

Wisconsin Conference Resources for Congregations

The ministry of the Wisconsin Conference of the United Church of Christ serves to support, guide and resource local congregations. The Conference provides an extensive support system to associations, churches, clergy and laity. Your contributions to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) make this possible.

Clergy Care

- Sponsor Communities of Practice which encourage peer support, care and reflection for pastors
- Administer clergy mentoring and coaching
- Provide counseling/referral/financial resources for clergy and family
- Encourage participation in special events/Ecclesiastical Councils/Ordinations/Installations
- Support clergy and help develop strategies to handle difficult situations

Congregational Vitality

- Support congregations that seek to pursue new ministries by providing opportunities for networking and collaboration and access to local and national resources
- Provide resources and guidance for local churches on topics ranging from church finances to national and global ministry opportunities
- Facilitate shared ministry consultations (covenantal partnership between churches)
- Encourage development of innovative ministries that transform lives through the Catalyst Team grant program

Pastoral Transitions

- Guide and support congregational search teams during pastoral transitions
- Identify skilled leadership for interim placements
- Offer Interim ministry training
- Guide Pastoral Relations Committees
- Serve as a resource for church profile development

Conflict Transformation

- Assist with mediation/reconciliation between pastor and congregation
- Train and coordinate a Conflict Transformation Team to help resolve issues within congregations
- Help congregations learn healthy patterns of communication and decision-making (collaborative leadership)

Leadership Development

- Through Lay Academy, provide lay ministry and leadership skills and spur spiritual growth
- Develop the Damascus Project in collaboration with the Minnesota Conference to create an innovative approach to faith and leadership development

Church and Ministry

- Work in partnership with Conference and Association Committees on Ministry to achieve greater ecclesiastical consistency and create additional resources
- Validate profiles/assist clergy in profile preparation
- Provide models for clergy/congregational evaluation
- Offer boundary awareness training for all authorized pastors
- Facilitate ecclesiastical councils, ordinations, installations, periodic vocational support and fitness reviews

Youth Ministry

- Support local congregations to enhance their youth ministries through education and collaboration
- Coordinate youth events including confirmation retreats, Knock Knock and Jesus Core retreats

Outdoor Ministry

- Support outdoor ministry, providing opportunities for spiritual growth for all ages

Associations Support

- Provide consultation to Commissions and Ministry Teams
- Keep Association members informed about meetings, ordinations and installations
- Manage accounting functions for Associations
- Support association web and communications platforms

Communications

- Keep UCC members informed about resources, news and transitions around the Conference
- Provide an online Resource Center with a breadth of resources for congregations and clergy

Administrative Support

- Assist with search and call process, standing transfers, Conference and national church registrar
- Plan, implement and assist with special events for the Conference, including Annual Meeting and General Synod
- Participate in UCC governance by organizing and funding a delegation to the biennial General Synod

Finance and Insurance

- Respond to insurance and pension questions
- Facilitate billing for health insurance
- Track and distribute contributions of local congregations

To learn more about resources available to your congregation from the Wisconsin Conference, contact the Associate Conference Minister for your Association or contact the Conference office at 608-846-7880, mail@wcucc.org. Also be sure to check out the online resources at www.wcucc.org.