

## **4. CONGREGATIONALISM IN SUPPORT**

### **SECTION 4.1: RESOURCES AVAILABLE**

#### **Where to Find Some Good Resources**

There are many resources at your fingertips at [www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org) and [www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org](http://www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org). Taking some time to explore these sites can lead you to books, pamphlets, brochures and other information that can be of use to your church and your members. In addition to finding information on Congregationalism, you can access the NACCC Yearbook which contains information concerning member churches, clergy, NACCC structure and personnel, both paid and volunteer. You will also find information about NACCC supported Missions, the CFTS program for seminarians, help in starting new churches and many other things. Enjoy exploring!

#### **Pastoral Search Process**

One of the most important transitions in the life of any church is when one pastor leaves and the church embarks on a search for their next pastor. The process can seem daunting. The NACCC provides many good resources to help you. The first place to start is on the website at [www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org) under Churches, Finding a Minister. The *Pastoral Search Handbook* and The *Guide to Best Practices* offer invaluable guidance. Additional help is just a phone call away at the NACCC office. Additionally, NACCC advisors in your area are available to meet with you.

#### **Missions**

Church involvement in Mission Outreach is vitally important to church health and ministry. However, it is often difficult to determine which missions are in genuine need of help and if your contributions are being used for their intended purposes. The NACCC maintains critical partnerships with a number of international and national missions, ensuring the integrity of these missions. When you give to missions through the NACCC, you may be assured that your contributions are being appropriately used to forward these exciting ministries. Every dollar given to missions goes to missions.

#### **Devotionals**

The devotional life is one that deepens faith when practiced regularly. There are many fine devotional materials to be found. The NACCC produces devotionals for both the season of Advent and the season of Lent. The devotions found in these annually issued booklets are written by Congregationalists around the country and are rich in diversity.

## **Presenting the NACCC to your members**

Many times, individual church members ask of their leadership, “Why are we a member of the NACCC? What is it they do for us?” To help you answer that question, the NACCC has available a helpful brochure simply explaining this partnership and the benefits of membership. You may order these brochures by calling the NACCC at 1-800-262-1620 and asking for the brochure “Serving the Churches that Serve Christ”.

## **Misconduct in Ministry: A Handbook for Congregational Churches**

From the introduction: “This handbook is designed to encourage discussion in your church as to *why* certain actions are inappropriate or unacceptable -- not only for the clergy but for all who are engaged in service in the name of your church. It will help you design procedures and policies for your congregation and guide you in handling allegations of misconduct should they occur and encourage you to cooperate with secular authorities in accordance with the law.”

## **The Art and Practice of the Congregational Way: A Church Guide**

This new handbook helps your church members understand what is unique and distinctive about the Congregational Way. It is a basic, practical guide to why we do what we do and the way we do it.

## **What it Means to be a Member of a Congregational Christian Church**

The classic booklet by Rev. Henry David Gray and updated by his son, Rev. David Gray and grandson, Rev. Doug Gray is a handy summary of exactly what its title says. Measuring 6  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches by 3  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches, it is a perfect size to include in a letter or place in the hymnal rack in the pew. Booklets may be ordered from the NACCC office for a nominal cost.

## **Principles and Practices: The Congregational Way of the Churches of the National Association**

This 12 page booklet by Lloyd Hall, Jr., and Karl D. Schimpf articulates the foundational principles of Congregationalism and the values embraced by the NACCC.

## ***The Congregational Way Series***

This series of six, colorful, trifold brochures by various authors present some fundamental understandings of Congregationalism. They include:

- *The Biblical Basis of Congregationalism* by Harry R. Butman
- *The Congregational Way* by Steven H. Ware Bailey
- *New Testament Tests for Congregationalism* by Henry David Gray
- *The Congregational Christian Way of Life* by Phil R. Jackson
- *The Meaning of the Meeting House* by Arthur A. Rouner, Jr.
- *With One Sound of the Heart* by Howard J. Conn

A perfect complement to this series is the trifold brochure *What Do Congregational Christians Believe?* by Steven A. Peay.

All of these brochures may be found in digital format on the website of the Center for Congregational Leadership, [www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org](http://www.centerforcongregationalleadership.org) or may be ordered from the NACCC office.

## **Other Resources**

There are many other fine resources available, too numerous to include here. Be sure to visit our websites and explore the treasure trove of information available.

## **4. CONGREGATIONALISM IN SUPPORT**

### **SECTION 4.2: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE**

#### **The Congregational Investment Trust (CIT)**

The CIT was created in 1991 as an endowment trust for donor gifts and contributions to the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. It is also offered as an investment tool that member churches can use for their own endowment gifts. When member churches deposit their endowments in the CIT, their assets are pooled with the deposits of other investors, allowing greater cumulative purchasing power of all CIT participants than a church alone might realize. The trust should not be used as a short-term or money market vehicle as principal values will fluctuate.

#### **Building and Loan Fund**

The Building and Loan Fund's purpose is to promote, encourage, assist, and, in any manner, aid the establishment, building, remodeling, maintenance, repair, location and/or relocation of Congregational Christian Churches which are members of the NACCC. Churches may apply for low interest loans. The NACCC seeks and encourages contributions to the fund so that it may extend assistance to an increasing number of Churches.

#### **John Richard Fund**

John Richard was an avid and gifted musician whose appreciation for the musical arts was a source of inspiration for many. The John Calvin Richard Fund was established by his family as a loving and living memorial to him. His love for music and theater performance was a large part of his talented but short life.

The Fund awards annual grants of up to \$500.00 to National Association member Churches of 200 members or less which are planning a Fine or Performing Arts event in their Church. Application deadline is April 1 and funds must be used by the following April 1.

#### **Providence Fund**

The Providence Fund was established and funded by the host committee of the 2004 Annual Meeting and Conference, and continues to grow through gifts from benevolent individuals who wish to help Churches who might not otherwise be able to send delegates to the NACCC's Annual Meeting and Conference.

The Providence Fund provides needs-based grants to churches to enable their representation at the Annual Meeting and Conference by offsetting associated expenses. Grants of up to \$500.00 may be applied to registration and housing costs of the Annual Meeting and Conference. Deadline to apply is April 1<sup>st</sup>. Details for eligibility may be found at [www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org) under the donations tab, Congregational Foundation, Funds.

## **Youth Fund**

### **GENERAL NAPF AND HOPE SCHOLARSHIP**

The NACCC Commission on Youth Ministries has scholarships available to provide assistance to reduce the cost of the registration to the NACCC annual youth conference NAPF or HOPE. These include one (1) full scholarship and as many part scholarships as deemed appropriate from available funds in a given year. Be sure, also, to check with your state or regional association for scholarships that might be available for NAPF and HOPE scholarships as well as for Mission trips.

### **MEMORIAL DAY FRIENDS SCHOLARSHIP**

A special scholarship in conjunction with the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches Commission on Youth Ministries and the Memorial Day Friends group is being set up to provide full-payment of one (1) registration to the NACCC annual youth conference NAPF or HOPE. The Memorial Day Friends group is comprised of several past members of NAPF and HOPE.

Both scholarships provide assistance to anyone wishing to attend NAPF or HOPE who has financial need and has shown outstanding development in any or all of the following areas:

- Christian character
- Participation in local church youth programs
- Community service

Scholarship applications shall be available to all who are affiliated with a church that maintains membership in the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches. More information can be found at [www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org) under Churches, Services for Churches

## **Seminary Scholarships**

Through the Congregational Foundation for Theological Studies (CFTS) program, several scholarships are available to seminarians who are also enrolled in CFTS. These scholarships offset the high cost of a seminary education. Many individuals and many churches set up ongoing scholarships in their own names or in honor of others.

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Financial Resources Available

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## **Ministerial Assistance and Enrichment Fund**

This fund provides two kinds of assistance.

1. From time to time, clergy are faced with personal emergencies and need modest help to meet their challenges. The Ministerial Assistance portion provides emergency financial assistance to ministers, both active and retired. Through this fund, dedicated care-givers can also receive support in times of need.
2. The Enrichment portion of the fund is used as financial supplemental support for a variety of continuing education opportunities including the Minister's Convocation, continuing education, and sabbatical leaves. This fund is not endowed and relies on contributions from individuals and churches for continuing support.

All help is strictly confidential. Inquiries may be made to the Executive Secretary of the NACCC.

## **The Retired Ministers Fund**

This fund was established by the Rev. Dr. Max Strang, a long-time Congregational minister, and Mr. Fred Hoerner, a Congregational layman, to recognize the value of the service rendered by retired Congregational ministers and their spouses. This endowed fund has been supported generously by the churches and individuals of the NACCC and provides a modest annual gift to all retired ministers who have served NACCC churches.

## **Contributions Accepted**

We welcome and encourage churches and individuals to make donations to these funds and scholarships so that these ministries may continue. If you would like to know more about any of these funds, please contact the NACCC office.

Contributions may be made on line by going to [www.naccc.org](http://www.naccc.org) and clicking on the "Donate Now" button. They may also be made by check, payable to NACCC and mailed to:

NACCC  
P.O. Box 288  
Oak Creek, WI 53154