



Why do we pledge support to OCWM?

A young pastor repeated the question asked by a member of her congregation: "Why should we give to "Our Church's Wider Mission?" The Associate Conference Minister answered, "Tell them that without OCWM you wouldn't be here, and neither would I."

Without the support of all churches through OCWM, there would be hardly anyone to help churches find ministers. 80% of our Wisconsin Conference Budget of \$2 million comes from our gifts to OCWM and **74% of our contributions stay in our state.**

In 2018, Conference staff supported 52 searches, recommended 26 interim ministers, and worshipped with or attended events in 125 churches. Clergy and congregational support in 2018 was 26% of OCWM gifts; board and staff leadership was 9%; and programs, camps and technology received another 22%.

Does the variety of projects it funds make it hard to understand what OCWM is about? Actually it's the variety of those projects that make "caring" more than an overused word. The sheer number of those projects is a concerted effort to deal with as many situations as possible that we or our churches encounter. These can include:

- helping pastors understand the life of the church they lead (Communities of Practice or "COP")
- bringing out ministerial gifts (Lay Academy)
- showing kids that God created fun and wonder (our wilderness camps)

- helping us participate in the world and its needs rather than being pushed around by it (social action)
- fighting loneliness among clergy by fostering a network of relationships among colleagues (COP and cluster groups),
- and providing conflict resolution training.

Our national denomination shares this reason and charge for participating in OCWM: *"In the United Church of Christ, we affirm that, although the congregation is the fundamental unit of mission, mission is not just local. We are connected to one another, across boundaries of neighborhood, class, race, and national border."* (From ucc.org)

Thank-you to all congregations for your support. Please give to OCWM to keep this positive work underway in the Conference and in every one of our churches.

Be a "5 for 5" Congregation!

Churches that achieve their base pledge to "Our Church's Wider Mission" and donate to all 4 national UCC fundraisers each year are counted as "5 for 5" churches for supporting every special national effort. These offerings give our churches a way to be a small (or large) part of something big!

Local churches and people are helped by these offerings in our state, across the nation, and around the world. Giving to these offerings means that our funds added together can provide more support in much larger ways that we can do alone. Thanks for your help through these annual UCC fundraisers and other emergency and special-need offerings:

- **One Great Hour of Sharing**
- **Strengthen the Church**
- **Neighbors in Need**
- **The Christmas Fund**
- **Our Church's Wider Mission**



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All donations are appreciated, and are used toward disaster relief, mission trip scholarships, help to local churches and clergy, immigrant and refugee assistance, social justice action, overseas ministries and more as we join hands across our communities, the nation, and the world in service of Christ.

[This information and encouragement is sent to you from the Northwest Association's Division of the Mission of the Church in the World.](#)