

2022 ANNUAL REPORTS
NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION
WISCONSIN CONFERENCE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

To be presented at the

61st ANNUAL MEETING
THE NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Saturday, April 22, 2023
Hybrid Meeting
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

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Agenda

Northwest Association Annual Meeting April 22, 2023 Hybrid Meeting 10:00am-2:00pm

9:30am **Check-in/ Registration**

10:00am **A Word of Welcome** Susan Vornholt, Moderator of the NWA

Opening worship and communion - Rev. Wanda Veldman and Rev. Michael Jones

10:30am **Program: “Fresh Understandings of Being The Church”**

Moderator: Jill Christopherson

Panel:

John Parkyn

Pastor - St. Johns UCC (E&R), NWA Executive Committee

Past National Synod Delegate

Served as Supply, Interim, Regular Pastor — 14 UCCs, 1 Presbyterian, 2 ELCAs

Wisconsin Conference — 14 years Outreach Committee, 6 years CHISM Committee Chair

Service in Nebraska, Wisconsin and Minnesota

State Park services — NE Assoc.

Past State Youth Fellowship President

Service in three Wisconsin Associations, Visiting Clergy Lutheran and St. Francis hospitals,
911 Chaplain

Southside Lenten Service Coordinator for 4 denominations

Jeff Pommerening

Pastor of Elcho & Kempster UCCS

NWA Executive Committee, current Chair of Division on Ministry of the Local Church

NWA Nominating Committee

UCC Synod Delegate

Home church: St. Paul's UCC Oshkosh

12 years as counselor and program director at Daycholah [Pilgrim] Center

5 years as local church Christian Educator

12 years in cell phone sales and 12 years doing media ministry at his home church
enhance his tech skills for ministry

Andrew Lemke

Andrew Lemke has been a member of St. John's UCC in Merton for about 8 years. After growing up with wonderful role models at Pilgrim Point Camp in Minnesota, Andrew became committed to providing similar kinds of experiences for others. Those experiences in recent years have included woodworking, cooking, playing games, planning a church service, and replacing carpet. Andrew says, “As a church, [St. John's UCC] has made sure our kids are involved in everything possible. I love that as a

community of faith we view our children and youth not as integral members of the future but as integral members *now*.” When he’s not working in the church, he works as an engineer designing and supporting industrial automation and robotics. He says, “I am truly honored to belong to a community that believes and lives out the phrase ‘Wherever two or more are gathered, Christ is present.’”

11:30 Presentation from Rev. Missy Miller, Managing Directory Moon Beach Camp, United Church Camps, Inc.

Noon Lunch

1:00 Business Meeting

Report of the Registrar

Approval of voice without vote for guests

Highlighting the Ministries of the Northwest Association

Associate Conference Minister

Division of Church and Ministry

Division of Mission of the Church in the World

Division on Ministry of the Local Church

Moderator

Treasurer’s Report for 2022

Questions concerning Annual Reports

Vote to receive Annual Reports

Discussion and Adoption of Our Budget for 2024

Nominating Report and Election

Words of appreciation for Outgoing Officers & Division Members

Five for Five Churches presentation

2pm Adjournment

Moderator's Report - 2022

It has been my privilege to serve as Moderator for the Northwest Association this last year. I look forward to continuing surrounded by incredible leadership. Our Division Chairs, Vice Moderator and members of the Executive Committee share their gifts of knowledge, skill and compassion in their service to the Northwest Association churches.

The Executive Committee is making grants available to churches and other ministries. The Division of Church and Ministry is doing its oversight, guidance and support of MIDs, licensed ministers, active and retired pastors. An annual clergy retreat is held with NEA. The Committee meets 4-5 times a year to consider it's work and nominating people to serve future terms.

We have had transitions in leadership and the new Chairpersons have taken on the task with dignity and grace. The annual reports for each division are contained in this booklet.

We welcome Rev. Michael Jones, our new Associate Conference Minister.

Many thanks to the conference support staff for the support and assistance in many ways.

Blessings,

Susan Vornholt

Associate Conference Minister's Report

Greetings to the ministers and churches of the Northwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ. Grace and peace to you!

I began my role as your Associate Conference Minister on January 23 and as they say, I “hit the ground running.” Thank you for the warm welcome and discussions that I have had with so many of you already. I look forward to meeting those that I have not met yet, and to our future work together.

My family and I are getting settled in Eau Claire and are happy to be living in Northwest Wisconsin. We look forward to exploring the beauty of the area and the many outdoor opportunities that exist. As I have been driving throughout the area, I am getting a sense of the people and towns in which you and your churches live and serve, and I am happy to be here!

In the past few months, I have had the opportunity to take different trainings through MESA (the Ministerial, Excellence, Support, and Authorization Team of the National Setting of the UCC), which has been helpful in learning about my new role and the different systems that are used for search and call and other important resources from the United Church of Christ. I have also been experiencing and learning about the many wonderful resources that the Wisconsin Conference offers its ministers and churches. I am amazed at the ways that the Wisconsin Conference staff and so many of you give of your time and talent to provide the resources, support, and connections that exist between the four Associations and the whole Conference. To those currently serving, those who served in the past, and/or those who may serve in the future on Association and Conference committees and teams: Thank you!

I recognize that I am entering my new role in a time of change and uncertainty for many of you and your churches. This post-pandemic church world is still difficult for many of us to live and breathe in. There are challenges and anxieties all around us, and we have not had the time or energy to grieve what used to be, whether what we are remembering was reality or a romanticization of the past. We are also tempted, as we probably always have been, to compare our churches to other churches with rubrics of finances, attendance numbers, number of programs, number of staff, etc.

I want to state clearly here that every one of the local churches of the Northwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference are doing ministry that matters. These churches matter to those who are a part of the community and the wider community around them, and of course, to God. Every church has a story and a purpose, and has been part of the spiritual journeys of so many children of God.

The beauty of our polity and structure as the United Church of Christ is that we value autonomy for our local churches, while still asking that we all remain in covenant with one another. This covenant and connection for churches happens at the Association and Conference level, and I am grateful for you and your church's participation and presence in the Northwest Association. The Northwest Association would not be what it is without all of the churches and members. We're all in this together.

I do not have all of the answers for the challenges that face our churches and the wider church, but I do know that the more we work together, support one another, and recognize the gifts that we all bring and possess, the better off we will all be. I feel blessed to be part of this Association and to have a role of helping to be part of these connections. I look forward to discussions and sharing that will continue to connect us all as we live out our calling.

Thank you for your commitment to the work of your local church, your ministry, the Northwest Association, and the Wisconsin Conference. I look forward to starting a new journey with you.

May God bless us as we do the work of the good news of the Gospel of Jesus, the Christ.

Peace,

Michael

Rev. Michael D. Jones
mjones@wcucc.org

Treasurer's Reports

Comparative Income Statement

WI Conference UCC - Comparative Income Statement

Northwest Association - December 2022

	This Month 12/01/2022 to 12/31/2022	YTD 01/01/2022 to 12/31/2022	2022 Budgeted	YTD Budget Comparison	Last Year's Month 12/01/2021 to 12/31/2021	Previous YTD 01/01/2021 to 12/31/2021
86-WCNW-000 - NW Association Operating Fund						
Revenues						
Ordinary Income						
07-46000 Interest & Dividends	\$177.64	\$350.94		\$350.94	\$174.08	\$343.94
07-47200 Association Dues	\$2,201.25	\$35,257.75		\$35,257.75	\$4,473.04	\$35,912.38
07-48100 Annual Meeting Revenue		\$465.00		\$465.00		
Total Ordinary Income	\$2,378.89	\$36,073.69		\$36,073.69	\$4,647.12	\$36,256.32
Total Revenues	\$2,378.89	\$36,073.69		\$36,073.69	\$4,647.12	\$36,256.32
Expenses						
General Expenses						
07-50000 Grants Approved		\$2,000.00		(\$2,000.00)		\$1,100.00
07-55100 Legal Services		\$837.00		(\$837.00)		\$837.00
07-55200 Common Services		\$10,565.00		(\$10,565.00)		\$11,007.50
07-57000 Computer Services		\$168.00		(\$168.00)		
07-59400 Technology					\$33.00	\$33.00
07-60000 Postage & Shipping		\$27.85		(\$27.85)		
07-62100 Annual Meeting		\$787.55		(\$787.55)		
07-69000 MISC Operating Expenses		\$137.14		(\$137.14)		
Total General Expenses		(\$14,522.54)		\$14,522.54	(\$33.00)	(\$12,977.50)
Local Church Ministry						
07-50100 LCM Youth & Family Summer Camps	\$2,262.50	\$2,262.50		(\$2,262.50)		
07-50200 LCM Camp Scholarships		\$7,000.00		(\$7,000.00)		\$4,750.00
07-55410 LCM Resourcing & Projects		\$1,000.00		(\$1,000.00)		
07-55430 LCM WI Expo						\$3,000.00
07-63310 LCM General		\$2,000.00		(\$2,000.00)		
Total Local Church Ministry	(\$2,262.50)	(\$12,262.50)		\$12,262.50		(\$7,750.00)
Church & Ministry						
07-62150 Church & Ministry Meetings		\$47.50		(\$47.50)		
07-62160 Church & Ministry General	\$432.95	\$2,955.98		(\$2,955.98)		\$5,846.17
Total Church & Ministry	(\$432.95)	(\$3,003.48)		\$3,003.48		(\$5,846.17)
Wider Church Ministry						
07-64120 Wider Church Ministry - General		\$5,300.00		(\$5,300.00)		\$1,200.00
Total Wider Church Ministry		(\$5,300.00)		\$5,300.00		(\$1,200.00)
Total Expenses	(\$2,695.45)	(\$35,088.52)		\$35,088.52	(\$33.00)	(\$27,773.67)
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$66,649.36	\$65,347.63		\$65,347.63	\$60,733.51	\$56,864.98
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(\$316.56)	\$985.17		\$985.17	\$4,614.12	\$8,482.65
ENDING FUND BALANCE	\$66,332.80	\$66,332.80		\$66,332.80	\$65,347.63	\$65,347.63

Budget Draft – 2024

NW Association Budget for 2023 and previous years and Actuals for 2022 and previous.

Accounts	Approved							
	2024 Proposed Budget	2023 Budget	2022 Actual	2022 Budget	2021 Actual	2021 Budget	2020 Actual	2020 Budget
Revenues								
Gifts & Contributions								
01-45000 - Pool Interest and Dividends	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
01-46000 - Interest and Dividends	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 350.94	\$ 150.00	\$ 343.94	\$ 150.00	\$ 321.29	\$ 150.00
01-47200 - Northwest Association Dues	\$ 36,500.00	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 35,257.75	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 35,912.38	\$ 40,300.00	\$ 38,104.31	\$ 41,200.00
01-48100 - Northwest Annual Meeting Revenue	\$	\$ -	\$ 465.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 1,000.00
Total Revenues	\$ 36,650.00	\$ 38,150.00	\$ 36,073.69	\$ 40,150.00	\$ 36,256.32	\$ 41,450.00	\$ 38,495.60	\$ 42,350.00
Expenses								
General Expenses								
** 01-50000 - Grants Approved	\$	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00		*1100.00	\$ -	\$ 3,935.00	
01-50200 - Camp Scholarships	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,750.00	\$ 1,250.00	\$ 4,136.25	\$ -
01-55100 - Legal Services	\$ 850.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 837.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 837.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 1,055.50	\$ 850.00
01-55200 - Common Services Exp.	\$ 11,400.00	\$ 11,400.00	\$ 10,565.00	\$ 11,400.00	\$ 11,007.50	\$ 11,400.00	\$ 11,325.00	\$ 11,400.00
01-55300 - Executive Committee	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 164.99	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,628.31	\$ 1,400.00
01-55400 - Special Initiatives and Projects		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
** 01-59400 - Technology (formerly video/website)			\$ 169.00	\$ -	\$ 33.00	\$ 1,700.00	\$ -	\$ 1,700.00
01-62100 - Annual Meeting	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 787.55	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00	\$ -	\$ 1,500.00
** (new # needed) - NW General Synod Delegates			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
** (new # needed) - General Synod support			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
** (new # needed) - Conflict Resolution Training			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total General Expenses	\$ 18,650.00	\$ 20,250.00	\$ 21,522.54	\$ 15,750.00	\$ 17,727.50	\$ 19,200.00	\$ 24,080.06	\$ 18,850.00
Programs								
Church & Ministry								
01-62150 - Church & Ministry Meetings	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 47.50	\$ 11,400.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ (46.76)	\$ 10,000.00
01-62160 - Church & Ministry General			\$ 2,955.98	\$ -	\$ 5,846.17	\$ -	\$ 5,442.81	\$ -
01-64100 - Ministerial Support (Retired Clergy)			-				\$ 1,300.00	
01-64110 - Periodic Support (C&M District Mtgs)			-	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 249.82	\$ -
** (new # needed) - Fall Clergy Retreat			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
** (new # needed) - Licensed Min Retreat			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
** (new # needed) - Evaluations/Testing			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
** (new # needed) - Recognitions/Certificates			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
** (new # needed) - Lay Acad & COP Scholarships			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Church & Ministry	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,003.48	\$ 11,400.00	\$ 5,846.17	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 6,945.87	\$ 10,000.00
Local Church Ministry (LCM)								
01-50100 - Youth Events/scholarships			\$ 2,262.50	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 256.25	\$ -
01-55410 - Resourcing & Projects (WM ExPO)	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	*3,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,500.00
01-63310 - LCM General	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ -	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 1,857.50	\$ 7,000.00
Total LCM	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,262.50	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 5,113.75	\$ 10,500.00
Wider Church Ministry (WCM)								
01-64120 - WCM General	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 3,000.00	*1200.00		\$ 3,100.00	\$ 3,000.00
07-64150 Wider Church Ministry			-			\$ 3,000.00		
01-50300 - NW WCM Scholarships			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (100.00)	\$ -
Total WCM	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5,300.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Total Program Expense	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 13,565.98	\$ 24,400.00	\$ 14,796.17	\$ 42,700.00	\$ 15,059.62	\$ 23,500.00
Total Expenses	\$ 36,650.00	\$ 38,250.00	\$ 35,088.52	\$ 40,150.00	\$ 27,773.67	\$ 42,700.00	\$ 39,139.68	\$ 42,350.00
	\$ -	\$ (100.00)	\$ 985.17	\$ -	\$ 8,482.65	\$ (1,250.00)	\$ (654.08)	\$ -
Other Revenues								
40-6201-000 - NW Release from Reserves			\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00
Total Other Revenues	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,482.65	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00
	\$ 100.00		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,250.00)	\$ (654.08)	\$ 25,000.00

Year-End 2022 Balance Sheet

WI Conference UCC - Balance Sheet - Two Year Comparison			
Northwest Association - December 31, 2022			
		Actual	Actual
		12/31/2022	12/31/2021
86-WCNW-000 - NW Association Operating Fund			
Assets			
07-11500	Conference Checking Agency - Settlers	\$48,455.93	\$47,821.70
07-12200	NW Cornerstone CD 2380-300	\$17,773.96	\$17,423.75
07-14200	NW Cornerstone CD 2380-120 - Demand	\$102.91	\$102.18
Total Assets		\$66,332.80	\$65,347.63
Liabilities and Fund Balance			
Fund Balance			
07-30000	Agency Fund Balance - Earnings	\$66,332.80	\$65,347.63
Total Fund Balance		\$66,332.80	\$65,347.63
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance		\$66,332.80	\$65,347.63

Registrar's Report

Registrar's Report Jan. 1, 2022 – Dec. 31, 2022

Ordained Ministerial Calls –

Rev. Deborah Kunkel – St. Johns UCC, Fountain City and Hope UCC, Cochrane

Rev. Timothy Miller – Ely Memorial UCC, Land O'Lakes

Rev. Micah Schlobohm – Peace UCC, Stevens Point and Hancock UCC, Hancock

Ordained Ministerial Calls Ending –

Rev. Doris Ruben – Ebenezer UCC, Stratford

Rev. Michael Wolfe – Mayo Clinic Health System, Eau Claire

Rev. David Ostendorf – First Congregational UCC, River Falls

Rev. Christine Stack – Peace UCC, Stevens Point

Licensed Covenanted Ministries Begun –

Andrew (Drew) Filkins – St. Johns UCC, La Pointe (Madeline Island)

Licensed Covenanted Ministries Ending –

Interim Ministries Begun –

Rev. Tara Tetzlaff – First Congregational UCC, Wisconsin Rapids

Rev. Myles Alexander – First Congregational UCC, Rhinelander

Rev. Wanda Veldman – Nekoosa UCC, Nekoosa

Interim/Transitional Ministries Ending

Gary Wilner – United Church of Christ, Neillsville

Rev. Christine Stack – Peace UCC, Stevens Point

Ordinations

Therance (Teri) Hanson

Installations

Rev. Micah Schlobohm – Peace UCC, Stevens Point and Hancock UCC, Hancock

Rev. John B. Cofield – St. Pauls UCC, Marshfield and UCC, Pittsville

Rev. Timothy Miller – Ely Memorial UCC, Land O’Lakes

Jeff Pommerening – UCC, Elcho and UCC, Kempster

Rev. Deborah Kunkel – St. Johns UCC, Fountain City and Hope UCC, Cochrane

Members in Discernment

Stacy Craig

Shannon Joshi – First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire

Heather Rushfeldt

Ordained Ministerial Standing Transferred into NWA – 4

Ordained Ministerial Standing Transferred Out of NWA – 2

Dual Standing

Rev. Stacy Johnson Myers – First Congregational UCC, River Falls

Rev. Peter Norland – Portage Lake United Church, Houghton, MI

Dual Standing Ended

Commissioned Ministers

Joanne Klink – First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire

Privilege of Call

Rev. Wes Jedras – Faith UCC, Antigo

Ordained Ministerial Partner

Rev. Pat Tucker – First Congregational UCC, Eagle River

Leave of Absence

Rev. Audrey Alexander

Retirements

Rev. Doris Ruben

Rev. Rob MacDougall

Licensed Ministers – check these with certificates

Pauline Bangle – First Congregational UCC, Bloomer

Jill Christopherson – First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire

Tamara Cox – Community UCC, Medford

Shannon Joshi – First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire

Stephen Ottman – St. Paul's UCC, Ellsworth

John Parkyn – St. John's UCC, La Crosse

Jeffri Pommerening – UCC, Kempster and UCC, Elcho

Carla Simmons – Community UCC, Saint Germain

Susan Stein – First Congregational UCC, WI Rapids

Joel Zimmerman – Namekagon Congregational UCC, Earl

Julie Garber – United Church of Christ, Osseo

Les Munnik – Truax Congregational UCC, Eau Claire

Patti Steevens – Ebenezer UCC, Stratford

Rev. Jean Pagliaro – Trinity UCC, La Crosse

Andrew (Drew) Filkins – St. Johns UCC, La Pointe (Madeline Island)

Licensed Ministry Endings

Susan Vornholt

Exempt Standing - 11

Necrology – (no deaths)

Churches on Roster - 59

Churches Removed from Roster – 1

Pastors with Ministerial Standing - 105

Division on Church and Ministry Report

The Division on Church and Ministry has completed another year of authorization and support of the ministers and churches of the Northwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ. Our task is to provide both support and oversight to the over 100 authorized ordained ministers and 16 licensed ministers in the Northwest Association. We are here to serve the association, its ministers and churches to address questions and needs regarding ministerial standing, pastoral ethics, licensed ministry, becoming a Member in Discernment (ie. seeking ordination), pulpit supply, clergy growth, boundary training and ministerial support.

As we move toward the 'new normal' after the pandemic we continue our monthly meetings. In order to function more effectively our division has been organized around three teams: Organization and Administration; Support and Development; and Members in Discernment.

The Organization and Administration Team works with the three other Wisconsin Conference Associations to unify our policies and procedures including fitness reviews. Members of the team also serve on the Northwest Association Executive Committee.

The Support and Development Team works to provide oversight and assistance to our licensed (non-ordained) ministers. They provide an annual retreat to help them discern and grow their skills as local pastors. They also track boundary training, the annual clergy survey and the Clergy Retreat (shared with the Northeast Association).

The Members in Discernment Team works with those from local churches who have expressed an interest in becoming a Member in Discernment. Members in Discernment (the old term was 'in care') are lay people who experience a call to ministry and work through the Division of Church and Ministry to discern that call and potentially to prepare for authorized ministry on and behalf of the United Church of Christ. We are currently working with 4 people who either are already Members in Discernment or working toward it.

As a reminder we use the United Church of Christ Manual on Ministry as our overall guide. Our division and its members use the 'Marks of Faithful and Effective Ministry' and the 'Ordained Minister's Code' as assessment tools and guiding documents.

A highlight of the year was the ordination and installation of the Rev. Teri Hanson as pastor of Colby First United Church of Christ and Athens Christ United Church. Teri was a member of discernment for many years and one of the first to go through a nontraditional route toward ordination.

We appreciate the guidance, insight and ministry of our Associate Conference Minister the Rev. Rob MacDougall and thank him for seven years of service to the division and association. We were present at the celebration of his ministry and leave taking service which took place in Menomonie on December 18th. We look forward to the ministry of the Rev. Michael Jones who will join us in late January of 2023 as our new ACM.

We acknowledge and appreciate the work of Pauline Bangle who has worked on the division for many years, particularly with our licensed ministers and who has faithfully retired from her work on the division.

In Gratitude,

Rev. Donald Bauman, Chair (January-September)

Rev. Christopher Myers, Chair (October-December)

Erin Webster, Secretary

Rev. Kent Cormack

Julie Garber

Rev. Julie Goranson

Rev. Missy Miller

Rev. Tim Miller

Rev. Doris Ruben

Rev. Gloria Van Houten

Division of Ministry in the Local Church

The Division of Local Church and Ministry committee has a long history in the Northwest Association. At one time, it helped with leading many retreats and workshops, as well as fellowship events in the association.

It has been seen as a committee to help local congregations with many issues that face them, including increasing membership, and Christian Education. It was also historically the committee that handled Camp Scholarships in the past.

Now, camp scholarships are handled through UCCI directly, and with dwindling membership – many of the events and retreats or workshops have dwindled as well. The pandemic affected the committee's work I believe, and now is the time for rebuilding.

We have gathered and decided the committee should continue. Our focus will be helping local congregations' network and connect with each other to learn from one another, as well as perhaps combine ministries.

Watch for a brief upcoming survey of things you'd perhaps like to see us help you with. Technology issues seem to membership matters, or whatever else may be pressing issues – we would like to know what things we can help with. We are also currently handling the technology grants being offered by the association, and have distributed 7000 dollars in grants so far.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeff Pommerening
Chair

Division on the Mission of the Church in the World Report

The Division Granted \$1200 in Scholarships in 2022. One for a traditional mission trip and one for a mission program in a Northwest Association Church. We funded a little reader program using multicultural books, and one mission trip to Back Bay mission. A reminder that any church can apply for these scholarships and we would love to help fund the wonderful work in our association churches. The traditional mission trip/work camp scholarships have a cap of \$100/person or \$1000/group. The mission in local churches is capped at \$200/project. Applications can be found on the Association website.

The committee also wrote articles for the Association newsletter focusing on the 5 for 5 offerings—OCWM, Neighbors in Need, The Christmas Fund, One Great hour of Sharing, and Strengthen the Church—these offerings are vital for all of our settings of the UCC, and I do hope that you will look at these continued writings and consider, prayerfully, becoming 5 for 5 congregations.

We are always looking for ways to support local churches who are stepping out of the Sanctuary and making a difference in the world in which we serve. It is our hope and prayer that should you have a project that needs some seed money, or are looking to connect in the larger sense of the communities in which we serve, that you will give us the opportunity to help and support your mission in the world.

Peace and Blessings,

Rev. Bryan Simon, Chair

Committee Members:

Jeanne Dukerschein

Diane Stoffgren

Bonnie Weyer

Rev. Bryan Simon, Chair

NWA Technology Grant 2023 – Application Form

The Northwest Wisconsin Association of the Wisconsin Conference UCC is offering grants up to \$1000 for technical support to local congregations. Awards will be granted as applications are received and as funds remain available.

Grants are available for a broad definition of technology: hardware (computers, cameras, microphones, projectors, screens, recording equipment, etc.), software, and/or training (e.g., at your local technical college, seminars). We say broadly because each church knows its needs better than we do. For some churches this might be a first step into "technology" while others might be upgrading.

Any congregation of the NW Association may apply for a grant up to \$1000.

Please include the following information:

Church name _____

Address _____

Contact person _____

Amount requested \$ _____

Signature of Clergy/Moderator _____

Proposed technology use/upgrade (how will this help your congregation and/or impact your ministry setting and/or surrounding areas? Use additional page if needed)

Please return grant application to Pastor Jeff Pommerening at pastor@elchokempesterucc.org or mail to Elcho United Church of Christ, N11291 Dorr St, P.O. Box 126, Elcho, WI 54428

Northwest Association – 2022 Five for Five Churches

Faith United Church of Christ of Antigo	Antigo
St John's UCC of Arpin	Arpin
First Congregational UCC of Bloomer	Bloomer
Cable UCC	Cable
Plymouth UCC of Eau Claire	Eau Claire
First Congregational UCC of La Crosse	La Crosse
First Congregational UCC of Menomonie	Menomonie
United Church of Christ of Neillsville	Neillsville
Nekoosa United Church of Christ United	Nekoosa
Church of Christ of Osseo United Church	Osseo
of Christ of Prescott Congregational	Prescott
UCC (Conrath) Namekagon	Sheldon
Congregational UCC (Earl)	Springbrook
Union Congregational Church UCC of Three Lakes	Three Lakes
St Paul's UCC of Wausau	Wausau

Liaisons' Report

Personally, I have attended the Wisconsin Conference Executive Board meetings via ZOOM as did many of the other members.

The biggest challenge we faced this year was how to support our camp ministry through the financial challenges that the pandemic brought. We felt that our camp ministry is an important part of our outreach and youth programs and deserved any support we could offer. We came up with ways to offer financial support to the program that will help them continue their ministry into the future.

In addition, we looked to solidify our own financials and real estate by looking to moving our base of operations to Daycholah Center (formerly known as Pilgrim Center) and placing the Trost Center up for sale. It is my understanding that the sale of the Trost Center will also help support our camp ministry.

As in years past we are continuing our support of the Damascus Project, and WISE Program, as well as offering support to any and all congregations within our Conference. We look forward to continuing these missions in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Larrabee

On behalf of:
Rev. Elizabeth Hazel
Jerry Goen

Wisconsin Foundation UCC Annual Report



The Wisconsin Conference UCC founded the Wisconsin Foundation UCC in 2019 to strengthen the financial and fundraising capacity of congregations and the Conference. More than 20 congregations, organizations or initiatives hold \$3.5 million in the foundation; an additional \$10.5 million belongs to the Conference, associations and foundation itself. (Total assets were \$14 million at the end of 2022.) By working together in the foundation, we strengthen the United Church of Christ in Wisconsin.

Helping to Raise the Next Dollar

The Wisconsin Foundation UCC helps its partner organizations raise new contributions for their endowments. This help ranges from facilitating gifts of stock and consulting on gift opportunities to guidance on endowment-building campaigns. Over the past three years, the foundation helped raise an average of \$300,000 a year in new contributions. Although the amounts raised by any one congregation vary widely, the ability to help churches occurs because we cooperate together in the foundation.

Assisting as Churches Adapt

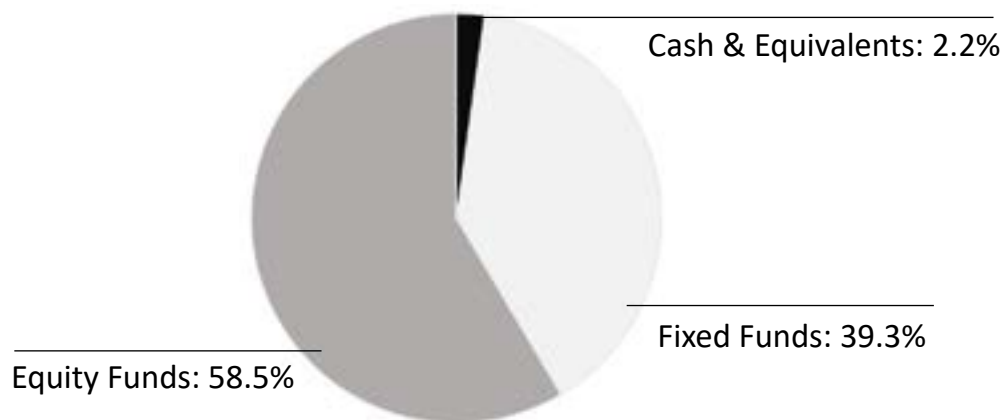
The council of Trinity UCC of Portage, below left, decided to sell their church building and relocate to rented space in the community. The move freed up financial resources for ministry. Because of the Wisconsin Foundation, Trinity could offer seller financing to the new congregation that wanted to purchase the building. The foundation tracks mortgage payments for Trinity and manages their invested funds so the council can concentrate on ministry in their community. “I was very happy with all Andrew’s work in making this transition happen,” said council President Joy Morse, referring to the Rev. Andrew Warner, director of development for the Wisconsin Conference and president of the foundation. “It was not an easy thing to do but we were all in agreement that it was time because of our declining membership. Our new location has been so accommodating and we actually have a new person coming on Sundays.”



Pastor Kay Hallanger, reflecting on what the congregation learned about generosity through the process, said: “Andrew gave us suggestions on being generous with what was in the building. As a result, we gifted our local museum as well as two state museums with church records of great historical value, some going back

to the early 20th century and in German. Our sister church in Endeavor received furniture and many other items, which they are putting to good use. We gifted Bibles and hymnals to a residential facility and another UCC church. We plan to gift a significant portion of the proceeds from the sale of our building to local community groups which could benefit. As we continue through this process, we have come to realize generosity comes in many forms. The sale of our building will benefit others in ways we had not foreseen but certainly have come to appreciate and be forever grateful.”

Investment Distribution - Dec. 31, 2022



The foundation diversifies its 10 million dollar investment pool

Diversified Investments Include Camp

The Investment Committee of the Wisconsin Foundation UCC works with our investment manager to ensure a well-diversified investment pool. In general, we aim to invest 65 percent of our funds in equity and 35 into into fixed-income assets (primarily bonds), but the investment manager can vary this by up to 10 percent in either direction based on market conditions.

Unique to the Wisconsin Foundation UCC as an investment option, our fixed income assets include a significant loan to United Church Camps, Inc. The loan reduced the interest rate paid by the camps but exceeded the 5-year average return on bonds for the foundation—a win-win.

Contact Rev. Andrew Warner to learn how your congregation can invest through the Wisconsin Foundation UCC.

awarner@wcucc.org

414-758-6233



The Rev. Jim Schlieff, executive director of UCCI, spoke to the impact of this loan on outdoor ministry. “The low-interest loan meant UCCI could restructure and reposition the organization for continued operation so that we can provide outdoor ministry opportunities to the local congregations of the Wisconsin Conference UCC and community partners,” he said. “This has been a lifeline allowing UCCI to continue operation.”

Investing Together Benefits Every Church

As more and more congregations join the foundation, the fees everyone pays continue to go down. The foundation began in 2020 with annual fees of 1.25 percent, but this declined every quarter as we grew. At the end of 2022, the investment management and administrative fee was under 1 percent. As congregations continue to move into the foundation, the cost for quality investment and fundraising support will continue to decline.

Generating Resources for Ministry

The past year proved to be a challenging investment environment as world events and concerns about inflation affected equity and bond performance. The investment manager for the foundation reduced our exposure by holding some funds in cash or cash equivalents. Overall, our investments outperformed the market as a whole.

2022 Investment Pool Performance	
Foundation Returns	-13.58%
Benchmark Returns	-16.02%

Investing for Good

The Wisconsin Foundation UCC practices faith-informed investing, meaning we seek out opportunities to make investments or use our shareholder votes to encourage corporate action aligned with our UCC values. The foundation works with an interfaith coalition of shareholders to press companies to change their internal policies and practices. On climate change, current shareholder activism involves a push for Bank of America, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Morgan Stanley and Wells Fargo to phase out the financing of new fossil fuel exploration. This is combined with bond investments in sustainable energy production. Together, these actions are part of the reason global investment in clean energy matched fossil fuel investments for the first time in 2022.



Wisconsin Conference UCC Mission/Vision/Values
as adopted by the WCUCC Board of Directors
at its February 2016 meeting

Our Mission

(what we do)

The Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ equips leaders and congregations to transform lives through innovative ministry for the 21st century.

Our Values

(how we do our work together)

Guided by the Great Commandments, Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25, and a commitment to extravagant welcome, we will work together...

- to serve God and our neighbors with compassion
- to encourage and inspire one another with hope
- to make bold and courageous choices with love

Our Vision

(what will change if we are successful)

By 2019 the people of the United Church of Christ in Wisconsin will be energized to be the church in their local context, expressed through passionate work toward a more just and generous world.

