The Wisconsin Conference focus on our:

**STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING**

Did you know that 50% of the money raised by our gifts to the “Strengthen the Church” offering stays in the WI Conference?

That typically amounts to $20,000 from the $40,000 we donate each year. So please give to the “Strengthen the Church” offering on June 9th.

The funds collected help two special programs for our congregations and clergy: conflict resolution and coaching.

It used to be that if a church hit a snag (either with the pastor or because of a conflict between church members) and needed expert help in conflict resolution, the members would have to hire an outside expert. A lot of churches simply could not afford this. The result was that no expert came in with the right tools to help folks talk things out and the situation would end badly.

But our Conference has been training our own people to do conflict resolution so money is no longer a problem and, in addition, the trainees understand us because they usually come from the same background as we do. Further...

...Our Conference is also training experienced ministers from our own people to coach pastors who would like a broader understanding of their churches and how to interact with parishioners. The Lay Academy, Outdoor Ministries, and Communities of Practice also benefit from this offering.

Giving to “Strengthen the Church” offering does a lot of good on our behalf.

Be a “5 for 5” Congregation!

Churches that achieve their base pledge to “Our Church’s Wider Mission” and donate to all 4 national UCC fundraisers each year are counted as “5 for 5” churches for supporting every special national effort. These offerings give our churches a way to be a small (or large) part of something big!

Local churches and people are helped by these offerings in our state, across the nation, and around the world. Giving to these offerings means that our funds added together can provide more support in much larger ways that we can do alone.

Thanks for your help through these annual UCC fundraisers and other emergency and special-need offerings:

• One Great Hour of Sharing
• Strengthen the Church
• Neighbors in Need
• The Christmas Fund
• Our Church’s Wider Mission

All donations are appreciated, and are used toward disaster relief, mission trip scholarships, help to local churches and clergy, immigrant and refugee assistance, social justice action, overseas ministries and more as we join hands across our communities, the nation, and the world in service of Christ.

This information and encouragement is sent to you from the Northwest Association’s Division of the Mission of the Church in the World.