

## **National Association of Congregational Christian Churches Leadership Council Annual Report 2021**

Though the COVID-19 Virus has kept us apart physically, it has only served to bring us closer together spiritually. The work of the Board of Directors, Board of Governors and Leadership Council has been outstanding this year, both productive and fruitful. You can find the details regarding the work of the Board of Directors and Board of Governors in their reports. I will fill you in on the work of the Leadership Council and its Ministry Councils.

The primary goal of the NACCC is to provide resources for our churches that will allow them to grow and flourish for the work of God's Kingdom. We do this work prayerfully and with great thought and perseverance. We rely upon our combined knowledge and faith experiences to provide as many opportunities as possible for each local church in our association to participate.

The Vitality Council has done a stellar job this year putting the finishing touches on the newly reimagined Lay Ministry Training Program, which will launch in the fall. If you have not yet seen the video, please access it at your convenience. It can be found on the NA website: [nacc.org](http://nacc.org). They have also provided our clergy with a tremendous virtual convocation, complete with lectures, fellowship time, updates from the NA and a retreat and worship offering. Their oversight of the CFTS program has helped Dean Charles Packer to welcome new students and provide education and scholarships for current students. These are only the highlights. What they do is much, much more to keep our churches healthy and vital.

The Growth Ministry Council has once again provided our churches with beautiful devotional for Lent and Advent, allowing voices from throughout our association to minister to church members everywhere. The newly formed Prayer Circle has provided fellowship and confidential prayer time to anyone who would join during this time of great isolation, stress, and uncertainty that we have experienced due to COVID-19. And, their connection with our youth has proved to be very important with this year's first ever virtual NAPF/HOPE conference in June.

MOMC has done an amazing job this year, staying in touch with our missions and providing for their varied and extreme needs. They have paid

close attention to the federal regulations regarding our communication with foreign missions and have gone above and beyond in their attempts to keep all documentation in compliance with said regulations. The support they offer to missions both domestically and overseas has been invaluable during this particularly challenging year. MOMC continues to share the faith through action throughout the world for the NACCC.

Together, these three Ministry Councils are now working on goals for the enrichment of the NACCC member churches. We have been dreaming big and working faithfully for the future of NA churches. We hope to have these goals and their plans to see them to completion ready for your eyes and ears by next fall. Be ready to hear some exciting news!

Other big news within the NACCC includes the new website, launched the final week of April. This professional-looking and user-friendly site has already received much acclaim from our churches and members. A big thank you to Debby Fulton and Tracy Bernhardt for their skillful and dedicated work on this endeavor.

And lastly, since the passing of the Cadman Resolution at last June's Virtual Annual Meeting, the Racial Justice Task Team has been formed. Our goal is to provide resources for our churches to discuss racial justice in a safe and healing environment. Thus far we have provided resource lists, study guides, articles in *The Congregationalist*, notes on how to work with local colleges and universities, Bible studies and a series of webinars which were offered in conjunction with the Center for Congregational Leadership. We pray that these resources will meet the spiritual and social justice needs of our churches during this time of great unrest.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Moderator. I have learned much, laughed often, built relationships, and served our God. Amen and Amen!

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer