

**Growth Ministry Council Annual Report**  
**FY2023**

The Growth Ministry Council (GMC) members for the 2022-2023 term are Mary Prendergast, Rev. Ezekiel Rodriguez, Pastor Michael Freeman, Rev. Dr. William “Ron” Toliver, and Dr. Irven Gammon. Dawn Carlson served as our scribe for the majority of the year with a voice but no vote. We meet monthly via Zoom.

The purpose of the Growth Ministry Council is to encourage and support the congregations of the NACCC in their mission of faith and discipleship through the establishment and support of new Congregational churches, development of meaningful and God-honoring worship and spiritual growth experiences, commitment to provide support for the effective use of technology in the local church and provide support and resources for the children and youth ministries throughout our Association.

We began our year focusing on updating the contact information for our youth and children’s ministry leaders throughout the NACCC member churches. This will allow the GMC to more easily disseminate information on resources and programs to our youth leaders directly in the future. We are looking forward to the possibilities of a VBS curriculum exchange, the continuation of our webinar series, and even a children’s book to appropriately explain congregationalism to our youngest members. The possibilities are endless!

Our Youth Conference Planning Task Team has been working tirelessly all year to plan the NAPF (high school) and HOPE (young adult) annual meetings. We look forward to seeing the culmination of their hard work and dedication in Milwaukee.

The Advent and Lenten Devotionals are always a wonderful resource for our churches and individual church members, and we are blessed to have so many amazing people who submitted their writings for each book. Thank you to all who help make this resource available to our churches! While there is not a writing workshop this year, co-editors Terry Bobzien and Casey Vander Bent are absolutely accepting contributions for next season’s devotionals.

The GMC oversees Church Planting and the Hurting Churches Fund, which are great resources for the NA church family.

This year, the Growth Ministry Council began a webinar series that started in May. Our first webinar was on Safety in the Church and was assisted by Church Mutual. Please be on the lookout for our upcoming installments in the series, with topics surrounding Faith and Finances and Youth in the Church.

The members of the Growth Ministry Council are a dedicated group of individuals who are devoted to seeing the NACCC and its member churches thrive. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the Chair, and I look forward to seeing what the Lord has in store for this wonderful group!

Mary Prendergast  
Pilgrim Congregational Church, Pomona, CA  
Chair- Growth Ministry Council