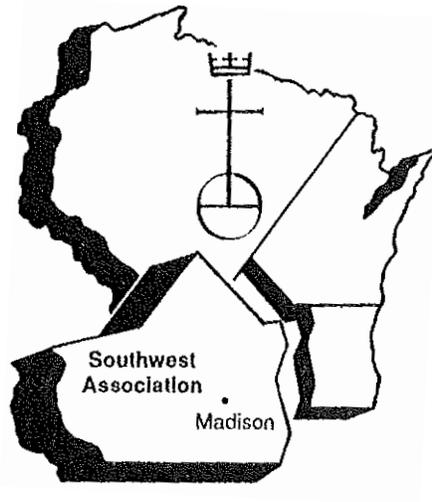


**2018**

**WHITE BOOK**



**ANNUAL SPRING MEETING**

**SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**Saturday, April 14, 2018**

**Salem United Church of Christ  
Verona, Wisconsin**

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## Annual Meeting Schedule

**“Ask the Earth and It Will Teach You”**  
**Your Congregation's Part in Creation**  
**Southwest Wisconsin Association Meeting**  
**Saturday April 14, 2018**  
**Salem United Church of Christ, Verona**

8:30-9:00	Arrival and Refreshments
9:00	Welcome and Morning Prayer
9:15	Keynote Address and Q&A--Rev. Robin Raudabough

Rev. Raudabough will center us in the Biblical injunction to be caretakers of the earth. She is a farmer and pastor who is intentional about being connected to the earth and is also involved in mission in many parts of the world. Robin has been a frequent participant in the Rural Ministry Project out of the University of Dubuque.

10:15-10:30	Break
10:30-11:30	Workshops
11:40	Lunch
12:40-1:25	Business Meeting (sanctuary)
1:30-2:30	Workshops
2:45-3:15	Closing Worship

**Morning Workshops:**

Creation Stewardship in Action at Madison Christian Community: MCC members will share how they take care of their seven acre property while building a sense of community with church members and their neighbors. Tom Matthews will address solar panels and rain barrel installation, Lois Komai will tell of their prairie and labyrinth, Ann Ward their food pantry garden, while Jean Einerson will give background and talk about their community gardens. (Main Floor Conference Room—in office wing on E. side of church)

Words From a Faith-based, eco-community organizer: Kriss Marion is an owner of Circle M Farm near Blanchardville. She and her family moved from the city being motivated by reading Wendell Berry among others. They were drawn by how these authors translated their love of the land into a theology and recipe for global and personal wholeness. Kriss and her family operate a Community Supported Agriculture Farm on their 20 acres. They started a farmer's market in Blanchardville last year and she is active with Green County Defending Our Farmland. (Upper Room—upstairs on E. side of church)

How We Agree and Disagree in Love: Christians are not immune to conflict. We face it in our homes and churches, in our neighborhoods and workplaces. In fact, wherever two or three are gathered, we may experience conflict there! Engaging conflict situations as opportunities for growth is difficult. But, the end result offers a deeper understanding of who we are meant to be as created in God's image. To work constructively with conflict, we need skills. This workshop will provide an approach that helps individuals and congregations to live their calling as peacemakers. Leaders: Beth Voigt, Delisa Buckingham-Taylor (Basement Children's Worship Center space)

**Afternoon Workshops:**

Discussion with Rev. Raudabaugh: Bring all your questions and comments to a casual conversation with our key-note speaker. (Basement Children's Worship Center space)

Food, Faith and Farming Network: This network gives voice to the sacred connections between land and people. They foster rural and urban relationships and promote earth stewardship, community, spirituality and economic justice through healthy food and sustainable farming practices. They also partner with the Harvest of Hope Fund, serving Wisconsin farmers in crisis situations. (Upper Room, upstairs on E. side of church)

## History of Host Church

### Salem United Church of Christ

Verona, Wisconsin

Rev. Mark Yurs, pastor



Salem United Church of Christ is an Open and Affirming Congregation. We name as our core values being faithful to God, relevant to today, open to all, and striving to improve. Our stated mission is

*To witness to the word and work of Jesus that all people may know the welcome of God, worship with joy, grow as disciples, live as servants, and share the strength of Christian fellowship, all to the glory of God.*

Worship is central to the life of this church. Our services are traditional without being stuffy. We build on the rich and instructive language of the past, yet couch our liturgies in the language of today. Music is a large part of worship at Salem; we have a mixed adult choir (Chancel Choir), a men's choir (known as the Barry Robinson Chorus), a handbell choir, and a children's choir. Dawn Lingard is our Director of Music and Organist. Our music department is further staffed by Janet Dahl (Chancel Choir and Barry Robinson Chorus), Carrie Coenen (Bell Choir), and Kari Westphal and Kelli Malueg (Children's Choir).

Christian Education is likewise important to us and a key part of our congregation's ministry. Our Sunday morning classes are divided into The Prophets (pre-school through first grade), The Apostles (second grade through fifth), the Middle and High School Class, and the Adult Class. The Prophets and Apostles currently employ the Witness Curriculum, published by Augsburg, the MS/HS class uses Spice Rack, developed by a consortium of youth leaders, and the Adult Class has been using a variety of sources including Living the Questions, material from The Thoughtful Christian, and other resources. Our Christian Education Director overseeing this ministry is Sarah Pundt.

A very active Youth Ministry program for Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers is directed by our Lay Associate in Ministry, Laura Kolden, who is pursuing ordination and who will graduate from Garrett Theological Seminary in May. In addition to regular youth gatherings over the course of the school year, gatherings designed to bolster community life and enrich spiritual life, our groups travel on a SALT trip every year. SALT is an acronym for Serving And Learning Together. This summer there will be a Madison immersion and participation in the Great Lakes Region Youth Event at Elmhurst College. In 2017 the youth were at LaPuente in Alamosa, CO, a social service agency that works closely with the homeless and other persons in poverty. Our youth participate in worship on a regular basis and lead worship at least twice each year: once on the second Sunday of March, our Youth Sunday, and again when they return from a SALT trip.

We are a 5 for 5 Congregation in the UCC and have a few church-wide mission projects, some of which occur by season. Quite a number of our people are active in the community, volunteering in school tutoring programs, serving through the Badger Prairie Needs Network, and other projects. Thus we live out the saying of Quaker Elton Trueblood who remarked that a church is often its most active when it is empty, i.e. when its people are out serving in the community.

Salem United Church of Christ was organized as Salem Reformed Church on January 4, 1923. The Rev. George Grether, then pastor of Zwingli Church in Mt. Vernon, served as Salem's first pastor, and the two congregations were yoked until January 1, 1981. For a time, a Reformed congregation in Barneveld was part of this yoke as well.

The present building was constructed in 1965. In 2011, a renovation project made the building fully accessible, installed an elevator, added an office wing, and refurbished the entire building.

Since August of 1991, Salem's pastor has been the Rev. Dr. Mark E. Yurs. Mark is Salem's ninth pastor, and his pastorate is the longest in our congregation's history.

## Clergy and Church Anniversaries

### 2018 Clergy Anniversaries

Rev. John Jewell	55 years
Rev. Beryl Melcher	55 years
Rev. Martha Baumer	45 years
Rev. Timothy Kehl	45 years
Rev. N Kendell Nordstrom	45 years
Rev. Kenneth Schaub	40 years
Rev. Jeanne Tyler	40 years
Rev. John Tyler	40 years
Rev. Sharon Goss	30 years
Rev. David McDonald	25 years
Rev. Gail O'Neal	20 years
Rev. Lois Rosko	10 years
Rev. Leslie Schenk	10 years
Rev. Lora Whitten	10 years
Rev. Barbara Brakey	5 years
Rev. Susan Oeffler	5 years
Rev. Lance Smith	5 years
Rev. Zayna Thomley	5 years

### 2018 Church Anniversaries

First Congregational UCC	Milton	180 years
First Evangelical & Reformed UCC	Lowell	160 years
United Church of Christ	Windsor	160 years
St Pauls UCC (South Wayne)	South Wayne	130 years
Plymouth Congregational UCC	Madison	115 years
Zwingli UCC (Paoli)	Belleville	105 years
First Congregational UCC	Grand Marsh	105 years
Congregational UCC	Mineral Point	105 years
Salem UCC	Verona	95 years
Lake Edge UCC	Madison	70 years
Community of Hope UCC	Madison	50 years

## Report of the Associate Conference Minister

*"I...beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace....But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." ---Ephesians 4:1-3, 15-16*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in the Southwest Wisconsin Association,

It is a privilege of the work that I do on your behalf that I often get to see how the whole thing fits together – that is, how we as an Association and as a church beyond the local church are knit together. Here are some snapshots of what I've seen in our common life over the past year:

- In a time of great division in our society, our churches are doing all they can to build themselves up in love. Our members sometimes have wildly divergent personal opinions, but I find in most churches I visit that people are doing the best they can to make their congregation a place of compassion. Pastors are working very hard at this challenge.
- In a time when it's tempting to hunker down and take care of our own, I'm finding that most churches I visit keep finding ways to reach out to people beyond their walls who are 'the least of these.' When I visit a church I'll run into someone taking winter coats to the community free clothes closet; or I'll find toilet paper stacked in the chancel for the essentials pantry; or boxes of peanut butter on their way to the food pantry. Or AA meeting in the basement. Or an after school program meeting in the Sunday School rooms. Or a senior center in fellowship hall. That's how the body builds itself up in love.
- Church leaders take their work seriously and listen for God's still speaking voice for guidance. I meet with lots of search committees, and as any of them can tell you, the work of the search committee has gotten much more complicated in recent years. Yet I almost always drive home from meeting with a search committee inspired by the humility, commitment, and pure patience that committee members bring to their work. Those are the gifts of the Spirit that build up the church.
- Pastoral leadership is looking different, and some interesting things are happening. There are still lots of traditionally educated ministers, but as some of our old forms fall away, the Spirit is acting in new ways to call people to leadership in the church. The Division of Church and Ministry is working with Members in Discernment who are going to seminary, and also with a Member in Discernment who is following the UCC multiple paths route to ordained ministry. We have about 50 working pastors in our Association, and more than half of them are involved in some way with helping to form and train the next

generation of pastoral leaders, by acting as mentors, advisors, facilitators, reading group members, and so on. That's a remarkable change in how we equip our pastors for leadership in the church. Our Conference is also looking at new ways of resourcing lay leaders who serve our churches, and we are working closely with MESA in our national UCC to implement the new *Manual on Ministry*.

- One of the unique ways that we get to see how the whole thing fits together is by going to General Synod. Since General Synod is coming to us next year, I'm hearing people beginning to get excited about attending and wanting to encourage as many Wisconsin UCC-ers as possible to attend General Synod in Milwaukee. Ask about the scholarship fund in our Association's proposed budget if you or your church friends need financial help to get there.

Those are the kinds of things you'd see if you could drive around southwest Wisconsin with me. I pray that in all of the ways that we join together we will be mindful that it is our purpose to "grow up...into Christ." Whether in our local churches, on an Association committee, in a Community of Practice, or on the road to General Synod, wherever we are together as the church, may our lives be open to the sustaining, guiding, transforming presence of Christ.

Rev. Joanne Thomson, Associate Conference Minister

## Registrar's Report

### REGISTRAR'S REPORT FOR SOUTHWEST ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING

March 2017 to April 2018

**CHURCHES** 48

**CHURCH MEMBERSHIP-2016** 8664

#### **AUTHORIZATION**

##### **Ordained**

Clergy serving parish 33

Clergy serving as Chaplains 4

Clergy serving in Conference work 2

UCC clergy serving other denominations 3

Unclassified Clergy 1

Interim Ministers with standing in SWA, serving parishes 1

Clergy with Dual Standing 4

Retired Clergy 53

**Commissioned Ministers** 2

**Licensed Ministers** 7

#### **OTHERS SERVING IN OUR MIDST**

Educational Workers 1

Interim Ministers not holding standing in SWA, serving parishes 1

Clergy of another denomination serving UCC parishes 5

Members in Discernment for Ordained Ministry 4

Members in Discernment for Licensed Ministry 1

Clergy in Health and Welfare Work 2

Clergy in other Religious Work 2

#### **ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL**

##### **ORDINATION**

Kristin Gorton – McFarland UCC, McFarland

##### **INSTALLATIONS**

Kristin Gorton – Memorial UCC, Fitchburg

Rick McLeer – Congregational UCC, Mineral Point

##### **LICENSED THIS YEAR**

Laura Crow – May 2017, Zwingli UCC, Paoli

Maggie Lewis – May 2017, Congregational UCC, Potosi & Cornelia

Caroline Kennedy – October 2017, Barneveld UCC, Barneveld

Sandy Schieble – February 2018, Olivet UCC, Columbus

**RETIREMENTS**

Phil Haslanger – Memorial UCC, Fitchburg  
Mary Gafner – Washington Reformation UCC, Monticello  
Luke Bocher – Congregational UCC, Mineral Point  
Carol Barth – First Congregational UCC, Lake Mills

**GRANTED STANDING**

Rich McLeer – Congregational UCC, Mineral Point

**TRANSFERRED STANDING**

**DEATHS OF CLERGY**

Submitted by Thomas Pugh

## Moderator's Report

### *Gathered in a Spirit of Listening*

There is a scene in *A Gentleman in Moscow* (by Amor Towles) that led me to think of the Association meeting immediately when I read it. The setting is the Russian countryside nearing midnight on a Christmas Eve long before the Bolshevik Revolution. A brother and sister have taken the family sleigh to visit the homes of their neighbors one by one, to eat, and drink, and sing with them. The siblings had promised their grandmother that they would be home by midnight. As they made their way home, the brother at the reins and the sister bundled in blankets, they came to a particular spot where the sister touched the brother's arm and bid him stop the team pulling the sleigh. There they listened over the breathing of the horses and the blowing of the night wind. What they heard were the bells of a church just a mile behind them, and then the bells of a church in a city some ten miles away, and then the bells of another church still farther away. It was as though the several churches were calling to one another, proclaiming to one another, encouraging one another, celebrating with one another (p. 89).

The call to meet as an Association in Annual Meeting has been like a sibling's touch on the arm, and we have tugged at the reins of our Priuses and SUVs bringing them to pull up here so we can stop and listen. From this spot we can hear our various churches as each calls to each in some way, telling of a ministry, challenging to a mission, celebrating an accomplishment, rejoicing with those who rejoice, and weeping with those who weep. Here we learn that no congregation is alone as it faces its baffling difficulties and unyielding struggles. Here we learn that the Association is not something other than the churches but something of and with the churches though different from the churches. And, just as there somehow sounds forth the music of our separate lives as congregations there are also the chords of our togetherness, every note, ideally, telling of Christ and the gospel we love.

Our formal program today, keying off a verse from the Book of Job, has us listening to the earth to learn what it will teach. Other parts of the day, including this little booklet of reports and plans, provide us opportunity to listen to one another. Keep your ears peeled, and chime in when and where you can, whether in plenary, in workshop, or in table fellowship. Through it all there can be the beautiful sound of encouragement, challenge, commiseration, and not a little scheming, all for the good of the church.

My second stint as the Southwest Association Moderator comes to a close at the end of this meeting. I am grateful for the trust the Association placed in me when calling me to this work, and for the privilege of sharing in it with the other members of the Executive Committee, our Associate Conference Minister, and others on the Conference staff.

*Rev. Dr. Mark E. Yurs  
Moderator, Southwest Wisconsin Association*

## Treasurer's Report

During 2017, your Association leadership has tried to make good use of the financial resources that you have provided. They have been used to support your congregations' ministries of service, faith formation, support, and witness as we share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Over the last four-plus years, we have made an intentional effort to reduce our cash surplus to a more reasonable level. When I took over as treasurer in 2013, we had cash on hand of nearly \$65,000. By the end of 2017, we had reduced it to \$21,466.91. Of that amount, our operations balance was \$17,476.88.

We are grateful to Southwest Association churches for their financial support for the work of the Association. In 2017, we received 99.1% of the requested dues amounts. Of the 48 Association churches, 46 paid the entire requested amount and one made a partial payment. Several even made second-mile gifts. Thanks to you all for your faithfulness and commitment! As in other years, we sent out "gentle reminder" letters to all churches in October that included the amount requested and the amount received to date. I hope these letters have been helpful to your church leaders.

During 2017, we provided financial support for a variety of ministries and programs in the Wisconsin Conference, Southwest Association, Association churches, and communities where you live and serve:

- We gave over \$10,050 in scholarships to children, youth, and adults who attended UCCI camps.
- We gave \$13,350 in grants to organizations supported by our Association churches.
- We provided financial support for the work of the Division on Church and Ministry.
- We paid nearly \$4,500 in wages and benefits to our communications coordinator (Roger Brooks) and web master (Denise Jones), who keep you informed about the churches and programs of the Association and Conference. Thanks to them for their service!
- We provided financial support for our Bethlehem Partnership and our UEK Partnership.
- We subsidized Annual Meeting registrations for retired clergy and held a retired clergy event.
- We supported youth events and the work of our divisions.

As in past years, nearly 25% of our expenditures (\$11,500) went to the Wisconsin Conference as a common service fee. This pays for the accounting and program support they provide to us. Thanks to Joanne Thomson, the Associate Conference Minister who serves Association churches, and the Conference business office staff, Vicki Graff and Tracy Hauge.

Since dues requests are calculated on a per capita basis, we face ongoing challenges to maintain ministry in the face of decreasing membership. Your church may be facing the same challenge. The proposed 2019 budget includes a large increase in the per capita rate to maintain our ministries at current levels, while also creating a one-time fund to provide

scholarships so that everyone, including those with financial need, has the opportunity to attend General Synod in Milwaukee.

It is my honor to serve the Southwest Association as your treasurer. Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you have related to the Association's finances.

Rev. Jim Iliff  
mccpastor@middletonucc.org  
(608) 831-4694

## 2017 Financial Report

Category	2015		2016		2017	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Association Dues	\$39,433.00	\$40,000	\$42,590.77	\$45,000	\$42,921.25	\$46,550
Association Meeting	\$1,130.00	\$1,000	\$1,385.00	\$1,500	\$1,320.00	\$1,200
Special Offering	\$0.00	\$500	\$0.00	\$500	\$0.00	\$500
Other Revenue	\$320.00	\$100	\$50.00	\$100	\$50.00	\$250
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$40,883.00</b>	<b>\$41,600</b>	<b>\$44,025.77</b>	<b>\$47,100</b>	<b>\$44,291.25</b>	<b>\$48,500</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
<b>Association</b>						
Communications Coordinator						
Salary	\$2,724.00	\$3,000	\$3,032.00	\$3,000	\$2,953.92	\$3,000
Social Security	\$208.39	\$230	\$231.94	\$230	\$225.97	\$230
Out of Pocket	\$56.15	\$100	\$168.00	\$100	\$0.00	\$100
Webmaster						
Salary	\$1,200.00	\$1,200	\$1,200.00	\$1,236	\$1,224.00	\$1,261
Social Security	\$91.80	\$92	\$91.80	\$95	\$93.64	\$97
Out of Pocket	\$0.00	\$100	\$0.00	\$100	\$0.00	\$100
Conference Common Service Fee	\$11,500.00	\$11,500	\$11,500.00	\$11,500	\$11,500.00	\$11,500
Association Meeting	\$1,533.75	\$750	\$1,910.00	\$2,000	\$311.09	\$1,500
Division/Committee Meetings	\$9.10	\$1,000	\$23.24	\$1,000	\$650.00	\$100
Website	\$0.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$60.51	\$0
Other Expenses	\$825.00	\$100	\$1,624.62	\$100	\$1,235.61	\$750
<b>Church &amp; Ministry</b>	<b>\$3,580.70</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	<b>\$1,679.17</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$3,215.49</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>
<b>Social Concerns</b>	<b>\$13,400.00</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>	<b>\$14,000.00</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>	<b>\$13,350.00</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>
<b>Wider Church Support</b>						
Special Offering	\$0.00	\$500	\$0.00	\$500	\$0.00	\$500
Confirmation Retreat	\$0.00	\$1,000	\$0.00	\$1,000	\$1,150.00	\$1,000
General Synod Delegates	\$250.00	\$250	\$250.00	\$250	\$250.00	\$250
Youth Event	\$250.00	\$250	\$250.00	\$250	\$250.00	\$250
UEK Partnership	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$500.00	\$500
Bethlehem Partnership	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$1,000.00	\$1,000	\$500.00	\$500
Other events	\$500.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$1,000	\$0.00	\$500

<b>Clergy and Congregational Support</b>						
Summer Camp Scholarships	\$10,330.00	\$7,200	\$11,830.00	\$7,200	\$10,050.00	\$10,000
Lay Academy Scholarships	\$0.00	\$0	\$1,300.00	\$0	\$0.00	\$0
Development Groups	\$0.00	\$500	\$0.00	\$500	\$0.00	\$100
Resourcing Events for Congregations	\$0.00	\$500	\$0.00	\$500	\$480.00	\$500
Conf Mtg Support for Retired Clergy	\$120.00	\$500	\$229.00	\$500	\$0.00	\$150
Retired Clergy Events	\$125.54	\$500	\$300.00	\$500	\$126.00	\$250
Conflict Resolution Training			\$2,000.00	\$0		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$48,704.43</b>	<b>\$50,272.00</b>	<b>\$53,619.77</b>	<b>\$50,561</b>	<b>\$48,126.23</b>	<b>\$51,138</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>(\$7,821.43)</b>	<b>(\$8,672.00)</b>	<b>(\$9,594.00)</b>	<b>(\$3,461.00)</b>	<b>(\$3,834.98)</b>	<b>(\$2,638.00)</b>

	<b>Balance, 1/1/2017</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Disburse- ments</b>	<b>Balance, 12/31/2017</b>
<b>Assets</b>				
Checking Account	\$23,679.36	\$46,363.78	(\$48,576.23)	\$21,466.91
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$23,679.36</b>			<b>\$21,466.91</b>
<b>Funds</b>				
SW General Synod Fund	\$450.00	\$250.00	(\$450.00)	\$250.00
SW Youth Event Fund	\$500.00	\$686.00	\$0.00	\$1,186.00
SW UEK Partnership Fund	\$1,417.50	\$636.53	\$0.00	\$2,054.03
SW Bethlehem Partnership Fund	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
SW Operations Fund	\$21,311.86	\$44,291.25	(\$48,126.23)	\$17,476.88
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$23,679.36</b>	<b>\$46,363.78</b>	<b>(\$48,576.23)</b>	<b>\$21,466.91</b>

## Division on Church and Ministry Report

*March 2018*

I think of the work of the Division on Church and Ministry as both nurture and oversight. The people you have chosen to serve in this role have put in many hours, deep thought and considerable prayer over the past year in shaping and guiding the people who lead our congregations now and who will be serving them in the future.

On the nurturing side of things, we have been working with four current Members in Discernment for ordination. All four are near completion. As 2018 moves on, look for several Ecclesiastical Councils where the whole Association has the opportunity (and responsibility) of voting on whether to approve these candidates for ordination. During 2017, we were pleased to accompany Rev. Kristin Gorton on the final steps of her journey. She was ordained on Oct. 1 and is now serving as pastor at Memorial UCC in Fitchburg. We have been working with two people who are beginning the process of discernment for licensing and two more people who are discerning whether to pursue the path toward ordination.

We also are working with a team of people to put on a Periodic Vocational Support retreat for authorized ministers in November and we have been in conversation with the Wisconsin Conference about innovative plans along with the Minnesota Conference to help prepare people for ministry outside the historic path of going to seminary.

These are wonderful signs of the vitality of the life of the church in our midst.

On the oversight side of things, we walked with people who decided not to pursue ordination or for whom serving as a licensed minister was no longer appropriate. We worked with congregations to license pastors to serve them so the congregation could be sure that their pastors were connected to the wider UCC. We are happy to report that most authorized ministers in the Southwest Association are now up-to-date in meeting the requirement of attending boundary training every four years – that was one of our goals over the past few years.

Finally, as the wider church moves into adopting a revised Manual on Ministry – the guidebook for authorized ministry – the Division on Church and Ministry has formally adopted that as our guidebook with exceptions for a few parts that are not yet complete and with a few minor variations reflecting our local practices.

As we began 2018, we elected officers for the coming year. Rev. Zayna Thomley will be chair, Geoff Brink will be vice-chair and Tom Pugh will be secretary and registrar. The other Division members are Lynn Breedlove, Kathy Hodgkins, Fred Coleman, Rev. Lance Smith, Rev. Bonnie Van Overbeke, and Rev. Beth Voigt. Many thanks to Rev. Cathy Carlson for her years of service with us. She has now left the Division. I have maxed out my two three-year terms, so will be leaving the Division in April. Thanks to my colleagues on Church and Ministry and to our staff member, Rev. Joanne Thomson, for their dedication and collegiality through the years.

*Submitted by Rev. Phil Haslanger, outgoing chair*

## Social Concerns Division Report

These are the grants funded by the Social Concerns Committee in 2017:

- Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice of South Central WI – \$900.
- 1st Congregational UCC, Platteville – \$1,000 for Family Promise of Grant County.
- Lake Edge, UCC, Madison – \$950 for their Schenk School Weekend Nutrition Program.
- 1st Congregational UCC, Madison - \$3,000 for Prison Ministry.
- St. John UCC, Monroe – \$1,000 for Rosebud Reservation, South Dakota Youth Trip
- McFarland UCC, McFarland – \$500 for Dinner Challenge
- First Congregational UCC, Platteville – \$1,000 for Family Promise of Grant County
- First Congregational UCC, Madison – \$500 for Madison High School Students Kenya Trip
- MOSES – \$650 Annual Membership dues
- Community of Hope UCC, Madison – \$2,000 for the Madison Area Jail Ministry
- Plymouth Congregational, Dodgeville – \$1,000 for Wednesday After School Arts Program for low income families
- Mineral Point Congregational UCC – \$500 for Mission Trip to Oklahoma City, OK
- Orchard Ridge UCC, Madison – \$1,000 Annual Youth Mission Trip to Santa Fe, New Mexico.

We also revamped the application form to make it easier to evaluate the success of projects and decided to follow up to see how projects went. We hope to share some of the most exciting results through the *Shalom* and other means.

Carolyn Kennedy

## 2017 UEK German Partnership Report

2017 was a quiet year for the partnership between the Southwest Association and the Moers Church District. Our German partners were extremely busy celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Martin Luther nailing the Ninety-five Theses on the church doors in Wittenberg, Germany. Luther's Disputation on the Power of Indulgences cleared the way for the Reformation, a schism in the Catholic Church which profoundly changed Europe.

Despite it being a quiet year for the partnership, there was still a lot of activity in 2017 between people from the Southwest Association and the Moers Church District. Participants from previous adult exchanges and youth exchanges still continue to communicate, make visits, and to be in relationship with one another. We even have an international couple currently living in Berlin, two young adults who met during the 2013/2014 youth exchange. The friendships and connections that have been established through the years as a result of the partnership remain as strong as ever.

The UEK Working Group met most recently on March 1, 2018. Our German partners have proposed a youth exchange for 2019/2020. We are still trying to finalize the exact dates for the exchange and have discussed leadership, promotion and recruiting. I am hopeful to have more information to announce at the Southwest Association Annual Meeting in April.

Current participants on the UEK Working Group are comprised of members from Madison Plymouth Congregational UCC, Windsor UCC, Mineral Point Congregational UCC, and Sauk City First UCC. Every church within the Southwest Association is welcome and encouraged to participate and send a representative to our meetings. We would appreciate having new voices on our UEK Working Group and giving others an opportunity to establish connections in Germany.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Kapp, chair

## Bethlehem Partnership 2017-18

The Bethlehem Partnership Committee continues to work towards its goals of:

- \*supporting the life and ministries of Christmas Lutheran Church and the Diyar Consortium through prayer and financial contributions
- \*building relationships between UCC folk in Wisconsin and people in Bethlehem
- \*inviting people to “come and see” in trips to the Holy Land, seeking to deepen relationships and understanding
- \*increasing awareness of the humanitarian and political issues involved in the Israeli/Palestinian conflict
- \*strengthening our faith as we live out our commitment to be disciples of Jesus Christ in the land of his birth.

This year a group from First Congregational UCC in Madison went on a Partnership trip with Bonnie Van Overbeke and Nancy Baumgardner. Upon their return home, they did several presentations at their church and raised money for scholarships to Dar al Kalima University College, one of our partner mission institutions. In December First Congregational hosted the fourth annual ecumenical Advent Service. This event raises awareness and scholarship money for Palestinians students.

In June the Conference wide Partnership committee met with our Conference Minister Franz Rigert following his trip to Israel and Palestine with denominational executives. We talked about various strategies to raise awareness and involvement Conference wide. We compiled a list of potentially interested congregations and invited them to learn more about the Partnership; we also wrote a newsletter article with information and resources. We have received various requests for help this past year from clergy considering a trip for their congregation. At that meeting we also decided to change the official partner organization from Christmas Lutheran Church to Bright Stars of Bethlehem because our primary contact, Rev. Mitri Raheb, has retired from his pastorate at the church to devote himself fulltime to the missions arm of the church. That change was approved by the Southwest Executive Council at their October meeting.

In 2018 we will be hosting an after-hours workshop at the Annual Meeting in Green Lake and organizing another trip for 2019.

We continue to co-sponsor events to accomplish our goals in concert with other organizations working on this issue including Pilgrims of Ibillin, Jewish Voice for Peace, and Rafah Sister City Project as well as other ecumenical partners.

We invite congregations to host one of our committee members or recent travelers to talk with their congregation about the faith and hopes of our Palestinian Christian brothers and sisters whose commitment to follow Jesus and work for justice and peace even in the face of overwhelming struggle is inspirational.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Van Overbeke, chair

Members: Nancy Baumgardner, Phil Haslanger, Ted Peterson, Merry Spangler, Karla Schmidt,  
Bob Mutton, Emma Ledbetter, Deb Burich, and James Schleif

## Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting

Southwest Association, Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ  
St. John's United Church of Christ, Monroe, Wisconsin

### 1. Opening (roll call of churches)

Joanne Thomson, Associate Conference Minister for the Southwest Association offered greetings and a thank you to the host congregation as well as the planning committee members. She also recognized all committee/division members, our moderator Mark Yurs and Vice Moderator Petra Streiff.

**2. Approve/Modify agenda** – So moved by Kerri Parker and seconded by Petra Streiff. Motion carried.

### 3. Approve minutes of April 16, 2016 Annual Meeting

A motion was made by Peter Fabian to approve the minutes from the 2016 Annual Meeting, seconded by Gail Holmes. Motion carried.

### 4. Recognition of New Pastors

Rev. Ann Beaty – First Congregational UCC Madison  
Rev. Kim Moeller – Swiss UCC, New Glarus  
Rev. Lance Smith – Zwingli UCC, Monticello  
Rev. Kathleen Rinear – St. John's UCC, Monroe  
Rev. Barbara Brakey – Immanuel UCC Darlington  
Rev. Blair Hull – Congregational UCC, Whitewater  
Brad Bergin – Juneau and Lowell  
Maggie Lewis – Potosi and Cornelia  
Bill Rettig – Boscobel – designated pastor

### 5. Treasurer's Report

Jim Iliff, Southwest Association treasurer, offered the report. Added details include grants given by the Social Concerns committee as well as our German partnership. The Association serves as a pass through for their expenses. Conference staff does heavy lifting of compiling reports – thanks to them. The plan currently is to spend down the balance accrued by the Association. Dues are the lion share of money for the Association, sent from the member churches. 24 of the 48 churches have already completed their goals. Another 26 have made partial payment. 18 have not yet paid. (look at report). We will approve budget later in agenda. Motion to accept the treasurers report made by Chris Buckingham-Taylor and seconded by Phil Haslanger. Motion carried.

### 6. Moderator's Report

Mark Yurs echoed Joanne's thanks to all who had done something that helped forward the work of the association. He expressed thanks to Petra Streiff and the planning committee. Thanks to host congregation. And pie cutters.

## **7. Added Business Items (if any):** Adopting the budget.

Annual per capita dues are based on numbers reported to the yearbook (\$5.00 per member is the suggested increase). Transfer of funds from reserves will be made in keeping to the plan to spend down accumulated money. A two percent raise is recommended for our webmaster and Communications Coordinator. A point of clarification – the \$5 is a return to a number from some years ago (per member dues). There is a hope we can return to a sustaining budget with the commitment to dues payments by member churches. Budget was adopted.

## **8. Nominating Committee Reports & Elections**

Asterisks indicate an individual appointed by the Executive Committee. A correction was made to the General Synod delegates – Gabe McKelvey (name correction). Nominations from the floor: none. Motion to close nominations and accept the slate unanimously – moved by Gretchen Viney, seconded by Chris Buckingham-Taylor. Nominations accepted.

## **10. Announcements & Updates**

- **Julie Ruegsegger, for Lay Academy** – detailed her experience in Lay Academy – particularly the ways the Lay Academy challenged and encouraged participants to welcome all, no matter who they are or where they are on the journey. She conveyed an invitation to grow faith with Lay Academy. Next round of registration begins in summer of 2018. Lay Academy will host a summer event on Aug. 11 and 12 – Nonviolent and Compassionate Conversation at the Trost Center.
- **Leslie Schenk, for Shift Coaching** – Leslie offered a plug for coaching to help Shift teams refine and achieve their goals.
- **Glenn Svetnicka, for the Camps** – Glenn outlined some of the upcoming changes in staffing – Glenn will be merging into development. He gave thanks for all who participate in the camping faith experience. The Campital Campaign is currently at 3.3 million dollars in pledging. OCWM funds also help with camp and scholarships provide access for all who wish to be a part of the program. Part of the mission of Pilgrim and Moon Beach is to promote love of God, one another, and the earth by providing hospitality and sanctuary. Future plans are being made to fund endowment and strengthen the infrastructure at the camps. Come visit!
- An announcement was made highlighting the Robert D. Mutton Lecture series. Next February 9 and 10, Curt Anderson will be the featured guest for the lecture series in Milwaukee.

**11. Adjourn** – Motion was made by Gail Holmes to adjourn, seconded by Charlie Brizius. Motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beth Voigt

## Agenda for the 2018 Business Meeting

Southwest Association Annual Meeting  
April 14, 2018  
**Business Meeting Agenda**

1. Opening
  - Roll Call of Churches
  - Associate Conference Minister, The Rev. Joanne Thomson
  - Conference Minister, The Rev. Franz Rigert
2. Approve/modify agenda
3. Approve minutes of May 16, 2017 Annual Meeting
4. Recognition of New Pastors
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Division & Partnership Reports
7. Moderator's Report
8. Adopting 2019 Budget
9. Nominating Committee Report & Elections
10. Added Business Items
11. Announcements & Updates
  - i. Lay Academy
  - ii. Wisconsin Conference Coaching Program
12. Adjourn

## 2019 Proposed Budget

### Southwest Wisconsin Association 2019 Proposed Budget

	2017		2018		2019	
	Budget	Notes	Budget	Notes	Budget	Notes
<b>REVENUE</b>						
Association Dues	\$46,550	9,800 members @ \$4.75/member	\$48,000	9,600 members @ \$5/member	\$51,984	8,664 members @ \$6/member
Association Meeting	\$1,200		\$1,400		\$1,300	
Special Offering	\$500		\$500			
Other Revenue	\$250		\$250		\$50	
Transfer from Reserves	\$2,638		\$2,279		\$0	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$51,138</b>		<b>\$52,429</b>		<b>\$53,334</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
<b>Association</b>						
Communications Coordinator						
Salary	\$3,000	2% raise	\$3,060	2% raise	\$3,121	2% raise
Social Security	\$230		\$234		\$239	
Out of Pocket	\$100		\$100		\$25	
Webmaster						
Salary	\$1,261	2% raise	\$1,286	2% raise	\$1,312	2% raise
Social Security	\$97		\$98		\$100	
Out of Pocket	\$100		\$100		\$25	
Conference Common Service Fee	\$11,500		\$11,500		\$10,830	8,664 members @ \$1.25/member
Association Meeting	\$1,500		\$2,000		\$1,000	
Division/Committee Meetings	\$100		\$50		\$100	
Website					\$100	
Other Expenses	\$750		\$750		\$1,600	
<b>Church &amp; Ministry</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>		<b>\$4,000</b>		<b>\$5,000</b>	
<b>Social Concerns</b>	<b>\$13,000</b>		<b>\$13,000</b>		<b>\$13,000</b>	
<b>Wider Church Support</b>						
Special Offering	\$500		\$500			
General Synod Delegates	\$250		\$250		\$250	
General Synod Scholarship					\$2,166	8,664 members @ \$.25/member
Youth Event	\$250					
Confirmation Retreat	\$1,000					also supported by
Youth Events/Confirmation Retreats			\$750		\$750	Youth Event Fund
UEK Partnership	\$500		\$500		\$500	
Bethlehem Partnership	\$500		\$500		\$500	
Other events	\$500		\$250		\$100	
<b>Clergy and Congregational Support</b>						
Camp Scholarships	\$10,000		\$12,000		\$12,000	
Lay Academy Scholarships			\$1,000		\$0	
Development Groups	\$100					
Resourcing Events for Congregations	\$500					
Conf Mtg Support for Retired Clergy	\$150		\$250		\$250	
Retired Clergy Events	\$250		\$250		\$250	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$51,138</b>		<b>\$52,429</b>		<b>\$53,218</b>	
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$0</b>		<b>\$116</b>	

## 2018 Nominations Report

Moderator [2020]:	<b>Jacy Boldebuck</b>	
Vice Moderator [2020]:	<b>Rev. Ann Beatty</b>	
Secretary [2020]:	<b>Kurt Schultz</b>	
Executive Committee [2020]: (Members at Large)	<b>Rev. Marlea Gilbert</b> <b>Roberta Tucker</b> <b>Paul Hodel</b>	[3 <sup>rd</sup> term] [1 <sup>st</sup> term] [1 <sup>st</sup> term]
Church and Ministry [2021]:	<b>Rev. Zayna Thomley*</b> <b>Rev. Lance Smith*</b>	[1 <sup>st</sup> term] [1 <sup>st</sup> term]
Social Concerns [2021]:	<b>Paulette Harder</b> <b>Rain Zephyr</b> <b>Jessie Gwynn</b>	[2 <sup>nd</sup> term] [2 <sup>nd</sup> term] [1 <sup>st</sup> term]
[2019 unfilled]	_____	
[2020 unfilled]	_____	
Wisconsin Conference Board of Directors [2020]:	<b>Ann Savides Dolan</b> <b>Rev. Kerri Parker</b>	[3 <sup>rd</sup> term] [3 <sup>rd</sup> term]
General Synod Delegates [2019 partial term]	<b>Gail Holmes</b> <b>Rev. John Tyler</b>	
[2021 full term]	<b>Rev. Blair Hull</b> <b>Alan Timm</b>	

\* appointed by Southwest Association Executive Committee; nominated for term indicated

# 2016 Eleven-Year Reports – Southwest Association and Wisconsin Conference



*God is still speaking.*  
**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ELEVEN YEAR CONFERENCE PROFILE BASED ON DATA REPORTED IN UCC YEARBOOKS

Conference: Wisconsin

Association: Southwest

YEAR	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	CONFIRMATION	CONFESSION	TRANSFER OR REAFFIRM	DEATHS OR TRANS OUT	OTHER LOSSES	NET MEMBS ADDS-REMOVED
2006	11853	4306	2503	194	71	253	342	391	-215
2007	11787	4139	2362	162	132	216	285	310	-66
2008	11638	4154	2391	181	86	251	266	400	-148
2009	11690	4089	2525	163	76	215	282	212	-40
2010	11020	3942	2252	126	80	136	250	888	-796
2011	10403	3799	2042	140	52	232	298	308	-182
2012	10122	3843	2056	115	77	177	247	362	-240
2013	9908	3695	1900	131	45	184	241	366	-247
2014	9443	3638	2266	79	31	124	228	458	-452
2015	9015	3298	2207	94	13	126	218	425	-410
2016	8664	3172	2172	98	35	124	224	378	-345

YEAR	CURRENT EXPENSES	CAPITAL PAYMENTS	BASIC SUPPORT	SPECIAL SUPPORT	TOTAL OCWM	OTHER GIFTS	WIDER MISSION	BASIC SUPP% CURR LOCAL	TOTAL EXPEND	PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS
2006	\$6,367,853	\$1,147,813	\$504,890	\$125,201	\$630,091	\$221,636	\$651,727	7.93	\$8,367,373	\$6,298,669
2007	\$6,435,948	\$1,194,298	\$519,963	\$172,509	\$692,472	\$292,575	\$985,047	8.08	\$8,615,293	\$5,914,125
2008	\$6,814,130	\$652,712	\$480,885	\$307,387	\$788,272	\$257,486	\$1,045,758	7.06	\$8,512,600	\$6,122,123
2009	\$6,724,681	\$461,574	\$491,284	\$135,538	\$626,822	\$240,694	\$867,516	7.31	\$8,053,771	\$5,554,492
2010	\$7,237,564	\$665,154	\$472,232	\$185,872	\$658,104	\$248,092	\$906,196	6.52	\$8,808,914	\$5,806,033
2011	\$7,112,798	\$1,514,489	\$450,007	\$138,434	\$688,441	\$295,998	\$884,439	6.33	\$9,511,726	\$6,676,730
2012	\$7,022,553	\$1,339,699	\$454,312	\$137,999	\$592,311	\$236,570	\$828,881	6.47	\$9,191,133	\$6,724,601
2013	\$7,123,122	\$947,758	\$412,467	\$129,753	\$542,220	\$327,233	\$869,453	5.79	\$8,940,333	\$6,236,869
2014	\$6,594,465	\$943,080	\$408,238	\$230,321	\$638,559	\$341,637	\$980,196	6.19	\$8,517,741	\$5,415,922
2015	\$7,042,423	\$594,980	\$416,149	\$205,814	\$621,963	\$215,438	\$837,401	5.91	\$8,474,804	\$5,607,897
2016	\$7,178,184	\$383,335	\$400,568	\$310,617	\$711,175	\$252,222	\$963,397	5.58	\$8,524,916	\$5,630,162

% CHANGE	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR ED/ FAITH FORM	TOTAL ADDITIONS	TOTAL REMOVALS	TOTAL EXPENSES	TOTAL OCWM
2011-2016	-16.72	-16.50	6.37	-39.39	-0.66	0.92	20.86
2006-2016	-26.90	-26.34	-13.22	-50.39	-17.87	12.73	12.87

Please note: Data may not be identical to UCC Yearbook totals for every year. Schedule 1 and 2 churches are not included in these totals. Christian Education/Faith Formation refers to Church School Enrollment for all figures before 20



**UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
ELEVEN YEAR CONFERENCE PROFILE BASED ON DATA REPORTED IN UCC  
YEARBOOKS**

Conference: Wisconsin  
Association: (Any)

YEAR	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR/ED/ FAITH FORM	CONFIRMATION	CONFESSION	TRANSFER OR REAFFIRM	DEATHS OR TRANS OUT	OTHER LOSSES	NET MEMBERS ADDS-REMOVED
2006	57714	22616	12193	878	453	1594	1733	2687	-1495
2007	56966	21661	11738	831	498	1126	1520	1703	-768
2008	55625	21178	11498	732	391	1276	1332	2343	-1276
2009	55072	20845	11454	703	377	1104	1363	1431	-610
2010	53434	20420	11115	523	417	861	1041	2546	-1786
2011	51167	19798	10300	577	247	993	1307	1902	-1392
2012	49669	19243	10298	534	329	921	1170	1818	-1204
2013	47922	18424	10102	525	378	774	1150	2274	-1747
2014	46183	17890	10270	556	279	760	1131	2465	-2001
2015	43950	16761	9592	474	212	676	1147	2381	-2166
2016	42427	15899	9223	500	222	714	1127	1748	-1439

YEAR	CURRENT EXPENSES	CAPITAL PAYMENTS	BASIC SUPPORT	SPECIAL SUPPORT	TOTAL OCWM	OTHER GIFTS	WIDER MISSION	BASIC SUPP% CURR LOCAL	TOTAL EXPEND	PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS
2006	\$30,614,225	\$5,575,024	\$2,128,614	\$710,239	\$2,898,853	\$1,108,682	\$3,947,535	6.95	\$40,136,784	\$29,554,886
2007	\$30,959,564	\$4,330,786	\$2,209,298	\$920,374	\$3,129,672	\$1,198,392	\$4,328,064	7.14	\$39,618,404	\$28,002,395
2008	\$31,546,606	\$3,563,890	\$2,085,360	\$925,417	\$3,010,797	\$1,311,503	\$4,322,300	6.61	\$39,432,796	\$26,774,927
2009	\$32,042,142	\$2,535,859	\$1,968,248	\$597,002	\$2,565,250	\$1,023,030	\$3,588,280	6.14	\$38,166,281	\$25,613,927
2010	\$32,258,700	\$2,211,129	\$1,895,342	\$988,353	\$2,883,695	\$1,183,937	\$4,067,632	5.88	\$38,537,461	\$23,393,425
2011	\$31,972,242	\$3,577,576	\$1,823,303	\$567,914	\$2,391,217	\$1,315,940	\$3,707,157	5.70	\$39,256,975	\$25,846,978
2012	\$31,892,612	\$3,158,533	\$1,765,934	\$502,999	\$2,268,933	\$1,132,869	\$3,401,802	5.54	\$38,452,947	\$25,629,495
2013	\$32,006,334	\$3,573,183	\$1,695,956	\$510,604	\$2,206,560	\$1,317,953	\$3,524,513	5.30	\$39,104,030	\$26,919,161
2014	\$31,799,925	\$2,940,363	\$1,638,144	\$1,123,750	\$2,761,894	\$1,119,755	\$3,881,649	5.15	\$38,621,937	\$26,017,767
2015	\$31,881,765	\$3,205,758	\$1,638,046	\$1,371,533	\$3,009,579	\$1,193,561	\$4,203,140	5.14	\$39,290,663	\$25,696,591
2016	\$32,161,896	\$2,345,140	\$1,587,289	\$1,392,585	\$2,979,874	\$929,026	\$3,908,900	4.94	\$38,415,936	\$25,602,391

% CHANGE	MEMBERS	AVG WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	CHR/ED/ FAITH FORM	TOTAL ADDITIONS	TOTAL REMOVALS	CURR LOCAL EXPENSES	TOTAL OCWM	TOTAL EXPENDITURE
2011-2016	-17.08	-19.69	-10.46	-20.97	-10.41	0.59	24.62	-2.14
2006-2016	-26.49	-29.70	-24.36	-50.91	-34.95	5.06	4.97	-4.29

Please note: Data may not be identical to UCC Yearbook totals for every year. Schedule 1 and 2 churches are not included in these totals. Christian Education/Faith Formation refers to Church School Enrollment for all figures before 2007.

