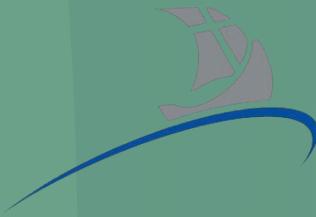


NACCC E-NEWS

THE MESSENGER



April 15, 2025

TAPPING INTO THE GENIUS OF THE FREE CHURCH MOVEMENT

REV. DR. GERRY KRUPP, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Free Church Movement's focus on liberty, local discernment, and direct access to God feels remarkably relevant today. People crave authenticity, agency, and connection – values Congregationalism has long championed. The challenge lies in translating these ideals into a form that resonates now.

Born from a willingness to break free from outdated forms, how could the Free Church tradition speak to our current moment? In a fragmented world, the covenants of Congregationalism offer a model of countercultural unity – not uniformity, but a shared reverence for Christ and mission.

How can we make this tangible in the towns, cities, and neighborhoods we serve? Perhaps it's reimagining how, or even where, church happens in order to meet people where they are, figuratively, but also literally, in everyday spaces like homes, coffee shops, and online.

It also may involve revitalizing our covenantal relationships to ensure they feel alive and dynamic and fostering deeper connections among churches through regional gatherings, shared projects, and virtual community. By reimagining church in this way, we can renew the spirit of the Free Church Movement, fostering deeper, more relevant connections with the communities we serve.

SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR MINISTRY AWARDS!

The Vitality Ministry Council is currently accepting submissions for several ministry-related awards! Submissions close in less than three weeks, so make yours soon!

The **J.J. Russell Sermon Award** recognizes pastoral excellence in preaching related to Congregationalism.

The **Marian Bradshaw Award** recognizes an ordained minister's personal commitment to Congregationalism. Preference is given to ministers in Maine.

The **Harry R. Butman Award** recognizes an ordained minister who has served 10+ years in NACCC churches and exhibits a personal commitment to Congregationalism.

The **Jennette Butman Award** recognizes the spouse of a Congregational minister who has served NACCC churches for 10+ years and has assisted their spouse in ministry.

MEET THE 2025 AMC FEATURED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MISSION PARTNERS

JULIE ROBIE, MISSIONS COORDINATOR

The Annual Meeting and Conference is a great opportunity to connect with our mission partners. Each year, we highlight one national and one international partner. This year, our featured partners are **Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization** (ECHO) and **Word Alive Mission!**

For over 40 years, **ECHO** has been equipping hungry families with education, resources, and the grace of God. They introduce sustainable farming techniques and technologies to struggling farmers worldwide, empowering small-scale farming families to thrive. ECHO also equips Indigenous churches, pastors, and local schools with knowledge and skills to spread hope and improve their communities.

Word Alive Mission serves Western Ghana and the Ivory Coast, focusing on church planting, discipleship, leadership training, and community development. They also run an orphanage, provide health care, operate a nurse training school, and promote education through their grammar school, Bible college, and youth scholarships.

Representatives from both organizations will be at the 2025 AMC to share their inspiring work. Don't miss this chance to learn more about the missions we support and that support our mission!



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UPCOMING EVENTS!

[Register for the AMC](#)

[Register for NAPF/HOPE](#)

[Register for Quiet Day Retreat](#)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

Join us on April 24th for **Commons Conversations** - a new free webinar series exploring the questions you have as a church leader and allowing you to work towards solutions in collaboration with others. The first Commons Conversation will center around the question: How can we live into the vulnerability and risk leadership invites?

Then, on May 13th, we'll be kicking off a new round of **The Leaders Table** - a four-part webinar series designed to empower pastors and other church leaders to take on a fresh perspective on leadership in times of challenge and change. If you're asking yourself how you can be the best possible leader for your people in a place and time you've never been before, this is the webinar series for you!