

Missouri Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ

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Uniting Congregations for Ministry and Mission in Missouri, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee
www.missourimidsouth.org

February 20, 2019

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) are the demonstration of our covenant together, which allows the Missouri Mid-South Conference to be faithful in our mission of "uniting congregations for mission and ministry" and supporting the ministries these gifts enable.

Words cannot express the appreciation we have for the covenant we share. This is a covenant that is expressed in many ways through your generosity to OCWM. Because of your generosity, the Missouri Mid-South Conference is able to provide staff support for congregations as they seek pastoral leadership, manage times of crisis or plot new directions for their ministry in a changing world. Because of you, we are offering outdoor retreats, camping experiences, work camp opportunities and fellowship and learning events for children, youth and adults at our two outdoor ministry facilities, Camp MoVal and Shannondale. Your gifts undergird the volunteer efforts of our Conference Covenanted Ministry Teams in church vitality, youth work, spiritual formation, global partnerships, Christian social advocacy and much more. And, in addition to the work done in our Conference, your gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission make possible all of the national and global mission work of the United Church of Christ and our ecumenical partners.

Some of the Ministries OCWM Provides

- 51% of 2018 Budget = MMS Conference Staff Salaries and Travel!!!
- 11 MMS Conference Staff:
 - 3 Fulltime Conference Minister, Directors of Camp MoVal and Shannondale
 - 8 Part-time
 - 3 Associate Ministers
 - 3 Office Staff
 - 2 Youth Coordinators

Funded by Western Hills Fund

4 Ministries to Support Your Church's Ministries!

- Welcome Packets sent to ALL Church Council Leaders for 2019!!
- Free registration for Worship Design Studio Webinars
- Ministry and Money Matters Event led by UCC Financial Institutions!!!
- Search and Call Stewards and staff support

3 Ministries OCWM Has Provided in 2018

- Suicide Prevention Seminars led by Cindy Birkner
- Shared Ministry Conversations led by Tyler Connoley
- Conflict Resolution

Won't you consider increasing your Church's OCWM giving?

We ask that you and your congregation again prayerfully consider your OCWM gifts for the remainder of the year and we hope you will respond in a combination of ways:

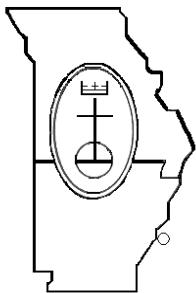
- 1) Increase, if possible, your 2019 OCWM giving to the Missouri Mid-South Conference.
- 2) If you are a congregation or individual who makes yearly gifts to OCWM, making those gifts as quarterly or monthly donation will help increase the cash flow during leaner giving periods.
- 3) Please communicate to the Conference Office your intentions of giving we may accurately project our resources and be good stewards of God's abundant resources. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to the office using the enclosed **self-addressed, stamped, return envelope**. It would be helpful to receive this information by March 15.
- 4) Invite Conference Staff, a Conference Council Member, or an OCWM Covenanted Ministry team member to your congregation for worship, offering them time during the service to express a word of appreciation on behalf of the Conference or a brief mission moment to encourage continued support of Our Church's Wider Mission giving. Also, invite a representative to meet with your leadership (Consistory, Church Council, or Mission Committee) to discuss the ways in which our OCWM covenant and gifts help forward our mission and strengthen our ministry together.

Thank you for the many ways we are in covenant with the Missouri Mid South Conference. We seek to be faithful to God's call to be a more just and prophetic voice for God in the world. Thank you for your faithfulness and for your stewardship. Without the partnership and covenant we share, we cannot claim to be "church" as God desires.

Grace and Peace,

Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel,
Missouri Mid-South Conference Minister

Mr. Lorin W. Cope, Chair,
OCWM Covenanted Ministry Team



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2019 Pledge to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM)

Please return this form by March 15 in the enclosed, postage paid, envelope.

Local Church Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State _____ **Zip** _____

Email: _____

Name of the person completing this form _____

Information to Share with the Conference:

We would like to pledge the following for 2019 _____

We would like to contribute an additional amount for 2019 _____

Please describe how your congregation arrives at its annual OCWM goal. Additionally, how does your congregation achieve its annual contribution goal? For example, is the amount in the budget, or a percentage of total giving; or is it whatever the members individually designate?

We would like a speaker from the Conference to visit our church to discuss OCWM.

Yes: _____ Comments: _____

Thank you!

The Covenanted Ministry for Our Church's Wider Mission please return this completed form in the ***postage paid envelop*** addressed to the Missouri Mid-South Conference Office, 483 East Lockwood Avenue, Suite 15, St. Louis, MO 63119-3168. Please return this form by March 15.

- In our local churches, we worship together, we pray with and for one another, and we serve side by side in the name of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- When your congregation seeks pastoral leadership to lead it boldly, prophetically, and lovingly into the future the covenantal relationship, funded in part through Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) giving, provides congregational search committees with support and guidance from both the Missouri Mid-South Conference staff and our Search and Call Stewards.
- Your OCWM gifts helped provide safe and nurturing space – the kind of space that allows young people to hear a potential call to ministry.
- Many of our clergy prepare for sermons and worship by using “Sermon Seeds” – a resource made available through gifts to OCWM forwarded to the national setting of the church. our OCWM gifts enrich and transform the worship experience of your congregation.