

**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



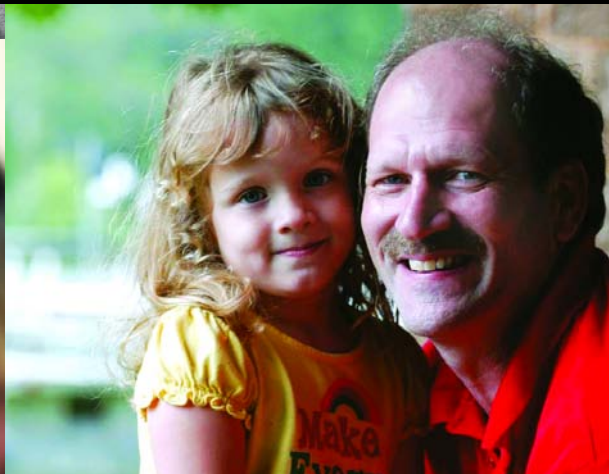
**OUR CHURCH'S
WIDER MISSION
(OCWM)
BASIC SUPPORT**

Leader's Guide



THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST:

God's continuing testament in the world, extravagant welcome, and transformed lives.



OCWM

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHAT IS OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION (OCWM) BASIC SUPPORT?

This is the name we give to congregational gifts that support wider UCC ministry in Conference and national settings.

WHY GIVE TO OCWM BASIC SUPPORT?

The United Church of Christ emphasizes God's continuing testament in the world, the extravagant welcome of our churches and transformed lives.

Because we believe in God's continuing testament in the world, we...

- TAKE STANDS FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE
- PROCLAIM GOD IS STILL SPEAKING
- COMMUNICATE THE UCC MESSAGE
- HELP LOCAL CHURCHES CALL PASTORS
- GATHER FOR GENERAL SYNOD
- VISION AND PLAN THE FUTURE OF UCC MISSION
- TEACH BEST PRACTICES FOR PASTORS AND CONGREGATIONS
- NURTURE FORMATION OF THOSE DISCERNING A CALL TO MINISTRY

Because we believe in extravagant welcome, we...

- PREACH A WELCOMING AND OPEN UNDERSTANDING OF CHRISTIAN FAITH
- RESPOND TO DISASTERS AND HUMAN TRAGEDIES
- FEED THE HUNGRY
- SEND HELP AROUND THE WORLD
- REACH OUT TO OUR NEWEST NEIGHBORS
- NURTURE ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH RELATIONSHIPS
- CARE FOR OUR RETIRED UCC CLERGY AND SPOUSES
- FOSTER HEALTHY AND VITAL CONGREGATIONS

Because we believe in transforming lives, we...

- RAISE OUR CHILDREN IN FAITH
- EQUIP LEADERS FOR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRIES
- FOSTER BEAUTY IN WORSHIP
- SUPPORT CLERGY IN THEIR MINISTRIES
- PROVIDE FINANCING FOR NEW CHURCH STARTS AND CHURCH BUILDINGS
- PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES TO THE CHURCH

ARE THERE ANY SUGGESTED GUIDELINES OR GOALS FOR GIVING TO OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION BASIC SUPPORT?

There may be goals within your congregation or suggested by your Conference. Check with your pastor. General Synod voted to affirm general giving guidelines for:

- Intentional annual growth in all our mission giving
- Increased giving of one percent of the church budget per year

5 Ways to Increase Giving

TO OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION BASIC SUPPORT:

1 INFORM CHURCH LEADERS ABOUT OCWM!

Church leaders annually prepare and present a draft budget for congregational vote. They ask many questions about the financial needs of the church. How much will we tithe to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support? What will it take to keep the church doors open and welcoming? How much will we need for salaries and benefits for the pastor and staff? What will Sunday school supplies cost? What is the Mission, Christian Education or Stewardship Committee requesting this year? These questions are answered by leadership. Meet with each one and talk to them to be sure they know about Conference, national and global ministries made possible by gifts to OCWM Basic Support.



2 WORK TOWARD OCWM GIVING GOALS!

Goals for giving to OCWM Basic Support are set by Conferences in some cases or by congregations or both. Work with church leadership to set attainable goals to increase giving. Begin with short-term goals that lead to long-term growth. Do you want to increase OCWM Basic Support by 1% of the church budget per year until you reach a goal of 5%? You may plan on giving 10% of the church budget to OCWM within 6 years. Set goals, establish a progression and give regularly!



3 ESTABLISH YEAR-ROUND OCWM EDUCATION!

What does the congregation know about Our Church's Wider Mission? The question "What is OCWM?" is usually heard around budget time and the answer is not a short one. This is why it is crucial to provide stories throughout the church year to answer this question. Included here are OCWM promotional resources and suggested uses. Use them or create your own! Consider hosting information fairs during fellowship hour, feature UCC News articles each week on bulletin boards, ask the Conference for news to share, create bulletin inserts or use Mission Moments Be inventive and have fun!



4 EVERYBODY COUNTS WHEN IT COMES TO OCWM!

Members can learn about Our Church's Wider Mission in a variety of ways. Some will read bulletin board postings, others a newsletter or email, and some will rely on the pastor or a visiting guest from the Conference for information about mission. Look over Our Church's Wider Mission Promotional Resources (list included) and use the UC News, Changing Lives video stories, and print materials to communicate OCWM information to every member.



5 CELEBRATE GIVING TO OCWM!

Work with the pastor to invite Conference staff to visit the congregation on Sunday. Ask the visitor to share a three-minute story of mission made possible because of gifts given to OCWM, and present the OCWM monthly gift. Find other ways to gather stories to celebrate giving to Our Church's Wider Mission! The possibilities are endless.



Is Your Church 5 for 5?

CONGREGATIONS THAT GIVE TO OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION BASIC SUPPORT AND EACH OF THE FOUR SPECIAL MISSION OFFERINGS ARE 5 FOR 5 CONGREGATIONS!

UCC Basic Support

Provides funding from congregations for Conference and national ministries of the United Church of Christ (Wider Church Ministries, Local Church Ministries, Justice and Witness Ministries, General Ministries, and Pension Boards).

One Great Hour of Sharing

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Channels resources for international programs in health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries, and both international and domestic disaster response, administered by Wider Church Ministries, Global Sharing of Resources.

Strengthen the Church

PENTECOST SUNDAY

Grows the UCC's future by funding The Stillspeaking Ministry, new and renewing churches, youth and young adult ministries, and lay and pastoral leadership formation – especially among women and people of color. These ministries are carried out by your church's Conference, Local Church Ministries, and The Stillspeaking Ministry.

Neighbors in Need

FIRST SUNDAY OF OCTOBER

Supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, including the Council of American Indian Ministries (CAIM), justice and advocacy, and direct service projects supported by Justice and Witness Ministries.

The Christmas Fund

SUNDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Helps provide pension and health premium supplementation to low-income retired church workers, emergency assistance to clergy families in need, and Christmas checks to hundreds of annuitants, as administered by the Pension Boards.

**TOGETHER
WE ARE
CHANGING
LIVES!**



Our Church's Wider Mission

Promotional Resources

www.ucc.org/ocwm

Mission Moments:

Use Mission Moments every week to tell a story about your congregation's connection with the wider church. Each issue - which is designed to be inserted with your newsletter or Sunday worship bulletin - is an effective way to inform your members about what they make possible through their gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission.

Free online resource! Go to: www.ucc.org/stewardship/mission-moments

Changing Lives:

In these one to three minute videos, UCC members highlight moments of personal transformation and visions of hope found in their United Church of Christ journey. These can be shared with your congregation.

Go to www.ucc.org/changing-lives or call UCC Resources to order a DVD at **(800) 537-3394**.

Free! You pay only shipping.

Plain Talk:

A four minute video clip with a whimsical explanation about Our Church's Wider Mission.

Great for new members! This DVD also includes Changing Lives stories. Go to www.ucc.org/changing-lives or call UCC Resources to order a DVD at **(800) 537-3394**.

Free! You pay only shipping.

Other OCWM Resources:

Online at www.ucc.org/ocwm find the OCWM PowerPoint presentation, a video prayer for the church, the Special Mission Offering resources for One Great Hour of Sharing, Neighbors in Need, Strengthen the Church and the Christmas Fund, a "Basic Support" web tour for mission supported by gifts to OCWM and more.

United Church News:

www.ucc.org/news

Sign-up for RSS news feeds www.ucc.org/news/newsfeeds. Share these UC News stories. Print and post stories on the church bulletin board or in the church newsletter. Also Subscribe to UCC weekly electronic newsletter KYeP at www.ucc.org/news/keeping-you-eposted/

Conference News:

Share news with church members about Conference programs supported by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission. Contact the Conference. Need the web address or phone number?

Find it here: www.ucc.org/about-us/conference.

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(800) 325-7061 or go to www.uccresources.com