

NACCC E-NEWS



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

March 1, 2025

WELCOMING SPACE!

JODEE LORD, MODERATOR

At our Annual Meeting and Conference last year, I remember entering the meeting room for our business session and was struck by the starkness of the large room. I felt something was missing. On my trip home I thought, "How can we make the space in 2025 more vibrant and welcoming?"

The Annual Meeting and Conference Committee is inviting you to bring your church banner to be displayed in this year's meeting room to create a more vibrant space.

My church family has come together over the last few weeks, collaborating on our ideas and harnessing our skills to make a banner. It will reflect some of our history, scripture, and the feeling of community. We are enjoying our creative time together and are excited to be part of brightening the meeting room. We hope you will join us in this collaboration.

Please check the AMC page on the event calendar on the NACCC website for more information about bringing your church banner to the 2025 AMC.

SUBMISSIONS OPEN FOR J.J. RUSSELL SERMON AWARD!

The J.J. Russell Sermon Award is a preaching award recognizing pastoral excellence related to Congregationalism. It is awarded to the best sermon submitted by an ordained pastor of a NACCC member church. Submitted sermons must focus on some aspect of classical Congregationalism and its relevance today and must have been preached between July 2023 and April 2025.

For more information on the qualifications and requirements for this award, as well as how to apply, visit the NACCC website.

THE CONGREGATIONALIST MARCH ISSUE

The March 2025 *Roots*-themed edition of *The Congregationalist* magazine is out now! Read it online on the NACCC website.

CALLING ALL KIDS!

Sign your kids up for a week of fun and faith at the Wisconsin Congregational Association's 2025 Youth Summer Camp! Visit the NACCC website to learn more about this amazing opportunity to grow, learn, and have a blast.

A WORD OF GRATITUDE

REV. DR. MARTIN HALL, VICE-MODERATOR

In last month's note, I mentioned that news was soon to come regarding the appointment of a new Executive Director for the NACCC. I hope that, by now, you have seen the notices regarding the selection of the Rev. Dr. Gerry Krupp, who will start in that role on March 1. For today, however, I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to offer our deepest gratitude to the Rev. Dr. Barry Szymanski, who has served as our interim Executive Director for the past 9 months. In his time in this role, Barry's dedication to his faith, our Association, and each member church has been unfailing. He has given far more of himself than was initially expected, and he has done remarkable things to strengthen our staff and fellowship even in the brief time he has been with us. We can't thank Barry enough for all that he has done, and we hope that you will join us in St. Louis in June to offer a word of gratitude to Barry as well!

PARTICIPATE IN ONE SMALL STEP!

Are you interested in having meaningful conversations with people who may have different beliefs than you while getting to know members of the Congregationalist community? Join us for a special version of One Small Step for NACCC members!

One Small Step brings together people with different views for a conversation to get to know each other better.

Learn more about this opportunity and how to participate in it on the NACCC website.

BUDGETING FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

KEVIN GROMLEY, BOARD OF GOVERNORS

As our March 31 fiscal year end approaches, the NACCC and the Congregational Foundation are hard at work on budgets for the next fiscal year.

Each year, the Foundation Board budgets funds that go to support the NACCC's operations. The Foundation's assets are permanent endowments, gifts from donors intended to support the NACCC for the long term. Consequently, the Foundation Board balances today's NACCC programs and objectives with the requirement of preserving tomorrow's endowment value. And, of course, all distributions of Foundation funds are done in accordance with donors' wishes as established in their endowment gift instruments.

The Foundation Board also has the objective of growing the endowment base to increase support for the NACCC. The Board is working on a new initiative to support *The Congregationalist*, you will be hearing more about this in the weeks ahead.



SCAN THE
QR CODE TO
VIEW UPCOMING
EVENTS!