

NACCC Vitality Ministry Council Report **FY2024**

2023-24 proved to be a year of transitions for the Vitality Ministry Council, but also a very productive year that sets things up for exciting development in the future. Robb Tarr started his first year as Council chair. Changes in NACCC staffing meant shifting from connecting with a CFTS Dean to working closely with Director of Programs, Gerry Krupp, and that to good effect, and also solid administrative support from Laura Wright. New members Robin Carden and Mark Tanner also jumped right in, as the Council Secretary, and Finance and CFTS Liaison, respectively. Ian MacDonald continued as the LMTP Liaison, but this was the last year of his second term, so we send him off with thanks for all his service. Cynthia Hardy is another experienced member and joins Robb as Council reps on Leadership Council.

One of the biggest areas of transition the Council and staff collaborated on this year was an adjustment to the format of Convocation. Separate regional Convocations were no longer sustainable for a range of reasons, and so a return to a single event in Mundelein was done. The Council was thankful to have funds to subsidize cost and travel expenses to make the transition as accessible as possible. Participant response on logistical, educational and fellowship experience was very positive.

We were also proud to continue and even expand our support of people training for ministry through CFTS and LMTP, churches doing compelling arts ministry through the John Richard Memorial Grant, and churches starting in ministry with the NACCC through the New Member Church Grant. Partnership with the Lay Ministry Training Program deserves particular highlighting, as they will be graduating their first cohort and finding ways to grow and make the program self-sustainable. Vitality funds support the Boston Seminar and graduation travel, and there have been intriguing discussions together about development opportunities.

The Vitality Council itself is also launching an exciting new program this year: Sharing Vitality Grants of \$2500 for churches and church cohorts! The purpose of this new program is to give a boost to church ministries focused on holistic vitality that face resource obstacles to pursue new, ambitious goals, and to provide a platform to share these ideas and how to implement them between churches to maximize partnership and collective impact. Detailed info is available in conference materials, and churches can put together applications until November 1 of this year.

This is a compelling new opportunity, and we're also excited about preliminary steps taken this year regarding further partnerships and resource options between councils and with other organizations we expect to have great reports on in coming years.

Robb Tarr, Chair, on behalf of Vitality Ministry Council