

Growth Ministry Council Annual Report FY 2024

The Growth Ministry Council (GMC) members for the 2023-2024 term were Rev. Dr. Irvan A. Gammon (chair), Sharon Brown (scribe), Rev. Ezekiel Rodriguez, Pastor Michael Freeman, and Rev. Dr. William “Ron” Toliver. We meet monthly via Zoom on the first Thursday.

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 welcoming Moderator Art Ritter and Director of Programming, Rev. Dr. Gerry Krupp to our monthly meetings. They offered us updates of the work at the Oak Creek office and Annual Meeting planning process. We have also strived to obtain clarity regarding the job description of our Council work. We have recognized that the purpose statement above does not truly represent the work we believed we were tasked to do. We have gleaned a better understanding over the past several months, while awaiting some additional clarifying details.

Meanwhile, we have worked with Rev Krupp on ideas for webinars, with some GMC members participating in the programs. We have had dialogue with the NA/ PF Youth Conference Planning Task Team throughout the year including the decision to offer funding to students desiring to attend the conference. The Team has been working heartily all year to plan the NAPF (high school) and HOPE (young adult) annual meeting itinerary. We look forward to seeing the fruits of their hard work and dedication in Spokane.

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 incredible people who offered their writings for each book. Thank you to all who help make this resource available to our churches! And a very special Thank You to the Devotional Task Team working tirelessly on the two booklets.

The GMC is currently in the process of evaluating, resourcing, and studying the “church planting” ideas of past GMC participants. There are several ideas on the table: church revitalization, church restarts, and church plants. We had brief discussions this spring. We are also in dialogue with the Vitality Ministry Council who are also working on revitalization programs.

The members of the Growth Ministry Council are a devoted group of individuals who are enthusiastic about 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 amazing group of volunteers!

Yours faithfully,

Irvan A. Gammon