



**WISCONSIN
CONFERENCE**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Funding for Ministry

by Rev. Tisha Brown

Securing funding for a new or existing ministry of community outreach or engagement can be a challenge. [This issue of The Parish Paper](#) provides ideas for how to raise money for your community projects. In addition, here in the Wisconsin Conference, the Catalyst team stands ready to offer support. We are ready to receive your request for funding and to walk with you as you respond to the Spirit's call to your congregation.

Proposals for 2018 funding consideration must be received in the conference office by Monday, October 8. [Click here for a copy of the grant Guidelines and proposal form](#). Contact Tisha Brown, tbrown@wcucc.org with questions or for more information

Catalyst is the re-envisioned Church Development and Renewal team. **Catalyst's mission** is to: resource and encourage vital and innovative ministries that transform lives. Read more about Catalyst at <http://www.wcucc.org/resource-center/catalyst-vital-innovative-ministries/>

Here are some of the projects the Catalyst Team has in the last year:

Congregational, UCC in Brodhead: Congregational UCC in Brodhead is developing a plan to use some of their land to provide senior housing in their community. This housing will be available to members of the congregation and others to enable them to remain in the community during their retirement years. The vision includes the development of additional ministries of engagement between the residents of the housing and the congregation. Contact Cynthia Strealy, cstrealy@gmail.com for more information.

Congregational, UCC in Whitewater: The people of Congregational UCC in Whitewater are developing a worship service geared toward college students in their community. GLOW (Gathering in Loving Open Worship) launches in September with a monthly Saturday evening service followed by a home cooked, locally sourced, organic meal. College students in Whitewater have shared the lack of activities that don't involve drinking and the congregation is responding with this opportunity to nourish both the body and the soul. GLOW meets for the first time on Saturday, September 22

starting at 4:00 pm. Contact Rev. Blair Hull at revblairhull@gmail.com for more information.

St. John's UCC, Madeline Island: St. John's envisions developing a vibrant website that will enable them to remain connected with members, visitors and friends of the congregation whether on or off the island. They envision a spiritual campus to communicate their unique ministries, promote spiritual group and be a resource for reconciliation in their community. Contact Lee Baker, lb@sprintmail.com for more information.

Alphabet Soup, Student Group at Lakeland University: Alphabet Soup is Lakeland University's LGBT+ and Allies Student Organization. This grant supported their attendance and their presentation of their work at Lakeland at the Midwest Bisexual, Lesbian, Gay and Transgender Ally College Conference in February, 2018. Students offered a workshop at the Wisconsin Conference annual meeting and are available to visit congregations to present what they learned at this conference. Contact Rev. Alex Cade-White, cadewhiteaj@lakeland.edu for more information.

Baking Buddies at Evangelical and Reformed UCC, Waukesha: Baking Buddies is a program that was initiated by youth group members as a school project. Baking Buddies provides opportunities for kids with special needs to bake yummy treats with a youth peer or adult buddy. All baked goods are taken home by the child or youth who baked them and great fun is had by all. Catalyst funds were used to expand this program to reach more people. For more information contact Mary Ann Proffitt, mazproffitt@gmail.com

Rural Ministry Conference, March 2018: We provided partial scholarships to six individuals from Wisconsin, both clergy and lay to attend this annual conference. The topic was ministry partnership and options for rural and small congregation to partner together in ministry. Every year Catalyst will continue to support continuing education events like this where we believe innovative and entrepreneurial approaches to ministry will be nurtured.