

National Association of Congregational Christian Churches



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Dear Friends in Christ,

Soon we will gather with our families and friends to express our love at Christmas. On that first Christmas so long ago God expressed his love to humanity through the birth of His Son Jesus Christ. There can be no greater love than this and each Christmas we emulate God's love through our own style of giving.

Christmas is about love and gratitude. It is for joy, for giving and sharing not only with our families and friends, but also with others. As the season gains momentum, our expressions of love grow greater by the day. Much like the Christmas cactus that blooms in this season, our love blooms for those we care about as we reunite with family and friends.

My grandmother once told me a story about how the people of the church expressed their love for their minister one Christmas during the Great Depression. In those days, most people had very little money to give to the church, but many of them grew fruits and vegetables in the summer which they preserved in the fall. Well, one Christmas, in order to help the pastor and his family make it through the winter, the people of the church brought all the canned vegetables and fruits they could spare to the Christmas Eve service. After the service they presented their love offerings to the pastor. In those dire times, it was the only way they could express their love and appreciation.

In our current economic climate, some of our ministers face tough times and they need to have a place to turn for assistance. The Ministerial Assistance and Enrichment Fund is such a place. This is why the NACCC's Division for Ministry makes a Christmas appeal each year for the fund.

This fund provides services for ministers of our association when they need help. It also supports continuing education for our ministers through the Minister's Convocation, as well as assistance with benefits and other supplemental financial support. There is no special endowment for the Ministerial Assistance and Enrichment Fund. Only you can provide the help that comes from this fund through your generosity during this special Christmas appeal.

Enclosed you will find a poster, a master for your church bulletin insert and an envelope you may use to return your offering to the NACCC. Additional materials are available at no cost by calling the office at 800.262.1620. Printable materials are also available on the Ministerial Assistance page at www.naccc.org.

Just as we are eager to express our love to our family and friends, let us do so to those who have served us well and may need our assistance. May God bless you during this holy season and throughout the year as you "**Let Your Love Bloom at Christmas.**"

Your Brother in Christ,

Rev. Wayne McLeod
Chairperson—Division for Ministry

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

Chair

Rev. Wayne McLeod
Illinois

Rev. Dawn Carlson
Indiana

Penelope Crabtree
Maine

Rev. Marilyn Danielson
Michigan

Jodee Lord
New York

Rev. Marchie Miyashiro Sims
Michigan

Rev. Dr. Donald P. Olsen
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