



71ST ANNUAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL
CHRISTIAN CHURCHES



JUNE 21-24, 2025
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

8473 S. Howell Avenue, PO Box 288, Oak Creek, WI 53254
(414) 764-1620
www.naccc.org

JOIN US FOR THE 71ST AMC!

Registration is open now!

[Click here](#) to register online for the in-person meeting.

[Click here](#) to register online for the virtual meeting.

Prefer not to register online? Call the NACCC office at (414) 764-1620 to register over the phone.



HOTEL INFORMATION & RESERVATIONS

HOTEL INFORMATION

The 2025 Annual Meeting and Conference will take place at the [Renaissance St. Louis Airport Hotel](#) conveniently located near the St. Louis airport and destinations like the Enterprise Center, University of Missouri – St. Louis, and the Delmar Loop. All guest rooms include a coffee and tea maker, refrigerator, and smart TV with Netflix. The Renaissance also offers a fitness center, indoor pool, an on-site restaurant and bar, and free shuttles to and from the airport.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

The NACCC's group rate is \$139 plus taxes and fees. Reservations must be placed by May 27. The discounted group rate will be extended 3 days before and after the conference, based on availability.

To make your reservation online, [click here](#). If you'd prefer to call to make your reservation, dial 1(800)468-3571 and mention the group name **National Association of Congregational Christian Churches**.

DELEGATE & ALTERNATE CREDENTIALS

Delegates and Alternates must be certified with a signed credential card on file with the NACCC office. Certification is required before a Delegate or Alternate can vote at the Annual Meeting & Conference.

Please pay special attention to the Alternate cards which have a priority voting number on each card. According to the bylaws, the church must indicate an order of who can vote if the Delegate is not in the room when a vote is taken.

All credential cards need to be signed by an officer of the church.

Delegate and Alternate credential cards will be emailed to member churches with the Registration Brochure. You may also print these cards and other materials using the PDFs on the Annual Meeting and Conference webpage on the NACCC's website.

Please email completed Delegate and Alternate credential cards to ssobecke@naccc.org upon registration. Alternatively, you can mail copies of completed Delegate and Alternate credential cards to the NACCC office at:

8473 S Howell Ave
PO Box 288
Oak Creek, WI 53154

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

Saturday, June 21

8:00-9:00 am	Breakfast: MOMC Mission Partners Meet & Greet
9:15-10:15 am	Workshop: Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker
9:15-10:15 am	Workshop: Rev. Dr. Stu Merkel
10:30-11:30 am	First-Time Attendees Welcome Orientation
10:30-11:30 am	Workshop: Rev. Dr. Lonnie Richardson
11:30- 12:45 pm	Lunch Break
12:45-1:00 pm	A Time for Prayer and Song
1:00-2:30 pm	Business Session 1
2:30-3:00 pm	Break
3:00-4:00 pm	Plenary Session 1: Rev. Dr. Patrick Hunt and Rev. Dr. Beth Bingham
4:15-5:15 pm	Plenary Session 2: Rev. Dr. Lisa Davison
5:30-7:15 pm	Dinner Break
7:30-8:30 pm	Plenary Session 3: Rev. Dr. Lisa Davison
9:00-9:30 pm	Vespers

Sunday, June 22

7:00-8:30 am	Breakfast: Congregational Library and Archives
10:00-11:30 am	Worship Service & Communion
11:45-1:00 pm	Lunch Break
1:00-2:15 pm	Intergenerational Mission Project with NAPF/HOPE
2:30-3:15 pm	Town Hall
3:30-4:30 pm	Workshop: Rev. Dr. Stu Merkel
3:30-5:00 pm	Workshop: Tim Uthmann
5:15-6:15 pm	Dinner: AMCO/ICF
6:30-7:30 pm	Plenary Session 4: Rev. Dr. Lisa Davison
7:30-9:00 pm	Games and Desserts with Mission Partners
9:00-10:00 pm	Healing Service

Monday, June 23

6:30-7:00 am	Morning Devotions
7:15-8:30 am	Breakfast: NACCC Executive Director
8:45-9:00 am	A Time for Prayer and Song
9:00-10:30 am	Business Session 2
10:30-10:55 am	Break
11:00-12:00 pm	Workshop: Rev. Dr. Karen Robu
11:00-12:00 pm	Workshop: Bishop Larry Jones
12:15-1:15 pm	Lunch Break
1:30-3:00 pm	Business Session 3
3:00-3:30 pm	Ice Cream Break
3:30-4:30 pm	Workshop: Bishop Larry Jones
3:30-4:30 pm	Workshop: Rev. Robb Tarr
5:30-8:30 pm	Missouri History Museum Visit and Dinner

Tuesday, June 24

6:30-7:00 am	Morning Devotions
7:15-8:30 am	Breakfast Meeting: State and Regional Moderators
7:15-8:30 am	Breakfast: Congregational Retreat Society
8:45-9:00 am	A Time for Prayer and Song
9:00-12:00 pm	Business Session 4
12:00 pm	Adjourn until 2026 in Springfield, MA!

This tentative agenda is subject to change.

For more information on scheduled events, check the "Speakers, Sessions, and Workshops," "Gatherings and Entertainment," and "Meals" sections of the Registration Brochure.

SPEAKERS, SESSIONS, AND WORKSHOPS

Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker - Getting Started in Grassroots Organizing in Your Community

Saturday from 9:15-10:15 am

Dietra Wise Baker is an assistant professor at Eden Theological Seminary, the organizing director of Eden's Gamaliel Race and Power Institute, and the faculty director of Eden's Center for Lived Faith and Organizing. Her expertise in anti-racism, youth ministry, prison ministry, chaplaincy, and faith-based community organizing makes her a uniquely valuable organizer, preacher, trainer, teacher, and consultant.

Rev. Dr. Stu Merkel - Spiritual Formations for Everyday Life

Saturday from 9:15-10:15 am; Sunday from 3:30-4:30 pm

Stu Merkel has served as pastor of Faith Community Church in Franklin, WI, since 2009, and previously pastored churches in San Diego, California, Hartford, Connecticut, and Gurnee, Illinois. An MDiv and DMin graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary, Stu is a lifelong Congregationalist, a creative preacher, and a spiritual leader. He currently teaches Spiritual Formation for the NACCC Lay Ministry Training Program.

Rev. Dr. Lonnie Richardson - Building a Culture of Discipleship

Saturday from 10:30-11:30 am

Lonnie Richardson is the founding pastor of Fox River Congregational Church and has experience serving rural, urban, and university congregations. Committed to providing relevant ministry and leadership driven by the transformational possibilities of the Christian faith in people's lives, Lonnie's passion is to help people connect with God and realize their full potential as followers of Christ.

Rev. Dr. Patrick Hunt - God's Will for Your Church

Saturday from 3:00-4:00 pm

Patrick Hunt has served as the pastor of Heritage Congregational Church since April 2007 and as a chaplain for the Berea Police Department since 2016. Additionally, he has served in the Ohio Association of Congregational Christian Churches and has been an active leader within the NACCC. Patrick began his ministry in Chicago in 1969 and has served in many pastoral ministries since.

Rev. Dr. Beth Bingham - Back to the Future

Saturday from 3:00-4:00 pm

Beth Bingham is a senior minister at the Congregational Church of the Chimes in Los Angeles. A graduate of Cornell College, Yale Divinity School, and Garrett Seminary, Beth's ministry has included roles in Christian education, hospital chaplaincy, and numerous leadership positions within the NACCC, including the association's Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

Rev. Dr. Lisa W. Davison - More than a Wom(b)man; Prophetic and Liberating Women; Wise and "Witchy" Women

Saturday from 4:15-5:15 pm and 7:30-8:30 pm; Sunday from 6:30-7:30 pm

Lisa W. Davison is Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean at Phillips Theological Seminary. An ordained minister and author, Lisa has served congregations in Texas and Kentucky and published multiple books and essays with a focus on Hebrew Bible studies and women in the Bible. She has a BA from Lynchburg College, an MDiv from Brite Divinity School, and an MA and PhD from Vanderbilt.

SPEAKERS, SESSIONS, AND WORKSHOPS

Tim Uthmann - Come to the Table: Healing Hearts, Bridging Divides

Sunday from 3:30-5:00 pm

Tim Uthmann is the executive director of the Pilgrim Center for Reconciliation, where he strives to bring hope and healing to those in need. From his early days studying the Bible and theology to opportunities to pastor churches in crisis to his work supporting global missions with the International Association for Refugees, Tim has long been drawn to helping people grow into who God created them to be.

Rev. Dr. Gerry Krupp - What's Happening in the NACCC

Monday from 7:15-8:30 am

Gerry Krupp is the executive director of the NACCC. He holds a degree in Political Science and Christian Ministries from Indiana Wesleyan University, an MDiv from Fuller Theological Seminary, and a DMin in Preaching from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. With 30 years as a minister and 11 years in church and nonprofit transition work, he strives to help NACCC churches grow and thrive.

Rev. Dr. Karen Robu - One Small Step Panel Discussion

Monday from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Karen Robu is the senior minister of Plymouth Congregational Church in Wichita, Kansas, where she has served since 2011. She holds an MDiv and a DMin degree from Phillips Theological Seminary. Drawn to the "thin places" between the performing arts and the sacred, she makes connections between theatre and theology in her ministry.

Bishop Larry Jones - Reigniting the Fire: Relevant Considerations for Effective Church New Starts, Renewal, and Revitalization

Monday from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm and 3:30-4:30 pm

Larry Jones, a St. Louis native, is the Diocesan Bishop of the 12th Episcopal District of the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Inc. He studied at the Rehoboth Bible Institute and was ordained in 1979. Since then, Larry has served in a variety of ministerial roles, always striving to help people live successful lives through biblical principles.

Rev. Robb Tarr - Vitality Ministry Grantee Progress Reports and Panel Discussion

Monday from 3:30-4:30 pm

Robb Tarr has served as the pastor of Gahanna Community Congregational Church in Columbus, Ohio, since 2019. He is a graduate of Florida State University and Fuller Theological Seminary. Robb has a passion for ministry at the connection point of churches and the broader community, which he has put into practice as a parish pastor and through his work with faith-based nonprofits.

First-Time Attendees Welcome Orientation

Saturday 10:30-11:30 am

Moderator Jodee Lord, Vice Moderator Rev. Dr. Marty Hall, and Foundation President Laura Hamby will share what is happening at the NACCC, how our structure works, and what opportunities you can take advantage of at this year's AMC.

Business Sessions 1-4

Saturday from 1:00-2:30 pm; Monday from 9:00-10:30 am and 1:30-3:00 pm; Tuesday from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

The agenda for each business session will be shared prior to the session.

Town Hall

Sunday from 2:30-3:15 pm

A dedicated time to meet with NACCC CFO Cheryl Milnes to discuss the proposed budget for the NACCC. There will be time for a Q&A.

GATHERINGS AND ENTERTAINMENT

A Time for Prayer and Song

Saturday from 12:45-1:00 pm; Monday from 8:45-9:00 am; Tuesday from 8:45-9:00 am

This gathering invites attendees to join in lifting their voices in song and offering prayers for unity, peace, and spiritual connection.

Vespers

Saturday from 9:00-9:30 pm

Led by the Congregational Retreat Society, Vespers is a time of reflection, prayer, and evening worship to close the day in spiritual tranquility.

Worship Service and Communion

Sunday from 10:00-11:30 am

The Worship Service and Communion is a sacred time for collective worship, reflection, and the shared observance of Communion, deepening our connection to God and one another.

Intergenerational Mission Project

Sunday from 1:00-2:15 pm

In collaboration with MOMC and NAPF/HOPE, participate in our local mission project of creating 1,500 meal packets for use in an emergency.

Game On! Games and Dessert with Mission Partners

Sunday from 7:30-9:00 pm

Join our NACCC Mission Partners and Affiliates for a casual evening of fun and games followed by a dessert reception sponsored by the Mission and Outreach Ministry Council. Laughter and smiles are guaranteed! Advanced registration is required.

Healing Service

Sunday from 9:00-10:00 pm

The Congregational Retreat Society invites you to a time of restorative prayer, healing, comfort, and spiritual renewal.

Morning Devotions

Monday from 6:30-7:00 am; Tuesday from 6:30-7:00 am

Start your day with the Congregational Retreat Society for a peaceful time of reflection, prayer, and spiritual connection to center yourself for the day ahead.

Ice Cream Break

Monday from 3:00-3:30 pm

Take a refreshing pause from business and learning with the NACCC Board of Governors to share in fellowship with other attendees.

Missouri History Museum Visit & Dinner

Monday from 5:30-8:30 pm

Join us for an evening exploring open exhibits, discovering the rich heritage of our host state, and enjoying a delicious private dinner overlooking Forest Park. Cost to attend is \$60 per person. Advanced payment and registration is required.

MEALS

Breakfasts

MOMC Mission Partner Meet & Greet Breakfast

Saturday from 8:00-9:00 am

Start off the AMC with the Mission and Outreach Ministry Council (MOMC), NACCC Mission Partners, and affiliates. This informal gathering offers an opportunity to hear about ministries around the globe. A continental breakfast sponsored by the MOMC will be available. There is no cost to attend, but advanced registration is required.

Congregational Library and Archives Breakfast

Sunday from 7:00-8:30 am

Join Congregational Library and Archives staff and leaders to mingle and learn more about what the Congregational Library and Archives is all about. There is no cost to attend, but advanced registration is required. Space is limited to 50 people, so please register early!

NACCC Executive Director Breakfast

Monday from 7:15-8:30 am

Spend time with our new Executive Director Rev. Dr. Gerry Krupp and learn about the recent NACCC programs that are helping our churches, like the Plentiful Gifts Grants, the Revitalization and New Church Development Task Team, and more.

Congregational Retreat Society Breakfast

Tuesday from 7:15-8:30 am

Visit with members of the Congregational Retreat Society and learn about the society's mission to offer silent retreats, days of prayer, and other useful means of lifting up the power of prayer. Cost to attend is \$35 per person. Advanced payment and registration is required.

State and Regional Moderators Breakfast

Tuesday from 7:15-8:30 am

This breakfast serves as an opportunity for all state and regional moderators to gather to meet new members, reconnect with friends, and share updates about their churches and communities. There is no cost to attend, but advanced registration is required.

Lunches

Timing Varies

A hot lunch buffet will be offered on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday of the Annual Meeting and Conference. The cost per meal is \$35. Advanced payment is required.

Dinners

AMCO/ICF Dinner

Sunday from 5:15-6:15 pm

The American Committee for the International Congregational Fellowship invites you to their annual dinner meeting. They will be sharing about their recent trip to Greece and conversing about future plans for the Quadrennial Conference in 2029. Join them for a wonderful time of fellowship! Cost to attend is \$55 per person. Advanced payment and registration is required.

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Monday from 5:30-8:30 pm

Join us for an evening exploring open exhibits, discovering the rich heritage of our host state, and enjoying a delicious private dinner overlooking Forest Park. Cost to attend is \$60 per person. Advanced payment and registration is required.

NACCC APPAREL

NACCC t-shirts are available for pre-order on the 2025 Annual Meeting and Conference registration form for pickup at the AMC in St. Louis, MO. We hope to offer online orders with shipping for those not attending in person soon.

Order Deadline: May 25, 2025

HOODED SWEATSHIRT

Available in sizes S to 5XL.

Cost: \$30



UNISEX CREWNECK T-SHIRT

Available in sizes S to 5XL.

Cost: \$15



WOMEN'S V-NECK T-SHIRT

Available in sizes S to 3XL.

Cost: \$15



MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

EVENT PARKING

Overnight Attendees

AMC attendees who will be staying at the Renaissance Hotel will receive a parking code from the front desk upon check-in that allows for unlimited in/out access.

Daytime Attendees

AMC attendees who will attend conference events during the day but will not be overnight guests at the Renaissance Hotel should use the event parking lot gate to the right of the hotel entrance.

Parking for all AMC attendees is free. Please do not use any of the parking payment QR codes located in the overnight guest or event parking lot. If you pay using these QR codes, the front desk will not be able to reimburse you. You will have to contact a 3rd party company to obtain reimbursement.

BRING YOUR BANNERS!

At the 2025 AMC, we'd love to decorate our space with the beautiful banners of our member churches. Please plan to bring a banner that is up to four feet wide (including the stand) to be put on display, as well as a stand to mount it on.

Banners of all kinds are welcome! Some examples of what your banner may include are: direct representations of your church and its history, depictions of biblical scenes or artistic renderings, and scriptural or devotional quotes. Feel free to be creative – the options are limitless!

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.

OUR VISION

Vital and healthy Congregational
churches sharing the love of Jesus
Christ.



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