



NORTHWEST WORD October 2018

If you'd like to add your church leaders to the NW Word email please send their email addresses to nwword@gmail.com.

Seminary Debt Relief

Deadline November 14, 2018

This grant is for the purpose of assisting pastors who qualify by guidelines established by the Commission on Church and Ministry, to repay seminary loans. Grants are based on need and may be renewed annually for up to five years. The amount of the grant will depend on need and available funds.

All applications will be received and reviewed by the regional Associate Conference Minister of the association where the pastor has standing and is serving. Upon the recommendation of the Associate Conference Minister, the grant will be approved by the Commission on Church and Ministry and presented to the Board of Directors (confidentially) for the release of funds.

[Application](#)
[Grant Levels](#)



The Damascus Project

The Damascus Project is a collaborative leadership development effort of the Minnesota and Wisconsin Conferences. Our mission is to develop an outcome based,



General Synod 32 - Volunteering 101

Milwaukee, June 21-25, 2019

The Wisconsin Conference is excited to host the 32nd General Synod of the UCC! Three to four hundred volunteers will be needed throughout the five days of General Synod next June and we will need your help!

General Synod is the bi-annual gathering of the United Church of Christ drawing delegates and visitors from across the nation, and abroad. We gather to remember who we are as a denomination, to explore and reignite our call to ministry on behalf of Jesus Christ, to learn, to worship, to reach out to our brothers and sisters most in need of our advocacy and compassionate presence and to attend to the business and leadership needed for the denomination.

Volunteers will be engaged through the Local Arrangements Committee, (LAC), whose ministry it is to assist the National UCC staff for General Synod 32.

Can you stand, sit, walk or run? Volunteers from congregations in the Wisconsin Conference will fill a

integrative, holistic approach to leadership development.

The Damascus Project is announcing a new course: **Returning to Sacred Texts and Finding Stories You Can Live In.**

This course will give you the opportunity to:

- Discover what happens in the act of reading and what the implications are for reading the Bible, so that the Bible can become a source of wonder, wisdom, and inspiration for you;
- Learn some specific tools to increase your competence and strengthen your confidence in reading and interpreting the Bible;
- Spark your spiritual imagination so that you might understand and appreciate more deeply the circumstances of your own life by finding your story in the sacred stories of the Bible;
- Become better equipped to respond to and lead today's changing church by engaging your community's stories with the sacred stories of the Bible.

Course Details

This is an online course that will run from February 4 to April 5, 2019. [Click here to register online.](#)

For questions or more information, please contact:
[Rev. Vicki Wunsch](#), Director of Leadership Development
Minnesota Conference UCC
612-871-0359

variety of positions. You will be asked to provide at least 4 hours of volunteer time. Note that some positions will require a background check - such as anyone working with children or youth.

[For more information](#)

Consider how you and others in your congregations can volunteer at General Synod 32 in Milwaukee June 21-25, 2019! Watch for more information and sign up in January!

Grace and peace,

General Synod 32 LAC

Coordinators:

Bonnie Andrews, Debbie Payden,
Tom Payden, Tim Perkins

Prayers

Please keep Rev. Doris Ruben, and her sister-in-law Rev Betsy Miller-Ruben, in your prayers. Doris's mother, Belva Ruben, passed away October 8, 2018.

Belva was a life long member of St John's UCC in Fountain City (she grew up attending Immanuel Reformed in Eagle Valley which was served by the same pastors as St John's and merged with St John's.)
[Talbot Funeral Home](#)

Doris Ruben
304 W. Sycamore
Abbotsford, WI 54405

Christmas Fund Appeal 2018

When I think about the Christmas Fund, I automatically think about all the faithful ministers I have known, especially Rev. Alice Snow, who was our minister when I was in Junior High. Rev. Snow was a true veteran of the Cross – she gave of herself unstintingly to the members of Christ Congregational UCC in Clintonville in ways large and small. She accompanied us to Tomah for the funeral of my Grandpa Carson. During Confirmation class, Rev. Snow indulged some pretty unorthodox questions from me, and did it with a great sense of humor. She was active in the community well beyond the responsibilities of our church. When she left us to serve the Church of the Red Rocks in Sedona, AZ, her loss was keenly felt.

Rev. Snow is just one of the many faithful ministers who have served our churches well and ably throughout their long and distinguished careers. Others include a newly-retired pastor from North Carolina suffering from Parkinson's disease who needed assistance to fill a gap in insurance, a mission worker in Tennessee whose life of service was

insufficient to provide a pension that could cover a rent increase, and a local church pastor who suffered from a devastating two-year illness that entirely drained his resources.

As our United Church Fund for Ministerial Assistance states: “These faithful servants, along with nearly 1,000 others last year, received direct financial assistance through the Christmas Fund, prompting one to write, ‘That news of help made our day, our month, our year, our life!’”

The gifts sent to the Christmas Fund are used in various ways: Grant programs, Christmas checks to 466 retired UCC Clergy and Lay employees – expected to total \$230,000 by the end of this year, monthly small annuity supplements to approximately 378 persons – totaling \$976,247.20 as of this past August 22nd, and emergency grants given to 20 individuals and families, totaling \$32,174.00 as of August 1st of this year.

Behind these numbers are real people with real needs, and our gifts to the Christmas Fund are a real expression of our ministry to one another, as well as an act of grace of the kind the Apostle Paul wrote of in II Corinthians 8:7: “Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in utterance, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in your love for us—see that you excel in this gracious work also.”

Please give the Christmas Fund your prayerful consideration.

[YouTube](#)

The Congregational United Church of Christ in Mellen, WI has nine choir robes they are willing to share. If you are in need please contact Rita at bachman@centurytel.net.



Mark your calendars

Licensed Minister Retreat
Saturday, February 2, 2019
Merrill

Northwest Association and
Wisconsin Conference Meeting
April 5-6, 2019
Wisconsin Dells

General Synod
June 21-25, 2019
Milwaukee

Wisconsin Expanding Pastoral Opportunities (WI EXPO)

- *Are you contemplating a call to Christian ministry?*
- *Are you wondering what it might be like to serve a local church in a ministry role?*
- *Are you in college, attending Lay Academy, a Member in Discernment (MID), or a member of a local UCC church who has had inklings about ministry possibilities?*

WI EXPO might be something you should consider.

WI EXPO is an opportunity created by the Northwest Association (NWA) of the WI Conference UCC to facilitate and support persons who would like to experience serving in a ministry role in a local church. If you are interested, the WI EXPO Team will receive your request and will then work with you to find a local church in which you would serve alongside the called pastor for 3-6 months, 10-20 hours a week. Participants receive a stipend paid by the Northwest Association.

You and the local church would write a covenant agreement detailing what your

experiences will include. There are many to consider: worship leadership, pastoral care, youth faith formation, Christian education, church camp work, mission ministries, church organization, denominational involvements, etc. The supervising pastor will be your mentor and you will also attend sessions with a spiritual director.

Engaging in an EXPO experience does not obligate you to move into ministry but writing your reflections on the experience is a requirement at its conclusion. A "Member In Discernment" from the NWA recently wrote this in her final reflection: "Lessons from my time at the church are plentiful, as this has been the most powerful and dynamic part of my first year in seminary. The main lesson is that these experiences and your encouragement have affirmed my path to ministry."

For some, an opportunity to serve in a local church will affirm their calling, for others it may begin a calling, for others it may suggest a totally different direction, but the greatest gift is an opportunity to serve in the community of the church and to be actively seeking God's direction.

If you are interested in exploring the possibilities that WI EXPO might hold for you, please contact one of the members of the WI EXPO Team:

Julie Garber garberj0@gmail.com
Mary Jo Laabs believe417@gmail.com
Rev. Adam Westrich revadamww@gmail.com
Rev. Rob MacDougall rmacdougall@wcucc.org

God's blessings to you as you dream!



Profile
Northwest Association Moderator
Rev. Missy Miller

Rev. Missy Miller has served the Frist Congregational UCC Church in Wisconsin Rapids for two years and has served as Moderator of the Association since April 2018. Missy considers her role as moderator a privilege; being in covenant with the wider church.

Rev. Miller and the executive committee are encouraging the divisions of the Association in goal setting for the coming year.

Missy and the executive committee of the NWA have been in conversation with the Ho-Chunk Church, looking to strengthen our relationship. Members of the church presented at the Association Annual Meeting in April.

Missy enjoys singing, photography, hiking, kayaking, and loves spending time with her family.

We thank you Missy

Like us on FB. Have your church page "follow" us. And we'll follow you!

<https://www.facebook.com/nwwaucc/>

North West Association Pulpit Supply List

Churches should be fair and forthright in agreeing upon honorarium and travel expenses for persons they invite to provide pulpit supply. The WI Conference Division of

Church and Ministry suggests a minimum of \$125 plus mileage reimbursed at the IRS current rate; for 2018, that would be 54.5 cents per mile. Where a church has two points and two services, you should consider a minimum of \$175 plus mileage.

Conference staff persons serve the local congregations in a variety of ways in the normal performance of their duties. Honoraria are not accepted, and travel costs are covered by the Conference travel budget. Except in emergencies, Conference staff cannot provide pulpit supply; however, the staff welcomes opportunities to preach for special occasions or to meet with members of the congregation. Please note: Persons licensed to the NW Association and ordained pastors are authorized to administer the Sacraments.

EAU CLAIRE TO TWIN CITIES AREA:

Rev. Elizabeth Hazel, 1060 Marian Lane, Park Falls, WI 54552 (will drive 3 hours)
715-744-2373 morrinhazel@pctcnet.net

Rev. Carol J. Heckmann, 1789 County Road EE, White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-269-4950 cj.heckmann@yahoo.com

Rev. Jeanny House, 1342 Glenn Place #2, Eau Claire, WI 54703
715-577-5542 jeannyh@fastmail.fm

Rev. Sandee Kosmo, 3214 Chasewood Lane, Eau Claire, 54701
715-834-2112 skosmo14@msn.com

Rev. Norm Luecke, street address: 301 Alvey St, Bruce, WI
54819
925-639-1652 normluecke@yahoo.com (Available June-Sept: willing to travel 2 hours.)

Stephen P. Ottman, 733 First Street, Plum City 54761
715-647-3501 h 715-495-2017 cell s_ottman@hotmail.com

Susan Vornholt, 301 Oak Street, Neillsville , Wi 54456
(willing to drive the day before and stay overnight, if necessary)
[715-797-4031](tel:715-797-4031) Sjvornholt@yahoo.com

Rev. Charles Wolfe, 715-441-7362 chaswolfe411@gmail.com

LA CROSSE AREA:

Rev. Tom Uphaus, 2650 N Pine Creek Rd, La Crescent, MN
55947 507-895-2152 tuphaus@acegroup.cc

SUPERIOR-ASHLAND AREA:

Deanne Allen, 14240 S. Riverside Road, Cable, WI 54821
715-798-5097 woodyspirit@gmail.com

Bill Handy, 715-682-0168

Rev. Elizabeth Hazel, 1060 Marian Lane, Park Falls, WI 54552 (will travel 3 hours)
715-744-2373 morrinhazel@pctcnet.net

Rev. Donald B. King, W7995 Perkinstown Ave., Medford, WI 54451
715-785-7635 sdking@tds.net

Rev. Norm Luecke, street address: 301 Alvey St, Bruce, WI
54819
925-639-1652 normluecke@yahoo.com (Available June-Sept: willing to travel 2 hours.)

Rev Bob Rice, 5695 Hunter Cove, Conover, WI 54519
405-642-6118 robertsrice@msn.com (Eagle River area)

Susan Vornholt, 301 Oak Street, Neillsville , Wi 54456
(willing to drive the day before and stay overnight, if necessary)

715-797-4031 Sjvornholt@yahoo.com

WAUSAU AREA:

Rev. Dale Bishop, 511 Sundstein Rd., Eagle River, WI 54521
715-479-1152 dbishop511@frontier.com

Rev. Wayne C. Drucek, 1811 Perry Drive, Schofield, WI 54476
715-355-8895 home 715-212-8376 cell harleyrev@gmail.com

Rev. Elizabeth Hazel, 1060 Marian Lane, Park Falls, WI 54552, (will travel 3 hours)
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Rev. Donald B. King, W7995 Perkinstown Ave. Medford, WI 54451
715-785-7635 sdking@tds.net

Rev. Norm Luecke, street address: 301 Alvey St, Bruce, WI
54819
925-639-1652 normluecke@yahoo.com (Available June-Sept: willing to travel 2 hours.)

Rev. James Mohr, 35 Hewett St., Neillsville WI 54456,
715-743-7626 jmohr13@outlook.com *Note: I would be available to drive
to any place South of Wausau, East of La Crosse, and Southeast of Eau Claire.

Rev Bob Rice, 5695 Hunter Cove, Conover, WI 54519
405-642-6118 robertsrice@msn.com (Eagle River area)

Susan Stein, 3321 16th Street South, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
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