



Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ

The gifts of our congregation to OCWM Basic Support make a real difference in the life of congregations across our state.

Because of our generosity, the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ connects, supports, and resources local congregations and leaders as they creatively and vibrantly live out the values of Jesus in this time and place.

This winter, members of Washington Reformation UCC in Monticello struggled with how to “re-start” their congregation after the interruption of the pandemic. Some questioned the leadership of their pastor. Church leaders reached out to Bridge Associate Conference Minister Ted Drewsen for help.

“The best thing that could have happened was meeting with Ted. He was clear about our roles as lay leaders,” said Julie, a lay leader at the church. Ted underscored the need for a job description so that the congregation and their pastor would be clear about expectations. And he explained the role of a Pastor-Parish Relations Committee.

A Pastor-Parish Relations Committee helps a pastor connect with a community, thinks through questions and ideas, and helps the congregation understand the complexity of the pastoral office. “A new pastor coming into a congregation always finds things about the church that mystify them. The Pastor-Parish Relations Committee helps explore and explain those peculiarities,” Ted said.

As Washington Reformation worked on the job description and creating the committee, the need for a strategic plan emerged. Now Pastor Kelly and church leaders work together to imagine a project that can excite and engage the congregation. “The soul of this church is being of service, and now we have a process to find our next big opportunity,” observed Pastor Kelly.

When the congregation felt “stuck,” support from the Wisconsin Conference helped the pastor and leaders find a new way to get restarted. Our gifts to OCWM Basic Support provided the support Washington Reformation UCC needed to move forward positively.



The Congregation of Washington Reformation on Palm Sunday

Learn more about the Wisconsin Conference at wcucc.org