2020 ANNUAL REPORTS
NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION
WISCONSIN CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

To be presented at the

59th ANNUAL MEETING
THE NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Saturday, April 17, 2021
ZOOM Meeting
9:30 AM – 12:00 PM
# Table of Contents

Agenda ................................................................................................................................. 3  
Farm Progress Article .......................................................................................................... 4  
Opening Roads Ahead .......................................................................................................... 12  
Moderator’s Report - 2020 ................................................................................................. 13  
Associate Conference Minister’s Report ............................................................................ 14  
Treasurer’s Reports ............................................................................................................... 16  
  Year-End 2020 Balance Sheet .......................................................................................... 19  
  Budget Draft – 2022 ........................................................................................................ 20  
Registrar’s Report ................................................................................................................ 22  
Division on Church and Ministry Report .......................................................................... 25  
Division on Ministry in the Local Church 2020 ............................................................... 27  
Division on the Mission of the Church in the World Report ............................................. 30  
NWA Creation Care Grants 2021 – Application Form ...................................................... 31  
Northwest Association – 2020 Five for Five Churches .................................................... 32  
Liaisons’ Report .................................................................................................................. 33  
Nominating Committee 2021 Ballot .................................................................................. 35
Agenda

Northwest Association Annual Meeting
April 17, 2021
Zoom Meeting 9:30-12:00
"Opening New Roads"

9:30 AM  Welcome with Teri Hanson, Moderator of the NWA Association
          Opening Worship with Rev. Franz Rigert, Conference Minister

10:00 AM  Program speakers Dave Ostendorf and Paul Lasley
          (open to the entire Wisconsin Conference)

11:00 AM  Business meeting

          Report of the Registrar
          Approval of voice without vote for guests
          Highlighting the Ministries of the Northwest Association
          Associate Conference Minister
          Division of Church and Ministry
          Division of Mission of the Church in the World
          Division on Ministry of the Local Church
          Moderator
          Treasurer’s Report for 2020
          Questions concerning Annual Reports
          Vote to receive Annual Reports
          Discussion and Adoption of Our Budget for 2021
          Nominating Report and Nominations from the Floor
          Elections of Officers and Division Members
          Words of appreciation for Outgoing Officers & Division Members
          Five for Five Churches presentation
          UCCI
          Lay Academy

12:00 PM  Adjournment
Is your church at risk from the pandemic?

Church leaders need to think about what they can do to prevent social isolation, loneliness and depression.

Paul Lasley and Dave Ostendorf | Nov 03, 2020

The rural-to-urban migration has been one of the most dramatic demographic trends of the past century. USDA’s Economic Research Service reports that since 2010 more than
1,300 nonmetro U.S. counties have lost population. Today about 14% of the nation's population live in nonmetro counties. This is also where one-quarter of the COVID-19 deaths have occurred (New York Times, Oct. 22).

We are concerned about the disproportionate impacts the COVID-19 pandemic is having on rural communities where there is often a higher percentage of elderly, higher incidences of obesity and poverty, and other preexisting conditions. The impacts of the global pandemic are likely to carry well into 2021 and beyond.

Not only are we concerned about the community impacts of the pandemic but what it means for churches. In many cases, the pandemic is sapping the vitality out of communities where smaller churches are located and often the sole remaining social institution. The continuing loss of population has posed significant threats to the viability of churches, and now the pandemic adds to their uncertain futures. The focus of this essay is what churches might do to creatively address ever-expanding challenges.

**Church attendance declining**

The Harford Institute for Religion Research reports that there are more than 300,000 churches and religious congregations in the U.S. The median regular attendance is 75, meaning that one-half of all churches have less than 75 attendees and one-half have more than 75. The number of worship facilities is just one part of the equation, and the other is trends in church attendance. Estimates are that in normal times between 20% and 40% of Americans are regular church attenders. Now attendance is declining because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since March, some churches have suspended worship services, adding an additional burden to their long-term solvency. The pandemic adds to the existing struggles of many small churches that are questioning how to remain open. Many churches, particularly in small towns and in the countryside, tend to have a disproportionate number of elderly parishioners who are most at risk of the COVID-19 virus. It appears the pandemic may significantly accelerate trends in small-church decline.
Practice ‘neighboring’

For years, we’ve lamented that modern lifestyles that generally involve dual incomes and multiple jobs have contributed to a decline in what we call “neighboring,” or informal interaction among people who live nearby. In surveys among farmers and rural residents, we find that often people hardly know their neighbors and spend little time in close interaction. When asked about why visiting neighbors has declined, the No. 1 factor reported is lack of time.

However, there are examples when neighbors care for community members, such as when they come together to combat a community crisis such as floods or tornadoes, or arrive to assist a grieving family with food or machinery. The irony is that with the proliferation of social media, direct face-to-face interaction with neighbors was in decline before the pandemic.

In what we call the lost art of neighboring, many people have either never developed or lost the skills of effective neighboring. A 140-character text message, regardless of the intent, will never replace one’s presence or words of comfort. We tend to remember persons who reach out to us during personal crisis. Small acts of kindness, one’s presence or simply a supportive pat on the back have long-lasting impacts. All of us who have faced crises know the importance of others’ presence.

We believe the churches that successfully weather the pandemic will be those that modify or adopt new methods of neighboring. Churches must retain their foundation of being the voice and spiritual home of their parishioners, but they must demonstrate responsible citizenship and be leaders in the community on how to function within the constraints of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, guidelines.

9 actions for churches

Nine actions churches can take to strengthen the sense of community follow:
1. **Masks. Indeed, masks.** Given what is known about the transmission of the COVID-19 coronavirus, all churches should advocate mask wearing and social distancing as a moral position. Advocating for the health and well-being of their members lies at the heart of the church community. Church leaders should stop second-guessing CDC recommendations and questioning medical science, and instead demonstrate leadership by protecting one another. One cannot help but wonder how many deaths and infections in rural America could have been prevented if churches took responsible leadership and actions by following CDC recommendations.

Second-guessing the science of public health or risking the health of parishioners by making claims that true believers are immune from the coronavirus is nonsense. The coronavirus doesn't recognize or respect faith traditions or political viewpoints. Masks are not a "constitutional rights issue." They are a visible sign of our care for one another and a fundamental commitment to respect and protect the health and well-being of our neighbors. In short, "I don't wear a mask to protect myself, but to protect you."

2. **Keeping in touch is central to building and maintaining community.** Activities such as telephone calling trees, and making yard, porch, deck, driveway or farmyard visits while wearing masks and practicing social distancing communicate to the recipient that their well-being is important. These outreach activities are the responsibility of all members, not just the pastor. Extending this level of concern can be expressed through tracking systems of home-bound members, as well as care facility residents and hospital patients. When faced with crisis, one remembers who stood by them. Churches should be modeling social support during this pandemic.

3. **Who is your neighbor? Churches should guard against being provincial and tending only to members.** The economic toll has already been heavy on so many in our churches and communities including those who have lost jobs or been furloughed. That toll hasn't precluded churches from raising new funds from members and community leaders to help those in great need with rent and even mortgage payments, food and staple items, medications, winter clothing, or assistance with virtual learning needs for
students. The only way to know if such support is available is to ask; generosity is one of the most amazing outcomes of the pandemic.

4. The future of the church is children and youth. The lives of many children and youth have been tumultuous during the pandemic. Youngsters yearn to see their friends and for life to return to pre-pandemic conditions. The school calendar, sporting events, graduation and other symbolic events have been disrupted.

This is an opportunity for the church to step up and be counted as a support system in midst of the darkness for young people. Weekly outreach via text, internet or mailed materials coinciding with Sunday texts or worship themes is one way to assure that clergy and lay leaders are maintaining regular connection with children and youth. Just like adults, youngsters need to know that others in the community (besides their parents) are concerned about them.

5. Teachers, medical providers and caregivers work on behalf of the entire community. Part of the role in community leadership positions is offering praise and support. Regardless of political party affiliation, religious values or other personal characteristics, community service providers need to be recognized for their selfish giving. Churches can support and lead in the recognition of essential workers.

Teachers, caregivers, police, firefighters, doctors and nurses, social workers and postal workers should be recognized for the efforts, especially during this pandemic. Lift them up during worship, in newsletters or reach out to them directly by phone or in person. Billboards, drive-by events and car parades show support for workers and helps lift their spirits. Simply knowing that others recognize their personal sacrifices and appreciate their dedication are important messages.

6. How can technology be used to reach out to members and to the community? Some churches have been conducting worship virtually, but the viewing can be difficult or internet services unreliable. While the creative use of technology can supplement or enhance face-to-face worship, one should guard against overreliance on technology for
the personal touch. Phone calls, cards or letters, and home visits while maintaining social distancing are far more meaningful than watching a TV or computer screen. Even when excellent internet connections are available, do not assume that everyone has access or knows how to operate or participate in today’s technology.

7. **Church is about community building.** Regardless of one’s theological roots or beliefs, the church is called to take care of all creation and that includes all people. Some churches continue with mission outreach to those in great need. Donations to food banks or food pantries have helped feed many in need, as have clothing drives and rent assistance programs.

8. **Call out uncivil and hurtful actions and words.** In some communities, there is growing unease about the threat of turmoil and violence, a threat exacerbated by racism and the polarization of civil society that pervades much of the nation. Church leaders should be tamping out the embers of social injustice, racism and other forms of discrimination rather than ignoring or even stoking the flames of division.

Sadly, some churches have been unable or unwilling to call out those expressing uncivil ideas or dogmas. This includes scapegoating immigrants, saying they don’t belong here or that they’ve taken jobs away from local people; advancing conspiracy theories that China is to blame for the virus; being complicit to those who choose to display the confederate flag to intimidate Black Americans; and denying equal rights and protection to people different from the majority. Churches should champion community building through inclusion, which means speaking out against uncivil words and actions.

9. **Feed the folk.** Sharing food is at the cultural heart of most faith communities, especially in rural areas. Weekly meals prepared (with appropriate safety) in church kitchens for pickup by or delivery to members and friends can be a great way of maintaining a sense of community. Even a holiday dinner, complete with favorite desserts, will provide everyone with a sense of joy and hope in these uncertain times. Or work with a local restaurant to put together a holiday take-out celebration, providing not only good food but also supporting the local economy.
Challenging times for churches

These are very challenging times for the many small towns and rural churches that are integral to the culture of rural America. In many cases their precarious situations have been made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic that has resulted in fewer people attending church and in other cases by failing to maintain a sense of belonging among members.

How churches respond during the COVID-19 pandemic may be an indicator of whether they survive. Churches engaged in denial or rejection of CDC recommendations may be fortunate to avoid a “super spreader” event or not have any outbreaks. In recent weeks, places with previously low or no infection have emerged as hot spots, suggesting that no place is immune. Responsible leadership should protect the well-being of the community, not put members at risk.

It is often heard that in dying towns the last vestiges remaining are the post office and the church. Churches provide opportunities for social engagement and are often the hub of the community. The pandemic has greatly reduced or hindered the church’s ability to provide safe environments for congregants. As the pandemic drags on, churches need to explore creative ways to maintain a sense of community until an effective vaccine is available.

Summing up

The COVID-19 crisis is dramatically altering life around the globe. Likely there is no “going back” to what we might have known prior to its spread.

If anything, the crisis presents a unique opportunity to think and act anew, creatively and with profound imagination, in every home setting, family, community and church. If ever there was a time to create a new world wherever we live, including in rural settings, it lies before us.
Lasley is professor of sociology at Iowa State University where he has served for 40 years. Ostendorf is former director of Prairiefire and currently serves part-time as outreach minister for First Congregational Church in River Falls, Wis.

Source URL: https://www.farmprogress.com/commentary/your-church-risk-pandemic
Opening Roads Ahead...

"Opening Roads Ahead" Small and Rural Church Leadership in the Aftermath of the Pandemic

Rev. Dave Ostendorf will address the emerging context as of mid-April, from deep crisis to emerging possibilities: vaccine, plateauing of cases and deaths, reopening of churches, schools, businesses, etc., economic stimulus.

Professor Paul Lasley will speak to our awareness that this virus is going to be with us for some time to come, through mutations, continuing spread via non-vaccinated people, and a letdown of our efforts and how this affects people’s return to church, economic uncertainty, demographic shifts and cultural understandings.

Paul and Dave’s conversation on: Pivot, Patience, Persistence, Presence, Courage, Creativity, and Outreach (the phone is our friend!)

Given all these realities before us, we think it wise to consider the days ahead in six-month increments (now into fall, and fall/winter 2022) always ready to adjust to changes that emerge rapidly, unexpectedly.

Key questions to frame the days ahead:

▪ What are we observing, hearing, seeing?
▪ What dynamics most concern us?
▪ What has been working for us?
▪ What have we heard/learned from others?
▪ How do we build on the rural culture of neighboring?
▪ How do we create new forms of community?

What creative, inspiring, and new "open roads" might we take as we prepare for the days ahead, even though "a return to what was in the past" is unlikely.
Moderator’s Report - 2020

It has been a great joy to be in partnership with all of our 60+ NWA congregations this past year and I look forward to this coming year and the possibilities that are before us. As always, we are so appreciative of the support from the Conference staff and the assistance they provide in many ways.

Together we are so much more than we are alone. Within our NW congregations are people and communities of compassion, care, and service for one another. Together we embody the words of Micah 6:8; to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. God’s word and hope for our lives is continually unfolding as we are reminded that God is still speaking.

Without a doubt, this past year has brought so much change to our world and the way we do church/ministry. As I reflect on the last year, I can’t help but let my mind shift to our continued circumstances and how COVID-19 has shaped our very lives. It is still unclear as to how long this will continue but it seems familiarity is on the horizon. I have faith that we will continue moving forward as a community gathered together in faith.

I give thanks for the leadership within the NWA and our Divisions. You will find their committee highlights with their annual reports in this annual meeting booklet. Thank you to the Chairpersons of each Division for your leadership and hard work of your team. We are also appreciative for the leadership and guidance of our Wisconsin Conference Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Rob MacDougall.

As we are called to be faithful stewards of God’s creation, the NWA has made grants available to our congregations that are actively taking steps to change their carbon footprint. Through our Creation Care Grants, we are partnering with our congregations as faithful stewards of God’s creation. We are grateful to partner with Hope UCC; Cochrane as they purchased an energy-efficient refrigerator to be used for a variety of purposes, including their summer lunch program for families with school aged kids that might not be able to provide lunches for their kids. We are grateful to partner with Ladysmith Congregational UCC as they updated their lighting to LEDs. Ebenezer UCC in Stratford updated their lighting with a creation care grant as well. The grant program will continue through 2021; applications may be found on our NW Association webpage. And we currently have a congregation in application process.

As we journey forward, may we not look towards a "new" normal, may we look forward only with thoughts of NEW. Knowing that God goes before us, may we hear God calling us, beckoning us into the newness of 2021. With God in front of us, one-another alongside of us, and new faith filled possibilities emerging, together may we walk in the ways of Christ’s name.

~ Pax Domini, Teri A. Hanson; Moderator
Greetings to the churches and ministers of the Northwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ. May the God who grants us the breath of life fill you with a spirit of hope and resilience.

A few decades ago there was a bumper sticker regularly showing up on my friends’ cars, it was a cartoon of a guy putting a big foot forward with the words, “Keep on trucking” underneath. This past year there was a lovely couple who had moved in with the man’s parents to help each other survive during the pandemic, they recorded a prayerful song and put it online, the refrain that repeated over and over was, “keep on keeping on.” Keep on keeping on has been a bit of mantra for me this year. Because I feel more and more that there is so much that I don’t have control over, I think about just taking a next step and doing the small things that I can. I am learning much about having faith in what God offers even when the future is unclear. The pandemic has caused me to return to those things that are at the core of my faith, like God has made us frail beings needing to forgive and receive forgiveness, and that God’s love breaks our hearts open to one another. Like so many of you I am learning again what is essential to life and what is temporary like grass that is here today and gone tomorrow.

The pandemic has changed life as we know it, our personal lives, our church lives, our national and global lives. It has been a traumatic time with so many loved ones sick and dying from the virus. This week we surpassed the 500,000 dead mark in our country alone, it is heartbreaking and exhausting. We keep looking for signs of hope and recovery. More people are taking the precautions against infections and nearly two million people are getting vaccinated daily in the U.S., but we are told by our leaders that we are not out of the woods yet. I am grateful that so many of our churches faithfully lift up the importance of keeping each other safe by following the prescribed precautions. I am thankful for the Wisconsin Council of Churches’ diligent effort to inform churches, pastors and people of faith about the virus and how to care for each other. The pandemic has brought about significant change to our church lives. Congregations and pastors have learned to use online resources more than most thought they ever would. The Northwest Association leadership put together a list of technology consultants and with the Wisconsin Conference provided grants to churches for technology hardware and software. Zoom, YouTube, Facebook, and a host of other online platforms have become familiar tools in our congregations. Small funerals, weddings, ordinations, retirement farewells, Christmas Eve services, communion services and other life passages have been made difficult because of COVID limitations.

During this past year seventeen of our sixty churches in the Northwest Association have been in pastoral leadership transition. Some of our churches that have shared a pastor moved away from that arrangement and a number of new shared ministry covenants have been formed. We are finding that our smaller, part-time churches have needed to raise up pastoral leaders from in their midst, getting them training and requesting that the Association license them for sacramental ministry. We continue to speak with ecumenical partners with whom we might
share pastoral leadership, these believe these dialogues will continue to grow over the coming years.

Grief is not, however, the only experience of this difficult time. Several Northwest Association churches are thriving. Because they have gone online, many churches have found new participants in worship, Bible study, fellowship groups, mission efforts, etc. Congregations have joined with other congregations for worship, nearby sister churches have learned more about each other and deepened their sense of being part of Christ’s body together. A growingly familiar comment by church members is that they like worshiping in their pajamas on Sunday. Such a comment makes pastors wonder what will happen when in person worship begins again, and now that churches have broadened their communities many are considering how to make this an ongoing part of their ministries. One thing seems true, our churches have been changed by the pandemic and the future will not be a return to all of our past ways. God is doing a new thing in our midst, may we have eyes, ears, hearts, minds and spirits to perceive what God is doing.

There is much that has been offered by our Northwest Association leadership during this past year that I am grateful for. The NWA Executive Committee organized sending out cards and little gifts to pastors and churches more than once during the year, many thanks to Mary Jo Laabs, Sue Vornholt and Teri Hanson in particular for their efforts to offer care. Thanks to Elizabeth Hazel for helping the NWA take steps to support our Conference camps; NWA sent significant financial support to United Church Camps Inc. to help them weather this difficult financial and program time. I also offer my thanks to NWA Division of Church and Ministry (DCM), and in particular Rev. Don Baumann, for their incredible ministry with new pastors, Members in Discernment, licensed ministers and continuing faithful pastors. DCM is entrusted with the authorization, support and oversight of church leaders, and they do so with grace and attentiveness.

The Wisconsin Conference staff and leadership worked hard during this year of struggle and possibility. Rev. Andrew Warner has consulted with several NWA churches regarding generosity and stewardship, and he has also overseen church emergency grants during the pandemic. Rev. Tisha Brown has been developing more classes and trainings for lay leaders through Lay Academy and the Damascus Project, and she has led our Conference Catalyst Committee to provide grants for innovative ministries. Lisa Hart has worked particularly hard with churches and committees on peace and justice efforts; people have cried out for God’s children to join with them to bring about equity for all. The Creation Care Team has invited our churches to engage in new ways of faithful stewardship of all that God has given us. There is much more to say about the remarkable ministries going on in our Conference, please reach out to your remarkable staff, they are ready to offer their gifts to you.

While this year has been one of loss and struggle, it has also been a year of faithful ministry in our churches, Association and Conference. We are stronger, more resilient, innovative and tender than we may have thought we could be. May God continue to live in us that we might be the flesh and bone presence of Christ’s love in the world.

Rev. Dr. Rob MacDougall, Associate Conference Minister
Treasurer’s Reports

YEAR END 2020 FINANCIAL STATUS:

INCOME:
The 2020 total revenue was $38,485.60, which was below budget of $42,350.00. The very faithful giving through per capita payments by our NW Association congregations is the heart of our budget in supporting our covenantal ministries. In spite of 2020 being a very difficult year, nearly all of our NW congregations paid their entire per capita pledge. There was no increase to the per capita amount in 2020 and will be no increase again in 2021.

EXPENSES:
The 2020 expenses were $39,139.68, which was below budget. Net income for 2020 year-end was ($654.08). This includes Creation Care grants in the amount of $3,935, which were funded by reserves but are reflected in the 2020 budget expenses. The other expenses directly support programming, such as camp and retreat scholarships, clergy development, search and call expenses, etc. This ability to touch lives through faith experiences is a valuable investment through our covenantal partnership as Association congregations.

ASSETS:
Total asset balance at the beginning of 2020 was $58,904.06. Our 2020 year-end total asset balance is $56,793.98.

Our assets include a checking account balance of $39,611.99, a Cornerstone Demand Account of $101.56 and a 2-Year Cornerstone CD of $17,080.43.

BUDGET FOR 2021

The 2021 budget was passed at the 2019 NW Association Annual Meeting. The budget is balanced with income and expenses of $41,450.00. The Conference changed accounting programs during 2020, and budget line items from that point forward have been labeled to accommodate that change.

BUDGET FOR 2022

The 2022 budget is presented as a balanced budget of $40,150 and will be voted on at this 2021 Annual Meeting. We are grateful for the significant, faithful work that has guided us to this fiscal position.

Respectfully,
Northwest Association Budget Team
# Wisconsin Conference UCC

## Income Statement

**Northwest Association December 2020**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund</th>
<th>84-WCNW-000</th>
<th>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</th>
<th>BEG. BALANCE</th>
<th>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>This Month</strong></td>
<td>12/31/2020</td>
<td>12/31/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YTD</strong></td>
<td>12/31/2020</td>
<td>12/31/2020</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Budgeted</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>84-WCNW-000 - NW Association Operating Fund</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Revenue</td>
<td>$4,371.00</td>
<td>$16,487.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>$42,350.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Expense</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total General Expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDING FUND BALANCE</td>
<td>$54,356.50</td>
<td>$654.00</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Year-End 2020 Balance Sheet

2/1/2021 03:10:24 PM

### Balance Sheet
Northwest Association

#### 86-WCNW-000 - NW Association Operating Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01-11500</td>
<td>Conference Checking - Settlers</td>
<td>$39,611.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-12200</td>
<td>NW Cornerstone CD 2380-300</td>
<td>$17,080.43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-14200</td>
<td>NW Cornerstone CD 2380-120 - Demand</td>
<td>$101.56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Assets** $56,793.98

### Liabilities and Fund Balance

#### Fund Balance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01-30000</td>
<td>Fund Balance</td>
<td>$56,793.98</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Fund Balance** $56,793.98

**Total Liabilities and Fund Balance** $56,793.98

2/1/2021 3:10:24PM

### Balance Sheet
Northwest Association

#### 86-WCNW-552 - NW Wider Church Ministry Fund

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Asset Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07-11500</td>
<td>Conference Checking Agency - Settlers</td>
<td>$(94.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Assets** $(94.00)

### Liabilities and Fund Balance

#### Fund Balance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>07-30000</td>
<td>Agency Fund Balance - Earnings</td>
<td>$(94.00)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Fund Balance** $(94.00)

**Total Liabilities and Fund Balance** $(94.00)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
<td><strong>2022 proposed budget</strong></td>
<td><strong>2021 Budget</strong></td>
<td><strong>2019 Actual</strong></td>
<td><strong>2018 Budget</strong></td>
<td><strong>2019 Actual</strong></td>
<td><strong>2018 Budget</strong></td>
<td><strong>2017 Actual</strong></td>
<td><strong>2017 Budget</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>QREs &amp; Contributions</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-40000 - Past Interest and Dividends</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-44000 - Interest and Dividends</td>
<td>$ 150.00</td>
<td>$ 150.00</td>
<td>$ 321.25</td>
<td>$ 150.00</td>
<td>$ 268.80</td>
<td>$ 150.00</td>
<td>$ 277.82</td>
<td>$ 150.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-47200 - Northwest Association Dues</td>
<td>$ 39,000.00</td>
<td>$ 40,300.00</td>
<td>$ 36,904.31</td>
<td>$ 41,300.00</td>
<td>$ 29,500.00</td>
<td>$ 41,300.00</td>
<td>$ 40,078.00</td>
<td>$ 28,250.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-48100 - Northwest Annual Meeting Revenue</td>
<td>$ 1,000.00</td>
<td>$ 1,000.00</td>
<td>$ 40.00</td>
<td>$ 1,000.00</td>
<td>$ -</td>
<td>$ 1,000.00</td>
<td>$ 1,000.00</td>
<td>$ 1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td>$ 40,150.00</td>
<td>$ 41,450.00</td>
<td>$ 36,940.66</td>
<td>$ 42,350.00</td>
<td>$ 30,531.60</td>
<td>$ 42,400.00</td>
<td>$ 41,408.42</td>
<td>$ 39,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(new # needed if discontinued)</strong> - EXPO Grant Revenue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
<td>$ 40,150.00</td>
<td>$ 41,450.00</td>
<td>$ 36,940.66</td>
<td>$ 42,350.00</td>
<td>$ 30,531.60</td>
<td>$ 42,400.00</td>
<td>$ 41,408.42</td>
<td>$ 39,400.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Expenses | | | | | | | | |
| **General Expenses** | | | | | | | | |
| **(new # needed)** - Grants Approved (per footnote 2 below) | | | | | | | | |
| 01-51100 - Legal Services | $ 850.00 | $ 850.00 | $ 1,055.50 | $ 850.00 | $ 864.75 | $ - | $ - | $ 864.53 |
| 01-55200 - Clergy Services Exp. | $ 11,400.00 | $ 11,400.00 | $ 11,325.00 | $ 11,400.00 | $ 11,402.00 | $ 11,400.00 | $ 11,400.00 | $ 11,400.00 |
| 01-55300 - Executive Committee | $ 3,500.00 | $ 3,500.00 | $ 3,526.31 | $ 3,500.00 | $ 2,968.32 | $ 3,500.00 | $ 1,000.00 | $ 1,000.00 |
| 01-55400 - Special Initiatives and Projects | $ 500.00 | $ 500.00 | $ - | $ 2,000.00 | $ - | $ 500.00 | $ - | $ - |
| 01-59440 - Technology (formerly Website) | | | | | | | | |
| **(new # needed)** - NW General Synod Delegates | | | | | | | | |
| **(new # needed)** - General Synod support | | | | | | | | |
| **(new # needed)** - Conflict Resolution Training | | | | | | | | |
| **Total General Expenses** | | | | | | | | |
| **(new # needed)** - NW General Synod Delegates | | | | | | | | |
| **(new # needed)** - General Synod support | | | | | | | | |
| **(new # needed)** - Conflict Resolution Training | | | | | | | | |
| **Total General Expenses** | $ 15,790.00 | $ 17,950.00 | $ 19,943.81 | $ 18,850.00 | $ 20,260.27 | $ 18,400.00 | $ 18,918.51 | $ 14,900.00 |

<p>| Programs | | | | | | | | |
| <strong>Church &amp; Ministry</strong> | | | | | | | | |
| 01-62150 - Church &amp; Ministry Meetings | $ 11,400.00 | $ 10,000.00 | $ 14,767.18 | $ 10,000.00 | $ 2,814.22 | $ 12,005.00 | $ 2,789.70 | $ 11,000.00 |
| 01-65100 - Church &amp; Ministry General | | | | | | | | |
| 01-64100 - Ministerial Support (Retired Clergy) | $ 1,300.00 | | | | | | | |
| 01-64110 - Periodic Support (CAM District Mts) | | | | | | | | |
| <strong>(new # needed)</strong> - Fall Clergy Retreat | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ 298.82 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| <strong>(new # needed)</strong> - Licensed Min Retreat | | | | | | | | |
| <strong>(new # needed)</strong> - Evaluations/Testing | | | | | | | | |
| <strong>(new # needed)</strong> - Recognition/Certificates | $ 456.75 | $ - | $ - | $ 2,803.31 | $ - | $ - | $ - | $ - |
| <strong>(new # needed)</strong> - Lay Acolyte COP Scholarships | | | | | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Total Church &amp; Ministry</strong></th>
<th>$ 11,400.00</th>
<th>$ 10,000.00</th>
<th>$ 14,865.97</th>
<th>$ 10,000.00</th>
<th>$ 3,849.49</th>
<th>$ 12,005.00</th>
<th>$ 3,150.26</th>
<th>$ 11,000.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01-0100 - Youth Brochures/ Scholarships</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 364.25</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-0200 - Camp Scholarships</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 4,138.25</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 4,042.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 4,000.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-05410 - Restoring &amp; Projects (W/ExPD)</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 4,000.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 6,000.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-0310 - LCM General</td>
<td>$ 7,000.00</td>
<td>$ 7,000.00</td>
<td>$ 1,857.50</td>
<td>$ 7,000.00</td>
<td>$ 771.34</td>
<td>$ 7,000.00</td>
<td>$ 30,235</td>
<td>$ 7,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(new # needed - Cont/Faith Formation retreat)</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 1,400.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 1,300.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total LCM (see footnote 3 below)</td>
<td>$ 10,000.00</td>
<td>$ 10,000.00</td>
<td>$ 5,296.75</td>
<td>$ 10,000.00</td>
<td>$ 6,286.74</td>
<td>$ 11,000.00</td>
<td>$ 11,443.25</td>
<td>$ 10,850.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wider Church Ministry (WCM)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-04120 - WCM General</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>01-03300 - NW/WCM Scholarships</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ (100.00)</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 2,700.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 2,800.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total WCM</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
<td>$ 2,900.00</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
<td>$ 2,500.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 3,860.00</td>
<td>$ 3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Program Expense</td>
<td>$ 24,200.00</td>
<td>$ 23,900.00</td>
<td>$ 18,186.87</td>
<td>$ 23,500.00</td>
<td>$ 18,641.23</td>
<td>$ 28,000.00</td>
<td>$ 16,443.25</td>
<td>$ 24,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$ 40,150.00</td>
<td>$ 41,450.00</td>
<td>$ 38,130.08</td>
<td>$ 42,300.00</td>
<td>$ 36,748.60</td>
<td>$ 44,400.00</td>
<td>$ 38,361.90</td>
<td>$ 39,400.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Operating Total</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ (640.08)</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
<td>$ 1,280.00</td>
<td>$ (2,000.00)</td>
<td>$ 8,044.43</td>
<td>$ 0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Revenues:

| 40-8301-050 - NW Release from Reserves | $ 0.00 | $ 0.00 | $ 18,000.00 | $ 0.00 | $ 2,000.00 | $ 3,000.00 | $ 0.00 |
| Total Other Revenues | $ 0.00 | $ 0.00 | $ 18,000.00 | $ 0.00 | $ 2,000.00 | $ 3,000.00 | $ 0.00 |

Budget Notes for 2022 Budget:

1. The conference changed account programs and processes during 2020. Line items impacted by that change are noted with **.

2. Creation Care Grant Funds were added to the 2020 budget per WWA Committee approval March 2020 and will continue through 2021. Release from Reserves was approved on an as needed basis to support the Creation Care Grants up to $25,000 (March 2021 WWA Committee). The grant expenses are reflected in the 2020 actual column, but a transfer is not reflected in income section due to new accounting system. Resulting net operating deficit was within the approved limit for use of reserve funds.

3. Local Church Ministry (LCM) voted to release any remaining funds in their 2020 budget to UCC. The remaining amount of $1,350 was paid to UCC in 2021 and will reflect in the 2021 financial statements with a footnote that it is a 2020 expense.
Registrar’s Report


Ordained Ministerial Calls
Rev. Michael Southcombe – St. Stephen’s UCC, Merrill

Ordained Ministerial Calls Ending
Rev. Mary Snell Willis – Congregational UCC, Phelps
Rev. Lucas Williams – St. Stephens UCC, Merrill
Rev. Jane Courtwright – First Congregational UCC, Eagle River
Rev. Greg Ferriss – St. Johns UCC, Fountain City
Rev. Colleen Kwong – Hope UCC, Cochrane
Rev. Barry Schaefer – Congregational UCC, Amery

Licensed Covenanted Ministries Begun

Licensed Covenanted Ministries Ending
Mary Barnes – First Congregational UCC – Eau Claire
Scott Crandle – Peace UCC, Stevens Point

Interim Ministries Begun
Rev. Christine Stack – Peace UCC, Stevens Point
Rev. Gail Irwin – First Congregational UCC, Eagle River
Rev. Garth Schumacher – Congregational UCC, Amery

Interim/Transitional Ministries Ending
Rev. Joel Huenemann – Community UCC, St. Germain

Installations
**Members in Discernment**

Teri Hanson – First UCC, Colby; Christ United Church UCC, Athens

JaNae Westrich – St. Paul’s UCC, Ellsworth

Shannon Joshi – First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire

**Ordained Ministerial Standing Transferred Into NWA - 3**

**Ordained Ministerial Standing Transferred Out Of NWA - 3**

**Dual Standing**

Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers – First Congregational UCC, River Falls

Rev. Peter Norland – Portage Lake United Church, Houghton, MI

**Dual Standing Ended**

**Commissioned Ministers**

Joanne Klink – First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire

**Privilege of Call**

Rev. Wes Jedras – Faith UCC, Antigo

**Ordained Ministerial Partner**

Rev. Pat Tucker – First Congregational UCC, Eagle River

**Leave of Absence**

**Retirements**

Rev. Wanda Veldman

Mary Barnes

Rev. Colleen Kwong

Rev. Barry Schaefer

**Licensed Ministers**

Pauline Bangle – First Congregational UCC, Bloomer
Teri Hanson – First UCC, Colby; Christ United Church of Christ, Athens

Mary Jo Laabs – Community UCC, Medford

John Parkyn – St. John’s UCC, La Crosse

Sue Stein – First Congregational UCC, WI Rapids

Jill Christopherson – First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire

Joel Zimmerman – Namekagon Congregational UCC, Earl

Sue Vornholt – St. Paul’s UCC, Marshfield

Regina Laroche – St. John’s UCC, La Pointe

Shannon Joshi – First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire

**Licensed Ministry Endings**

Mark Bartlett

**Exempt Standing - 11**

**Necrology**

Rev. Orris Bartholomew

Rev. William Brown

Rev. Susan Faunce-Zimmerman

Scott Crandle - Peace UCC, Stevens Point

**Churches On Roster - 60**

**Churches Removed From Roster – 0**

**Pastors With Ministerial Standing - 100**
Division on Church and Ministry Report

Your Division on Church and Ministry has completed another year of authorization and support of the ministries of the Northwest Wisconsin Association of the United Church of Christ. And, I need to remind all of you at the beginning of this report that we are available to address any questions or needs you may have regarding ministerial placement, pastoral ethics, licensed ministries, becoming a Member in Discernment, ministerial support, etc. Simply contact a member of the Division or our ACM, the Rev. Rob MacDougall.

2020 has been a real year of transition for the Division. Our last meeting in our two physical locations in Eau Claire and Wausau was on March 12th. Since then, we have been meeting via Zoom. Also, we have reorganized into 3 teams in order to do our work more efficiently. The teams are: 1. Organization and administration; 2. Support and Development; and 3. Members in Discernment. During most of the past year, the teams have met on alternating months with the entire Division. We still do our meetings with new clergy and most interviews as an entire Division.

It has also been difficult this past year to deal with installations and farewell liturgies which have allowed closer contact with our churches in the past. Recently, we have sent out prepared prayers and liturgies rather than sending a Division member to be physically present. In most cases, our congregations are not meeting in person, so this is not an issue. A couple of our churches have chosen to delay installations until they can have an in-person celebration.

We were still able to hold our annual Licensed Ministers’ one-day retreat in person in 2020. However, it took place at First Congregational UCC in Eau Claire rather than in Merrill. We have held this event on the first Saturday in February for many years now. The 2021 event will be held via Zoom.

It is a blessing that we continue to add to our roster of Members in Discernment though it also adds to the workload of the Division. Our Division members continue to be trained in the use of Assessment tools based on the Marks of Faithful and Effective Ministry. But, we also look forward to the implementation of a plan to share assessment of our MIDs with a Conference task force that will work with Associations in this area.

This has also been a year of turnover in membership on the Division. We have lost a number of people due to completion of terms, movement out of the Association, or personal demands on their time. So, with our deep gratitude and understanding, we have said farewell to Wendy Dittmann, Mary Barnes, Rev. Colleen Kwong, Rev. Topher Mehlhoff, and Rev. Phil Milam. And, we have welcomed Michael Loomis, Rev. Lois Buchholz, Pauline Bangle, and Rev. Jacoba Koppert. Just at the turn of the year we also added Rev. Timothy Miller and Rev. Kent Cormack.
Once again, I need to express our appreciation as a Division for the partnership we have with our ACM, Rev. Rob MacDougall and Sue Taylor in the Conference Office. They have helped to provide much needed continuity during this time of transition.

In the continuing service of our ministers and churches,

Rev. Donald Baumann, Chair

Rev. Steven Russell, Vice Chair
Erin Webster, Secretary
Pauline Bangle
Rev. Lois Buchholz
Rev. Kent Cormack
Rev. Julie Goranson
Rev. Jacoba Koppert
Michael Loomis
Rev. Timothy Miller
Rev. Brandon Perrine
Division on Ministry in the Local Church 2020

Division members: Mary Burkett, Diane Matuszak, Rev Doris Buben, Rev. Burt Williams, Rev Adam Westrich, Kathryn Tate, Chair: Mary Jo Laabs

We give thanks for the budgeting that makes days in “nature’s sanctuaries” possible for the NW Association! This year, we met with Glenn Svetnicka, who represents UCCI, concerning part of the DMLC budget to be given directly to the camps.

Here are Q&A concerning camp scholarships from the conference call meeting that took place in February 2020:

1. **How will “need” be assessed?** Campers will fill out the application that is already on the website: ucci.org. Each camper would submit a scholarship form. This would replace our present “camper” form.

2. **Will a flat amount of 25% be given to each camper?** Everyone will receive 25% of the camping fee. If there is any sort of extraordinary need, the Camp director, along with Glenn, will decide whether to pay 50% or all of the fee. “Money should not be a barrier to participation,” he said. “Need will be discreetly handled.” If, for instance, there is an out-of-the-ordinary need, a Pastor may inform the camps of the situation.

3. **Are other Associations participating in giving part of their camping budget directly to UCCI?** Yes, the SW and SE Associations are already “in.” The camps also have an arrangement with the Winnebago Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church of America, which is also contributing funds. All of these funds will be added to a UCCI restricted account. The goal is that the Associations and the camps will be “partners” in this effort.

4. **What about the Faith Formation Retreats?** No application need be filled out. $50 per camper and chaperone will be given by individual Associations.

In February 2020, we voted to give $4000 of our budget to UCCI for camp scholarships to be distributed in the above manner. At our November, 2020 meeting, a motion was made, voted upon and carried: *“The DMLC, NWA, commits $5857.50 (which includes $4000 previously given toward scholarships and $1857.50 from our remaining budget) to the UCCI Budget to be used as they feel fit. If, by Dec. 28th, 2020, we haven’t used the remaining $500 in our DMLC budget, that, too will be given to UCCI.* (These actions were taken because of the camps being closed this year due to COVID.)

We will continue to offer separate scholarships for National and Regional Youth Events as well as Events for the Development of Church Leaders. These scholarship applications are attached here.

### 2020 Budget

- **Individual Scholarships given, Jan/Feb, 2020:** prior to COVID “shutdown”: $486.25
- **Camps Scholarship transferred to UCCI this year:** $5857.50 (plus $500)

Submitted by Mary Jo Laabs, on behalf of the DMLC 2020
The Northwest Association is encouraging United Church of Christ churches to inspire attendance at Leadership Development Events. The United Church of Christ offers many 1-day to weeklong workshop opportunities for church administrators, faith formation educators; stewardship, church growth and renewal, etc. Events may include out of conference opportunities. $50 Scholarship available per person, per year.

Applications must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the event.

Name
____________________________________ Phone________________________

Address ______________________ City ________________ZIP ______

Email_________________________________

Event Name & Date__________________________

Your UCC Church Name____________________________City_____________

Pastor's Signature ___________________________email_____________________

Mail to: Mary Jo Laabs, 512 E Broadway Ave, Medford, WI 54451
Email: believe417@gmail.com

For office use only: Date received________________________

Approved by: ___________________________________________
The Northwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ, encourages youth to participate in Regional and National Events designed for their faith development.

Scholarships are available in the amount of **$50 per participant**

**Applications must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the event. Please submit separate form for each participant**

Name:__________________________________ Phone________________

Address:__________________________City_______________Zip______

**Parent Signature**_________________________ Email____________________

UCC Church Name______________________City____________________

**Pastor’s Signature**_________________________ Email____________________

Name of Event___________________________

Dates of Event____________________

Mail to: Mary Jo Laabs, 512 E Broadway Ave, Medford, WI 54451
Email: believe417@gmail.com

For office use only: Date received___________________________

Approved by:___________________________________________
Division on the Mission of the Church in the World Report

Due to Covid, we had no requests for mission trip scholarships or scholarships for mission projects started or sponsored by Northwest Association churches in 2020, but we did have $100 sent back to us by a church group because one person did not go on 2019 trip. So, at the end of the year we voted to give the $3,000-line item and the $100 to the Alliance for Justice, Inc. We were especially impressed by their plans to have an immersion at Moon Beach focusing on 1) racial issues stemming from the Doctrine of Discovery and 2) Native American spirituality and its tight connection to the environment.

We continued to write articles and worship service bulletin inserts on the 5 for 5 offerings—“Our Church’s Wider Mission,” “One Great Hour of Sharing,” “Neighbors in Need,” “Strengthen the Church” and “The Christmas Fund.” (“The Christmas Fund” helps fill income gaps for retired clergy, clergy spouses, lay-workers.) The articles were published in “The Northwest Word” and frequently also “Wisconsin Conference Life.” We made Church bulletin inserts, many of which focus on the local impact of the 5 for 5 offerings. These bulletins, linked to slides that could be used in a virtual worship service, were sent out by email to all the churches and pastors of the NW Association. These emails were from Sue Taylor and addressed to us by Rob MacDougall, our Associate Conference Minister. Links were sometimes also provided in our newsletter articles.

We looked for projects that would combine mission and fun--like a contest of church or congregant gardens benefiting the environment but thought it would be better to do it at a later time.

We had one scholarship in January, 2021 for Caron Merriman from First Congregational, River Falls to go to Back Bay Mission 3-14 to 3-20. She will be joining others from another Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Findley-Hazel

Committee Members:
Kathy Bartilson
Rev. Bill Colby-Newton
Jeanne Dukerschein
Cindy Halfen
Rev. Elizabeth Hazel, chair
Barbara (Sue) McBride
The Northwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference, UCC, in an effort to lift up the high calling of being faithful stewards of God’s creation, is making grants available to NWA Congregations that are taking steps to positively change their relationship with the environment. These changes can be small or large; they could focus on energy use levels, renewable sources of energy, conservation efforts, recycling efforts, resources management, etc. The NWA is trying to encourage churches to act out their calling to be faithful stewards of what God shares with us.

Grant requests can be up to $1,000. The grant can cover the full amount of the project, or a portion of the project with the church and other sources funding the remaining costs. Congregations who receive grants are required to make a report at the time of the completion of their project. The report should include photographs, description of what was completed, narrative of how the project is impacting the congregation, who was involved in the project and a scripture passage that illuminates the church’s spirit of creation care.

Grant requests will be considered at the time they are received, awards will be made within one to two months’ time following the receipt of the request. Funding for these grants comes from NWA church per capita contributions.

**Required Grant Information**

Name of church and location:___________________________________________________________

Contact person and information:_____________________________________________________

Address: ___________________ email:_________________________ phone:______________

Description of project (include details, attach extra sheets if necessary):_________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

_____________________________________________________________________________

Time period for project completion:______________________________________________

Amount of grant request:________________________________ Total project cost:___________

Applicant signature: ____________________________ Date ______________

Send application to Ron Roloff, Grace UCC, P.O. Box 324, Wausau, WI 54402-0324
Northwest Association – 2020 Five for Five Churches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Church Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faith United Church of Christ</td>
<td>Antigo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Johns UCC</td>
<td>Arpin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregational UCC</td>
<td>Cable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First United Church of Christ</td>
<td>Colby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Namekagon Congregational UCC</td>
<td>Earl (Springbrook)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Congregational UCC</td>
<td>Eau Claire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth UCC</td>
<td>Iron River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta UCC</td>
<td>La Crosse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Congregational Ucc</td>
<td>La Crosse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Johns UCC</td>
<td>La Crosse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trinity UCC</td>
<td>La Crosse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community United Church of Christ</td>
<td>Medford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregational UCC</td>
<td>Mellen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Congregational UCC</td>
<td>Menomonie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Stephens UCC</td>
<td>Merrill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Johns UCC</td>
<td>Merrillan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Church of Christ</td>
<td>Neillsville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nekoosa United Church of Christ</td>
<td>Nekoosa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Church of Christ Congregational</td>
<td>Osseo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Congregational UCC</td>
<td>Park Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Church of Christ</td>
<td>Pittsville</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Johns UCC (Oak Grove)</td>
<td>Prescott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Church of Christ</td>
<td>Prescott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace United Church of Christ</td>
<td>Schofield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregational UCC (Conrath)</td>
<td>Sheldon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregational UCC</td>
<td>Sparta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace United Church of Christ</td>
<td>Stevens Point</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ebenezer UCC</td>
<td>Stratford</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Congregational UCC</td>
<td>Three Lakes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Congregational UCC</td>
<td>Tomah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace United Church of Christ</td>
<td>Wausau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Pauls UCC</td>
<td>Wausau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Congregational UCC</td>
<td>Wisconsin Rapids</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Liaisons’ Report

Dear Friends in Christ,

During our autumn retreat (held virtually this year), the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ reflected on and affirmed our mission and our values.

Our Mission

The Wisconsin Conference of the 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.

Our Values

Guided by Jesus’ teaching in the Gospels, we commit:

• To extravagant welcome
• To serve God, care for creation and all people with compassion and justice
• To encourage, inspire, and challenge one another in hope and joy
• To make bold and courageous choices with love
• To strive toward greater diversity
• To reach beyond and across the church and engage in new partnerships as we live out shared values

Our mission and values guided our work throughout the year. Acting on your behalf and recognizing needs throughout the Conference born of the pandemic, we supported:

• Our partnership with UCCI to help secure its future ministry, as the program essentially was suspended for the year. We celebrated UCCI’s successful “Keep the Fires Burning” fundraising effort, released the Conference’s annual allotment to UCCI in the first quarter, and extended a loan to UCCI.
• Resources for lay and clergy leadership, both spiritual and material. This included seasonal guided spiritual support offered through Advent and Lent along with seasonal worship experiences, a monthly publication titled “Tending the Soul of the Beloved Community,” made possible by the Conference Supportive Ministry Team and material help through Seminary Debt Reduction Grants.
• Resources for congregations through grants to help with urgent needs
• New ministry initiatives through Catalyst Grants
• The Kairos Call to Action through Creation Care Team grants available to congregations engaging in programming and projects reflecting environmental justice
• The ongoing development of the Damascus Project, which will expand its program further, making a variety of educational resources and spiritual formation opportunities available to lay and clergy leaders in the coming year in partnership with the Minnesota Conference
These are simply some highlights.

We carried out our usual work of providing oversight, managing the Conference’s budget, and planning for the future, which includes developing a budget for the coming year. We also engaged in planning the theme and content for this year’s Conference Annual Meeting: “Powered by Generosity.” This event will include leadership from people in our Conference, our church in its national setting, and by honored guests. The meeting will be a series of virtual gatherings held May 11-13, 15, and 16.

In summary, the Wisconsin Conference Board of Directors, our amazing Conference staff, and Conference committees, task forces, and working groups remain focused on providing resources to support congregations and lay and clergy leadership in our collective effort “to creatively and vibrantly live out the values of Jesus.”

With you in Christ’s service,

Elizabeth Hazel, Ann Larrabee, and Mark Pirazzini
Conference Liaisons
### Nominating Committee 2021 Ballot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Candidate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Committee:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>2021-2023</td>
<td>Rev David Huber, <a href="mailto:david@peucc.com">david@peucc.com</a> 715-497-8448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>2021-2023</td>
<td>Mike Goen-Penney, <a href="mailto:mikjerry65@gmail.com">mikjerry65@gmail.com</a> 715-223-9403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member-at-large</td>
<td>2021-2023 (1)</td>
<td>Rev Lisa Bodenheim, <a href="mailto:revlisabodenheim@yahoo.com">revlisabodenheim@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member-at-large</td>
<td>2021-2023 (1)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Board of Directors:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member, (clergy)</td>
<td>2021-2023 (1)</td>
<td>Rev Elizabeth Hazel, <a href="mailto:morrhazell@pctcnet.net">morrhazell@pctcnet.net</a> 715-744-237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member (lay)</td>
<td>2021-2023 (1)</td>
<td>Ann Larrabee, <a href="mailto:bookworm1952@hotmail.com">bookworm1952@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member (lay)</td>
<td>2021-2023 (1)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division on Ministry in the Local Church:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>2021-2024 (2)</td>
<td>Rev Burt Williams, <a href="mailto:pastorbdw@gmail.com">pastorbdw@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division of the Church in the World:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>2021-2024 (1)</td>
<td>Diane Stoffregen, <a href="mailto:dianestoffregen@gmail.com">dianestoffregen@gmail.com</a> 609-769-3865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>2021-2024 (1)</td>
<td>Rev Bryan Simon, <a href="mailto:bryan.a.simon@gmail.com">bryan.a.simon@gmail.com</a> 612-432-8541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>2021-2024 (2)</td>
<td>Terry Dukerschein, <a href="mailto:glentam@centurylink.net">glentam@centurylink.net</a> 715-609-9317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>2020=2023(2)</td>
<td>Complete term - TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Division of Church and Ministry:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>2021-2024 (1)</td>
<td>Julie Garber, <a href="mailto:garberj0@gmail.com">garberj0@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>2021-2024 (1)</td>
<td>Kent Cormack, <a href="mailto:kent@firstcongolax.org">kent@firstcongolax.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>2021-2024 (2)</td>
<td>Don Baumann, <a href="mailto:donbfishing@gmail.com">donbfishing@gmail.com</a> 715-845-8464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>2021-2024 (2)</td>
<td>Julie Goranson, <a href="mailto:revjulie@graceuccwausau.org">revjulie@graceuccwausau.org</a> 715-845-7051</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>2021-2024(1)</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominating Committee:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>2021-2024 (1)</td>
<td>Mary Jo Laabs, <a href="mailto:believe417@gmail.com">believe417@gmail.com</a> 715-351-0450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Member</td>
<td>2021-2024(2)</td>
<td>Pauline Bangle, <a href="mailto:westernpb@yahoo.com">westernpb@yahoo.com</a> 715-404-9181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Role</td>
<td>Timeframe</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>Esparanza Bowles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>Ron Roloff, <a href="mailto:ronchrisroloff@frontier.com">ronchrisroloff@frontier.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>Rev David Bowles, <a href="mailto:bliksemflitsen@gmail.com">bliksemflitsen@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>Sandy Stuttgen, <a href="mailto:sandystuttgen@gmail.com">sandystuttgen@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delegate</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>Patti Steeves, <a href="mailto:patti-steevens@hotmail.com">patti-steevens@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate</td>
<td>2021-2024</td>
<td>Nancy Kraft, <a href="mailto:nancykraft@centurytel.net">nancykraft@centurytel.net</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our Mission
(what we do)

The Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ equips leaders and congregations to transform lives through innovative ministry for the 21st century.

Our Values
(how we do our work together)

Guided by the Great Commandments, Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25, and a commitment to extravagant welcome, we will work together...

- to serve God and our neighbors with compassion
- to encourage and inspire one another with hope
- to make bold and courageous choices with love

Our Vision
(what we will change if we are successful)

By 2019 the people of the United Church of Christ in Wisconsin will be energized to be the church in their local context, expressed through passionate work toward a more just and generous world.