



**WISCONSIN
CONFERENCE**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Wisconsin Conference Life Newsletter

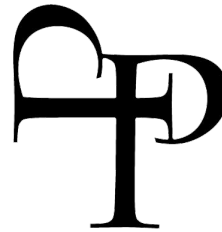
June 1, 2017

Financing the Local Church

by The Parish Paper

Even though they are not members, Bill and Dorothy go to a church in their neighborhood once or twice per month. They are fond of the pastor and proud of the congregation's ministry. They also take pride in contributing a small amount when they attend services feeling satisfied that they have contributed their fair share toward the church's expenditures. Is their assessment realistic?

[Read more](#)



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Funding for Vital and Innovative Ministries Available Now

The Catalyst Team (formerly Church Development and Renewal) is working to spur, spark and stimulate innovation and creativity in congregations throughout the Wisconsin Conference. One way we will do this is by providing grants to congregations that are developing vital and innovative ministries that transform lives.

We are **seeking opportunities to support initiatives in congregations** throughout the conference that align with these ministry areas:

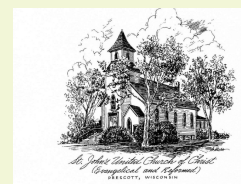
[Read more](#)

QPR for Clergy (Question, Persuade, Refer)

Clergy are on the front lines of **suicide prevention** and have been identified as "key gatekeepers" in the National Strategy for Suicide Prevention. After years of collaborating with faith leaders, the QPR Institute has published a peer-reviewed, **online QPR-based training program for clergy**. This training program is designed specifically for leadership in our faith communities and includes basic QPR training, helping skills for people in crisis, foundational knowledge about the relationship of mental illness and substance abuse to suicide risk, and how to help those impacted by suicide. For the remainder of 2017, and to encourage early adoption, this new, 6+ hour course will be offered at the discounted rate of \$79. For complimentary review access, contact [Brian Quinnett](#).

Besides the the online training, there are trainers available

Church Spotlight



[St. John's UCC, Prescott](#)

Known locally as "the country church," St. John's UCC near Prescott is led by pastor Bill Colby-Newton and was founded in 1860.

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statewide to come and train people in this process. For further information and/or a person to assist in getting a trainer, feel free to contact [Lois Buchholz](mailto:Lois.Buchholz@wisc.org) via email or at (414) 425-1538 (leave a message & an evening call back number).

Lay Academy Summer Event

Compassionate Communication: Living Life with Clarity and Connection within our Community

August 11-12, 2017
Trost Center, DeForest



The Lay Academy Summer Event will build community as we explore Nonviolent-Compassionate Communication. Friday evening features a drumming circle led by Elmore Lawson. On Saturday, CaSandra May will share tools for communicating effectively with people from different backgrounds and perspectives. You do not have to have attended Lay Academy in order to participate.

[More information and registration](#)

United Church of Christ Releases 2016 Video Annual Report



The United Church of Christ national office has released its 2016 Annual Report in video form. As the video shows, "2016 was a great year for the United Church of Christ." Working together, we live our faith. [Check out the inspiring video!](#)

Wisconsin Conference UCC Annual Meeting is June 9-11 Green Lake Conference Center

If you're planning to attend Annual Meeting, be sure to check out these new features:

Share Fair! 21 Wisconsin UCC congregations will be displaying their inspiring stories of ministry. Wander through the Share Fair and chat with people from these congregations. Gather ideas for new ministries and make connections with people who will share their experiences.



SHIFT: Our Unfolding Story

CALENDAR

Check the Conference [calendar](#) for upcoming events.

Quick Links

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Is your church considering an Open and Affirming Process? The Wisconsin Conference has a committee to help! Please feel free to use us as resources for your discussions and preparations. Contact [Micah Schlobohm](#) of the Wisconsin Conference UCC Committee on Ministry with LGBTQ Persons.

Also: check out the [Facebook page for ONA churches!](#)



Organ Available

Working Hammond Organ, circa 1960 or so, with Leslie 912 speaker available at Saron UCC, Sheboygan Falls. Best offer. If interested or need more information, please call Gloria at 920-467-6038.

New Discipleship Walk A new contemplative walk will provide an opportunity to prayerfully interact with the beautiful Green Lake Conference Center grounds.

You won't want to miss our two great keynoters, **Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer**, President and General Minister of the UCC and **Rev. Everett Mitchell**, pastor of Christ the Solid Rock Baptist Church and Dane County Circuit Court Judge.

You can also take advantage of 15 workshops, a social gathering on Friday night sponsored by Cornerstone Fund, After Hours informal, topical gatherings on Saturday night, and participate in the business of the conference.

Also, we still **need volunteers** - please consider helping out. [Check out all opportunities here](#)

[Find all Annual Meeting information and registration links here](#)

Help us Invite the UCC to Milwaukee for General Synod 2019!

In 2019 the Wisconsin Conference will be hosting General Synod, the biannual gathering of the entire United Church of Christ, in Milwaukee. We would love it if you would help our delegates to this year's General Synod in Baltimore extend a warm Wisconsin welcome to our brothers and sisters in Christ around the country.

Here's how you can help:

- Create a 5x7 invitation to General Synod from your congregation to the wider United Church of Christ. Have fun with this! Get creative! Make it a group project!
 - Feature a photo or drawing of yourselves, your church building, or your ministry at work in the world.
 - Include something that makes your congregation a unique expression of the UCC.
- Every invitation **MUST** include these words: On behalf of the Wisconsin Conference, the people of _____ UCC invite you to join us in Milwaukee for General Synod, June 21-25, 2019.
- Send at least 15 copies of your invitation to the conference office - 4459 Gray Rd., DeForest, WI 53532 - no later than Monday, June 19, 2017, or send them with your delegates to annual meeting in Green Lake.

Got News?

Let us know! If you have something you'd like considered for publication in *Wisconsin Conference Life*, email [Nola](#) at the Wisconsin Conference.



UCC Clergy and Friends Brewers Game

Thursday, June 22



Chef David Gaeth and I, Tim Perkins, would like to invite you to gather for prayer (and fellowship) at Miller Park on Thursday, June 22nd at 1:10, when the Brewers "faithfully" play against the Pirates of Pittsburgh.

The cost of the tailgate and a prime Loge Infield ticket is \$30.00. (First Base side and in the shade). If you are interested, please let me know via e-mail at PerkDrews@aol.com or call or text at 414-403-0221. To reserve your ticket, please send a check for \$30.00 made out to Tim Perkins and send it to my home address: 3245 N. 52nd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53216.

[Flyer for Brewers game](#)

Godstock!

First Congregational UCC, Oconomowoc
June 17, 2017



You are invited to join First Congregational UCC in Oconomowoc for Godstock on June 17.

Godstock is an outdoor Christian music festival. For more information, call 262-567-4461 or visit oconomowocucc.org.

[Flyer about Godstock](#)

Back Bay Mission

Back Bay Mission in Biloxi, Mississippi, has been a lasting source of hope and help for thousands of children, adults and families along the Mississippi Gulf Coast since 1922. As one of the oldest and most highly respected organizations within the United Church of Christ and on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Back Bay Mission continues its journey of providing innovative solutions and compassionate responses to those suffering at the hands of social injustice. Its **Mission Trip program** provides hands-on service learning experiences for hundreds of volunteers from across the nation. For more information visit www.thebackbaymission.org.



Conference Transitions

Searching Churches

- [Saron UCC in Sheboygan Falls](#) seeks a full time pastor, effective May 25, 2017.

To see all searching churches, [click here](#).

New Calls

- **Mary Pat Campbell** has been called as interim pastor at St. Stephen's UCC in Merrill, effective May 1, 2017.

Good Tidings

- Congratulations to **Rev. Topher Mehlhoff** and his wife Amy Mehlhoff on the April 25 birth of their new daughter Eliza Vivian.

In Memoriam

- **Barbara "Bobbie" Johnson Obenauer**, wife of former Interim Conference Minister, Rev. Michael Obenauer, died on May 13, 2017. [Obituary](#)
- **Richard Middleton**, father of Rev. Beth Voigt, died on May 18, 2017.

The Conference Transitions feature appears monthly in the Wisconsin Conference Life. Please share your transition information, including church anniversaries, with the newsletter editor by emailing [Nola](#).

This newsletter is made possible by contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission Basic Support.

The Wisconsin Conference UCC is an [Open and Affirming Conference](#).

Wisconsin Conference United Church of Christ
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