



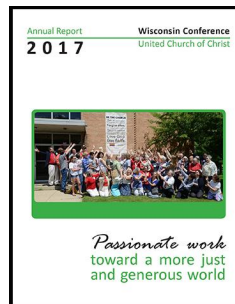
**WISCONSIN
CONFERENCE**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Wisconsin Conference Life Newsletter

July 11, 2017

NEW Conference Annual Report Available

Our new annual report is now available! Inside you'll find quotes and stories reflecting many vital ministries in congregations and community life throughout our Wisconsin Conference. The report also highlights the many ways our Conference staff are deployed in pursuit of our mission – "to equip leaders and congregations to transform lives through innovative ministry for the 21st century."



Your OCWM gifts continue to faithfully support the work of Conference staff, board and committees and the ongoing care and programs available to pastors and congregations. We hope you will take a look at the Annual Report and share it with your congregation.

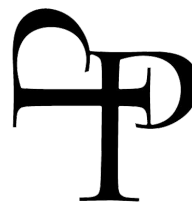
[Download the report here](#)

How Can We Help Immigrants?

by *The Parish Paper*

A new church member—a recent African immigrant—described what his Christian mother taught him: "When someone comes to you and needs food and shelter, you give it to them. The next day you can ask them: What is your story?" The immigrant story touches every community and congregations have always welcomed newcomers. Typically, one in ten people attending a worship service in the US are immigrants—they were born outside the US. Further, one in five worshipers are children of immigrants because one or both of their parents were born in another country. What can congregations do to help immigrants in their communities?

[Read more](#)



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

Lay Academy Summer Event
August 11-12, 2017
Trost Center, DeForest



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Church Spotlight



Mineral Point Congregational UCC

This Southwest Association church was formed after the Great 1848 Organ Battle when 70 members of the Mineral Point

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 be a Lay Academy student or alumni to attend: all are welcome!

[More information and registration](#)

General Synod 2017 Wrapup



Wondering what the General Synod, the biennial meeting of the United Church of Christ, is like? Want to relive GS2017 moments? The national UCC office has General Synod videos available online. [Click here to view the video archive!](#)

Communities of Practice Groups for Clergy and Christian Educators

In **Clergy Communities of Practice (COP)**, pastors find shared wisdom and support from colleagues gathered into community focused on the practice of ministry and the pastor's vocation as leader. COP groups encourage peer support, care, and reflection. Facilitated by a seasoned pastor or experienced therapist, COPs meet monthly for a 2 1/2 hour session, September through May.

[More information and registration](#)

Communities of Practice **groups for Christian educators** are facilitated by people who have served Christian education ministry, and have experience and training in group dynamics and training in the Communities of Practice facilitation model. Now is the time to talk with the volunteer or staff person in your church to see if they would like more support and enrichment to better practice their ministry. It will be the greatest gift you and your local church could give them to support them in connecting with others doing faith formation ministry.

[More information and registration](#)

Nailed or Mailed?

by Rev. Jim Mohr

This year we are observing the 500th anniversary of the Reformation as we recall the action of a German monk named Martin Luther posting 95 theses for debate on October 31, 1517. Luther wanted to invite other clergy and scholars to debate the validity of indulgences, which purported to set aside the penalties for sins – at a price. We can picture him standing before the Castle Church in Wittenberg, boldly nailing a broadside to the door.



But did he? Luther never really mentioned such a deed. So, some would make the claim that this is "fake history." What is for certain is that Luther sent a copy of his theses to Archbishop Albert and

Methodist Episcopal Church left to form the Primitive Methodist Church of Mineral Point. The church switched affiliation to the Congregational Conference of Wisconsin in 1913. The congregation has been worshipping in the above-pictured building for nearly 125 years!

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

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

Quick Links

Forward this email to a friend



Newsletter archive

[Newsletter Sign Up](#)



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!](#)

Albert forwarded them to Pope Leo X, eventually causing quite a stir, especially after a summary was published in German for all literate people to read. Then the emboldened monk raised the ante by questioning the papacy itself – and the Reformation became a movement!

Still we see the romantic image of Luther grabbing a hammer and nailing that poster to the church door. Is it all a fable? Actually the recent discovery of a 1541 note by Luther's secretary stating that Luther had posted his theses on the church doors (plural) of Wittenberg has led many to believe that he did both nail and mail his theses.

In any event the church was reformed and is still reforming. On **October 28** all are invited to ***Still Shifting After All These Years: The Reformation for Today***, a day of lectures, liturgy and lunch at the Trost Center, to commemorate the 16th century Reformation and consider shifts in church belief and practice still taking place today.

[More information and online registration](#)

Youth Events 2017-2018: Save the Dates!

Youth Faith Formation Retreats

November 10-12, 2017, Moon Beach [Registration available now](#)

February 23-25, 2018, Pilgrim Center

March 2-4, 2018, Pilgrim Center

Knock Knock Middle School Retreat

November 17-19, 2017, Pilgrim Center [Registration available now](#)

Jesus Core High School Retreat

January 5-7, 2018, Pilgrim Center

Lay Academy

The deadline to register for the 2017-2018 Lay Academy session is almost here! Please register by July 31, 2017, to continue with Faith Foundations Year 2 or Lay Ministry Skills Year 4!

[Year 2 register here](#)

[Year 4 register here](#)

Interfaith Bus Tour and Retreat: Beyond Tolerance

August 18-20, 2017

DeKoven Retreat Center and Southeast Wisconsin Locations

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung invites you to join him for an Interfaith Bus Tour and Retreat. This event will explore a vision of interfaith relationships and shared service that will carry us beyond mere tolerance. Through worship services in several locations and faith traditions, interfaith dialogue and informal conversation, this program will help participants discern the Spirit's work within us and our neighboring religions, and encourage us to seek future interfaith encounters and opportunities for shared service to the world.

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.

Sponsored by Wisconsin Conference United Methodist Church
Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships

[See flyer for complete details](#)

Active Adult Adventure Retreat

September 25-29, 2017

Moon Beach Camp



The beautiful colors of fall in the Northwoods make the perfect setting for all kinds of adventures, and we invite you to come and join in the beauty of the natural world, the hospitality of Moon Beach Camp, and the joy and encouragement of community. Join us for the Active Adult Adventure Retreat!

[More information](#)

Conference Transitions

Searching Churches

- **St. Stephen's UCC, Merrill**, is searching for a full time Associate Pastor. [More information](#)

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

New Calls

- **Rev. David Bowles** has been called as pastor at Congregational UCC in Ladysmith and Congregational UCC in Conrath, effective July 5, 2017

Retirements

- **Rev. Phil Haslanger** retired from Fitchburg Memorial UCC on June 30, 2017

Anniversaries

- **Fitchburg Memorial UCC** celebrated their 100th Anniversary on June 10, 2017. Congrats!

In Memoriam

- **Patricia Heins**, wife of the late Rev. William Heins, passed away on July 4, 2017. [Obituary](#)

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](#).

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