

GROWTH MINISTRY COUNCIL REPORT

FY2022

The Growth Ministry Council (GMC) members are Mary Prendergast, Ezekiel Rodriguez, Curt Schmidt, John Tamilio III, and Carol Taylor. Dawn Carlson is our Scribe with voice, no vote. We meet monthly via zoom teleconference.

The GMC mission includes the following areas: church planting, youth ministry and programs, worship and spiritual development, and supporting effective use of technology in churches. These areas of responsibility include the Hurting Churches Fund, the NAPF/HOPE meeting, publication of the Advent and Lenten devotional booklets, among others.

The Hurting Churches Fund offers grants up to \$2500 for projects like a one-time repair or consulting fee. We are refining the Hurting Churches Fund guidelines. This fund can now be used to offset expenses like the closing costs for a building loan for a large project.

The planning team for our youth meetings works year-round and we love to hear of their progress. Besides the all-ages events at this delegate meeting, we are striving to compile resources for youth – for example, confirmation, VBS, or Sunday School – that can be shared with other churches.

The Advent and Lenten devotional booklets are a favorite resource of many of our churches. The writers are lay members as well as pastors from across our Association. We look forward to some new writers this year as well as our returning favorites! We need more submissions for Lent especially.

The Board of Directors and Leadership Council encouraged us to dream big this year. We dreamed about helping churches financially with ministries developed during the pandemic. We developed a Silver Linings Grant, awarding up to \$5000 to churches. We set a goal of ten grants, up to a total \$50,000. The Board was supportive of disbursing more funds if more applications came in. The applications did indeed come in! There were only a few that didn't fit the goals of the grant and those churches were referred to other sources of assistance.

We were able to help 24 churches with a total of \$97,872.96! We assisted several churches with technology and lighting for livestreaming, storage equipment for food pantries, a community garden, and other projects. Additionally, one church was awarded Revitalization funds of \$5000 for their "Baby Closet," a free store for clothing and supplies for infants and toddlers. The scope and creativity of our churches' outreach is wonderful to see and we were thrilled to be able to help so many!

The GMC members bring a diverse set of skills and creativity. Mary has great enthusiasm for supporting the faith of our youth and helping them and us to come together. Ezekiel has a heart to help every church to deepen their faith and outreach. John has a profound commitment to Congregationalism and worship. Curt has a rock-solid knowledge of the challenges of older buildings. Dawn has institutional memory and ability to understand the budget! ALL have a deep desire to see the growth of our churches and NACCC through the coming years! I thank every one of these wonderful folks for their work, friendship, and prayers. God bless the GMC and the NACCC!

Respectfully submitted,
Carol P. Taylor, Chair