



Fruits of our Faith

Our Shared Ministries

Through the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches, Congregational churches country-wide voluntarily join together in fellowship to accomplish ministries greater than one church can undertake by itself. To perform these shared ministries, the Association provides a wide variety of support services to its more than 400 member churches. Some of these services – like clergy benefits – are supplied through partnerships with specialized vendors. Other programs are carried out by four divisions utilizing a small, dedicated professional staff and a nationwide network of more than 100 volunteers. Resources to accomplish this vital work come from voluntary contributions to the NACCC’s Shared Ministries Fund by member churches

and individuals deeply committed to furthering the Congregational Way. Here is how the NACCC’s divisions carry out our shared ministries:

Established in 1954, the **Missionary Society** facilitates a balanced missions program for NACCC member churches at home and abroad. Through projects that are Congregational Christian in faith and polity, children and adults are provided with food, medicine, clothing, housing, education, spiritual nurturing and natural disaster relief. The division’s work is administered by Associate Executive Secretary Rev. John Carson and his assistant



Linda Miller, who work with a team of eight volunteers chaired by Louise Scott from First Congregational Church in Hanson, Massachusetts. NACCC’s Shared Ministries Fund provides the majority of support for this administration, so that every dollar given to missions goes to missions.

The **Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies (CFTS)** was established in 1961 to prepare men and women for Congregational ministry. This unique educational program for seminarians provides significant finan-



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This issue of *Fruits of Our Faith* focuses on the shared ministries at the heart of NACCC operations. Here you will learn how the Association’s four divisions – the Missionary Society, the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies (CFTS), Congregational

Church Development (CCD) and the Division for Ministry (DFM) – provide vital services to NACCC member churches and individuals. You will also discover how you, through the NACCC’s Shared Ministries Fund, provide these programs with a lifeline of resources. If you

would like more information after reading this, please visit our website at www.naccc.org.



The Shared Ministries Fund Supports:

- Annual Meetings of the Association’s Adults & Youth*
- THE CONGREGATIONALIST Magazine*
- Center for Congregational Leadership at Olivet College*
- NACCC National Headquarters in Oak Creek, WI*
- NACCC Divisions, Committees & Commissions*
- NACCC News & Other Publications*
- More than 80 Support Services for Member Churches*



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*Bringing together Congregational Christian Churches
for mutual care and outreach to our world
in the name of Jesus Christ.*

Please visit us on the web at
www.naccc.org

The Shared Ministries Fund provides a lifeblood of resources for every NACCC ministry, including our Annual Meeting, church planting and revitalization, continuing education, ministerial support, missions, seminary scholarships, and youth gatherings. To learn more about how you can support our shared ministries and further the Congregational Way, please contact our Director of Development, Diana David, at 800-262-1620 x25 or email ddavid@naccc.org.



“The shared ministries of our member churches create positive change that is a testament to the genius of the Congregational Way in the 21st century. Your ongoing prayers and support will help us continue to provide these much needed services throughout the Association.”

Rev. Dr. Neil Hunt, Executive Committee Chair

Our Shared Ministries (Continued)

cial aid through grants and scholarships. It is now administered under the auspices of the Center for Congregational Leadership, a new NACCC initiative located at Olivet College.



The Center also administers the Lay Ministry Training Program to educate laity

for church leadership positions. Rev. Dr. D. Elizabeth Mauro, Dean of both the Center and CFTS, and her assistant Marie Steele work with CFTS Chair Rev. Charles Packer of Rockwood First Congregational Church in Michigan and five other clergy and lay volunteers to administer this division. The Center itself is funded through contributions to the *Branching Out* campaign and ongoing support provided by NACCC's Shared Ministries Fund.

Organizing and nurturing new and existing Congregational churches has been

the vital role of the **Congregational Church Development (CCD)** division for more than 40 years. In addition to planting churches and revitalizing established congregations, CCD cultivates church growth through education programs and strategic partnerships. The division's work is administered by Associate Executive Secretary Rev. John Carson and his Assistant Linda Miller. They work with Rev. Dr. Stu Merkel of Faith Community Church in Franklin, Wisconsin, who chairs a team of eight volunteers experienced in church development throughout the country. In addition to ongoing support from NACCC's Shared Ministries Fund, CCD gets assistance from the *Branching Out* campaign's Fund for Congregational Growth and Development.



Since the NACCC's inception, the **Division for Ministry (DFM)** has been nurturing and supporting Congregational ministers and ministries. With resources provided by the NACCC's Shared Ministries Fund, this division helps both churches and ministers by providing assistance with search processes, conflict resolution, support in times of crisis, enrichment through continuing education, and recognition through annual awards. Executive Secretary Rev. Dr. Thomas Richard, assisted by Susan Carson, administer the work of DFM along with a team of eight clergy and lay volunteers chaired by Rev. Patricia Haaheim from SouthCross Community Church in Burnsville, Minnesota.

