The Officers of the United Church of Christ have developed a strategic vision plan with four specific bold, inspirational goals to guide the steps of the National Settings of the church in the years ahead – goals that may take 10 years to achieve. The four bold, inspiration goals of the National Settings, include:

**BOLD, PUBLIC VOICE**
The United Church of Christ is a bold, widely-known and respected public voice of Christianity in service of God’s ever-unfolding mission.

**WELCOMING, REACHABLE CONGREGATIONS**
There is a welcoming United Church of Christ community of faith that is accessible to all – no matter who they are or where they are on life’s journey.

**ENGAGED DISCIPLESHIP**
Every United Church of Christ person is well-equipped to be growing in faith, biblically-literate, theologically conversant, and active in the national and global mission of the church.

**EXCELLENT, DIVERSE LEADERS**
The United Church of Christ has a wealth of prepared, excellent leaders that reflect the diversity of God’s beloved community.

In 2013, the United Church of Christ worked toward advancing all of these bold, inspirational goals. For example, the Church’s bold, public voice took center stage in the summer as the Supreme Court of the United States ruled against Proposition 8 and struck down the Defense of Marriage Act. Soon, voices of the UCC could be heard on the national news, from CNN to Fox News to Telemundo — and seen in The New York Times, USA Today, and The Washington Post.

The United Church of Christ also brought attention to environmental justice issues through General Synod resolutions, local church programs and projects, and through the support of Mission 4/1 Earth, an all-church initiative. In April and May, the people of the UCC rolled up their sleeves and put a lot of imagination and effort into earth care during the Mission 4/1 Earth 50-day environmental initiative. With more than 2,100 UCC churches, seminaries, outdoor ministries and health and human services participating, the United Church of Christ counted more than 600,000 earth-care hours, planted 130,000 trees and sent 50,000 plus advocacy letters to government leaders during the 50 days of Mission 4/1 Earth.

Since General Synod 28 in 2011, more than 47 faith communities have joined the UCC, opening doors to even more welcoming and accessible congregations throughout the U.S. In order to further support more new (and renewing) congregations, the UCC launched “Testimony!,” a $1 million fundraising initiative that raised more than one-third of this goal throughout the year. Also introduced was...
Strengthen the Church – $576,436
Strengthen the Church is an offering to reimagine and build the future of the United Church of Christ. Shared 50-50 between conference and national settings, Strengthen the Church largely supports youth ministries, developing their spiritual gifts and leadership skills for the church of the future. Funds also support full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard, along with grants to help churches communicate the “God is still speaking,” message. Most congregations receive the Strengthen the Church offering on Pentecost Sunday, and the offering raised $576,000 in 2013, with $288,000 to the National Settings.

Neighbors in Need – $1,252,490
The Neighbors in Need (NIN) special offering supports the ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM), and two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Most congregations receive the Neighbors in Need offering on World Communion Sunday in October of each year, and the offering raised more than $1.25 million in 2013.

The Christmas Fund – $1,545,076
The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund provides direct financial assistance to individual UCC clergy and lay employees — those who have served or currently do serve our beloved Church. Each year, the Christmas Fund provides ministerial assistance to more than 1,600 persons, including Christmas gift check, monthly pension supplementation, quarterly health premium supplementation and emergency grants. Many congregations receive The Christmas Fund offering during Advent, and the offering raised more than $1.54 million in 2013.

One Great Hour of Sharing – $2,325,421
One Great Hour of Sharing – the refugee, relief and development offering of the United Church of Christ—transforms lives through health, education, agricultural, refugee, and emergency relief initiatives in 138 countries, working alongside our international partners. Most congregations receive One Great Hour of Sharing on the fourth Sunday of Lent, and the offering raised more than $2.32 million in 2013.

TOTAL – $5,699,423
Individual Giving to the National Settings

**Testimony! – $360,792**
Since 2006, more than 250 new United Church of Christ congregations have opened their doors, establishing progressive, justice-minded faith communities across the United States. That equals more new congregations than at any other time since the 1960s. The “Testimony!” initiative is working to support even more new UCC congregations that are demonstrating great promise for growth and vitality.

**The Haystack Society – $306,285**
The Haystack Society was launched in 2013 as a giving society that commemorates the 1806 Haystack Prayer Meeting, which established foreign mission.

**UCC Annual Fund – $294,197**
Each year, hundreds of UCC members and friends contribute to The Annual Fund in order to directly support the enriching work of the national setting, including its justice and witness ministries, local church ministries, and its ‘God is still speaking’ ministry.

**International Emergencies – $263,090**
In late 2013, Typhoon Haiyan became one of the strongest storms to ever make landfall, tearing through the central Philippines and killing nearly 6,000 people and displacing more than 3.6 million. United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries raised more than $263,000 to assist those in disaster-struck areas from around the globe.

**Refugee Ministries Fund – $104,561**
Global Ministries missionaries, global mission interns, and partner service volunteers build the capacity of organizations within both the United States and with global partner churches and organizations to engage in refugee and immigration ministry. In 2013, nearly $105,000 was raised to directly benefit refugee ministries throughout the world.

**Family Village Farm, Child Sponsorship – $51,808**
The Family Village Farm, founded in 1969, serves orphans and the destitute elderly in Kasam, India.

**Spring Storms USA – $33,785**
In the spring of 2013, United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries, in cooperation with and through the 38 conferences of the UCC, responded to communities devastated by storms. Many states also experienced heavy flooding and damage, from Iowa to Pennsylvania. Donations directly support volunteer efforts in these areas and assist affected families.

**Other Funds – $579,034**
The new governance structure – the United Church of Christ Board – came into effect following the close of General Synod 29 on July 2, 2013, resulting in the creation of a new administrative team in the national setting, the Office of the General Minister and President (OGMP). OGMP includes the revenues and expenses from the former Executive Council and the Office of General Ministries. For reporting purposes, listed sources and uses of funds are those of the four Covenanted Ministries prior to unified governance.