

## **NACCC MODERATOR AND LEADERSHIP COUNCIL REPORT** **FY2024**

The National Association of Congregational Christian Churches looks ahead to another period of transition. In the coming year, we will be seeking a new Executive Director. We thank Ashley Cleere for her service to our association. As we have embraced changes in procedures and structure in the past year, the future will require more adjustment as we share with and support one another in the Congregational Way.

As Moderator, I am the Chair of Leadership Council, including representatives of our three Ministry Councils- Growth, Vitality, and Missions and Outreach. This year we continued with the “dreaming big” budgeting process and hope that it will provide a more creative use of our finances in the future. Leadership Council spent time discussing how to more effectively respond to the recommendations of the Racial Justice Task Team. The Council also spent a meeting dreaming with the new Editor of The Congregationalist magazine, Maggie Helmick.

This year, Vitality Council hosted one national Minister’s Convocation in Mundelein, IL. There was an emphasis on welcoming ministers who are new to our association. Vitality monitored the success of the Lay Ministry Training program with eight students graduating this year and eleven others in two continuing cohort sessions. Vitality is honing an application process for grants to ministry programs that enhance collaboration and partnership. Vitality Council’s representatives to Leadership Council were Robb Tarr and Cynthia Hardy.

Aided by the Program Director Gerry Krupp, Growth Council hosted several webinars focusing on subjects such as Church Security, Child Safety and Abuse Prevention, Change, and Youth Leadership. Growth continues to seek contact information to establish a Youth Resource Task Team. The Council has discussed the best way to use limited resources to encourage church planting. Growth representatives to Leadership were Ron Tolliver and Irvin Gammon.

Mission and Outreach Council continued in their good and faithful work of shepherding supported missions and the mission contributions of our local churches. Plans are being made for a Freedom Journey mission experience in Greenville, SC this upcoming fall. There were several calls for One Great Hour of Sharing during natural disasters and wars. MOMC representatives to Leadership were Rich Miller-Todd and Joanne Simpson.

As Moderator, I look forward to our 2024 Annual Meeting and Conference with the theme “There Is a Time.” It is always a time that sparks ideas which later come to Leadership Council for discussion. I am grateful to the members of the three Ministry Councils for their leadership and time and energy. I appreciate the staff of the NACCC for their guidance and support every day of the year.

Peace and grace,

Art Ritter  
Moderator