

Northwest Word April 2018

NW Association Meeting information
Strengthen the Church
ACT End Racism
Pulpit Supply **Link**

Northwest Association Annual Meeting April 21, 2018

The Executive Committee of the Northwest Association of the Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ invites all churches (pastors, lay delegates, youth, retired clergy, and visitors) to the 56th Annual Meeting of the Association to be held at First Congregational UCC, 310 Broadway Street, Eau Claire, Wisconsin on Saturday, April 21st from 9:30am to 3:30pm.

We are recommending that you register early for this exciting event, and once again this year we will use electronic registration (**click here**) for the meeting. The cost is \$10 (\$5 for Confirmation Students and Youth). The registration deadline is Friday, April 13th. An Annual Report will be sent to churches in the coming weeks and posted to the Association **webpage** when available.

It is with great joy we announce that Dr. Heather Ann Moody will be our keynote speaker. Dr. Moody is an enrolled member of the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin and an assistant professor of American Indian Studies at UW-Eau Claire where she teaches a variety of subjects within the discipline. She has a doctorate in education with an emphasis on teaching and learning. Dr. Moody has presented at national and regional levels on the topic of Native American curriculum. She has lead Domestic Intercultural Immersion experiences to Pine Ridge Reservation and this spring to northern Wisconsin Ojibwe communities. Dr. Moody also serves as a co-advisor for the Inter-Tribal Student Council organization at UW-Eau Claire. Her topic will be Getting to Know Our Neighbors, Past and Present. The Black River Falls, Hocak UCC, has been invited to share their ministry and experiences as well. You won't want to miss these presentations!

Tell us your story! We will have an exhibition space available and we invite each church to display examples of how God is using your local congregation to be God's hands and heart in the world. If you are interested in "telling your story" and need some exhibition space, please contact Pam Braun at First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire (715-834-2668 or **pamb@firstucceauclaire.org**) with any requirement you will need for your exhibition space. We ask that you contact them well in advance of this meeting so everything will be ready for you before the morning of the meeting. Thank you.

First Congregational UCC, Eau Claire has a user friendly app that you can download if you are interested (First UCC EC) and if you are planning on coming on Friday evening, you can find a listing of accommodations at **go-**

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

The gifts He gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12.

One of the five special offerings of the UCC, usually received on Pentecost Sunday, “Strengthen the Church” provides an annual opportunity for all members to help plant churches, renew existing churches, foster new leaders and grow the UCC as a community of extravagant welcome.

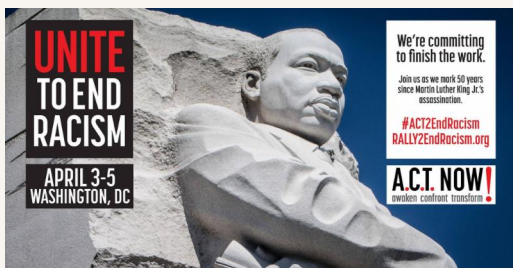
Conferences may use up to 50% of the offering for local and regional efforts. The Wisconsin Conference does retain half of the offering to equip leaders and congregations to transform lives through innovative ministry. Specific programs benefiting from funding include: Leadership Coaches, Communities of Practice Groups, Lay Academy, Faith Formation Conversations, and Outdoor Ministry Programs.

The other 50% is used by The Still Speaking Ministry and Local Church Ministries of the National Church. The Still Speaking Ministry works with thousands of UCC churches and individuals across the country to make religion relevant again and extend an extravagant welcome to all. Within Local Church Ministries, grants are made: to provide pastoral leadership for new church starts and to revitalize existing congregations; to implement the General Synod Pronouncement to prepare pastoral leaders to meet future leadership needs for all congregations; to support Youth at General Synod and at regional and national Youth events; to support Woman’s Ministries including a new format for the Common Lot magazine.

In 2017, the offering made possible:

- 12 awards totaling \$350,000 through the New and Renewing Spiritual communities grant program.
- The Adese Fellowship program launched its first class of 14 future church leaders.
- The addition of 24 new faith communities to the UCC.
- Many great ministries happening in each local conference.
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the Division of Mission of the Church in the World challenges every church to give generously to the Strengthen the Church Offering to help insure the growth and vitality of our denomination.



A.C.T. Now!

NEWS FROM CHURCHES

A "birthday box" Sunday School project at Nekoosa.

Wendy Hill, First Congregational UCC, River Falls and Naomi Cummings and Wendy Dittmann, First Congregational UCC, Menomonie attended the Unite to End Racism in Washington DC, April 4th. Others from the Conference stayed for the advocacy day and contacted Senators and Representative,

More information Click

Short USA Today **video**



Messy Church in Menomonie

**Saturday,
April 14,
4-6 p.m.**



"New Member" Sunday

On April 29 we will welcome new members into our congregation at the 10 a.m. service. If you are interested in becoming a member of Trinity UCC, please contact Pastor Brandon.

A fundraiser at St Paul's UCC in Wausau



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