

Dear Friends and Members of the Illinois Conference,

Where do we go to find ways to revitalize and enhance our worship?

The United Church of Christ Musicians Association's (UCCMA) mission is to *inspire, educate and nurture those who minister through music and the arts*. The Summer 2022 issue of our professional journal, *Worship, Music and Ministry*, is entitled "Serving Smaller Congregations" and addresses some of the challenges that smaller churches face, especially with regard to worship. We are spreading the word because we want to get it into the hands of as many small churches as possible. We strive to give our members helpful information and resources using the written word, links to artwork, musical examples, dance, videos, webinars, and webpages that can enhance our worship experience. I strongly encourage you to take advantage of our **free 90-day membership** <https://uccma.wildapricot.org/join-us> to view all the newsletters and the journals, especially this latest issue.

The UCCMA is a vibrant national grassroots organization of musicians and pastors who continually seek new ways to worship, connect and uplift people through music and the arts. Since the organization came into being in 1993, it has been committed to increasing its footprint in the lives of our UCC congregations throughout the denomination.

Every two years, we host a national conference in the summer, each time in a different area of the U.S. Filled with outstanding directors, clinicians, and performers, the three-day gathering holds seminars, readings sessions, arts explorations, and worship experiences. It is a time for church musicians and pastors to learn, experiment, connect and grow. Our 2021 conference was held virtually, and our next conference will be held in person in 2023.

We Offer to Our UCCMA Members:

- *Worship, Music & Ministry*, a professional journal issued digitally three times per year
- Six digital newsletters per year
- Access to the membership directory and job listings
- Regional workshops and webinars
- Discount on national conferences
- Support from the Board of Directors
- Active social media

Our most exciting current project is "Royalties for Spirituals." You can read about it on our website <https://uccma.wildapricot.org/Royalties-for-Spirituals>. In addition, we did a webinar in February with a panel of folks talking about how we can repay the black community for the unfettered use of traditional spirituals for the last hundred or so years. The webinar is still viewable on the webpage.

Please spread the word to others in your congregation and other churches so they can use what we offer to enrich our worship life to the greater glory of God.

Blessings,
Michele Hecht
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