

# NACCC E-NEWS

# THE MESSENGER



Feb. 15, 2025

## GREETINGS FROM THE INCOMING NACCC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REV. DR. GERRY KRUPP

I would like to thank the many people who have welcomed me to my new role within the NACCC. Your support is a true blessing. I am reminded of Paul's words to the Philippians: "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you" (Phil. 1:3-5). There is something to be said for the solidarity one feels with those who have been there from the beginning.

I am so grateful for the leaders who welcomed me to the programs space, opening the door for me to enter the into NACCC office, and for the staff who serve faithfully alongside me. I'd also like to thank Rev. Dr. Barry Szymanski for his skilled leadership over the past 9 months; he is a gem among gemstones.

These are challenging times for our Association. We face questions about increasing engagement, gaining member churches, and inspiring new generations to join us. How do we rally our mission? How do we bring life to our congregations and share the Congregational Way with others?

Yet, I've never been part of a more Christ-centered movement, one that listens so intently to the multiplicity of voices that compose it, as the NACCC does. The resilience of our member churches is a testament to what we can accomplish when we seek to make a difference in the world.

I look forward to dreaming, working, and praying with you for such an outpouring of God's love that we feel a fresh wind in our sails and to celebrating the dynamic ways our congregations serve their communities.

You may get tired of seeing this phrase, but it's one I've ended almost every communication I've written over the last 30 years with - **be encouraged** in your work, your walk, and your faith.

## LAST CHANCE FOR LENT DEVOTIONALS!

Lent begins on March 5th this year, so get your Lent Devotional Booklet orders in now so that you can enjoy them this upcoming season!

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UPCOMING  
EVENTS!

## THOUGHTS: INVITES AND VISITORS

REV. DR. BARRY SZYMANSKI, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

How does your church invite potential visitors? Picture yourself walking into a new and unfamiliar space with people you don't know, unsure of their customs, wondering if you'll be accepted.

Does your church have a team ready to greet visitors in a non-intrusive, friendly way? One that offers to sit with them through the service, and accompany them to coffee afterward? What visitors are looking for is a place where they can encounter the Divine who they can put their trust and hope in, and experience genuine acceptance and love within your congregation.

Consider this: When Jesus traveled from village to village, he sent seventy disciples ahead of him to prepare the way – they were marketers, creating anticipation for his arrival among villagers who wanted to encounter, learn more about, and increase their trust in God. When Jesus arrived, the people were eager to hear from him because they had been made ready.

In the same way, how well do you prepare your church to receive guests? What more can you do to "advertise" the love of Jesus to those who may be unfamiliar with your church? What more can your church do to welcome visitors in a way that makes them feel both comfortable and connected to something greater?

See: Luke 10:1; Matthew 28

## CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER!

REV. DR. BARRY SZYMANSKI, INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The NACCC's new Executive Director has been announced: Rev. Dr. Gerry Krupp! I have known him for some years now and worked closely with him for these past wonderful months. Gerry is a hard worker, is very knowledgeable, and has served as a minister, church consultant, and so much more. I wish him and the NACCC great success!

## SUPPORTING SEAFARERS

JULIE ROBIE, MISSIONS COORDINATOR

Seafarer's Friend, a NACCC Mission Partner, is currently seeking donations of knitted hats, scarves, and balaclavas to protect seafarers from cold winds. If you're a knitter, they would cherish your donation of handmade items that help to remind seafarers that they are cared for, even while far from home.

In addition to knit items, Seafarer's Friend is also accepting donations of toiletries, new or gently used men's clothing, pocket bibles, playing cards, crossword books, and non-perishable snacks, as well as financial donations, to help provide comfort and care to seafarers around the world.