



Missouri Mid-South Conference United Church of Christ

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Uniting Congregations for Ministry and Mission in Missouri, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee
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Dear Friends in Christ,

As your local church begins working on your congregation's 2020 budget, we ask for your prayerful consideration of the amount you will give toward Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM).

OCWM is the name we give to congregational gifts that support wider UCC ministry in the Missouri Mid-South Conference, and in the national and global church.

Since its earliest days, members and leaders of the United Church of Christ have borne witness to a Gospel that is centered in our belief in a Stillspeaking God, expressed through a church that welcomes extravagantly and is committed to transforming lives and communities. In a world where the progressive Christian voice is often missing or diminished, the United Church of Christ is a necessary and effective counterweight to the perception of faith that is narrow, narcissistic and angry. Instead, our witness is of God's unconditional love and grace, and of a people of compassion, with a commitment to justice.

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 your church's gifts, 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 besides all this, your gifts to OCWM make possible the national and global mission work of the United Church of Christ and ecumenical partners.

And your gifts support the outstanding staff we have in the Conference. Staff who we turn to for help and support as well as invite them to share in times of celebration and transition. They are lay and clergy, working in full and part time positions. Ministers and missionaries in our midst. They are the human face of mission to us, for us, and on our behalf.

The delegates to the 2019 Conference Annual Gathering met in Columbia this past June and approved the Conference Budget with the goal of \$583,188 for OCWM in 2020.

Your support of Our Church's Wider Mission in 2020 is both needed and appreciated as we create together a fellowship of mutual support, accountability and mission. Together there is so much we can accomplish in the name of Christ.

In thankfulness,

Rev. Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel
Conference Minister
Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC

Mr. Lorin Cope, Chair
OCWM Covenanted Ministry
Missouri Mid-South Conference UCC

P.S. We have also enclosed a 2020 Goal form for you to fill out and return to the Conference Office. Once your congregation has made a decision about support for Our Church's Wider Mission, please let us know. This information is very helpful as we make plans for the mission and ministry of the Missouri Mid-South Conference in 2020. Thank you.