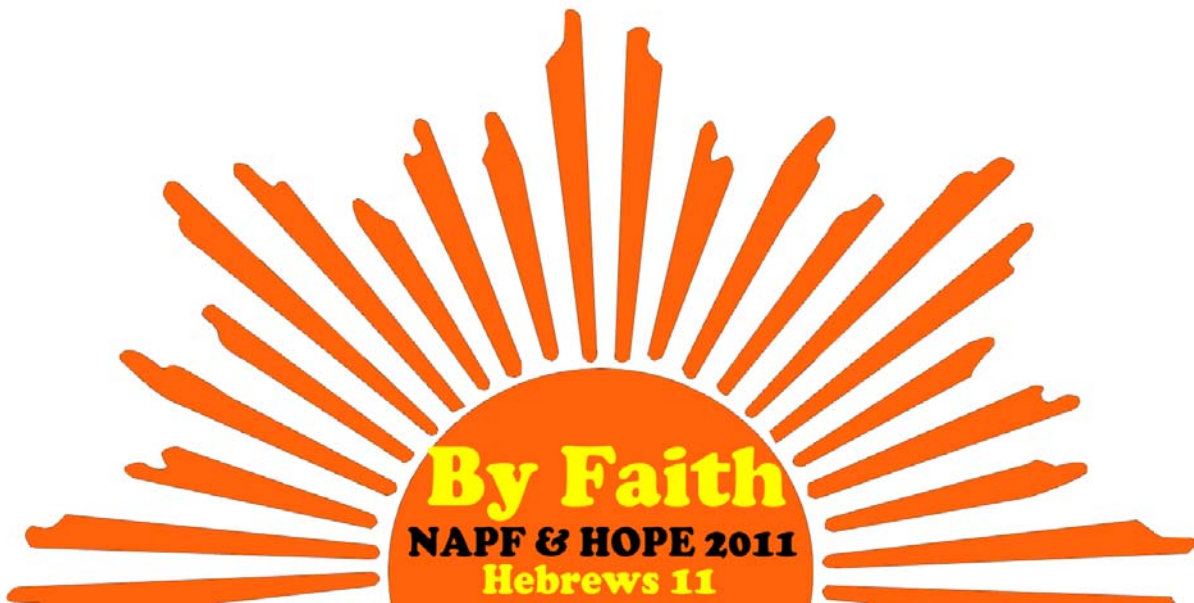
Why Geneva? After all, that was Switzerland, not England! But this was John Calvin's Geneva. The Puritans were Calvinists and fled to him in 1557 after Mary Queen of Scots came to the throne determined to stamp out Protestantism. Their work was built on the English New Testament of William Tyndale (1494-1536), who had been martyred for his troubles, and led by Calvin's English brother-in-law, William Whittingham. The eight-hundred-some Geneva-trained Puritans, including John Knox, the founder of Presbyterianism, still hoped that under the next monarch England might undergo a more thorough reform on Calvin's model. In that they were to be disappointed, in part because Knox published an unfortunate pamphlet declaring that Elizabeth, being a woman, was not fit to govern.

Their Geneva Bible however, was hugely successful, with 140+ editions eventually published. Its importance was that ordinary church-goers now had access to the Bible! This made a believer's church grounded in the written Word of God possible for the first time. The Geneva Bible truly was foundational for Congregationalism and all churches of the English Reformation. This implication was not lost on the state church or the monarch. Elizabeth's successor, James, and the church hierarchy quickly began work on something closer in tone to the old Latin Bible and which, moreover, did not have the extensive and markedly Protestant annotations that accompanied the Geneva, which it then became illegal to publish.

Largely lost to modern consciousness for many years, the Geneva Bible is now available in both facsimile and modern spelling and typesetting versions. For an exhaustive but eye-opening history of the English Bible, see David Daniel, *The Bible in English*, Yale, 2003.

*Rev. Arlin Larson, historian
First Congregational Church
Searsport, ME*





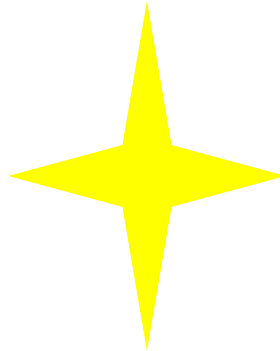
From the cold of Alaska to the heat of Arizona....
Bring your sunglasses, sandals, and thirst for Jesus Christ
and join us at Arizona State University in Phoenix/Tempe

June 25-30, 2011
Arrive Saturday - Depart Thursday

\$450

Special early deadline – January 15, 2011
After January 15, 2011 the cost is \$600
NO registrations will be accepted after May 15, 2011
Watch for additional information and new scholarship
information on the NACCC website at NACCC.org

Have a wonderful blessed holiday season



SEND ME YOUR NEWS

Submissions for the February/March edition are due by Jan. 15, 2011.

Marie Steele, Editor

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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

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Bringing together Congregational Christian Churches for mutual care and outreach to our world in the name of Jesus Christ.

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