

“Trees of Hope” for General Synod

When the Wisconsin Conference UCC decided to host General Synod, Orlin Brommer volunteered to make 3,000 “Trees of Hope” to put into the welcome bags that each Synod attendee will receive!

What are Trees of Hope?

With remnants of barn boards from his wife Kathy’s family farm, the tree guy, **Orlin Brommer**, crafted small trees. His wife and daughters placed some over window and door frames. And from there, the project grew.



A few years later, when his church, **Hope UCC in Cochrane Wisconsin**, remodeled their church belfry, construction scraps and branches from the lawn were cut into tree shapes for church members and friends. These creations became “**Trees of Hope.**”



When encouraging recipients to place “Trees of Hope” over window and door frames, Orlin needed a saying for them. “May the breeze blow always softly through your window,” was begun. Orlin is especially proud of the fun quote.

Each tree has a uniqueness that, someday, may fade. Once the pleasure of the fun project ends, Orlin encourages the owner to burn or bury the tree for luck.

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To help Orlin with his big Synod project, members of the congregation printed tags with the quote and assisted the children to attach the tags to the trees. Marilyn Bollinger shared with the children what Synod is about, and they were excited to help. The congregation feels more connected to the Synod experience, and the delegates will take home a bit of Wisconsin!

Orlin said that the saying about the trees “May the breeze blow always softly through your window” is an old Norwegian saying. When told that it sounds Irish, Orlin said that he made it up, and he is an old Norwegian, so it’s an old Norwegian saying!

