



What does Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) support?

In the **Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ**, multiple ministries are supported by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission. **65.25%** of all OCWM gifts received from our local congregations stay right here in Minnesota to support the Conference's **Bold Inspirational Goals (BIGs)**:

Leadership Development for clergy and laity

- ◆ Ministerial Excellence Groups and coaching services for pastors.
- ◆ Guidance and support to persons discerning a call to ministry.
- ◆ Vitality Events.
- ◆ Boundary Training.
- ◆ Fall Convocation, providing resourcing on a wide range of ministry practices.
- ◆ Fall Leadership Retreat, a time of planning and connecting for Conference leadership.
- ◆ Expertise and resourcing through our relationship with the Center for Progressive Renewal.
- ◆ Partnerships with the North Central Ministry Development Center and United Theological Seminary.

Healthy, Vital Congregations

- ◆ Essential support for Search Committees.
- ◆ New Beginnings Program.
- ◆ Support and presence from Conference staff during times of leadership transition, crisis, and change.
- ◆ Workshops at Annual Meeting and throughout the year on stewardship, vitality, church growth, and other issues of interest.
- ◆ "Next Level" support and other training with Center for Progressive Renewal.

Increased Capacity for Compassionate Service & Prophetic Witness

- ◆ Multiple partnerships that expand our capacity to create change: Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, Minnesota Council of Churches, ISAIAH, national setting of the United Church of Christ.
- ◆ Prophetic witness teams that mobilize our work on issues including immigration, open and affirming, racism, and the environment.
- ◆ Solidarity with our global partners in the United Church of Christ in the Philippines and through connections with mission personnel in Honduras and Palestine.
- ◆ Annual Meeting resolutions on social issues of the day that guide and shape our internal practices and our external advocacy.

Faith Formation

- ◆ Support for the Resource Center for Churches, providing essential resources to faith formation leaders in congregations.
- ◆ Partnerships with the Minnesota Council of Churches and United Theological Seminary that expand access to increased faith formation resources and to best practices in faith formation leadership.
- ◆ Underlying support to the multiplicity of programs and ministries financially underwritten by the Conference's Ashley Endowment for Faith Formation with Children and Youth.

In the **national setting of the United Church of Christ** we benefit from the work of **covenantal ministry partners who are supported by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission. The Minnesota Conference shares 34.75% of our OCWM gifts with the national setting. We work together to change lives!**

❖ **Local Church Ministries**

- ◆ Ministerial Excellence, Support and Authorization Ministry Team (MESA) provides guidelines and support to Authorized Ministers (Ordained, Licensed and Commissioned) in our denomination and to members in discernment.
- ◆ Church renewal and new church development across the UCC.
- ◆ Faith Formation: Provides resources to the wider church for family and children's ministries, vital worship experiences, and ministries to youth and young adults.
- ◆ Practical resources for daily faith practices and study: Still Speaking Daily Devotionals, *Sermon Seeds* (ucc.org/worship/samuel) and *Weekly Seeds* (ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/weekly-seeds) Bible studies for church members, as well as worship materials of *Worship Ways* (ucc.org/worship/worship-ways).

❖ **Wider Church Ministries**

- ◆ Disaster relief and response to communities in the U.S. and world-wide.
- ◆ Sending of global mission personnel world-wide in ecumenical partnership with the Disciples of Christ.
- ◆ Support of mission partners in the U.S. and globally who are serving on the front lines of justice- and peace-making.
- ◆ Volunteer ministries, providing UCC members across the nation with opportunities for service through nearly 100 host sites and UCC partners nationwide.

❖ **Justice and Witness Ministries**

- ◆ Justice Leaders Engaging and Developing (Justice LED) training program for church members, teaching leadership skills to support justice work in local churches and UCC Conferences.
- ◆ Justice and Peace Action Network, a UCC grassroots advocacy effort to educate and engage
- ◆ Immersion centers like Franklinton Center at Bricks & UCC Environmental Justice Center facilitating education & transformation on social issues of importance.

Changing Lives
that's Our Church's Wider Mission