

MINUTES
67TH ANNUAL MEETING and CONFERENCE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES
Held by Zoom video conference
June 20, 2021

The 67th Business Meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches convened on Saturday, June 20, 2021, at 1:00 PM CDT via Zoom video conference.

2021 Emergency Bylaws: Whereas the face-to-face meeting scheduled for June 19 through June 22, 2021, in Spokane, Washington has been canceled due to continuing health concerns caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board of Directors of the NACCC, as allowed by Chapter 181 of the State of Wisconsin Statutes, adopts these emergency bylaws to call for a “virtual” Annual Meeting. This motion waives applicable paragraph or sentence of the Bylaws of the NACCC, Article III. Meetings of the Member Churches and calls for the 67th Annual Meeting of the NACCC to take place on June 19 and 20, 2021 by “virtual” video conferencing with the virtual business meeting on June 19 at 1:00 p.m. CDT. Business to be conducted shall include: Approval of prior year minutes; Ratification of Board of Directors and Leadership Council actions; Election of directors, officers, council and committee members as nominated; Approval of the 2021/2022 Budget; and any other business to be brought before the membership. New business and nominations usually made from the floor during the meeting shall be received by the NACCC office no later than 5:00 p.m. CDT on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. These emergency bylaws will be in effect until July 30, 2021.

1:00 PM Zoom Instructions

Rev. Shawn Stapleton reviewed the instructions for how we can best participate in a Zoom room for the business meeting.

1:05 PM Opening of Business Session

Moderator Rev. Dr. Cindy Bacon Hammer gave opening remarks and welcomed everyone to the second virtual Annual Meeting. She acknowledged the great tech team who are making this virtual Annual Meeting possible.

NACCC Moment

Moderator Rev. Dr. Cindy Bacon Hammer explained the NACCC moment, which was added to the agenda in 2020, and gives members of the National Association an opportunity to talk about what the NACCC means to them. The speaker today was the Rev. Dr. Ashley C. Cleere. The Executive Director Search Committee has recommended that Dr. Cleere be approved as the new NACCC Executive Director by a vote of delegates at this business meeting.

1:14 PM Call to Order

Moderator Rev. Dr. Cindy Bacon Hammer called the 67th Annual Meeting of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches to order. This year's theme is "Finding Our Way in the Future," which has special resonance with us after this pandemic year with its cataclysmic effects on so many aspects of our lives.

Constituting Prayer

The Constituting Prayer was offered by Jami Backell, chair of the Spokane Host Committee and Moderator of the Pacific Northwest Association of Congregational Christian Churches.

Introduction of the virtual Head Table

Moderator Rev. Dr. Cindy Bacon Hammer introduced the individuals on the virtual dais: Vice Moderator Rev. Art Ritter, Secretary Kate O'Dell, and Parliamentarian Douglas Loux.

Establishing a Quorum – Credentials Report

Rev. Kay Miller-Todd, Annual Meeting Conference Committee Co-Chair, reported that 83 delegates were registered, which represents approximately 29 % of the active 289 Member Churches. With more than 20% of our member churches represented, as required in our Bylaws, Moderator Rev. Dr. Cindy Bacon Hammer declared a quorum existed, so we will proceed with the business of the Association.

Approval of Agenda
2021 AM 01
Adopted

The Moderator referenced the published agenda that was made available to all registered attendees by email and posted on the NACCC website.

Motion to approve the agenda.

Review of 2021 Emergency Bylaws and Standing Rules
2021 AM 02
Adopted

The Moderator reviewed and explained the Emergency Bylaws and Standing Rules, also sent to registered attendees and posted on the NACCC website, pointing out that The Standing Rules include:

- to obtain the floor, a person should "virtually" raise their hand and be recognized by the presiding officer, and then give their name and church affiliation before speaking.
- No person shall speak in debate more than twice on the same question or longer than two minutes each time; nor shall any person be recognized to debate for the second time unless those who have not previously spoken on the question have

been recognized.

The Emergency Bylaws are stated at the beginning of these Minutes.

Motion to adopt the standing rules.

Introduction of the Executive Search Committee

2021 AM 03

Adopted

Jodee Lord introduced the other Executive Search Committee members: Rev. Emily Miller-Todd, Rev. Dawn Carlson, Claude Johnson, Laura Hamby, Rev. Jacob Poindexter, Rev. Dr. Patrick Hunt, and Jim Waechter. She reported that the Committee unanimously voted to nominate Rev. Dr. Ashley Cook Cleere to be the NACCC Executive Director. She noted it was their honor to serve the NACCC in this way. Vice Moderator Art Ritter presented the motion to appoint Ashley C. Cleere as NACCC Executive Director. The Committee report constitutes a motion and does not need a second.

Motion to approve Rev. Dr. Ashley Cook Cleere as NACCC Executive Director

Approval of Minutes

2021 AM 04

Adopted

Minutes of the 66th Annual Meeting held by video conferencing on June 27, 2020 were previously read and approved by the 2020 Minutes Certification Committee – Patricia Smith, Rev. Patrick Hunt, and Curt Schmidt – and were posted on the NACCC website.

Motion by Secretary Kate O'Dell, to accept the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting.

Appointment of Minutes Certification Committee for the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

2021 AM 05

Adopted

The Moderator announced she has appointed Susan List, Colleen Murray, and Jennifer Halsey to review this year's minutes:

Motion to accept the appointment of three volunteers, selected by the Moderator as the 2021 Minutes Certification Committee to review the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes before they are distributed

Introduction, Vote, and Welcome to New Churches accepted into Membership

2021 AM 06

Adopted

Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Ashley C. Cleere reported that the Leadership Council recommends four (4) churches to be accepted into full membership.

Motion made that the following churches be accepted into full membership in the NACCC as

recommended by the Leadership Council (Motion 2020/21 LC 004, 2020/21 LC 009, 2020/21 LC 011):

Congregational Church of East Sumner

50 Main Street Sumner, Maine 04292

First Church in Pembroke

105 Center Street Pembroke, Massachusetts 02359

West Congregational Church

155 North Walker EXT Taunton, Massachusetts

02780 **First Congregational Church of St.**

Johnsbury Center 1514 Vertical Mile Road St.

Johnsbury Center, Vermont 05851

Installation of New Churches

Executive Director Rev. Dr. Ashley C. Cleere performed the installation ceremony with a member or a representative for each new church affirming their desire to join the NACCC.

1:30 PM Reports

Moderator Cindy Bacon Hammer explained that, due to the constraints of the virtual meeting, the leaders of boards and committees would not be delivering their reports during the call. Instead, written reports and video presentations from many leaders are on the website where all can review them before or after the meeting.

Nominating Committee Report

All nominees elected.

Rev. Patti Haaheim gave the report of the Nominating Committee: Sharon Higgins, Rev. Wendy Van Tassell, Rev. Andrew McHenry, Rev. Dan Vellinga and Elizabeth (Liz) Philbrook. She then read the list of nominees for each position. She added the following names to the list as presented: Rev. Rich Miller-Todd, MOMC; and Kate O'Dell, Secretary. The list is an addendum to these minutes.

She then moved that the entire slate of candidates be elected as nominated.

Appointment of Two
Nominating Committee
Members

2021 AM 07

**Both nominees were
elected.**

The Moderator called for nominations to fill two open 3-year positions on the Nominating Committee. The following names were placed in nomination from the floor: Claude Johnson, Rev. Emily Miller-Todd.

The Moderator asked if there were any questions about these nominations. **As there were no questions, she declared the nominations closed and called for the vote.**

Ratification of Leadership
Council Actions
2021 AM 09
Adopted

The Moderator presented the list of Actions by the Leadership Council from June 2020 through June 2021 that require ratification, which appear on page 1 of the Leadership Council Report in the delegate documents. Page 3 lists procedural motions that do not require ratification in regular type. Motions being presented for consideration separately are in italics. **Motion made that the Association delegates ratify the actions of the Leadership Council from June 2020 through June 2021** (motions 2020/21 C 004; C 008-C009; C011) **which require ratification and are not being presented separately**

Ratification of Board of
Directors' Actions
2021 AM 08
Adopted

Vice Moderator Art Ritter presented the list of Actions of the Board of Directors from June 2020 through June 2021 that require ratification, which appear on pages 1-2 of the "Actions of the Board of Directors" in the delegate documents. Page 3 of the document lists procedural motions that do not require ratification in regular type. Motions being presented for consideration separately are in italics. **Motion made that the Association delegates ratify the actions of the Board of Directors from June 2020 through June 2021** (motions 2020/21 C03-C05; 2020/21 C 007-C008; C010; C013-C014; C016-C020; C022; C024) **which require ratification and are not being presented separately.**

Financial Report

Association Treasurer Jeff Dillon presented a slide show with the Financial Reports, explained details, assumptions, and related information from the recent Financial Audit.

Introduction and vote on
Proposed 2021/2022 Budget
2021 AM 10
Adopted

Treasurer Jeff Dillon presented the proposed 2021-2022 Budget of the Shared Ministries Fund, the Center for Congregational Leadership, and Ministry Council as recommended by Board of Directors' action (2020/21 C 022).

Motion by Jeff Dillon, on behalf of the Board of Directors, to approve the 2021/22 Budget for the Shared Ministries, the CCL, and the Ministry Council as recommended by the Board of Directors and presented by the Treasurer.

2:00 PM Other Business and Adjournment

Introduction of new business

No new business was presented by the June 1, 2021 deadline

Miscellaneous Reports and Awards

Vitality Ministry Council Preaching Award

Rev. Justin Nierer, Vitality Ministry Council Chair, presented the John Jones Russell Preaching Award to Rev. Robb Tarr, Gahanna Community Congregational Church, Gahanna, Ohio. His sermon will be posted on the NACCC website, and Justin highly recommended everyone listen to it.

Board of Directors Citation

Vice Moderator Rev. Art Ritter presented the recipient of the 2021 Board of Directors Citation to Reverend Thomas H. Van Tassell.

† It is our honor to recognize the recipient of the 2021 Board of Directors Citation.

† For remarkable service to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches on NAPF Co-Director

1984-1986, Commission on Youth 1988-1991, Division for Ministry 1997-2001, Annual Meeting Program Committee 2006-2008, Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies 2009-2014, Vitality Ministry Council 2012-2016, Plymouth 400 Task Team, and two Executive Director Search Committees.

† For his various offices and teams that he serviced in the Michigan Conference, Cal-West Association, and the Iowa/ Nebraska Association. For his current service as secretary of the International Congregational Fellowship and the American Committee for ICF.

† For his service to the community and involvement in Hospice, Upper Des Moines Food Center, Community

Theater and for his commitment and devotion to youth in soccer and hockey.

† For his service as Associate Minister of Plymouth Congregational Church in Lansing, Michigan, and his years in education and youth ministry with the First Congregational Church of Greenville, Michigan

and the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles, California. For 23 years as Co-Pastor with his wife, Wendy at First Congregational Church of Spencer, Iowa.

† For his love of family. His marriage to Wendy of 43 years sharing walks on the beach and cross country skiing.

For the love of his children Laura and Eric and their spouses Craig and Katie.

† For his love, joy, and enthusiasm as Pop, while playing hide and seek, eating pumpkin pie, reading, telling stories, and making memories with his adorable grandson, Grayson.

† We, the Board of Directors of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, on behalf of the member churches of our Association are very pleased to present

The Reverend Thomas H. Van Tassell

with this citation, in acknowledgement of our loving respect and appreciation for his service and leadership in the Congregational Way.

On this 19th Day of June in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-one at the 67th Annual Meeting and Conference of our Association.

International Congregational Fellowship

Rev. Mike Fales brought greetings from ICF members around the world. He invited everyone to their virtual conference July 23, 24, and 25, "The Voyage Continues" and gave the highlights of what will take place.

He noted that they have some new contacts with churches in China and some churches in difficult areas like Lebanon and Syria. He asks we keep our brother in Myanmar, Rev. Sa Do, in our prayers.

Recognition of Retiring Leadership

Moderator Rev. Dr. Cindy Bacon Hammer invited attendees to recognize and thank those who are retiring from NACCC leadership positions or are changing their positions: Rev. April Barrett, Secretary; Rev. Dr. Martin Hall, Board of Directors; Rev. Greg Carmer, MOMC; Rev. Jamie Bonnema, MOMC; Rev. Dr. Patrick Hunt, GMC; Rev. Seth Jones, AMCC; Rev. Kay Miller-Todd, AMCC; Rev. Patti Haaheim, Nominating Committee; Rev. Andrew

McHenry, Nominating Committee; Rev. Tom Van Tassell, CFTS Committee; Ryan Prendergast, NAPF/HOPE Planning Team.

Installation of NACCC
Leadership

Rev. Dr. Ashley C. Cleere led the liturgy for the service of installation.

Closing Remarks

Moderator Rev. Dr. Cindy Bacon Hammer thanked everyone for being patient with the challenges our virtual meeting presented today. She then noted the upcoming sessions both today and tomorrow.

2022 Wichita Annual Meeting
Preview

Host Co-Chair Rev. Dr. Donald P. Olsen shared a brief video to introduce next year's conference, "and the Greatest of These is Love." He noted the conference will feature three "Love" speakers: Love of God, Love of Neighbor, and Love of Self.

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Donald P. Olsen offered the closing prayer.

Adjournment
2.38 pm CDT

Moderator Rev. Dr. Cindy Bacon Hammer declared the business meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate O'Dell
Secretary

Addendum: Nominating Committee Report

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

[revised June 17, 2021]

TO: NACCC MEMBER CHURCHES

FROM: NOMINATING COMMITTEE

RE: Nominations for positions to be filled by vote of the Delegates at the Annual Meeting & Conference, June 2021 and current terms. Respective terms begin at conclusion of the meeting.

MODERATOR, Two-Year Term:

[Two-year Term to end 2022; vote was taken in 2020, first year of nomination]

Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer, Madison, Wisconsin

The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Bacon Hammer retired from Heritage Congregational Church in Madison, WI in 2020. Prior to that, Cindy served churches in Elkader and Burlington, Iowa as well as Beloit, Wisconsin. She chaired the NACCC New Hymnal Committee, which produced *Hymns for a Pilgrim People* in 2007, has served as Chair of CFTS and the Center for Congregational Leadership Subcommittee, offered workshops at the NACCC's Annual Meeting, presented papers for Congregational Symposia, was the Congregational Lecturer at the 2015 Annual Meeting, and hosted the 2012 Congregational Symposium. As part of the Wisconsin Congregational Association, Cindy has served in numerous roles, including: Moderator, Secretary, Chair of Youth and Camp, Camp Minister and Director, President of the Clergy Association, and member of the Leadership and Lay Ministry Training Course Committee. For the LLMTC, Cindy has taught courses in Worship, Wisdom Literature, Pastoral Care, and the Gospels.

VICE-MODERATOR, Two-Year Term:

[Two-year Term to end 2022; vote was taken in 2020, first year of nomination as Vice-Moderator, serves two years as Vice-Moderator; may be nominated for two years as Moderator]

Rev. Art Ritter, Novi, Michigan

Art plans to retire as Senior Minister of Meadowbrook Congregational Church, Novi, MI in April. He is a native of Stanton, MI and grew up in the Traditional Congregational Church there. Art has a B.A. from Alma College and an M.A. from Central Michigan University and worked first as a Parks and Recreation Director in Bridgeport, MI. He graduated from the United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies in 1985. Ordained in that same year, Art has also served National Association churches in Toulon, IL; West Bloomfield, MI; and Salt Lake City, UT. He has been active within regional associations and the National Association, with terms on the Christian Education Commission, Nominating Committee, Division for Ministry, Congregational Church Development Division, Executive Committee, and the Annual Meeting and Conference Committee. Art and his spouse Laura have two adult daughters, Maren and Amelia.

SECRETARY, One-Year Term:

Dr. Kathleen (Kate) O'Dell, Anchorage, Alaska [Newly elected this year]

Kate O'Dell has lived in Alaska since 1981 and has been a member of First Congregational Church of Anchorage (FCC) for nearly 25 years. She has served the

congregation in many roles, including Moderator, Clerk, chair of various boards and ministries, and a member of the Committee for the 2010 NACCC Annual Meeting in Anchorage. She was the FCC Administrative Assistant for eight years. In 2020, Kate was elected for a second term as Clerk of the Pacific Northwest Association of Congregational Christian Churches, and she is FCC's Year-Round Delegate to the PNACCC. In 2006, Kate retired as Professor Emerita of Teacher Education with the University of Alaska Anchorage College of Education. Her most recent service to that program was as a contributing editor for accreditation self-studies. Kate has served on boards of several nonprofit organizations, frequently as the secretary, or chair of the communications committee.

TREASURER, One-Year Term:

Jeffrey H. Dillon, Franklin, Wisconsin [Re-elected this year]

Jeff and his wife Sharon are charter members of Faith Community Church, Franklin, WI. He has served this congregation as Treasurer (25 years), Moderator, Vice Moderator, and Chair of the Board of Religious Education. Jeff is a retired civil engineer, working 34 years for the City of Milwaukee and finishing his career as the city's Transportation Design Manager. He served two years as Assistant Treasurer of the NACCC prior to being elected Treasurer at the 2005 Annual Meeting. Jeff also serves as Treasurer of the Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter of the National Spinal Cord Injury Association. Jeff and Sharon have two adult children, Alison and Ryan.

HISTORIAN, One-Year Term:

Rev. Dr. Mary E. Biedron, Farmington Hills, Michigan [Re-elected this year]

Mary (Mimi) Biedron (M.Div., D.Min.) serves at North Congregational Church, Farmington Hills, MI, where she has been Associate Minister (1998-2011) and is currently Senior Minister (2011-present). Prior to that, she was the Director of Christian Education at First Congregational Church of Toledo, Ohio from 1981-1998, when she was active in Congregational activities as a layperson. She is a 1999 graduate of the CFTS program, and, is currently the Moderator of the Southeastern Michigan Association of Congregational Churches, as well as a member of the Board of the Congregational Library and Archives. She and her husband, Glenn, have three adult children and two grandchildren.

YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE – LEADERSHIP COUNCIL, One-Year Term:

Patrick Stewart, Marshalltown, Iowa [Re-elected this year]

Patrick served as the volunteer Youth Leader at LaMoille Congregational Church for nearly 20 years and is currently serving as the Chairperson of the Iowa-Nebraska Association Youth Task Team. Patrick has attended NAPF-HOPE conferences since 2005 and served as either an attendee, CIT, or counselor/small group leader. He has been the Youth Representative on NACCC Leadership Council for the past several years and is currently on the Annual Meeting Committee along with serving his second year on the NAPF-HOPE Planning Team. Patrick is employed by a local non-profit community action agency working as the Payroll Manager in the finance department. He enjoys listening to music, singing, playing co-ed softball and men's church league basketball, and watching the Iowa State Cyclones, Kansas City Chiefs, and Chicago Cubs. He really enjoys spending time with the church youth group doing fun activities

and giving them the same experiences, he had as a youth. Patrick looks forward to serving another term as the Youth Representative.

MINISTRY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES SERVING ON THE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

One-Year Term as Nominated by their Elected Council

Growth Ministry Council Reps:

Mary Prendergast, Pilgrim Congregational Church, Pomona, California

Rev. Dr. John Tamilio III, Congregational Church of Canton, Canton, Massachusetts

Mission and Outreach Ministry Council Reps:

OPEN

Janet Wilson, Grace Congregational Church, Greenville, Iowa

Vitality Ministry Council Reps:

Rev. Justin Nierer, Sandstone Congregational Church, Jackson Michigan

Rev. Sarah Terlouw, First Congregational Church, Saugatuck, Michigan

ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBER-AT-LARGE – LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

New Nominee [Three-Year Term 2021-2024; Completed a Three-Year Term 2016-2019]

Colleen Murray, Gahanna, Ohio

Colleen has dedicated most of her life to trying to make a positive difference in the lives of children. She is the proud mother of two grown sons and is currently the facilitator for an intervention room at Gahanna Lincoln High School. She also works with K-5 children and facilitates arts and crafts at the YWCA after school program and summer camp. She was raised in the Congregational Church and is the daughter of the late Rev. Dr. Robert Murray. She has participated in choir and drama ministry at Gahanna Community Congregational Church since 1986, where she often plays special flute music. She has served as President of the Ohio Association Women's Fellowship, on the Church Services Commission and on the Annual Meeting Conference Committee for the NACCC. She is in charge of church outreach programs which benefit the students in the district where she is employed. She is an amateur photographer who enjoys trying to capture nature and the beauty of God's world.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Staggered Terms, as indicated)

New Nominee [Four-Year Term 2021-2025]

Rev. Thomas Van Tassell, Saugatuck, Michigan

Tom retired in 2020 from the First Congregational Church of Spencer, Iowa, after serving 23 years as Co-Pastor with his wife Wendy. He previously served as Associate Minister of Plymouth Church in Lansing MI, and in education and youth ministry with the First Congregational Church of Greenville MI and the First Congregational Church of Los Angeles. Tom now lives in Holland, Michigan and is a member of the First Congregational Church of Saugatuck, MI. He has a B.A. from Hope College, an M.A. from Michigan State, an M.Div. from Yale Divinity School, and is a 1990 graduate of CFTS. Within the NACCC, Tom served as Co-Director of NAPF, on the Youth Commission, Division for Ministry, Vitality Ministry Council, Plymouth 400 Task Team, two Executive Director search teams, and will soon conclude serving CFTS. He has

also served in various offices and teams in the Michigan Conference, Cal-West Association, and the Iowa Nebraska Association. Tom currently serves as the secretary of both the International Congregational Fellowship (ICF), and the American Committee (AMCO) for ICF. Tom and his wife have two adult children and one grandchild.

Continuing Members on the Board of Directors [no vote necessary]

Jodee Lord, Oakwood Heights Community Church, Staten Island, New York [term to end 2022]

Claudia Kniefel, First Congregational Church, Anchorage, Alaska [term to end 2023]

Rev. Dr. Beth Bingham, Congregational Church of the Chimes, Sherman Oaks, California [term to end 2024]

GROWTH MINISTRY COUNCIL

New Nominee [Three-Year Term 2021-2024]

Rev. Ezekiel Rodriguez, National City, California

Pastor Ezekiel Rodriguez has been serving in the ministry for over 30 years and has acquired his Bachelor's in Theology. He has served in various roles within the church including the most recent planting Faith Community Church in National City, California. A few years into planting this church, God performed a miracle that would forever change our lives: What we call The miracle on 16th street. The First Family Congregational Church and the Faith Community Church merged to become one and is now named First Family Community Church. Pastor Rodriguez has served as North American Mission Regional Church Plant Director, Minister Resource Director in Cal-West, and has served in Convention Committees and the Border Crisis Ministry. He currently serves on the Cal-West Congregational Advisory Board. He looks forward to serving this new role and is ready to be a blessing however the Lord leads.

Continuing Members of the Growth Ministry Council [no vote necessary]

Pastor Carol P. Taylor, United Church of Beloit, Beloit, Wisconsin [term to end 2022]

Curt Schmidt, Congregational Church of Bound Brook, Bound Brook, New Jersey [term to end 2022]

Mary Prendergast, Pilgrim Congregational Church, Pomona, California [term to end 2023]

Rev. Dr. John Tamilio III, Congregational Church of Canton, Canton, Massachusetts [term to end 2023]

MISSION AND OUTREACH MINISTRY COUNCIL

New Nominee [Three-Year Term 2021-2024]

Gerald (Jerry) Zwaga, Citrus Springs, Florida

Jerry and his wife Carolyn have been active members of the Citrus Springs Community Congregational Christian Church for 15 years. Before moving to Florida, they were active in the First Congregational Church, Swanzey, NH. At Citrus Springs he has held multiple positions: Deacon, Chair of the Deacon Board, Trustee, Chair of two search committees. For the past four years he has been the Year Round Delegate for his church. Jerry retired from Travelers Insurance as Director of Training.

New Nominee [To Fill an Unexpired Term 2021-2023]

Thomas Chelimsky, Fox Point, Wisconsin

Tom Chelimsky is a member of North Shore Congregational Church in Fox Point, WI since 2012. He and his wife Gisela are both physicians and enjoy mission work here and abroad. They have visited and offered medical care at the Asociacion Civil Cristiana Congregational led by Dr. Harding Stricker in Northern Argentina, and Pilgrim's Presence in Western Kenya led by Mr. Geoffrey Lipale. Tom also went to Jordan to offer some care to the refugees from Syria in camp Zaatari. In all these trips, the joy of fellowship through prayer and the giving of ourselves to Jesus first was the source of indescribable blessing.

Second Time Nominee [To Fill an Unexpired Term 2021-2022; Completed a Three-Year Term 2017-2020]

Barbara Dabul, Sun City, Arizona

Barbara Dabul, Ph.D. has been attending Congregational churches all her life, in Illinois, California, and currently Sun City, Arizona. She has served in several capacities at her local church, including church clerk, as well as three years on the Mission Board and coordinating visits to shut-in members during the Christmas and Easter seasons. She made a personal medical mission with a laryngectomized friend in 2008, bringing \$20,000 of medical equipment to Costa Rica. During the week of their stay, 16 members of a laryngectomy club learned to communicate with family and friends.

New Nominee [To Fill an Unexpired Term 2021-2023]

Rev. Richard Miller-Todd, Berwick, Iowa

Rich has been involved with missions throughout his ministry, as early as a child when his dad led the Piedmont College summer camp and worked with their Thrift Shop. After seminary, he was a student leader for the Odyssey '80' Program which toured several countries where South Congregational Church, Hartford, CT sponsored missionaries. Rich has been involved with ICF and attended conferences in Greece, Great Britain, South Korea, Brazil, Argentina, and the United States. He has also visited and worked at NACCC missions in several countries and with national projects at Hosanna Industries, and Morgan Scott. Locally Rich has been involved with missions and outreach working with IMPACT for food justice and his church's food co-op. He has also been involved with a Spanish-speaking church, inviting them to church for Bible Study and they also benefited the food program. Berwick Congregational Church has always been involved in missions both in the US and in Mexico and his family has personally hosted NACCC missionaries. Rich has been a life-long Congregationalist serving many NACCC churches with his wife and two children.

Continuing Members of the Mission and Outreach Ministry Council [no vote necessary]

Janet Wilson, Grace Congregational Church, Greenville, Iowa [term to end 2022]

VITALITY MINISTRY COUNCIL

Second Time Nominee [Three-Year Term 2021-2024; Completed a Three-Year Term 2018-2021]

Rev. Ian Macdonald (M.Div.), Soquel, California

Rev. Macdonald shares the gospel story each week from his backyard via an innovative home church worship service he has developed. His ministry reaches hundreds of people across the country through the use of social media and other technological tools. Prior to New Church Sherman Oaks, Rev. Macdonald accepted a call to be the 17th Sr. Minister of the historic First Congregational Church in Greenville, Michigan in August

2014. During seminary, he did his internship at Congregational Church of the Chimes, in Sherman Oaks, CA. Having earned his Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary (Pasadena, CA), he also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from California State University, Fullerton with an emphasis in Advertising, as well as an Associate of Arts from Montgomery College. He is an alumnus of the Congregational Fellowship for Theological Studies (CFTS) and was the recipient of the John W. Claxton Memorial Award for Excellence in the understanding and practice of Congregationalism. His love for world travel and passion for meeting people became the genesis for his blog *Jesus, not Jesús: My Daily Struggle To Find God In Our Midst*. He currently lives in Los Angeles, CA with his wife Kathleen and their three spirited children named Fiona, Colleen, and Sean.

Continuing Members of the Vitality Ministry Council [no vote necessary]

Cynthia Hardy, Congregational Church of the Valley, Chandler, Arizona [term to end 2022]

Rev. Dr. Irvan A. Gammon, Florence Congregational Church, Florence, Massachusetts [term to end 2022]

Rev. Justin Nierer, Sandstone Congregational Church, Jackson, Michigan [term to end 2023]

Rev. Sarah Terlouw, First Congregational Church, Saugatuck, Michigan [term to end 2023]